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ISSN 0856 - 5422 ISSUE No. 8193

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TANZANIA

MONDAY 19 APRIL, 2021

**National Pg 2**  
Awareness on blood-related diseases



**National Pg 3**  
Deficiencies in wildlife zoo investment



**National Pg 4**  
Execution of all water pending projects



**National Pg 5**  
Insurance sector to growth



## US Malaria Fund: African scientists protest exclusion

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN scientists have protested a global health funding imbalance following an announcement of a \$30m grant allocated to foreign research firms to conduct malaria research in the continent.

In January, the US President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) issued a five-year grant of \$30m in new funding for operational research and programme evaluation to help partner countries ensure they are making the most effective and efficient use of resources to fight malaria and save lives. PMI Insights for Malaria (Inform project) was launched last October.

Curiously, not one African institution was named in the grant awarded to Path, a Seattle-based public health non-profit with a global footprint, to fund a consortium of seven institutions in the US, the UK, and Australia to support African countries improve the use of data for decision-making in malaria control and elimination.

Path and USAID, which manages PMI, are being accused of not incorporating Africa-based consortia and duplicating existing initiatives.

"The PMI Inform programme will generate

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# Minister suspends Moruwasa director over 100bn/- contract

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L), Tanzania Episcopal Conference President Bishop Gervas Nyaisonga and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi participate in prayer during the national religious symposium held at Chimwaga in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

MOROGORO Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA) executive director Tamim Katakweba is among six officials of the parastatal agency being suspended for suspicions of abuse of office and laxity.

Water minister Jumaa Aweso announced the suspension here yesterday, saying the director stands accused of unilaterally signing a euro 70m (over 100bn/-) water production and supply contract without approval of the board.

The minister said the money was a loan from France and the project was earmarked for completion in the 2021/2022 financial year.

"We received information that he wanted to sign the contract on April 14, 2021 and through the permanent secretary, advised him not to do so," he stated.

"However, he silently signed the document without knowledge and participation of the ministry. The board chairman and the board of directors were not aware just as other leaders in the region," he asserted.

Also put aside pending investigation is the Water Officer at Wami-Ruvu basin, Simon Nkonyani for suspected misappropriation of funds and not cooperating with other experts.

Aweso said he had received complaints from several MORUWASA staff on the conduct of the now suspended director and

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## 'Investors hurt themselves, country by skipping EIA'

By Guardian Reporter

A NUMBER of investors contribute to challenges derailing their own prosperity and national development by proceeding with projects before actual Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), stakeholders have been told.

Abroad based meeting on EIA held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend heard that a sizeable number of businesspeople acquire land for setting up factories in wrong areas, only to be flagged later by authorities hence conflicts, delays and substantial losses.

The Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Selemari Jafo called on investors to always check with relevant authorities before setting up shop to avoid eventual delays and losses.

"This habit of putting cart before the horse should end; the project land must be assessed by relevant authorities and an EIA certificate issued first," he said.

The minister said the government really needs investors to develop an industrial economy but that cannot happen by turning a blind eye on environmental protection.

"A number of investors buy plots for factories in residential areas and end up causing conflicts and incur losses upon the settlement of the issues," he said.

By Francis Kajubi

CRDB Bank, one of the leading local commercial banks, is gearing to take its proper place in a new dawn of greater foreign investment and a spirited financial sector as a whole, the bank leadership has declared.

At a one-day seminar themed 'CRDB Bank Investment Day' held on Saturday for over 400 shareholders and corporate clients in Dar es Salaam and over 1,000 participants via online platforms, the bank disclosed a range of opportunities for its shareholders as the country accelerates its journey to attaining full middle income economy.

Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela, said that since the bank listed

## CRDB gearing up for new investment dawn

**Our motto states in part that empowering of investors can lead into full participation of Tanzanians in the economy**

at the Dar es Salaam stock market in 2009 it has strived to maintain its sector status to shareholders, where the shares are 80 percent local in which the government and its financial entities hold 36 percent and 64 percent held by local corporate entities and individuals.

The annual general meeting will be held under the shadow of ongoing changes in the fiscal policy stance of the government, following a ringing

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**I ask local government authorities to continue allocating industrial areas so that investors can build factories in the right places**



Investments minister Geoffrey Mwambe (C) greets participants to an investment workshop organised by CRDB Bank at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) through an online platform attended by 3000 individuals over the weekend. With him are CRDB board chairman Dr. Ally Laay (2nd R), deputy board chairperson Prof. Neema Morl (L), CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd L) and company secretary John Rugambo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent











Kibiti District Commissioner Gullamhussein Kifu (C) receives 500 desks, chairs and tables for schools in the district from NBC Bank's retail director Elibariki Masuke (2nd R) aiming at improving the education sector in the district. Looking on are Kibiti MP Twaha Mpenbenwe (L), NBC Bank marketing and communications director Neema Singo (second left) and the district's chairman of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Abduljabir Marombwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Bank donates 500 desks, tables to Kibiti schools, trains women SMEs

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibiti

NATIONAL Bank of Commerce (NBC) has donated 250 desks, 250 chairs and tables to Kibiti District, Coast Region as part of the bank's unique Corporate Social Responsibility Programme (CSR) that seeks to contribute to provision of quality education in the country.

The bank also trained over 150 women SMEs in the district on the basic methods of business and financial management to position them for access to finance as well as continuity.

The desks were handed over by the bank's Retail Director Elibariki Masuke during a function held at the district's Commissioner office. The occasion was also attended by the Kibiti MP, Twaha Mpenbenwe alongside other Kibiti District officials including the District Commissioner and District Executive who received the donation.

Masuke said that the bank was committed to assist in improving the welfare of local communities through interventions in education and that they were deeply touched by the desks issue and thought they should also chip in so as to ensure students have a proper learning atmosphere.

"We are proud to make this donation to Kibiti schools and we will continue supporting the education sector with various activities for national development."

He said while encouraging students to work hard and aim for higher education in order to be reliable citizens. He also advised students and staff members to take care of the furniture and have a sense of ownership.

Regarding the SMEs training, Masuke said that apart from access to finance, the major reason most banks refuse to lend to SMEs is their informal management structure.

This according to him informed the bank's decision to engage other institutions like TanTrade, SIDO, VETA and individual consultants to educate SMEs on key managerial skills that would not only help small businesses access funds, but also ensure their continuity.

"We have engaged other partners to train SMEs on such areas as inventory management, supply chain management, book keeping and leadership, just to get them properly positioned for easy access to finance," Masuke stated. He further revealed that the bank is equally offering other strategic business support initiatives which range from capacity development to networking hub through specialized programs known as 'Kliniki ya Biashara' and 'Business Clubs' saddled with the responsibility of providing on-field business support and financial advice.

The bank has consistently positioned itself as SME Bank of choice through its commitment to economic empowerment of individuals and growing entrepreneurs through partnership with various institutions and authorities such as the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Business Women Association (TABWA).

In his remarks, Kibiti District Commissioner Gullamhussein Kifu expressed gratitude to NBC for the timely support. He asked the bank to continue supporting education and women SMEs in the country. "The donation will help minimize challenges that the school is facing such as inadequate facilities and furniture," he said.

Speaking on the SMEs training, Kifu called on SMEs in the district to adhere to the principles of financial management and spending in order to protect and boost their capital.

## Minister gives RC seven days to rectify deficiency in wildlife zoo investment

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

Natural resources and Tourism Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has given the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira seven days to rectify deficiencies in the agreements of Makoa Farm, the zoo used to keep wildlife that are orphaned and those wounded.

The aim in quickly dealing with the deficiencies was to speed up the government's decision to allow the farm's investors to bring in lions from Russia.

Dr Ndumbaro gave the directives at the weekend during

his visit to the Makoa Regional Wildlife Zoo at Machame in Hai District.

"This zoo in the Makoa farm is used to receive in wildlife who have been orphaned and those wounded from all wildlife areas in the country. "Since you (the RC) are here, assist the Uduru/Makoa Cooperative Union to enable it to rectify the deficiencies in the agreements for investment in order to know their expiry dates as well as the benefits to the cooperative societies and the nation in general," he said.

He added: "I have come to

visit this wildlife zoo, apart from viewing the wildlife who have been orphaned and those wounded, but also to see the environment of various institutions applying to bring wildlife from outside the country, especially lions from Russia."

He said the government has satisfied itself beyond doubt that the upkeep of the wildlife at the zoo was satisfactory, except in regard to deficiencies in the agreements reached.

For her part, the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira said there have

deficiencies in knowing the true investor who entered into agreement with Uduru/Makoa Cooperative Union.

"The seven days given is sufficient because everything is in place, but what is needed is the arrangement according to legal procedures and guidelines from our experts," she said.

Hai Member of Parliament Saashisha Mafuwe said the coming of the Minister opens a new chapter on Cooperative societies to enter into agreements that can spur changes and bring benefits to the nation.

## Dr Hosseah urges govt to limit DPP's administrative powers

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE newly elected President of Tanzania Law Society (TLS) Dr Edward Hosseah has advised President Samia Suluhu Hassan to curb administrative powers of the country's Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

He also said during his tenure at TLS he will also advise the government that whenever it prepares bills for various laws to be tabled in parliament, it should consider rights of individuals.

Dr Hosseah gave the remarks in Arusha on Saturday after he was sworn in to lead TLS for the period 2021/22.

He added: "I know our government lead by President Samia Suluhu Hassan is a listening one, it will listen to what we say, because we the voice of the people. We as the President to curb the administrative powers of the DPP.

"In addition, we advise the government that in its various decision, it should be considering the rights of the individuals, as by doing so will help in reducing many conflicts in the society,

"In order to implement the rule of law, the must be justice and the rights of

individuals." Dr Hosseah won the TLS election at the weekend after garnering 293, after defeating his closest challenger, Flaviana Charles, Director of Business & Human Rights Tanzania who received 223 votes.

Those who registered to vote for the new TLS President were 5,286 but only

802 TLS members voted.

Other candidates who vied for the position included Shehzada Walli who got 192 votes (192), Albert Msando (69) former TLS President Francis Stollah (17).

From the results Gloria mandes becomes TLS Vice president after receiving 324 votes.



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- i. Master's degree in relevant discipline from a recognized University.
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- iv. Five (5) years professional work experience developing project logic models and performance management frameworks using participatory approach with complex stakeholder groups.
- v. Experience integrating elements of gender equality change and results measurement into complex monitoring and evaluation systems, including constructing and measuring gender equality results statements and analysing gender equality results data against a gender-specific or gender-integrated performance measurement framework.
- vi. Experience working with stakeholders from Non-Government Organizations and Government.

In addition to the key qualifications above, the incumbent is also expected to demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

- Data management skills (collection, cleaning, analysis, interpretation and presentation), documentation of lessons learnt and impact stories;
- Risk management skills (identification, analysis, responses planning and monitoring);
- Strong report writing and oral and visual presentation skills;
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- Knowledge of gender equality and equity policy priorities and processes in Tanzania.

Interested candidates may obtain detailed description of these services by sending a request email to [procurement@fssptz.org](mailto:procurement@fssptz.org). Requests for further information will be received up to three working days prior to the submission deadline. Any request received later than that may not be responded to.

Interested candidates should send their Expressions of Interest (EoIs) ONLY electronically to [procurement@fssptz.org](mailto:procurement@fssptz.org) not later than **02 May 2021 at 23:59 hours**. Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation, irrespective of the circumstances.

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## State to implement all water pending projects

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government will from next financial year start implementing all pending projects of supplying water from the country's major lakes so as to address water shortages hitting various parts in the country.

Deputy minister for Water Maryprisca Mahundi told the August House on Friday here that it has already completed doing designs for all the projects which will be undertaken by phases.

She was reacting to a supplementary question from Martha Mariki (Special Seats) who wanted to know over the government's plan to fetch water from Lake Tanganyika for supply in Katavi Region's areas which are facing acute shortage of the precious liquid.

Mahundi however said that availability of water in Katavi Region was at 70 percent and the government through water and sanitation authority in the area was implementing two projects which were at final stages to completion.

She said the government has continued improving provision of clean water service in the Region, noting that Mpanda municipality was among 28 townships that would benefit from implementing water projects through loans provided by the government of India.

However, through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), the government implements 30 other projects.

Upon completion of those projects would see a total of 138 villages in Katavi region access reliable water and thus enable residents to conduct development activities smoothly.

Early this year, the late former President John Magufuli launched a 617bn/- mega water project using water from Lake Victoria to benefit 1.2 million Tabora

residents.

The project, consisting of 281-kilometer length pipe tapping water from Lake Victoria, was a continuation of the government's initiative to supply water from the Lake to places with the demand of the service.

Its inauguration came barely a day after he had launched Isaka-Kagongwa water project, worth 23.17bn/-, in Shinyanga Region, which also supplies water from Lake Victoria.

Reports show that, only 57 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 percent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling some distance to collect water.



**The project, consisting of 281-kilometer length pipe tapping water from Lake Victoria, was a continuation of the government's initiative to supply water from the Lake to places with the demand of the service**



Tanzania Postal Bank loan director Henry Bwogi (4th R) hands over supplies to special needy students to Simiyu Region acting administrative secretary Ekwabi Majugu (3rd L) for the camping of Form 4 and 6 students in the region held at Bariadi secondary school over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PARLIAMENTARY Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has instructed the Morogoro Water and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA) management in Morogoro Municipality to ensure it solves the long time complaints on water shortage facing the residents by using the available resources and not wait for implementation of big, long term projects.

PAC Chairman Naghengwa Livingstone Kaboyoka said after the panel visited Morogoro region and received reports in regard to MORUWASA management and inspection of development projects, it received many complaints from the residents on water shortage.

He said there were reports that some residents get water once a

## PAC instructs Moruwasa to solve water woes in Moro municipality

week and others every after two or three weeks.

He said despite the water shortage, customers have been receiving inflated water bills as if they were getting water at all times.

He called on MORUWASA to cling to flowing water projects to ensure the availability of the water, as these water sources never dry up, instead of engaging in drilling for water wells without studying the ground environment which has seen many wells drying up.

The PAC Chairman also expressed his displeasure with reports on loss of about 35 per cent of water that was being

produced due to various reasons including leakages and water theft.

He also decried the habit by some experts engaging themselves in corruption, by soliciting bribes in order to be connected to water supply, including others who are joined to the water supply without having water accounts.

He said the water sector in the country has been receiving many complaints for a long time including water shortage, water projects implemented below standard and other challenges, hence he called on the Water Minister, Juma Aweso and his Deputy to ensure they take steps against all those who

hinder the development of the people.

Earlier, Water Minister Juma Aweso told the PAC that was also attended by MORUWASA officials that despite the government's heavily investing in the water sector, it was still not satisfied with the loss of water that is claimed to reach 35 to 40 per cent and called upon MORUWASA officials to deal with these losses.

He said Morogoro Region was among regions with many water reliable sources hence the government will continue working together with the people to supervise and protect them in order for people to get adequate supply of safe and clean water.



Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) eastern zone manager Bevin Ngenzi (R) displays some products produced by NIDA textile managing director Muhamad Hassaan (C). Looking on is NIDA textile director Muhamad Amin. Photo: Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) has called on local manufacturers to continue producing quality merchandise that competes in the international competitive markets, hence brings in the country foreign exchange (Forex).

TIC Eastern Zone Manager, Bevin Ngenzi made the call at the weekend when a delegation from the center visited the Dar es Salaam-based NIDA textiles to see their daily operations and challenges they're facing in scaling up the country's industrialization agenda.

The official said that it's high time for local manufacturers

## TIC urges industrialists to produce quality goods to win global market

to invest heavily in producing high-quality goods, which is an important factor for their development and they can easily expand their markets from within and outside Tanzania.

He however commended NIDA textiles for producing high-quality products that have a market in and outside the country, saying: "I'm so surprised to different products that you have been producing ... they're of high standards. I really commend you for what you are doing. Your products are good and

someone may think that come from abroad, but it is produced here."

NIDA Textiles managing director, Muhammad Hassaan said that currently, they are exporting goods to as far as Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

"We'll soon start penetrating into the European and American market. We're appealing to the government to discourage importation of some cheap products, which in turn disrupt the internal market and eventually

can kill local industries," he said.

The 19-year-old factory started as a company with an integrated manufacturing process that includes the processing of cotton at source to yarn at its sister concern Namera Group of Companies and finished textile and made up at its own production plant, according to another director of the textiles, Muhammad Amin. The state-of-the-art textile engaged in dyeing, printing, and finishing of African Khanga, Kitenge, Batik, Bed linen, and plain fabrics

## Closure of alcohol distributing shops creating huge liquor shortage in Z'bar tourist hotels

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board has closed down shops distributing alcoholic drinks to pave way for the Holy month of Ramadhan creating a huge shortage of liquor in tourist hotels.

The board's secretary Zainab Makame Mussa told reporters that according to Section the new Alcoholic Drinks Control Act (No 9 of 2020) the alcohol distribution shops are supposed to close during the month of Ramadhan.

She said owners of the shops have been told to open the shops On May 15 this year and whoever would go against the directive will have his trading licence revoked.

"In the implementation of its duties the Board has invoked Section 25(3)(4) of the Act and has banned all those dealing in liquor trade with the exception of tourist hotels," she added.

In regard to the firms that were permitted to import alcoholic drinks against to the Act, she said the Board has used wisdom to protect government revenue, and that is why they set aside the law's requirement.

She said Section 33(1) of the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control Act has placed a cap in the number of firms licenced to import alcoholic drinks == to only three, but the Board, up to February 22 this year has issued eight licences to protect government revenues.

However, she said laconic drinks distributors were free to appeal to the Minister concerned if they feel the closure of their shops has occasioned liquor shortage in Zanzibar tourist hotels.

For his part the Managing Director of Zanzibar Association of Tourist Investors (ZATI) Taleeb

Jussab said they have started receiving complaints on the liquor shortage in tourist hotels.

He said solving the problem needs wisdom in protecting the tourist industry and increase of government revenue through the tourist sector.

He said unfortunately the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board has closed the shops that distribute alcohol without involving tourist hotel owners and other stakeholders.

"We are saddened by the situation and we appeal to the government to take immediate steps to solve the problem by involving stakeholders in order to protect the tourist industry and government revenue," he added.

He also said the Alcoholic Drinks Control Act needs amendments due to the ongoing problems arising therefrom since its implementation.



**We are saddened by the situation and we appeal to the government to take immediate steps to solve the problem by involving stakeholders in order to protect the tourist industry and government revenue**





Natural Resources and Tourism minister Damas Ndumbaro (C), Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira (L) and Hai MP Saashisha Mafuwe (3rd L) listen to Hai district administrative secretary Upendo Wella before visiting the Makoa Zoo situated in Hai for orphanage and injured wildlife. Right is Makoa Zoo founder Elizabeth Stigmaller. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

## Insurance sector to grow to 5pc of GDP by 2030, stakeholders predict

INSURANCE industry is expected to grow from the current penetration of 0.6 percent to about 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030, according to stakeholders.

They made the prediction in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the Insurance Distribution Channels Convention that gathered insurance practitioners, academicians and policy makers, among other stakeholders to discuss major policy developments and emerging issues, and get input on the policy priorities and network with colleagues.

Executive chairperson for Africa College Insurance and Social Protection (ACISP), Dr Baghayo Saquare said that Tanzania has just launched its Financial Sector Development Master Plan (FSMDP) 2020 - 2030 aiming at guiding

the direction of the insurance subsectors in this decade, adding that:

"The population coverage is expected to reach 50 percent of the adult from the current about 4 percent and a potential premium volume of 8tn/-.The FSMDP 2030 has set ambitious goals for the insurance subsector, which are 5 percent insurance assets to GDP; 3 percent of gross life premiums and 2 percent of gross non-life GDP."

He added that in line with the ambitious goals in the insurance industry, the FSMDP 2030 has set some targets, including 10 percent of beneficiaries of retirement plans use annuity products (by 2030), development of 10 new demand driven insurance products,

90 percent of the population have health insurance as well as development of 8 percent affordable insurance distribution channels.

It was also targeted that about 20 percent of the adult population have life savings products, 80 percent (population) are aware of insurance matters, 10 percent total insurance premium contributed by agriculture insurance as well as establishment of insurance pools and consortium.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)'s Commissioner of Insurance, Dr Mussa Juma described insurance as key to the country's industrialization agenda, considering the fact that the entire value chain of industrialization is

faced by many types of risks which can only be mitigated by insurance.

According to him, the government is also cognizant of the fact that insurance is among the major economic sectors which will help the country to attain middle-income status, a goal that can only be achieved through strategic development of alternative distributions channels and undertaking operational partnerships, as it has been well articulated by this Year's convention theme, which is: "Reflection, Connection and building ideas for the insurance industry leaders and executives to Increase Insurance Penetration and Growth through distribution channels".

## Stakeholders review Tanzania's commitment towards climate mitigation and adaptation

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

REPRESENTATIVES from civil society organisations, government departments, academia and UN agencies are meeting here in a technical working session to review and update Draft Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) that reflect the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and undertake adaptation measures to deal with climate change impacts.

