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'Dar port laxity causing losses'

● *MPs shelve Health ministry estimates to debate 'go-slow' at the port*

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday called on the government to take action and end laxity at the port of Dar es Salaam after it emerged that operations at the facility had slowed down, occasioning huge losses.

This came after Mafinga Urban MP Cosato Chumi raised an argument of urgency, asking the House to suspend debate on estimates of the Ministry of Health and deliberate on the matter.

The move was supported by a number of lawmakers who stood up, reaching the required threshold and Deputy Speaker Tulia Ackson allowed the matter to be discussed.

Chumi argued that he had reliable information that loading and offloading of goods at the port was at a snail's pace for the past two days, leading to pile-up of goods hence massive losses to both the government and companies whose businesses depend on efficiency at the facility.

Maswa East legislator Stanslaus Nyongo said the slow pace of loading and offloading of goods had affected a chain of businesses in Tanzania and neighbouring countries using the port.

"There is a problem with flow meters and forklifts. This needs to be sorted out because the impact of delaying loading and offloading is bigger than we appear to believe," he declared.

Godwin Kunambi (Mlimba) charged that the port faces managerial issues that must be ironed out for it to operate efficiently.

"If you want to solve a problem, you



President Samia Suluhu Hassan talks with her Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni shortly after he was sworn in at Kololo grounds in Kampala yesterday. Story on Page 2. Photo: State House

China inks 35.3bn/- project aid accord

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Former President, Jakaya Kikwete (L) receives a praying mat from NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi at Iftar the bank hosted for its major clients and other stakeholders in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government yesterday signed a grant agreement worth 35.3bn/- with China for various development projects countrywide.

Emanuel Tutuba, the Permanent Secretary for the Treasury, said yesterday that the funds under the framework agreement will be utilized to finance expansion of the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), upgrading the National Institute of Transport (NIT) into a university, improving the Ngorongoro Lengai Geopark and other priority projects being discussed between the two countries.

China has been supporting Tanzania in areas such as railway infrastructures, education, health, information communication technology (ICT), energy, water, the industrial sector, the agriculture sector and others.

Chinese support through concessional loans for completed projects since 2010 stands at about

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SIDA, TAHA inaugurate uplift drive on avocados

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

WITH millions of people around the world suddenly developing insatiable craving for buttery avocado, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency has moved in to assist Tanzanian growers to capitalise on the ever increasing global demand for the crop.

SIDA is working with the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) which serves fruit and flower farmers especially in the northern zone, with the new initiative kicked off on Wednesday, launching the 'avocado cluster' in Arumeru District.

"As coffee prices drop globally, avocados are becoming the next green gold commanding high prices coupled with increasing demand," said the TAHA Executive Director, Jacqueline Mkindi, at the avocado cluster launching event held at Ngyani Cooperative Union, about six kilometers from the Leganga Road Junction of Usa-River, in Meru District.

Ward councillors, local growers, local government officials, producers and association officials were present, with TAHA tasked with facilitating smallholder farmers in the district to establish an avocado cluster for Hass variety needed by export markets.

Ward representatives said that local farmers had started to uproot coffee trees as the crop was no longer beneficial commercially but were yet to find a replacement. "We are relieved that avocados have come to the rescue," they affirmed.

These are growers operating at altitudes ranging from 1200m - 1500m above sea level, described to be ideal conditions for excellent avocado production. TAHA will help enable these farmers realise the potentiality of their land through practical training using proven technologies on the production and marketing of Hass avocado, the director noted.

The global avocado market is currently being valued at \$9.14bn, with the United States, Canada, Japan, Spain and the Netherlands the major importers of Hass avocados.

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EAC sets up 'hotline' in cross-border trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE EAST African Community (EAC) Secretariat is set to avail a trade hotline providing cross-border traders with a platform to register challenges encountered and get prompt feedback, across all EAC border posts.

This measure comes in to resolve persistent non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and reduce the time spent in moving goods and persons, hence increasing intra EAC trade, which currently stands at 15 per cent of the

“The hotline will enable the secretariat to register persistent trade barriers, provide feedback and make follow ups

partner states' total trade volumes.

EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki made his first visit to the Namanga One Stop Border Post (OSBP) yesterday, meeting officials of trade facilitation agencies and cross border traders to exchange views on how to ease cross border trade.

"The hotline will enable the secretariat to register persistent trade barriers, provide feedback and make follow ups," he said.

The East African Business Council (EABC), facilitating dialogue of government

authorities and the private sector, affirmed that the movement of goods and persons at the Namanga OSBP and truck traffic impasse has been eased following the directive by President Uhuru Kenyatta during the two day state visit by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The meeting provided a platform for cross border traders, trade facilitation agencies, EABC and the EAC Secretariat to explore so

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'Dar port laxity causing losses'

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must start by its root. If you see an institution is not performing or if there is corruption; the problem is the head of that institution," he argued.

"The biggest problem with our country is lack of patriotism. We have a minister and deputy minister in charge of the port; let them tell us what is wrong."

Sofia Mwakagenda (Special Seats) argued that woes at the port of Dar es Salaam are caused by leaders who do not admit if there is a problem and seek a solution at appropriate levels.

"We need to know why port leaders have not told the nation that there is a problem and the port has not worked for two days. Is this sabotage?" she demanded, underlining that "we are very lucky as a country to have the port that other countries depend on."

Singida East MP Miraji Mtaturu, a member of House infrastructure committee, said it was shocking that after recent efforts to expand

the port and provide it with new equipment, efficiency dives instead of going up.

"We have invested colossal amounts of money in expansion of the port. It is sad that that it is not performing as expected," he lamented.

Esther Matiko (Special Seats-Chadema) said that 80 per cent of goods sold countrywide pass through the port, making it a critical facility for the growth of the country's economy.

"If we don't solve this matter, landlocked countries that depend on this port will shift to ports in neighbouring countries," she cautioned.

As contributions continued, the Deputy Speaker announced that the government had a response to the matter and Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Youth and People with Disabilities) said that Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa was already at the port working on the matter.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents a certificate of recognition to Tigo Northern Zone Manager Said Idd due to the firm's being main sponsor of the national competition of Science, Technology and Innovation exhibition dubbed MAKISATU 2021 at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Tuesday. Left is National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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The US and Canada take up 77.6 percent and 8.2 percent of imports of the produce, with increasing domestic as well as international demand likely, as exports are forecasted to rise to even higher levels.

The Hass type is the most popular variety of avocado globally, and is projected to register a compound annual growth rate of 4.8 percent during the forecast period 2020-2025, she further noted.

Rising number of buyers for

SIDA, TAHA inaugurate uplift drive on avocados

healthy food products for clinical reasons or a healthy lifestyle are impelling market growth of avocado. The fruits contain most vitamins and minerals required to boost immunity, with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic further compelling buyers to seek out avocados, thus pushing up demand. The idea of an avocado cluster in the northern zone is meant to facilitate large enough volumes for the

export market, given that the avocado market is not as yet saturated, she stated. "Since it is difficult for a smallholder farmer to meet market requirements when operating individually, cluster formation is the way forward expected to solve market issues in the avocado value chain," she elaborated. This intervention will lead to effective utilization of logistics available in the region, like international

airports nearby, Kilimanjaro and Jomo Kenyatta across the border for airfreight, along with using other airports or seaports. Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions are so far earmarked for taking up the crop, but nearby regions have similar conditions. Spreading global good agricultural practices and certification processes, easing agronomic services and create collective bargaining

for farmers' groups are similarly envisaged. Since its inception, TAHA has initiated interventions by mobilizing farmers into formal entities, building institutional capacity and streamlining outreach services from the national to grassroots level, to scale up adoption of production technologies. TAHA initiatives focus on innovating, packaging and delivering quality technical

support services that change the livelihood of beneficiaries and communities at large. The initiative will improve farmers' production and productivity levels for expanded income, food and nutrition security. TAHA has thus been advising farmers on proper compliance to market standards, setting up post-harvest infrastructure and industry logistics through TAHAFresh Handling, a logistics firm.

China inks 35.3bn/- project aid accord

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\$1.8bn ((4.15trn/-) granted to support various economic and social projects.

In her remarks, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke said the grant was an outcome of a recent visit by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Tanzania

"China has always regarded Tanzania as an all-weather friend and a good partner. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 57 years ago, China has assisted Tanzania with a variety of economic and social development projects, such as TAZARA," she stated.

China aided projects include the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), the Library of the University of Dar es Salaam, expansion of the Police Training School at Moshi, office building for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, among others.

China has been inviting

hundreds of Tanzanians to attend multilateral and bilateral training programs every year, helping them to enhance their professional skills, she stated, noting further that China stands ready to offer utmost support to Tanzania in the fight against Covid-19 and evacuate the difficult times.

Although the pandemic has affected economic and trade cooperation between China and Tanzania, bilateral trade and investment flows have grown against the trend through joint efforts, she observed.

Last year bilateral trade volumes reached \$4.58bn, up by 9.9percent, with China's direct investment in Tanzania put at \$159m, an increase of 62.3percent over the preceding year, the envoy affirmed.

During the first quarter of this year, bilateral trade volumes were up by 59.7percent from the same period last year, while cassava, wine and soybean started to enter the Chinese market last year, she added.



Finance and Planning ministry Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) exchanges documents on agreements with Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke and under which China will release 35.37bn/- for the implementation various development projects. The event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EAC sets up 'hotline' in cross-border trade

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lutions to handicaps in bilateral and regional cross-border trade. Traders urged harmonization of standards for the most traded goods in the region.

EABC also urged harmonization of taxes and charges, reducing weigh bridge costs and reviewing punitive fines for infractions by cross border traders.

Speaking at the forum, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Namanga OSBP manager Paul Kamkulu said that in fiscal 2019/2020, good from

Kenya passing at the border post stood at \$138.79m while exports to Kenya stood at \$124.33m. In fiscal 2020/2021, Tanzania imports from Kenya stood at around \$131.44m while exports were billed at \$170.4m

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) Namanga station manager, Joseph Moywaywa, said that amid the pandemic, Kenya's top exports to Tanzania were detergents, tiles, automobiles and solar panels, whilst Tanzania in turn sold fresh vegetables, alcoholic drinks and fertilizer.

Tanzania's Ambassador to Kenya Dr John Simbachawene joined the Secretariat delegation, reiterating the commitment of the government in deepening relations to resolve barriers disrupting trade flows.

Dr Mathuki, who has been in office for close to a fortnight, was lauded for being the first holder of the post to make a point of holding such a dialogue with traders and facilitation agencies at the Namanga OSBP, enhancing optimism on fast-tracking resolution of pending trade and policy issues.

Samia, nine other African presidents in Uganda for Museveni inauguration

KAMPALA

AT least 11 African heads of state arrived in Uganda Tuesday and Wednesday to witness the swearing-in ceremony of President Yoweri Museveni who has been in power since 1986.

They include: Evariste Ndayishimiye (Burundi), Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (Somalia), Emmerson Mnangagwa (Zimbabwe), Salva Kiir (South Sudan), Hage Geingob (Namibia) and Alpha Conde (Guinea).

The presidents were received by Uganda's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Henry Oryem Okello at

Entebbe Airport ahead of President Museveni's swearing-in ceremony for his sixth-elective term of office at Kololo Independence Grounds.

On Tuesday evening, president Museveni treated his counterparts to a state dinner at Speke Resort Munyonyo "Interactions with the different visiting Heads of State before the State Dinner at Speke Resort Munyonyo earlier. On behalf of Ugandans, I am supremely honored to host the different leaders here," Museveni said.

Museveni was declared winner of the January elections with 58 per cent of the votes cast while his closest

contender, musician turned politician, Robert Kyagulanyi alias Bobi Wine got 35 per cent, according to the Electoral Commission.

In addition to the six African heads of state already in Uganda, Sudanese vice president, Malik Agar Eyr, South Africa's minister of international relations and cooperation, Naledi Pandor and the executive secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), João Samuel Caholo, arrived in Uganda on Tuesday afternoon to witness the swearing in ceremony of Mr Museveni, 76, slated for Wednesday May 12th.



The Guardian Ltd (TGL) publisher of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers printing press manager Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (L) briefs REPOA executive director Dr Donald Mmari (2nd L) on the newspapers production during his visit at TGL offices Mikocheni light industrial area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are TGL legal and human resources manager Emmanuel Matondo and Nipashe Newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe. Photo: John Badi

Mussa Zungu retains Parliament chair post

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

ILALA lawmaker Mussa Zungu (CCM) who served as chairman of the 11th Parliament has retained the position, this time sailing through unopposed.

Najma Giga, Special Seats lawmaker from Zanzibar who served in the previous Parliament has also retained the position, according to results announced yesterday.

Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson also named David Kihenzile of Mufindi South (CCM) as another Parliament Chairman; bringing the number to mandatory three.

Kihenzile is therefore the newcomer in the role because his two colleagues are experienced after serving in the same position in the last parliament after the 2015 General Election.

Another Chairman in the last parliament was then Bariadi West lawmaker and former Attorney General Andrew Chenge who did not make it back to the august house in the 2020 General Election.

As opposed to yesteryears, there was no actual voting in the floor of the House to get the three chairs because the Parliamentary Steering Committee sent only three names.

"On Monday 10 May 2021, the Parliamentary Steering Committee forwarded to the Office of the Speaker names of Mussa Zungu, David Kihenzile and Na-



jma Giga as candidates for parliamentary chairmanship," said Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson.

"If the number of approved candidates is the same as the number of positions, then the candidates sail through automatically."

The three chairs of parliament help the Speaker and Deputy Speaker in chairing parliamentary proceedings.

The speaker's official role is to moderate debate, make rulings on procedure, announce the results of votes, and the like. The speaker decides who may speak and has the powers to discipline members who break the procedures of the House.

CCM politician Zungu now returns to the seat not only as experienced House Chairman but also as a seasoned Member of Parliament for Ilala constituency having been elected since 2005. He has continued to retain the parliamentary seat in 2010, 2015 and 2020 General Elections.

REPOA calls for agro-processing industries, agriculture investment

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE country's top think-tank-REPOA yesterday suggested the need for the government to invest more on modern agriculture and agro-processing industries to maintain its economic growth.

Speaking in an interview with journalists during a tour at the Guardian Ltd to mark the institution's silver jubilee cele-

bration, the executive director of REPOA Dr. Donald Mmari said that the country is endorsed with resources which if effectively utilised will contribute a great deal in the country's development.

"There are a lot of resource based industries that the country can provide comparative advantages and one is agriculture but it needs to be converted into modern and very

productive agriculture" he said

He added that considering the fact that the majority of people currently found in the fare agricultural system are small holders but the productivity yields, insisting that investments should be made in this sector to make sure that this productivity increases.

Dr Donald also called for a strong linkage between natural based resource sectors like

agriculture, forestry (timber industry), minerals, and natural gases and other sectors including industry manufacturing.

"In order for these sectors to coexist they need to be a policy environment that fosters investment like good roads to connect raw material sources, production sites and market" he said. Also they have to be power which is reliable, adequate and cheap so that it can make our

production competitive, he added.

He also said that it is true that from 1991 to 2017 the country has experienced a drop in the poverty rate that is from 48 percent to 26.1 according to the National Bureau of Statistics which now takes the country to a middle income level but more can still be done to maintain that.

"We must continue to accelerate the economic growth rate,

we need to attain a minimum of 8 percent but if we can reach double digit growth that will be best because it can accelerate the speed of growth and that has to be sustained for a reasonably long period of time thus reducing the poverty rate" he said.

Dr Donald added that the economic structure has to be restructured in line with the growing economy paving the way for more productive sectors

to grow. This will create jobs in technology driven sectors and manufacturing sectors away from the former economy.

He further expressed the need for the promotion of further domestic and foreign investments which are very important requirements for economic growth which he said also requires policy reforms to be able to attract both domestic and foreign investors.



INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF MATERIAL HANDLING

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya. **MCCL now invites SEALED BIDS** from eligible tenderers to provide **MATERIAL HANDLING SERVICES** to its sites. Eligible Bidders are required to submit 1 ORIGINAL bid document, properly enclosed in one sealed envelope marked **TENDER FOR PROVISION OF MATERIAL HANDLING SERVICES** and physically delivered to below address:

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2. CRDB Bank - Account no. 0150065139500
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Payment Slip has to be sent to: mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com when requesting for tender documents.

DEADLINE FOR TENDER SUBMISSION: 1st JUNE 2021, 4H00 PM, WHILE SITE VISIT IS ON 18th MAY 2021 AND 25th MAY 2021 AT 1030 HRS. (Bidders can choose any date among the two)



TANZANIA-ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY

Head Office

TENDER NO: TZR/ HO/CTC/2020/2021/02

INVITATION FOR BIDS

TO DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALL, TEST, OPERATE, TRAIN AND COMMISSION A COMPLETE SYSTEM OF TWO (2) TONS MEDIUM FREQUENCY INDUCTION FURNACE ON A TURNKEY-CONTRACT BASIS

1. This **Invitation for Bids** follows the desire by the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) to recapitalize the TAZARA Mpika Workshops in the financial year 2020/2021.
2. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has set aside funds for the recapitalization of the TAZARA Mpika Workshops in the financial year 2020/2021 and it is, therefore, intended that part of the proceeds of the funds be used to cover eligible payments for the contract for **Tender No: TZR/HQ/CTC/2020/2021/02 for the Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Operation, Training and Commissioning of a Complete System of two (2) tons Medium Frequency Induction Furnace on Turnkey-Contract Basis.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through an Open International Competitive Method of Bidding, whose procedures are specified in the TAZARA Procurement & Supplies Manual of November, 2011.
3. TAZARA now invites sealed bids from eligible potential International suppliers or manufacturers to design, supply, install, test, operate, train and commission a complete system of two (2) tons Medium Frequency Induction Furnace on a Turnkey-Contract basis.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office the TAZARA Supplies Manager, Headquarters, Room No.210 Dares Salaam – Tanzania from 08.0 to 16.30 hours E.A.T, Monday to Friday, except during public holidays or Lusaka Area Office, TAZARA House, Dedan Kimathi Road, Lusaka - Zambia from 08.0 to 16.30 hours C.A.T, Monday to Friday, except during public holidays.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$ 200.00. Payment should either be by Cash or Banker's Draft, payable to the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration in the format provided in the bidding documents.
7. All bids in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes marked **"Tender No: TZR/HQ/CTC/2020/2021/02 for the Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Operation, Training and Commissioning of a Complete System of two (2) tons Medium Frequency Induction Furnace on Turnkey-Contract Basis"** must be addressed and delivered to the Office of the Secretary to the Central Tender Committee, Office No. 210, TAZARA Head Office, Nyerere/Mandela Roads Junction, Dar-es-Salaam – Tanzania or the Office of Area Manager, TAZARA House, Dedan Kimathi Road, Lusaka – Zambia at or before 10.00 hours C.A.T or 11.00 E.A.T on **Friday, 4th June, 2021.**
8. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of tenderers or representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at TAZARA, Head Office Board Room in Dar es Salaam – Tanzania or TAZARA Area office, Board Room in Lusaka - Zambia.
9. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**The Managing Director,
Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA),
Head Office, Nyerere/Mandela Roads,
P.O. Box 2834,
Dar-es-Salaam - Tanzania**



Dar es Salaam residents make eleventh hour shopping along Kongo Street in Kariakoo towards Eid el Fitr festive season expected today or tomorrow depending the sighting of the moon.. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt appeals to farmers, maize traders to grab Kenyan market

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE Minister Prof Adolf Mkenka has called on farmers and maize traders to grab the opportunity of Kenya's maize market as part of cooperation with East African countries.

The minister was addressing reporters here at the weekend soon after meeting with cassava crop stakeholders during which he also unveiled the crop's strategy.

In regard to his ministry's position to spur agricultural development and the strategy for the cassava crop, Prof Mkenka said his ministry is well mobilised to ensure benefits from production are increased including the availability of market for maize in Kenya.

"Recently presidents of Tanzania and Kenya met and discussed challenges in conducting business between the two countries, resulting in the opening of the border for traders to continue with their businesses for the benefit of all," he said.

He added that the recent visit of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to Kenya was a great success for farmers and traders as they received the opportunity to sell their crops in Kenya.

"In that score I have had talks with Kenya's Ministers for Trade and Agriculture Peter Munya who was on his way to Namanga bor-

der post to oversee the implementation of the directives from our two presidents," he added.

He stressed that maize and other goods were safe as before export, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) make examination to ensure the crop meets the required safety standards.

"Our government's goal is to ensure we conduct quality competitive trade. In doing so we must use our TBS experts to verify the goods quality and safety standards in order to compete in the market," stressed Prof Mkenka.

He also assured maize buyers and other goods in the E. A. Community (EAC) that Tanzania maize are of the high market standard.

Meanwhile the Minister called upon cassava crop stakeholders to use quality seeds created by the country's researchers to increase income to farmers.

He said the Ministry will continue researching via the country's experts to increase the production of the cassava crop which is in high demand in China.

He said the Agriculture Ministry continues to work closely together with agriculture stakeholders by involving other ministries including the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the PM Office and Foreign Affairs to ensure cooperation that would strengthen agriculture by involving all stakeholders.

MPs want stable insurance scheme in Health ministry's 1trn/- budget

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday called for radical changes in the health insurance schemes and fast-tracking of Universal Healthcare Bill to enable all Tanzanians access quality services.

Debating 2021/2022 budget estimates for the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in the National Assembly yesterday, the lawmakers reported several weaknesses in the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and

the improved Community Health Fund (iCHF) schemes.

With only select packages covered and lack of some essential medicines in public health facilities, the MPs called on the government to make hard decisions to salvage health sector.

In its report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services said that Universal Healthcare is the only solution to the current challenges facing health sector.

"Universal Health Coverage has been the agenda of this parliament though this com-

mittee for a very long time. However, this matter has not been resolved and the committees have been told that funds have been allocated for preparation of its Bill; it the hope of the committee that the Bill will be brought to parliament as promised so that all Tanzanians access quality healthcare," said committee chairman Stanslaus Nyong'o.

"Because there are complaints from members of NHIF that they do not get some services and medicines, the ministry should take immediate and bold action to resolves these

challenges." Grace Tendegu (Special Seats) said one of the challenges members of NHIF and iCHF face is going through lengthy consultations and diagnosis processes only to be directed a medical store to purchase prescribed drugs.

"If health facilities continue directing patients to go and buy drugs somewhere else, then even the said Universal Health Coverage will not help," she said.

Regina Kway (Special Seats) said patients with long term health conditions such as diabetes and low or high blood

pressure are not covered by public health schemes, risking their lives.

"Our health insurance should provide medications to such patients because truth be told, they deserve to get them for free," she said.

The lawmaker also spoke of the plight of senior citizens whom she said do not get free treatment as directed in the government's own policy, warning all will one day get old and need reliable healthcare. Dr Christia Mzava (Special Seats)-CCM charged that there are public health facilities in Dar

es Salaam that decline to attend to pregnant women who have other health issues.

