

POWER



TANESCO TALKS OF RELIABLE ELECTRICITY PAGE 3

LAW



15 BURUNDIANS HELD OVER 'ILLEGAL ENTRY' PAGE 4

HEALTH



UNICEF TO EXTEND SUPPORT ON COVID-19 PAGE 4

ENVIRONMENT



TFS EXTOLS DODOMA DRIVE IN TREE PLANTING PAGES

Police confiscate cash and vehicles after 'fraudsters' steal 2.1 billion/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

A gang of three people has allegedly hacked an online payment system here and stolen over 2bn/- which they then spent on the purchase of private and commercial vehicles, and stashed away the remainder at homes and farms.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, Iringa Regional Police Commander, ACP Allan Bukumbi said law enforcers were investigating the theft of 2,129, 856,000/- belonging to Selcom Paytech Limited.

The RPC alleged that the main suspect Tyson Kasi who was a Selcom Pay agent, illegally accessed the system and started wiring money to himself and other people in Iringa, Morogoro and Dar es Salaam regions through mobile phones and bank accounts with instruction that the money be withdrawn urgently.

According to the officer, the alleged crime occurred between 9 and 27 of November 2021. He named other suspects as Patrick Chalamila and Evaristo Chalamila. Bukumbi said that a total of 121,215,783 /- believed to be the proceeds

of that crime has been blocked in one of the commercial banks in Iringa Region.

The RPC Bukumbi said officers have seized assets belonging to the three suspects including four vehicles worth 303,000,000/- - namely Scania, Mitsubishi Fuso, Toyota Harrier and Nissan Juke.

"The Scania worth 128,000,000 /-, a Mitsubishi Fuso with registration number T 796 DXV worth 75,000, 000/-, a Toyota Harrier with registration T 719 DXX worth 72,000,000/- and a Nissan Juke number T 605 DVX worth 28,000,000/- all belong to Patrick Chalamila," he said.

Bukumbi added that another vehicle, Toyota IST with registration number T 576 DRN belonging to Patrick Chalamila was also seized because it was allegedly used to transport cash from Madibira in Mbarali District and Ilula in Kilolo District to Kilombero in Morogoro Region where the ill-gotten money was hidden.

He said a total of 10 believed to have taken part in the crime have been arrested and the evidence gathered so far is sufficient to arraign them before a court of law.



Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi (R) shows journalists in Iringa municipality yesterday some of vehicles he said have been bought with more than 2.1bn/- fraudulently acquired from Selcom Paytech Ltd. At least people are reported to have been arrested in connection with the incident - specifically allegations of leading, or belonging to, a criminal gang and obtaining money by false pretences. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya



Zungu is elected Deputy Speaker

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has endorsed Ilala legislator Mussa Zungu (pictured) as Deputy Speaker scoring 98.3 per cent of total votes cast.

A total of 301 Members of Parliament present in the House voted whereas two votes were spoiled while three voters said 'No'. A total of 296 MPs said 'Yes' to Zungu to serve the important vacancy.

Zungu will serve the post after it remained vacant following the resignation of former Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson, who is now the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Earlier while expressing his determination to serve the post, Zungu said he knows well all the House's works, rules and regulations as he has served for many years as chairman.

Responding to questions posed by MPs,

TURN TO PAGE 2

Instant outpouring of grief for Tanzanian scientist Dr Mwele

By Guardian Reporter

A cross-section of leaders and organisations yesterday poured their condolences and tributes to the Director of the World Health Organisation department of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), Dr Mwele Ntuli Malecela of Tanzania, who died on Wednesday.

Among those who mourned the departed widely respected scientists and researcher are President Samia Suluhu Hassan, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR).

In her condolences, President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed her sadness on the passing of Dr Mwele saying she was a true daughter of Africa who honestly served Tanzania and the world.

"I have been saddened by the death of Dr Mwele. She was a true African who represented

Tanzania and beyond," she said on her twitter handle.

Dr Moeti said Dr Mwele who worked briefly in her office before moving to Geneva, played a critical role in the development of the Leadership Training programme which is being adopted across other regions and extended to national health leaders.

The WHO regional official described Dr Mwele as a global esteemed and respected scientist and researcher.

Dr Mwele, who was 58 at the time of her death, announced in 2019 that she was diagnosed with cancer.

"Her contribution to our work in AFRO was incalculable. Our regional Transformation Agenda benefited greatly from her vision, ideas, and energy, including on strategic direction, execution, partner engagement, resource

TURN TO PAGE 2

Mpango set to officiate launch of national environment policy

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

VICE President, Dr Philip Mpango is today expected grace the launch of the 2021 National Environment Policy. The new document comes into force following the review of the 1997 National Environment Policy also seeks to control use of chemicals, invasive species like weeds and water as well as control of pollution at oil and gas extraction activities in the country.

Dr Mary Mganga, Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office, (Union and the Environment), Dr Mary Maganga said the document addresses environmental challenges that need to be resolved for sustainable development.

"The new policy has in totality focused on new increasing environmental challenges

due to economic, social and environmental developments in the world" said Dr Maganga.

Speaking after tree planting exercise at Iseni area in the city, the PS said today's launch marks the climax of the "2021 National Environment Policy launch week" commemorated from Monday this week.

After the inauguration, the ministry will bring it to the concerned authorities for the legislating of guidelines and laws for implementation since environmental issues are cross-cutting.

She thanked different stakeholders that participated in several environmental conservation activities during the weeklong celebration, being part of the basic matters included in the new policy.

The aim of the activities, she said, is to

TURN TO PAGE 2

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DAR ES SALAAM

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 29 OF 2012

PETROFUEL (T) LIMITED PLAINTIFF
Versus
POWER ROAD (T) LIMITED 1ST DEFENDANT
LYCOPODIUM TANZANIA LIMITED 2ND DEFENDANT
PANGEA MINERALS LIMITED 3RD DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SUBSTITUTED SERVICE

TO:
MANAGING DIRECTOR
POWER ROADS (T) LTD
PLOT NO. 1830
KARUME ROAD MSASANI
P. O. BOX 3738
DAR ES SALAAM.

TAKE NOTICE that the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you with particulars set out in the plaint filed in this court. Service of the summons on you has been ordered by means of this publication. Following your default to the hearing going on in Court

You are hereby summoned to appear for Hearing in this Court in person or by an Advocate or an agent duly authorized on 23rd Day of March, 2022 at 8:30 am when this case will be heard.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT should you default to enter appearance as herein provided, the suit will proceed expert and a decision may be given in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 11th Day of February, 2022

DEPUTY REGISTRAR



Instant outpouring of grief for Tanzanian scientist Dr Mwele

FROM PAGE 1

mobilisation and documentation," she said.

She added that Dr Mwele interacted and was constantly in touch with many in her day-to-day activities in the region, establishing warm collegial relations and friendships.

"She embodied WHO values of respect for colleagues, building trust, basing all her decisions and recommendations on science and evidence. Her integrity was unwavering, as was her extraordinary capacity to partner colleagues and stakeholders."

She said the WHO will forever cherish memories of Dr Mwele as a colleague, friend, and advocate for the most marginalized in societies and countries.

Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Prof Yunus Mgaya said Dr Malecela was an exceptional researcher who started from a lower stage and climbed to become a world's renowned scientist.

"She was our ambassador, she started as a junior researcher and went up to become a world class researcher who represented Tanzania but also played a key role in establishing the national policy for Tropical Neglected Diseases," he said.

He said Dr Mwele will be remembered for her dedication towards research and her role as a link between NIMR and global health organizations.

Speaking when he spoke to a local television station, former Prime Minister John Mwele said her daughter has been sick for some time in Geneva.

The former PM described her late daughter as a humble, loving and hardworking woman.

On the burial, said arrangements will be made after a meeting with fellow elders saying she will be buried in Dodoma at a date to be announced.

She graduated in Zoology at the University of Dar es Salaam, and went on to join the NIMR in 1987, where she worked at the Amani Center to conduct research on lymphatic filariasis.

The celebrated Tanzanian scientist later pursued further studies in London where she attained a masters and PhD

at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine between 1990 and 1995.

The late Dr Mwele had a rich background in institutional leadership which saw her hold various roles such as becoming Director of Research Coordination and Promotion (DRCP) at NIMR in 1998 before moving on to become the Director of the Lymphatic Filariasis program in 2000.

She further climbed up the leadership ladder and was appointed NIMR's Director General - becoming the first woman to hold this position. However, in 2017 her appointment was revoked.

Dr Mwele then set her ambitions on the international stage whereby in 2017 she joined World Health Organisation's Regional Office for Africa and as the Director in the Office of the Regional Director (RD) responsible for providing policy, managerial and diplomatic advice to the RD, coordinating and facilitating the plan of work for all units under the RD's Office Cluster, and monitoring the implementation of policy decisions of WHO governing bodies.

Her stature as a reputable researcher and scientist would be emboldened another notch when in October 2018 the Director General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, appointed Dr Malecela Director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, based at the Organization's headquarters in Geneva.

A daughter of former Prime Minister John Malecela, Dr Mwele had a stint in the political arena which saw her run for election in the 2015 CCM presidential primaries, joining a list of 40 others which included eventual candidate John Pombe Magufuli.



The former PM described her late daughter as a humble, loving and hardworking woman



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (C) attends prayers at a Mazizini mosque in Zanzibar yesterday. To his right is Zanzibar Mufti Saleh Omar Kabi. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has reaffirmed its determination to invest heavily in promoting avocado farming to attract more people into the lucrative area for the country's development.

The robust measures include producing quality seedlings, promoting mass production, construction of factories and storage facilities.

Deputy Minister for Investment, Industries and Trade Exaud Kigaha made the statement in the Parliament yesterday when responding to a question by David Kihenzile, a legislator for Mufindi South constituency.

In his question, the legislator sought to know the government's plans to construct avocado processing factories in Iringa Region, especially the Mufindi South constituency.

Responding, the deputy minister acknowledged that avocado farming is a key in the fight against poverty, saying that the government will increase support to enable farmers tap into the avocado global market.

He said the sixth phase government will continue encouraging and

Govt to promote avocado farming

promoting construction of factories in the country including those dealing with avocado processing.

"Among the strategies put in place is setting aside enough and productive areas in each district across the country to facilitate establishment of the factories, creating a conducive environment for investors as well as ensuring that raw materials are easily available," he said.

This also has been done in the Mufindi district at Igwole area, where the government has set aside a huge land for the construction of several factories and was welcoming investors who are willing to commence investments in the area, he explained.

According to current data, avocado production has increased from 20,000 tonnes in 2015/2016 to 190,000 tons in 2018/2019. In addition, exports of avocado increased from 3,279 tonnes in 2015 to 9,000 tonnes in 2019 which injected in the country a total of USD8.5 million.

Locally produced avocados are sold in European markets including France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as well as in Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

In Tanzania, this farming started to gain momentum in 2015 where some people came forward and described what they had achieved from avocado cultivation. The regions which are major producers of avocado are Njombe, Iringa, Songwe, Morogoro, Kagera, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga.

Some of the companies that have benefited smallholder farmers by buying the crop and exporting it include Africado based in Kilimanjaro, Rungwe Avocado Limited, Tanzania, where more than 2,000 farmers have benefited from the crop through these companies.

Despite selling the crop, the people around the companies have benefited from the avocado cultivation support.

Njombe region has a factory known as ALVADO TZ ltd which has capacity

to process and produce 100 tonnes of avocado oil per year and export them in various parts. The region also has four collection centres which are used to package and transport avocado

"However, due to lack of enough avocados, the factory processes only 60 tonnes per month, this is a wakeup call for farmers in the areas to grab the opportunity by cultivating more avocados and selling them in the factory," he added.

The Iringa region has two centres for collecting, packaging and transporting avocado.

The deputy minister further said the government through the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO) is producing a technological plant for avocado oil processing which is set to be completed in 2023.

"The completion of the plant will facilitate manufacturing and entrepreneurs to get the new technology to process avocado oil," he asserted.

France readies to support 'Covid-19 impact' projects

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

FRANCE is taking action and establishing a solidarity program to support Tanzanians in the fight against Covid-19 impacts.

This is in response to the government's request for assistance with efforts to rectify drawbacks tied to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The program is co-coordinated by the crisis and support center of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, working with the French Embassy in Tanzania, the embassy said in a statement yesterday.

French agencies will use airfreight and ocean liners to deliver medical supplies, namely oxygen generators and concentrators, Osiris 3-type transport ventilators, electric syringe drivers and

230,000 KN95-type masks.

The supplies, which are being provided in response to the authorities' requests in light of the country's health situation, are intended to help the government, provide assistance to the Tanzanian people and strengthen hospitals' capacities, it said.