About 30 representatives participating in the working session will review and update existing priority sectoral and cross-sectoral adaptation and mitigation targets, policies and measures that will be incorporated into the Draft NDC and Draft NDC Implementation Plan. The session has been organized and funded by the Government of Tanzania, UNDP, CAN Tz and FORUM CC

"Participants will also undertake mainstreaming of key identified priority sectoral and cross-cutting issues into the two documents as well as align the NDC with the draft National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026 and Zanzibar Climate Change Strategy 2014," said Nyashilu, Issa Musa, Senior Environment Management Officer in Vice-President's Office who is Chairman of the session.

He explained that dealing with climate change requires participation of all sectors of the economy and the public in general and such efforts must be unified and coordinated in order to produce results. "The ultimate aim is to see that Tanzania makes a significant contribution to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions globally while building climate change resilient communities," he said.

The Executive Director of

CAN Tz Dr.Sixbert Mwangi explained that the draft NDC that participants will discuss is grounded on the Intended Nationally Declared Contributions (INDC) which were submitted to UNFCCC in October 2015. "Subsequently a draft NDC was completed in 2019 and submitted to the government for further action ready for registering at UNFCCC by 2020. However this was not done, probably because of the outbreak of COVID-19. Thus the process was delayed," he said, adding that the review is important in order to incorporate into the draft changes that might have happened in due course and to make the document relevant and responsive to current needs.

Dr.Patrick Ndaki who is a lecturer and researcher at the Institute of Resource Assessment's Centre for Climate Change Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam said that the process to prepare the NDC document had gone according to schedule until 2019 when the draft was presented to the government for final process and submission. "However things came to a standstill, maybe due to government bureaucracy. But we have to move on now," he said.

Looking at the future, Dr. Ndaki thinks that Tanzania might face some challenges when implementing NDCs. "One problem could be inadequate and unpredictable funding. Parties to the UNFCCC agree that industrialised countries have the obligation to finance adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries but funds are not forthcoming. These countries have domestic problems that they must attend to including severe floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, heat waves and wildfires as a result of which they have abandoned this obligation," he said.

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## TENDER NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES

1. National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2021/2022, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
2. Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of services;
  - i. Media Buying and Placement Services
  - ii. Event Planning & Management
  - iii. Supply & Distribution of Drinking Water
  - iv. Recruitment Services
  - v. Traveling Agency Services
  - vi. Car Rental and Taxis Services
  - vii. Development of Stress Testing solution
  - viii. Public Relation Services
3. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website [www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz) and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
4. All Proposals should be sent in one original document and a copy properly filled in, and enclosed in a sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
5. Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Monday, 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive /Azikiwe Street.

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



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**  
**TANZANIA NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY**



### DISCLOSURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AND RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF MNIVATA – NEWALA – MASASI ROAD PROJECT (160 KM) IN MTWARA REGION.

The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) on behalf of the Ministry of Works, and Transport intend to Upgrade the Mnivata – Newala – Masasi roads(160km) located in Mtwara Region

The African Development Bank has shown interest to finance construction of the project road.

The Environmental and social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the project were prepared in fulfilment of the requirement of the African Development Bank and the National Environmental Management Act (2004).

TANROADS is now disclosing the document to the public and inviting all stakeholders and the community at large to access the document for the purpose of following up the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

The public can access the ESIA and RAP for the project through TANROADS website at [www.tanroads.go.tz](http://www.tanroads.go.tz) and at the following offices.

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## Villagers in Namtumbo appeal for help to curb cattle invasion

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

LIMAMU villagers in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region have appealed to the government to help remove groups of livestock keepers who have invaded and destroyed village land forest reserve.

They said their efforts to conserve and manage Ndanje village land forest reserve are being set back by the frequent invasion of cattle which pose threats to the 17,841-acres village land forest reserve which has significant ecological, climate, and livelihood benefits to local communities in Namtumbo District.

Speaking at the meeting organized by Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) to educate and create awareness on the forestry and value chains development programme (FORVAC), the secretary of the Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC) said that the pastoralists are from the neighbouring villages of Namendo, Namali, Kihongosi, and Kikuta.

"MJUMITA in collaboration with FORVAC program has created and increased economic, social and environmental benefits from forests and woodlands but the invasion of the pastoralists are eroding all the benefits, also setting back the efforts to tackle deforestation, he said.

The village Chairman Magnus Casper said going around the village land forest reserve for patrols, one has to take 45-kilometers which means to and from the village land forest reserve takes more than 90 kilometers.

Limamu village is one of the four villages in the district which started implementing FORVAC program in 2020 adding that so far MJUMITA through the program has equipped the villagers with conservation education including members of the natural resource

committee.

"We are expecting to benefit a lot from the program. We are planning to use the money accrued from the forest products to build teachers' houses and classrooms. We shall also use some of the money to fund insurance services for our villagers especially people with disabilities," he said.

He said that before the project, the villages had to dig in their pocket to contribute to the development projects, but now programme has helped the villagers get some money for the development activities.

Namtumbo district forest officer Maulidi Fussy said the district will work out the challenges facing forest conservation in the village. "We understand that the village faces several challenges including a shortage of patrol facilities. The district in collaboration with MJUMITA and FORVAC, will make sure that the conservation drive continues in all the project villages.

For his part, MJUMITA's Coordinator for Sothern Zone, Benedict Minja urged the villagers to put in place conservation plans and strategies to protect their forests. He said the program is advancing sustainable forest management and generate income and employment to communities of declared Village Land Forest Reserves.

"When we talk of community-based forest management (CBFM), we mean collective efforts of all the villagers under the management of the village government. The forest conservation and management must continue even after the village government has completed its tenure of office," he said.

"The village Executive officer can be transferred to another village but the villagers will remain. Therefore, it is better that you understand that these forests are yours and it is the villagers who will benefit from conservation efforts," he said.



Water minister Juma Aweso (R) witnesses during Equity (T) Bank operations director Esther Kitoka handing over a 10m/- dummy cheque to Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority managing director Aron Joseph Augustine for Makore primary school water infrastructure over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Defenders urged to cooperate with govt to educate on children's rights

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mwanza

HUMAN Rights Defenders have been called upon to work together with the government in providing education on the rights of children who live and work in roadsides as well as those employed in homes.

The stakeholders include community development officials, the police, Non-Governmental Organisations such as Railway Children Africa (RCA) and All Equal.

The call was issued by the Acting Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary Emmily Kasagala at

the weekend when introducing new projects in ensuring the availability of the rights of domestic workers and children who live and work in the streets through education on rights in Ilemela and Nyamagana districts in Mwanza Region.

He said the cooperation will help in solving children in these groups and prevent the increase of the numbers in the streets as well reducing degradation of domestic workers.

He said the issue of children living in streets, degradation, illegal trafficking of children was wrong, so, he added, the time has come to confront the causes for

the children to live in the streets.

He said in the period of one-year Railway Children Africa and AllEqual have rescued 353 children, 193 of who were returned to their parents, and provided legal aid to 274 people, while 189 youth were trained and empowered to enable them engage in economic activities.

He said the government appreciate efforts by NGOs in contributing in the national plan for children's protection for 2017/2018 and 2021 to 2022 even though statistics on children living in the streets in Mwanza Region show an increase of these children.

He said according to recent data from research conducted by Railway Children Africa in collaboration with PACT Tanzania and Mwanza city Council, there were a total of 1,254 children in the streets of Mwanza of which 978, or 78 per cent were enumerated during the day and 276 (22 per cent) during the night.

For his part the AllEqual director who also represented the Director of Railway Children Africa, Angela Benedict said she like to see the community that was safe, free and transparent and the existence of a legal system that ensures domestic workers work in safe environment,



Total Network director Marieme Sow (R) together with Tanzanian model Flaviana Matata (C) Total communication officer Zoe Okoedion distributed free of charge sanitary pads to Jangwani secondary school students donated by Flaviana Matata Foundation and funded by Total Tanzania over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Francis Kajubi

## Doctor invents eye public app

A MEDICAL doctor has invented an application on which medical doctors will have to register and have easier access to the general public seeking for medical counselling and treatment.

Founder and owner of the App, Dr Cyprian Ntomoka, medical retina specialist, managing director AfyaYangy company limited and who also serves as the head of eye services at CCBBT said on Saturday in Dar es Salaam that the app will make easier for the general public to know at what hospitals they can seek specialists of their sickness.

Dubbed as patients, services and doctors (PASEDO) the App launched on Saturday that allows

specialist doctors from different departments being in public or private hospitals to put on their details so that patients in need of their assistance knows how to find them.

"The app targets bringing together doctors and patients to have private discussions and arrange for either treatments or counselling without inflicting costs. A lot of people out there especially from rural areas and even in urban areas are not aware of where to find proper specialists of the diseases they are suffering from;

You may find that a lot of people incur extra cost just to find a specialized doctor. The

App will allow the medical experts to indicate their details that among others include name of hospitals they work for and time that are available," said Dr Ntomoka.

According to him, the App will help the patient to search for a right hospital or medical doctor in relation to his sickness, make bookings and even choose a medical doctor he needs to be attended by. The App will help patients who scare away queues of waiting to seek a medical doctor and instead scheduling appointments.

"A lot of patients visit hospitals while they are ill. You may ask yourself what kept them home

for all that time but come to realize that it was doubts of how and where to see a right medical doctor. The App has been available for almost a month now. No costs subjected to registration at the first place maybe after it has shown positive results. Almost 400 patients and 20 medical doctors have registered," he asserted.

Medical doctors who can access the App and get used of it are only those registered and working for registered medical facilities. Ntomoka called upon medical doctors in rural areas to take advantage of the App so as to help the community get easier access to their services.

## NGO to launch handwashing drive in Dar to scale up fight against Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based non-governmental organization—My Legacy is set to launch a handwashing campaign targeting, schools, local government offices, bus stops, and markets as part of scaling up the fight against Covid-19.

My Legacy Executive Director Fortunata Temu, said during the introduction of the project to the partners over the weekend, adding that the program will be situated in Kinondoni district targeting, Kunduchi, Wazo and Kawe wards.

She said that that the handwashing advocacy program dedicated to increasing awareness of washing hands as an effective way of prevent diseases and saving lives.

"The program is indeed time to advocate for handwashing habits for health considering the outbreak of COVID-19. We are intending to teach students in selected primaries and secondary schools the significance of handwashing habits."

"We will as well advocate the same issue to communities and in total, more than 10,000 people (around 2,000 households) will be reached, as we intend to provide handwashing facilities like the barrels, buckets, and liquid soaps."

"We want students, members of communities to wash their hands with soap and the running water regularly to prevent other communicable diseases not only coronavirus," she noted.

Speaking during an interactive session involving community development officials, ward executives, and media among others, Fortunata said they will catch the young learners in schools with a large number of students, however, who do not have handwashing facilities.

"Our initiative is to join the

communities in Kunduchi, Kawe, and Wazo wards to provide facilities for handwashing in our schools, in markets, and in the offices of ward executive officials to advocate the importance of handwashing with soap and running water as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save many lives of our people, knowing that prevention is better than cure," said Temu.

She said apart from hand washing the My Legacy, will also work with women and youth in business to train them on better ways of how to improve their businesses.

The NGO also plans to make the program more sustainable by ensuring that they work with the communities particularly with women and youths to produce liquid soaps which will be used in the handwashing campaigns.

During the session, officials from Kawe proposed that Kawe A and B primaries, as well as Ukwamani secondary, should be taken on board.

The Wazo ward team members suggested that Twiga Primary and Kisauke Secondary schools should be part of the program on the ground that the schools have a higher number of students, while ward executive offices are regularly visited by many people daily, hence becomes one of the places where people ought to wash their hands with soap and the running water.

"We will as well advocate the same issue to communities and in total, more than 10,000 people (around 2,000 households) will be reached, as we intend to provide handwashing facilities like the barrels, buckets, and liquid soaps."





Joseph Mchinda Mufindi District Commissioner (3rd R) hands over 50 tables and desks to Upendo secondary school headmistress Judith Kisoma shortly after donated by NMB. Looking on are highlands manager Straton Chilongola (C) NMB Mafinga branch manager Mary Mpasha (L) and NMB government-business highlands relations manager Humphrey Kaaya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## AU holds conference to accelerate African vaccine development, manufacturing capacity

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN leaders assembled at a global meeting to discuss the status of local pharmaceutical manufacturing on the continent, underscored the need to increase local production of vaccines and therapeutics to achieve greater public-health security.

"The production of vaccines and access to vaccines is an absolute priority," Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, said Monday in opening remarks at the start of the two-day virtual meeting, convened by the African Union.

The meeting was attended by several African heads of state, health, finance and trade ministers from across the continent, as well as officials from global financial institutions, foundations, pharmaceutical manufacturers, business leaders, and the general public. The African Development Bank was represented by Solomon Quaynor, Vice President Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization.

Although Africa consumes approximately one-quarter of global vaccines by volume, it manufactures less than 1% of its routine vaccines, with almost no outbreak vaccine manufacturing in place. The region lags behind in procuring vaccines amid a global scramble for the medicines among wealthier nations. Thus far, only around 2% of the world's vaccination against Covid-19 has taken place in Africa.

The need for a new public health order in Africa, which promotes domestic vaccine manufacturing, epidemic preparedness and upgraded healthcare systems to meet the needs of the world's

fastest-growing population, was the conference's main objective.

The African Union and the Africa CDC said they would continue to work with all stakeholders to identify implementable actions, financing needs and timelines to competitively produce vaccines in Africa.

Quaynor noted that the current undertaking would require immense investment. "Vaccine manufacturing, because of its complexity, is not really an entrepreneurial drive but actually an institutional drive," he added.

The African Development Bank is working with global and African stakeholders, to articulate a 2030 vision for Africa's Pharmaceutical Industry in response to several calls received from African Heads of State, who have expressed a strong political will. This vision aligns with its "industrialize Africa" priority strategy.

The vision will build on previous efforts to produce a continental plan of action to boost local African pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, such as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa adopted in Abuja in January 2005 and the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), prepared by the African Union Commission and the United Nations in 2012, to assist local manufacturers with pharmaceutical production.



**The production of vaccines and access to vaccines is an absolute priority**

## Govt approves GGML underground mining and open pit operations

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has embarked on underground and open pit operations after receiving the 2021 mining plan approval from the government.

Making the revelation here over the weekend, government chief inspector of mines, Dr Abdul Rahman Mwangi said it was based on the documentation provided by the company to the mining commission.

Following the approval, GGML is expected to conduct mining operations as described in the complete evaluated application package approved by the chief inspector of Mines. The Company is also required to conduct its business in compliance with

the terms and conditions of the Tanzania Laws. Furthermore, the company will update the approved mining plan annually and in occurrence of major changes in the operations.

Commenting on the authorisation, GGML's managing director Richard Jordinson commended the government for continued collaboration over the years and disclosed that GGML would now have the opportunity to maximize the mine's potential and meet stakeholder expectations.

"The approval of our Mining Plan is testament to our solid mining record in the country. It also illustrates the Government's confidence in our company as development partners," said Jordinson.

Included in the mining plan is the Nyamulilima project which comprises: Ridge 8, Star and Comet, Xanadu, Selous, Mabe and Roberts targets. Open pit mining at Nyamulilima is expected to exponentially increase gold production at GGML, with a mine plan extension until 2027.

"The green light to commence mining activities at Nyamulilima is great news for our stakeholders, employees and contractors. It also augurs well for the Geita community. Guided by our core value to ensure that communities surrounding the Mine are better off for AngloGold Ashanti having been there, we anticipate continued investment in the community," added Jordinson.

On his part, GGML Acting

Managing Director Wayne Louw said: "Commencing mining activities at Nyamulilima spells great promise for our stakeholders, employees and contractors. It also augurs well for the Geita community. Guided by our core value to ensure that communities surrounding the mine are better off for AngloGold Ashanti having been there, we anticipate continued investment in the community."

Recently GGML emerged the overall best performing Company in the Mining Sector of Tanzania for the financial year 2019/2020 after scooping accolades in Corporate Social Responsibility, Environment and Safety, Government Revenue Collection (Taxes) and Local Business Content.

## New UN-backed framework to improve agricultural trade among African states

By Guardian Reporter

THE UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), together with the African Union (AU) Commission, launched a new continent-wide framework on Thursday, to boost trade and improve food security.

According to the UN agency, the initiative will help "unlock the potential" of the agricultural sector to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth across the continent, and promote the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement that began in January, establishing the world's largest free trading area, in terms of countries participating.

The framework provides a timely catalyst for the transformation to more efficient,

inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, sustainable development and prosperity in Africa", FAO Assistant Director-General Abebe Haile-Gabriel, AU Commissioner Josefa Sacko, and AfCFTA secretary-general Wamkele Mene, said in a joint statement.

"A key priority is the pursuit of industrial transformation policies and programmes that support the private sector to add value to African exports, compete with imports from outside Africa and expand opportunities for job creation", they added.

FAO highlighted that the framework will help the national formulation of strategies, policies and programmes, which will not only promote intra-African trade but also develop

agricultural value chains, so that all stakeholders - including farmers, agri-businesses, women and youth - can reap the benefits of the new trading bloc.

Formally known as the Framework for Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services, the initiative covers trade policy, facilitation, infrastructure and finance; productive capacity; market integration; and cross-cutting issues, such as market information systems.

Though African countries import about \$80 billion worth of agricultural and food products annually. Only a small portion of that trade is within the continent, with intra-African agricultural trade is estimated to be less than 20 percent.



Tanga Regional Commissioner Martine Shigella (L) hands over Bajaj motorbike to Selemu Zuberi donated by the Youth with disabilities community Programme centre in Tanga over the weekend. With him are Islamic Help Tanzania director Amjad Khan (2nd R) and YDCP coordinator Leopold Abeid. Photo: Correspondent Steve William



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE  
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND  
LICENSING AGENCY



### PRESS RELEASE

#### EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Dar es Salaam, April 2021

The Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) cordially informs Company owners and the general Public that, the Minister for Industry and Trade through Government Notice No. 189 of 12th February, 2021 extended the time for submission of information on Beneficial Owners for a period of twelve months from 1st January, 2021 to the Companies registered before 1st July, 2020.

The requirement to submit beneficial ownership information arises from the amendments of the Companies Act, Cap. 212 which were done through the Finance Act, 2020.

This extension of time has been granted in accordance with section 459A of the Companies Act, Cap 212 which empowers the Minister to extend the time for submission of Beneficial Ownership information.

BRELA in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade is in the last stages of completing The Companies (Beneficial Ownership) Regulations that will specify the modality of submission and keeping of beneficial ownership information. Once the Regulations are published, BRELA shall start receiving the said information.

For more details, kindly contact us through email address [usajili@brela.go.tz](mailto:usajili@brela.go.tz), phone number +255 (0) 22 221 2800 or visit our office located at The Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives Building, 6th floor, Lumumba Street, Dar es Salaam.

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MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Union getting even stronger with the current presidency

LOOKING at what is happening on a daily basis, one gets the feeling that the union of the Mainland and Zanzibar is getting stronger each passing day, with impressions of lingering disaffection with the union diminishing by the day. The current presidency, on account of institutional procedure sewed up with fate, looks like it is the phase to actually solidify the union, chiefly on account of unanimous support and loyalty to the new national leader, removing doubts as to respect of the constitution. It was a major step.

We saw on Saturday how a cultural troupe from Zanzibar was on stage, on the ground in ceremonies to commission newly graduating officers of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF), which also involved cadets from neighbouring countries. Similarly, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Selemani Jafo was on a visit to Zanzibar at midweek, where he sounded upbeat about ending pending contentious non-union matters. He said that the government is working on remaining issues, set to table for signing a resolution framework pact, implying that harmony is at hand.

During his tour of Zanzibar to visit various development projects Jafo was accompanied by Deputy Minister Hamad Hassan Chande, where the minister notably saw procedural challenges as things that ought to be behind us by now. He said the government is working hard to resolve the pending union challenges "so that we focus solely on improving the living standards of the people in the Mainland and Zanzibar." He visited projects being implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) and

the Market Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance (MIVARF) projects, along with the World Bank linked SWIOfish project in Nungwi area. The latter refers to the South-West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project (Africa region), selecting priority fisheries for improvement.

What strikes outsiders looking at the reports is that there is closer cooperation and ground inspection as to how projects linking the two parts of the country are being implemented, as further strengthening the union is a key objective. To this end, the minister tasked project managers with carefully managing the funds provided by the Union government for the implementation of various projects in order to bring good results. He expressed delight that the projects he visited were being implemented effectively. He all the same underlined that technical teams at work on the projects "have work to do in ensuring the projects reflect value for money criteria." Chances are that effective implementation equals value for money.

Echoing the spirit of Jafo's tour, Khalid Bakari Hamran, the director of government coordination for Union Affairs in Zanzibar urged residents in the project areas to identify areas where they have noticed challenges so that proper implementation is exercised. TASAF disbursements notably increased from 12bn/- to 21.2bn/- in the past year in relation to Zanzibar projects, which enabled the department to beef up projects in health, education and water sectors. The near doubling of disbursements shows that institutions are working to enhance visible improvement in people's lives.

## Workforce survey will show clear links of reform needs

THE government intends to embark on a workforce survey that is expected to inform government action in revamping school and college curricula in the next year or so, on the basis of a parliamentary affirmation by Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), when winding up debate on the PMO budget estimates for the 2021/2022 financial year. The key issue in the survey is to look at how to facilitate improvement of the education system and curriculums to produce more competent graduates.