"I urge the government to follow up this matter. Denying pregnant women with medical cover other services is unacceptable," she said.

Tarime Urban MP Michael Kibambati reported poor services in the Tarime District Hospital where he said workers compel patients to do works other people are employed to do. "Patients are forced to do cleaning at the hospital; I plead with the ministry to look into this matter," he said.

Mainmuna Mtanda (Newala Rural)-CCM said free health service for elders of 60 years and above, children under five and expectant mothers is a pipe dream for the target groups.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children tabled a 1,077,759,224,000/- budget estimates for the 2021/22 financial with a range of priorities.

Out of the total amount, 491,730,236,000/- is meant for development projects while 586,028,988,000/- is meant for other charges.

Z'bar to tighten investment policy and laws to do away with red tape

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government says it plans to strengthen policies and laws that would ensure to have in place conducive investment environment and do away with red tape.

The remarks were made by the Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour, Economic Affairs and Investment) Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga in the House of Representatives when winding up and responding to members questions in regard to the ministry's budget estimates for FY 2021/22.

Soraga said special investment areas allocated at Micheweni in Pemba will be developed and already there were good signs for investors to invest in the area.

He mentioned the projects for building factories for processing seaweed and production of oil from spices.

He said as for now the main task by his government which is the foremost priority is to install essential infrastructures in the area including electricity, clean water and roads.

"I would like to make a pledge on behalf of the government that the free areas at Micheweni in Pemba is among the government priorities for investment as it plans Pemba Island to become a special investment area," he added.

Soraga further said the government has opened up doors to more investors as well as the private sector for investing in the construction of an oil and gas terminals and port at Mangapwani and Mpiga Duri in Unguja.

He said the government thrives to have good relations with the private sector for Zanzibar's economic growth.

The House endorsed the ministry's budget estimates for revenue and expenditure for FY 2021-2022 whereby a total of 34.8bn/- for both current and development expenditure.



Kenyan customs officer Joseph Monywanywa (L, foreground) pictured at the Kenya side of the Namanga border post on Monday taking around a visiting East African Community delegation led by secretary general Peter Mathuki (to his left) for a first-hand account of progress in the implementation of the recent directive by the Kenyan and Tanzanian presidents to make movement of goods across the common border smoother. Second left is Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr John Steven Simbachawene. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mbeya commuter bus drivers blame govt for ongoing strike

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

COMMUTER transport in Mbeya City came to a standstill for two days running following the strike by bus drivers claiming failure by the government to honour its obligations in the agreement reached with them to control motor cycle (bodaboda) and tri-cycle (Bajaj) drivers.

The bus drivers claim that Bajaj drivers have been invading their routes and take passengers, the situation that make them difficult to meet their daily monetary returns to bus owners.

The strike, the second one this year had caused great inconveniences to commuters including

school children who have been forced to walk, with some opting to the costly Bajaj means of conveyance.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, some of the bus drivers said they will continue with the strike until the government honours the agreement with them by having in place a good procedure to ensure Bajaj and bodaboda drivers do not intrude in their routes

One of the leaders of the bus drivers' association Raphael Simbeye said during an earlier meeting with the government they agreed in more than 10 resolutions, but only one was implemented, the situation that continue to adversely affect their operations.

He said the resolution implemented was to restrict bajaj drivers to enter the Kabwe Bus Tand to pick up passengers, but the rest, including the abiding by road traffic laws and stop them using routes used by commuter buses have not been implemented.

He said after seeing the resolutions not being implemented they decided to stop providing commuter service until such time they are implemented, saying they were simply following the directives of the bus owners.

"Bajaj drivers pick passengers even at 'no parking' stages without being challenged but if I do the same City askaris promptly come to arrest me and get fined," lamented Simbeye.

He said they have repeatedly been fined of up to 400,000/-, the situation that has greatly been affecting their business.

Some Mbeya residents called on the government to come to terms with the bus drivers and remove inconveniences posed by frequent strikes that have been affecting their day to day activities.

Pascalina Kipeta, Uyolet resident following the strike by commuter bus drivers said Bajaj drivers have raised fares, more than what they used to pay for buses.

She said earlier they used to pay 800/- from Uyolet to Mbalizi but now they were charging up to 2,000/-.



The wife of CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela, Sekita Nsekela (2nd R) hands over a dummy cheque worth 3m/- to TanKids orphanage centre vice chairman Christian Kiponga (3rd R) simultaneously with food stuff and mattresses to Eid el Fitr. The event was held at Markaz-Gongo la Mboto in the outskirts of Dar es salaam yesterday. Right is CRDB Bank officer Wema Mwamunyange. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM stresses for new education curricula to enable graduates employ themselves

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed for the preparation of education curricula that would assist graduates at various levels to be creative to enable them to employ themselves.

He made the remarks here on Tuesday this week at the apex of Science, technology and Innovation Competition (MAKISATU) held here.

He said there was the need for such curricula that would ensure graduates do not remain in the streets without any work to do.

"Such curricula will enable our graduates to be innovative on various things to do instead of merely roaming about the streets," he said.

He also said the current

curricula need to be improved at all levels of education starting from primary schools to university level to help graduates to be creative.

He also directed the Education, Science and Technology Ministry to strengthen computer laboratories in teachers' colleges in the country to enable to produce large numbers of teachers qualified in science and technology.

"All the innovations from the county's innovators should be identified and developed in order to respond to various existing challenges in the community," said the PM.

He also directed authorities concerned in patent rights to ensure they prepare applications for them and forward them to the World Patent Rights Organi-

sation so that every innovator have the right for what he/she had innovated.

"So far statistics show that Tanzania has forwarded only eight applications for patent rights to the Organisation while S. Africa has sent more than 300 applications," he added.

He said he wants to see in the next year's competition many innovators to have patent rights for the things they created.

Earlier, Deputy Education Minister Omary Kipanga said the aim of the competition is part of the strategy in innovation and developing various innovations.

He said during the three years the competition has been taking place a total of 1,066 innovators emerged out of whom 130 are being developed by the ministry.

Banks to seek new collateral in retaken properties - govt

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

BANKS that issued loans on securities retaken by authorities are obliged to get new collateral from their clients, parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Lands and Human Settlement Development Angelina Mabula said this after it emerged that a parcel of land being retaken by the government was used as loan collateral.

"The owner will be issued with a notice of ownership withdrawal and the financial institution that issued loan on that property will be formally notified so that it gets new collateral," she said.

Mabula said this is in compliance with Land Act Cap 113 which allows the government to retake land properties that have not been developed by their owners in accordance with agreed terms and conditions.

She was responding to a question by Mkinga MP Dunstan Kitandula (CCM) who asked when the government will cancel the title deeds of over 2000 acres at Kwamtili in Tanga Region that have not been developed for 20 years as agreed during allocation.

The lawmaker wanted the government to retake the land and distribute it to local residents for other uses.

"It is true that the land with title deeds number 14501 (2841 acres) and number 4722 (58 acres) located in Mkinga District which were allocated to Kwamtili Estate Ltd for agricultural development have violated terms including underdevelopment and failure to pay land rates," she said.

However, it has been established at the Land Registry that the title deeds for those plots have been used by owners as security for a bank loan hence having third party interest," she said.

The deputy minister said the government has already instructed relevant authorities in Mkinga District to take appropriate authorities namely informing the owners of the intent to retake the land and the said lender so that it can demand and get new collateral.

All authorities need to tell the banks in such cases, is that "terms and conditions of allocation were violated," the minister said.

"After the nullification of the ownership of the plots, the process of fresh planning, surveying and allocation will commence."

TAWIRI teaches youth on how to deal with destructive jumbos

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

TANZANIA Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in collaboration with the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry continue to educate people bordering wildlife parks and other reserve forests on how to deal with destructive wild animals including elephants.

The institution has also been educating the people on various techniques to fight with the beasts without harming them, with one among the techniques being use of male condoms.

Speaking soon after a training seminar for 30 youth from Itilima, Meatu and Bariadi districts bordering Maswa Forest Reserve in Simiyu Region, the Acting Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) Director, Dr Janemary Ntalwila said condoms are to be used to make 'bombs' for chasing away elephants.

He said apart from teaching the youth four ways to deal with elephants, the use of condoms was easy and were easily obtained.

Dr Ntalwila said another technique taught is beekeeping in the farms, tying of strings immersed in pepper around the farms and making bricks doused with pepper.

He elaborated that other techniques taught to the youth include the use of candle 'bombs' and those using male condoms. He said all these methods have provided achievements, saying in the event the beasts refuse to go away, then the 'bombs' are to be applied.

"Candlelight 'bombs' are costly as each costs more than 30,000/- inside which are five explosives but is the quickest way to chase away elephants, but our institution saw a better 'bombs' method - condom 'bombs' that are affordable to many people," said Dr Ntalwila.

JOB VACANCY

KCB BANK

KCB Bank is the biggest and oldest bank in East Africa, starting its operations in Zanzibar in 1896 and later moving to Kenya and back to Tanzania in 1997. KCB is currently operating in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, Burundi and Ethiopia. The Bank employs about 300 staff, exports talents from Tanzania to East Africa, a good tax payer, offers great support to the community in the sectors of education, health, enterprise, development, environment and children living in difficulties.

Job Title : Head, Islamic Banking – KCB Tanzania
Department : Islamic Banking
Reports Line : Managing Director
Job Number : IRC9664
Location : Tanzania
Category : Full time

Job Summary:
 Responsible for driving Islamic Banking Business, Sales and Revenue Growth, Customer Numbers, Customer Accounts, Islamic Product Development, Customer Service, Risk Management and Lending Quality.

Job Details:

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead and Direct Islamic Banking Team
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- Drive the attainment of annual growth and revenue targets for Islamic Banking
- Drive the development, customization and implementation of Islamic Products
- Develop and execute the annual Islamic Banking Plan and budget within approved limits
- Develop and maintain Business Continuity, Risk, and Compliance Management & Regulatory Control.
- Relationship Management of stakeholders of the Islamic Banking: Retail Banking, Corporate Banking, Head Office Functions, Bank of Tanzania
- Customer Service Management: Enquiry/Complaint response and resolution within set standards
- Organize and manage the available human capital and physical resources within Islamic Banking to optimize usage of available resources.
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- Prepare and present the Islamic Banking Business Performance and Strategy Papers to the Board.

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- Supervise and support business development and service delivery initiatives to achieve desired performance targets [weekly, monthly, quarterly]
- Offer oversight on people, processes and compliance to achieve productivity in a risk-controlled environment
- Participate in management meetings and decisions
- Drive/participate in departmental/interdepartmental meetings
- Perform other managerial and non-managerial roles as may be directed by the Managing Director from time to time

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- Master's degree in Business related studies is an added advantage
- Relevant professional qualification in Banking, Accounting or Finance is an added advantage.
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APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

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- The closing date for receiving applications is **Tuesday 25 th May 2021**

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**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST –
PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF
VARIOUS SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY 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 Company is in the process of procuring various Service and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01199	Provision of Production Drilling Services
GGME01200	Provision of Blasting Services

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01199) Provision of Production Drilling Services	75%
Drilling resources (203mm and 127mm diameters)	10%
Drill & Blast Planning and Scheduling	10%
Equipment Maintenance Capability	10%
Supply Chain (eg spares) and Resourcing Flexibility locally and regionally	5%
Data Management and Reporting	5%
Site Management	10%
Drill and Blast Technical and Operational Capability	5%
Legal Compliance According to Mining and Explosive Acts	10%
Fuel Management System	5%
Operational Excellence Culture	5%
Total	100%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01200) Provision of Blasting Services	75%
QAQC of Blastholes and Administration of Clean Up Standards	5%
Operational Excellence Culture	5%
Charging and Stemming of Blast Holes	5%
Overseer of Magazine Management and Standards	5%
Tie Up, Short Firing and Blast Clearance	15%
Explosive Reconciliation	15%
Fuel Management System	5%
Stemming Wheel Loader	10%
Legal Compliance According to Mining and Explosive Acts	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER** of the services 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 not later than **0830 A.M 21 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 via a link). In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email. In case the applicant does not comply with the **EOI** Submission Requirements, **GGML** shall not be liable for not considering the applications that have been compromised.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Coop Union constructs 3.9 billion/- worth crops packaging bags factory

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

SONGEA-NAMTUMBO Cooperative Union (SONAMCU) in Ruvuma Region says it is in the process of constructing packing bags factory aimed to ensure farmers in the region do away with challenges in packing their crops including maize, soya beans, and pigeon peas.

This was revealed by SOMNACU Manager Juma Mwanga in his report to the country's Registrar of Cooperatives Dr Benson Ndiege during the latter's visit at the factory project in Namtumbo District on Monday.

Mwanga said in his report that apart from the factory whose bags would be sold at an affordable cost to farmers and other Ruvuma Region residents, the factory is owned by SONAMCU members by 100 percent and expects to cost 3.98bn/-

He added that the project began in 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2022.

"As for now SONAMCU gets its pack-

ing bags from Dar es Salaam, but we expect that upon completion the factory will be able to manufacture 10 million bags per year," he said.

Mwanga also said that up to the current construction stage, the cost is being met from the Union's internal income by 100 percent from its various sources, and added that it also expects to source loans from financial institutions.

Namtumbo District Administrative Secretary Aden Nchimbi said Namtumbo District expects to benefit by the project in job opportunities that it will create.

For his part, Dr Ndiege praised the factory's construction saying the packaging bags were in great demand in the market due to many kinds of crops produced by cooperatives inside and outside Ruvuma Region.

"Due to the bags great demand it is in our expectations that cooperative societies will be our big customers and I must congratulate SONAMCU for its

support of government efforts in the country's industrial development, said Dr Ndiege.

Meanwhile, on Monday May 10 SONAMCU has conducted its first simsim auction in Ruvuma Region at OTC Lilambo Marker area being the second such simsim auction nationally after the one conducted in Songwe Region recently.

During the auction, the Cooperatives Registrar had the opportunity to explain that the Warehouse Receipt System benefits both sides - seller and buyer.

He added that a huge collection of crops from farmers to the warehouse simplified the burden of following each farmer in different area to collect the crops.

"Ruvuma is among regions that have been doing well in the Warehouse Receipt System due to its sale of various crops including cashew nuts, simsim, soya and pigeon peas whereby both farmers and traders have benefitted," he added.



Mafinga Urban constituency MP Cosato Chumi airs his comments in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

4,223 people subjected to GBV stigma in Mbarali District during 2015-2020

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

A TOTAL of 4,223 people underwent various acts of gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region in the period of five years between 2015 and 2020, the situation that threatens community development of the district's residents.

This was disclosed early this week by Mbarali District Community Development Officer, David Makere at Madibila Ward at the launching of the campaign against gender based violence and protection of water sources spearheaded by Save Life Organisation of Tanzania (SALIOTA), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO).

Makere said out of the number more women than men reported the acts of violence done to them to various authorities.

He said 3,449 women and 774 men reported the acts of violence they underwent to Community Health Centres, police stations and Community Development offices including non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"We have been educating the community to work together to fight this vice, as for now we have provided this education to heads of schools as well as other pressure groups," he said.

SALIOTA Director Elisha Mwanikawage said the aim of the NGO is to ensure acts of gender based violence and child abuse in the District are eliminated including equal treatment in the provision of community services.

He said they will make sure there was equality for the provision of education to both girls and boys including in the provision of health and water services.

Mwanikawage also said they would make sure rampant cutting of trees and setting fires to forests are stopped to preserve the environment.

"We will also raise our voices against wildlife poaching in both national parks and reserve forests to make sure the wildlife benefits the present and future generations," he added.

For his part, Mbarali Special Seats Member of Parliament Bahati Ndingo called on the stakeholders to ensure they take the education against GBV and child abuse to the villages, as they were the ones rampant with the problem.

She said among the causes for GBV acts is misleading traditional beliefs among the communities especially in rural areas.



We will also raise our voices against wildlife poaching in both national parks and reserve forests to make sure the wildlife benefits the present and future generations

Ndaki calls for ministry workers to work ethically, observe discipline

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister, Mashimba Ndaki has called on workers in the fisheries sector to work hard, professionally, with discipline and ethics to attain positive achievements in the sector.

The minister made the remarks here on Monday when opening the Ministry's Workers Council for the Fisheries Sector.

"Officials in all levels should supervise and take steps whenever issues of discipline among workers arise," he said.

He called on the council to supervise the involvement of workers in their day to day duties to reduce complaints.

"Involvement of workers is essential, especially within our various departments, and is a sure way to reduce complaints," he said.

He added: "This is because when there is a big issue that we decided to endorse, then we should not make complaints during its implementation because all were involved in its endorsement."

He also called on the council officials to instill discipline, trust, ethics at work, saying these were basic issues and will enable them serve the public well.

Earlier, the Workers Council Chairman, who is the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Dr Rashid Tamatamah said the meeting will have as its agendas the responsibility of the employer and reports for the implementation its 2020/21 budget and plans for 2021/22 budget.



Temeke Municipal Council Mayor Abdalah Mtinika (R) awards World Islamic propagation and humanitarian services (WIPAHS) director Mohamed Rajani in recognition of his contribution in different spheres of development. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TAMWA calls upon parents, guardians to protect children during Eid al-Fitr festivals

By Guardian Reporter

DIRECTOR of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA- Zanzibar) Dr Mzuri Issa has called on parents and guardians to increase the protection of their children during Eid al-Fitr celebration.

Speaking ahead of a canonical festival of Islam-Eid al-Fitr, that marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, Dr Mzuri said that the celebrations are accompanied by child abuse incidents such as rape, incest, and even disappearances.

Despite the day being a joy for all citizens, Dr Mzuri said they shouldn't leave children wandering the streets as there are some people with bad intentions that can cause serious harm.

"We've been witnessing many cases of child abuse during these festivities. On average, five cases are recorded per day, whereby children who are under 18 are being raped and taken away. That's why it is important for parents and guardians to take care of their children all the time," she said.

According to him, between December and March this year, gender-based violence (GBV) networks have revealed and worked on 76 incidents - 44 in Unguja and 32 in Pemba, a situation that indicates such incidents

still exist and should be carefully considered.

"In normal circumstances, there are groups of children who appear to be roaming the streets throughout the festive period unprotected asking for a hand for Eid in an environment in which we believe people can use it as part of the opportunity to do their evil," she added.

Sometimes children unknowingly find themselves entering homes where bad people live who lure children by giving them gifts and eventually committing atrocities that are holding back the national workforce.

Dr Mzuri also urged the police force to heighten security at various areas including playgrounds as well as to inspect vehicles providing passenger services throughout the festive period.



We've been witnessing many cases of child abuse during these festivities. On average, five cases are recorded per day, whereby children who are under 18

Temeke mayor praises WIPAHS role in human empowerment

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TEMEKE Municipal Council Mayor Abdalah Mtinika has awarded the World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS) accolade of recognising its contribution in different spheres of development such as human empowerment.

Speaking at the awarding ceremony over the weekend at the Municipal premises in Dar es Salaam, Mtinika said that his council will work hand and hand with WIPAHS to ensure the community gets needed services.

"I would like to affirm the Council commitment to continue collaborating with you in

all matters related to development," he said.

He said WIPAHS has done a lot in different issues related to water, health, education and loan issues without interest to the small entrepreneurs.

For his part, WIPAHS director Mohamed Rajani thanked the Temeke Municipality for recognising his contribution to the

society.

"I would like to assure you that to the level best of my capacity I will continue to support the surrounding community in all spheres such as water, health, education and supporting entrepreneurs. The certificates awarded to us is true testimony of our contribution," he said.

WIPAHS is an organisation

based in Dar es Salaam. It is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which started its activities in early 1985/86.

For the past 23 years, WIPAHS has improved the living conditions of the indigenous community of Tanzania, which has been suffering from poverty, diseases and illiteracy.

WIPAHS' impact can be seen

by its vast amount of projects which promote rural development through education, the access of water, economic sustainability and the enhancement of religious learning.

The vision of WIPAHS is to transform individuals into an egalitarian and literate society through supporting and promoting community education

to people irrespective of their ethnic linguistic, provincial or religious background.

The organisation provides humanitarian support across the country including drilling of water boreholes, services to orphanage centres and owning primary and secondary schools that are fully supported.

Unveils investment potentials in Kagera, Gaguti urges journalists

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

MEDIA practitioners have been urged to make multiple efforts in reporting about the economic and agricultural potentials of the Kagera Region.

Kagera Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti made this call recently in an event organised by the Kagera Press Club (KPC) in collaboration with the Union of Tanzania Press Club (UTPC) to mark World Press Freedom Day, themed: "Information as a free good".

RC Gaguti said that the Kagera region produces 60 percent of bananas distributed within the country and has more than enough to supply to the regional markets of four East African Countries of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi, and also DRC and South Sudan.

"But due to lack of consistent buyers, bunches of bananas are rotting in chambers and at trading centers," he lamented.

Referring to the theme of the international Press Freedom Day, Gaguti called on journalists to make information available to everyone in the society. This motto I may say matches with the banana production in Kagera he added.

He also said apart from the abundance of bananas in the farm, the farmers do not earn much money from their farm produce because there are few traders who engage in the banana business perhaps because they do not know that the crop could be a financial generator.

Kagera Regional Agricultural Officer, Louis Baraka said the region produces an average of 2

to 2.4 million tonnes of banana annually.

According to the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), the high increase in banana production comes as a result of the training farmers in this region underwent in controlling banana pests like bacteria wilt, black sigatoka (BS) and banana weevils which were devastating the crops.

KPC Secretary Livinus Feruzi said the club together with its more than 30 members has been working tirelessly to make sure they speak for the voiceless and ensure that their voices are heard and a solution provided.

She said for instance the government intervened in a situation after a journalist reported children miseries; in one case, three children (names withheld) whose father intentionally refused to send them to school while putting them on house arrest with the pretext of their religion do not permit. These children were later rescued and enroller to school by Bukoba District Commissioner Deodatus Kinawilo.

"In another occasion a female child aged five (name withheld), was rushed to CCBRT hospital in Dar es salaam for medical treatment after she had been raped by her step grandfather, causing her to suffer from obstetric fistula," she intoned.

Strategically located at the northwestern corner of Tanzania on the western shore of Lake Victoria Kagera region already serve as fertile agricultural sites to its inhabitants and can also attract international markets from neighboring countries like Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi if journalists effectively do their work of informing the public.



Rombo District farmers Sakware Shirima and his wife Rena harvest coffee beans in Kilimanjaro Region recently. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

ARU researchers outlines opportunities in wastewater

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

ARDHI University (ARU) researchers have outlined different opportunities that can be obtained from wastewater and hard fossil that emanates from human waste after being refined.

The opportunities are biogas which is for domestic use, fertilisers, and refined wastewater that can be used in different activities like irrigation schemes instead of depending on rain season.