The support offered by France brings together contributions from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, with the humanitarian freight sent via maritime transport set to be delivered with support from the CMA CGM Foundation, a shipping stakeholder.

This program is part of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EU CPM), the statement added.

Mpango set to officiate launch of national environment policy

FROM PAGE 1

help restore environment degraded through to human activities by planting new trees. There will also be cleanliness activities aimed at improving communal health and public education on separation of wastes to differentiate hard, among others.

The new document repeals the 1997 National Environmental Policy whose rationale was based on a national analysis which had revealed environmental problems in need of urgent action.

These included, among others land degradation reducing the productivity of soils in many parts of the country and lack of accessible good quality water for both urban and rural inhabitants.

Its objectives were to ensure

sustainability, security and the equitable use of resources for meeting the basic needs of the present and future generations without degrading the environment or risking health or safety.

Also to prevent and control degradation of land, water, vegetation and air which constitute our life support systems.

Another objective is to help conserve and enhance our natural and manmade heritage, including the biological diversity of the unique ecosystems of Tanzania.

On the other hand, it is to improve the condition and productivity of degraded areas, including rural and urban settlements, in order that all Tanzanians may live in safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically pleasing surroundings.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (back to camera) swears in Mussa Hassan Zungu, long-serving legislator for Dar es Salaam's Ilala constituency, as Deputy Speaker in the House in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

FROM PAGE 1

Zungu assured them and all Tanzanians that he will deliver the best.

"I will diligently work to improve relations and cooperation between MPs inside and outside the Parliament.

He said that he will supervise to ensure that lawmakers work hard to promote development and supervise projects implemented by the government to ensure that

Zungu is elected Deputy Speaker

they bring positive impacts in the society.

Dr Tulia is the one who announced Zungu as winner of the position commending all the MPs for their votes.

She commended Zungu for winning to serve the important post saying that she was all ready to cooperate with

him to push forward the country's development.

Zungu is an experienced House Chairman but also as a seasoned Member of Parliament for Ilala constituency having been elected since 2005. He continued to retain the parliamentary seat in 2010, 2015 and 2020 General Elections.

Battle of the important positions in the Parliament started soon after the then Speaker of the National Assembly Job Ndagui stepped down from it.

Ndagui resigned on January 6 following pressure from ruling CCM members to leave the post after he criticised the government's borrowing saga.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and Bahi legislator Kenneth Nollo (L) in tête-à-tête in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. The House is currently in ordinary session in the national capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Gov't argued to Fast track reforms to stimulate investment

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has called on the government to fast-track the preparation of the 'Business Facilitation Act' to facilitate full implementation of the Blueprint on Regulatory and Licensing Reform' which will stimulate investment and economic development in the country. The blueprint, which was prepared some years ago after thorough consultations with various private sector associations and World Bank officials, is aimed to see amendments of various laws including those governing Value Added Tax (VAT), regulatory bodies, Immigration and Labour, Social Security and Environmental Management among others. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries, Trade and Environment stated in the House yesterday that despite several reforms done by the government, there were still a number of challenges that have continued to affect the smooth operation of investment projects and businesses in the country.

its development targets including the industrialization drive.

The committee also saw the growing online businesses as one of the areas which need a closer eye by the government.

Kihenzile said it was high time now that the government should come up with a special strategy to control online businesses which are operating irregularly and thus denying the government its revenues.

"However, some of the businesses were engaging with fraud acts, so controlling them will help protect consumers from fraud and theft events," he said.

He further said the committee wants the government to establish a special authority that will be controlling and supervising levies and when any government institution or company wants to reduce or increase levies has to inform the authority first.

"Traders and investors are still decrying on the multiple taxes and levies which are posed to them by several regulatory bodies and institutions, something which hurts them and thwarts their growth," he explained.

The committee also wanted the government to come up with new measures to implement the Liganga and Mchuchuma coal mining and power project which have turned into a white elephant.

"We have been singing about this project for many years now but nothing has been done, the government has to act on this immediately," he said.

“We have been singing about this project for many years now but nothing has been done, the government has to act on this immediately”

Govt signs 86 contracts worth 309.9bn/- for water projects

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and contractors yesterday signed contracts for the implementation of 86 water projects worth 309.9bn/-.

The agreement is aimed at improving the availability of water in the rural areas, mainly in the completion of some 138 projects that were long overdue.

Speaking after witnessing the signing ceremony, Minister for Water, Jumaa Aweso called on the contractors to implement the projects as planned

where value for money is evident.

He also urged for close cooperation between the contractors, leaders and the public at the project areas, calling on RUWASA regional managers to closely monitor the projects, failure to produce decent shoddy work will result in termination of their contract.

The minister also warned against any delay in the projects, adding that the projects are part of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to ensure rural-based populations get clean and safe water. He said contractors who have met all the criteria for payments should be paid without any delay.

"The government's commitment to end water woes in the country is very big and I do not expect the contractors who have signed the agreements to fail us," said the minister.

Earlier, RUWASA Director General, Eng Clement Kivegaro noted the agency was allocated 459.199bn/- in 2021/2022 and 92 percent of the budget, being 422.9bn/- were allocated for water projects.

He said RUWASA plans to implement 1,527 projects in the country whereby 351 are for sourcing water while 1176 others are for infrastructural building.

Eng Kivegaro noted that some of the 1,176, some 317 projects were identified

in the last financial year while 462 re new projects and 397 others are rehabilitation projects.

Giving more details on the implementation of the projects, the RUWASA boss said out of the 462, tenders for some 138 projects were advertised by RUWASA headquarters whereas 324 were advertised by RUWASA regional managers in some 25 regions through tender boards.

On the other hand, he said out of the 313 projects whose tenders were announced by regional agencies, contracts for some 201 have been signed and others are still under evaluation process.

"RUWASA is doing everything possible to ensure the projects are completed on time at the expected standards," said the engineer. On the construction of dams, he said the agency has earmarked 72 dams for construction at the cost of 57.6bn/-



AFTER TRAGEDY: It's roaring business in these neatly arranged stalls for small traders which stand in the section of Dar es Salaam's popular Ilala Mchikichini market recently gutted by fire. Correspondent Jumanne Juma captured the scene yesterday.

Representatives laud govt for curbing importation, distribution, use of liquor

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MEMBERS of the House of Representatives have commended the Zanzibar Liquor Board for appointing three companies out of nine that showed interest in bringing in different kinds of alcohols in Isles, this year.

Addressing journalists here yesterday the Zanzibar House of Representatives said that since the endorsement of the alcohol act no. 9 of 2020, ZLB used to go against the law by issuing permits for more than three firms.

Shaurimoyo Member of House of Representatives Hamza Hassan Juma said section 33 (I) of the Liquor Act stipulates that only three importing liquor companies, but in 2021 more than eight companies were illegally licensed.

"We truly commend the new board attended by the Zanzibar President for their good start in enforcing the law in practice as passed by the Zanzibar House of Representatives," said Juma, former Zanzibar minister of State in the Chief Minister's Office.

He, however, said that the board should review the liquor selling outlets after there were complaints from people that some bars have been opened near people's homes and community service areas and become a nuisance to them.

He said that local government leaders such as shehas have a share of the blame for this, noting: "They've been causing problems by issuing permits to people who set up bars in people's homes without involving the public and causing complaints after the bars started operating."

Juma said: "There are bars that need to be closed because they have become a nuisance to the people and areas of social services and housing such as schools, houses of worship and hospitals."

Amani House of Representatives, Rukia Ramadhan Mapuri said according to the liquor law section 28 (k) bars should be at a distance of 1000 meters before the actors are licensed by the liquor board.

"If the alcohol control law is not properly enforced it will help to get rid of bad bars in people's homes and social services," said Rukia.

Chwaka House of Representative and ex-Zanzibar minister Issa Haji Gavu said the liquor board's appointment of three companies would help control the importation of alcohol and control tax evasion loopholes.

Gavu said the government should be commended for the way in which it enforces the law on alcohol in practice and brought comfort to the people after there were many complaints of bar nuisances in the areas of social services.

TANESCO assures reliable electricity services after infrastructure repair

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Corporation (TANESCO) has assured the public of reliable electricity services after finalising the repair of the infrastructure which the utility conducted during the 10 days of upgrading of natural gas connections at SongoSongo which caused power rationing.

TANESCO Spokesperson Martin Mwambene told journalists yesterday that the upgrades at SongoSongo were aimed at addressing challenges brought about by drought in which most energy sources dried up.

"We used the opportunity of the upgrades at SongoSongo to carry out repair of infrastructure which is also the main cause of blackouts," he said.

He said the power entity was now confident that most challenges have been addressed saying the company has also purchased new infrastructure to replace the worn out.

According to Mwambene the production part has been well organised saying the company was still working on addressing the remaining challenges as most of the power lines were constructed some years back.

He assured the general public that there are good times ahead as the renovation and installation exercise will increase efficiency.

The company announced late last month that it will take advantage of the upgrading at SongoSongo by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) and Pan African Energy Tanzania (PAET) to carry out renovation and installation on various machines power generation plants countrywide to improve efficiency.

Mwambene said currently Tanesco was also expanding the Ubungo (3) which is expected to produce 112 megawatts upon completion.

He said Ubungo (3) power station now produces 60 megawatts which

have already been connected to the national grid

In October last year, Tanesco issued an alert to its customers to reduce power usage as electricity production fall in its hydropower plants.

The company alerted the country on hard times ahead as the country was heading to power blamed on low

water volumes in Declining hydroelectric stations of Kihansi, Kidatu as well as Pangani.

The power utility is now looking to natural gas to mitigate the crisis. Tanesco said it will increase production by hastening maintenance of its natural gas plants.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP




REHMA ABDILLAH NASSIR

Notice is hereby given that: MRS. REHMA ABDILLAH NASSIR IS A CITIZEN OF KENYA
Whose picture is provided above, is applying for Tanzania Citizenship to the Minister for Home Affairs. That any person who has any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the:
COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE,
P.O. BOX 512
DARE ES SALAAM

Death and Funeral Announcement

As His Decree is issued, so is His Command obeyed.
Those who are sent, come, O Nansi; when they are called back, they depart and go.]]]]



Kuldeep Singh Grewal

1977 - 2022

It is with a heavy heart that the Grewal Family Announces the untimely and demise of Kuldeep Singh Grewal, Director of Jubilee Tyres (2000) Ltd & Grewale Transport Ltd, in a road accident between Dodoma and Babati on 7th February 2022

Son of Late Tarlochan S. Grewal and Sarjit K. Grewal
Husband to Gagandeep K. Grewal
Father to Rajvir and Harmeet
Brother to Divinder, Dipu, Nidhi, Anvesh, Teji and Shilu
Brother-in-law to Sukhbir and Simran
Uncle to Jasveen, Jal, Anayk, Sanyot, Sahib, Gaganraj, Peri, Mannat and Mahek

Saturday 12th February 2022
Grewal Residence, Therni Hill, Arusha: 10:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Hindu/Sikh Crematorium: 2:30 pm, Esao Area Arusha

"Kuldeep you will be missed by all brothers, sisters, relatives and friends"
May the Almighty rest the departed soul in eternal peace

Much appreciated by the Grewal Family, Mangat Family & Sahal Family

Family Contact
Dipu: +255 784 420220 / Raj: +255 754 287700
Due to Covid-19 restrictions, please attend the Funeral with Appropriate PPE

WAHEGURU - WAHEGURU - WAHEGURU

216702001

UNICEF to support access to COVID-19 vaccines in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations children's organisation (UNICEF) is to receive £1.5 million from the Scottish government to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics in three African countries.

The funds will support both the COVID-19 vaccination programmes and strengthening of the health systems in Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi, through the provision of equipment, resources and technical support in response to the pandemic.

The funding will support the identified priority of delivery of at least 6.5 million vaccine syringes in Rwanda, to ensure that sufficient vaccination equipment is available so that doses arriving are able to be utilised as quickly as possible.

In Malawi and Zambia, UNICEF will also work to provide information about, and build confidence and acceptance of, the COVID-19 vaccines at community level - a vital part of the programme which could reach ten million people in total.

The funding will also help to strengthen Malawi and Zambia's national health systems through the provision of oxygen supplies, procuring oxygen generation plants and strengthening vaccine storage infrastructure - initiatives that will create a sustained impact for the COVID-19 response, the routine immunisation programme and the treatment of respiratory illnesses for years to come.

Minister for International Development Neil Gray said: "The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges. It is a disease that does not recognise nations or borders, and we are well aware of the inequity in the access to COVID-19 vaccines across the world.

"This partnership with UNICEF will allow us to support our partner country governments in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda in their COVID-19

response, and will go some way to addressing vaccine inequity in Africa.