The minister said that from the study findings, the government will come up with a national strategy to transform the country's education system to strengthen the formation of competent human resources to meet the country's current needs. There is a clear problem as to how training programmes and curriculum for technical and vocational education can be designed to complement the country's development priorities, market demand and assure the development of science and technology. The survey will serve to indicate where improvement efforts are needed, involving a change of school and colleges programmes.

There is also the problem of seeking to produce more graduates capable of employing themselves, as securing formal employment has increasingly become a tricky issue. Another aspect is how to pursue skills development, where a

tangible issue is increasing budget allocation, raising the number of tutors and supportive tools, where stimulating the development of the green and blue economy are priority objectives. The survey is an effort by the government to try and put repeated calls by parliamentarians and other quarters of the public to overhaul the country's education system so as to produce competent graduates for the country's development. Often it is easier said than done, to sort out and solve the links.

When in various contributions MPs say the country's education sector has an outmoded curriculums ending up producing an incompetent workforce, that assertion can't be taken lightly, and it also can't be swallowed whole. Debating the 114.8trillion/- Five Year Development Plan (FYDP-III), legislators urged the government to take acute measures to improve the sector by facilitating the provision of quality education. This might mean different things to different people, which the government needs to find out.

The need for a more vocational focus in primary and secondary education is acutely felt. Reports show that 800,000 young men and women enter the labour market each year, school and college graduates and young people migrating from rural to urban areas. Unemployment among youths aged 15 to 34 years is estimated as hovering around 13.4 percent and these youths pose different problems when it comes to sorting out how to find gainful occupation to live their adult lives meaningfully. Curriculum is therefore a vital aspect.

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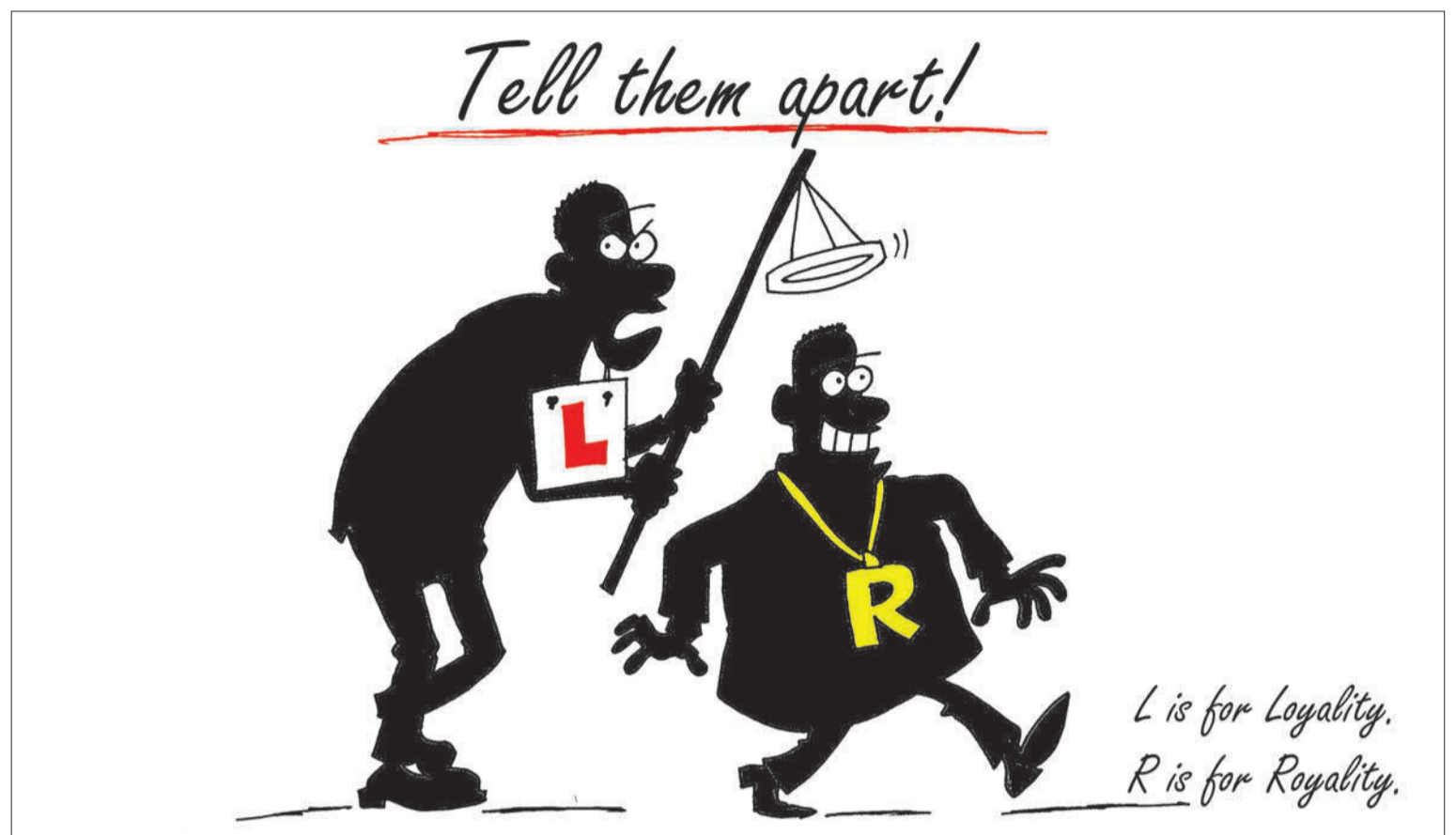
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## Fundamental reform of the Road Accident Fund is urgently needed

By Letlhokwa George Mpedi

DESPITE its regular source of funding, the Road Accident Fund is technically insolvent. Clearly, something is fundamentally wrong with the system and something has to be done. Lump-sum payments must be replaced with a monthly disbursement.

The saying that "a picture is worth 1,000 words" must be tweaked to "a meme is worth 1,000 words". I recently received a meme from an acquaintance that, as a social protection expert, motorist and, most importantly, a taxpayer, got me thinking. It was a picture of a man's hand opening a lid of a potjie on a fire with a R100 note. It is captioned: "Your boyfriend at a family gathering after receiving Road Accident Fund money."

As far-fetched as this may seem, such a phenomenon is plausible. For their benefit, doubting Thomases are kindly invited to watch the television show, I Blew It, which shares heart-wrenching stories about people in South Africa who received a monetary windfall and squandered it. Although there are odd cases of those who received inheritances, particularly death benefits and lottery winnings, the vast majority of the stories are about those who had Road Accident Fund (RAF) compensation.

The stories are invariably told by those who received the compensation, their families and friends. Each episode starts by introducing the person who became rich overnight, how they lived a lavish lifestyle following compensation, when they realised that they were running out of money, and the habitual conclusion of regret.

As the RAF system stands, the compensation paid is normally wasted on booze, fancy clothes, cars, impromptu holiday jaunts and everything that conjures up "a good time" in general. Some of the people who have cashed in from the RAF do outrageous things with the windfall. For instance, one of the beneficiaries described on I Blew It how he used to wash his hands with cognac after feasting on grilled meat. He further bragged about how, in a moment of excitement, he burnt R10,000. Destroying



a wad of banknotes is not only madness, but is also a criminal offence, in terms of Section 34(1) (f) of the South African Reserve Bank Act 90 of 1989.

The phrase about an unwise person and wealth essentially being an incompatible combination is traceable to Proverbs 21:20 of the Bible (King James Version) which states that: "There is [a] treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up." Furthermore, the expression "a fool and his money are soon parted" was often repeated by Thomas Tusser, an English poet and farmer, in his poem Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry, published in 1557.

The association of foolishness, money that invariably evaporates, and the RAF compensation does and should not be interpreted as implying that all RAF payments end up being misspent. There are indeed cases where the money is prudently used to help the victims of road accidents to cope with social risks such as sickness, invalidity and unemployment. It should be recalled that the RAF is a statutory fund established to provide "payment of compensation... for loss or damage wrongfully caused by the driving of motor vehicles".

The victims of road accidents can claim compensation for emergency medical treatment, non-emergency medical treatment, future medical

expenses, past or future loss of income, past or future loss of support, funeral expenses and non-pecuniary loss (such as general damages for pain and suffering). Survivors of a deceased victim or victims of a road accident can claim compensation for the loss of support. The compensation provided by the RAF to road crash victims is financed largely from the RAF levy of R2.07 per litre of fuel purchased. More than R40-billion is collected annually.

Despite having a regular source of funding, the RAF is struggling financially. To be blunt, it is technically insolvent. Efforts have been made to replace the current system that has been branded as "unworkable, unsustainable and corrupt" with a no-fault based scheme, where compensation would be disbursed monthly to the road accident victims, called the Road Accident Benefit Scheme. Regrettably, the bill that was meant to introduce the scheme in South Africa was rejected by the National Assembly on 3 September 2020. It was, among other reasons, criticised for being out of touch with the realities on the ground, particularly when it came to the urban and rural poor.

Notwithstanding the rejection of the Road Accident Benefit Scheme Bill, it is abundantly clear that something is fundamentally wrong with the system and that something has to be done. It is indeed untenable that the payment meant to support victims

of road accidents to cope with, for example, past and/or future loss of income and medical expenses is recklessly spent – overnight. Such beneficiaries invariably end up relying on the tax-financed social assistance benefits such as the disability grant and old-age grant. It is important that victims of road accidents are adequately informed about the purpose of the compensation.

Second, to minimise the abuse and subsequent destitution, compensation must be provided as a monthly benefit to the victims or survivors. A friend recently quipped that perhaps there should be a Fourth Industrial Revolution technology like Siri that detects and guides RAF beneficiaries each time they misspend money. As pointed out by Sir James Paul McCartney, "that would be something. It really would be something".

When all is said and done, it will take willpower to introduce such a system. The truth of the matter is that there are many interested parties (such as legal practitioners and health professionals) who, apart from the victims and survivors, handsomely benefit from the RAF system.

It is a given that reconstituting the RAF in a manner that significantly reduces the involvement of or effectively takes such parties out of the compensation-for-road-accidents picture, will meet fierce resistance. However, attempts to improve the system should be informed by the need to provide a safety net to road accident victims and not the bottom line of those who make a living by rendering professional services to the victims.

Policymakers must protect myopic road accident victims or survivors, even if it means protecting them against themselves. South Africa is urgently in need of a redesigned system that is sustainable and effective. Until it is introduced, I Blew It is guaranteed a steady supply of depressing tales by those who almost had it all due to road accidents. To the road users who finance the RAF and taxpayers, the dismay and disgust that you feel are surely guaranteed to continue unabated.

In the final analysis, a fool and the RAF loot are certainly soon parted.





# Arrive alive - to arrive alive, responsibility is key

By J. M. Y. Amegashie

Within the course of the year 2020, the National Road Safety Authority in collaboration with Joy FM, Multimedia Group, Logistics Movers and Toyota Ghana Ltd launched an educational campaign with the caption "ARRIVE ALIVE"

The catch phrase, theme or caption however you look at it or examine it presupposes once you decide to use the road from a point of a departure, your goal and expectations is that you should arrive alive at your destination. To be able to attain your expectation, namely arrive alive is dependent upon a number of factors. My view is that responsibility is key.

Oxford Concise English DICTIONARY defines responsibility as follows:

## The state or fact of being responsible

The opportunity or ability to act independently and take decisions without authorization often a thing one is required to do as part of job, role or legal obligation.

Responsibility within the context of road usage imposes a number of obligations on the road user. First and foremost is that you are responsible for your safety. Secondly, you are responsible for the safety of those you carry in your vehicle. Last but not the least you are responsible for the safety of other road users. Aside the elements or requirements or contents of responsibility in relation to road usage organizations and institutions both in the public and private sectors have responsibilities to exercise to enable road users Arrive Alive.

The Daily Graphic of Saturday 27th February, 2021, carried on its front page. "Police blame driver for AkyemAsafo fatal crash". The fact as presented on page 13 of the Daily Graphic fits squarely into the elements of usage of the road. Was the driver mindful of his responsibility towards his own safety? Was the driver mindful of the safety of the passengers he was conveying? Was he mindful of his responsibility towards other road users namely the passengers or the driver in charge of the on-coming vehicle?

As a result of the head on collision which led to the death of 19 passengers and unspecified number of injured a number of questions emerged for consideration. My enquiry revealed that seat belts are installed in VIP buses. Did the passengers on that particular bus wear them on the day of the accident? There were seat belts, and did the driver remind the passengers to wear their belts prior to the start of the journey. Has management instructed drivers in their employment to always request passengers to wear seat belts? Are there reminders posted at strategic positions in the buses to remind passengers. Drivers are also responsible for the safety of their passengers. What each and every one of us should know is that the Natural law of inertia acts on the human beings and any object in the vehicle.

If you place books on the rear seat whilst driving and you brake suddenly, the book(s) will move towards the front and may fall on

the floor. As the vehicle is in motion your body is also in motion. That explains why when there is head on collision, passengers who are not belted fly through the windshield. Passengers become flying missiles. The difference is that these missiles will not fly to an enemy territory but rather to an emergency ward or the grave. Whenever head on collision occurs the resultant impact is the combination of the speeds at which the two vehicles were travelling prior to the collision.

At night when you observe an approaching vehicle, you cannot accurately know the type of vehicle that is approaching for you to guess and access its likely speed. You cannot also determine with accuracy the distance between you and the approaching vehicle. All that you are seeing are lights. In any case as you drive and the approaching vehicle is on the move, whatever distance you observe from the start gradually reduces and shortens. Why should you attempt to overtake four long trucks at night when visibility is reduced?

At this point, let me give a few examples and illustrations to buttress my thought and conviction that responsibility is key. A professional boxer who was preparing for an international fight was knocked down and killed by a vehicle at dawn whilst jogging. For all you know he was wearing dark clothes. All that the driver saw was darkness ahead and not a human being. We wear dark clothes to funerals and we stay beyond reasonable hours knowing very well that before we reach our destination, we will cross the road at one point or the other.

We as pedestrians cross the road behind parked vehicles. When you cross the road behind parked vehicles an approaching driver in charge of a vehicle will not see you. A number of pedestrians could not arrive alive at their respective destinations because they did not exercise responsibility in the use of the road. Some motorcyclists and pedal cyclists do not wear protective helmets and expect to arrive alive at their destinations. There is overwhelming evidence that a number of them could not make it because occupants neglected to wear their seat belts when seat belts are installed in the vehicles they never arrived alive at their expected destinations. Road users have been advised to wear seatbelt and crash helmet in the Ghana Highway Code which was published in 1974.

It may not be out of observation that the average Ghanaian road user becomes conscious of the value of time when using the road. For we cross the road at dangerous points, overtake in a bend, crest of a hill, fleet of vehicles and jumping red light without exercise of responsibility towards our own safety.

Regulation 83 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulations 2012, LI 1280 states as follows. "A person shall not drive a motor vehicle on a road unless that person has in the motor vehicle a pair of advance warning triangle. "The Motor Traffic and Transport Department of the Ghana Police Service are mandated by law to arrest and prosecute those who infringe the Road Traffic Act and Regulations. That notwithstanding, major stakeholders in delivering of road transport services are GPR-

TU, Protoa (Progressive Transport Owners Association) etc. Do their men inspect vehicles which are registered with them that there are warning triangles in their respective vehicles before they leave terminals for every journey? A number of persons have died on the road because vehicles conveying them have crashed into broken-down vehicles. In most cases if not all, there were no warning triangles placed behind the broken-down vehicles, to warn approaching vehicles of danger ahead.

Each year MMDA's purchase vehicles to enable them to deliver services to the public. How many MMDA's provide refresher training programmes for their drivers? Meanwhile, when senior staffs are travelling within and out of the country for meetings or training programs, these drivers drive them. How are you sure of their knowledge of rules of the road, skills and experience? How many MMDA's send their drivers for their eye sights to be checked? A basic principle in road crash prevention is see and be seen, 90%of decisions that are taken on the road depends on what we see.

Parliament in its wisdom passed the Road Traffic Act 2004, Act 683. Section 13 states as follows: "A person of 18 years or above who (a) drives a motor vehicle on a road, or (b) sits on the front or rear seat of a motor vehicle being driven on a road without wearing seat belt commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units or to a term of imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. In 1974, the Ghana Highway Code provided that we fit seat belt and wear them, however short the journey is. In 1994, a female Member of Parliament was travelling with her driver on the Accra-Cape Coast road and died as a result of road crash. It was alleged that she wasn't wearing her seatbelt. One cannot compare the cost the country incurred in the organization of the by-elections and related matters. If all Honorable Members of Parliament wear seat belts always; some of the constituents will copy their leadership example. Road safety is a shared and collective responsibility.

Each time road accident occurs, the Press - both print and electronic Media - make the public to be aware of what occurred. In 2015, a member of the Presidential Press Corps was among colleagues who were returning from coverage in the Volta Region with great expectation that they will arrive alive. He never made it. It was alleged that he sat on the front seat of the bus and was not wearing seat belt. His colleagues visited his burial site recently. How many of them or the staff of the said media house wear seat belts? The media house where the deceased was an employee used to display the message wear your seat belt, on their gate as you are about to exit the premises. Since the renovation of the premises the message has been painted over.

*The writer is a Lawyer and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport and Logistics. He is the author of Safe Driving Simplified (with Questions and Answers) as well as The Vehicle Owner and Driver: The Law and Conventions on Road Transport*



## RE-ADVERTISED EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the supply market for competent Suppliers with the requisite skills, knowledge and financial capacity to Supply and Deliver of various Goods and Services to Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in accordance with the RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Suppliers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Various Goods and Services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd. The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

### Scope of work:

Reference Number	Project Description
GGME01135	SUPPLY, INSTALL & COMMISSIONING PARTS FOR RECLAIM APRON FEEDERS DRIVE UNIT
GGME01144	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY PARTS FOR PRIMARY CRUSHER
GGME01142	PROVISION OF STAR AND COMET SCADA SYSTEM NETWORK BACKBONE PHASE 2

### II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PROVISION, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- Approved dealership (where applicable)
- Capability
- Warranty (where applicable)
- Previous supply records of at least three (3) Clients on similar goods
- Previous experience on doing the same service

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Details of business presence in Tanzania
2. Details on Compliance of the Mining Act (Local Content) Regulations 2018, including:
  - ✓ Approved Local Content Plan by Mining Commission
  - ✓ Ownership: Please provide the following information about your organisation's ownership/partners/members:
    - 2.1 For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
    - 2.2 For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.
3. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
4. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
5. Company Profile, Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate, Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN, Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license & List of Directors
6. Safety and Environmental Policies & OSHA Compliance Certificate

### IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidder, GGML will consider the following:

1. Supply Reliability – Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the goods supplied, particularly in the Mining Sector.
2. Capability – Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the supply of services and goods to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
3. Permits and Certifications – Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, and any other statutory bodies regulating the related goods/services.
4. Local Content – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended by having an approved Local Content Plan.

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the goods they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than 0830 A.M 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email, documents should be submitted in PDF format (documents should NOT be submitted in link). In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



By Alex Otti

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, I was privileged to deliver the 10th anniversary lecture of the Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State. I have taken the liberty here to share excerpts of the paper with you. Interested readers can go to the university website ([www.adelekeuniversity.edu.ng](http://www.adelekeuniversity.edu.ng)) to read the full paper.

My Igbo origin avails me a plethora of philosophies, wise sayings, and moral values on the foolishness of having resources at your disposal while members of your immediate family or constituency suffer the anguish of a systemic lack. When you liken the above to a more recent and immediate reality, you'd see the Nigerian predicament laid bare.

Nigeria, no doubt, is a rich country, at the minimum, potentially. There is massive deposition of such natural resources as crude oil, zinc, gold, steel, rubber, palm, granite, rich and arable soil for the cultivation of different kinds of crops, abundant water bodies and above all, human resources, by way of talent, academic brilliance, and willingness to work. Suffice it to say that Nigeria has it all. But the irony here is that Nigeria is also a poor country. The World Poverty Clock reports that at the latest count, Nigeria had 43% of its population or about 90million people living below poverty line of less than \$1.90 per day.

It was Chinua Achebe who, in his 1984 pamphlet, 'The Trouble with Nigeria', stated that "the trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership". It is doubtful if there is any debate about the fact that we run a very wasteful and expensive system of government. In the past, various federal government administrations had made reasonable attempts to rationalise government agencies ostensibly to bring down cost of governance. The most recent but more comprehensive effort on the issue of streamlining government agencies and cutting down on cost of governance, is the Oronsaye report, which recommended the pruning down of statutory agencies of government, from the current number of 263 to 161 representing a 40% cut.

The Presidency gulps a large chunk of our annual revenue. There is a retinue of aides, rang-

## Massive government, miserable populace



ing from Special Advisers to Senior Special Assistants to Special Assistants to both the President, Vice President, and other senior government officials. Can we not also ask that we cut the Presidency down by about 40%, using the same logic introduced by the Oronsaye report? Presently, we have 43 ministers each with its retinue of aides and special assistants. This is not only unwieldy and inefficient, but very expensive. The constitution recommends that there should be a minister per state. Some of us believe that that part of our constitution should be amended quickly. Is it not possible to cut this number by the same 40%, wind up with no more than 17 ministers and still run these ministries efficiently?