This was revealed yesterday by ARU researchers when speaking to people who visited Sanitation Biotechnologies Research Center on how they produce biogas and fertilizers from hard fossils.

One of the researchers who are a PhD student, Edward Ruhinda said one of the products in their center is biogas which can be used in domestic activities.

Ruhinda is doing research on how to refine hard fossils from human waste to get biogas, fertilizers and refine wastewater to get clean water

to be used in different activities.

Jonas Gervas is doing research on the impact of using refined wastewater on soil and crops that are cultivated by using refined wastewater for irrigation.

Fredrick Ligate is doing research on decentralized wastewater collection and co-treatment with putrescible domestic wastewater to enhance biogas generation and effluent quality.

Ruhinda said they have been taking wastewater from different areas and refine

them and after that, they can be used for irrigation and the crops become safe for human consumption.

He said they also take hard fossil that emanates from human waste and process it to produce fertilizers which can be used in agriculture activities and get crops that are health for human consumption.

He said the cost of transporting wastewater is very high due to poor infrastructure so their research will come up with the simplest way that people can use to

deal with liquid waste.

He cited an example that currently there are only two places to dump wastewater that cannot handle all wastewater from the city so it is important to conduct research on the simple way that can be used to handle it.

Speaking on how they process hard fossils from human waste, Ruhinda said they create an artificial situation like in the human body's stomach to enable the digestion system to continue and in the end, they

get biogas and fertilizers.

He added that due to water shortages all over the world many developed and developing countries use the system to refine wastewater and use it in different development activities.

He said in order to find if the refined wastewater that is used for irrigation is safe they have introduced a special farm at the university research center where they use refined wastewater for irrigation and finally research the crops if they are safe for human consump-

tion. He said on their farm there is evidence that where they use refined wastewater for irrigation, crops seem to grow faster and healthier than those using normal water.

"People should not worry about refined wastewater because they are used all around the world due to water shortage and they must know that wastewater after being processed the final product is safe for human consumption," he said.

Family Day should promote importance of a well-balanced and healthy family

THE International Day of Families is observed on the 15 May every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. The first International Day of Families was celebrated in 1994. It provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. As parents, we want to give our children the best start in life we can.

The annual observance of the International Day of Families which took place on 15 May 2019 under the theme "Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13" reflected the importance the international community attaches to families and their role in development. Recent commemorations of the Day focused on the role of families for the achievement of SDGs 1-5 and SDG 16.

The 2019 observance focuses on families, family policies and major SDG13 targets: SDG 13 target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning; SDG 13 target 13.2: integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

The panel discussion will highlight: Inter-generational approach to sustainability; sustainable development education and practice; sustainable family farming from indigenous perspective; greening the 'blue' and other good practices at the United Nations and beyond

The observance is organ-

ised by the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Global Communications Civil Society. The event is open to the public and targets civil society, permanent missions, academics and practitioners. Family is not an important thing. It's everything. The family unit began with the first humans. While families today may look different than they did thousands of years ago, they are as equally important now as they were then. The United Nations believed families important enough to recognise them through a day of observance and, in 1994, chose May 15 as International Day of Families.

As parents, we want to give our children the best start in life we can. The foundation created in a family has been shown in numerous studies to dramatically impact a child's success. The more stable the family environment for a child, the more likely they will be healthier - both mentally and physically.

Communities all over the world face obstacles that jeopardise the stability of the family. The UN began to recognise this in the 1980s as the Secretary General promoted awareness among decision-makers and the public. The UN went on to establish this day of observance and, each year, select a different family-focused theme to address world-wide challenges around education, poverty, health, and work/family balance, just to name a few. This year on World Family Day, learn about some of the social, economic, and demographic factors impacting families around the world and see how you can start by strengthening your own.

Hypertension Day: Should focus on keeping blood pressure under control

HYPERTENSION also known as high blood pressure (HBP), is a long-term medical condition in which the blood pressure in the arteries is persistently elevated. High blood pressure typically does not cause symptoms. Long-term high blood pressure, however, is a major risk factor for stroke, coronary artery disease, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, peripheral arterial disease, vision loss, chronic kidney disease, and dementia.

High blood pressure is classified as primary (essential) hypertension or secondary hypertension. About 90-95 per cent of cases are primary, defined as high blood pressure due to nonspecific lifestyle and genetic factors. Lifestyle factors that increase the risk include excess salt in the diet, excess body weight, smoking, and alcohol use. The remaining 5-10 per cent of cases are categorised as secondary high blood pressure, defined as high blood pressure due to an identifiable cause, such as chronic kidney disease, narrowing of the kidney arteries, an endocrine disorder, or the use of birth control pills.

Blood pressure is classified by two measurements, the systolic and diastolic pressures, which are the maximum and minimum pressures, respectively. Lifestyle changes and medications can lower blood pressure and decrease the risk of health complications. Lifestyle changes include weight loss, physical exercise, decreased salt intake, reducing alcohol intake, and a healthy diet. If lifestyle changes are not sufficient, then blood pressure medications are used.

Hypertension is rarely accompa-

nied by symptoms, and its identification is usually through screening, or when seeking healthcare for an unrelated problem. Some people with high blood pressure report headaches (particularly at the back of the head and in the morning), as well as lightheadedness, vertigo, tinnitus (buzzing or hissing in the ears), altered vision or fainting episodes. These symptoms, however, might be related to associated anxiety rather than the high blood pressure itself. On physical examination, hypertension may be associated with the presence of changes in the optic fundus seen by ophthalmoscopy.

World Hypertension Day is a day designated and initiated by The World Hypertension League (WHL), which is itself an umbrella to organisations of 85 national hypertension societies and leagues.

The day was initiated to increase the awareness of hypertension. This was especially important because of the lack of appropriate knowledge among hypertensive patients. The WHL launched its first WHD on May 14, 2005. Since 2006, the WHL has been dedicating May 17 of every year as WHD.

In 2005, as the inaugural effort, the theme was simply 'Awareness of high blood pressure'. The 2006 theme was "Treat to goal", with a focus on keeping blood pressure under control.

The recommended blood pressures are less than 140/90 mmHg for the general population and for the hypertensive population without any other complications, and less than 130/80 mmHg for those with diabetes mellitus or chronic kidney disease.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

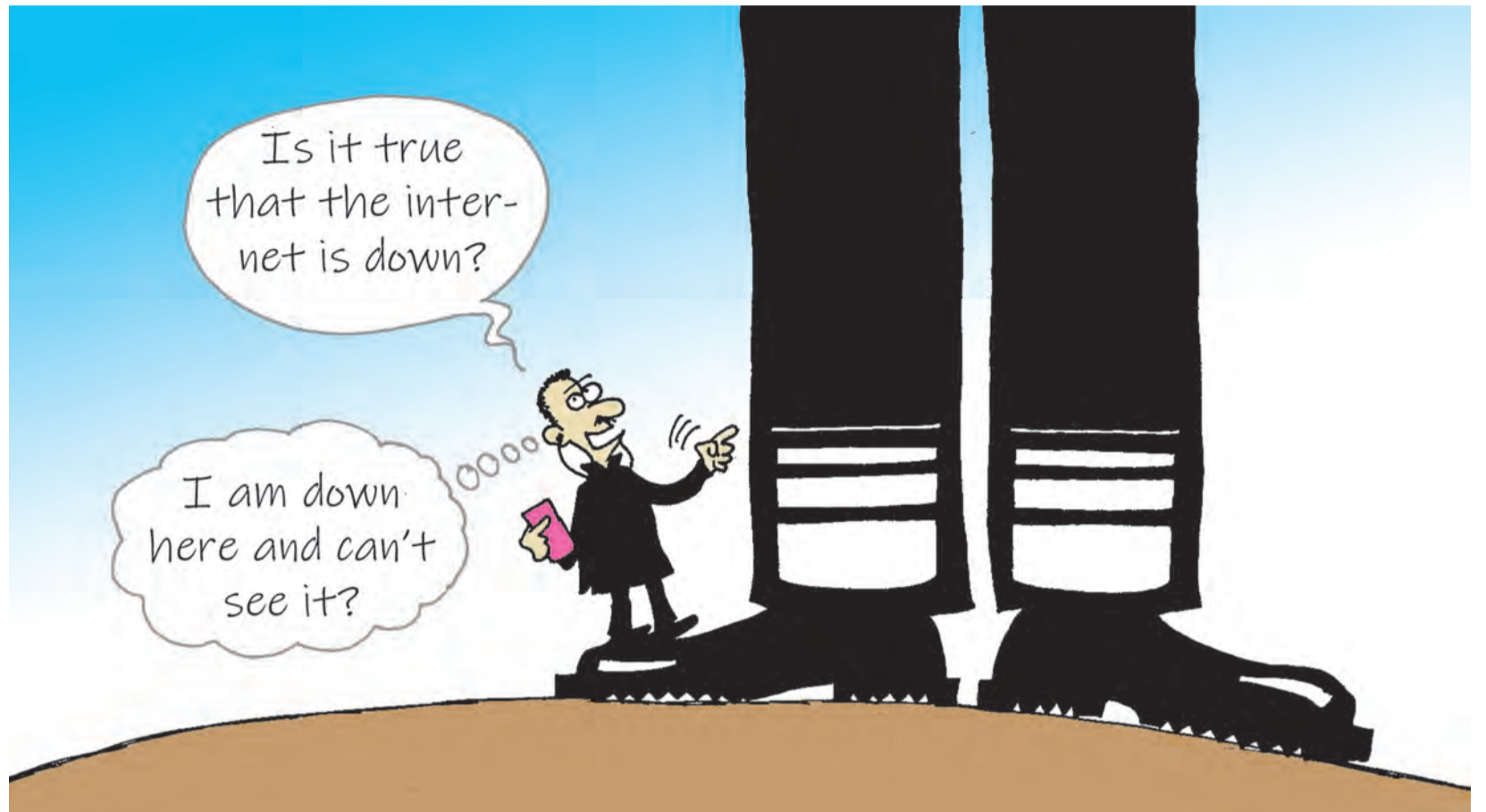
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



President revels in achievements, not words

By Special Correspondent

ONE important function of Independence Day is that it is a convenient point for us to take stock of where we are, where we have come from and where we still have to go, and in his wide-ranging interview this year to mark this important day President Mnangagwa did precisely that.

But he concentrated on the present rather than on the achievements of the past, at what the Second Republic has faced and is facing as it puts Zimbabwe back on course and this time on course in a real world rather than one of make-belief.

As he pointed out, when he won his own mandate in 2018, he and the team of technocrats he assembled to help sort out the problems faced a daunting task. He brought up the example of energy, and it was crucial and necessary to fix this to get other things fixed. Zimbabweans were facing major load shedding, which was one of the factors crippling industry that either had to cut back on production or spend a fortune on fuel, which was difficult to find, to operate their own generators.

Well that was fixed, not by any magic, but by practical policies. Zesa management was re-organised so the engineers, who actually know what they are doing, could operate.

Foreign bills were paid, so imports could resume to fill the gap. And, with the prepaid systems and correct pricing, Zesa was adequately funded to do this. On petrol and diesel, queues were rife, shortages were severe, and there was a lot of cheating, with some Zimbabwean business people smuggling out subsidised fuel to see in countries that did price correctly.

So the subsidy menace was eliminated, cutting one major source of private-sector corruption, pricing was altered to cover real costs, and eventually the honest parts of the private sector were mobilised to fill the gaps.

The entire system was changed to make cheating largely impossible, because there was no money in it. In the end this required equal



Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is a Zimbabwean revolutionary and politician who has served as President of Zimbabwe since 24 November 2017

taxes for petrol and diesel to end the last element of temptation.

So in the end Zimbabweans paid more for energy, but in return had guaranteed supplies. Not that the Government was totally trusting. The energy regulator, Zera, acquired teeth and could audit and examine the accounts and start doing its job properly, making sure that those in the energy sectors, and this included the Government-owned Zesa, could charge fair prices without profiteering. Perhaps the level of that achievement has been seen in the total destruction of the fuel black market and now in price competition at the petrol pumps. Zimbabwe is back in a normal world.

The resurrection and growth of the industrial sector, which started getting products back on shelves, was not a single policy. Rather it was built on the dramatic and far reaching reform of the fiscal and monetary systems.

And that was built on a host of policies. First, and fundamentally, the Second Republic started living within its means, running the country on what it raised in taxes rather than pretending Zimbabwe was rich and printing money, either literally or electronically, to fill the increasing gaps.

That in turn allowed the monetary reforms, which included the return of the local currency, carefully and in stages so there was no total meltdown, but surprisingly swiftly.

That policy was finally brought to fruition with the foreign currency auctions, and for the first time in over half a century market forces under regulation, but not control, could operate. The result has been a surge in production and, in many but regrettably not all sectors yet, competitive forces operating that ensured consumer choice

and an increasing degree of competitive pricing.

Competitive pricing works when there is abundance and other Government policies, now coming to fruition, of ensuring that our farmers could grow what we needed have been filling gaps.

Black markets, profiteering and cartels require scarcity to work. When you open investment to newcomers, and fix the foreign exchange allocations to be open to all, you remove the props that too many relied on.

Admittedly those reforms did lead to a burst of high inflation, now largely tamed, as the underlying mess rose to the surface. And there was more than we expected, but it has now been accounted for. The monthly inflation rates are very low.

There are still too many economists who look at annual inflation rates, which are falling fast, but these are not useful and will not be useful until about September when the sudden stability will have been running for a full year. Then they start measuring something that is important and valid for our economy.

As President Mnangagwa noted, none of this was easy. And as he also recognised it did affect his Government's popularity, but as he stressed it was necessary. When he started the reforms he did not sell them as the easy option. He simply told us they were needed if Zimbabwe was ever to grow economically by producing more rather than shuffling paper around. And he was right. Now the Government can do things having fixed its spending. This meant it can cope with emergencies, such as drought and cyclones, and with the major menace of Covid-19.

We had major, and very welcome, help in coping with these emergen-

cies, but we need to recognise that the bulk of the money spent has been ours, coming from our taxpayers.

Besides the capital investment in our decaying infrastructure. And building new dams as well as rehabilitating older irrigation systems, and fixing the national highway system, which includes pricing tolls properly to pay for this, the Government has been able to step in to start addressing the mess in our urban authorities: bad roads, inadequate water supplies, decayed infrastructure.

Legally municipalities are supposed to be exemplars of local government, funding, maintaining and expanding their services.

Some of the problems, like Bulawayo's shortage of raw water, are being rapidly addressed as a legitimate central government responsibility. But others require declarations of disaster to allow the central Government to step in. The President was in many ways easy on the opposition, simply urging them to identify with national goals, which surely means a more prosperous and functioning Zimbabwe, and then contributing to the debate and the efforts.

He was not looking for agreement, but rather proper input and argument rather than trying to wreck what we have first. But the urban local government mess does show quite dramatically the limited input of too much of the opposition. One would assume that since opposition parties control most urban councils that they would be using that opportunity to show how much smarter they were and testing out alternative policies.

Their only alternative offered is largely disaster and to ask someone else to bail them out. Well their foreign friends are not helping them make Harare great. The President's impatience is justified, that he has to step in to fix stuff in the richest parts of Zimbabwe because opposition leaders want to organise demonstrations rather than repair roads and replace water pipes. One feels he would prefer competing on efficiency and seeing which ideas work the best so the flow of really good ideas would be a two-way process and so accelerate progress.

President Mnangagwa is not fond of rhetoric and that interview once again showed how he prefers to talk about what has been done and achieved, and what is being done right now, by workers on the ground.

And, yes, he was able to list a lot of accomplishments. In the end that is what he was elected to do and how he wants to be judged.

The reality about chasing your dreams

MOTIVATIONAL speakers love advising us to follow our dreams, yes, we ought too.

They usually claim that dream chasing is easy since achieving our dreams only requires us to think positively, find what we love, visualize living the life of our dreams, and work hard. As well, they claim dream chasing is fun and adventurous.

I used to believe these ideas. However, I discarded them after I started chasing mine about two years ago and realizing that dream chasing is boring as I always force myself to work, and things seldom work out as I expect. Furthermore, I doubted these ideas after a large percentage of my friends gave up on their dreams.

I started my career journey in 2018, and I made friends with many people in my field of expertise. A year later, 98% of these folks gave up.

These folks also gave up because they found the journey boring, tough, and scary, although they believed the idea that dream chasing is fun and adventurous. This is a shocking truth many people realize when chasing their dreams. I was also shocked after realizing that the journey isn't easy, but I decided to keep working and see what will happen. However, sometimes, I feel like turning in the towel.

As well, I usually become extremely anxious when I think about failing to achieve my dreams despite working hard, and I often ask myself whether I'll continue working on my career path in case I don't achieve the intended dream after ten years.

Chasing my career dream has thus enlightened me about the shocking truths of dream chasing. After working in my field of expertise for a while, I noticed that following dreams doesn't guarantee success, and I discovered that anxiety and doubt are part of the journey.

Anyway, besides these truths, you'll realize more sad truths when you start following your dreams. For instance, you'll discover that several people, including your closest folks, will doubt your ability to achieve them.

Another sad truth you'll realize is that you'll have to be your own motivator because most people will encourage you to give up. The people who love you will encourage you to get a safe and secure job, and they'll tell you that dream chasing is for the extraordinary.

The chances of achieving our dreams increase if we know such facts about dream chasing because we'll prepare ourselves for them, and we won't be shocked when we encounter them. However, the chances are slim when we think it's easy to chase and achieve dreams because we'll expect the journey to be fun and adventurous, and we'll quit after realizing its toughness.

However, dream chasing is not easy, don't embark in the journey of pursuing your dreams if you think dream chasing is easy because you'll give up, and you'll end up being depressed. Only follow them when you are ready to endure obstacles, discouragement, and work persistently despite not seeing progress.



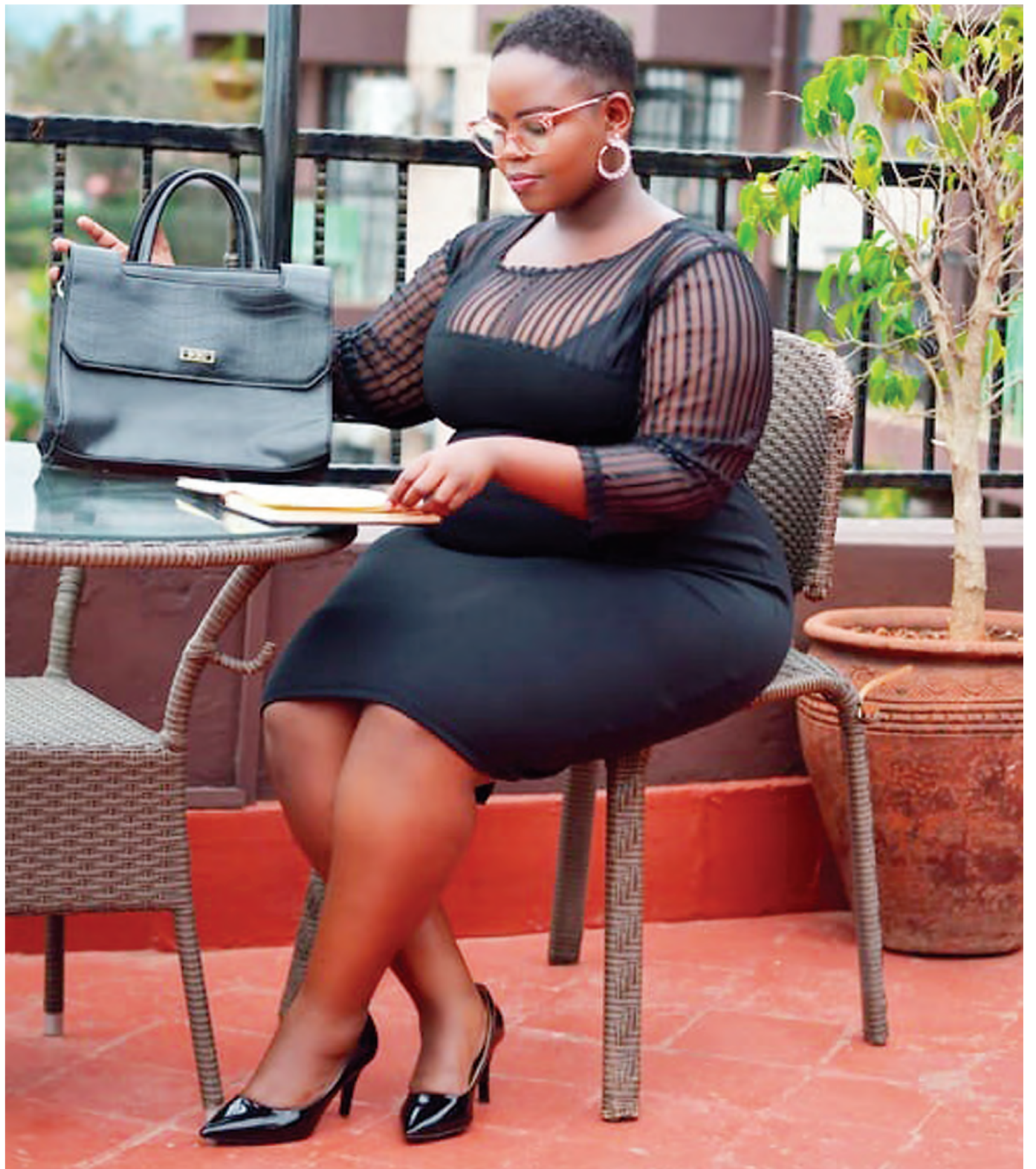
College Comfort Zone

With

Salima Hamisi

saly30@gmail.com

0762 174 124



Ugandan nurses persevere at their posts amid COVID-19 hardships



A Ugandan nurse administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a teacher at a health center in Kampala, capital of Uganda, March 31, 2021. (Xinhua)

KAMPALA

VIOLET Ayesiza, 32, works as a nurse at Kasangati Health Center in the central Ugandan district of Wakiso. Now she has to work for more than 12 hours a day before she is relieved by her colleagues.

She is among more than 70,000 registered nurses and midwives in the country to serve a nationwide population of 45 million people, as the world commemorates International Nurses

Day yesterday.

In an interview with Xinhua before International Nurses Day, Ayesiza said she was overwhelmed with work, like many other nurses and midwives in Uganda who were staying at their posts amid the heavy workload brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the increased workload, she continues to serve diligently and professionally, she said. International Nurses Day falls on May 12 to mark the crucial work of nurses. Since Uganda re-

ported its first COVID-19 case in March last year, its health facilities have been flooded by patients, some infected with COVID-19 and some with other ailments.

"The number of people who come to receive treatment for ailments has now even doubled compared before the outbreak (of COVID-19). Many people are now seeking the services of health workers at the facility," Ayesiza said. She said that her health center now treats between 100 to 200 patients in a single day.