"By working together on this shared challenge, and helping to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in our partner countries, this funding also underlines this government's commitment to international solidarity and to fulfilling its role as a responsible and compassionate global citizen."

Antoinette Eleonore Ba, UNICEF Health Specialist for Eastern and Southern Africa, said:

"Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa have made great strides in tackling the pandemic, but there is still much more work to be done to support the operational planning and logistics of COVID-19 vaccine roll outs.

"Scottish Government funding will provide valuable support for UNICEF's response in Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia, including making sure communities have the information they need to access vaccines, providing supplies such as syringes for administering the vaccines and increasing cold chain capacity and oxygen provision - all key interventions that will strengthen health systems in the three countries to both help save lives now and in the future."

In December 2020, the Scottish Government provided UNICEF with a grant of £2 million to assist with their support of the Scottish Government's African partner country governments' COVID-19 response.

The grant ensured that the Scottish Government could support Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda to implement their COVID-19 national response plans. The funds were also used to help the governments of Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda prepare for the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination

UNICEF is an existing partner of the Governments of Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda, and has supported the supply and management of vaccines and the routine immunisation programmes for decades.



Kahama District Immigration Officer Salum Rashidi (R) shows journalists yesterday 15 people he said were believed to be Burundi nationals arrested on suspicion of entering Tanzania illegally and engaging in entrepreneurship and various other activities. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

15 Burundians arrested for 'illegal entry' into Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Immigration Department in Shinyanga Region has arrested 15 Burundians for illegal entry in the country.

During the operation staged by the department in Kahama District, one Tanzanian has also been arrested for facilitating their stay.

The Regional Immigration Officer for Kahama Salumu Rashid told journalists

that every week, the department has been arresting more than 50 illegal immigrants, taking them before the law and deporting others.

He said the department was aware that almost 80-percent of hawkers at Kahama are illegal immigrants from Burundi saying they are mostly used by locals because they pay them little compared to Tanzanians.

Rashidi named those arrested as Ndaisenga Chilibeli (20), Niyonhuru

Pole (31), Richard Alumukiza (18), Ndikumana Nyandu (19), Nakanutimana Jonas (19), Ikulubana Joshua (17), Wizimana Gerald (21), Habimana Ejide (20), Ikundilo Godefua (16).

Others are Joseph Philipo (38), Nduwayo Elize (16), Justini Crode (20), Wizimana Nicolaus (23), Kulwa Elias (18), Ndaikyekukia Erick (17) and Tanzanian Mseven Michael (48) who is the manager for Twiga bar located at

Mhongo ward where the immigrants were staying.

"Every month we have been arresting 50 people and taking them to court but the trend is still the same. We want to use a different approach," he said.

He said the Immigration Act section 54 states that a Tanzanian who will be found transporting illegal immigrants will be fined 20m/- or be jailed for 20 years and the property used will be confiscated.

One of the immigrants who is from Changuzo in Burundi said he entered the country in search of a better life.

He said life back home was tough saying he entered into the country with a permit which has now expired on February, 6 via Kakonko district in Kigoma region.



Energy minister January Makamba addresses the 15th East African Community Ministerial Energy Sector Council meeting in Arusha city yesterday. Photo courtesy of Energy ministry

UNHCR donates assorted items worth 27m/- to three Kigoma region prisons

By Correspondent Prosper Kwigize, Kigoma

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided assorted items worth 27m/- to inmates in three prisons in Kigoma Region.

The support is part of the UN agency to complement the government efforts to support the Kigoma-based refugee camps.

The beneficiary prisons are Bangwe,

Kwitanga, and Ilagala. The donated items includes 60 mattresses per prison, 200 blankets per prison, washing and bathing soap, lubricating oil, toothpaste, and mosquito repellent.

UNHCR Refugee Protection Unit Senior Official in Kigoma Region, Peter Muriuki said the UN agency in its plans for cooperation with the government and other development partners, has been providing humanitarian assistance to refugees as well as the host community of refugee in the region.

many challenges that require other stakeholders to contribute, including infrastructure and other humanitarian services to the prisoners.

Acting Head at the Ilagala Agricultural Prison in Uvinza District, Inspector of Prisons Charles John Sinzira acknowledged that the UNHCR support was timely due to the fact that many prisons in Kigoma region retain and rehabilitate prisoners most from neighbouring countries, mostly from Burundi.

It is reported that many prisoners who are citizens of other countries especially the Republic of Burundi whose numbers are high in various prisons in the Kigoma Region suffer from a shortage of basic necessities due to the lack of close relatives to visit and comfort them.

Kitwanga Prison Head Dr Uswege Mwakahesya acknowledged that like any other society, prisons also face

ACT-accelerator calls for fair share-based financing of \$23 billion to for ending Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

WORLD leaders have launched a call to end the pandemic as a global emergency in 2022 by funding the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) accelerator, a partnership of leading agencies that is providing low and middle-income countries with tests, treatments, vaccines, and personal protective equipment.

The ACT-Accelerator initiative works to overcome vast global inequities by providing low- and middle-income countries with access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, vaccines and personal protective equipment.

With a significant proportion of the global population still unable to get vaccinated, tested or treated, \$16 billion in grant funding is urgently required from governments to fund the work of the ACT-Accelerator agencies.

This investment will allow them to procure essential tools to fight COVID-19 and provide them to low- and middle-income countries.

Over 4.7 billion COVID-19 tests have been administered globally since the beginning of the pandemic.

However, only about 22 million tests have been administered in low-income countries, comprising only 0.4 per cent of the global total. Only 10 per cent of people in low-income countries have received at least one vaccine dose.

This massive inequity not only costs lives, it also hurts economies and risks the emergence of new, more dangerous variants that could rob current tools of their effectiveness and set even highly-vaccinated populations back many months.

The ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council's Finance and Resource Mobilization Working Group, comprised of countries across income groups and chaired by Norway, has agreed a new financing framework to help overcome this inequity.

The framework sets out guidance on the 'fair share' of financing that richer country should each contribute to the ACT-Accelerator's global response. 'Fair shares' are calculated based on the size of their national economy and what they would gain from a faster recovery of the global economy and trade.

Supporting the rollout of tools to fight COVID-19 globally will help to curb virus transmission, break the cycle of variants, relieve overburdened health workers and systems, and save lives. With every month of delay, the global economy stands to lose almost four times the investment the ACT-Accelerator needs.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) said: "The rapid spread of Omicron makes it even more urgent to ensure tests, treatments and vaccines are distributed equitably globally. If higher-income countries pay their fair share of the ACT-Accelerator costs, the partnership can support low- and middle-income countries to overcome low COVID-19 vaccination levels, weak testing, and medicine shortages. He added: "Science gave us the tools to fight COVID-19; if they are shared globally in solidarity, we can end COVID-19 as a global health emergency this year."

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa said: "South Africa has proudly co-chaired the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council from the very beginning, and we will continue to champion this initiative, as the best solution to the inequities the world - and Africa in particular - faces. As co-chairs, South Africa and Norway have written to more than 50 heads of state and government, asking them to contribute their fair share of financing to ACT-Accelerator agencies.

Ramaphosa added: "The longer inequitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments persists, the longer the pandemic will persist. I urge my fellow leaders to step up in solidarity, meet their fair shares, and help reclaim our lives from this virus."

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store of Norway said: "What we have learned from this pandemic is that it can't be fought off by countries working alone. A broad collective effort is required. A fully financed ACT-Accelerator is in the mutual interest of all countries. As co-chair of the ACT-Accelerator, we call upon the world's leaders to join us in acting urgently because as we've seen time and time again throughout this pandemic - no-one is safe until everyone is."



Ilemela district commissioner Hassan Masala (2nd-L) presents a certificate of recognition to one of the police officers said to have excelled in fighting crime, including the recent killings of three members of the same family and a taxi driver. It was at a ceremony hosted by Mwanza Regional Police Commander Ramadhan Ng'anzi (L). Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

'Police suffices to oversee all private security companies'

EXISTING laws and regulations are strong enough to oversee operation of private security companies and there is no need to establish a regulatory body to oversee such enterprises, the government has declared.

Jumanne Sagini, the deputy minister for Home Affairs, declared this in the legislature in response to Pangawe MP Haji Amour Haji on the need for an agency to oversee their operations.

He said the police force has been mandated to oversee the running, operations and activities of private security companies, thus, the government does not find it relevant

to have in place an authority or agency for the same task.

There is no need for a special body that will control and check operations of private security companies as the police force has not failed to carry out that assignment, asserted, noting that so far the police force has been doing a great job in relation to private security firms.

He said the police force has been keen in issuing licences for

private security companies and in validating the possession of firearms, acquisition of licence, as this is a mandate it has undertaken well.

This oversight has been facilitating smooth control and monitoring of operations of private security companies as well as firearms in their possession, their safe keeping and use in their daily operations, he stated.

The government underscores

instead the need for having in place a law that will oversee the running of private security companies, he said, noting that proposals to that effect have been submitted and it were at initial stages of consultations between the relevant parties of the two sides of the Union.

"After consensus among the two sides of the Union, preparation for coming up with the bill will proceed," he added.

Govt provides 490m/- for dispensary expansion task

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

THE government has continued to improve health services in Arusha District, providing 490m/- for expansion of Mwandeti dispensary and upgrading the facility to a health centre.

District council director Selemani Msumi confirmed to have received the funds from the Treasury for the new buildings, includes an operating theatre, as well as a mother and child clinical services facility.

The two buildings will cost 150m/- while 259m/- would be used for an outpatient department building, he said, noting that a new laboratory will be built, and a house accommodating three families.

He commended the government for taking actions to improve the provision of health services especially for expectant mothers, cutting down mortality rates. The money is part of funds collected by the government through mobile phone transaction fees, he asserted.

Dr Aidan Martin, senior health officer at Mwandeti dispensary, said that upgrading the facility to a health centre would facilitate availability of services that were not previously offered.

Patients requiring further medical treatment and admission had to be transferred to Olturumeti district hospital, more than 35 kilometers away, he said, happy that all these services will now be offered at the

centre, underlining that improvements will increase the number of patients the centre can handle to 1,700 from 1,200 per month.

Mwandeti ward councillor Logolie Lukumay said that many residents had to seek medical treatment at the district hospital. The health centre was overwhelmed as it is also receiving patients from nearby villages, he said, elated that the presence of the health centre will reduce transport costs as residents will now get the services near their villages.

"We are thankful to the government because our people will now enjoy improved health services. Expectant mothers were also forced to cover 35 kilometers to the district hospital," the local leader noted.

Once completed, the health centre will also provide services to residents from Mferejini ward in Monduli District, he added.

Table universal health care bill, MPs demand

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has demanded that the government brings before the House a bill to facilitate implementation of universal health coverage (UHC) policy countrywide.

Stanslaus Nyongo, the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on Social Services and Community Development, said the move will enable low income families to access health insurance cards to obtain quality health services.

He issued this appeal yesterday when presenting a report of the committee's work conducted over the past year, noting that the preparation process for the bill has taken too long since 2012. It is thus high time now for the government to act on it and enact the law, he said.

"The committee received and discussed a report on the status of the preparatory work. We found that the process has been too slow compared to the increasing demand and importance of the Act so as to ensure that all Tanzanians access quality health services," he declared.

Preparations for the national strategy to finance the programme started in 2016 after years of discussions, so the government should now act and bring the bill in the House for endorsement, he further demanded.

Once enacted, the Universal Health Care Act will help establish how the services will be provided especially to the 26 percent of Tanzanians living below the poverty line that are set to be covered by the programme, he said.

"The programme will be supported by the government, setting aside sufficient budgetary funds to finance it," he observed, clarifying that the Act should go in line with setting up a regulatory body to supervise the programme, rather than the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

The Act should engage the private sector to facilitate competition and

innovation of health packages and give the public an opportunity to choose the packages they want, he stated, urging the government to create a stronger health supply chain.

That would contribute to a well-organized health care delivery system, ensuring timely supply of medicines and medical tools to hospitals, health centres and dispensaries, he suggested.

"The government should support the Medical Stores Department (MSD) by ensuring that we provide it with all key needs such as transport to make sure that medical commodities reach health facilities on time for better provision of health services," he elaborated.

On education, the committee wanted the government to conduct major reforms in laws, policies and curriculums so as to ensure that every child has access to quality education.

The current curriculums are not supporting children and graduates to have required skills and knowledge that cope with changes of science and technology as well as in the labour market.

The committee advised that training programmes, curriculum, technical and vocational education should be designed to meet current needs and the development of science and technology.