India, with a population approaching 1.4 billion people, has only 19 ministers in her cabinet and presided over by the Prime Minister. Germany also has 15 cabinet ministers and Ghana's constitution allows for a minimum of 10 cabinet ministers and a maximum of 19. Some of the countries we highlighted here are unitary governments while in our case we still have these roles duplicated in the 36 states by commissioners.

Our federal legislators are the second highest earning worldwide after Singapore, that has one of

the highest levels of income per capita, in the world, but it is arguably the most professionally run in the world. America the model of our own democratic experiment, does not occupy a pride of place in countries with jumbo pay for their legislators. The Senate has 109 members while there are 360 House of Representatives members from the different constituencies in the federation. Together, they are entitled to about 1,880 legislative aides amongst other support and personal staff.

Our National Assembly is expected to sit for 180 days in a year and be on holidays and recess for the remaining 185 days in the year. We will ignore the allegation made recently by Prof. Atahiru Jega, the former INEC Chairman, that legislative committee work and oversight functions have been turned into bribe taking and bribe giving pursuits.

What concerns us today is how the National Assembly can help Nigeria to reduce her cost of governance. The budget allocations to the National Assembly is over 15% of the annual combined budgets for education and health for 200m Nigerians. While the number of legislators remains steady at 469, the population of Nigeria keeps growing and about 6 Nigerians drop into poverty every minute. It would not be out

of place to ask how fair this arrangement is and even if not important, whether it is really sustainable.

We dare ask, is a bicameral legislature necessary, desirable and sustainable in Nigeria? Our belief is that we should do away with the bicameral system and maintain a single National Assembly structure as this would avoid role duplication and immediately save the country a lot of money.

Our second recommendation deals with the ideal size of the legislature for a country like Nigeria with all its multifarious economic problems? America's 535 legislators for a country of 330m people translates to one legislator to every 618,000 people. India with a population of 1.38 billion people has a parliamentary size of 790 people. This means one legislator to 1.7m people. Even the European Union, with a population of 446m people, has a parliamentary size of 751, giving a ratio of 1 to 600,000. Nigeria with an estimated population of 200m and National Assembly size of 469 works out at 1 legislator to just 426,000 people. If we take a cue from India, we should be looking at about a National Assembly size of about 117 people.

Our third issue of focus is on the compensation package for members. There is no doubt that the National Assembly members take more than their fair share of the national cake. We should remove all perks and pay only sitting allowances to members. This means that they only get paid when they sit. Again, the legislative function should be part-time. That is the standard practice for board members of institutions and companies.

The fourth issue is in the quality of people who would be fit to serve as National Assembly members. The minimum standard should be people who have succeeded in their chosen fields of endeavour and are not merely in search of jobs or relevance.

The fifth suggestion is in the structure and mode of sitting. Today, many meetings are held virtually including the Federal Executive Council. Events like weddings and others, are attended virtually, through such applications as Zoom and Skype. In like manner, we should adopt virtual meetings for the National As-

sembly. Members should live and remain in their locations and hold meetings for which they would earn allowances each time they sit. We would therefore save on travels, accommodation and other inconvenience allowances. Physical meetings should be held, say, quarterly if and where necessary.

Finally, there is the long pending issue of the constitution. The 1999 constitution was foisted on us by the military and the flaws are so glaring that there is no gainsaying the fact that it is one of the major factors holding the country down. The National Assembly should pass a law requiring that each of the 6 geopolitical zones elect only 20 members to the National Assembly from 2023. It can even go the whole hog and legislate away the state structure in favour of the 6 regional structure to help us rein in the persisting high cost of governance.

The state governments, on their own, constitute the bulk of the waste of scarce resources in the public sector. According to the approved sharing formula, 56% of Federal Allocation funds goes to the Federal Government, while the remaining 44% is shared by the states. Of this amount, 20% should theoretically go to the local governments through the Joint Local Government Account (JAAC), a body that in all practical terms, is also controlled by the states. This is because the local governments are accountable to the state governments. In most cases, in order to control the funds in the JAAC account, states refuse to conduct local government elections, preferring the subterfuge of appointing 'Transitional' Council Chairmen and officers, who are completely accountable to the governors.

In its report titled "State of the States 2019 Edition", Budget, a public and civic organisation, revealed that out of the 36 states in Nigeria, only three, Lagos, Rivers and Kano, are fiscally sustainable. From a purely economic point of view, most of the states in the country are not viable. Before the pandemic, majority of the states had been unable to successfully deal with their cash flow challenges. Some State Governors have even been unable to pay the basic salaries of civil servants and other government em-

ployees for several months. Many of them have already sunk their states into unsustainable debt. Many states have had to depend on non-guaranteed sources of funds like Paris Club refunds, budget support funds and bailouts from the federal government, and outright loans and advances from Commercial Banks.

Healthcare delivery in most of the states is in a state of neglect. Many states have no standard hospital that can attend to victims of the coronavirus pandemic. Infant mortality remains very high, maternal mortality, access to drugs, access to medical personnel and doctor-patient ratio remain in the very poor quadrant. A look at the state of infrastructure reveals the alarming level of decay in most states of the federation. Roads have completely collapsed, housing is not even being mentioned in some states and drainages, water, electricity and transport systems have practically decayed. All these come as no surprise because most of the states have found themselves in the same problem that the federal government has been, as more than 70% of their annual budget goes to recurrent spending while a meagre 30%, is allocated to capital expenditure.

The urgent question that needs to be addressed now is whether we should continue to keep our existing unviable governance structure even when we are convinced that it is a drain on the nation's scarce resources. We argue that we can and should put a stop to looting and 're-looting' funds and also cut the cost of governance. Even with the best of intentions, government does not have the capacity to maintain many people on its payroll, rather, it should focus on its proper role of creating the enabling environment for a strong and virile private-sector-driven economy that would create jobs for the populace. By releasing the funds used to run government and channeling same to building infrastructure in a massive manner, government would be able to reduce cost of doing business and help the private sector create jobs.

It is impossible for us to continue doing things the way we had been in the last few years. Nigeria has borrowed up to her neck given that she now owes close to \$85 billion and still counting. We are using 85% of our revenue just to service our debt, leaving us with so precious little to do other things. We are clearly running a huge deficit budget and we are seriously in trouble, a twin

By Reuben Abati

## The judge as a street fighter

I would never have believed that a day would come when a Nigerian judge would engage in street fighting no matter the level of provocation. It was for this reason that I initially thought the video showing a suit-wearing fellow, referred to as a certain powerful judge kicking and slapping a security guard at the Banex Plaza, Abuja last week, was a Nollywood video. But when it was later confirmed that the kick-boxer was actually a serving judge, identified as Justice Danladi Umar, Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal, I was shocked.

When the Head of Press and Public Relations of the Code of Conduct Tribunal, Ibraheem al-Hassan later issued a statement in defence of the learned Judge, my shock turned to petrification. Nothing could be more shocking than seeing the man in charge of the country's Code of Conduct Tribunal in such disgraceful misconduct in public. Justice Umar may have been watching a lot of UFC shows and may have learnt one or two things about how to punch, kick and overwhelm the opponent, but not even Israel Adesanya or Kamaru Usman would behave in such manner as seen in that video. Judges occupy a position of great value in society. They are guided by a code of conduct that requires them to be on their best behaviour at all times, either on the Bench or away from it.



They are required like Caesar's wife to be above board.

Justice Danladi Umar has stayed long enough on the Bench. He certainly does not need to be lectured on this fine point. He became a Chief Magistrate before the age of 36, and was appointed Acting Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal at 36. He was appointed Chairman of the Tribunal at the age of 40, the youngest Nigerian to assume that office. He is now 50, and has been in charge of the Code of Conduct Bureau either as Acting Chairman or as Chairman for more than 14 years. What got into him? At a point, I was afraid that his Lordship, if not restrained by security men, was going to remove his jacket and charge ferociously like a kickboxer in the ring! He should be advised to stop watching kick-boxing matches just in case he does so.

There may well be persons out there who will insist that Justice Umar is after all, a human being and no man is infallible. And to

show just how human he is, we are told that he goes to the Banex Plaza regularly to shop and repair his phones if he has to. He doesn't send aides to do the rounds for him. He goes there himself. But I don't see how this justifies his misconduct. Nobody expects judges to be invalids. A judge going to a shopping mall is not an achievement. Other professionals live a normal life and engage in routine activities, but they do not go about engaging in physical altercations or punch-ups. They respect rules of communal conduct. And a judge should know about rules.

The security guard at the Banex Plaza was said to have told His Lordship's driver that he could not park at a particular spot. He was doing his job, as a guard and parking attendant. He obviously was not in a position to know the status of the occupant of the vehicle he was re-directing. Justice Umar was said to have insisted that his driver would occupy a chosen space. This was

at the Banex Plaza, a shopping centre, not at the premises of the Code of Conduct Tribunal where he is the Boss. There is also no indication in Justice Umar's resume that he once worked as a parking attendant and hence, had a better understanding of how vehicles should be parked. Naturally, the Banex Plaza staff insisted on doing his job, and that led to an altercation and the Judge rushing out of the car.

In the recorded video of the incident that has since gone viral, someone could be heard in the background saying: "Hey! Hey! Hey! This man is mad. Your power will not save you. Respect yourself. Oga go inside your car. You are not the most powerful herdsman... Respect yourself, dem go beat you comot for here... Hey! Hey! Who are you? Who you be?... Dem don lock the gate. Dem go show you pepper here today... Who are you? Who are you?... Close the gate. Close the gate. One Fulani man think say he get all the power in the world. Who are you? We make the rules here. If Buhari come here dem go show am pepper. See. Dem don break him glass... Hei! Heei!" It was a very ugly situation in which the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal found himself.

The CCT Head of Press and Public Relations, Ibraheem Al-Hassan later issued a statement on the incident in which he says "the boy was rude in his approach and threatened to deal with the Chairman if he refused to leave the scene". The statement claims that the

CCT Chairman was assaulted by "Biafran Boys". Danladi Umar himself has commented directly on what transpired. He said he was assaulted by persons who chanted "secessionist and sectional slogans" and that the video in circulation does not show the part where he was "molested." He says he "regrets being drawn into responding to the situation." It is surprising that days after the incident, Justice Umar is more or less still arguing that he was provoked into resorting to physical assault. He also does not see anything wrong in the reference to "Biafran Boys." He repeats the offence in that regard by referring to "secessionists" and conveniently, he concludes that his action "has been misconstrued in the narrative floating across the social media". He still doesn't get it, does he? He is a jurist, an officer in the temple of justice, and even if he is "drawn into responding to the situation", he really believes that "kick-boxing" is the best response? If he was molested, and that can be proven, why would he then take the law into his own hands? A man whose job is to enforce the law should not be seen breaking the law. If Justice Umar has an anger management problem, he should be encouraged to seek help.

Ugoji Egbujo has written an opinion piece titled "Nigeria's CCT Chairman as a Senior Agbero" (Premium Times, April 5, 2021). I respect the judex so much I wouldn't dare translate the Yoruba word, "agbero" into English or quote Egbujo's expletives-ridden commentary. But I think Justice Umar needs to learn some very quick lessons or lend himself some wisdom. No 1: We are in the age of

social media, citizen journalism and the democratization of news. Whatever anyone does in public, can be easily recorded by persons wielding even the cheapest smart phone in the market. Private conversations on phone can be recorded and edited. Whatever is recorded can be published almost immediately.

Twenty years ago, the drama at Banex Plaza involving the CCT Chairman could have occurred and nobody will know about it. If it gets noticed by the media, Umar's Press Team would have appealed to editors to please kill the story. These days, it is difficult to kill a story. The citizen journalist who operates on Instagram and WhatsApp may not even have a by-line. The standard phrase is that bad news sells. It not only sells; it now travels at the speed of light. No. 2: Nigeria is no longer a place where anybody wearing some fancy clothes, driving a big car, going about with uniformed security can expect that his class and stature will intimidate less privileged members of society. You can no longer go about telling people: "Do you know who I am?" No matter who you are, you will most likely be told: "Who are you? Or Who do you think you are? Do you feed me? Okay, do you know who I am too? And what makes you think I should know who you are?" Nigerians are angry. It is better not to provoke them any further. No. 3: Justice Umar talks about "secessionists and sectional slogans", Ibraheem Al-Hasan in his first press statement said Umar has been going to the Banex Plaza for about 18 years. Apparently, most people there did not know his identity. But now with the video that has gone viral, his cover has been blown. Common sense should tell the CCT Chairman that it is in his best interest to stay away from that plaza for a while.



# Paying debts to pension funds is crucial for the well-being of Tanzanian retirees

By Guardian Reporter

**R**EADING the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) reports and other civil society organizations that deal with the analysis of accountability issues, one gets the impression that it is only a matter of time before a major crisis unfolds.

The CAG reports for the 2017/2018 financial year, the government owes various social security funds monies to the tune of 2.4 trillion/-. In a poor country like ours, that is a lot of money. To put it into budgetary context, the amount is the equivalent of 7 per cent of the current national budget.

As a result, the funds are failing to meet their operational targets, paying retirement benefits to the retirees and creating a situation where if it continues, there is a real danger that some of them will go bust.

All over the world, social security funds are there for the main purpose of enabling people to save money for their retirement. The money that is kept by the funds is the accumulation of lifetime savings for people who have been employed or self-employed. The savings are made so that when they retire from work; they will have enough money to invest or to continue with their lives as normal as is possible.

It is scary to think of the lives of the retirees when some of these funds go under. This is why it is imperative for the government to make sure that it is accountable by meeting its payment obligations to these funds.

Looking back, it is now easy to see where it all began. The government started to take money out of these funds in small amounts - here and there, and then without meetings its payment obligations, it went for more monies as years go by.

What is so dangerous is that in its 2017/2018 reports which were submitted to the Parliament in April 2019, the CAG categorized some of this owed money in Non-Performing Loans (NPLs)- which meant there is enough to suggest that they won't be able to pay.

Until June 30, 2018, more than 68 percent of government loans to the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) were not paid. Also, until July 31, 2018, the government was still owed money by LAPF, PPF, GEPP, and PSPF - even though some of the money was supposed to be paid four years back (2014).

However, we cannot put all the blame on the current regime when it comes to this problem of non-payment of loans to the government. Troubles with the funds did not start with the current regime or the previous one. What is happening now is the culmination of almost 40 years of mismanagement in policies, accounting, and strategies.

The debts, what are they and where are they coming from?

The government got into debt with social security funds in two ways; first by taking the loan itself in order to implement its own projects and secondly by providing a guarantee to its agencies and public institutions that wanted to take the loan for their projects.

CAG report of 2018/2019 showed that by the year 2015/2016, the government was in debt by various social security funds to the tune of 1.6trillion/-.

In the report, it was indicated that the government owed 169.64 billion/- by LAPF, 1.25trillion/- by NSSF, 292.11 billion/- by PPF, 10.04bn/- by GEPP, 448.9bn/- by PSPF, and 216.2billion/-.

According to the CAG, the NSSF debt also includes 127.89 billion/- that the government was supposed to contribute to the building of the Kigamboni Bridge but it did not meet that obligation.

The key thing to note here is that this money was not stolen or squandered by the government or its agencies. Most of these funds were used to do things that are seen now. Truth be told, some of the implemented projects have benefited a lot of people and contributed to the general welfare of the country.

The Dodoma University and its modern hospital were built by, among other sources, 115billion/- loan



from NHIF. The university and the hospital have provided opportunities for education, employment and quality education, and medical services to thousands of people.

The Kigamboni Bridge, completed single-handedly by that loan from NSSF, has transformed transportation in the Kigamboni Peninsula and people now can move freely from that part of Dar es Salaam to the rest of the region. So, the money was not really squandered.

The problems are two-fold; one that the due process in giving those loans was not really followed and the second is the fact that the loan repayment schedule is not followed. For example, in the first instance, there was no binding legal agreement between NHIF and UDOM in giving that loan.

It is also frustrating that the loans were given in the understanding that once those big projects took off, the repayments would start. If that is the case, why NSSF is not receiving its money back when the Kigamboni Bridge is operating and people are paying for its services?

#### What is the solution?

The government has both moral and material obligations to make sure that this looming catastrophe is averted. If these big funds collapse, the retirees will live a miserable life and as the government raison d'être is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its people, this cannot be allowed to happen.

But, the major problem in the future of these pension funds. Tanzania is one of the countries with the youngest population in the world which means in the next few decades, there will be more people depending on these funds for their retirement plans.

Without strong and dependable social security nets, the country is going to get into a lot of

trouble. This means we need to prepare for what is coming in the next 30 to 50 years. The bigger question to ask is; with the problems that face the funds now, are young people really encouraged to save? Who will trust NSSF, PPF, and the likes after witnessing how their parents and grandparents are suffering because the government did not take care of them?

If this situation is not sorted, the road ahead will be tough.

But, the picture is not all gloomy. The WAJIBU Institute of Accountability - the local civil society watchdog for accountability, has given suggestions as to what can be done to change the course of the looming catastrophe.

In its Accountability Report for 2018/2019, WAJIBU suggested two ways in which the government can do to resuscitate the funds from its present predicament. One is to set aside some money in every financial year to meet its repayment obligations to the funds. This is equivalent to how the government set aside some money for loan repayment in the national debt.

The second option is to do an analysis of the ghost workers scam. In 2016, the government formed a team to investigate the issue of how ghost workers' money was sent to the social security funds as retirement benefits.

Because now the government knows about those ghost workers and their names - which is said to be in the thousands, it can recover the money and make payment to social security funds because now the money belongs to nobody.

It is a good start, I dare say, and the government and other think tanks can come with other proposals to rectify the situation.

Whatever it will be, WAJIBU proposals are a good starting point.



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the supply market for competent Suppliers with the requisite skills, knowledge and financial capacity to Supply and Deliver of various Goods and Services to Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in accordance with the RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Suppliers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Various Goods and Services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd. The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

#### Scope of work:

Reference Number	Project Description
GGME01186	SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL POWER CABLES RATED 33KV AND 11KV
GGME01187	MANUFACTURE, DELIVERY, OFFLOAD, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 33/11KV, 20MVA POWER TRANSFORMERS WITH ON-LOAD TAP CHANGERS & AVR CONTROLLER, 11KV, 6MVAR POWER FACTOR CORRECTION (PFC) AND STATIC SYNCHRONOUS COMPENSATORS (STATCOM)

### II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PROVISION, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- Approved dealership (where applicable)
- Capability
- Warranty (where applicable)
- Previous supply records of at least three (3) Clients on similar goods
- Previous experience on doing the same service

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Details of business presence in Tanzania
2. Details on Compliance of the Mining Act (Local Content) Regulations 2018, including:
  - ✓ Approved Local Content Plan by Mining Commission
  - ✓ Ownership: Please provide the following information about your organisation's ownership/partners/members:
    - 2.1 For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
    - 2.2 For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.
3. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
4. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
5. Company Profile, Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate, Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC), Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN, Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license & List of Directors
6. Safety and Environmental Policies & OSHA Compliance Certificate

### IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidder, GGML will consider the following:

1. **Supply Reliability** - Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the goods supplied, particularly in the Mining Sector.
2. **Capability** - Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the supply of services and goods to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
3. **Permits and Certifications** - Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, and any other statutory bodies regulating the related goods/services.
4. **Local Content** - Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended by having an approved Local Content Plan.

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the goods they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than 0830 A.M 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email, documents should be submitted in PDF format (documents should NOT be submitted in link). In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



# State Capture: Security of tenure of office is key to the independence of corruption-busters

By Paul Hoffman

There is an emerging consensus that what is required in the battle against State Capture is an elite entity of well-trained specialists who focus entirely on corruption and its cousins, and who are able to function independently. And to prevent political interference, they must have security of tenure of office.

The SA Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Public Protector (ably represented by the acting Public Protector) are deserving of congratulations for organising a three-day conference on the topic of human rights and corruption which ran virtually for the last three mornings of March, which, fittingly, is Human Rights Month.

Diverse inputs were received from a variety of sources in government, the chapter 9 institutions and in civil society too. At the end of the deliberations of the conference it was apparent to all that reform of the criminal justice administration to better counter the culture of grand corruption, kleptocracy and attempted State Capture in SA is urgently needed. Without swift reforms the scourge of corruption, described by some as "a crime against humanity", is likely to overwhelm SA and derail our constitutional project started with such high hopes and lofty aspirations in 1994.

From the various inputs given it is clear that the link between proper delivery of the human rights guaranteed to all in the Bill of Rights and the debilitating effects of grand corruption has been established in the minds of delegates to the conference.

Whether the link exists in the public imagination as well is an open question. It is one which depends on the extent to which the values of the Constitution have been inculcated since 1994 and the receptiveness of the population to the notions of dignity, freedom and the achievement of equality in a multiparty democracy under the rule of law in which governance is informed by openness, accountability and responsiveness to the needs of the people. It is fair to assume that the constitutionalists outnumber those who would prefer not to live in the type of constitutional democracy that was informed by the development of the acclaimed and widely supported National Accord of the early nineties.