Teopista Asimwe, another nurse, told Xinhua that despite the meager pay, they still stay at their posts to provide health care to the people who come to the health center. "We have few nurses and midwives providing prenatal, delivery, and postnatal services.

Being a health facility that's within the town center, we end up providing delivery and postnatal services, including family planning and immunizations," said Asimwe.

"The workload is heavy and we sometimes need extra hands, especially on peak days," said the nurse.

Juliet Nalwanga, a 25-year-old mother of two, said she was happy because she at least got the health care provided by the nurses and midwives. "The nurses here are friendly and I feel happy whenever I come here to immunize my children, although sometimes the health center is filled with many people, especially during these pandemic periods," Nalwanga told Xinhua at Goma Health Center in the central district of Mukono.

Justus Cherop Kiplangat, president of the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union, told Xinhua that, although many nurses and midwives work under terrible conditions, they still continue to provide health

care. Kiplangat said many health workers do not have decent accommodation and some live far away from their workplaces.

The Ugandan government in May 2018 pledged to increase the wellbeing of nurses and midwives, including increasing their lunch allowance.

But the government reportedly failed to fulfill the pledge, which forced nurses and midwives to stage a sit-down strike several days ago. Ugandan government officials said the pandemic had changed the government's priority for funding allocations.

Robinah Nabbanja, minister of state for health in charge of general duties, told Xinhua that once the pandemic slows down, the medical workers would be the priority.

"My advice to nurses and midwives is to remain working as the government looks for funds to fulfill its promise," she said.

David Karubanga, minister of state for public service, told reporters that the leadership of the Nurses and Midwives Union had reached a consensus with the government over the payment of their lunch allowance.

Xinhua



The number of people who come to receive treatment for ailments has now even doubled compared before the outbreak (of COVID-19). Many people are now seeking the services of health workers at the facility

Social safety nets, community spirit help South African mother through Covid-19

ABIDJAN

SOME 40 km outside Cape Town, Leebah Bessick wipes sweat from her forehead as she digs a pitchfork into the earth at a neighbourhood community garden.

It's an unseasonably hot day here at Blackheath Secondary School and even a shady corner of the garden offers Bessick and the other gardeners little respite from the midday sun.

Still, she finds refuge here these days after enduring a year of hardship and unemployment caused by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit South Africans hard.

"I learned that the only way to survive is through asking for help and accepting it from kind people," Bessick says, adding: "In return, I've learned to appreciate the little things in life. I try to help out in community projects to return the favour."

Bessick (43) had a fairly comfortable middle-class lifestyle until the pandemic shut down borders and businesses across the world last year, including in South Africa, which has experienced one of Africa's worst outbreaks.

The bookkeeper at a small financial services firm was first forced to take a pay cut; then, in July 2020, she was laid off.

The government child support grant she has received each month as a single mother of three since her savings ran out, has been a lifeline. She receives the equivalent of US\$90 a month - US\$30 each for her 15-year-old daughter and two boys, aged 7 and 8.

She says: "I didn't have a lot of money, but I was comfortable. There was money through the month for things like going to the doctor's. Now I'm stuck with the same contact lenses. My glasses broke. I haven't been able to change them for a year."

Millions of Bessick's compatriots are in much the same predicament as a result of the pandemic's twin health and economic crises. The coronavirus has infected more than 1.5 million South Africans and killed 54,417, according to the country's national health department statistics released on May 2.

An estimated 2.6 million South Africans have lost their jobs since the pandemic hit, according to the African Development Bank's (AfDB) 2021 African Economic Outlook report.

Like many financially constrained African countries, South Africa turned to the bank to support its Covid-19 health and economic response efforts. In



July 2020, the bank approved a loan of around US\$288 million to the government.

The funding supported the provision of essential healthcare needs. By February 2021, South Africa had boosted its Covid-19 testing capacity roughly sevenfold to conduct 35,000 tests per day. The same month, it became one of a handful of African countries to launch a vaccination programme, although the rollout has been slow.

To counter the social and economic effects of the crisis, 18 million people - or close to one-third of the country's population - have received additional social grants. This has helped lift more than five million people above

the food poverty line and alleviated widespread hunger.

Over 4.5 million workers have received more than US\$3.8 billion in wage support through a temporary unemployment insurance fund. In spite of these interventions, the conservative estimate of South Africa's unemployment rate is 30 per cent.

Patricia Blows, who runs the community garden in Blackheath, encouraged Bessick to join her in growing vegetables on the school-donated plot of land.

Affectionately known as Aunty Pat, Blows recalls that during the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, people constantly knocked at her door in search of food. After a while, she said, she could no longer turn them away and

that is how she - and the rest of her family - contracted the coronavirus.

"Luckily enough, it's starting to get better now. But now we must rebuild," she said, as the chatter of young people spilled out into the afternoon air.

By some strange quirk of fate, Leebah Bessick found employment shortly after this interview was conducted.

AfDB

From genocide widow to successful businesswoman -- Rwandan woman walking out of shadow

KIGALI

100 days starting from April 7.

IN an April rainy morning in Nyanza district, about a two-hour drive from the Rwandan capital city Kigali, Immaculee Kayitesi was seated at the counter of her dairy business, listening to the radio, while busy passing a bottle of sanitizer to one of her customers to sanitize his hands before buying milk products from her company.

Dozens of customers lined up waiting to be served with different milk products such as yogurt, pasteurized milk, and fermented milk in the shop while scores of workers were operating milk processing machines to convert milk into different end products in another section of the company, named Ziramwa Meza Dairy.

"April rains remind of a dark and grave period we went through in April 1994 when Interahamwe militias attacked our village and killed my husband, family members, friends and neighbors.

The month of April is a dark period in my life that I will never forget," said the 58-year-old, who became a widow during the 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi that claimed over one million lives, mainly ethnic Tutsis during the about

Although almost all of her immediate family members including husband, parents, siblings, cousins as well as in-laws were killed during the genocide, the then secondary school teacher managed to escape from the killers by hiding in swamps and dense vegetation for one month until she came across Rwanda Patriotic Army soldiers, who later ended the genocide and turned into the national military. She had even thought she might be the last woman left standing in the whole Nyanza district because it was "almost impossible" to survive.

"I was terribly devastated and depressed after losing my husband before we could have any child because the genocide happened when we had spent only six months together after getting married," said Kayitesi while wiping tears from her eyes.

That period of life was "hell on earth," she said, adding that she was left with many scars like someone widowed at a young age.

Even three years after the genocide ended, Kayitesi still faced all kinds of difficult and unexpected emotions from trauma, despair, profound sad-



Immaculee Kayitesi, owner of Ziramwa Meza Dairy, was in her company in Nyanza district, about a two-hour drive from the Rwandan capital city Kigali, on April 30, 2021. (Xinhua)

ness and grief but due to words of comfort from the current government, religious teachings, words of courage of the genocide widows association

Avega Agahozo, meaning Association of Genocide Widows, she managed to pick up the pieces and focus on rebuilding her life rather than wallowing

in sorrow.

In 1997, she got a job at Electrogaz, the predecessor of current Rwanda Energy Group and Water Sanitation Corpora-

tion, and was paid a monthly salary, which enabled her to start a small dairy shop, which is now estimated to be worth over 300 million Rwandan

francs (about 305,000 U.S. dollars).

At the beginning, she sold her milk to neighbors and passersby, but due to the high demand for milk, she came up with the idea of launching a dairy company. Around 1998, the brave woman quit her job and requested a loan of 400,000 Rwandan francs from a local commercial bank to expand her business.

In 2002 and 2013 respectively, she applied for more loans and eventually expanded a dairy shop into a dairy milk processing company with a production capacity to process about 3,000 liters of milk per day. Every day on average, her company, which hires over 20 employees, sells about 500 packed yogurt containers of 150 milliliters, 1,000 liters of pasteurized milk and 300 liters of fermented milk.

The majority of the customers come from Kigali and the rest are from Nyanza and other neighboring districts such as Ruhango, Huye and Muhanga.

The company is only one km away from her family members. On April 22, she visited them at the Nyanza genocide memorial, the final resting place of over 24,000 genocide victims.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

Clean cooking energy solutions key in transforming the people's lives

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ENERGY stakeholders have called on Tanzanians to adopt clean cooking energy solutions to transform lives and rescue the environment and the forests in particular from rapid deforestation.

They were speaking at energy stakeholders' conference and exhibitions held in Dar es Salaam on the importance of clean cooking energy solutions over the weekend.

They said it saves forests by avoiding the over-use of green natural resource which result into saving water sources and reduced level of carbon emissions, improved health to users by avoiding health problems caused by smoke and other hazardous emissions from combustion of biomass.

One of the stakeholders, Estomiah Sawe said there are a lot of potential opportunities and benefits associated with clean cooking energy solutions such as highly efficient electric pressure cookers (EPC).

Citing an example, Sawe who is also the executive director of Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO) said cooking energy remains a central part when it comes towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Paris Agreement.

He recommend that as the country is making major efforts on electrification; all efforts need to be made to link these efforts with sustainable clean cooking.

According to him, the current technological developments on highly efficient electric cooking appliances bring about a huge opportunity to now link electrification, not only for lighting, but also for cooking. Depending on the source of electricity, this is now considered by many as the long term ultimate sustainable clean cooking solution for Tanzania.

TaTEDO project manager Mary Lema said: "There is a wide range of benefits for individuals who use the EPCs but also national benefits if there is sustained use and adaption of the EPCs by majority."

Jensen Shuma from TaTEDO said: "Despite the recognised benefits of modern energy cooking services for health, local environment and climate change, large-scale adoption and sustained use of clean cooking solutions such as highly efficient electric pressure cooker and other clean cooking solutions is not succeeding.

"This is due to a variety of context specific barriers both on the demand and supply side. Among the challenges includes; poor enabling environment such as inadequate supportive policies that favours incentives for



Participants of the conference admiring some clean cooking energy solutions on display in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

electricity cooking appliances."

He mentioned other challenges as lack of information on the availability of the clean cooking solutions and poor affordability, practicing cooking culture which are resistant to new changes, as some are embedded and linked into cooking habits, traditions, cultural appropriateness of the device, and perceptions about the taste of food.

The stakeholders recommended that on the basis of the potential and wide benefits associated with cooking with EPCs, the government should increase its commitment, lead the efforts and put clean cooking solutions as priority during preparations and im-

plementation of its progressive policies and strategies which will ensure significant budget allocation to promote, advocate and create awareness on the uses of clean cooking solutions.

There should be collaborative efforts among stakeholders in promoting and creating awareness on the use of highly efficient EPCs in areas with access to reliable electricity. Waive and provide tax incentives and other legal requirements. Reduce import duty tariffs and value added taxes (VAT) to EPCs as it is applied to LPGs and solar equipment, this can promote and facilitate massive influx and supply of the appliance as to make them affordable to majority of the end users. En-

sure that only the best quality and highly efficient appliances are certified and imported by strengthen and enforcing bylaws through Tanzania Bureau of standards (TBS) and fair competition Commission (FCC) and the government should encourage the energy service providers which includes Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO), Rural Energy Agency (REA) and mini-grid developers to prioritize delivering cooking services to their customers.

"This can be through developing on-bill financing mechanisms that can enable customers to repay the high upfront cost of the appliance each time they top up their electricity units. A subsidy mechanism can also be adapted to enable many connected customers to access EPCs," he said.

In her response, representative from the Ministry of Energy, Joyce Msangi said that the ministry has been creating enabling environment including providing necessary support and awareness creation to the general public on clean cooking energies.

"The government has taken several initiatives aimed at supporting clean energy. We are working on clean cooking energy sub-sector. We have National Energy Policy of 2015 which recognise the importance of clean cooking energy for economic and social development of the country.

Program Manager responsible for Energy from the European Union Massimiliano Pedretti said private-public partnership is crucial for enhancing development of lean cooking energy in the country

Fathers and kids group from the UAE volunteers in Zanzibar to build classrooms as an Eid gift

By Special Correspondent

A GROUP of families from the UAE will spend the Eid break transforming a community school in Zanzibar.

Fathers And Kids Camping started as a Dubai-based network of dads who went on camping trips in the emirates with their children each month.

The group's latest adventure, however, will take them much further afield, to the small fishing village of Kizimkazi.

On Saturday, more than 70 adults and children will team up with 50 people on the ground in Zanzibar to expand the 'Seeds of Light' school.

Together they will build five classrooms, bathrooms

and a playground, plus install a rooftop solar PV system to power the school, allowing children and adults to study in the evening.

The ambitious six-day project is being funded by individuals and businesses in the UAE who have donated over Dh500,000 (\$136,000) to the Tanzanian charity CR Hope Foundation, which runs the school.

The dads camping group has come a long way from toasting marshmallows in the Dubai desert, said organiser Vahid Fotuhi, 45, who is also the founder of the Middle East Solar Industry Association.

"The original idea was to get kids together with their dads and challenge them to

have an adventure, to push their boundaries.

"Our camping trips covered all seven emirates and Oman. We wanted to expose the kids to nature and get them to switch off for a weekend.

"The natural next step was to expose them to the realities of the world," he said.

"Sometimes it feels like we live in a bubble here in Dubai, but in reality the world isn't like that.

"The trips expand their horizons and give them a chance to have a positive impact on the world around them.

"It's an excellent opportunity for us to demonstrate to our children the importance of sharing and the impact we can have on our planet

by pushing beyond our comfort zone. "We're all really pumped and giddy to get down there and get to work," Fotuhi said.

he group's first philanthropic project was a Ramadan kitchen in 2018, when the group volunteered to help Classic Catering prepare, package and serve 5,000 meals to low-wage workers in Dubai. This was quickly followed by their first international adventure in 2019 to Zambia, when 18 families worked with charity Mothers Without Borders to add four classrooms and a solar-powered computer lab to Carol Zulu Primary School.

The project enabled 100 orphaned children to gain access to primary educa-

tion and, thanks to the solar-sourced electricity, adults can now use the school at night to learn to read.

Eastern Kenya was the group's next destination and clean drinking water was the mission, as children were dying from drinking dirty water.

In partnership with the non-profit social enterprise Project Maji, a group from Fathers and Kids Camping built three solar-powered water stations in three villages.

The facilities now provide clean drinking water to 5,000 villagers and school children, and the positive impact has already been seen within the community, as fewer children are missing school or being hospitalised with waterborne diseases. Closer to home, last

year the group teamed up again with Classic Catering, the UAE Food Bank, and 300 students from across Dubai to deliver 30,000 warm meals to blue-collar workers in Dubai who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

The project in Zanzibar represents the group's fifth philanthropic endeavour in the past five years and the aim is to double the size of the 'Seeds of Light' school, which currently educates 53 unprivileged children aged four to seven.

The average income per household in the village is just \$75 a month and the majority of children would not have access to education were it not for the school, said Mr Fotuhi, who is originally from Canada and has lived in the UAE since

2007. "Our first aim is to give underprivileged kids the opportunity to read and write, and to give them hope for a more successful future.

"Secondly, we want to give our own kids a chance to - with their own hands - build something that will last decades and instil in them a sense of achievement.

"They will be helping the lives of other kids their age in a different corner of the world. This is something they can carry with them for the rest of their lives."

The dads are already busy planning their next volunteer project, which will take them to Uganda in Africa.

Five philanthropic projects in five years

African youth's China perception improves amid blossoming ties

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

ELIAS Gebreselassie grew up in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and he, like his peers, has long thought that skyscrapers, shopping malls and highways could only be scenes in Hollywood movies.

The 34-year-old Ellas Gebreselassie praised China's investment in modern infrastructure such as roads and social facilities, which made the capital a charming international metropolis and the headquarters of the African Union.

Gebreselassie said his understanding of China has been greatly improved after witnessing its contribution to Africa's socio-economic development through the construction of industrial parks, skyscrapers and electrified railway lines.

"This has inspired Ethiopian youths to know more about China and the Chinese people. Many young people, including one of my nieces, choose to study in China, and many others prefer to go to Ethiopian universities to study Chinese through Confucius Institutes," Gebreselassie said during a recent interview.

He said that the Kung Fu movies he had watched as a child gave him first exposure to the Chinese culture. His understanding of China has been further enriched through the east Asian country's technological prowess and rapid economic development.

"Recently, an increasing number of young Ethiopians have also gained a better understanding of China and the Chinese lifestyle through social media platforms such as TikTok," in addition to old movies, said Worku, another young Ethiopian.

According to the survey results released in November 2020 by Afrobarometer, a non-partisan research network, about 60 percent of young respondents aged 18 to 35 from 18 African countries think that China's economic and political influence on the African continent is "somewhat positive" or "very positive."

Edward Scott showcases Chinese Kung Fu or Chinese Martial Arts skills during a training session at a youth center in Francistown, Botswana, Dec. 2, 2020. (Xinhua/Shingirai Madondo)

William Douglas, a 21-year-old young Tanzanian, said that household appliances, building materials and machinery made in China are popular among local customers due to high quality and reasonable prices.

"In Tanzania, mobile phone brands like Huawei and Oppo are very popular," said Douglas.

"We watched many Chinese movies and TV series through the cable network," said Nurdin, a 25-year-old man, adding that his affinity to the Chinese culture has grown over the years thanks to thriving people-to-



File photo shows Buildings of the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

people exchanges.

Ibrahima Diao, a student at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar in Senegal, believes that young Senegalese now know much more about Chinese culture than they did a few years ago, noting that the two countries have seen robust cooperation.

Abdou Seck, Diao's schoolmate, said that China has provided his home country with tangible support to spur development.

According to the World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of

Economic and Social Affairs, in sub-Saharan Africa, 62 percent of the population is below age 25 in 2019.

African youths have injected vitality into cultural and economic ties with China, through learning the Chinese language and embracing smart phones from China to power digital revolution in their native countries.

In Cameroon, a university student surnamed Oumar, said that Chinese smart phone brands have gained popularity with the central African nation's youths at a time when digital commerce and remote learning has become the

norm.

"Young Africans are slowly but surely developing a lot of interest in China unlike before. They are particularly impressed by infrastructure development brought by China to many African countries," said Ndiye Kidet, an electronics student at the Botswana Accountancy College.

Kidet said that African youths have disregarded the false narrative that China's kindness towards the continent was based on ulterior motives, adding that China has proved a reliable partner in Africa's quest for dignity and self-reliance.

A survey conducted in Gaborone, Botswana early this year indicated that the country's youths were appreciative of China's benevolence towards Africa, and requested loans from China to support start-ups in agriculture, arts, sports and manufacturing sectors.

Clifford Mboya, a Kenyan researcher who majored in international politics at Fudan University in Shanghai, China said that his life in China was very interesting, and unique in some ways.

Mboya said it was quite eye-opening to live in China and the country has its own challenges just like any other country in the world. "I think it is one country that is focused on achieving its goals. And I like the way they pursue their dreams and their projects in an efficient way."

Mboya recalled that most of the reports on the media about China were negative before he went to China.

"But, you know, I was impressed by what I saw, because it's not any different from here, it's just that they have their own political system, their work ethic ... the culture is different. But once you come to understand how things work there, you begin to appreciate their culture and their way of doing things," he added.

India under siege from Covid-19: The worst yet to come

NEW DELHI

THE Coronavirus infections and deaths in India recorded a daily high on Monday, 10 May, with 366,161 new infections and 3,754 deaths as reported by the Indian health ministry, taking India's total tally to 22.66 million with 246,116 deaths. Experts have raised a flag stating India's actual figures could be far higher than what is currently being reported.

The rise in case numbers have been exponential in the second wave, and has been widely attributed to the B.1.1.7 variant, which was first identified in the U.K. and also a homegrown variant, called B.1.617, with double mutations.

The World Health Organization has classified the B.1.617 variant as a variant of global concern, with some preliminary studies showing it spreads more easily.

Reopening of public places, crowded election rallies and big religious gatherings are being blamed for the up-tick.

The national vice-president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Dr Navjot Dahiya called Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'super spreader' and blamed him for the second wave of COVID-19. In his interview given to an English Daily, Dr Dahiya said, "while the medical fraternity is trying hard to make people understand mandatory covid norms, PM Modi did not hesitate to address the big political rallies tossing all Covid norms in the air."

While the rallies were later converted to 'virtual rallies', people were still being called to watch and attend those virtual rallies in large gatherings.

India, which is one of the largest economies in the world, spends only 1% of its GDP on its healthcare, making it even more difficult for public health systems to survive the burden of this pandemic.

What's worse is at a time when the government should have focused all its time, energy and effort in managing and organising a pandemic response, Prime Minister Modi chose to prioritise elections.

The government turned away, ignoring all the helpless citizens who died on the streets, outside hospitals, in makeshift ambulances and homes, gasping for oxygen, medicine or any form of medical help.

Right from the time when one is infected with Covid-19, till the time of death and cremation, there is no dignity. Bodies of suspected Covid patients are now found floating and washed up on the banks of Ganga in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

This report by NDTV states that "in the absence of any Covid protocols at rural crematoriums, locals fearful of further spread of the infection, families have been forced to consign the bodies in the river."

These are not just reports and visuals, but lived experiences of hundreds and thousands of Indian citizens who have suffered, and have seen their family members and loved ones suffer from this ignorance, which could have easily been prevented, if this pandemic could only be a priority for the top brass who run the country.

At a time when most Indian cities have run out of hospital beds, oxygen supplies and medicines, with crematoriums running day and night in several cities across the country, with people having to wait for hours to get the deceased cremated or buried, the government should pause and introspect what this outbreak is doing to the country.

There has been an outpour of global support, with several countries sending oxygen cylinders, concentrators, ventilators and other medical gear for Indians. However spending \$1.8B on rebuilding the capital's historic center in the middle of a pandemic, also highlights the priorities of the current government.

The second wave in India stripped all Indians from the dignity and respect a state should have given its citizens, at a time of global crisis, even more for being democratically elected not once, but twice. It would have been



A relative wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) attends the funeral of his family member who died from Covid, at one of the biggest cremation grounds in New Delhi on 26 April.

easier to call out the failures of this government if they had atleast tried in preventing the second wave, but the top leaders were busy with election rallies and encouraging mass religious gatherings, the repurcursion of which we are yet to bear.

BBC reports "Kumbh Mela pilgrims turn into super spreaders, stating "its disastrous". West Bengal, a state where recent elections were held, continues to see sharp increase in Covid cases.

Meanwhile it is the volunteers who have stepped up to save lives, and social media has become a life saving tool, for finding oxygen supplies and medical supplies.

Strangers are going out of the way to help each other and do whatever to keep a person they perhaps don't even know... alive. This should not have been the case.

Amid such reports, there are also reports from the state of Uttar Pradesh, where the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to take action under the National Security Act and seize the property of individuals who spread "rumours" and propaganda on social media and try to "spoil the atmosphere", as reported by The Hindu.