The govt should support the MSD by ensuring that we provide it with all key needs such as transport to make sure that medical commodities reach health facilities on time for better provision of health services



Bela Vendor TZ chief executive Lulu Ameir (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday speaking at a seminar meant to help female science students and less privileged girls and women in Tanzania boost their economic capacity. The firm deals in the production of vending machines for sanitary napkins. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

BARRICK
BULYANHULU

Advertisement

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualified parties wanting to participate in Tendering for the Purchase and Transport of Scrap Material

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is situated in Msalala District Council, which is under the jurisdiction of Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, also part of the mine is in Nyang'hwale District, Geita Region. The Mine is owned by Barrick Gold Corporation (84%) and Government of Tanzania (16%) and operated by Barrick Gold Corporation. The mine is surrounded by fourteen (14) villages. BGML invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified scrap material management companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in the pending tender process. The general Scope of Work description is: "Purchase and Transport of Scrap Material".

The contract is intended to be awarded, through a competitive tender process, by 20th March 2022. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the pending invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the below:

- Company profile.
- Eligible companies should be from Lake Zone Regions i.e Shinyanga, Geita, Mwanza, Kagera and Mara
- Audited accounts for the last three years and Bank statement as at 31st December 2019, 2020, and 2021;
- Job and client reference for similar services rendered for the last three years.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, etc.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years.
- With regard to the environment nature of the activities, submit relevant permits from regulatory authorities as follows;
- Valid permits from Vice president office for collection, transport, and storage waste/scrap materials (i.e. Metal scrap, plastics, rubber/ tires, grass, timber, carboards/boxes, E-waste, batteries, and waste oil & grease) etc.
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) compliance certificate. All permits will undergo vetting process.
- Location, size, and relevant permits from regulatory authorities for your yard.
- Safety and environmental incidents records for the past two years of operation.
- Community Relations and Support Plan

Kindly send your response electronically, latest on the 18th Feb 2022, to: email: bulytender@barrick.com. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number (BUL-22-02-02 – Scrap Tender) in the subject line of your email

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

Amended regulations to level playing field, promoting access

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S broadcasting and internet services value chain has been further improved and consumer experience enhanced following recent amendments to two key regulations on broadcasting and licensing.

Changes in the digital and other broadcasting networks regulations allow television subscription service providers to produce their content, carry commercial advertisements and free to air channels and broadcast live events. Licensing regulations have introduced new categories and lowered fees.

Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye explained in a meeting with newspaper editors and others at midweek that allowing subscription television channels to carry commercial advertisements would create a conducive environment for investment in subscription content services.

Subscription television channels were hitherto not allowed to include commercial advertisements in their broadcasts before these changes. However, their advertisements have been limited to five minutes in an hour.

There are two television broadcasting services categories in Tanzania, namely free to air (FTA) terrestrial broadcasting where content is available through set-top boxes (decoders) without additional payments and subscription television - through satellite and cable. The migration from analogue to digital broadcasting brought in a third player in the broadcasting value chain - the multiplex operator - carriers of FTA broadcasting content who are also set-top boxes vendors.

TCRA has recently procured a mobile frequency monitoring station for improved frequency interference mitigation.

The amendments allow local FTA television channels to be viewed through all set-top boxes without an additional subscription fee. This is designed to ensure the sustainability of MUX operators, guarantee consumer choice and diversity of content and eliminate set-top box proliferation, since viewers will access more channels through one decoder.

Before these amendments local Free to Air television channels were limited to FTA decoders only. Subscription television decoders were not allowed to carry local FTA television channels.

Subscription television channels have also been allowed to broadcast live events. However, they are not allowed to broadcast news and current affairs due to regulatory requirements. Subscription services are accessed by limited viewers and are not bound by stringent regulatory measures such as requirements for the submission of programmes line up.

Some of the cable operators have licences allowing them to provide

services at the administrative district level, with several operating at the ward level. Allowing these to produce and air local content will open up communities and empower local artists.

The amendments follow a stakeholder consultation process, involving the Ministry of Information, Communications and Information Technology, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, providers of FTA, subscription and multiplex services and the TCRA Consumer Consultative Council (CCC).

Changes in the Electronic and Postal Communication (Licensing) Regulations, 2018 include introducing new licence categories, licence fees for satellite phones and cutting fees by up to between 4,900 and 2,900 per cent in some areas.

The new licence categories are Internet exchange Points (IXP) in the network facilities licence, special education content services (radio and television), electronic commerce channels and content services by subscription (for aggregation). The ambitious Digital Tanzania project seeks to make Tanzania the regional e-commerce hub.

Before the changes, IXPs were not reflected in the licensing framework. The objective is to encourage standards in providing internet exchange point services to the general public and institutions. The changes are also designed to encourage the use of IXPs to reduce the international transit of local internet traffic.

Radio Communications Station licence fees have been reduced from \$3,000 to \$100 to speed up the penetration and quick take-up of access to broadband services through satellite platforms, especially in remote and rural areas. The government's target is to ensure broadband services cover 80 per cent coverage of the population by 2025.

A licence fee of \$5,000 for satellite phones has been introduced to establish a separate category for satellite phones intended for voice communication and leave the category of transportable satellite receivers to data connectivity.

Spectrum fees for FTA MUX have also been removed to give incentive to MUX to roll out.

The community broadcasting services licence has been reclassified from individual to class to encourage the establishment of community radio/television stations in areas where business cases do not support the running of a commercial station.

Class licences take less time to process and have fewer conditions.

These amendments are part of implementing the Digital Tanzania programme in which laws, policies and regulations will be reviewed to promote ICT infrastructure investment, market competitiveness, digital engagement, job creation, and innovation.



Simon Mirobo, education officer for Makumbusho ward in Dar es Salaam, has an audience with students from various primary and secondary schools on Thursday on the importance of starting clubs through which to exchange ideas on whatever challenges they commonly face. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TFRA sets maize, rice scale-up bid for southern regions

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

THE Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) has teamed up with local government authorities in Lindi and Mtwara regions to provide education through demonstration farms for promoting the proper use of fertilizer to increase the production of maize and rice in the zone.

In its efforts to promote the proper use of fertilizer in those regions the government through TFRA has established demonstration farms in Ruangwa, Mtama, Mtwara and Masasi districts, where farmers through their groups have received education on the proper use of fertilizer.

In an extension exercise on the proper use of fertilizers in the districts, the TFRA quality control officer Aziz Mtambo said a farmer cannot increase productivity without fertilizer.

In order for a plant to grow and produce a good harvest in the field, it needs sufficient nutrients, found in fertile soil, he said, elaborating

that when nutrient deficiency occurs in the field it needs to be increased by fertilizer, containing a variety of nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Most important, a farmer needs to consider the health of the soil, the type of fertilizer to be used, and access to the relevant fertilizer, he stated, pointing out that other issues relate to proper use of fertilizer.

This must be tied to some good agricultural practices including timely field preparation, use of quality seeds, weeding, spraying prevent and killing various pests and diseases, and harvesting at the right time, he said.

"It's important for farmers to be aware that the proper use of fertilizers includes using the right fertilizer, the right amount at the right time, and the right place to bring about the best results. This will increase productivity in crop production," he said.

Kitere Ward agricultural officer, Swalehe Tendwa said measuring soil health helps to identify nutrients in the

soil and how much is contained.

Tendwa noted that the benefits of measuring soil health include reducing costs of production as the farmer will buy fertilizer needed to stem deficiencies in the soil, having identified the correct amount of fertilizer required.

The promotion of fertilizer use by TFRA in collaboration with Lindi and Mtwara regions has enhanced awareness among farmers this season, as people pass through the class farms to take up the benefits of using fertilizers in rice and maize production.

Speaking during the launch of demonstration farms in the area, Lindi District Commissioner, Shaibu Ndemanga said establishing the farms will inspire farmers in the region to use fertilizer in producing various crops, thus increasing incomes.

Lindi and Mtwara regions have more than 6.4m hectares suitable for growing different crops but crop productivity is still limited, he said.

"These figures show the richness of

the areas, sufficient space suitable for the cultivation of various crops, but we've not yet been able to take full advantage of this opportunity. One of the reasons is that many farmers do not adhere to good agricultural practices including fertilizer use," he explained.

The two regions have over the years faced food shortages, seeking relief food to stem the threat of hunger, he stated.

Mary Mapunda, the chairperson of the Tupendane farmers group in Mtwara District, expressed gratitude to TFRA for extension services, as the proper use of fertilizer via demonstration farms is vital.

Farmers' groups were encouraged to participate in training to understand quickly the proper use of fertilizers for various crops. About 60 farmers in Ruangwa, Mtama, Masasi and Mtwara districts participated in the whole length of demonstration farms to encourage the proper use of fertilizer in cultivating maize and rice, she added.

TFS extols Dodoma's drive in tree planting

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) has applauded Dodoma city residents for the good response in tree planting as the demand for seedlings provided by the agency in the region increases each year.

Environment assistant commissioner Mathew Kiondo said here yesterday that other cities, municipalities and districts need to follow suit, as TFS has enough seedlings to make the country green, faster.

Dodoma, being the capital city is strategically earmarked for transformation to a green city due to its following its semi-arid climatic background, with the programme already bearing fruit, he said.

Since 2017, TFS and Dodoma city authorities have been working hand in hand to plant more trees in the city, and now the focus is to extend attention to other districts in the region, he said.

At the offset of the programme, TFS planted 600,000 trees in 2017 with 380,000 surviving, while in 2018 the agency planted 900,000 trees, increasing the number to an average of 1.5m trees per year.

"The city once dusty and windy Dodoma is slowly transforming into

a cool green city, thanks to positive response by residents to plant more trees," he said.

Speaking after a tree planting exercise at Iseni area in the city as part of the week-long environmental conservation events ahead of today's launch of the 2021 National Environmental Policy, the TFS executive urged other regional authorities to take up the itinerary of events in the capital in other major urban areas by planting more trees.

He appealed to government institutions, departments and district authorities to plant more trees throughout the country and improve the environment, lauding the close cooperation with the agency.

TFS has been participating in environment conservation activities organized by the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) ministry ahead of unveiling the 2021 National Environment Policy today.

TFS CEO Prof Dos Santos Silayo said on Wednesday that the public needs to heed the call to plant more trees and save the environment.

"Trees help restore environment. The week-long event is part of efforts to ensure we work to restore the degraded environment as well as saving others," he added.



Zanzibar's Deputy Minister for Information, Khamis Abdallah (L), has a word with Dr Mzuri Issa, Director of the Zanzibar Chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) in Zanzibar on Thursday, shortly after a stakeholders meeting on media-related legislation. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Agro-sector forum wants probes, legal measures on failed projects

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

AS the Ministry of Agriculture prepares its budget for the 2022/23 financial year, smallholder women farmers from 28 districts have asked the government to investigate and explain what happened to some agricultural projects that started well a few years ago in rural areas and were budgeted for in past annual budgets but ended up in failure.

The farmers' survey showed that more than 50 agricultural projects around the country are no longer operating, some have been dumped forever and no feedback to the targeted beneficiaries.

This situation costs the nation dearly for having projects that do not function well are a stumbling block for agricultural development.

Participants in the Smallholder Women Farmers Forum (SWFF) said the government should use its organs to investigate the projects and those involved in acts of sabotage or corruption should be taken to task.

They were speaking on the sideline of the meeting between them and ministerial officials from policy and planning, marketing and research departments.

Flora Mlowezi from Ijombe ward in Mbeya region said some projects have failed because smallholder farmers did not participate fully in the project designing and planning. Decisions were made from top to bottom and that's why the projects did not survive, she stated.

"As many sources of income accrue from agriculture, the government should direct district councils to make sure that the projects are revived and the budget allocated for agricultural projects is not tampered with or portions of it transferred to other sectors.

Citing an example, the farmers said at Chilonwa ward, Chamwino district in Dodoma region the ward had a usable agricultural produce warehouse, but today it is an entertainment hall. Magreth Malogo, a smallholder in the district, said warehouse rooms were changed into offices of the ward executive office, and a few others house TASAF equipment, etc.

At Msanga village, Msanga ward, another warehouse for agricultural produce up to 200 metric tonnes is now being used to run a milling machine, she said.

Mlowa village had an agricultural training centre now being used as a guest house and some rooms converted into meeting venues. Still in the same village, a warehouse that could keep up to 500 metric tonnes of crops is now being used as a primary court.

Small holder farmers from Mbeya region shared the same story as Mlowezi said that at Simambwe village, Tembela ward a farmers centre was built but its purposes altered, set for use by election returning officers during polls.

At Uruwila ward, Nsimbo district council in Katavi region a rice irrigation project also serving horticulture activity was built at a cost of 1.2bn/- but with land conflicts the court gave it to one person, a total of 750 acres., thus it is no longer being used by the farmers.

In Mtwara region, instances of agricultural projects that stopped working and nothing is being done to bring them back to life abound.