The "how-to" questions around reform of the criminal justice administration occupied the most contentious parts of the deliberations of the conference. As befits their constitutional mandates, those from the chapter 9 and 10 institutions who participated put



their focus on good governance and a culture of promoting human rights. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal #16, which commits the country to a good governance ethos, was invoked and the need to fix the system to achieve that goal was stressed.

Delegates were reminded that the Constitutional Court has grappled with the issues around corruption and human rights and has produced rulings which bind the state. The judgments require proper compliance with criteria set by that court. These are not just "nice-to-have" items, they are obligatory. Any reforms contemplated must accordingly be consistent with the judgments of our highest court. Reforms that are inconsistent with the rulings are liable to be struck down for want of compliance with the judgments and the Constitution as interpreted by the judgments. The failed experiment of dividing anti-corruption work between the Hawks (investigations) and the NPA (prosecutions) should inform decision-making now needed urgently.

There is an emerging consensus that what is required is an elite entity of well-trained specialists who focus entirely on corruption and its cousins, who are fully resourced in guaranteed fashion, and, from both a structural and operational perspective, are able to function independently. Whether the new body should enjoy structural and operational security of tenure of office as an element of its independence from the executive branch of government was a hotly contested question on which there is a variety of opinion.

Sona in February speaks only of a new statutory body that reports to Parliament, not the executive. The reporting line is sound, the idea of a mere statutory body is not. The Scorpions, we need to remind ourselves, were also a statutory body created as part of the prosecuting authority. The latter has a constitutional mandate to act without fear,

favour or prejudice. These fine features did not assist the Scorpions when they came under attack from the supporters of then-new president Jacob Zuma. A simple majority in Parliament created the Scorpions and a simple majority was all that was needed to dissolve them. Despite the best efforts of civil society, the loyal opposition and some imaginative litigation, the Scorpions are history and SA is the poorer for it.

Both the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (Nacs) and the Justice Department's representative at the conference speak of a "statutory/constitutional" Nacs, or in the case of the Justice Department a "statutory or constitutional" body to counter the corrupt. The department does not yet favour a new constitutional body, but it should give serious consideration to the elements of independence required by law, particularly the "secure tenure of office" requirement. If this requirement is not properly catered for in the new body the risk of not passing constitutional muster looms large.

It is instructive to have regard to the words of the Constitutional Court on the topic. In the March 2011 majority decision in the Glenister litigation the issues with which the court was faced were summarised by Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and Judge Edwin Cameron with the following words:

"... Two crucial questions remain for determination. The first is whether the Constitution imposes an obligation on the State to establish and maintain an independent body to combat corruption and organised crime. And if it does, the second is whether the specialised unit which the impugned legislation has established, the DPCI [or Hawks police unit], meets the requirement of independence. In answer to the first question ... we conclude unequivocally that the Constitution itself imposes that obligation on the State. To the second question, we hold, unlike the main judgment, that the requirement of independ-

ence has not been met and consequently that the impugned legislation does not pass constitutional muster."

The court placed reliance upon the research of specialists on countering corruption in the employ of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), saying:

"The OECD report defined independence as follows: 'Independence primarily means that the anti-corruption bodies should be shielded from undue political interference. To this end, genuine political will to fight corruption is the key prerequisite. Such political will must be embedded in a comprehensive anti-corruption strategy. The level of independence can vary according to specific needs and conditions. Experience suggests that it is the structural and operational autonomy that is important, along with a clear legal basis and mandate for a special body, department or unit. This is particularly important for law enforcement bodies. Transparent procedures for appointment and removal of the director together with proper human resources management and internal controls are important elements to prevent undue interference.'

It will not suffice, nor will it pass constitutional muster, for a mere statutory body of specialists to be established. That will put the country back where it was before the Scorpions were so ignominiously dissolved despite the opposition of the far-sighted Professor Asmal and the opposition parties in Parliament. It will not guarantee secure tenure of office and the new body will be vulnerable to the same fate as that suffered by the Scorpions.

On the vexed topic of secure tenure of office for corruption-busting personnel the court was clear in its views of the Hawks when compared to the Scorpions or DSO (Directorate of Special Operations):

"In short, the members of the new Directorate enjoy no specially

entrenched employment security. They, like other members of the SAPS, have employment rights under the SAPS Act and under other labour and employment law statutes, but no special provisions secure their employment. While it is not to be assumed, and we do not assume, that powers under the SAPS Act will be abused, at the very least the lack of specially entrenched employment security is not calculated to instil confidence in the members of the DPCI that they can carry out their investigations vigorously and fearlessly. In our view, adequate independence requires special measures entrenching their employment security to enable them to carry out their duties vigorously."

This discussion is taken further in paragraph 225 of the majority judgment:

"The contrast with the position under the now-defunct DSO [Scorpions] is signal. Previously, under the NPA Act, the DSO was established in the office of the NDPP, and fell within the NPA. In terms

of s 179(1) of the Constitution, the NDPP is appointed by the President as head of the national executive. The head of the DSO was a deputy NDPP, assigned from the ranks of deputy NDPPs by the NDPP, and reporting to the NDPP. The NPA Act provides that a deputy NDPP may be removed from office only by the president, on grounds of misconduct, continued ill-health or incapacity, or if he or she is no longer a fit and proper person to hold the office. And Parliament holds a veto over the removal of a deputy NDPP. The reason for the removal, and the representations of the deputy NDPP, must be communicated to Parliament, which may resolve to restore the deputy NDPP to office."

In his analysis of this judgment, the late Professor Kader Asmal concluded that there are only three proper locations for the new body of corruption busters: The NPA, the OPP or a new chapter 9 institution. He gave his views in 2011 within a month of the delivery of the judgment.

**RADIO One**  
1440 AM 89.7 FM  
STEREO

**PROGRAMME SCHEDULE**

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

**FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE**

**CAPITAL RADIO**

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)

## Security has never been this bungled in Nigeria

By Yemi.adebowale

Eleven days after a Nigerian Air Force fighter jet crashed in Borno State, the military is still struggling to locate the crash spot. The Alpha light attack jet was on a mission to support troops fighting the terrorists when it lost radar contact. Many are hoping Boko Haram's claims that it shot the jet would turn out to be false. If the jet the terrorists were seen dancing around turns out to be the missing plane, then this country is in serious trouble. It means the range of equipment now in their possession is a big threat to the capabilities of the Nigerian military. The failure of the military to locate the so-called true crash site reflects the level of decay in Nigeria's security. Modern search and rescue is about technology, equipment and quality manpower. This country lacks capacity for these and unwilling to seek help from abroad.

Scores of Boko Haram terrorists celebrating on our soil with video of alleged triumph, while wielding AK-47, Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) and other artillery equipment, is depressing. Let's hope that the pic-

ture of the crashed jet is not genuine. But the massive military equipment displayed by these terrorists is real. It is dizzying seeing non-state actors with such equipment. This must not persist in a country with a legitimate government. The outlaws are evidently waxing stronger and controlling territories while the Buhari government goes about with trickery that no Nigerian territory is under the control of the terrorists.

The tenacious sabotage of power towers supplying electricity to Maiduguri by Boko Haram is another security failure that has persisted for too long. Three weeks ago, the terrorists again blew two of the towers along the Damaturu-Maiduguri 330kV transmission line, plunging the Borno State capital city into darkness barely three days after electricity was restored. The towers are obvious targets for Boko Haram; yet, for years, an effective security arrangement can't be put in place for them. In this modern security era, we should be talking about protecting the towers with drone from a preemptive and properly staffed control centre.

For now, darkness continues in the beleaguered city of Maiduguri as the other line feeding the city from Damboa was destroyed by the terrorists years back. All the five highways into Maiduguri have also been made impassable by Boko Haram, while the Buhari regime continues with the deceit that the terrorists have been decapitated.

The security glitches under the Buhari government are ceaseless and consuming too many innocent lives. The level of security ineptitude is frightening. How do you explain gunmen invading the Imo State Police Command headquarters and wrecking so much havoc? The gunmen burnt buildings and almost all the vehicles parked at the HQ. They also freed all the suspects in the cells. This place is supposed to be a high security zone, yet, it was penetrated with so much ease. The attackers spent about 30 minutes unhindered. Where were the policemen guiding this sensitive workplace? Offices of other security agencies like DSS and NSCDC are few minutes from the Imo Command headquarters; yet, help did

not come from them.

Same day, these gunmen also attacked the Nigeria Correctional Service, Owerri, burnt some buildings and freed all the inmates. It is shocking that the attackers sang solidarity songs at the Imo Government House roundabout for about 30 minutes before attacking these facilities. The armed guards at the Correctional Centre fled while the gunmen took away their arms and ammunition. They left the Correctional centre, moved to a military base at Umuorji on the Owerri-Onitsha expressway, killed two persons and burnt operational vehicles of the Army.

Insecurity pours under Buhari. This government is still struggling to explain how gunmen attacked three communities in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi, leaving deaths and destruction. The attackers were unhindered and went out of the state, also undetected, despite so many security posts around. I am very sure that the justice promised victims of the Ishielu attacks by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo will never happen.



## BUSINESS



Jeff Bezos, founder and chief executive officer of Amazon.com.

## PACIFICATION

## Jeff Bezos says Amazon must treat workers better

## NEW YORK

For years, Jeff Bezos has made a religion of putting the customer first at Amazon.com Inc. Now, with a contentious union vote behind him and the end of his reign as chief executive officer nearing, the world's wealthiest person says it's time to focus more on the welfare of the company's workers as well.

"I think we need to do a better job for employees," he said in a letter to shareholders. "While the voting results were lopsided and our direct relationship with employees is strong, it's clear to me that we need a better vision for how we create value for employees - a vision for their success." Bezos is stepping down as CEO later this year to become executive chairman, and it was clear that legacy was on his mind in the final missive to investors in his current role.

The company he founded is the world's largest online retailer and cloud-computing company and ranks highly in polls of popular brands and trusted institutions. But Amazon has found itself challenged by regulators, labour unions and activists around the world in the last year, some of whom make the case that the company reached its perch through aggressive business tactics that left a trail of vanquished competitors, short-changed partners and burnt out workers.

In the letter, released Thursday, Bezos argues that Amazon's success emanates from its track record of invention and adding value to society. "Any business that doesn't create value for those it touches, even if it appears successful on the surface, isn't long for this world," he said. In an extremely back-of-the-envelope tally for 2020, he added up the company's returns to shareholders, employee pay, profits of the small sellers on Amazon and saved time and money from shoppers and cloud-computing customers. The sum: \$301 billion.

Bezos also said the company had 200 million Prime subscribers, up from 150 million at the beginning of 2020. Referring to employees, Bezos says he

wants to add two elements to Amazon's customer-centric credo. "We are going to be Earth's Best Employer and Earth's Safest Place to Work," he said.

Workers at a warehouse in Bessemer, Alabama, overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to join the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. Of the more than 3 000 ballots cast, Amazon garnered 1 798 nos and the union just 738 yeses. The RWDSU has vowed to contest the results, which were announced last week.

The outcome followed a hard-fought election that lasted seven weeks and attracted national attention from longtime critics of Amazon's labour policies, including Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. Much of that criticism focused on the long hours and working conditions at the company's fulfillment centers. Amazon argues that it has hired hundreds of thousands of people and pays them more than twice the federal minimum wage and provides health benefits.

In the letter, Bezos rejected portrayals of his company as a sometimes brutal workplace for hourly employees. "If you read some of the news reports, you might think we have no care for employees," he said. "In those reports, our employees are sometimes accused of being desperate souls and treated as robots. That's not accurate."

Bezos said Amazon doesn't set unreasonable performance goals and that 94% of the Amazon's employees already say they would recommend working there to a friend. The union quickly responded to the letter.

"The impact on Amazon's reputation by this campaign has been devastating, regardless of the vote result," RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum said in a statement. "We have initiated a global debate about the way Amazon treats its employees. Bezos's admission today demonstrates that what we have been saying about workplace conditions is correct. But his admission won't change anything, workers need a union - not just another Amazon public-relations effort in damage control."

## SHOT-IN-THE-ARM

## Minister Aweso salutes Equity Bank for supporting Dodoma water project

By Guardian Reporter

**E**QUITY Bank Tanzania has been described as a key partner supporting government's efforts to invest in clean water supply in Dodoma after donating 10m/- to Dodoma Urban Water Supply Authority.

Minister of Water, Juma Aweso said last week when he witnessed Equity Bank and Duwasa exchange a cheque to that effect at a ceremony held in the new capital, that although the government is investing heavily in water supply, the private sector has an important to play in supporting such investments.

Aweso who was also launching a countrywide campaign to stop water leakages, said the public has a duty to protect and safeguard water supply and sanitation facilities. "The government is investing a lot of money in water project hence the public needs to protect such facilities," he said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Equity Bank's Managing Director, Esther Kitoka said the bank has for many years been a good partner to the government and public through offering banking services but also support community projects including water supply.

"Equity Bank as one of the key development partners in the



Minister for water, Juma Aweso (R) witnessing Equity Bank Tanzania's managing director, Esther Kitoka handing over a dummy cheque worth 10m/- to Dodoma Urban Water Supply Authority's CEO, Aron Augustine being a donation to support water supply to Makole Primary School in the capital.

country has decided to donate the cash in order to support water supply at Makole Primary School in Dodoma. We understand very well the importance of water supply to the community hence the donation," Kitoka said.

She said the donation will also ensure proper sewage system at the public school which in turn will lead to better health for pupils and success in examinations.

The Equity Bank Tanzania chief further noted that the bank has through WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) been championing improvement of clean water supply and sanitation facilities countrywide.

"WASH services are aimed at providing clean water supply to communities but also better waste water management," she said while noting that the bank

has loans to support such projects which also include purchasing of storage facilities and borehole drilling.

Equity Bank Tanzania Limited is part of Kenyan based Equity Group Holdings Plc but also has presence in Uganda, South Sudan, Rwanda and DR Congo. Currently, the bank has 14 branches, over 100 big agents and over 3,600 agents countrywide.

## TECH SAVVY

## Tigo partners with pump station owners to digitise payment for fuel

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE public can now pay for their petroleum products purchases at any pump station using their mobile phones through Tigo Pesa platform thanks to a deal reached between Tigo Tanzania and Tanzania Petrol Station Operators Association (TAPSOA) last week.

Tigo's Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services (MFS) Angelica Pesha and TAPSOA Secretary General, Augustino Mmasi said their agreement will not only digitise payment but also protect consumers from risks associated with carrying cash.

"Tanzanians need innovative solutions that solve everyday challenges and in the spirit of celebrating 10 years of Tigo Pesa, we see this as a lasting solution to motorists across the country," Pesha said while pointing out that cash handling is also becoming risky due to communicable diseases

"We believe that this partnership will reduce congestion at different petrol stations nationwide hence



Tigo's chief officer for mobile financial services, Angelica Pesha.

urge our customers to make use of this service to save time

and to make their fuel payment processes simple," she added. She

further noted that through Tigo Pesa, motor vehicle owners and drivers now simply need to walk with their mobile phones loaded with money.

In remarks made on the occasion, Mmasi said, "Our association is proud to be partnering with Tigo as Tigo Pesa is convenient and user friendly and can be accessed everywhere in the country," he said while urging TAPSOA members to register their fuel stations across the country so that operations can flow smoothly.

Lipia Mafuta Tanzania Limited's CEO, Mahfudhi Maulid said the company which will undertake the project in partnership with Tigo Pesa on behalf of TAPSOA will ease fuel purchasing exercise as consumers and petrol pump station operators will no longer exchange cash.

"We look forward to working with Tigo Pesa, and I take this opportunity to affirm that all fuel stations across the country will ensure that all subscribers of the platform can pay for their fuel digitally," he said.

## TRADEMARK

## SA's spats with J&amp;J, Pfizer mask patent concerns



South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize.

## PRETORIA

Pharmaceutical companies supplying South Africa with Covid-19 vaccines are pressing the country to stop trying to loosen patent protections related to the inoculations, a person familiar with the situation said.

South Africa and India are calling for a broad waiver of World Trade Organisation rules on the production and export of vaccines and other medical goods needed to combat the coronavirus, a move that could increase access to treatment for developing nations.

The tension is manifesting itself in spats between the government and Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer Inc. over terms in their supply contracts, the person said, asking not to be identified as the parties have given

little detail on their talks.

While the provisions in the WTO's rules around intellectual property were meant to remove such protections during emergencies, some of the biggest pharmaceutical companies are concerned it could erode future profits. The arguments with South Africa have slowed the arrival of vaccines in a country that's yet to start a broad rollout of inoculations.

On Wednesday, South African Health Minister Zweli Mkhize told parliament that J&J wouldn't sign off on the order agreed last month until it receives greater assurance of support from the state, saying the terms insisted on by the companies were at times "unreasonable." Pfizer demanded that South Africa's health and finance ministers personally sign a supply contract to give force

to an indemnity clause, according to a letter seen by Bloomberg.

That agreement has now been signed and the finance minister didn't accede to the demand. J&J is "in ongoing discussions with the South African government and we remain committed to making our Covid-19 vaccine available on a not-for-profit basis for emergency pandemic use to South Africa," the company said in an emailed response to questions about the waiver.

This follows an agreement between J&J and Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd. last year to have its vaccine manufactured at a plant in South Africa. The government's orders for 31 million J&J doses is intended to account for the majority of South Africa's target of immunising 40 million people. The

rest of its needs will be met by Pfizer. Trials using J&J shots have been suspended while a series of severe blood clotting incidents are investigated in the US. That affects South Africa as it was relying on a trial to vaccinate half a million health workers.

"Pfizer seeks indemnity and liability protections in all of our agreements consistent with applicable local laws," the company said in a response to queries. "Indemnification clauses are often included in contracts with governments for the supply of vaccines during public health emergencies." It didn't respond to a query on the issue of patent waivers.

India and South Africa are "championing the suspension of some of the IPs to fast track the manufacturing of vaccines and

remove some barriers," Richard Mihigo, program area manager for immunization and vaccine development at the World Health Organisation's regional office for Africa, said on a media call on Thursday. The WHO "hopes that what we are going through during this pandemic will change the dynamic globally during these negotiations."

The South African Department of Trade and Industry and Competition and the health department didn't immediately reply to a request for comment. The companies are also concerned that in countries where they have their vaccines manufactured, governments will use export restrictions to ensure they have local supply, the person said. That issue has surfaced in both the European Union and India.



## GENEROSITY

# Four public schools in Mufindi get 17.3m/- NMB Bank support

By Guardian Reporter, Mufundi

FOUR public schools in Mufindi District of Iringa Region received chairs, tables, desks and construction materials valued at over 17.3m/- from NMB Bank Plc last week to help students and teachers improve performance.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the schools, as a representative of Mufindi District Commissioner, Joseph Mchina paid tribute to NMB's leadership for its investments in improving the education sector.

"This donation has come at the right time to help us reduce shortage of desks but also complete classrooms to accommodate the growing number of students being enrolled," Mchina said adding the bank has regularly supported Mufindi District in various sectors.

He urged the public to continue support NMB's business activities because part of the profit is always ploughed back into community projects such as health and education. "NMB has been a true friend to the



Students of Upendo Secondary School in Mafinga District taking a souvenir photo with chairs and tables donated by NMB Bank Plc soon after a handing over ceremony last week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

government and Mufindi has particularly benefitted a lot from this bank's generosity," he added.

Speaking at the same ceremony, NMB Southern Highlands Zone

Manager, Straton Chiongola commended Mufindi District officials for their efforts to improve education quality and standards hence the bank's support.

"Although the government is investing heavily in education, we as good corporate citizens have a responsibility to support such efforts by giving back part

of our profits," Chiongola said while pledging continued support from the bank. He said the bank has for the past 10 years been allocating one percent of its net profits to invest in community projects which also includes health and relief support when disaster strikes people.

The bank's Mafinga Branch Manager, Mary Mpasha seconded her boss saying Mufindi officials have been very supportive of NMB's activities hence deserve the best. "This district has contributed a lot in our business profitability annually," Mpasha said adding that more branches have been constructed in the district as a result of growing business magnitude.

The donated materials included 50 desks given to Upendo Secondary School, 12 chairs and 12 tables given to Isupilo Secondary School and 200 pieces of corrugated iron sheets given to Nyamalala and Amani Primary Schools.

## LOAN

## Rwanda's Covid-19 vaccination drive gets \$30m World Bank boost

KIGALI

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved a \$30 million (about Rwf30 billion) in additional financing to Rwanda for the acquisition and deployment of safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines.

The decision was announced by bank in a statement it issued on Friday, April 16. This is the second financing for the Rwanda Covid-19 Emergency Response Project, bringing a total of \$45.19 million in World Bank contributions to the country's national Covid-19 health response and vaccination campaign.

It comes to help Rwanda finance its anti-Covid-19 vaccination effort which could cost up to about \$120 million with short term costs standing at \$47 million, according to estimates from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Rolande Pryce, the World Bank Group Country Manager for Rwanda said that since the inception of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government of Rwanda has acted swiftly and decisively to save lives and mitigate the economic impact of the crisis with strong results on the ground.

"The World Bank is pleased to support the government, in collaboration with other development partners, to undertake one of the boldest public health campaigns of our times that aims to vaccinate 60 percent of the population by 2022," Pryce said.