All adults in India are now eligible to be vaccinated, however the over-18 vaccination drive has been hit by vaccine shortage and technical issues with multiple users not being able to register on the website or get an appointment. Several states say they don't have the doses to carry out the exercise.

Earlier in January, Prime Minister Modi had declared India as one of the countries that had successfully controlled the coronavirus. While addressing the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue virtually on 28 January 2021, PM Modi said, " India took a proactive public participation approach and developed a COVID-specific health infrastructure and trained its resources to fight Covid."

The exaggeration and early declaration of the government's success was a self fulfilling prophecy, only to be proved catastrophic just a few weeks later. After all, "pyres tell the truth", and India's complaint media can only do so much to pin the blame on "the opposition, liberals, Muslims, activists, leftists, protestors, NGOs and other assorted "anti-nationals."

'Power of Positivity' is that during a pandemic, when the country is battling a 'variant of global concern', in absence of robust healthcare system and pandemic management, the "positivity" from the Covid-19 virus infection, which unlike mere mortals, sees no religion, no caste, not even votes or vote banks, it only takes a virus particle, a spherical shell that protects a single long string of genetic material, inserts it into a human cell - to eventually just kill the body it ends up infecting.

Instead of asking the citizens to be positive, which most already are with Covid-19, the focus from the government should only be in restoring whatever little dignity is left for its citizens in India, and it will take a lot of effort to fight this "positivity" in the air. Health experts have already warned that a Covid third wave is inevitable in India.

With an already collapsed and exhausted health care system and an aggressive variant spreading fast across the country, the government has very little time to fix these cracks, if it all it values the lives of its citizens.

IPS



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMASHA 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	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 NEWS PAPERS 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 MITAA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00 - 05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One





Radio One



CAG counsels NAOT auditors to regularly update knowledge, skills

By The Banker Reporter

AUDITORS in the country have been challenged to regularly undergo short training to align their knowledge and skills with the latest standards prevailing globally.

Controller and Auditor General, Charles Kichere said in Dar es Salaam this week while opening Diploma in International Financial Reporting (DipIFR) training for 20 auditors from his office that auditing is a profession that is regular growing by welcoming new standards.

In a speech read on his behalf by NAOT's Director of Administration and Human Resources Management, Novati Mfalomagoha, the CAG urged the participants to concentrate on what the experts will be imparting to them during the training.

"The five weeks training is designed specifically for the NAOT auditors to provide a comprehensive understanding of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)," he said while emphasising that there is need to observe high level of commitment during the training to ensure that both technical and practical knowledge shared by facilitators on DipIFRS is absorbed.

Mfalomagoha said apart from passing an international examination that the NAOT auditors will have to sit at the end of the course before being awarded the Diplomas, it is equally important for them to be able to apply the knowledge



Head of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants in Tanzania, Jenard Lazaro speaking at the opening of a five weeks diploma training in International Financial Reporting (DiplIFR) for NAOT auditors held in Dar es Salaam last week.

on international financial reporting in their daily practical responsibilities.

"I am expecting all of you to focus on the reason that has made you be here and let each one of you aspire to get out of the training as a new and transformed auditor," he advised saying state auditors have a tough task facing them as the country adopts international reporting standards.

In remarks at the opening ceremony, Head of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) in Tanzania, Jenard Lazaro told the participants that qualifications that will be gained from the course will enable them to develop knowledge and skills to understand details of IFRS hence put them into practice as well as the concepts and principles which underpin them.

"It should be noted that ACCA works very closely with NAOT on public finance management and through this initiative, the organization's capability is being transformed," said Lazaro who backed Mfalomagoha's observations that the 20 NAOT candidates have an opportunity to become globally acceptable.

Backing his professional peers, Director at Ark Associates Limited who are facilitators of

the programme, Godfrey Temba said the goal of the training programme is to enable NAOT, their partner to successfully achieve unprecedented technical and practical thinking through IFRS solutions.

"Reflecting on NAOT's vision to be a highly regarded institution that excels in public sector auditing, this integrated technical and practical path will connect you to the resources needed to develop your expertise, grow your career, increase transparency and maximize trust through financial reporting," Temba said. He added, "The programme will assist you to assess reporting from a new perspective."

An ACCA Africa Director, Jamil Ampomah said urged the participants to seize the opportunity and excel in order to graduate to the next level. "Our Diploma aims to offer a fast and efficient solution to help finance professionals like you develop a strong working knowledge in the area," Ampomah said.

ACCA is a thriving global community of 227,000 members and 544,000 future members, based in 176 countries and regions that uphold the highest professional and ethical values in accounting.

Kenya plans to set up emissions trading system

NAIROBI

Kenya aims to set up an emissions trading system that will allow companies and other bodies to buy emissions allowances, the finance minister Ukur Yatani said on Tuesday, 11 May, as the country strives to limit the release of greenhouse gases.

Emissions trading is a pollution control mechanism where a central authority issues a limited number of permits for the release of specific greenhouse gases. Companies can then buy these permits and also trade them. Many countries are using a price on carbon to meet climate goals in the form of a tax or under an emissions trading or cap-and-trade plan where companies or countries face a carbon limit.

"The government is at an advanced stage in establishing the Kenya Emissions Trading System, allowing companies and organisations to buy Emission Allowance and thereby enable Kenya to meet her commitments in limiting greenhouse emissions," Yatani told an on-line conference of Kenyan and European officials. Yatani said the system would be managed through a national carbon credits and green assets registry, also soon to be established.

Africa produces little of the greenhouse gases, such as emissions from coal-fired plants, that most scientists link to rapid climate change. But it is the continent widely seen as most vulnerable to a changing climate as much of its population is poor, rural and often dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Kenya loses 2.0-2.4% of its gross domestic product annually due to the effects of climate change, such as drought and floods, according to a 2018 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics study. The study also showed droughts cost Kenya 8% of GDP every five years. Last June, the finance ministry said Kenya planned to issue its first sovereign green bond.

BoE's Andrew Bailey: 'Only buy crypto if you are prepared to lose all your money'

LONDON

Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey warned investors against buying cryptocurrencies on Thursday, urging enthusiasts to only "buy them if you're prepared to lose all your money." When Mr Bailey was asked by journalists whether the BoE was concerned about wild price swings in the cryptocurrency markets, he said: "I'm afraid they don't have intrinsic value."

"Now that doesn't mean to say that people don't put value on them because they can have extrinsic value. But they have no intrinsic value," Mr Bailey said. "So, I'm going to say this very bluntly again; buy them only if you're prepared to lose all your money. I'm afraid currency and crypto are two words that don't go together for me."

The BoE chief was speaking at the end of a press conference on the central bank's latest Monetary Policy Report, in which the lender



Bank of England governor, Andrew Bailey.

said it expected the UK economy to expand 7.25 per cent this year as the country eases out of the Covid-19 crisis.

The bank held interest rates at record lows on Thursday and kept the size of its stimulus programme unchanged, with Britain set to enjoy its strongest peacetime growth as Covid-19 restrictions ease.

Bitcoin and ethereum, the two biggest cryptocurrencies, surged to record highs earlier this year as institutional investors piled into the digital asset space and retailers flocked back. Meanwhile, Meme-based virtual currency Dogecoin soared to an all-time high this week, extending its 2021 rally to become the fourth-biggest digital coin.

Dogecoin, launched as a satirical critique of 2013's cryptocurrency frenzy, has risen more than 14,000 per cent since December 31, taking it past more widely-used cryptocurrencies such as the Tether stablecoin and XRP to become the fourth-largest by market capitalisation. Mr Bailey has long been dismissive of the

assets. In January he told the World Economic Forum that existing cryptocurrencies are unlikely to last as a means of payment over the long term.

He said while there has been huge innovation in payments in recent years and that digital innovation is here to stay, existing digital currencies do not have a structure that will allow them to last. "Have we landed on what I would call the design, governance, and arrangements for what I might call a lasting digital currency," he asked the WEF panel. "No, I don't think we're there yet, honestly. I don't think cryptocurrencies as originally formulated are it."

Last month, the BoE said it would join forces with the UK Treasury to weigh the potential creation of its own central bank digital currency, joining authorities across the globe exploring the next big step in the future of money. If approved, the UK's digital currency would exist alongside cash and bank deposits, rather than replacing them, the central bank said.

JPMorgan bankers fly by the dozens as Wall Street norms resume again

NEW YORK

Zoom meetings may never go away, but in the fiercely competitive world of high finance, visits to faraway clients are starting to stage a rapid comeback.

JPMorgan Chase & Co., the largest US lender, already has about 30 to 40 investment bankers travelling daily, according to Jim Casey, the firm's co-head of global investment banking. It's another sign that big Wall Street firms are returning to their pre-pandemic ways as vaccination rates climb.

Across the industry, dealmakers have a strong

motivation to hit the road: Nobody wants to cede an edge in winning lucrative and, at the moment, unusually abundant investment banking mandates, as corporate leaders prepare for Covid-19 to subside. JPMorgan's bankers are traveling within the US, which is ahead of major European and Asian countries in vaccinating the public. Its dealmakers aren't yet clocking as many trips as before the pandemic, but the numbers have been climbing, Casey said.

"Business travel has picked up as people become more comfortable," Casey said. "You're not winning new business without in-

person connectivity." A year ago, when all but the most essential travel stopped, many financial executives praised the potential of video conferencing to make pitching deals faster and cheaper than flying. But executives on both sides of the calls have since expressed fatigue with virtual meetings. At a conference last week, JPMorgan Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon lamented business his firm lost by not visiting clients when competitors did.

"There are a bunch of clients who gave business to somebody else because the bankers from the other guys visited and ours

didn't. OK, well, that's a lesson," Dimon said. "It's got to work for the clients - it's not about whether it works for me. And I have to compete."

It's not the only way that Dimon and his peers are spurring their industry's return to normal. Late last month, JPMorgan became the first major US bank to mandate a return for its entire US workforce with a memo saying that by early July all U.S.-based employees will work from offices on a "rotational basis." Rival Goldman Sachs Group Inc. later told staff to prepare to return by June 14.



Azania Bank Limited's Geita branch manager, Rhoda Baluhya handing over a consignment of food stuffs to Geita regional sheikh, Alhaj Yusuf Kabaju being a donation meant for use by needy children staying at orphanages during Eid El Fitr celebrations to be marked this week globally. The ceremony was held at Bakwata offices in Geita region earlier this week. The bank also made similar donations in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Morogoro Regions. Photo courtesy of Azania Bank.

Serengeti DC pays tribute to SBL for funding 220m/- water project in area

By The Banker Reporter

A 220m/- solar powered borehole water supply project financed by Serengeti Breweries Limited for residents of Serengeti District in Mara Region will go a long way in improving people's lives.

Serengeti District Commissioner, Nurdin Babu said last week when commissioning the project that will directly benefit over 12,000 residents of Machochwe Ward that the brewer is helping implement government's plan to provide clean safe water to at least 70 percent of the population in rural areas.

"I thank SBL's management and staff for providing this much-needed support to residents of my district which will help boost economic activities and growth," said Babu who added that the brewer has been at the forefront in promoting development projects in the country that lead to a healthy and productive society.

He pledged continued support to SBL's activities adding that, "This investment is helping President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government through Ministry of Water to expand access to clean and safe water to the majority of Tanzanians living in rural areas."

Machochwe is one of the areas in Serengeti District facing serious problem of access to clean and safe water. Residents of the village and



Serengeti district commissioner, Nurdin Babu speaks when he officially commissioned a 220m/- borehole project financed by Serengeti Breweries Limited at Machochwe in his district last week. Right is SBL corporate relations director, John Wanyancha while left is WaterAid Tanzania country director, Anna Mzinga. Photo courtesy of SBL.

especially women and girls used to walk for long distances covering over 6kms fetching water from unsafe sources such as ponds and rivers.

And then, like a breath of air, SBL in partnership with Water Aid, came calling to address the challenge facing Machochwe residents hence safeguard their health and wellbeing through provision of portable water. The 220m/- borehole project has capacity of 7,500 litres of water per

Speaking during the launch ceremony, SBL Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said the project is one of the many that the brewer is funding across the country through its Water of Life program. Wanyancha noted that SBL

has similar Water of Life projects in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Tanga, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Dodoma regions serving over one million beneficiaries.

"SBL takes pride in enabling the people of Machochwe to access safe and clean water closer to their homes. We believe the project will not only boost their health, but also lead to increased economic productivity as people, particularly women, will no longer walk long distances to seek the commodity," he said

SBL has since 2010, the brewer has spent over 1.1bn/- in drilling 18 boreholes across the country, an undertaking that has made a significant contribution in the alleviation

of shortage of water in the country. Through Water of Life (WOL) project, SBL has in most of these projects partnered with other organizations in ensuring that Tanzanians have access to safe and clean water in some of the most remote areas of the country.

According to SBL Corporate Relations Director, the beer-maker considers water to be key in the country's future prosperity hence has always been ready to collaborate with the government and other partners in facilitating the country's access to safe and clean water.

"SBL has a policy commitment towards the wellbeing of communities in the country with Water of Life being one of our four priority areas that the company has defined in its objective to provide social support to improve the wellbeing of Tanzanians," he said while naming other similar initiatives as provision of Skills for Life, Environmental Sustainability and Promotion of Responsible Drinking.

According to water.org, only 57 percent of Tanzania's population of 57 million has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 30 percent has access to improved sanitation. The global non-profit organization adds, "People living under these circumstances, particularly women and girls, spend a significant amount of time travelling long distances to collect water."

NEWSINDEPTH

African e-commerce firm Jumia cuts Q1 losses

LAGOS

African e-commerce firm Jumia Technologies AG said on Tuesday that cost discipline and "selective" usage growth helped it cut first-quarter losses for the fifth consecutive quarter.

Jumia's chief executive, Sacha Poignonnec, said the 24% narrowing in losses was evidence that its path to profitability was on track. Jumia, the first Africa-focused tech startup to list on the New York Stock Exchange, aims to sell fewer expensive one-off products such as electronics and more inexpensive, frequently ordered items such as beauty and cleaning supplies.

The adjusted loss before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation narrowed to 27 million euros (\$32.85 million), compared with a loss of 35.6 million in the first quarter of 2020. Average order value slid 16% to 24.9 euros.

"All the work that we have done is paying off and we are in a very good position to accelerate the growth," Poignonnec told Reuters. Jumia shares were down 5.1% at \$22.27 in late morning in New York, well below the all-time peak of \$65.51 hit on Feb. 10.

The shares have gyrated dramatically since listing at \$14.50 on April 26, 2019. They rose shortly after listing to \$49.77 but later plunged close to \$2 a share after a negative short-seller report. Poignonnec brushed off the volatility and said the long-term strategy would keep investors happy.

Jumia has raised more than \$570 million over the past six months, which Poignonnec said would be used for gradual investments in core businesses, including improving payment platform JumiaPay and other technology platforms and expanding in existing markets. Jumia warned that the Covid-19 pandemic could hit consumer confidence and spending power.

While the pandemic boosted business for e-retailers in other regions, such as Amazon.com Inc and Alibaba, Jumia's revenue fell due to 2020 lockdowns. It warned that renewed curfews and lockdowns in countries including Morocco and Kenya created disruptions, especially for food delivery business.

Goodbye Grobank, hello Access Bank South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

Following the completion of all regulatory procedures, Grobank Limited has been officially renamed Access Bank South Africa Limited.

The deal was consummated after Access Bank's acquisition of controlling shares in the former Grobank Limited, South Africa. With this new development, Access Bank South Africa Limited is positioned to deliver a robust banking operation that connects key African markets.

At an official closing ceremony in Sandton on Monday top executives of the two banks were upbeat about new opportunities for clients, noting that the bank will continue to support all its stakeholders, while opening doors to growth opportunities both in the short and long term.

CEO of Grobank Bennie van Rooy said: "This is an extremely exciting day for the South African banking industry. Our corporate customers will now have increased access to trade finance, treasury, international payments and loans through the wider distribution network offered

by Access Bank's presence in the key trade corridors that connect Africa to the rest of the world.

"Banking with Access Bank South Africa means greater security as well as access to more products and services through a best-in-class digital platform, and a full retail banking suite will soon be on offer."

Herbert Wigwe, CEO of Access Bank Plc, said: "Today's ceremony in South Africa seals our commitment to delivering our strategic aspirations of becoming Africa's gateway to the world, in line with our vision to be the world's most respected African bank. "We look forward to the many opportunities our collective experience and deep understanding of the African market brings to our valued clients, and the journey ahead being one of great promise for our institution and the continent."

Access Bank Plc. is a leading full-service commercial Bank operating through a network of more than 600 branches and service outlets, spanning three continents, 12 countries and 31 million customers.

The bank employs 28,000 people in its operations in Nigeria and has subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa and the United Kingdom (with a branch in Dubai, UAE) and representative offices in China, Lebanon and India.

Listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange since 1998, Access Bank is a diversified financial institution, which combines a strong retail customer franchise and digital platform with deep corporate banking expertise and proven risk management and capital management capabilities. The bank serves its various markets through four business segments: retail, business, commercial and corporate.

The bank has over 900,000 shareholders (including several Nigerian and International Institutional Investors) and has enjoyed what is arguably Africa's most successful banking growth trajectory in the last 12 years. Following its merger with Diamond Bank in March 2019, Access Bank became one of Africa's largest retail banks by retail customer base.



Left to right: Bennie van Rooy, Herbert Wigwe and Patrick Mathidi.

Mobile lender Branch to buy Sh230m microfinance majority stake

NAIROBI

US-based digital lender Branch International will pay Sh230 million for a majority stake in a local microfinance bank, amid proposed tough regulations for mobile lenders in Kenyan market.

The San Francisco California-headquartered fintech with offices in Lagos, Mumbai, and Nairobi has received regulatory nod to acquire a 84.89 percent stake in Century Microfinance Bank. Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) has already cleared Branch for the deal that will give it control in the deposit-taking microfinance institution that was licensed in September 2012 with focus on agricultural finance.

"The acquirer and the target will each maintain the terms agreed with the borrowers in respect of all loans existing in their loan books at the time of the acquisition," said Wang'ombe Kariuki, CAK director general.

The deal comes on the back of Central Bank of Kenya (Amendment) Bill of 2021 that

will see the regulator control digital lender's products, management, and sharing of borrowers' information. CBK will have powers to vet the management of digital loan providers, signalling a requirement to have a local office.

The digital lenders will be also required to obtain annual licences from the regulators, maintain minimum capital ratios and declare their loan charges. Century was licensed as the seventh deposit-taking microfinance and posted Sh43 million net loss in 2019, with a market share at 0.3 percent.

The microfinance had Sh99 million as deposits and Sh348 million asset base, putting it a small peer category of the sub-sector with 14 players. CAK says both Branch and Century will each retain their existing performing and non-performing loans until the expiry of such loans.

Both Branch and Century are micro lenders with the latter targeting individuals as well as micro, small and medium businesses. Branch, like with other digital lenders such as Tala, rides heavily on

customer data to decide on the loan sizes in the unregulated market.

But the digital lenders have been accused of breaching customer privacy by exposing loan defaulters to friends and relatives to force repayment. The Century deal means Branch will have to contend with a regulated market unlike its primary playing field where digital lenders have been accused of charging customers very high interest rates.

Microfinance banks have been facing challenges including reduced appetite by customers to put money in small financial institutions following the collapse of Chase, Imperial and Dubai banks in quick succession.

The micro-lenders have had to turn to expensive loans for on lending to customers, leading to reduced profitability. The 14 microfinance banks posted a Sh1 billion loss in the 12 months to June, an increase from Sh0.7 billion loss that was recorded in the previous year similar period.



Competition Authority of Kenya director general, Wang'ombe Kariuki.

Rethinking workplace dress code is critical to sustain corporate culture timely

By Godwin Semunyu

IN April 2018, Facebook billionaire owner, Mark Zuckerberg, who is known for his casual T-shirts and jeans attire, made a rare public appearance wearing a suit and tie. The US Congress had compelled him to testify on why Facebook had failed at protecting users' personal data that they had been adept at harvesting. His dress code made similar headlines to that of the content of the meeting.

Some called it his 'I'm Sorry' looks while, some praised it as a 'strategic' decision to make a visual statement of contrition. That is how far down the 'formal' dressing has gone in the pecking orders. More than most industries, financial services, especially banks, are based on trust. Appearances do matter a lot. Bankers need to project a stronger impression of stability.

Potential customers and partners are assessing you and asking questions: Do I trust you enough to give you all my money? Do I trust you to give me advice that will guide me through my life savings? They expect you to be the rock that will help them sail through uncertain financial times.

Like it or not, humans use appearance to predict behaviour. We want the people who serve our food to look clean, the people who work on our health to look competent, and the people who look after our money to look

Godwin Semunyu

is Head of Marketing and Communication at Equity Bank Tanzania Limited.



trustworthy. For most this starts with taking some basic care of your appearance. Reading the room wrong, in terms of the wrong appearance has the potential to cost business.

Of late, we have witnessed major global and local corporates relax their dress code rules urging employees to use 'good judgment' in their dressing and fashion choices. For instance, Goldman Sachs - the world's most influential investment bank, and JP Morgan a global leader in financial services, have adopted business casual dressing to their everyday dress code, yielding to the more casual nature of today's work. Such announcements are aimed at bringing the banks/financial institutions' policies up to date for their younger workforce.

It is more than acceptable for banks to opt for a more relaxed dress code but there should be a red line to how relaxed the dress codes can be. In a company, the choice of adopting a dress code might say more about the brand than we

realize. A dress code might seem trivial, but it is worth considering if the firm wishes to enhance its employee's productivity, morale, and image, as well as how its clients perceive it.

A dress code goes a long way in shaping the perception of a brand by its clients. Nowadays, norms at the workplace are evolving and becoming more complex. In reality, there is no right or wrong dress code to adopt. However, each dress code has possible strengths and weaknesses.

Many corporates have dress code policies for diverse reasons and employees are required to comply. Some are very strict while others are more relaxed -encouraging business casual, while others allow complete dress down. By preferring this approach organizations believe that the image of their employees is key, and that first impressions matter and therefore tend to encourage a more formal code dressing.

In other instances and

professions, policies may focus on employee comfort, prescribing a dress code that allows employees to be smart but still in a way that is presentable to both internal and external customers.

Kudos to Equity Bank, which is known for its formal dress code, but at the height of launching a 'New Look' also adopted a new dress code, which is in tandem with its new brand identity, signalling the bank's next frontier in delivering a seamless customer experience across markets and different and evolving demographic segments without losing the guiding touches for a banker's appeal.

Equity Bank's move is certainly in line with other global corporates which have done the same, with global corporate leaders seeing this as an attempt to lure more customers, appeal to younger demographics, and stay in touch with new realities.

The new Equity Bank dress code conveys a commitment to professionalism, attention to detail, and respect for customers. It is always important for any employee interacting with clients to dress appropriately. And with the evolution of dress codes in the corporate world, it's good to remember that the office environment especially in the banking industry has a long-standing tradition of formality.