Shem Ulenje, a resident of Tandahimba, said that at Lipalwe

village, an irrigation scheme lacks power to drive it, so farmers must use a small generator inadequate for requirements of the community.

"An irrigation scheme at Litehu village is no longer working," she said, asserting that its targeted was altered, along with a rice irrigation project at Namahonga village, Maundo ward in Tandahimba district which is no longer working.

The small holder farmers identified several other agricultural projects that have stopped working in the Lake zone. At Itilima, Ilebelebe, Iindilo villages in Kishapu district, there was a 560 ha rice irrigation project which started in 2005/2006 under a participatory irrigation development programme (PIDP) at a cost of 302.1m/- from PIDP and IFAD. The project was operational for one year and then stopped.

"We had another 450 ha rice and horticulture irrigation project which started 2014/2015 at Nyenze village, Mwadui at a cost of 298m/- from the central government. This project have never completed for the past nine years and is not working," said Fredina Said.

At Negezi village, Ukenyenge ward of Kishapu district, the famers training centre has stopped working. It worked from 1987 to 1995, helping the farmers to construct warehouses.

At Kilulu village, Bunamhala ward in Simiyu Region, there was a sunflower processing machines. The project was given a tractor but then it stopped, she said.

Smallholder farmers from Morogoro region shared similar experiences, noting that at Gongoni village, Rudewa ward in Kilosa district a farmers' training centre which cost 200m/- stood, but it is seven years now since it stopped, its buildings now dilapidating.

A farmers' crop selling market at Gongoni village in Kilosa built more than 10 years ago was never used as it was located far away from the farmers, and is dilapidating as well, they said.

At Batini Mapilipili a warehouse built more than 10 years ago has stopped working, and is being used for entertainment and prayers.

At Madizini village, Kisanga ward in Kilosa district an irrigation scheme was built only a quarter and is yet to be completed, despite many years elapsing, they said, underlining that this is the standard image that obtains around the country with agro-sector projects.

Jorum Wimmo, the project coordinator for scaling up public financing for agriculture at ActionAid, said there are many challenges facing agriculture in general. It was high time the government worked out on challenges of stalled projects and other issues facing smallholder farmers, to enhance agricultural development.

Timoth Semburuka, the head of the delegation from the ministry, said in response to the concerns of the small holder women farmers, that the farmers did well in revealing the challenges and projects that have stopped working.

His delegations responded to some of the challenges and promised that the ministry will make an effort to address the challenges.



An irrigation scheme at Litehu village is no longer working



Dr Geoffrey Chambua from the Legal and Human Rights Centre, coordinator of a pilot project on the prevention and combating of humiliation and sexual harassment in Dar es Salaam Region's Kinondoni District, pictured in the city earlier this week addressing a stakeholder meeting discussing ways to make the initiative a success. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

RC: 3,000 STD VII failures in Mbeya to join VETA colleges

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 3,000 students who failed in their 2021 Standard VII Examinations in Mbeya Region have been enrolled in VETA training colleges and community based development colleges.

The aim to send students to these colleges is to enable them to get skills for self-employment and ward them off

dangerous groups including those using illicit drugs or, in the case of girls, ending up in child pregnancies.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera revealed this recently in an interview with this paper on government strategies to empower students who failed in the standard VII examinations.

"In 2022, Mbeya Regional Government

is sending 3,170 students who failed in their Std VII exams to ward small children off the streets and instead learn various skills including becoming electricians," said RC Homera.

Mbeya Regional Education Officer, Ernest Hinju said out of 44,818 students who sat for Std VII Examinations in 2021, 5,314 failed and missed chances to continue with studies.

He said out of those who sat for the examination, 39,504 students passed and were allocated to various schools.

Mbeya Regional Administrative Officer, Dr Angelina Lutambi appealed to education stakeholders, especially teachers to increase efforts in educating the students to make sure of higher passes in coming national examinations.

"I appeal to all education stakeholders that we should not be satisfied with this year's results, we still have much work to do to make sure Mbeya Region still continues to perform better and ultimately realise the life dreams of our children," said Dr Lutambi.



It's business as usual for small traders in several parts of Dar es Salaam Region despite a series of eviction and relocation orders. This scene was captured yesterday along a Mbezi Mwisho pavement of Morogoro Road in Ubungo Municipality meant for use by pedestrians. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Six more tropical cyclones seen likely before end of rainy season

HARARE

ZIMBABWE, during this rainy season, had two cyclones, Ana which left a trail of destruction and Batsirai which fortunately dissipated. Local Governments minister, July Moyo said predictions by the Meteorological Services Department have been accurate so far.

He made this remark on Thursday during a cyclone recovery project ceremony in Harare.

"According to the Meteorological Services Department (MSD) there is a projection of six more cyclones during the remainder of the current rainy season. Thus, a robust mechanism for monitoring natural phenomena cannot be over emphasised; and their

predictions have been very accurate," he said.

Destruction caused during the rainfall season is not new in Zimbabwe. In the past, social, physical and economic infrastructure has been affected. However, tropical storm Ana has made matters worse, with 1557 houses partially damaged in the 2021-2022 rainy seasons, the minister noted.

The government says it is ready for the projected cyclones.

"We are more than ready for these cyclones. It is our department together with other partners from outside the country who have identified the cyclones," said the Deputy Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and the Hospitality Industry, Barbara Rwodzi.

PM appeals for more collective efforts to conserve environment

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PRIME Kassim Majaliwa has called for collective efforts by all Tanzanians to promote environmental conservation efforts so as to help reduce ongoing impacts of climate change, including severe drought.

He said Tanzanians should work together to conserve the environment by avoiding cutting trees, conducting destructive human activities along water sources and the environment, especially agriculture and livestock keeping.

The premier made the call yesterday when responding to Leah Komanya (Special Seats) during the impromptu questions and answers session, demanding the government's strategy to fight severe drought affecting lives of people and animals. Drought has affected pasture, a situation needing long term solutions, she said.

Acknowledging that some parts of the country have been experiencing severe drought especially during the dry and hot season, he said the government in collaboration with stakeholders was taking durable measures to help

address the challenge.

"Drought challenges facing various parts in the country were caused by climate change, deforestation and other human activities, and in order to address this situation, Tanzanians themselves have to avoid degrading the environment and should instead help in efforts by conserving the environment," he said

Majaliwa cited ongoing environmental destruction in villages in the Ngorongoro zone, threatening the life of the park and wildlife.

"Human activities, if well controlled,

will help fight various challenges in the environment including drought," he emphasised.

Mid last month, authorities in Manyara Region reported that 62,585 cattle and other domestic animals died due prolonged drought in Simanjiro district.

Sendu Laizer, the vice-chairman of the Simanjiro district council, told a councillors' meeting that the drought situation was alarming. Out of the 62,585 dead animals, 35,746 were cattle, 15,136 sheep, 10,033 goats and 1,670 donkeys, officials noted.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Africa should aim at stopping loss and degradation of forests

DEFORESTATION, clearance, clear cutting or clearing is the removal of a forest or stand of trees from land which is then converted to a non-forest use. Deforestation can involve conversion of forest land to farms, ranches, or urban use. The most concentrated deforestation occurs in tropical rainforests. About 31 percent of Earth's land surface is covered by forests.

Deforestation can occur for several reasons: trees can be cut down to be used for building or sold as fuel (sometimes in the form of charcoal or timber), while cleared land can be used as pasture for livestock and plantation. The removal of trees without sufficient reforestation has resulted in habitat damage, biodiversity loss, and aridity. Deforestation has also been used in war to deprive the enemy of vital resources and cover for its forces. Modern examples of this were the use of Agent Orange by the British military in Malaya during the Malayan Emergency and by the United States military in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

A landmark pledge known as the New York Declaration on Forests aimed at stopping the loss and degradation of forests is falling short of its goals, according to a new report released recently.

Since the declaration was launched five years ago, deforestation has not only continued – it has actually accelerated,” Charlotte Streck, the director and a co-founder of the think tank Climate Focus, said in a statement. “We must redouble efforts to stop forest loss, especially in primary tropical forests, and restore as many forests as possible before the irreversible impacts of losing trees further threaten our climate and food security.”

But the report on the progress toward those goals, employing analyses of science, policy and trends over the

past five years by Climate Focus and 24 other organizations, reveals that overall the signatories aren't likely to meet the first set of commitments in 2020. Progress toward the broader goals of the declaration also appear to be off track, with potentially disastrous repercussions for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and the millions of people around the world who depend on forests for their livelihoods, the authors say.

Worldwide deforestation, primarily for large-scale agriculture and timber, is up by 40 percent compared to what it was in 2014 when the signatories inked the declaration. The research shows that the world lost an average of more than 260,000 square kilometers (100,000 square miles) per year between 2014 and 2018. That's an area larger than either the United Kingdom or the U.S. state of Oregon.

In the past five years, South American countries lost the greatest total area of forests, especially the Amazon countries of Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil. The fastest pace of deforestation over the same period was in West and Central Africa, rising by 146 percent since 2014.

The assessment also shows that the companies that signed the NYDF aren't making headway toward their goals of ending deforestation in the production of the goods they sell.

With the right policies, countries too can slash their deforestation rates, the authors say. Indonesia, with the world's third-largest bank of tropical forest, has cut forest loss by around 30 percent since 2014. The authors of the assessment credit those gains to strong government action and banning development on peat lands.

Brazil was once a leader in combating deforestation. Similar to in Indonesia, measures such as a soy moratorium and a strengthened forest code helped bring forest loss rates down sharply between 2004 and 2012.

Engaging local population in biodiversity conservation can really perform miracles

THE Amani Nature Reserve is a protected area located within the Muheza and Korogwe districts in Tanga region, in tropical East Africa. The nature reserve was established in 1997 in order to preserve the unique flora and fauna of the East Usambara Mountains. The East and West Usambara Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot. The Amani Nature Reserve includes tropical cloud forest habitats.

The Amani Nature Reserve was established in 1997 in a forested area in the East Usambara Mountains. Traditionally, people living in villages adjacent to the reserve have used the forest as a source of timber, firewood and medicinal plants, a place to gather plants, bush meat, honey and fruit for consumption and a source of live birds, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates for international trade.

The forests in the reserve have been described as intermediate evergreen forests or submontane evergreen forest, a type of vegetative cover that tends to grow on the seaward side of both the West and East Usambaras.

The government has been urged to improve the 35-km road from Muheza town to the Amani Nature Forest Reserve to attract more tourists in the area, which offers a wide-range of thrilling tourist attractions. The reserve is the largest forested block within the East Usambara Mountains and occupies the southern extremity of these mountains.

Reserve's Acting Conservator, Bob Matunda made the appeal recently while briefing journalists on how they work together with the Nature Tanzania organisation and Tanzania Forest Conservation (TFCG) to conserve the endangered Long-billed birds and other threatened flora and species found at Amani Nature Forest Reserve. The road getting to the Reserve is in a devastating

state the government should address the challenge to improve tourism.

Engaging people to conserve biodiversity of Amani Nature Reserve, we believe will see the increase in endangered Long-billed birds and other species so as to attract more tourists.”

Construction of this road will help more than 40 villages located at the East Usambara Mountains to transport their produce more easily, attract more tourists to visit at Amani.