"The vaccination programme is a central piece of the government's comprehensive plan to save lives and facilitate full reopening of the economy, putting the country back on a path towards more inclusive and sustainable growth. We are privileged to partner in this effort," she indicated.

The financing will also go towards enhancing development effectiveness by addressing emerging needs, such as improving access to oxygen therapy, screening for underlying chronic conditions and protecting essential health services.

It will bolster the capacity of the routine immunisation system through investments in human resources, vaccine safety and monitoring as well as outreach activities and communications to sustain vaccine acceptance and uptake.

Supporting the return to normalcy 777 Rwanda's vaccination drive against Covid-19 kicked off in February this year. By March 23, 348,629 people had received at least one dose of anti-Covid-19 vaccine as the country wound up the first phase of the campaign and embarked on the second. The country targets to have inoculated 7.8 million people, representing 60 per cent of its population by June next year in order to achieve herd immunity.



Getting a Covid-19 jab in Kigali.

## SALUTE

## Oil marketing firm's CEO commends President Samia for embracing private sector

By Francis Kajubi

PRESIDENT

Samia

Suluhu Hassan's approach to the private sector has won her hearts

and minds with General Petroleum Limited's CEO, Hayat Ullah Khan saying

that it will contribute to attracting new investors and convince the existing

ones to inject more money in the country's economy.

Khan said in Dar es Salaam last week when handing over an assortment of food items and other groceries worth 30m/- to be distributed to needy Moslems in Temeke and Bagamoyo districts as part of the company's corporate social responsibility to mark the beginning of Ramadan.

"The president has in her early days of leadership shown interest in working closely with the private sector. The new direction is more meaningful as the private sector will invest more and as a result people will get jobs," Khan said.

He said his company decided to donate food stuffs to help struggling Moslems exercise fasting during the holy month. Seconding his boss, General Petroleum's Human Resources Manager, Abubakar Kondo said that donated food stuff will be distributed through Temeke legislator's office while in Bagamoyo, beneficiaries are residents of Makurunge ward.

"It has been a tradition for GP Limited to provide humanitarian assistance to needy Moslems during the month of Ramadan to help them successfully

fast. We have 300 packages to be given to Temeke families through their Member of Parliament's office," he said. According to him, the company has also given out 200 packages to Makurunge ward Moslems and will be handed to the beneficiaries through Makurunge Ward ruling party chairperson.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Temeke MP's personal Secretary, Mathias Ofutwa thanked GP Limited for its generosity to the needy saying many families can hardly afford a balanced diet.

"God will give you more and bless your business because of by sharing part of your profits with the needy," Ofutwa said while calling on other business people to assist struggling families in the community.



General Petroleum Limited's CEO, Hayat Ullah Khan handing over a package of food stuffs to Temeke lawmaker's personal secretary, Mathias Ofutwa in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## INVESTMENT

## Syngenta, WACOT partner to boost Nigeria's food security

LAGOS

WACOT Limited, a leading food, and agro-processing company in West Africa, and Syngenta Crop Protection, a leading global agritech company partners to bring an impact by boosting Nigeria's food security and ensuring the sustainable development of the agricultural industry.

This will make Syngenta Crop

Protection and WACOT work closely for the next five years to help boost the quality, safety, and sustainability of Nigeria's agricultural sector with world-class science and innovative crop solutions.

The collaboration with WACOT Limited will operate in the 36 states of Nigeria, supporting crop production which includes maize, soybean, rice, vegetables, cotton, and sorghum. This will help assist

Nigeria in its drive towards attaining food self-sufficiency.

Through the collaboration, Syngenta and WACOT collaborate with farmers and others to bring sustainable improvement to the most vital factor in agriculture - yield. This involves WACOT providing support to farmers on cost-effective agronomic practices, advanced methods of crop protection via the usage of

improved products and biological compounds to support the growth of the country's agricultural sector.

Regarding the partnership, Ramesh Mochikal, the CEO of the agri division of TGI Group of the parent company of WACOT, stated that it wished Nigeria attains self-sufficiency in crop production and plan on entering a strategic partnership to attain the goal.

Mochikal said: "We are most

pleased with this partnership that would further assist us to attain our dreams for Nigeria-food security and self-sufficiency. Nigerian farmers are hardworking, and we are sure that if we can provide awareness about better crop production practices and provide the results of our research and development efforts, things will improve, and the country's agricultural sector would benefit as a whole. Also speaking,

Frank Tokore, the Head of Syngenta Crop Protection West Africa, said the company was proud of its relationship with WACOT and will continue to assist Nigerian farmers.

He said: "We are glad to be renewing our partnership with WACOT. Through this partnership, we provide quality solutions to farmers in Nigeria and help support food security and livelihoods in Africa's most populous country.







## WORLD

## Queen Elizabeth stands alone as Prince Philip is laid to rest

QUEEN Elizabeth bade farewell to Prince Philip at a funeral on Saturday that celebrated his seven decades of service and gave grandsons William and Harry the chance to talk in public for the first time since claims of racism threw the family into crisis.

Elizabeth, dressed in black and in a white trimmed black face mask, stood alone, head bowed as her husband of 73 years was lowered into the Royal Vault of St George's Chapel in a service attended by senior royals including heir Prince Charles.

Prince Harry, who flew from the United States to attend the funeral, walked and talked with his brother William and wife Kate at the end of the service - the first time they have spoken in public since Harry and his wife Meghan gave an explosive interview to Oprah Winfrey last month.

That crisis came as Philip lay in hospital. Officially known as the Duke of Edinburgh, Philip died aged 99 on April 9.

"We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the Nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith," Dean of Windsor David Conner said.

Philip's children and grandchildren followed behind on foot, evoking memories of the 1997 funeral of Diana when William and Harry - then just 15 and 12 - walked behind their mother's coffin.

His naval cap and sword lay on top of the coffin, which was covered with the Duke of Edinburgh's personal standard featuring the Danish coat of arms, the Greek cross, Edinburgh Castle and the stripes of the Mountbatten family.

A wreath of white roses, lilies and jasmine from the queen also adorned the coffin.

There were just 30 mourners inside the chapel because of continuing coronavirus restrictions in Britain. As the service began at 3 pm, Prime Minister Boris Johnson observed a minute's silence, along with mil-

lions of Britons.

Philip, who married Elizabeth in 1947, helped the young queen adapt the monarchy to the changing times of the post-World War Two era as the loss of empire and the decline of deference challenged the world's most prominent royal family.

In 1997, the queen described Philip as her "strength and stay" over their decades of marriage. Now 94, she has reigned for 69 years.

Her husband's coffin was borne to the chapel on a bespoke Land Rover Defender TD 130 in military green that Philip himself helped to design, as a minute gun fired eight times.

Her husband's coffin was borne to the chapel on a bespoke Land Rover Defender TD 130 in military green that Philip himself helped to design, as a minute gun fired eight times.

Before the procession, military bands spaced out across the quadrangle of Windsor Castle in brilliant sunshine to play the prince's chosen music, including "I Vow To Thee My Country", "Jerusalem" and "Nimrod".

## HARRY AND WILLIAM

The four-person choir sang a sailors' hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save". Shortly before the coffin was lowered into the Royal Vault, the Russian "Kontakion of the Departed", a hymn of the Orthodox and Eastern churches, echoed around the ancient church.

There were no eulogies, just brief words of praise for the prince from the dean of Windsor and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby in their prayers.

Elizabeth has been widowed just as she grapples with one of the gravest crises to hit the royal family in decades - allegations of racism and neglect by it from Harry and Meghan, his American-born wife.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II travels in the State Bentley during the ceremonial funeral procession of Britain's Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in Windsor, west of London, on Saturday. (AFP)

In last month's interview the couple, who quit royal duties and moved to California last year, laid bare their perceptions of the family's attitudes in what amounted to a critique of the old-fashioned customs of an ancient institution.

They accused one unnamed royal of making a racist comment, and said Meghan's pleas for help when she felt suicidal were ignored.

Meghan said she had been silenced by "the Firm" while Harry said his father, Charles, had refused to take his calls. Harry said both Charles and his brother William were trapped in the royal family. Meghan, who is pregnant and was advised by her doctor not to travel, watched the funeral at home in California, a source familiar with the situation said.

As the service ended, buglers from the Royal Marines sounded the "Last Post" and then "Action Stations" to honour the late duke's World War Two naval service, before choir sang the national anthem.

Elizabeth left for the castle's apartments in her car but other royals decided to walk up the hill to the main part of Windsor Castle.

Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, Peter Phillips and Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex walk during the funeral procession of Britain's Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in Windsor, west of London, on April 17, 2021. (PHOTO / AFP)

William, his wife Kate, and Harry chatted as they walked. Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, swiftly stepped away to allow the brothers to talk further. It was not possible to hear what they were saying.

William, his wife Kate, and Harry chatted as they walked... Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, swiftly stepped away to allow

the brothers to talk further

## FAMILY IN MOURNING

The palace emphasised beforehand that while the occasion would have the due pageantry that marks the passing of a senior royal, it remained an occasion for a mourning family to mark the passing of a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Mourners eschewed the tradition of wearing military uniforms, a step newspapers said was to prevent embarrassment to Harry, who despite serving two tours in Afghanistan during his army career, is not entitled to wear a uniform because he was stripped of his honorary military titles. Prince Andrew, who stepped down from public duties in 2019 over controversy surrounding what he termed his "ill-judged" association with late US financier Jeffrey Epstein, had wanted to wear an admiral's uniform at the funeral, media reported.

Andrew sat closest to the queen.

Philip's dedication to his duty earned him widespread popularity in Britain, but he was also criticised by some for a number of off-the-cuff racist or abrupt comments which shocked princes, priests and presidents.

"He was authentically himself, with a seriously sharp wit, and could hold the attention of any room due to his charm and also because you never knew what he might say next," Harry said earlier this week of his grandfather.

In 1997, the queen described Philip as her "strength and stay" over their decades of marriage. Now 94, she has reigned for 69 years.

Her husband's coffin was borne to the chapel on a bespoke Land Rover Defender TD 130 in military green that Philip himself helped to design, as a minute gun fired eight times.

Agencies

## US embassy to withdraw staff as Chad rebels advance

THE United States has ordered its non-essential staff in Chad to leave the African country as rebel fighters approached the capital on Sunday after early election results showed President Idriss Deby on course to extend his three-decade rule.

Deby, who seized power in 1990 at the head of an armed rebellion, is a staunch ally of France and the United States in the fight against Islamist militants in the arid Sahel region.

"Due to their growing proximity to N'Djamena and the possibility for violence in the city, non-essential US government employees have been ordered to leave Chad by commercial airline," the US state department said in a statement.

The British government on Saturday urged its citizens to leave because, it said, two armed convoys from the rebel Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT) were advancing towards the capital.

One convoy was seen approaching the town of Mao, about 220 km to the north of N'Djamena, it said.

Large numbers of heavily armed Chad security forces were patrolling the streets of the capital on Sunday morning, a Reuters witness said.

Chad's army said it had destroyed a rebel convoy in the north of Kanem province on Saturday afternoon.

"The column was totally decimated," army spokesman Azim Bermandoa Agouna said in a statement late on Saturday.

Partial provisional results have given Deby a strong lead in the April 11 poll despite signs of growing discontent over his handling of the nation's oil wealth.

Deby, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, has successfully put down a string of rebellions since taking power, sometimes with military assistance from France.

French air strikes helped the Chad army to repel a rebel incursion from Libya in February 2019.

FACT, which is based on Chad's northern frontier in Libya, attacked a Chadian border post on the evening of April 11, just as polling stations were closing.

On Friday FACT said it had seized a garrison of Gouri in the country's north.

"The enemy, despite the logistical support of the French Air Force, was totally routed," FACT spokesman Kingabe Ougouzeimi de Tapol said in a statement posted on Facebook.

France's defence ministry on Sunday declined to comment on whether it was involved.

Agencies

## Ramadan traditions in Sudan fade away amid economic, COVID-19 pressures

## KHARTOUM

DESPITE a long-time observance of Ramadan traditions as a social legacy, the Sudanese people this year have to abandon some of them in the throes of economic pressures, COVID-19 precautions and social transformations.

In the capital Khartoum, the streets are almost empty of collective iftar, the evening meal marking the end of daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

"Until recently, Ramadan was an occasion for social solidarity and family interconnections," Intisal Al-Tayeb, a Sudanese social researcher, told Xinhua on Saturday.

"However this year, those social manifestations have almost faded away because of the economic conditions and the high prices, with fewer people gathering outside for the collective iftar of Ramadan," she said.

Fear of the spread of COVID-19 is another factor in a depressed Ramadan as people are committed to health precautions including social distancing, Al-Tayeb added.

The social researcher referred to social transformations as the third contributor to the decline of the Ramadan-related traditions in Sudan.

"The popular connection in Khartoum is diminishing little by little due to continued immigration and lack of communication among the population," she explained.

The Ramadan tradition of El Mesaharaty, a name given to people who walk around and beat drums to wake others up for suhoor, the meal eaten early morning before beginning the fast, has also witnessed a marked decline this year. "This year we do not have any activities."

The reason is the ban of gathering due to coronavirus," Abdul-Azim Nouredine, a member of a suhoor group of young men in southern Khartoum's Al Azhary neighborhood, told Xinhua.

"There is also some security disorder in Khartoum, forcing some of our group members to avoid gathering," he added.

It is worth noting that Hulu-murr, a traditional Sudanese soft drink essential on the fast-breaking table during the holy month in Sudan, seems to have been affected by the high prices.

Xinhua

## China urges 'responsible attitude' from Japan on nuclear wastewater

## BEIJING

CHINA has expressed "grave concern" over Japan's decision to dump nuclear wastewater into the sea and urges the Japanese government to take a responsible attitude toward its own people and the international community, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said.

Despite opposition from its own people and doubts from the international community, the Japanese government unilaterally made the decision without fully consulting neighboring countries and the international community and without exhausting the means of safe disposal, the ministry told Xinhua.

"As a close neighbor of Ja-

pan and a stakeholder, we are seriously concerned about this decision," said a spokesperson with the ministry.

It is hoped that the Japanese government will conduct further in-depth study and deliberation of various means of safe disposal and discharge paths, release information in a comprehensive and timely manner, and make prudent decisions after full consultation with stakeholders, the spokesperson said.

The ministry also said there is a fundamental difference between the wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear plant after the accident and the liquid effluents from the normal operation of nuclear

power plants in terms of their source, radionuclide type and difficulty of processing.

The ministry said it will closely follow the situation, carefully assess the possible impact on the marine ecology, strengthen the monitoring of marine radiation, and ensure the safety of China's marine environment.

Xinhua

## Expulsion of Russian diplomats to distract attention from Belarus, lawmaker says

## MOSCOW

DECISION of authorities of the Czech Republic to expel 18 Russian diplomats aims to distract attention from activities of an organized group plotting against Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, head of the Russian State Duma Committee on Foreign Affairs Leonid Slutsky said on YouTube channel Solov'yev Live.

According to the lawmaker, "as soon as accusations directed towards the US president were voiced" then, "as if by command," the Czech authorities announced expulsion of the Russian diplomats.

"It is obvious that it was absolutely clearly staged. Belarusians attack the United States and we will distract [attention] both in the political and the information sphere and will

attack Russia," the lawmaker said. According to him, European politicians, controlled by Washington, "will in every way pull the attention away from the situation in Belarus." "They haven't even tried to come up at short notice with something new and intelligible," he said.

The lawmaker said that he was receiving phone calls from colleagues from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of

Europe who were wondering about the situation.

"It is clear that the situation is induced by the far West. The answer will be adequate. It is necessary to respond to such things. And our answer will be immediate," he concluded.

Earlier, the Belarusian president had informed about detention of a group that was plotting an assassination attack on him and his children and

purportedly had links to the US intelligence agencies, as the BelTA news agency wrote on its Telegram channel on Saturday.

Chief of the Belarusian State Security Committee (KGB) Ivan Tertel told ONT TV channel that an organized terrorist group intending to eliminate the Belarusian president and his family members as well as to organize a coup was intercepted.

Agencies

## Overseas warehouses of Chinese enterprises drive win-win development for international trade

LAST year, the number of overseas warehouses established by Chinese enterprises for cross-border e-commerce rose by 80 percent, according to data from China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

Chinese companies own more than 1,800 overseas warehouses, which cover an area of over 12 million square meters, as revealed by data from the MOC.

Against the backdrop of daunting challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to international trade, overseas warehouses of Chinese enterprises played a more important role in 2020, when China speeded up the innovative development of its foreign trade and saw over 10,000 traditional foreign trade companies

begin to engage in e-commerce, and cross-border e-commerce became a major way for enterprises to conduct international trade and promote innovative development of foreign trade.

Zongteng Group, a global infrastructure service provider for cross-border e-commerce headquartered in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, runs a warehouse in Birmingham, the United Kingdom (UK).

Equipped with highly automated facilities such as attic-style shelves and parcel sorting machines that can sort out 3,600 items of goods per hour, the warehouse can help deliver goods in the UK and to other European countries quickly and ac-

curately.

Overseas warehouses contributed greatly to ensuring the supply of anti-epidemic materials in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, said Michelle, manager of the company's overseas warehouses in the UK, who added that overseas warehouses helped coordinate and mobilize anti-epidemic materials and household products to satisfy the demand of the European market amid the outbreak, with an average of 80,000 orders being handled per day.

Zongteng Group has established a total of 36 warehouses in the UK, Germany, France, Italy, and other major developed countries. Covering an area of over one million square meters, the group's overseas

warehouses have a total of more than 1,500 employees.

With the advantages of flexibility and more stable supply chains, overseas warehouses allow companies to adjust their product selection strategy in time and can strengthen the ability of Chinese companies to respond to changes in foreign consumer demands and market environment, said Li Cong, vice president of Zongteng Group.

Okorder.com, a cross-border e-commerce platform under the China National Building Material Group Co., Ltd. (CNBM), has established an overseas warehouse in the Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

With an area of 52,000 square me-

ters, the warehouse sells products from various companies, including building materials, machinery and equipment, to over 10 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Algeria, according to Bruce, an executive of the warehouse.

Zhuang Xiaofeng, an executive with a woodwork manufacturer that has joined the warehouse, noted that the company saw its sales rise against the trend amid the pandemic thanks to the high-quality warehousing services and brand promotions provided by the warehouse.

WINIT Information Technology Co. (Winit Corporation), a Shanghai-based integrated supply chain solution provider for cross-border

e-commerce, owns 13 overseas warehouses and provides overseas warehousing and delivery services for more than 20,000 cross-border e-commerce companies around the world.

The company's overseas warehouses handle 200,000 orders daily on average and send over 300,000 parcels every day.

These overseas warehouses have adopted the management model and experience of China's logistics sector, greatly improving logistics efficiency and allowing goods to be delivered to customers faster, said an executive of a Canadian partner company of Winit Corporation.

People's Daily



## Tech firm unveils Russia's first quadcopter invulnerable to electronic warfare systems

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S ZALA Aero (part of the Kalashnikov Group within the state tech corporation Rostec) has developed the country's first quadcopter ZALA 421-24 invulnerable to electronic warfare systems, ZALA Aero Special Projects Head Nikita Khamitov told TASS during the new drone's presentation on Thursday.

"We have integrated a solution on this copter that allows conducting a flight in a complete radio silence mode. We give it a point on the map, fully switch off the communications channel and GPS and send it to the coordinate."

The onboard computer creates a cloud of points on the ground and makes a flight already relative to the ground. It can return from absolutely any point of its flight, if our communi-

cations or GPS are cut off," Khamitov explained.

The new quadcopter has a flight time of about 40 minutes and an operating range of around 5 km. The ZALA 421-24 can be outfitted with a video camera and a thermal imaging device, he said.

In turn, the Kalashnikov Group reported that the new copter had low acoustic and visual signature for its detection.

"The drone is operated by a hand-held controller and can also be operated from a mobile vehicle. The drone is easy to operate, which allows its operation by one person," the Kalashnikov press office informed.

ZALA Aero is a leading Russian developer and manufacturer of unmanned aerial vehicles and mobile systems. The company has been part of the Kalashnikov Group since January 2015.

Agencies

## S.Korea, US show differences over Japan's Fukushima plans

SOUTH Korea raised concerns over Japan's decision to release contaminated water from its crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea with visiting US climate envoy John Kerry, its foreign ministry said, but Kerry reaffirmed Washington's confidence in the plan's transparency.

Kerry arrived in Seoul on Saturday to discuss international efforts to tackle global warming on a trip that included a stop in China ahead of President Joe Biden's virtual summit with world leaders on climate change on April 22-23.

South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong sought to rally support behind the country's protest against the Fukushima plan at a dinner meeting with Kerry, the ministry said. Under the plan, more than 1 million tonnes of water will be discharged from the plant wrecked by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011 into the nearby sea off Japan's east coast.

Seoul strongly rebuked the decision, with the foreign ministry summoning the Japanese ambassador and President Moon Jae-in ordering officials to explore petitioning an international court.

"Minister Chung conveyed our government and people's serious concerns about Japan's decision, and asked the US side to take interest and cooperate so that Japan will provide information in a more transparent and speedy manner," the ministry said in a statement.