Godwin Semunyu is Head of Marketing and Communication at Equity Bank Tanzania Limited.

Africans urged to trade more with each other

ADDIS ABABA

African countries continue to trade more with the outside world than among themselves, according to findings of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) assessment report on progress made on regional integration in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report was presented during the 39th ECA Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The European Union, the report says, is taking the largest share of the market, accounting for 29.8% of total trade in 2018. The trend is, however, changing following Brexit and also due to increasing trade between China and Africa.

Stephen Karingi, the director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division at the ECA, while presenting the report findings, said Covid-19 had severely disrupted the implementation of regional integration initiatives, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), particularly trade through national border closures.

Importance of digitalisation

"Implementation of regional integration continues to be hampered by governance, peace and security challenges," said Karingi, adding: "Digitalisation is key in maintaining trade competitiveness and enabling effective participation in cross border e-commerce."

The report shows that in 2018, Africa accounted for only 2.6% of global trade, which is a slight increase from 0.2% from 2017. Intra-African trade increased to 16.1% in 2018 (\$159.1bn), up from 15.5% in 2017. Globally, output slightly decreased to 3.6% in 2018 from 3.8% in 2017.

While progress continues to be made in pursuit of the continent's regional integration agenda throughout the eight regional economic communities (RECs), challenges to the achievement of deeper integration remained. In particular, most RECs and member states are struggling to achieve progress in the area of productive integration. Karingi noted that before the Covid-19 pandemic there was a rise in intra-trade in Africa, but compared to other regions, it remained low.

Key pillars of regional integration

"Trade, economic movement of people and services, infrastructure, governance, peace and security are the key pillars of regional integration," he noted, adding that many countries were doing a lot to implement the AfCFTA.

Karingi said peace and security "create environments conducive to the pursuit of regional integration and the attainment of broader continental development objectives", noting that progress on integration was uneven, adding the free movement of people was critical for the realisation of the AfCFTA.

The report presents an assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa with a particular focus on progress made by RECs in key dimensions of regional integration, including macroeconomic integration; productive integration; trade integration; infrastructure integration; the free movement of people; and governance, peace and security.

In all the RECs, Karingi said, productive integration was their poorest performing dimension of regional integration. "Most of the communities are lagging in terms of intra-regional intermediate exports and imports, and are recording a very low merchandise trade complementarity index," he said, adding that productive integration was central to enhancing industrialisation and trade. "Productive integration is also critical to integrating African economies into regional value chains and global value chains, as envisioned in Agenda 2063."

AMU and EAC taking the lead

According to the report, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and East African Community (EAC) are taking the lead in productive integration, with index scores of 0.449 and 0.434, respectively, while Ecowas is the least integrated regional bloc in the productive integration dimension, with an index score of 0.220.

Despite the low performance of the majority of the RECs on productive integration, there were several initiatives being carried out to improve the situation, including some that are supported by ECA. Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and EAC are the highest-performing communities in terms of macroeconomic integration, with scores of 0.684 and 0.660, respectively, on the index.

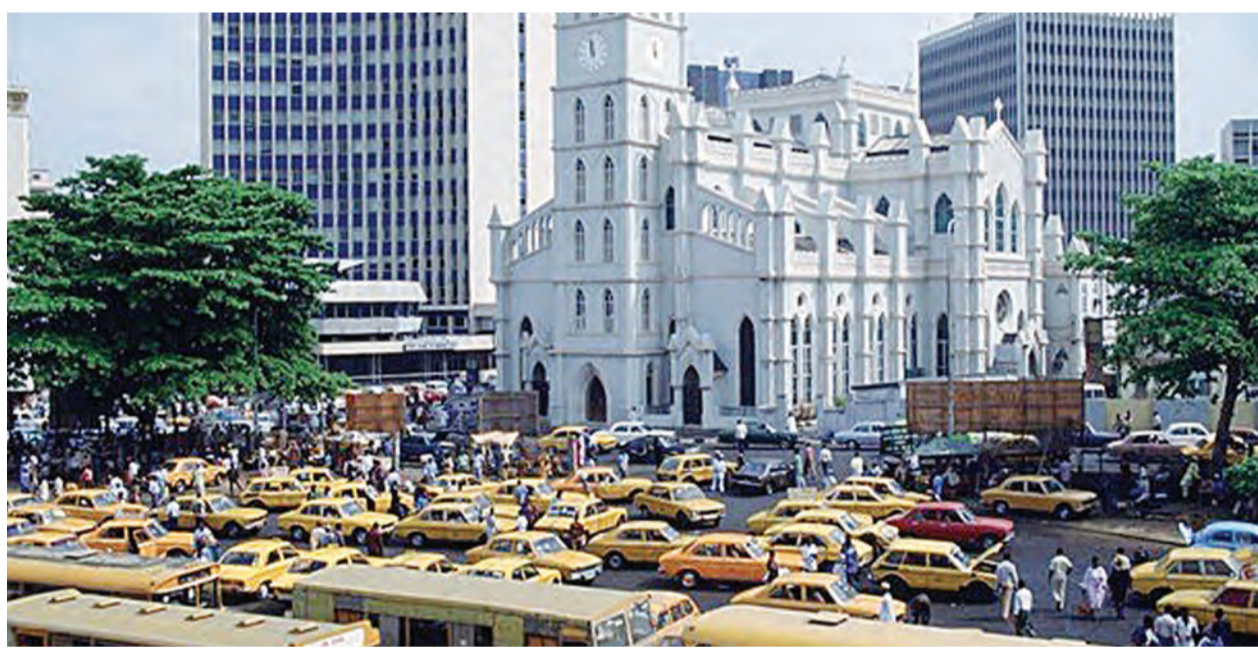
How Nigerian banks empower women through corporate social responsibility

By Emmanuel Mogaji

Businesses are part of societies and successful businesses can create an environment that benefits their customers, employees, communities and shareholders. They do this through various forms of corporate social responsibility, based on the idea that businesses should "strive to make a profit, obey the law, be ethical and be a good corporate citizen."

The benefits of corporate social responsibility practices for businesses include enhanced reputation, legitimacy and customer loyalty. But these practices are not just marketing to make businesses look good. They are also a way to develop markets and sustain business.

In particular, the empowerment of women through corporate social responsibility is now an established pillar of international development. Women are important to the economic and commercial development of emerging markets. They are also important stake-



Bank buildings rise above the business district of Lagos. Banks must effectively communicate the impact of their engagement with women.

holders in society.

In Nigeria, women are generally disadvantaged in health provision and employment. For example, the maternal mortality rate is 576 per 100,000 live births, the fourth highest in the world. Women are also marginalised in the labour force. Their unemployment rate rose from 25.9% in 2018 to 31% in 2020. All these challenges limit their inclusion in financial and economic activities.

In our research as marketing academics, we explored the way banks

in Nigeria try to empower women to participate in financial and commercial activities. We were interested in the guiding principles that shape the banks' corporate social responsibility activities; how these activities empower women; and which groups of women they reach.

We found that Nigerian banks appreciated the significant role that women played in the development of society and as a powerful catalyst for change. However, they could do more and they could communicate their ef-

forts more effectively.

We analysed 15 Nigerian banks' annual corporate social responsibility and sustainability reports. We wanted to know how they used these to empower women. These reports are regulatory documents produced by companies and can be considered a true reflection of the banks' activities. Of the 22 commercial banks active in Nigeria, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria, only 15 had a form of corporate social responsibility report that was available for the research.

BANKING & FINANCE

Google enters global remittance market after tie-up with Western Union and Wise

NEW YORK

Mobile wallet platform Google Pay tied up with money transfer companies Wise and Western Union to allow its US-based users to remit money to India and Singapore, marking the tech company's first foray in the multibillion-dollar global remittance market.

The new service integrates the platforms of London-based Wise (formerly known as TransferWise) and Western Union, the world's largest money transfer service, into the Google Play app. Users can choose between the two platforms to send

money to Google's e-wallet users in India and Singapore, Google Pay said in a blog post on Tuesday.

"For some, sending money back to their home countries is a regular activity and we are making it more accessible by adding it to the app that you use for your everyday money tasks," the blog's author, Viola Gauci, product manager at Google Pay, said. "We're now able to give those with family abroad a simple, safe and reliable way to send money abroad."

In October, the World Bank said remittances would fall 14 per cent by the end of 2021 compared with

pre-Covid-19 levels in 2019. The Washington-based lender projected global remittances would decline 7 per cent to \$508 billion in 2020 and 7.5 per cent to \$470bn in 2021.

The mobile wallet industry is set to become a \$2.4 trillion industry this year, growing 24 per cent year-on-year, according to a report by finance and investment company Finaria. This trend is forecast to continue, with the market estimated to reach \$3.5tn by 2023, the report added.

By the end of the year, US Google Pay users will be able to send

money to people in more than 200 countries and territories through Western Union and to more than 80 countries through Wise, according to the blog post.

Western Union will also offer unlimited free transfers when sending money with Google Pay until June 16, while Wise will make the first transfer free for new customers on transfers up to \$500, the blog post added.

"We're not planning to become a bank or a remittance provider," Josh Woodward, Google Pay's director of product management, said in a recent interview. "We work with

the ecosystem that already exists to build these products." Instead of viewing technology companies such as Google, Microsoft and Facebook as a threat, an increasing number of financial institutions are partnering with them.

About 26 per cent of financial institutions are already partnering with one or more technology companies, and an additional 27 per cent say they are planning to forge such partnerships within the next 12 months, according to a KPMG report.

Google, which was the first major company to introduce an e-wallet

in 2011, is one of many tech companies pushing deeper into the financial world. In 2019, Apple launched a credit card in partnership with Goldman Sachs.

Facebook planned to introduce Libra, a digital currency to make global payments cheaper and faster, but it drew increased regulatory scrutiny. The social media firm also launched Facebook Pay, which allows users to securely send payments to others. Ride-hailing company Uber launched a new division called Uber Money, which includes a digital wallet and upgraded debit and credit cards.

WORLD

Death toll rises in Gaza, Israel in most intense hostilities in years

ISRAEL carried out hundreds of air strikes in Gaza yesterday and Palestinian militants fired multiple rocket barrages at Tel Aviv and the southern city of Beersheba in the region's most intense hostilities in years.

At least 43 people have been killed in Gaza since violence escalated on Monday, according to the enclave's health ministry. Six people have been killed in Israel, medical officials said.

Gaza's health ministry said that of the people reported dead in the enclave, 13 were children. The Israeli military said it was looking into these reports and that preventing civilian casualties was a priority.

In Gaza, a multi-story residential building collapsed after Israel warned its occupants in advance to evacuate, and another was heavily damaged, after they were hit in the air strikes.

Israel said its warplanes had targeted and killed several Hamas intelligence leaders early on Wednesday. Other strikes hit what the military said were rocket launch sites, Hamas offices and the homes of Hamas leaders.

It was the heaviest offensive between Israel and Hamas since a 2014 war in

Gaza, and prompted international concern that the situation could spiral out of control.

"Israel has gone crazy," said one man on a Gaza street, where people ran out of their homes as explosions rocked the city.

Many Israelis also spent a sleepless night, with sirens sounding at 3 am in Tel Aviv, heralding several waves of rocket strikes in Israel's heartland.

"The children have escaped the coronavirus, and now a new trauma," one Israeli woman in the coastal city of Ashkelon said on Channel 11 television.

UN Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland said the United Nations was working with all sides to restore calm. Egypt made calls overnight to Palestinian leaders to urge restraint, Egyptian security sources said.

Gazans' homes shook and the sky lit up from Israeli attacks, outgoing rockets and Israeli air defense missiles.

Israelis ran for shelters or flattened themselves on pavements in communities more than 70 kilometers up the coast and into southern Israel amid sounds of explosions as interceptor missiles streaked into the sky.



Israeli authorities work at a site where a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip hit the central Israeli town of Holon, near Tel Aviv, on Tuesday. (AP)

An Israeli was killed on Wednesday by an anti-tank missile fired from Gaza at a vehicle near the border, Israel's national ambulance service said. Two people were killed by a rocket that hit their car in Lod, near Tel Aviv. Israeli media reported one was a 7-year-old girl.

Lod and other mixed towns have been gripped by angry demonstrations over the Gaza violence and tensions in Jerusalem.

In Gaza, 11 people were killed in Israeli strikes on Wednesday, the health ministry said.

New challenge

Hamas' armed wing said it fired 210 rockets towards Beersheba and Tel Aviv in response to the bombing of the tower buildings in Gaza City. Israel's military says that around a third of the rockets have fallen short, landing within Gaza.

For Israel, the militants' targeting of Tel Aviv, its commercial capital,

posed a new challenge in the confrontation with the Islamist Hamas group, regarded as a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States.

The violence followed weeks of tension in Jerusalem during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, with clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters in and around Al-Aqsa Mosque, on the compound revered by Jews as Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

These escalated in recent days ahead of a - now postponed - court hearing in a case that could end with Palestinian families evicted from East Jerusalem homes claimed by Jewish settlers.

Violence has also flared in the occupied West Bank. Medical sources said a 16-year-old Palestinian was killed in clashes with Israeli forces yesterday.

Agencies

About 350 people take part in Immortal Regiment march in Beijing

BEIJING

ABOUT 350 people took part in the Immortal Regiment march on the premises of the Beijing Exhibition Center, the Russian embassy in China reported on Sunday.

The number of participants in the Immortal Regiment march considerably surpassed expectations, the embassy said.

The march participants carrying the portraits of their relatives who had fought during World War Two gathered near the main building of the Beijing Exhibition at 09:30 local time (04:30 Moscow time). There were not only Russian citizens but also representatives of China, CIS and other states among the participants.

"The Chinese side treats this action [the Immortal Regiment march] very well and considers it as an element of our common victory over fascism and the Japanese militarism," Minister-Counsellor of the Russian Embassy in China Dmitry Lukyantsev told reporters.

"This year, Chinese citizens are also taking part in the march, which is really very good," he added.

The Immortal Regiment march is an annual public event held in Russia and other countries to commemorate those who fought or died during the Soviet Union's 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War against Nazi Germany.

CPC wins overwhelming trust among Chinese people, says former Lao deputy PM

VIENTIANE

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) has won "the Chinese people's overwhelming trust" and always put the people's interests first, former Lao Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad has said.



On the centenary of the CPC's founding, Somsavat (pictured), a former politburo member of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), expressed confidence that the CPC will "stay true to its founding mission and remember its original aspiration and mission."

"In the early days of Wuhan's fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, this metropolis with a population of 10 million swiftly calmed down, when every people strictly followed the requirements of self-isolation at home," Somsavat told Chinese media in a recent interview.

"It was the Spring Festival, but all the Wuhan citizens abandoned their traditional festival customs of visiting relatives and friends, and just followed the party's guidance, which fully reflects the Chinese people's overwhelming trust in the Communist Party of China," Somsavat said.

After the COVID-19 outbreak, the global economy was in a downturn, but China bucked the trend and achieved full resumption of production and economic recovery, he said, adding that the wise and strong leadership of the CPC is the decisive factor in this achievement.

Somsavat, aged over 70, once served as the secretary of the former Lao President Kaysone Phomvihane, the foreign minister and head of the LPRP Central Committee's commission for external relations, and deputy prime minister, and maintained close contacts with China.

"The Communist Party of China is a great political party. There would not be New China without the Communist Party of China, which is an indisputable fact," Somsavat said, adding that after the founding of the People's Republic of China, the CPC has been leading the Chinese people to striving for the rapid socio-economic development.

"The whole world might not imagine that a huge country like China would develop into the world's second largest economy in just over 40 years. This is a very remarkable achievement," he said.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, Somsavat said the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at the core has been carrying forward the party's fine traditions, pushing for comprehensively deepening reforms, and leading the socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era.

After the 19th National Congress, with the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the entire party has been uniting and forging ahead to lift China's development to a new level, he said.

Completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, Somsavat said, is a new starting point for the CPC to lead the Chinese people to advance the cause of socialism and the Lao side rates highly the CPC's people-centered governing philosophy, which the LPRP also adheres to.

Laos appreciates China's commitment to upholding multilateralism, promoting changes in the global governance system, and promoting world peace and development and the progress of human civilization, since it is in line with the aspirations of people around the world, he said.

Xinhua

China's Sinopharm vaccines safe, efficacious - WHO

GENEVA

CHINA'S Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines, very much used globally, have been considered both safe and efficacious, according to Mariangela Simao, World Health Organization (WHO) assistant director general for access to health products.

"We still have data proving that they are efficacious against severe disease," she said in a press conference on Monday. "Sinopharm has been very much used globally. I think 62 million doses have already been applied. It has been considered both safe and efficacious."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced last week that

China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine has been validated for emergency use, marking the first Chinese vaccine officially recognized by the WHO.

The approval came after an extensive review by an external, technical advisor group that looked at different data, Simao added.

"We did site inspections in China in January and February... We accessed the clinical data available for Sinopharm. It was also considered suitable, and (with) efficacy and safety in good manufacturing practice," she noted.

She also mentioned that the WHO is committed to the COV-AX Facility, which is "an equitable access mechanism that we



A health worker prepares to inoculate a man with a dose of the Chinese-made Sinopharm COVID-19 coronavirus vaccine in Colombo on May 11, 2021. (AFP)

are very much working on and striving to get enough doses to be distributed."

The official called for a

change in the code of behavior, as many vaccine producers "are moving towards a profit-driven approach instead of an

equitable-access approach."

"So (the) WHO is pushing very hard at the highest level for everyone who is manufacturing vaccines to consider putting those vaccines in a global mechanism that will ensure that all countries have access to them, not only high-income countries who can pay more for the vaccines, as we are seeing as we speak right now," Simao said.

"The code of behavior, when you talk about it, is not for vaccine nationalism. It is for everyone who has a product that can be a public health good and can help us in this acute phase of this pandemic," she stressed.

Xinhua

Italy PM's office denies Rome wants EU to pay Libya to block migrants

PRIME Minister Mario Draghi's office denied a media report on Tuesday that Italy was proposing that the European Union (EU) should pay Libya to stop migrants leaving its shores for Europe.

Draghi (pictured) favors the EU offering financial assistance to all African countries involved in migration to Europe, an official in Draghi's office told Reuters.

But the official denied a report by La Repubblica newspaper that Draghi wanted to propose at a May 24 summit that the EU make a deal similar to one reached with Ankara in 2016, under which Turkey is entitled

to financial aid in exchange for hosting refugees who try to reach Europe via the Balkans.

"At the moment there is no initiative regarding creating a similar deal to what was done with Turkey," the official said.

"The government's position is that the EU must pay more attention to the situation in the southern Mediterranean and be ready to offer financial help to all African countries involved in migrant flows."

Some 13,000 migrants have landed on Italy's coast this year, about three times as many as in the same period last year, according to interior ministry data. More than 2,000 have since



Sunday reached the island of Lampedusa, the initial arrival point for many people trying to get to Europe from Africa.

The migrants, arriving on small and perilous boats run by people-traffickers, are being transferred elsewhere in Italy.

The vast majority of African migrants heading for Europe by sea depart from Libya.

In 2019, Rome agreed a plan with other European states to redistribute migrants after they arrived, but the scheme was voluntary and has not provided a stable solution.

On Tuesday, the executive European Commission said it had received no offers from member states to accept migrants from Italy. The migration issue has fuelled the rise of anti-immigration parties across Europe. In Italy, the right-wing League is part of Draghi's national unity government and wants action.

Agencies

Inquiry: British Army killed innocent civilians in Belfast in 1971

BELFAST

BRITISH soldiers unjustifiably shot or used disproportionate force in the deaths of nine of the 10 innocent people killed in a 1971 incident in Belfast that sparked an upsurge of violence during Northern Ireland's "Troubles," a judge-led inquiry found.

A Catholic priest and a mother of eight who served soldiers tea were among the victims in an event Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney described on Tuesday as "one of the most tragic days" of Northern Ireland's three decades of bloodshed.

Judge Siobhan Keegan delivered

her findings to applause from families of the victims shortly after the British government announced it would introduce legislation to give greater protection to former soldiers who served in Northern Ireland, plans Dublin and many in Belfast fiercely oppose.

"All of the deceased were entirely innocent of any wrongdoing on the day in question," Keegan, the coroner for the case, concluded.

The British government's minister for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis said he would carefully consider the findings, but it was clear that those who died were "entirely innocent of wrongdoing."

The victims' grief has been "com-

pounded by the long and difficult process of waiting for answers for so many years," Lewis said in a statement.

The deaths over a three-day period of disorder in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast - a sprawling housing estate of Catholics who opposed British rule - occurred in the days after the introduction of internment without trial for suspected militants triggered disorder on the streets.

Father Hugh Mullan, the 38-year-old priest who died, was helping an injured man and waving a white object before he was shot twice in the back, the inquiry found.

"Our brother was killed by the

British Army and then they lied about it to cover up their injustice," Mullan's brother Patsy told a news conference. "After 50 years the truth we always knew has finally been told."

There was not enough evidence to say whether the army were responsible for the death of one of the victims, John James McKerr, who was indiscriminately shot going to and from work. However Judge Keegan said it was "shocking" that the state did not carry out a proper investigation into the killing.

Questions also remain unanswered about the identity of the soldiers who shot many of the victims, the judge added.

No one has been charged or convicted in connection with any of the killings. The inquest was a fact-finding exercise and not a criminal trial.

"The police have never to this day investigated the deaths of our loved ones," said John Teggart, the son of one of those killed. "No one should be above the law."

Some 3,600 people were killed in the sectarian confrontation between Irish nationalist militants, pro-British "loyalist" paramilitaries and British military that largely came to an end after a 1998 peace agreement.

Agencies



The deaths over a three-day period of disorder in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast - a sprawling housing estate of Catholics who opposed British rule - occurred in the days after the introduction of internment without

China National Petroleum Corporation: Cooperation between Russia and China to keep growing

BOAO

CHINA expects positive changes and intensification of the scale of cooperating with Russia in the oil and gas sphere, Chairman of the China National Petroleum Corporation Dai Houliang says on Wednesday.

"Cooperation with Russia has always been an important component of China's interaction in the energy sphere with other countries. Scales of our joint activity in this area are steadily growing. I am confident there will be growth in this year and in subsequent ones," Dai Houliang said during the Economic Forum for Asia in Boao.

Companies from the Chinese energy sector remain fairly optimistic as regards interaction with Russia, Assistant CEO of CNPC Li Yueqiang told TASS. "We cooperate in Yamal and in the Arctic and believe interaction is progressing successfully," he said.

According to China's Customs Office data, Russia ranked second after Saudi Arabia in terms of oil supplies to China 2020.

French lawmakers approve virus 'health pass' at second attempt

PARIS

FRANCE'S National Assembly approved on Wednesday the creation of a COVID-19 "health pass" that people can use to attend sports events, festivals and theme parks with large crowds, a hotly contested government measure to help safely re-open the economy.