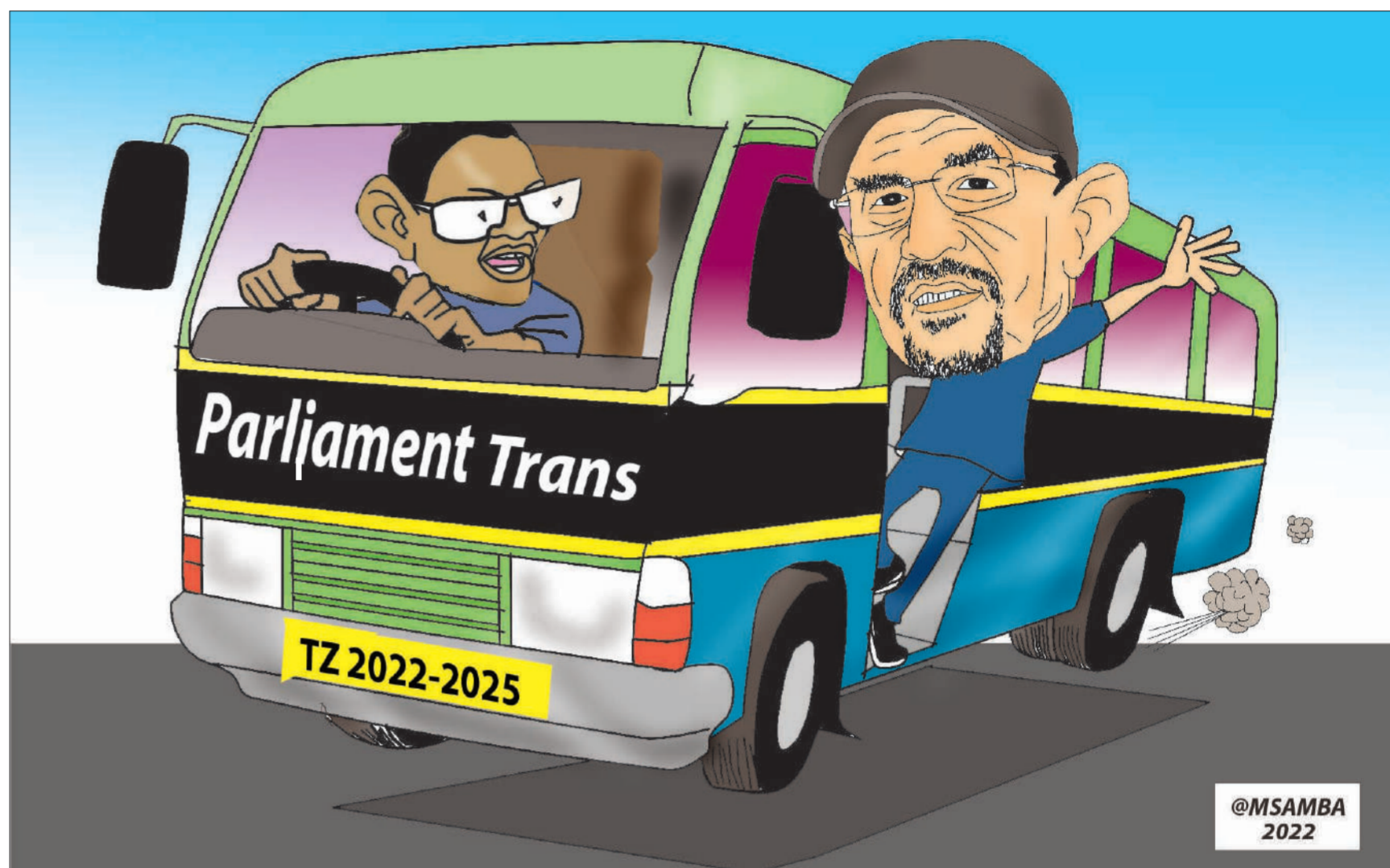
He expressed the Reserve's gratitude to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for granting funds to Nature Tanzania organisation that it can work together with TFCG to improve the conservation status of natural resources and sustainable development through enhancing conservation of birds, forest and supporting sustainable use of biodiversity in Tanzania.” He noted

Matunda said that despite challenges, the number of tourists has been slightly increasing yearly whereby in the year 2015/2019, a total of 1,079 tourists from different countries visited the Nature Forest Reserve.

In the same vein, Nature Tanzania and TCGF have introduced a new project at Shebomeza village to restore the long-billed tailor bird's habitat as well as educate people on the benefits of biodiversity to human and the effect of the invasive trees (Maesopsis eminii) that harm biodiversity and habitat of the tailorbird at Amani Nature Reserve.

Currently majority of communities at Shebomeza villages have begun to plant indigenous trees in their farms to remove Maesopsis eminii tree species.

Through this project, children were trained on how to understand the bird's behavior, its natural habitat, how to protect and conserve the habitat of the Long-billed Tailorbird species and other species found in the area and other issues relating to bird.



By Special Correspondent

NOW that all candidates have been announced for the March 26 by-elections for 28 seats in the House of Assembly and 105 council seats, with all seats being contested, the campaigning will be starting and everyone wants to see the campaign, the vote and the acceptance of results being the correct dress rehearsal for next year's general elections.

For a start, the procedure is very clear. The Constitution lays out with crystal and admirer clarity that the people choose who they want to represent their constituency in Parliament and their ward in an urban or rural district council. No one else decides, and that includes foreigners who might want the result to go a specific way and thus meddle.

So the voters need to be given the peace and space they need to exercise their right to make a choice and then put their “X” in the little box next to their preferred candidate's name.

Campaigning can be robust, but we hope it will be on issues and records and be conducted totally peacefully.

The actual polling needs to be orderly, patient and peaceful. In the 2018 election both campaigning and polling were peaceful. The problem came after the poll and the votes had been counted. Some people thought their candidate had too few votes and took violent action.

This shows not just a lack of belief in representative democracy where the people not the street mobs decide the winner, but also a lack of logic.

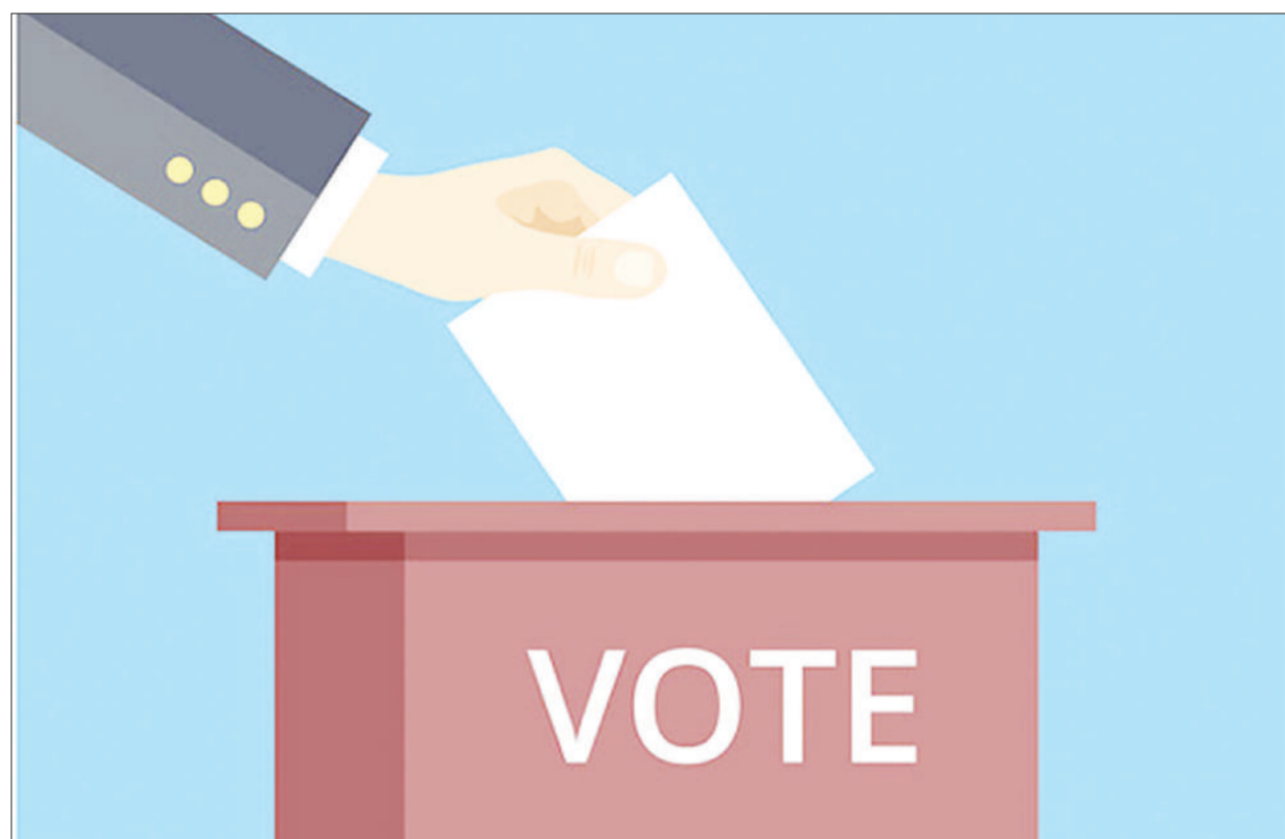
Every candidate is entitled to an agent at every polling station in the constituency or ward they are contesting, and that agent can be present when the votes are counted. If a candidate does not have enough friends or committed supporters to fill the berths, then they are pretty useless and possibly should have called it a day much earlier.

Secondly, the people who staff the polling stations and count the votes are not some strange secret guard. They are us, civil servants who are exceptionally likely to vote in roughly the same proportion for each party as their neighbours.

They will do their job very professionally and exceptionally well, but no one has the faintest idea of how they marked their own secret ballot and the only fact that seems certain is that the team in a station distributed their marks among the candidates.

Nomination day was very orderly and very peaceful with the officials from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission very helpful and doing their level best to ensure that every candidate had filled in the nomination papers correctly, even giving them time to run off and get another signature if that

All parties must show they can electioneer peacefully



was needed. This was a good start.

The one minor dispute, which arose within a small political party and drifted into a pair of court applications, was handled with aplomb.

The first court order said no nominations should be accepted for six seats, and the second said the nominations should be accepted, which meant reopening the nominations later in the week.

But at least the candidates who had been arguing went to court, rather than grabbing iron bars, and at least they and everyone else stood and saluted when the courts made their rulings, both times.

That particular legal matter is not yet finished, and that is why two orders were given.

Urgent applications to the High Court, if accepted, do not even attempt to make a final decision since only one party is physically present and so long as they make some sort of case they can get an order that does not do them damage while everyone comes back in a couple of weeks to sort out the final order, with both sides making an argument.

This particular matter appears to hinge on who may have fired who first and the position at the moment is that the nominations proceeded so the six by-elections can take place if that is the final order. Judges tend to be practical.

It needs to be noted that none of the by-elections are going to change which

party has a majority in Parliament or which party runs a local authority, largely because most of the vacancies arose from internecine warfare within the opposition.

Proportions of MPs and councillors will probably change but not enough seats are up for grabs to change the fact of majorities.

What the by-elections will show, besides how mature we are as a democracy, is an indication of shifts in followings and support.

Obviously Zanu PF will be campaigning on its good record under the Second Republic, explaining what it has done and outlining the development now in progress for the next 18 months.

These days Zanu PF promises little, but likes to show concrete or concrete being poured, on the basis that a hard-headed electorate likes to see action rather than listen to words.

Presumably its candidates will also be localising both the achievements and the national planning timetables for their own constituencies and wards. Having something solid to stand for both in what has been done and what is now in actual progress is a major help.

Zanu PF has a second advantage, in that it uses primaries to select candidates. Voters can disagree with the candidate, but since the person is someone of some standing in a constituency or ward they know the

person and do not have to guess.

Generally, a Zanu PF candidate has personal qualities and some sort of civic record and name recognition, as well as the party name and symbol next to their name on the ballot paper.

After the last couple of years more voters will probably want to have a good idea of just who they are electing this time rather than a person with a loud mouth aiming for riches.

The opposition have a different problem.

For much of the last two years their main achievement has been getting rid of each other, which is why so many people, particularly in Harare, have been without representation in both Parliament and the city council.

The danger, and this is particularly what might lead to violence, is that people tend to regard heresy as something to be fought strenuously.

Even now, in what are regarded as the larger opposition parties, there is a dominating trend to try to assume they can hang onto what they regard as “safe seats” and thus argue about market share, rather than discuss clear alternative visions, particularly in one case.

Some of the smaller parties do look at different clear alternatives, which have yet to generate a lot of support, but at least they are using the electoral process to create agendas, as Zanu PF itself does through its actions rather than assuming people owe it support.

By Telesphor Magobe

Legal implications of good or bad character during trial

WE live in a world in which we hear many stories about other people. We may be familiar with what is said about those people or we may not.

We may know that X is a good person and Y is a bad person. In life, this type of knowledge is extremely important for us because it makes us know who to associate or disassociate with in our neighbourhood.

If we know that X is a good person we tend to trust him or her, but if we know that Y is a bad person we tend to be more careful with him or her. In any case, we will most likely inform our family members, friends and neighbours about X and Y so that they too may know the characters of these two persons.

When we trust a person we can trust or rely on him or her in many things. But if I happen to see Y looking curiously at my 4-year daughter, I will ask myself why he or she is doing so. I may start thinking that he or she is one of those abusing children and perhaps he or she is planning a trap or an occasion to put into practice his or her ill-intention. I may think so not because I have evidence of such presumed abuse, but

just because Y is a notorious person.

In Tanzania, there are legal implications for a person of good or bad character during the production of evidence. Relevancy of character is covered in Chapter II: Part IX of the Law of Evidence Act, 1967, as amended until 2019.

Section 57 stipulates that "the word 'character' includes both reputation and disposition but, except as provided in sections 54 and 56, evidence may be given only of general reputation and general disposition, and not of particular acts by which reputation or disposition were shown."

Oxford Dictionary of Law (Fifth Edition, 2003) defines reputation as "the estimation in which a person is generally held" and disposition as "the tendency of a party (especially the accused) to act or think in a particular way".