But Kerry, at a media roundtable on Sunday, said Tokyo had made the decision in a transparent manner and will continue following due procedures.

"The United States is confident that the government of Japan is in very full consultations with the IAEA," he said, referring to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The IAEA has set up a very rigorous process and I know that Japan has weighed all the options and the effects and they've been very transparent about the decision and the process."

The South Korean foreign ministry said Chung and Kerry also agreed to work together to boost international cooperation to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, a goal pledged by South Korea, Europe and others.

Kerry told the roundtable that Biden aims to urge countries to commit to more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets such as by revamping their power initiatives or speeding up transitions to renewable energy.

The United States is expected to announce its own new emissions target for 2030 this week.

"I think Korea has set an ambitious target and Korea is trying to do a lot, it's not easy for any country," Kerry said. "We need to be smarter, so do I think it's possible for additional steps? I do think there are some things that could happen."



This handout photo taken on Saturday and provided by the US embassy in South Korea shows US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry (left) talking with South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong (right) before their dinner meeting at Chung's official residence in Seoul. (AFP)

SUCCESSFUL COVID-19 control is gaining robust revitalization for China's tourism sector. China Tourism Academy estimated that over 85 percent of Chinese residents are willing to go on a trip this year to make up for what they had lost in the previous year due to the epidemic.

China's tourism industry has embraced continuous recovery after the Spring Festival in February. Hongmei village, a tourism destination in Lanxi, east China's Zhejiang Province, received over 50 orders since it resumed operation for its online store on Ctrip, a major Chinese on-

## China's tourism sector embraces continuous recovery

line tour service provider, on Feb. 27.

Statistics also indicated an explosive growth in the demand for medium- and high-end tours. According to Ctrip's data, the number of tourists signing up for private tour groups for the upcoming three-day holiday of China's Tomb-sweeping Day surged by 260 percent from a year ago, and there is also an 80 percent growth in the number of people ordering tour products related to peach blossom festival, an annual event held in China's

Tibet Autonomous Region. Besides, the positions in 50 tour groups to Xisha Islands in the South China Sea have been booked in just half a month, though the price for on position stands at 10,000 yuan (\$1,525).

The Chinese capital Beijing no longer requires those arriving from other areas in China with a low risk of COVID-19 infection to undergo nucleic acid tests since March 16. "Learning this information, I immediately booked tickets to Wuhan to see the cherry blossoms there," said

Li Yali, who works in Beijing and was planning for her first trip this year.

The search volume of tours related to Tomb-sweeping Day and Labor Day holiday experienced obvious growth recently on multiple online tour service platforms. According to Ctrip, China is about to see 100 million trips during the Tomb-sweeping Day. The search volume of Labor Day holiday tours also went up by 130 percent from a month ago on Mafengwo, which is considered the "travel bible" by younger Chinese netizens.

Qunar, a rival of Ctrip, said more air tickets have been booked for the upcoming Labor Day holiday than those in the same period of 2019, and hotel rooms in multiple tourism destinations, including Luoyang, Dali, and Suzhou have already been on short supply.

The tourism popularity of nearly 100 cities in China has risen by over 50 percent as the temperature slowly climbs in spring. According to Mafengwo, the popularity of Ili, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous

Region rocketed 317 percent this spring.

Fliggy, a burgeoning online travel platform in China, introduced that the orders of short trips on the platform increased 400 percent this March from a year ago. Nostalgia for cherry blossoms, taking portrait photos in tea plantations and mountain climbing remain the most popular tourism activities in 2021, the platform said.

As the COVID-19 epidemic is gradually under control, the cultural and tourism industry will experience accel-

erated recovery this spring, said Wu Ruoshan, a research fellow with the Tourism Research Center, Chinese Academy of Social Science. Spring outing, agritainment facilities, featured B&Bs, hiking and recreational activities will be specifically favored by consumers, he added.

Apart from traditional tours, tourist trains are also welcomed in many parts of China, especially by senior tourists. Such an innovative tourism method features high flexibility and one-stop services, and are environmentally friendly, low-carbon and safe. **People's Daily**

## US has long way to go in cracking down on anti-Asian hate crimes

WASHINGTON

"THERE has never been a situation during my lifetime that I've felt this level of fear," U.S. House lawmaker Andy Kim, a Korean American, said about the local skyrocketing anti-Asian hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. He confessed that even his five-year-old son had encountered anti-Asian discrimination.

This is a historic moment right now for the United States to "determine the next few decades of how Asian Americans are treated and understood and accepted in this country," the congressman told a press conference here earlier this week.

LEGISLATION

The U.S. Senate will likely vote next week on an anti-Asian American hate crimes bill, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Thursday, one day after senators voted 92-6 to open debate on the legislation with sweeping bipartisan support.

Under the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, the Justice Department will assign an official to expedite reviews of COVID-19-related hate crimes, as well as coordinate with local law enforcement and community-based groups to facilitate and raise awareness about reporting on hate crimes.

The legislation would also call on the federal administration to offer guidance on "best practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language" describing the coronavirus pandemic. "Words matter," said Senator Mazie Hirono, who introduced the bill together with House Democrat Grace Meng. "When you have a president who deems the virus to be the 'China virus' or to have members of his administration refer to it as 'kung flu,' you create an environment where people will be motivated because of whatever reasons they have to commit these kinds of crimes," the senator



People march to protest against anti-Asian hate crimes on Brooklyn Bridge in New York, the United States, April 4, 2021. (Xinhua)

said, referring to former President Donald Trump, who frequently used such phrases to describe the coronavirus.

The Senate has a "moral imperative to take action," Schumer had told reporters previously, noting that he is "open to strengthening the bill."

Schumer and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell have started negotiating a potential amendments deal, including measures to improve the reporting of hate crimes, beef up related training for law enforcement and set up a hotline where hate crimes can be reported.

President Joe Biden met with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus on Thursday and voiced his support for passing the legislation.

Meanwhile, the White House announced new actions last month, including additional funding and a cross-agency initiative to battle anti-Asian violence and discrimination.

CRISIS POINT

The legislation came after eight people, including six women of Asian descent, were shot dead in the Atlanta area last month. Protesters of different colors and ages took to the streets in more than 60 U.S. cities in the weeks after the shootings, calling to stop anti-Asian violence which has stoked widespread fear and anger among people of Asian descent in the country. "The Asian American community has reached a crisis point that cannot be ignored," Judy Chu, a Democratic lawmaker from California, said after the Atlanta shootings.

"For more than a year, the Asian American community has been fighting two viruses, the COVID-19 pandemic and anti-Asian hate," Meng said during a press conference on Tuesday. "We've heard about and seen videos of both young and elderly Asian Americans being shoved to the ground, stomped on, being spat on and shunned. These heinous acts have been outrageous, unconscionable and they must end." Too many Asian Americans have been attacked, harassed, blamed, and scapegoated since the pandemic erupted in the United States early last year. According to Stop AAPI Hate, a California-based nonprofit social organization tracking incidents of violence against Asian

Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) during the pandemic, it received nearly 3,800 reports of attacks or abuse against people of Asian descent between March 2020 and February 2021 and the real number of such incidents is believed to be far more than that.

An analysis of police data by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, found that in the 16 largest U.S. cities in 2020, overall hate crimes fell 7 percent but those targeting Asian Americans surged nearly 150 percent.

Besides rising anti-Asian sentiment, Asian Americans have to grapple with the country's highest rates of long-term unemployment as the pandemic has shuttered hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, beauty salons and other sectors of the economy for more than a year, said a USA Today report.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that 48 percent of estimated 615,000 unemployed Asian Americans were without work for six months-plus through the first quarter of this year, surpassing the portion of long-term unemployed among jobless workers in the African American population (43 percent), white population (39 percent) and Hispanic population (39 percent). **Xinhua**

## Casual manner, double mutant variant aggravate COVID-19 situation in India

NEW DELHI

INDIA is at present reeling under the second COVID-19 wave, with over 200,000 new cases being registered each day recently and the national tally feared to cross the 15-million mark early next week.

India reported another fresh high of 234,692 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the total tally to 14,526,609, according to the data released by the federal health ministry.

Amid local media reports of bed and oxygen shortages, both central and state governments claim adequate medical facilities and supplies at both government and private hospitals.

As the rate of COVID-19-related deaths rises across the country, long queues are seen outside crematoriums and graveyards with people waiting to pay last respects to their near and dear ones who died due to the pandemic.

The outpatient departments at most government hospitals have stopped their services, with focus shifted to attending to COVID-19 patients on priority.

NEGLECT OF DANGER

Complacency and casual behavior among people at large are the reasons most commonly cited behind the COVID-19 explosion in the country.

At a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this month, it was emphasized that the sharper rise in cases could be mainly attributed to a decline of COVID-19-appropriate behavior



A woman receives a shot of COVID-19 vaccine at a hospital in Prayagraj, India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, on April 10, 2021. (Xinhua)

(CAB), primarily in terms of use of masks and maintenance of social distancing. Other reasons include pandemic fatigue and a lack of effective implementation of containment measures at the field level.

Since the beginning of this month, there have been huge public gatherings across the country for political and religious reasons, where people were seen in large numbers defying COVID-19 protocols.

Political rallies were organized by the country's major political parties in five states, namely West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, which went to Assembly polls. People attending these rallies were in close proximity without face masks.

Besides, hundreds of thousands of people have been congregating at Haridwar, a holy town in the northern hilly state

of Uttarakhand, to take a holy dip in river Ganga during the ongoing Kumbh festival.

Federal Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Friday made an appeal to the public to stick to the CAB.

"Our biggest fight this time is to teach CAB to the people. People have adopted a casual approach which is very dangerous. CAB is the biggest social tool we have to break the chain," he added.

BIG POPULATION IN CLOSE PROXIMITY

Dr R.C. Purohit, principal at the Saraswati Institute of Medical Sciences located in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district, said the situation had almost come under control, but then people started behaving in a most casual manner. Most of the people stopped following the basic protocols, like

wearing face masks, washing hands regularly and maintaining social distancing.

"Till February we were left with only four-five COVID-19 patients, but now again the figure is increasing day by day. Presently we have around 50 patients at our institute," Purohit told Xinhua over phone.

The institute is a Level-3 COVID-19 Center, which means it caters to the needs of the most critical patients suffering from the pandemic. It is one of the major COVID-19 centers in the western part of Uttar Pradesh, adjoining Delhi.

According to Purohit, one more reason behind the COVID-19 situation is the gigantic size of the country's population and its dense distribution at places.

In some places, particularly in the urban areas like slums, many people stay inside a closed room or a hutment of a very small size. And, the level of hygiene is also not up to the mark, he said, adding that the overall living standard is quite low in India.

He further said that the level of education in the country is low, too. "As a result, people ... don't follow government's directions and protocols, thus resulting in situations like the one prevailing now in the country."

The principal also said that the double mutant variant found in the country is more dangerous than the original virus as it affects the human body's immune system more gravely.

Xinhua





Simba SC keeper, Aishi Manula.

## Simba SC keeper happy with CAF Champions League exploits

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S Simba SC goalkeeper Aishi Manula has made the top five list of goalkeepers to have conceded the fewest goals in this season's CAF Champions League.

Manula led his team to the quarter-finals of the competition after conceding two goals.

He now occupies the second position in the chart of keepers to have conceded the fewest goals in the show-down's group stage.

Simba conceded goals against the tournament's defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, after losing 1-0 away to the latter in Cairo.

Simba moreover let in their first goal in the campaign in their 4-1 win over AS Vita Club of the Democratic Republic of the Congo at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The list of goalkeepers with the most clean sheets so far this season include Moussa Camara (AC Horoya) and Ahmed Reda Tagnaouti (Wydad Casablanca), who each have four.

Manula (Simba SC), Ali Abdullah Abou (Al Hilal), and Mohamed El Shenawy (Al Ahly) each has three.

"For me, I feel happy to be on the list of goalkeepers with a good record of not conceding goals," Manula said.

He disclosed: "Many congratulations should go to my teammates and to the entire technical bench led by coach Gomes [Didier], who has been trusting me and giving me words of encourage-

ment to make me better."

He revealed: "I still have a tough job ahead of the trip after qualifying for the quarter-finals of this tournament and I really want to maintain a good record of not conceding goals."

Meanwhile, Simba head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa has said he has told his players to show their stature by getting positive results in all league matches as well as those in the Champions League.

Gomes has said he is waiting to see the opponents he will be scheduled to play against, noting he recognises them all due to their data and experience in African football.

"Talking about Simba is currently one of the biggest teams in Africa, so I have told the players they must show their greatness in all the matches we will play in either the league or the quarter-finals," Da Rosa said.

He stated: "At the moment we are investing our energy in league matches but it does not mean we will ignore our quarter-final matches as that is also our plan to see that we do well."

He opined: "I know African football well and its challenges, I have taught Algeria I know the teams there the way it is in South Africa I also have friends and their data I have so there is no need to be scared in that."

Algeria's CR Belouizdad and MC Alger and South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs are the outfits Simba could face in the Champions League last eight when the draw is conducted on April 30.

## Zanzibar ought to restructure soccer development program- call

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

ZANZIBAR is endowed with planet of football talents, but they are not developed due to poor promotion and professionalism in running the Isles top flight league.

Ishaka Said Mwinyi, a midfielder that features for Zanzibar club, KMKM, disclosed lack of good system in running and promoting the Isles league denies quality players from the Isles an opportunity to be known outside East Africa.

Mwinyi revealed: "The Isles Premier League doesn't lure talent scouts because it is not promoted."

"I think the leaders, especially, the football governing body, Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) should find a better way to promote the league, teams and players involved in it," he suggested.

He pointed out the bodies that

govern the league should do much to make the league attract foreign players that at the end will help the Isles soccer generate good income to the players, teams and the country.

He also warned officials governing football, members of clubs and players to avoid entertaining senseless disputes because such a tendency harms harmony and solidarity.

Mwinyi, who is KMKM attacking midfielder, has been among the team's key players who helped them to be among the Isles' football powerhouse.

Zanzibar Premier League is the top division of the Isles' football tournaments. It was officially created in 1981.

The KMKM have won the league title seven times followed by Mlandege who have won it six times.

Others are Small Simba, five-time winners, while Mafunzo, Malindi and Miembeni have each won three times.

## Yanga need to strengthen in five positions to challenge Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ANOTHER Vodacom Premier League match for Simba SC on Wednesday, and another easy win for the league's defending champions.

Simba's 5-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar was so easy that it should be considered a crime against the history of the Morogoro side.

Right from the first whistle it felt like a training match and ceased to be a contest when midfielder Clatous Chama curled in a beautiful free kick past Mtibwa Sugar's defenders, leaving the hapless keeper Abdultwalib Mshery looking lost and confused.

Coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa's side have now gone 14 league matches unbeaten in the league.

They are only two points behind Yanga despite having four games in hand. The title is in Simba's hand once again.

Yanga had gone 22 matches unbeaten in this campaign and they at one point were nine points clear of Simba.

Many felt this was the season that Yanga would finally end their league title drought.

It was very difficult to convince people that there was a huge gap in quality between Simba and Yanga.

Simba have won three league titles in a row but telling Yanga there was still a gap between them and their age-old rivals was a forbidden topic.

It is understandable for Yanga to want to challenge for the title as soon as possible, in fact given the dynamics of Tanzanian football that is very possible but the reality is there is a huge gap between the two sides



Yanga

in times of squad depth and quality.

The Simba machine has been a steady progress of four years, adding quality each season.

An extra layer of quality has been added at the start of each season. Mistakes have been made here and there but the progress made can be seen by all.

Soccer enthusiasts have to go back to 2015/16 season when Simba finished third in the league, a massive 11 points behind champions Yanga.

The 2015/16 squad did not have the quality needed to challenge Yanga.

While Simba had a lot of talented youths in the ranks, Yanga boasted experienced and proven players.

It was no surprise despite the talents of Ibrahim Ajibu, Awadh Juma, Jonas Mkude and others at Simba, Yanga did a rare league, double by beating Simba 2-0 in each occasion.

It was a turning point for Simba. The squad was improved with a good blend of youth and experienced players.

They only missed out the title in 2016/17 by goal difference. The three titles in a row are fruits of four years of work in progress.

Yanga have made big strides this season compared to the previous one but they still fall short of Simba quality.

For Yanga to challenge Simba, I believe they at least need five

signings in four key areas - the spine of the team.

Although Metacha Mnata and Faroukh Shikhalo are good goalkeepers, one has to go for a top class goalkeeper to come in.

Then in front of the goalkeeper, they need a ready made experienced ball playing centre back.

I know this will split opinions, neither Bakari Mwamnyeto nor Lamine Moro is a ball playing centre back.

It is a tough decision to make on the two first choice centre backs but Yanga need a centre-back who can join in the attack, who is comfortable on the ball and who can take up the responsibilities of a midfielder while also carrying out the duties of a defender.

It is for this reason Simba have kept Paschal Wawa despite all his defensive weaknesses that have to be covered by an out and out aggressive Joash Onyango. Wawa is responsible for playmaking duties.

He can play the ball out of the defence even under extreme pressure. Yanga need a similar type of centre back albeit not as old as Wawa.

Then continuing the spine of the team, the two fullbacks need to be upgraded.

Shomari Kibwana and Yassin Mustapha are okay, at best they should be kept as cover up fullbacks in the squad.

Neither Kibwana nor Mustapha is convincing defensively

and their attacking output is almost non-existent.

To finish off the spine, there is a need for a top class goal scoring all round centre forward, a real number nine.

As Deus Kaseke made it 2-2 for Yanga against Kagera Sugar in mid-February, he became the club's top goal scorer this season.

The central midfielder is a surprise name to appear in that list, given the fact the club's attacking line-up is adorned with the likes of Michael Sarpong, Waziri Junior, Abdulrazak Fiston, Ditram Nchimbi and other attacking midfielders.

The Tanzanian midfielder hit the six-goal mark despite the fact that he has never been a regular starter this season.

He has started in just 12 games this season and has only completed 90 minutes in a single game.

Kaseke's goalscoring record highlights Yanga's attacking issues. Simba have three players who have outscored Kaseke.

John Bocco and Meddie Kagere have barely played this season due to injuries but have nine and eleven goals respectively.

It is a damning fact on Yanga current striking options.

Yanga need to buy better, buy wiser, and let go of the deadwood. They ought to offload players who simply just will never be good enough.

## Wawa: Simba SC can clinch 2020/21 VPL title

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC defender Paschal Wawa believes no outfit is capable of preventing them from retaining the Vodacom Premier League title, thanks to quality they have in their squad.

The Msimbazi Street-based team are currently looking unstoppable on both local and continental scenes as they have managed to book their place in the quarter-finals of the CAF Champions League and are also chasing Premier League table-toppers Yanga for the top position in the table.

Simba returned to domestic action with a resounding 5-0 win over Mtibwa Sugar at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week.

According to the Ivorian defender, Simba have quality players in their squad to see them retain the title without any challenge.

"I think we are still the best team in the league because we have quality players and we thank God because, despite the stiff competition and difficulties in winning matches, we have still managed to get better results for our side," Wawa said.

He noted: "I really believe the chance to defend our title is clear and no one can stop it at the moment due to being at the best level in the competition, the biggest thing we are doing now is winning our matches so we can achieve our targets regardless of who is leading the league."

In an earlier interview with The Guardian, Simba head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa



Simba SC's players jubilate shortly after they had notched a goal in the side's recent Vodacom Premier League match. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

made it clear they want to win all of their four matches in hand so they can hold the top position in the league.

He disclosed: "We have planned ourselves to make sure we use our matches in hand to move up and take the top position from Yanga."

He opined: "If we win our matches in hand, it means we will go seven points clear and that is a great step towards retaining the title."

"If possible we want to be crowned league champions as early as possible, we want to win the league with matches to spare so we can turn our focus to the Champions League and that is why we want to win our matches."

He pointed out: "I know it will not be easy but as a team, we are prepared, we know Yanga have been at the top for most of the

time this year, but we want to make sure we reclaim the spot and run away with the title."

Meanwhile, Simba have been fined 500,000/- for their fans' unsporting behaviour in March's Premier League clash against Tanzania Prisons, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The game ended in 1-1 draw, with Salum Kimenya putting Prisons ahead on the 56th minute and they were heading to seal a double over Simba SC until the added on time when winger Luis Miquissone produced some magic to salvage a point for the latter.

But Prisons' defender Jumanne Elfadhil was sent off after a dangerous tackle on Simba's Mzamiru Yassin and the latter's fans were unhappy, and they reacted badly.

It is for that reason Simba, nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msim-

bazi', have been punished.

"Simba SC has been fined 500,000/- for the unsporting behaviour of fans throwing water bottles on the pitch," read a letter from the Tanzania Premier League Board to the club and obtained by The Guardian.

The letter disclosed: "This happened as the red-carded Tanzania Prisons player [Elfadhil] was making his way to the dressing room. This incident happened in the game played on March 10 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam."

Simba are now placed third on the 18-team league table with 49 points from 21 matches but a win against Mwadui FC at Karume Stadium on Sunday will see the former move second ahead of Azam FC again.

Yanga are topping the log with 54 points from 25 matches.