The health pass, which will come into effect from June 9, will provide proof that a person has either been vaccinated against the coronavirus, holds a recent negative PCR test, or is recovering from COVID-19 and therefore has natural antibodies.

The proposal was initially shot down in the lower house on Tuesday evening over fears it would impinge on civil freedoms, a rare defeat for President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party, after centrist MoDem allies rebelled.

The health pass was approved on a second vote in the early hours of Wednesday after the government shortened the transition period during which it will be able to re-impose restrictions such as a curfew without the permission of parliament once France's state of emergency is lifted on June 2.

Macron has said the health pass, which can be digital or paper-based, will curb the spread of the virus at events with crowds of more than 1,000 people. It will not be used for every day venues such as restaurants and cinemas or for access to public transport.

Iran's former hardline president Ahmadinejad to run again

IRAN'S hardline former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday registered to run again in an election in June which is being seen as a test of the legitimacy of the country's clerical rulers.

Vilified in the West for his questioning of the Holocaust, Ahmadinejad (pictured) had to step down in 2013 because of term limit rules, when incumbent President Hassan Rouhani, who negotiated Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, won in a landslide.

"People should be involved in Iran's decision-making process... We must all prepare ourselves for fundamental reform," state TV quoted Ahmadinejad as saying after submitting his registration.

Candidates began signing up for the polls on Tuesday with the clerical rulers hoping for a high turnout which may be hit by rising discontent over an economy crippled by US sanctions reimposed after Washington exited the nuclear deal three years ago.

Registration will end on Saturday, after which entrants will be screened for their political and Islamic qualifications by a 12-member vetting body, the Guardian Council. Six members of the hardline body are appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

A rift developed between the Ayatollah and Ahmadinejad after then-president Ahmadinejad explicitly advocated checks on the Ayatollah's ultimate authority. Ahmadinejad was disqualified by the Guardian Council in the 2017 presidential election.

In an open letter to the Ayatollah in 2018, Ahmadinejad called for "fundamental reforms" in the three branches of government - executive, parliament and judiciary - as well as the office of the Supreme Leader.

A former officer of the Guards, who has tried to re-brand himself as a moderate politician by criticizing the clerical establishment, Ahmadinejad relies on Iran's devout poor and working class who have grown impatient with the mounting economic pressure.

However, his popularity remains in question and hardline political groups are expected to back prominent cleric and judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi if he decides to run.

Rouhani cannot seek re-election under Iran's constitution.

Several hardline candidates, including some IRGC commanders, have said they would withdraw if Raisi enters the race to avoid splitting the vote.

Appointed by the supreme leader as head of the judiciary, Raisi has emerged as one of Iran's most powerful figures and a contender to succeed Khamenei.



Oxygen shortage hits India as 2nd wave of COVID-19 rages

NEW DELHI

AT least 11 COVID-19 patients died on Monday evening in a hospital in the southeastern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh due to oxygen shortages, local media reported on Tuesday.

Sadly, this was just one of the many tragedies the South Asian country has witnessed in recent weeks following an oxygen supply breakdown amid the second wave of the pandemic nationwide.

While families and friends of the dead grieved for their beloved ones, they also raged against governments and hospital administrations over oxygen shortages amid a pandemic-induced chaotic mess, prompting them to take immediate actions to turn the tables.

On Wednesday, India's COVID-19 tally rose to 22,992,517 and the total death toll reached 249,992. Since the second wave, a number of incidents have unfolded across Indian hospitals in wake of the shortage of essential medical supplies, especially oxygen.

On April 23, at least 26 COVID-19 patients died at a hospital in New Delhi when the oxygen supply in its intensive care units ran out completely. Seven days later, six more died at night due to oxygen shortages in a hospital in Gurugram, a city southwest of New Delhi.

"We came to the hospital thinking doctors are there to take care of our loved ones. But then we are told oxygen is not available," said Amritha, an attendant.

"Whose responsibility is it to provide the oxygen and who should we blame for the deaths that are taking place simply because hospitals are not having facilities?"

The tragedy happened again on the afternoon of May 1, as at least 12 died due to lack of medical oxygen at Batra Hospital & Medical Research Center in the capital city, including Dr. R K Himthani, the hospital's head of the gastroenterology unit.

"Rest in peace Dr. R K Himthani. We lost a cheerful and smiling face today, not because of the virus but due to lack of oxygen," Himthani's colleague Dr. Tushar Mehta wrote on social media. Experts said the bottlenecks of India's oxygen supply lie in transportation and storage.

While most oxygen producers are in eastern India, the soaring demand comes mainly from western, central and northern regions. Besides, there is a shortage of cryogenic tankers, which are necessary to transport liquid oxygen at very low temperatures to distributors. Also, many Indian hospitals do not have on-site plants to store oxygen.

In many hospitals, infected patients have to share beds or lay down on the floor in wards and corridors. And there are even more who have to lie down on stretchers or inside their own vehicles outside hospi-



Family members of a person who died of Covid-19 react during a cremation

tals, gasping for breath. Experts said doctors and paramedical staff have to take tougher decisions on who among the patients should get oxygen and who should be left out.

"The situation is really bad. We are being trained to save each and everyone without any distinction, but in the on-going pandemic, when the hospitals are inundated and facilities are scarce, we are forced to make tough decisions," said a doctor pleading anonymity. "It is really hard, for after all we too are humans."

As oxygen shortages are hitting hospitals, attendants have been asked to get oxygen for their beloved ones on their own. As a result, social media platforms have been flooded with requests by desperate families hunting for oxygen cylinders and refills.

This has in turn stoked up a thriving unregulated black market for cylinders and concentrators, which are sold much above their usual retail prices. Reports said an oxygen cylinder which would normally cost \$2-137 U.S. dollars is now sold 10 times the price, and not many people can afford it. Besides, police have arrested a few for resorting to the black market.

"It is a chaotic situation all around. Who would have thought that people would have to carry oxygen cylinders for their ailing family members?" said Ashish Vardhan, a volunteer helping people to access oxygen cylinders and hospital beds.

"This massive shortage could have been avoided had the government planned things in advance and not ignored the expert opinions about the outbreak of the second CO-

VID-19 wave."

Volunteers of the Sikh community have set up makeshift facilities in and around New Delhi to provide free oxygen to COVID-19 patients, and also a temporary hospital with 250 beds.

"People are crying saying they have lost three family members, the fourth is dying, please help with oxygen and a bed," said Manjinder Singh Sirsa, president of the Delhi Gurdwara Management Committee.

"I think, on this earth, you would never have seen this situation where people are dying and we are forced to give oxygen, or a miracle assistance."

"As hospitals are inundated and people are being turned away, so they come to us as a last resort and we provide them oxygen here," said Jasmeer Singh, a Sikh volunteer. "We too are facing shortages and have to manage things with our limited stocks."

The oxygen shortages have brought states face to face with the federal government over their quota. Last week, Allahabad High Court in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh said the death of COVID-19 patients out of oxygen shortages in the cities of Lucknow and Meerut is a criminal act, "not less than a genocide" at the hands of authorities entrusted with the task to ensure the oxygen supply chain is maintained.

Xinhua

The West's hypocritical political circus on Xinjiang

BEIJING

THE United States, Britain and Germany was yesterday expected to stage a side event at the United Nations over the so-called human rights situation in Xinjiang.

The United Nations ought to be a place to promote truth and justice. Yet those Western countries, by staging a hypocritical political show to interfere in China's domestic affairs under the guise of human rights, are using it to spread lies and displaying their ego and prejudice, and have brought blasphemy to the world's most authoritative multilateral body.

For quite some time, some Western countries have been obsessed with manufacturing and peddling malicious lies about China's human rights records. In recent days, they are concentrating their smear campaign on Xinjiang.

Their accusations such as "religious oppression," "forced labor" and "genocide" are a far cry from the true story.

Behind those groundless allegations are some of the Western countries' sinister intentions to try to trigger division and create turbulence in the autonomous region to hold back China's peaceful development.

For the records, the issue about

Xinjiang is not about ethnicity, religion or human rights, but rather about fighting violence, counterterrorism and de-radicalization.

Lies cannot stand the scrutiny of facts. Xinjiang, which suffered thousands of terrorist attacks between 1990 and 2016, is now at its best time in history, enjoying a stable society and a fast growing economy, and all ethnic groups there are living together in harmony.

Over the past 40 years, the Uygur population in Xinjiang has doubled from 5.55 million to over 12 million, while the gross domestic product there has surged by more than 200 times in the past six-plus decades.

The remarkable progress and development in Xinjiang has been achieved thanks to the tireless efforts and effective measures the Chinese government has taken.

Moreover, China's policy and position on Xinjiang received support from more than 80 countries across the world, including the vast Muslim countries, at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council earlier this year.

Yet it seems that those sanctimonious Western countries which are keen on voicing "concerns" over the region's human rights lack even the slightest interest in learning what is really happening on the ground, not to mention doing something sub-

stantial to make Xinjiang a better place. To them, Xinjiang is simply a political tool to meddle in China's domestic affairs. Truth and conscience are something they never care.

What they really care about is not the human rights situation of minorities, but how to create a mess in China or at least make China look bad. That can explain why those countries have kept on pointing fingers at China's internal affairs on the pretext of "human right" or "democracy."

Countries like the United States, the world's top violator of the human rights of Muslims, should feel ashamed of their disgraceful and even bloody records in human rights, and should look into the mirror before accusing others.

The West's anti-China campaign will not undermine Beijing's determination to maintain its national security, sovereignty and territorial integration. The Chinese people will never tolerate any attempt to destabilize Xinjiang.

Those self-styled human rights defenders had better take off their disguise, call off their hypocritical political game, and make better use of their time by focusing on their own problems, like saving more souls from gun violence and police brutality.

Xinhua

Colonial Pipeline hack exposes lack of federal cybersecurity oversight for US energy industry, says media

WASHINGTON

THE ransomware attack on Colonial Pipeline Co. has hit a U.S. industry that largely lacks federal cybersecurity oversight, leading to uneven digital defenses against such hacks, reported The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday.

The temporary shutdown of Colonial's pipeline, the country's largest conduit for gasoline and diesel to the East Coast, follows warnings by U.S. officials in recent months of the danger of cyberattacks against privately held infrastructure. It also highlights the need for additional protections to help shield the oil-and-gas companies that power much of the country's economic activity, cyber experts and lawmakers were quoted as saying.

"The pipeline sector is a bit of the Wild West," said John Cusimano, vice president of cybersecurity at aeSolutions, a consulting firm that works with energy companies and other industrial firms on cybersecurity.

Cusimano called for rules similar to the U.S. Coast Guard's 2020 regulations for the maritime sector that required companies operating ports and terminals to put together cybersecurity assessments and plans for incidents.

More than two-thirds of executives at companies that transport or store oil and gas said their organizations are ready to respond to a breach, according to a 2020 survey by the law firm Jones Walker LLP. But many don't take basic precautions such as encrypting data or conducting dry runs of attacks, said Andy Lee, who chairs the firm's privacy and security team. "The overconfidence issue is a serious phenomenon," Lee said.

Electric utilities are governed by rules enforced by the North American Electric Reliability Corp., a nonprofit that reviews companies' security measures and has the power to impose million-dollar fines if they don't meet standards.

There is no such regulatory body enforcing standards for oil-and-gas companies, said Tobias Whitney, vice president of energy security solutions at Fortress Information Security, a company that helps energy firms vet business partners for cyber readiness.

"There aren't any million-dollar-a-day potential fines associated with oil-and-gas infrastructure at this point," he said. "There's no annual audit."

Colonial Pipeline said on Friday that it proactively shut down its 5,500-mile pipeline, which stretches from the Gulf Coast to New Jersey, after a ransomware attack on its computer networks. The company said on Monday that the hack affected only its information technology, rather than control systems used to run the pipeline, and that it aims to restore substantial service by week's end.

Lawmakers from both parties said the incident reinforces the need to create new legal obligations for protecting critical infrastructure.

The Energy Department also will launch a 100-day "sprint" to improve pipeline security.



Photo taken on Oct. 17, 2020 shows a machine harvesting cotton in a field in Wenjiashuang Village, Manasi County of north-west China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Xinhua)

TFF issues five-match ban on Prisons' defender



Prisons' defender, Benjamin Asukile.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA Prisons' defender, Benjamin Asukile, has been banned for five matches by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for issuing unverified claims against Yanga shortly after the defender's side had taken on the latter in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s round of 16 duel in Rukwa on April 30.

Yanga beat Prisons 1-0 in the tie, which was played at Nelson Mandela Stadium, to make it to the quarterfinals.

A statement from the TFF, issued yesterday, said that in addition to the ban, Asukile has been fined 500,000/- for the offense he committed.

Asukile made defamatory remarks against Yanga shortly after the match, stating the latter offered 40m/- to match officials so they can gain favour in the clash.

The move came after the TFF's Competition Committee reviewed the clash's report and found that Asukile had committed offenses of insulting and defamatory and accusations against Yanga, the club's foreign players as well as the match officials and TFF.

Following the offenses, the TFF has banned him from playing five official matches and the body has fined the defender 500,000/- per the articles 38 (2), and 39(5) of the Premier League regulations which are read in conjunction with the rules of the ASFC.

The committee also reviewed newspaper reports on Asukile's allegations

of corruption against Yanga and the matter has been referred to the TFF's Disciplinary Committee for further action.

The statement, signed by the federation's information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, moreover warned players, officials, and fans to follow the rules of the competition.

Prisons had progressed to the show-down's round of 16 with a 3-1 drubbing of Sahare All Stars at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on February 28.

Midfielder Adili Buha netted the opener for Prisons with a well taken free-kick which left Sahare All Stars' keeper flat-footed.

Attacker Gasper Mwaipasi put Prisons 2-0 up with an equally expertly taken goal from within Sahare All Stars' penalty area off an assist by fellow attacker Mohamed Mkopi.

Prisons' Mwaipasi put the clash beyond Sahare All Stars' reach, netting the third goal for the warders with a simple tap in from within the penalty area. Sahare All Stars' striker Gregory Dickson pulled one goal back with a well-taken header on the 43rd minute of the clash.

Yanga booked a place in the round of 16 with a slim 1-0 win over First Division League side, Mbeya's Ken Gold FC, at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on February

Namungo FC, Azam FC, Dodoma Jiji FC, Mwadui FC, Biashara United, Simba SC, and Rhino Rangers complete the list of this season's ASFC quarterfinalists.

Simba SC midfielder ruled out of Kaizer Chiefs clash

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC midfielder, Bernard Morrison, has been ruled out of Saturday's CAF Champions League clash pitting his squad against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs after failing to obtain his visa.

Tanzanian giants Simba SC have thus been dealt a blow ahead of their trip to South Africa to face Kaizer Chiefs because of Morrison's visa issues.

Kaizer Chiefs will host Simba SC in the first leg of their CAF Champions League quarterfinal clash and the latter was forced to depart for South Africa without one of their key midfielders.

Morrison is no stranger to South African football after having spent two years at Kaizer Chiefs' age-old rivals Orlando Pirates between 2016 and 2018 and his experience will be missed.

Apart from Morrison's exclusion, Simba has a clean bill of health and will be going toe-to-toe with all of their key players including early CAF Champions League's player of the tournament nominee Luis Miquissone.

"We have left for South Africa minus Bernard Morrison because he does not have his paperwork ready to travel, his

visa was yet to arrive and we cannot wait for him," Simba manager Patrick Rweyemamu said.

He noted: "The club is still working on his paperwork and when they are ready, he will then join us in South Africa, we are confident his paperwork will be done in time for the match on Saturday."

Simba SC's traveling squad:

Goalkeepers: Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya and Ally Salim.

Defenders: Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Paschal Wawa, Ibrahim Ame, Erasto Nyoni, Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Kennedy Juma and David Kameta.

Midfielders: Jonas Mkude, Rally Bwalya, Mzamiru Yassin, Luis Miquissone, Hassan Dilunga, Clatous Chama, Francis Kahata and Taddeo Lwanga.

Strikers: Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Ibrahim Ajib and Chris Mugalu.

Much as Simba SC heads to South Africa as somewhat favourites, Kaizer Chiefs have shown tremendous strength and spirit in the CAF Champions League thus far, making Saturday evening's first leg all the more interesting.

Tamil Nadu Sports Club clobbers Caravans B outfit in Kazim Nasser tourney's Division C

By Guardian Reporter

TAMIL Nadu Sports Club cricketers have strengthened their hold on the top spot in Group B of the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division C after thrashing Caravans B side by 16 runs in a duel, which was played in the city last weekend.

The clash's eventual winners lead the rest of the pack in the group given they have registered victory in three matches they have played.

Tamil Nadu Sports Club went in to bat first in last weekend match and they were skittled for 101 runs in 18.3 overs of the 20-over tie.

Top order batsman, Bhagat Singh Sundara Raj, posted 21 runs which consisted of two fours, as the side made its plan to end with a convincing total clear.

Opening batsman Praveen Kumar also put good knocks to show, notching 15 runs which consisted of a four.

After two quick dismissals of key players, Saddamhussain Shahjahan and Kannan Natarajan, middle order batsman Hari P somehow boosted their score with his 12 runs.

Low order batsmen, Nirmalkumar Balakrishnan and Merison Pathrose, ended five runs short of a two-digit figure later on in



Tamil Nadu Sports Club's players pose for a photo before confronting Caravans B squad in a 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division C duel, which was played recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

the innings. Pathrose had not out performance.

Caravans B side's Gerald Dzunguza had most wickets, he ended with three, giving away 16 runs in four overs.

In response, Caravans B team surprisingly lost steam, when chasing what turned out to be a modest target, registering 85 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs.

The Caravans Cricket Club's second string squad got off to a wobbly start given opener, Anoop Kumar, faced early dismissal with four runs to his name.

Fellow opener, Prabhu Subramani, made his presence felt for a few overs, notching 10 runs.

His efforts to extend his stay hit a snag, he was run out by Tamil Nadu Sports Club's Kannan Natarajan.

Top order batsman Vivek Goyal was ultimately the batsman with a performance worth writing home about in the chase, given he posted 15 runs which consisted of a four.

They, later on, dropped wickets in quick succession, as the chase started getting out of reach.

Caravans B squad's Dhaneesh Dharmajan scored seven runs in the latter stages, vainly struggling to keep his team in the game.

Low order batsmen, Vinod Vijayan and Vivek Acharya, had unbeaten spells, posting five runs not out and nine runs not out respectively, which however failed to give their side the edge.

Shahjahan had an impressive spell during Tamil Nadu Sports

Club's bowling stint, given he took two wickets and gave away 18 runs in four overs.

Second-placed Unisoft Rising Stars are level with leaders Tamil Nadu Sports Club on six points in Group B.

Unisoft Rising Stars though have an inferior net run rate of 0.8000, whilst Tamil Nadu Sports Club has 3.7500 in net run rate.

Caravans B cricket team still sit third with victory in two games whilst losing one, whereas Annadil Seifee and TCA women combine are positioned fourth and fifth respectively.

Strikers B team sits sixth with one loss in the only clash they have featured in, and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar Combine is placed at the bottom of Group C.

Yanga take aim at Namungo FC in VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA have said they have set their sight on Lindi's Namungo FC, seeking to tame the latter in a Vodacom Premier League bringing the two teams, slated for Saturday at Majaliwa Stadium in Ruwanga.

Yanga traveled to Lindi early this week for the Premier League fixture and, according to Yanga's technical advisor Senzo Mazingisa, the outfit's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has found a way to make the most of his players.

Senzo added that the most encouraging news is an improvement shown by Yanga players as they continue to get acquainted with Nabi.

"The team has started to improve a lot, unfortunately, our match against Simba SC's game has been postponed, but members and fans would see something



Yanga

different from our coach, the players have started to understand him a lot," he disclosed.

Senzo stated: "The match against Namungo FC will not be easy, but at the moment we have a squad that will show different approaches, there is an improvement in quality of the techniques."

He noted: "Our fans should get their minds

back on their team, this is what is important now, we need to continue to win our fixtures."

Senzo moreover revealed that much as Yanga are waiting to know what will be decided by the authorities on the postponed clash against Simba SC, the former's mind has shifted to the Namungo match.

He disclosed: "We

are waiting for the decision to be issued by the government and TFF as directed by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa."

Senzo, a South African national, said at the moment their main focus is on Namungo FC, seeking to ensure they maintain a winning streak in the remaining matches.

Yanga is placed second on the top flight table

having participated in 27 outings, winning 16, losing two, and posting draw in nine.

Eleventh-placed Namungo FC has taken part in 24 outings, notching a victory in eight, losing eight, and recording draw in eight.

The Lindi side was set to entertain Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar in a Premier League clash yesterday.

Mesut Ozil's agent set to scout soccer talents in Tanzania

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

YOUNG soccer players in Tanzania should brace themselves for a possible windfall as opportunity comes knocking in fortnight's time.

The top soccer agent who assisted the German player Mesut Ozil land a major contract for the Turkey's Super League club, Fenerbahce, will be jetting into Tanzania in two weeks' time to propel the sports industry to international levels through training and promotional advice.

Erkut Sogut the International Soccer Agent behind the ace

football player, Mesut Ozil, is jetting into the country on May 27 2021 and will be visiting Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

His itinerary is being handled by the Arusha-based 'Future Stars Academy,' in conjunction with Samatta Foundation, run by Mbwana Samatta, a Tanzanian player who also plays for Fenerbahce alongside Ozil.

"Sogut will start his visit in Dar es Salaam, where he is to conduct a one-day 'Football Agent Masterclass' at the National Stadium Hall on the 28th of May and then attend a special dinner organized in his honor," said the Future Stars Director,

Alfred Itaeli.

Later Erkut will then travel to Arusha where he is to conduct a similar seminar on issues of soccer agency at the Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha and afterwards pay a visit at the 'Future Stars Academy' which grooms young football talents.

The agent will also give a lecture on how to market and promote sports activities as well as establish a network.

"The International Soccer Agent will get the opportunity to witness local football programs at the academy," Itaeli noted.

He pointed out that there is

a big chance of Erkut Sogut recruiting budding talents from Tanzania.

The Future Stars Director said the Erkut Sogut visit is also going to market Tanzania globally as he will be visiting the Tarangire National Park as well.

Sogut currently represents elite footballing talent such as Mesut Ozil, amongst others and well known for having negotiated the biggest premier league contract in history in January 2018 for his client.

His visit is also being supported by Football Agent Institute (FAI), Asilia Safaris, Sopa Lodges and Mount Meru Hotel.

Busquets: Barca's La Liga hopes 'practically over'

BARCELONA

SERGIO Busquets conceded that Barcelona's hopes of winning La Liga evaporated with Tuesday's 3-3 draw against Levante.