Section 54 of the Evidence Act focuses on character in civil cases. Subsection 1 states that in civil cases the fact that the character of any person concerned is such as to render probable or improbable any conduct imputed to him or her is irrelevant, except in so far as such character appears from facts otherwise relevant.

In Queen v Rowton [1865], it was held that



character evidence is excluded generally on the grounds of public policy and fairness, since its admission would surprise and prejudice the parties by taking up the whole of their careers, as they could not possibly be prepared to defend. In Thomson v Church, it was held that a very bad person may have a very righteous cause.

Subsection 2 stipulates that the fact that the character of any person is such as to affect the amount of damages which he ought to receive is relevant.

In criminal cases, the Law of Evidence Act (Section 55) states that the fact that the accused person is of good character is relevant. This means in criminal proceedings the court takes into account a person's good character when

determining his or her case brought before it.

However, the fact that the accused person is of bad character is irrelevant in criminal proceedings, unless evidence has been given that he or she has a good character in which case it becomes relevant. This is due to the fact that a previous conviction for any offence becomes relevant, after conviction in the case under trial, for the purpose of affecting the sentence to be awarded by the court.

Commenting on this, B.D Chipeta in his book "A Magistrate's Manual" says that evidence of the accused person's bad character is only admissible where it has been given that he or she has a "good character, or where the accused [person]'s bad character is itself a fact in issue, or where it is given after conviction has been entered, in which case it is admissible for the purpose of assisting the court in assessing the sentence to be awarded."

There is persuasive authority on the basic rule on a person's character in Makin v Attorney-General for New South Wales [1894]. Lord Herschell LC said: "It is undoubtedly not competent for the prosecution to adduce evidence tending to show that the accused has been guilty of acts other than those covered by the indictment, for the purpose of leading the conclusion that the accused is a person likely from

his criminal conduct or character to have committed the offence for which he is being tried."

In Stirland v Director of Public Prosecutions [1944], the House of Lords pointed out that an accused who 'puts his or her character in issue' must be regarded as putting the whole of his or her past record in issue. He or she cannot assert his or her good conduct in certain respects without exposing himself to inquiry about the rest of his record so far as this tends to disprove a claim for good character.

Therefore, in civil or criminal proceedings good or bad character has legal implications for a party to a case brought before the court for determination. While logic is important in court proceedings, when it comes to character it may not automatically follow that since an accused person is of bad character, then he or she must commit a criminal offence. For this to be the case, it must be proved beyond reasonable doubt to be so. Yet, good character can give credit to an accused person.

Today's proverb: "All things are difficult before they are easy."

The author is a lawyer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Storybook apps turn African learners into writers

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

SUWAIBA Hassan published an engrossing story. She used digital apps that are giving literacy a boost.

The student from Katsina State in Nigeria, Hassan, won a National Reading Competition for a story she created using the African Storybook reader app and the African Storybook maker app. Saide, an education NGO, developed the apps through its African Storybook (ASb) project.

The apps are easy-to-use storybook development tools allowing children to write and publish their own stories, which can be read and shared without internet connectivity.

"Titi and Donkey, the trickster" was written by Suwaiba Hassan, a student from Katsina State in Nigeria. Credit: ASB

Hassan turned to the online apps to help her write and publish her award-winning story - Titi and Donkey. The story is about a girl who narrowly escaped losing her grandmother's money to a cunning donkey. Hassan wanted to inspire other girls to write and read in writing it. She did more. Her story motivated parents in her home state to encourage more girls to go to school after Hassan won a National Reading Competition and all expenses paid scholarships to cover all her education levels. Northern Nigeria has a high number of out-of-school children.

Conquering literacy one story at a time

The African Storybook Project has created a digital library of open license African storybooks to address the challenge of education inclusion and access to appropriate reading materials for young African children. It has been piloted in 15 African countries.

The applications are helping conquer illiteracy one story at a time by providing reading material in home languages that reflect local content for children to read, says Jenny Glennie, Saide Executive Director.

Saide contributes to the development of new open learning models, including the use of educational technology and open education resources in Sub Saharan Africa.

"We are promoting the idea that you have a publisher in your pocket and a library on your phone," Glennie tells IPS.

On average, 2000 unique storybooks in 222 African languages have been published online, created mainly by students, teachers and librarians. More than 1.5 million children in Africa benefitted from the storybooks downloaded from the ASb website, especially after COVID-19 hit leading to the close of many schools.

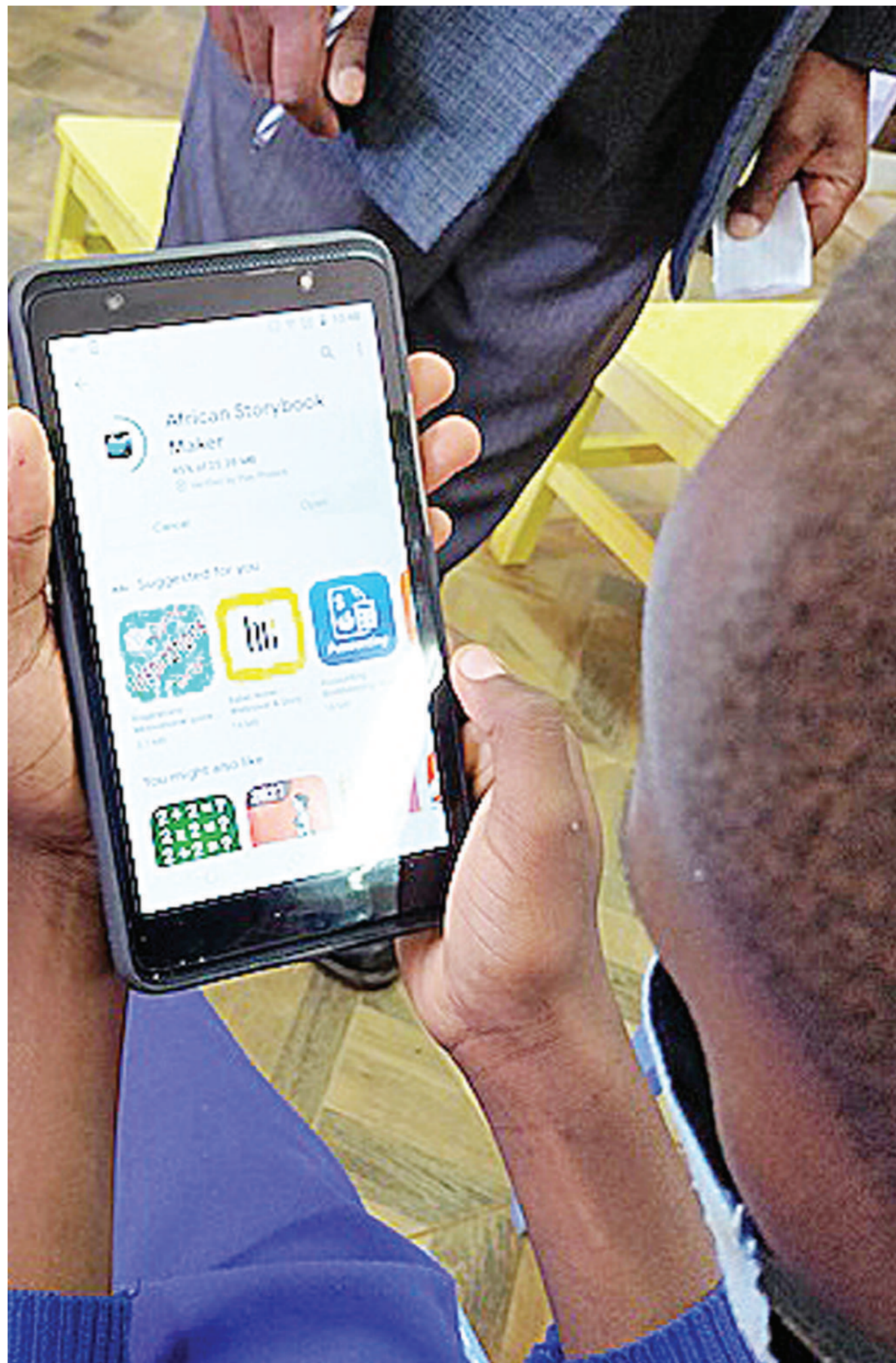
The ASb project works with local educators and illustrators, including children, to develop, publish, and use relevant storybooks in children's language.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), some 40 per cent of the global population does not access education in a language they understand.

UNESCO cautions that literacy promotion should be looked at from a perspective of multilingualism because several international and regional languages have expanded as lingua franca. In contrast, numerous minority and indigenous languages are endangered.

Literacy in local languages encourages reading and writing among learners because they use the material in their mother tongue every day, noted Belina Simushi, Education Programme Officer

The African Storybook Project has developed writing and publishing apps that are promoting literacy. Credit: Saide



with the Impact Network Zambia, an education service provider operating schools in Zambia.

In Zambia, she said learners are taught in English, a foreign lan-

guage.

"Our learners need books to be written in a local language, which I believe can act as a stepping stone for learning how to read and write," said Simushi. She

led a story-writing project in which teachers wrote over 300 storybooks they uploaded online using the ASb Storybook Maker and guide.

"I also believe that by accessing books written in

Cinyanja [a language widely spoken in Zambia and Malawi], our learners can read about stories, cultures and other topics that can help them enjoy reading books and develop a love for reading books."

Righting illiteracy

According to the Lost Potential Tracker, nine out of 10 children in Sub Saharan Africa miss the age ten basic literacy milestones, ac-

ording to the Lost Potential Tracker, an interactive analysis tool measuring the scale of the global learning crisis. The tool jointly created by the One Campaign, the Global Partnership for Education and Save the Children in 2021, shows the depth of the global learning crisis.

Alice Albright, CEO of the Global Partnership for Education, says reading and writing are essential building blocks for children to succeed.

"This tool shows the depth of the global learning crisis - and what a critical situation the world faces if we do not prioritise education."

While Inger Ashing, CEO of Save the Children International, warned that the world faces an unprecedented education emergency worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Children in some of the poorest and conflict-affected countries are the most badly affected.

"If we are to live up to our commitments to achieving the full range of Sustainable Development Goals and the children's right to education, then improving literacy levels is a must," Ashing noted, emphasising that being able to read was a foundation skill that enabled children to realise their full potential.

The ASb apps have also opened new opportunities to promote and preserve some of Africa's least spoken languages, which are on the verge of dying off because they are not written down, said Dorcas Wepukhulu, the East and West African Storybook Partner Development Coordinator at Saide.

"The apps have enabled a different learning process that goes beyond the usual stringing of words. It is motivating. The fact that the stories they have written can be published and read by others is something children are very proud of and want to do," said Wepukhulu. She explained that they are encouraging many people across Sub Saharan Africa to use the apps while helping the marginalised talk about their experiences and boost languages that have not been published in creating reading materials.

Smangele Mathebula, African Storybook Partner Development Coordinator for Southern Africa, noted that the apps had given children a chance to be fully present as they interact with technology in sharing their experiences.

The African Storybook Story Maker App won the 2021 Tech4Good Awards in Education given by UK-based Tech4Good Awards. The awards celebrate fantastic businesses, individuals and initiatives that use digital technologies to improve the lives of others and make the world a better place. Saide was also voted the Winner of Winners in the virtual awards ceremony.

"Emerging as the Winner of Winners in this year's awards reinforces our efforts to continue promoting the use of the Story Maker across Sub-Saharan Africa as a way of empowering children to tell their own stories and for communities to self-publish," Glennie said.

UN's investigative arm comes up with survey to probe racism & discrimination in world body

UNITED NATIONS

THE Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)- the UN's only independent external oversight body mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations- is conducting a survey probing the widespread racism and discrimination in the world body.

In a circular to staffers worldwide, the JIU says it is conducting "a system-wide review of measures and mechanisms for preventing and addressing racism and racial discrimination (RRD) in the institutions of the United Nations system."

The survey will examine the various forms of RRD at the individual, institutional, and structural levels and the measures and mechanisms in place, including cultural and contextual factors that facilitate or constrain efforts by organizations.

According to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' latest annual report submitted to the UN's Administrative and Budgetary Committee last month, the United Nations currently has more than 36,000 staffers in 463 duty stations world-wide and spread across 56 UN agencies and entities.

The survey is expected to gather both staff and non-staff perceptions of the entire UN system, in the context of an ongoing JIU review on measures and mechanisms for preventing and addressing RRD in the institutions of the United Nations system.

The survey is web-based and can be accessed through this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JIU_CSWS_RRD.

As widespread discrimination - based either on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or nationality-continues throughout the UN system, there are several interest groups who have bonded together to fight for their legitimate rights.