## Messi: Rebuilt Barca 'deserved some happiness'

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi says Barcelona players deserved some happiness after scoring twice against Athletic Bilbao to help Ronald Koeman's side win the Copa del Rey in Seville on Saturday.

Antoine Griezmann and Frenkie de Jong were also on target as Barca won 4-0 at La Cartuja to win their first trophy since the La Liga title in 2018-19.

It was the 35th trophy Messi has won as a Barca player but his first Copa del Rey as the club's captain and he added that he was especially proud to be able to lead the club to victory.

"I am really happy for this group of players because they deserved some happiness," he told Barca TV. "It's really special to be the captain of this club, where I have spent my whole life, and it's a really special Copa for me, to be able to lift [the trophy]."

Last season was Barca's first without a trophy since 2007-08 and ended with the 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League.

That provoked the departure of several senior players, including Messi's close friend Luis Suarez, with Koeman arriving as the coach with the task of bringing through a number of young players.

The La Liga title could yet follow Saturday's Cup success, with just two points separating Atletico Madrid, Real Madrid and Barca at the top of the table with eight games to go.

"It was a difficult year for us so to be able to celebrate this trophy and now to go for La Liga is really important," Messi added.

"More than anything, it's been a different year for us, a transition year, with a lot of young players coming in. [Now] the team's getting stronger. We've won this trophy and there's still a long way to go in La Liga. A lot's going to happen between now and the end of the season."

Messi's brace -- which took his tally for the season to 31 in all competitions -- against Athletic demonstrated his continued importance to this Barca side but could prove his last final for the club if he doesn't extend his contract beyond June.

President Joan Laporta reiterated after the game that he's "convinced" Messi will choose to stay, as he'd said on Friday, and coach Koeman hopes he's right.

"You never know [what will happen] because it's Leo that has to decide his future," Koeman said in a news conference when asked if winning the Copa del Rey could help convince Messi to stay at Camp Nou.

(Agencies)

## Flick wants to quit Bayern as Germany job looms

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich head coach Hansi Flick dropped a bombshell on Saturday by revealing he intends to leave the club world champions at the end of the season, fuelling speculation he will take charge of the German national team.

Despite Bayern winning six titles over the last 12 months under Flick, he told Sky that he "wants to be released" from his contract, which expires in 2023.

The shock revelation came after Saturday's 3-2 win at Wolfsburg left the Bavarians seven points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

The 56-year-old, who steered Bayern to last season's treble which included the Champions League title, told the squad before making the news public.

"I told the team that I informed the club during the week that I want out of my contract at the end of the season," Flick said.

"It was not an easy decision for me.

"It was important that the team heard it from me.

"I want to give my thanks and compliments to the club for giving me the opportunity to coach such a team."

He insists his future plans are unclear.

However, with Joachim Loew stepping down as coach of Germany after the Euro 2020 finals this summer, Flick is the obvious choice to replace him.

Flick was Loew's assistant coach when Germany won the 2014 World Cup title in Brazil.

The chance to succeed Loew and take charge of the national team is an "option that anyone would have to consider", Flick later told broadcaster ARD.

However, he insisted his decision to quit Bayern was "independent of the German FA. I've simply decided that for myself."

The news caps a turbulent week for Bayern who were knocked out of the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday by Paris Saint-Germain.

- 'Careful consideration' -

Tensions have been simmering behind the scenes between Flick and Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidzic over player recruitment.

AFP

## Guardiola insisted Man City's Quad quest was impossible, He was right

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are still on course for an incredible season, but history will have to wait. Hakim Ziyech's second-half goal for Chelsea ensured a 1-0 defeat for Pep Guardiola's team in the FA Cup semifinal and ended dreams of an unprecedented Quadruple, for another year at least.

The Premier League leaders can still win three major trophies this season, with the league title almost in the bag and a Carabao Cup final against Tottenham Hotspur later this month before a two-legged Champions League semifinal against Paris Saint-Germain. But at Wembley on Saturday, Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea deservedly booked their fourth FA Cup final in five years (they will face Southampton or Leicester City on May 15) by being fitter, slicker and more decisive over 90 minutes. Ziyech's goal was enough to win the game, but the Moroccan winger and substitute Christian Pulisic both saw goals ruled out for offside in a game that Chelsea dominated.

With City's Quadruple chase over, Guardiola insisted he and his players have done well to even get this far.

"What could I say? We have two and a half days to recover and play



Pep Guardiola

away and have to travel, we were on the train for three hours and we were stopped one hour," Guardiola said after the match. "It was a tight game, congratulations to Chelsea -- they are a top side. This can happen. These guys [City] fight every game like never before I've seen."

For Chelsea, this victory extended the revival under Tuchel's management since his appointment as Frank Lampard's successor in January. They have lost just twice in 19 games in all competitions (and kept 14 clean sheets) under the German tactician, reached the FA Cup final and are favourites to win the race for fourth place in the Premier League following West Ham United's surprise defeat at Newcastle United on Saturday. And if they overcome Real Madrid in the Champi-

ons League semifinals, they could face City once again, in the final in Istanbul, and deny Guardiola's team a first European Cup by taking it to Stamford Bridge for a second time.

In the past 10 years, City and Chelsea have dominated the English football landscape, and there can be no denying that they have usurped the old order -- Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal -- to become top dogs. City have won nine major trophies and Chelsea have won eight since 2011-12. United (four) and Arsenal (four) have won just eight between them, while Liverpool have only just started winning again by clinching the Champions League in 2019 and Premier League last year.

But while Chelsea have been consistent winners, City have threatened to

leave the rest in their wake under Guardiola. Their domestic Treble in 2019 was the first time it had been achieved in English football history, so a Quadruple would have been on another scale.

United's Treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League in 1999 remains the high-water mark, though, now that City have succumbed in the FA Cup. They can still pull off a Treble, of course, by winning the league, Carabao Cup and Champions League, but Liverpool managed that in 1984, so they would only be treading a path already walked by others.

A Quadruple would have been unprecedented and relegated all those previous Trebles to footnotes in the history books, but City's challenge now is to ensure that their pursuit of four trophies does not fizzle out and end in comparative disappointment. If they end up winning the Champions League for the first time, nobody at the Etihad will spend too much time worrying about the FA Cup. But while City remain alive in three other competitions, this defeat -- and last Saturday's Premier League loss against a 10-man Leeds United squad -- highlighted shortcomings and problems that could see Guardiola's team slip up in the Carabao Cup and Champions

League.

Chelsea's tactic of hitting City on the counterattack, with the pace of Ziyech, Mason Mount and Timo Werner, was successful on several occasions. It also led directly to Ziyech's goal, when Werner raced into the penalty area before pulling the ball back to the former Ajax man. United deployed a similar tactic in their Premier League win at the Etihad earlier this season, and it is likely that PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino will tell his own flying forwards -- Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Angel Di Maria -- to expose City's defensive weakness.

And against Chelsea, City looked tired. Worryingly so. The Londoners had an extra day of rest following their Champions League clash with FC Porto in Seville on Tuesday, 24 hours before City's win against Borussia Dortmund in Germany, which is perhaps why Guardiola made eight changes to his team. But those who started still travelled to Dortmund, so they didn't enjoy a midweek off, and they won't have this midweek off either because City must travel to Aston Villa in the Premier League on Wednesday. Then comes the Carabao Cup final on Sunday, before the first leg in Paris three days later, so the games are mounting and so is the fatigue. The sight of Kevin De Bruyne limping

off with a second-half ankle injury will also be a concern to Guardiola.

"It doesn't look good, he has pain," the City manager said. "We will see. Tomorrow he will have a test."

Raheem Sterling was ineffective against Chelsea, as was Brazilian forward Gabriel Jesus, and Guardiola will need his attacking players to carry more threat against Spurs next weekend and PSG in the Champions League.

"We have not had a midweek free for eight months," Guardiola said. "We have played a lot of games, and it will continue. Now it is the Premier League, the Carabao Cup next week. It's just one more game."

But this is the business end of the season, when all great teams overcome injury and tiredness by finding an extra something to get them over the line. There are plenty of obstacles in City's path, though, before they reach that finishing line, and winning three trophies this season will still be a tall order.

Guardiola has always insisted it would be close to impossible to win four, and he has been proved right. The question now is how many they can still win, and whether this season will ultimately leave City feeling like they could have won more.

ESPN

## David Beckham's Inter Miami could be a great team. But it has to win first-2

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

Inter Miami's affiliated USL team, Fort Lauderdale FC, is holding a scrimmage for semipro trialists on a back field. By 11 o'clock, the longtime friends have joined Henderson and assistant coach Anthony Pulis, son of itinerant English manager Tony Pulis, at the near corner. Beckham looks immaculate as usual in a black Inter Miami training shirt adorned with those aspirationally iconic herons. Neville is wearing a generic Adidas shirt of Manchester United red. The quality of play is brisk, if ragged. Beckham thinks several of the hopefuls have pro potential -- he can tell, he says, "after two minutes of seeing them play."

For someone with such a glamorous reputation, Beckham spends a lot of time immersed in Inter Miami's youth program. He believes that the way to construct a world-class club is with a recruitment system that identifies and attracts talent during adolescence, then nurtures it into adulthood. "I've said from the start that it's not just about the team that's playing in the stadium," he said. "It's about the 13s, the 14s, the 15s, the 17s, the 23s. Because we're a club, at the end of the day. Yes, we have a team that plays in MLS. But more than that, we are a club. All of our coaches from every age have to be aligned with what these players are doing on these two pitches here. If they aren't, we're getting it wrong."

Fortuitously, the MLS



Neville, a former teammate of Beckham's and a close friend, is the coach tasked with putting Inter Miami back on track. (Agencies)

system rewards player development. Players who come from a team academy aren't subject to the league's draft, and they don't count against salary restrictions. Teams that have invested their resources in their youth teams, such as Philadelphia and Dallas, have been rewarded with a steady flow of first-team talent. "If he can bring even just a few young players through who become top players, it really helps," said Bryan Robson, who was the captain at Manchester United for Beckham's first two seasons with the senior team. "And David knows that buying success is very difficult. Players can get mercenary at the end of their career. You have to be careful of that."

The problem is, the world is watching now. Building slowly isn't a luxury that's afforded David Beckham by the podcasters or the Twitter posters when he decides to own a football club, especially when he insists that Inter Miami can eventually "be the biggest in the world." Just about every major

player over 30 has been proposed as a splash signing for the coming year or two, often by their own agents. Neville gets calls daily. "Players of brilliant, brilliant standing in world football," he said.

One of them was Higuain, who at 32 doesn't seem to have lost a step. Matuidi, whose signing by McDonough is being investigated by the league as a possible salary-cap violation, is now 34. Mas acknowledges that many of the bigger names that were circulating as potential

targets last year at this time -- Edinson Cavani, Dries Mertens -- wanted to come. The pandemic spoiled that.

The club's biggest acquisitions last winter, Stoke City defender Ryan Shawcross and Bahia defensive midfielder Gregore, won't sell many season tickets. Gregore hasn't played outside Brazil. The gritty Shawcross did it for years on a cold, rainy night in Stoke, as the saying goes, but he'll have to adapt to the more languid ambience of South Florida, not to mention the sweltering temperatures. Inter Miami is still targeting some of the world's top stars, Beckham insists, but he doesn't want them to use the club as an off-ramp to retirement, the way aging stars from Pele to Chicharito have done with American soccer over the decades. "They have to be hungry," Beckham said. "Not to come as a holiday destination but to win championships."

It's clearly easier to convince a major international star to

take his talents to South Beach than to Sacramento. But the main draw, of course, is Beckham. "He actually is quite a special person," said Ivan Gazidis, a former MLS deputy commissioner who spent 2009-18 running Arsenal and is now at AC Milan. "People sort of underestimate David a little bit. There's a reason he only played with the top clubs: He fought his way there. There will be doubters and skepticism, but that's nothing new to him. He's thoughtful in what he says, and when he makes a commitment, he does it wholeheartedly. So when he says Inter Miami will be a world-class club, I wouldn't underestimate him."

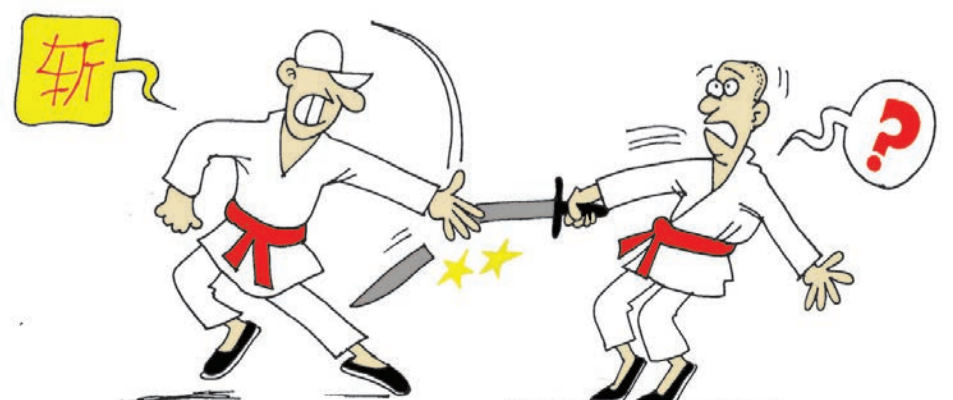
But if it doesn't happen, if Inter Miami continues to falter this season, Beckham's meticulously manicured image is likely to suffer. "He'll want to win in Miami," said MLS' Bruce. "That's going to be really important to him, to mark success as owner of that club." What he's selling now, with his Adidas

clothing line and his upscale endorsements and even Inter Miami, is the David Beckham brand. And as he did while playing, he leaves as little as possible to chance.

Back on the terrace, Beckham sits for a photo session. Watching him get photographed is like watching him take a free kick. He has choreographed the outcome in his head, and he works backward from there to achieve it. On this afternoon, the wind is rummaging his hair. Beckham won't have it. He finesses it with his hands to get it just a certain way. The moment the photographer pauses, he does it again. He pulls down the zipper on the pink training top he's wearing maybe an eighth of an inch. Then he pulls it up one-sixteenth of an inch. The wind gusts. With a look, a gesture, a polite word, he makes his discomfort known. As nearly always happens, Beckham achieves what he sets out to do. The photo shoot moves inside.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Guardiola insisted Man City's Quad quest was impossible, He was right**

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## Government now eager to develop Paralympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government says it is committed to improving sports among people with disabilities in Tanzania.

Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Pauline Gekul, issued the comments at the opening of a two-day seminar for officials from sports associations which handles athletes with disabilities.

The seminar, which ends today, took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Paulin pointed out no person should be left out in sporting activities.

She said sports should be inclusive as, apart from being a source of income, they are used as recreation.

"We are committed to see that there is no person left out in sporting activities, people with disabilities should be given enough space to take part in sporting activities, we will work hand in hand with associations which deal with the disabled," she insisted.

The seminar's instructors were, among others, Jonas Tiboro, Irene Mwaisanga and Christina.

One of the participants, Ramadhan Namkoveka from Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC), hailed the government for hosting the seminar saying it has come at a good time when they are working hard to sensitize people to involve their fellows with disabilities in sporting activities.

He disclosed: "I thank the government for the seminar, it has come at a good time when more associations which are involved in sports among the disabled are trying to reach to many parts of the country to sensitize people of the need to involve people with disabilities in sports."

He said sports are very important to all people especially to the ones with disabilities as they are one of the ways of realizing the latter's inclusion.

He said the uniqueness of sports is their ability to transcend linguistic, cultural and social barriers, creating an excellent platform for strategies of inclusion and adaptation.

In the country, sportspersons with disabilities are involved in Powerlifting, basketball, wheelchair tennis, amputee football, sitting volleyball, swimming and other sporting activities.

"The universal popularity of sports and their physical, social and economic development benefits make them an ideal tool for fostering the inclusion and well-being of persons with disabilities," the TPC official stated.

"We feel there is a need for awareness to the society, the government and the media on the importance of sports among people with disabilities," he said.

The United Nations (UN) set December 3 as an International Day for Persons With Disabilities.

The UN says persons with disabilities often face societal barriers and disability evokes negative perceptions and discrimination in many societies.

As a result of the stigma associated with disability, persons with disabilities are generally excluded from education, employment and community life which deprives them of opportunities essential to their social development, health and well-being.

In some societies persons with disabilities are considered dependent and seen as incapable, thus fostering inactivity which often causes individuals with physical disabilities to experience restricted mobility beyond the cause of their disability.

Realizing the importance of sports to the disabled, UN article 30, says the disabled have the right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports.

The United Nations say sports can help to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with disability because they can transform communities' attitudes about persons with disabilities by highlighting their skills and reducing the tendency to see the disability instead of the person.

## Mwambusi hails tactical changes as Yanga beat Biashara United



Yanga's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi.

Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**Y**ANGA defeated Biashara United by a solitary goal in a Vodacom Premier League clash played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night with the former's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi, hailing his tactical changes as the reason for their win.

The lone goal was scored by Burkinabe Yacouba Songne. Prior to the match, the 27-time domestic top flight champions had collected just two points from their previous three games.

They had lost 2-1 to Coastal Union before settling for a 1-1 draw with Polisi Tanzania and Kinondoni Municipal Council

(KMC) FC respectively.

With pressure coming from second-placed Azam FC and reigning champions Simba SC, Yanga were forced to give their best to get maximum points at home.

Yanga, as a result, completed a double over their opponents, given they had beat the Mara-based side by a solitary goal in the initial round.

Mwambusi praised his players for following his tactical instructions as well as efforts and character that

they shown during the match.

He disclosed: "As we saw the demands and changes were many in today's game that led to positive results, in the last match (against KMC FC) we came out with a draw and our fans blamed us a lot but it was not our expectations."

"The players came out of the league break and this was a transitional period from that game and come to this match and get the victory," Mwambusi said.

He added: "I told my players now to fight in today's match (against Biashara united) because we are Yanga and we are a great team."

He revealed: "We know what can be done to improve the results and play soccer that will please our fans and bring results."

"As you saw today we played an attacking game, we have done so by creating many chances one of which was a goal," he stated.

Mwambusi said players have to show enthusiasm and good character in order to make it into his starting squad, insisting that he needs to see that on training ground.

He noted: "I believe in all my players, and I have already told them that whoever performs well on the training ground is the one who, I will give him a chance due to his efforts."

Mwambusi praised his new defensive partnership between Dickson Job and Abdallah Shaibu stating that they delivered to his expectations.

He disclosed: "Dickson job is a good player who has not played a single match since being signed by Yanga, he did not have a good partnership with his teammates, but today I gave him a chance and he has played in the good direction he and Abdallah Shaibu collectively have complied with my instructions by 60%."

Yanga are now on 54 points after 25 matches. Their next match will be against Gwambina FC at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

## Caravans thump Gymkhana in Kazim Nasser Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

CARAVANS Club's cricketers notched a resounding 32-run victory over Gymkhana Cricket Club in Group B tie of Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, which was played in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

A dominant batting showing displayed by Caravans Cricket Club's experienced batsmen, Jitin Pratap Singh and Safvan Annarathodika, helped the outfit come out victorious in the game, which took place at Leaders Club ground.

Caravans Cricket Club went in to bat first, amassing 147 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.

They successfully bounced back after facing an early blow that had openers, Manoj Kumar and Nandakishan Pottachira, making their way back to the pavilion after a few overs.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's promising bowler, Mohamed Yunus, dismissed Kumar after the batsman had posted three runs.

He was soon followed by fellow opener Pottachira, as Gymkhana Club's bowler Kartik Syal dismissed the batsman who had ended with six runs.

Singh, deployed at number three, saw to it his side pile runs as he ended six runs short of a half century, nailing seven boundaries and a sixer.

Although experienced per-



Caravans Cricket Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

former Kassim Nassor was not in good form, he chipped in with 12 runs.

Annarathodika then stepped up to boost Caravans' total with solid showing, as he registered unbeaten 42 runs, which included three fours.

Hamisi Abdallah, slotted in as middle order batsman, put his experience to use, posting 17 runs which included a four.

Yunus and Syal notched two wickets apiece for Gymkhana Cricket Club in their respective four-over spells.

Needing 148 runs to emerge as winners, Gymkhana Cricket Club batted zealously, they nevertheless ended with 115 runs for nine wickets.

Opening batsman, Kheel Suchak, had the best batting performance in what turned out to be an unsuccessful chase, ending with a half century which included five boundaries.

They were thereafter pegged back with two quick dismissals, as opener Amar Shangvi and Gourav Choudhary, who came on at number three, were dismissed for

duck.

Skipper Harsheel Shah withstood Caravans Cricket Club bowlers' pressure for a few overs, recording 12 runs.

The club's middle order performers failed to live up to expectations, exiting in quick succession and weakening the chase in the process.

Yunus put spirited displays during the closing stages, posting 19 runs, his efforts however ended in vain.

Kishwabi Ngozi, Kumar and Singh's efforts paid off for Caravans Cricket Club, as the trio posted two wickets each

to foil the opponents' chase.

Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) organizes the annual tournament in a bid to boost promotion of the game in the country.

Harab Motors Company, Shamsu Pharmacy, and Swepac Imports International are the tournament's sponsors.

The tournament is also backed by Imports International, 3M Pharmacy and Funcity that will present free vouchers to players in divisions B and C events' knock-out stages.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