Barca led 2-0 and 3-2 in Valencia before conceding a late equaliser to leave their title hopes hanging by a thread after picking up just five points from their last four games.

In addition to winning their remaining two fixtures, Barca need Atletico to drop at least five points from their final three matches and Real Madrid to lose one or draw two of their last three games.

"We don't have much of a chance now," Busquets told Movistar after the final whistle at the Ciutat de Valencia stadium. "It will depend on our rivals, but this is our own fault, [bad] decisions, a lack of concentration. We concede goals too easily."

"We don't feel good because it was always going to be difficult, but we wanted to put pressure on those at the top. We had the lead, but as has happened this season, [Levante] scored goals too easily. The point doesn't mean much because that's the league practically over for us. We've dropped too many points to fight for the title."

Atletico can open a four-point lead over Barca with just two games to go if they beat Real Sociedad on Wednesday. Real Madrid, meanwhile, can move two points clear of the Blaugrana if they win at Granada on Thursday.

Barca's chances are further hindered by the fact both Atletico and Madrid have the superior head-to-head record against them, which is the determining factor should two teams finish level on points after 38 games.

The draw with Levante brought further questions about coach Ronald Koeman's future at the club.

Sources told ESPN earlier this week that there are doubts about the Dutchman's long-term suitability to the role, regardless of whether or not Barca go on to win the title to add to their Copa del Rey success earlier in the campaign.

However, a failure to claim top spot this season, given Barca had their fate in their own hands before the defeat to Granada on April 29, could accelerate calls for him to go.

"There are always questions about coaches, that won't change," Koeman said in a news conference when asked about his job prospects. "But after that second half, I understand there will be questions, of course."

Lionel Messi's 29th league goal of the season and Pedri had helped Barca into a two-goal half-time lead but quick-fire goals after the break from Gonzalo Melero and Jose Luis Morales drew the hosts level.

Ousmane Dembele restored Barca's lead in the 64th minute but a late goal from Sergio Leon earned Levante a point.

"Sometimes it's difficult to explain [what happened]," Koeman added when asked what went wrong. "Analysing the game, in the first half we were good, there was a good rhythm with the ball, good intensity. We created chances to score and we went in 2-0 up."

"At the start of the second half, we lost the ball more, our intensity dropped and we switched off defensively. It's difficult to reverse that once you've let them back into the game, as we did [by conceding] three goals in 35 minutes."

(Agencies)

FIFA president accused of masterminding European Super League by La Liga chief

MADRID

LA Liga president Javier Tebas has said he thinks FIFA president Gianni Infantino is behind the "failed" European Super League project.

Tebas claims that Infantino is referred to as "WOF" in the secret Super League documents he had access to.

"It's he who is behind the Super League and I already told him in person," Tebas said of Infantino on Tuesday. "I've said it before and I will say it again, behind all of this is FIFA president Gianni Infantino. He's pushing, saying things..."

Infantino, who headed up UEFA from 2009 to 2016, announced his and FIFA's opposition to the breakaway project that was founded by 12 European clubs on April 18.

Six English teams, including Champions League finalists Manchester City and Chelsea, withdrew 48 hours later following fan pressure and UK government pressure.

Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid and AC Milan followed, but Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus have yet to withdraw.

The nine clubs that pulled out have been handed financial punishments by UEFA and have agreed to make a combined €15 million goodwill contribution to benefit youth and grassroots football across Europe.

UEFA said on Friday that the three clubs will face sanctions, and European soccer's ruling body has started disciplinary proceedings against them.

On Saturday, the three defiant clubs denounced "intolerable" pressure from UEFA to drop the project.

(Agencies)

Man City's fifth title in nine years confirms status as Prem greats

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

PEP Guardiola was always likely to change the landscape of English football when he arrived at Manchester City in 2016, but five years on, the Spaniard and his players have ripped up the record books and the rulebook by becoming the dominant force in the Premier League, and their latest title triumph on Tuesday -- a third in four seasons -- confirms they belong in the pantheon.

This season's league title is the fifth in nine years for City, with two FA Cups and six EFL Cups also added to their roll of honour since the 2008 arrival of owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan. This time, they have been crowned champions while breaking the unwritten rules of doing it -- lacking a 20-goal striker and finishing on top after making the club's worst start to a season in more than a decade.

Everything usually needs to be perfect for a team to win a title, but City have done it by ticking only a few of the boxes that had long been regarded as crucial elements of a championship-winning team. Yet doing it this way is pure Guardiola. Why follow convention when you can do it better by proving to everyone that the old rules no longer apply?

If City win the Champions League for the first time when they face Chelsea in the final on May 29, the manner of their Premier League title triumph will inevitably be overlooked because of their long wait for European glory. But



Pep Guardiola

while this title success lacks the record-breaking feel of previous ones, it might ultimately prove to be the most significant because of where it puts Guardiola's side among the greats.

City had already carved out their own history by becoming the first, and only, Premier League champions to amass 100 points when winning the title in 2017-18. That season also saw them seal the title with the biggest winning margin -- 19 points -- eclipsing the 18-point gap achieved by Manchester United in 1999-2000.

A year later, Guardiola and his team achieved a domestic treble, becoming the first team in English football history to complete a clean sweep in one season, but this year's title is the one that seals City's status as a side that can now measure itself alongside the great Liverpool team of the 1970s and 1980s and Sir Alex Ferguson's United side of the 1990s and 2000s.

Liverpool won 10 league titles and four European Cups (UCL) between 1976 and 1990, while Ferguson's United amassed 13 titles and two European Cups be-

tween 1993 and 2013. They are the two periods of dominance that set those clubs apart in the history of the English game, but a fifth title in nine years means that City now have their own era.

How they did it this time around

When it comes to those "boxes" that every champion must tick on their way to glory, City have covered most of them this time around.

All title-winning teams need an outstanding goalkeeper: Go back through the years and you won't find a champion with an error-prone No. 1, and City have arguably the world's best in Ederson. The Brazilian is on course to win the Golden Glove award for most clean sheets (he has 18 in the league so far this season), but he is much more than the guy who keeps the ball out of the net. His ability to turn defence into attack with his incredible distribution sets him apart from the rest, and there have been several occasions this season when a long, pinpoint clearance by Ederson has created a goal at the other end of the pitch seconds later.

Another crucial com-

ponent of a title-winning side is a solid defence, marshalled by at least one commanding centre-half. Virgil van Dijk was Liverpool's defensive rock last season, and over the years the likes of John Terry, Rio Ferdinand, Nemanja Vidic, Vincent Kompany and Sol Campbell have performed similar roles for their teams. This season, City have had two, in Ruben Dias and John Stones, with Aymeric Laporte perhaps the best backup central defender in the Premier League.

Since forming their partnership in the wake of the 2-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur last November, which left City languishing in 11th position in the table, Dias and Stones have been the cornerstone of the team's defensive solidity. City had conceded 11 goals in eight league games by that stage, but they've allowed just 15 in 27 since. Dias and Stones have been at the heart of the defence for the vast majority of the games that followed.

Dias, a club-record £64.3 million signing from Benfica last summer, has been a transformative figure at the back. Having failed to replace former captain Kompany 12 months earlier once the Belgian was appointed as player coach at Anderlecht, Dias arrived to little fanfare, but his impact has been immeasurable. The 23-year-old has brought consistency, reliability and a physical presence to the City team, but he has also enabled Stones to revitalise a career that had stalled to the point where it seemed his time at City was coming to an end. Dias and Stones have formed a partnership that could rival the great Premier

League defensive duos of Ferdinand-Vidic and Terry-Ricardo Carvalho in the years to come.

Goals from midfield is another key element for any top team -- think of Frank Lampard's contribution at Chelsea or the goals of Paul Scholes and David Beckham when United were collecting titles on a regular basis. This season, 28 of City's 71 league goals have been scored by midfielders, with Ilkay Gundogan (12) leading the way from Phil Foden (7) and Kevin De Bruyne (5). Only Ferdinandinho, whose defensive contributions in front of Dias and Stones have been immense, has failed to score among Guardiola's regular midfielders.

Guardiola's invention also key

Guardiola has always been bold enough to defy convention when it comes to deploying players in numerous positions. Aside from using Foden, De Bruyne, Bernardo Silva and Raheem Sterling as false nines this season, Guardiola has played Joao Cancelo at left-back and right-back, and has seen Gundogan thrive in both attacking midfield and a defensive role. He has even joked about allowing Ederson to take the team's penalties.

It is further forward, though, where City have truly defied convention.

The history of Premier League champions is littered with legendary strikers doing the heavy lifting with their goals, particularly in key games. Thierry Henry, Alan Shearer, Mohamed Salah, Didier Drogba, Sergio Agüero and Cristiano Ronaldo have all hit 20 or more league goals to help fire their teams to a Premier League title over the

years, but this season, neither of City's recognised strikers -- Aguero and Gabriel Jesus -- has even managed double figures.

Jesus has just eight goals in 25 appearances, while Aguero, sidelined by injury and COVID-19 at times this season, has scored twice in 11 games. But City have cruised to the title without an out-and-out striker, often playing with Foden or Silva as a false nine. Riyad Mahrez (9) and Sterling (10) have both outscored Aguero and Jesus this season, but none of City's forwards has been prolific.

Despite their unusually low return of goals from their strikers, City have still outscored every other team and established a double-digit lead over second-placed United with two games remaining. They have been ruthlessly efficient, winning 27 out of 28 games in all competitions between mid-December and early April, and doing so without ever really needing to hit top gear.

There have been few dramatic fightbacks or wins against the odds, no defining game or moment that encapsulates their league season.

It has been like watching a long-distance runner moving through the field after a slow start to eventually win at a canter, which also fits City's steady movement towards the same status as the great Liverpool and United sides. By the time they were winning titles with unerring regularity, they didn't have to reach the heights to do it. Winning had become second nature, something that could be achieved on autopilot, and that is the story of City's latest title success.

Haaland, the star product of an unlikely football factory

LONDON

THE sports hall doors in the quiet Norwegian town of Bryne were always open, a welcome escape for the local children. Many football talents emerged, but one in particular stuck out: Erling Braut Haaland.

It was in this town of some 12,000 inhabitants in a country obsessed with winter sports that possibly the most exciting young footballer in the world first stepped onto the pitch.

"He always scored a lot," Alf Inge Berntsen, a physical education teacher at the local high school who coached Haaland as a child, tells AFP.

"When he was 12, he started playing with the 13-year-olds and kept scoring. When he was selected for the regional team, he scored again. Then, when he was 15, he was called up to the (youth) national team and... he scored."

"We saw quite quickly that he could become a very big name. But we didn't think it would happen so quickly, that he would be a top scorer in the Champions League at the age of 19-20."

A tour of the town leaves little doubt about the 20-year-old's roots in the region, once the



Erling Braut Haaland

scene of an epic Viking battle.

The area around Bryne, which boasts the highest concentration of tractors in Norway, encompasses a rural hamlet called "Braut". A few kilometres away, an industrial zone bears the name "Haaland".

- 39 boys and one girl - Haaland was born on July 21, 2000 in the English city of Leeds, where his father Alf-Inge played until just before the arrival of his son and a transfer to Manchester City.

Haaland senior was an international midfielder who made 34 appearances for Norway and played in the Premier League for the majority of his career until his retirement through injury in 2003, aged just 30 and

still a City player.

The following year he moved his family to Bryne, which is where he had broken through as a youth product in the early 1990s.

Following in his fa-

ther's footsteps, the young Haaland favoured football over athletics, the favourite sport of his mother Gry Marita Braut, a former heptathlon champion for Norway.

It was here the seeds were sown for Haaland's future career, and where he met Alf Inge Berntsen, who coached a group of 40 youngsters, 39 boys and one talented girl -- Norway youth international Andrea Norheim.

Following the philosophy of not leaving anyone behind and keeping all players engaged, everyone got the same amount of time on the pitch regardless of skills.

"Erling was small and rather lightweight, but

given his genes we knew he would probably grow up to be a big guy," Berntsen remembers. "Even though he was physically a bit inferior to the others, he scored so many goals that we thought 'Wow, imagine when he's big and strong'."

It was only years later, around the age of 15, that Haaland hit a growth spurt, soaring to 194 centimetres (6 feet 4 inches).

Throughout his youth, he and his friends supplemented their weekly or twice-weekly club practices with countless improvised sessions at the local covered 'Jaerhallen' stadium -- a rudimentary facility, but open to all.

"Jaerhallen gave birth to a lot of talent in Bryne that would not have been born if the hall had not existed," Andrea's father Stig Norheim, himself a former player, tells AFP.

"There wasn't much

else to do in Bryne but play football, you know," says Haaland's former teammate Norheim. "On weekends we would go out on the pitch, we didn't have to plan anything, we knew there was always someone to play with," she recalls.

- Quiet local pride - Although the building wasn't heated, the roof provided a welcome respite from the winter snow or frost that ruled out street games.

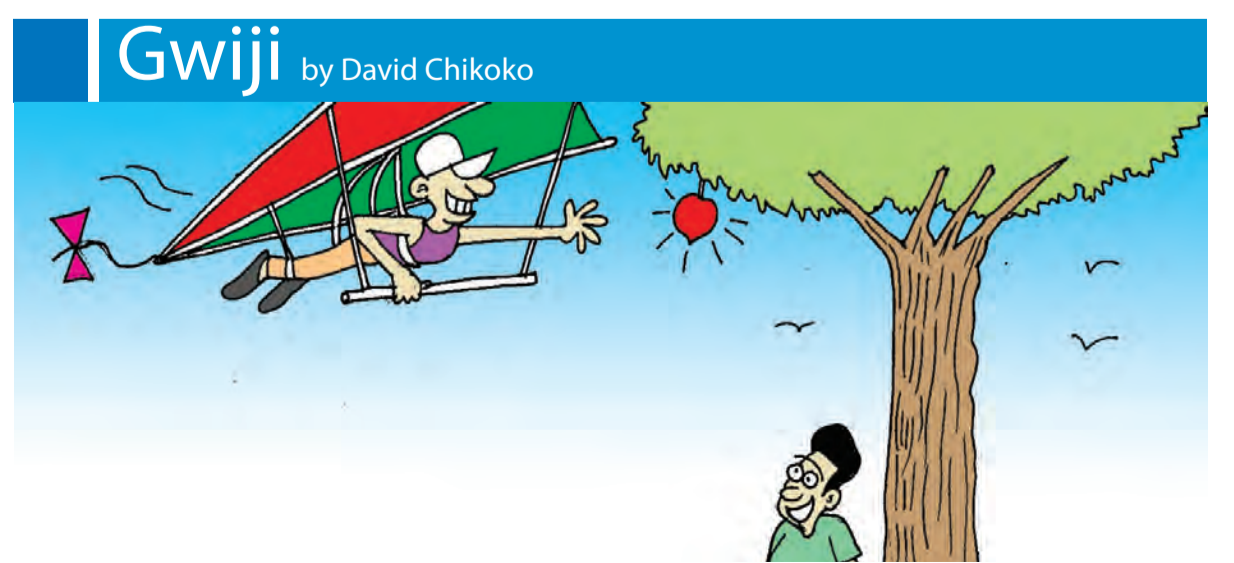
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AFP



Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

Man City's fifth title in nine years confirms status as Prem greats

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Kagera Sugar's head coach, Francis Baraza.

Francis Baraza impressed by Kagera Sugar's improvement

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KAGERA Sugar's head coach, Francis Baraza, states he is delighted that his team has now rediscovered its scoring form.

The Kenyan tactician stated so after his team beat relegation-bound Mwadui FC 3-0 in a Vodacom Premier League's duel, played in Shinyanga on Tuesday.

The Tuesday win is the first for Kagera Sugar after playing six games without a win.

They lost 2-1 to Biashara United, 2-0 to Azam FC before notching a 1-1 draw with Mtibwa Sugar.

The Kagera-based squad thereafter registered a goalless draw with Mbeya City FC and Dodoma Jiji FC and went on to lose 1-0 to Namungo FC.

The coach hailed his players for playing their lungs out to win the game against Mwadui FC.

"In all matches, which we either lost or drew, my charges have been playing well, but we were unlucky that we were failing to score. I am sure the results against Mwadui FC will motivate us to do well in our remaining games," he said.

Baraza had returned a few days ago from his home country where went to attend a funeral of a relative.

He disclosed that he cautioned his charges to play with care as the Tuesday match's hosts Mwadui FC would have come flat out looking for a win.

He pointed out: "I trained my charges for a day, and told my charges that the game away to Mwadui FC will be very difficult as our opponents who are fighting relegation will come flat out for a win, if they had won today they would have had realistic chances of playing in the league playoffs."

"But my charges assured me that they will win today's match to get the outfit out of the relegation zone," he said.

The win saw Kagera Sugar move to 13th position in the Premier League with 30 points and the coach said the focus now is on the coming Premier League games.

"It's good that we have won, but we know it's not over, we have other games which we need to win," he said.

Kagera Sugar will be at home to Ruvu Shooting, Prisons, and Ihefu FC and play two away games to Polisi Tanzania and Coastal Union.

Premier League Board supports Dar Derby postponement



A section of Simba SC and Yanga fans engage in a verbal spat after the cancellation of a Vodacom Premier League match involving the age-old rivals, which had been slated for Saturday at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB)'s Supervision and Organizing Committee has supported the postponement of a league match between historical rivals, Simba SC and Yanga.

The match was set to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend, but it was postponed after Yanga players and officials had walked out in protest of the shift of kick-off time from the initial 5pm to 7pm.

The TPBL committee which met on Tuesday stated the reasons (which were not made public) were enough to postpone the match.

According to TPLB, the directive had been issued under section 32 (1-3) of the league regulations.

The TPLB has also agreed with the resolution to have the game played on another day.

"TPLB committee meeting held on Tuesday is satisfied

with the reasons which led to the postponement of the match between Simba SC and Yanga, and it has ordered its secretariat to have another date for the match as this is under section 13(3) of the league," said part of the press release from TPLB.

The league's governing body also supports that all 43,947 spectators, who paid entry fees through Data Center (providers of N-Card) to watch the postponed match, should use their numbers to access entry into the stadium on the matchday.

The TPLB's decision comes a day after the government announced that the match should be played on the other day.

A media statement released on Tuesday, signed by Director of Information and Communication in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, John Mapepe, said the directive was made after a meeting between the government (ministry and National Sports Council), TFF, TPLB, Simba and Yanga.

The board has not announced the new date of the match.

He said the government has also directed that all 43,947 spectators, who paid entry fees through the Data Center (providers of N-Card) to watch the postponed match, should use their numbers to access entry into the stadium.

Others, who did not pay

for the match, can use normal means to buy tickets.

"In attendance at the meeting was Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hassan Abbas, Acting Secretary General of National Sports Council(NSC) Neema Msitha, TFF president Wallace Karia and the federation's Secretary General Wilfred Kidau, TPLB chairman Stephen Mguto and the board's CEO Almasi Kasongo.

"Also in attendance at the meeting were Simba SC Chairman Murtaza Magungu and the side's CEO, Barbara Gonzalez, member of the club's Board of Directors, Zacharia Hanspoppe, while Yanga was represent-

ed by Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, the team's Acting Secretary General Haji Mfikirwa and member Bahati Mwaseba," said the media release.

He also said Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, has promised to have a meeting with Yanga and TFF to have a remedy on the mistrust between the two parties.

He disclosed: "It seems there is mistrust between TFF and some clubs, especially Yanga, they have had meetings in the past and the recent meeting to solve their grievances was attended by Director of Sports in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuph Singo, but nothing tangible was attained."

"The mistrust remains, due to this the minister will as soon as possible hold a meeting between the two parties," said part of the release.

The ministry has asked all football lovers in the country to remain calm during this period.

The meeting comes after the government through Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, on Monday ordered the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports to disclose what led to the suspension of the match and come up with the way forward.

The PM asked football-loving people in the country to be patient while waiting for TFF to announce the cause of the postponement of the match.

Gymkhana bounce back in Kazim Nasser tourney's Division A

By Guardian Reporter

GYMKHANA Cricket Club has bounced back in 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A, commanding a five-wicket victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC) in a game, which took place early this week.

Both outfits were playing their last game of the league stage, with both having not registered a win.

With the encounter being the last for either squad, it was more than important for them to post a win to end the competition on a high.

The SKLPSC went in to bat first in the pulsating Group B duel, which was played at Leaders club venue, amassing 126 runs for eight wickets in 20 overs.

The side's top order batsmen, Vinesh Gorasiya and Dinesh Rabadiya, should be credited for the acquisition of the imposing score, with Gorasiya ending as top run getter after notching 33 runs.

Rabadiya, who opened the innings with skipper Naran Vekariya, notched 24 runs which consisted of four fours.



Gymkhana Cricket Club's Hamisi Lyimo (L) poses for picture with Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)'s Chairman, Azim Thakur, when the former got man of the match prize for his stellar showing in a 2021 DC Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A's match pitting the side against Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPSC), held last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

Vekariya had a rather short spell, recording four runs.

The SKLPSC were cruising at 91 runs in 13 overs courtesy Vipul Pindoriya and Yalide Maurice's

62-run partnership off 58 balls.

The youthful Maurice, who is slowly turning into one of the key performers for SKLPSC, nailed two fours in his spell.

With both batsmen being dismissed in a space of two runs, the SKLPSC, which could have scored 140 to 150 runs, ended up scoring 20 odd runs less.

Jayantilal Pindoria and Hassan Rahim 'Sangwale' chipped in with 12 runs not out and 11 runs respectively for SKLPSC.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's bowler Kartik Syal had an impressive spell, posting two wickets and giving away 29 runs in four overs.

In response, Gymkhana's cricketers did score the winning runs with one ball to spare courtesy of some big hits from Hamisi Lyimo and a cameo of 10 runs off five balls posted by Ashish Nagewadia.

Nagewadia, the experienced Gymkhana all-rounder, staged a late surge, with his exploits including a huge six off the most experienced SKLPSC bowler Hassan Rahim 'Sangwale'.

The ball, which was well hit, never came back.

The game might have ultimately been won by Lyimo that scored 29 runs which included two fours and a six, but it was equally worked well by other team members in the likes of Gourav Choudhary and Kheel Suchak.

Hassan Rahim 'Sangwale' and Rabadiya posted two wickets apiece in SKLPSC's unsuccessful attempt to frustrate Gymkhana Cricket Club's chase.

This brought Division A's league stage to an end, with Aga Khan SC topping Group A and awaiting Group B winners.

Group B is yet to be decided as Strikers, Pak Stars, Aces Club, and Upanga SC are yet to finish their league stage's fixtures.

Once the mentioned clubs finish their respective league fixtures, the showdown will progress to the play-off clashes, known as 'Qualifier 1' and 'Eliminator', and the final.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

AS A GESTURE OF PEACE, PLEASE, HAVE A HAND SHAKE!

SO, SHE CAN REFRAME ME WITH TRYING TO INFECT HER WITH A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