These groups include the United Nations People of African Descent (UNPAD), UN Globe for LGBTQ community, the UN Feminist Network, and most recently, the Asia Network for Diversity and Inclusion (UN-ANDI).

Shihana Mohamed, a founding member, and one of the coordinators of UN-ANDI, told IPS: "We, welcome the proposed reforms initiated by the Secretary-General and by other UN bodies, including the on-going JIU review, towards addressing racism and racial discrimination in UN system."

She pointed out that the issue of racism in the UN system is deep-rooted with many forms and dimensions.

"While addressing and preventing racism in the UN system will not be an easy task, I believe that these initiatives will assist us in identifying the root causes and other associated factors" said Mohamed, a Sri Lankan national.

"I strongly encourage the UN-ANDI



Credit: United Nations

members to participate in the current JIU survey and provide the pertinent information to identify forms, patterns and root causes of racism in the organizations of the UN system," she declared.

In its circular, the JIU says anonymity and confidentiality are assured in all phases. All analyses will be treated with strict confidentiality. There will be no direct attribution to the original source of the data collected.

"In developing the survey, we have analyzed the similarities and differences of 7 separate UN system organization survey instruments on racism, racial discrimination and staff

engagement".

"For a system-wide review, they provide potentially useful questions, many of which we have used in this survey based on their overlap with the criteria of interest and alignment with established items that are commonly employed in empirical research and that have proven to have strong psychometric properties, and also based on value from a system-wide perspective."

The development of the survey, JIU points out, was guided by an expert on diversity, inclusion and equity (DEI) and on racism and racial

discrimination. It was supported by an ad hoc advisory group of experts on racism and racial discrimination from the private and public sectors, and from within the UN system. It also benefitted from several United Nations personnel, including senior staff.

Last year, the UN Secretariat in New York, faltered ingloriously, as it abruptly withdrew its own online survey on racism, in which it asked staffers to identify themselves either as "black, brown, white., mixed/multi-racial, and any other".

But the most offensive of the categories listed in the UN survey was "yellow" - a widely condemned

Western racist description of some Asians, including Japanese, Chinese and Koreans.

The online survey came to an inglorious end- even before it began-without an apology towards those who were offended.

According to the 2021 annual report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC A/76/30), the largest number of unrepresented (17) and underrepresented (8) countries in the UN system were in the Asia and the Pacific region (para. 148)-perhaps victims of discrimination.

In 10 or more organizations with no formal guidelines for geographical distribution, staff were not represented from 64 countries and among them, 25 countries were from the Asia. Twelve countries did not have staff in 15 of the organizations, with seven of these countries from Asia and the Pacific (para. 155).

In an interview back in 2020, and citing his personal experiences in overseas peacekeeping operations, Roderic Grigson, a former Peace Keeping Officer and a twelve-year veteran of the UN, told IPS: "When I arrived in Ismailia, which was where the UN Emergency Force (UNEF II HQ) was located, the UN compound was a mixture of both civilian and military staff. The international civilians, like me who came from overseas, were treated very differently to the local Egyptian staff in many ways".

For example, he said, the locals who were disparagingly called 'gyppos' were not allowed into the international mess (club) in the compound unless they were cooks, waiters or barmen.

"If I wanted to bring a local into the bar for a meal-even if it was someone who worked right next to me

during the day- I would be refused entry", said Grigson, author of the 'Sacred Tears' trilogy: a historical fiction set during the civil war in Sri Lanka.

This attitude towards the locals, he noted, "extended across all the UN peacekeeping operations I visited during my time in the Middle East- whether in Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, or Cyprus, it did not matter."

"The International UN staff in all the UN missions treated the locals like lackeys. And they hated us for it. And I felt very uncomfortable working in this environment," he said.

"Even though I was considered an 'international' having been recruited in New York, I was from Sri Lanka and felt I was a 'second class' international given the European clique that was predominant at the time".

Having grown up in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), which was once a British colony, "I had experienced first-hand what it felt like to be treated as one of the colonial masters on the island".

"My grandfather who was Scottish, lived with us. He worked in a senior management position in the British colonial administration of the island. He had a position of privilege given his race and colour which extended down to his family. Working for the UN felt exactly like that," Grigson declared.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last month announced plans to appoint a Special Adviser to investigate the growing discrimination based on racial, national or ethnic origins in the world body.

"Racism and discrimination have no place in our world - least of all at the United Nations", he warned, pointing out that the "diversity of our personnel is a source of profound richness. Yet I am fully aware and deeply concerned that colleagues have experienced the indignity, pain and consequences of workplace racism and racial discrimination."

"This is unacceptable", said Guterres in a message to UN staffers January 25.

He has also pledged to establish a Steering Group to oversee implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on racial discrimination - and report progress to the Executive and Management Committees.



Credit: Joint Inspection Unit, United Nations

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 UMJUAVYO 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 CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Mapping the potential of CBFM to improve social services, alleviate poverty

By Correspondent Deodatus Mfugale

FATUMA Selemeni Falu of Lulongwe Village in Morogoro District is always proud to narrate how her life has transitioned from a food insecure woman whose life was hinged on tilling a small patch of unfertile land to one who earns good money from a business that enables her to buy all the food the family needs. She even has enough money to hire people to work on her small farm and pay them well while she attends to other cores, thanks to her participation in sustainable production and sale of charcoal under community based forest management (CBFM). "I earn about seven hundred thousand shillings annually from selling charcoal and when business is good, I make a bit more than one million shillings," she explains.

Sustainable charcoal production in Lulongwe village started in 2018 and the business has gained ground over the years, providing sustainable income for individuals and the village government alike. Harvesting of forest products from the village land forest reserve goes hand in hand with conservation of the forest in order to sustain incomes and livelihoods.

"There is a big potential for us to realize more benefits from conservation and subsequent sustainable harvesting of the forest. I have built a good house, paid for secondary school requirements for my son and meet other family needs without any problem - all from sustainable production and sale of charcoal," says Ms. Falu.

Yet she is not the only

woman who benefits from the CBFM programme. Ms. Amina Ali Mohamed of Milingwa village in Morogoro Districts also bears testimony of how villagers benefit from conserving forests and harvesting products in a sustainable manner, whether it is charcoal, timber or firewood. "There is good money in conservation of forests. This year I did not plant anything on my farm, I spent money from sale of charcoal to buy food and all other needs for the family. Sustainable charcoal production is a safety net for food security when agricultural production fails," explains Ms. Mohamed.

Shakila Sharif of Ulaya Buni village in Kilosa District has also a story to tell about benefits of conserving village land forest reserves and harvesting them sustainably. "Every charcoal producer earns approximately 1m/- a year. Everyone benefits and so each of us has the duty to conserve and protect the village forest. Charcoal producers, the village natural resources committee, the village government, community, district council and Tanzania Forest Services...all benefit from the village's forest resources" she explains.

According to CBFM Guidelines published in 2001 by the Forest and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism and revised in 2007, the programme entails community involvement in the management of forests on village land, on forests that are owned and managed by the village council on behalf of the village assembly. Villagers play a role as both forest owners and managers. The programme is intended to benefit local community



As a way of sustainable harvesting of village land forest reserves, villagers measure the size of a tree to determine whether it can be felled. (File photo)

who live within or directly next to forests on their own village land and, as such, they are best placed to manage the forest resources.

Thus CBFM empowers communities to make important decisions that have a bearing on sustaining benefits from the village land forest (VLF) management. "CBM changes the tra-

ditional role of district staff as "policemen" - restricting communities from getting involved in forest utilization and management, and excluding them from reserved forest areas - to that of assisting villagers to identify, survey, and manage their own forests for the benefit of the community as a whole," reads part of the Guidelines.

However, there is a legal basis for villages to own and manage forest resources on village land and subsequently, implementation of CBFM, on village land in ways that are both sustainable and profitable. This mandate is enshrined in The Village Land Act (1999), The Local Government Act (1982), The Forest Act (2002) and The

Forest Regulations (2004). In particular, The Forest Act provides incentives to rural communities to progressively reserve unprotected woodlands and forests.

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) is leading the implementation of the project "Conserving Forests through Sustainable, Forest-based Enter-

prises support in Tanzania" (CoForEST). TFCG in collaboration with MJUMITA are supporting communities in implementing CBFM in the country with current focus in Kilosa, Morogoro, Mvomero, Lindi, Nachingwea and Kilolo Districts.

"The project aims to empower communities to manage forest resources sustainably so as to raise incomes both at family and community level and improve social services in communities," says Mr. Simon Lugazo, Capacity Building and Government Liaison Officer at TFCG. By end of 2021, there were 1,225 villages implementing CBFM or in the process of establishing CBFM.

Through implementation of CBFM, village land forest reserves have created employment opportunities for communities as a result of which men, women and the youth can earn money. Individuals can earn money by identifying and selecting suitable trees for timber and charcoal for buyers. Men also earn money in felling trees and sawing timber while men, women and the youth earn money through transporting charcoal and lumber to roadsides where buyers take them to markets.

Villagers also earn money through production and bagging of charcoal as well as loading the goods onto trucks. In some villages, motorcyclists also earn money from transporting products from forests sites where they can be transported to markets by trucks.

Benefits from effective implementation of the CBFM programme do not only trickle down to individuals but communities as a whole enjoy improved social ser-

vices all of which are funded by sale of products from conserved and sustainably managed village forests.

In Matuli village, for example, the village government has been able to build two classrooms, two teachers' houses and a staffroom and due to the improved learning environment the number of pupils selected to join the village secondary has increased. "We have had to build one more classroom in order to accommodate all pupils that are selected to join secondary school," explains Sadiki Abdallah, Chairman of Village Natural Resources Committee.

Chabima village in Kilosa District also engages in sustainable production and sale of both timber and charcoal although villagers acknowledge that charcoal brings in more money. The village government has been able to buy health insurance premiums for 100 senior citizens, built a dispensary and built two teachers' houses. "Come January 2022, we are going to employ one primary school teacher in order to ease the shortage at the village school. If we were to wait for the government to do what we have done, it would take many years. But we have been able to do this through conservation and sustainable harvesting of the forest," explains Musa Magungu, the VNRC Secretary.

In Kitunduweta, the village government has purchased NHIF premiums for all 375 families. "We would not be able to do this without conserving the village forest and abiding by sustainable harvesting plans of forest products," says Thomas Lukoo, the Village Executive Officer.

Reproductive health needs in Mozambique comes as a priority after tropical storm Ana

MAPUTO

ZAMBEZIA Province in Mozambique may have been spared by Tropical Cyclone Batsirai but it is still reeling from the devastating impacts of Tropical Storm Ana.

Making landfall on 24 January in Angoche District in the coastal province of Nampula, Storm Ana tracked westward toward Zambezia and Tete Provinces, leaving behind widespread flooding, damaged and destroyed homes and infrastructure, and cutting off basic services.

Sofala, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado Provinces were also hit but less extensively. Downstream from major river basins, with a lengthy coastline and low topography, Mozambique is vulnerable to flash flooding and a target of cyclones. In 2019, it was hit by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth within weeks of each other.

The storm's grim statistics: at least 38 killed, 207 injured, 12,000 houses in ruins and 26 health centres, 25 water supply systems, 138 power poles, and about 2,275 kilometres of roads damaged, according to the latest data released by the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management (INGD). Flooded crops have raised concerns about food security, and nearly 300,000 students no longer have schools to attend.

"My house collapsed on top of me after I managed to take my children out," said Florinda Culosa, 48, in Mocuba District. The house she shared with six children and two grandchildren is gone. "I feel very sad about losing my house."

In the aftermath of the storm, UNFPA is working with the government to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and protection services for the most vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls of reproductive age (15-49). The 180,869 people affected by the storm includes



Florinda Culosa was in her house in Mocuba District, Zambezia Province when it collapsed during Tropical Storm Ana. The storm, which caused massive flooding, has affected more than 180,000, killing 38, injuring more than 200 and destroying thousands of homes, health centres and infrastructure.

an estimated 43,409 women of reproductive age and 5,127 pregnant women who will continue to need reproductive health services.

"On the night the storm hit, in the maternity ward we assisted a mother as she gave birth to triplets while the health centre was flooding and intense wind was ripping away parts of the roof," said Filomena Aibo Joao, maternal and child health nurse at Alto Benfica Health Center in Mocuba District. "The situation was scary but we were very lucky, the mother and three babies

survived." Mobile brigades have been deployed to provide sexual and reproductive health services, including contraceptives and maternal health medicines, in remote affected areas. In Tete Province, mobile clinics quickly resumed sexual and reproductive health and family planning services in communities isolated by floods.

UNFPA is distributing thousands of dignity kits to vulnerable women and girls to support their menstrual hygiene, sanitary and female dignity needs as well

as tents that will allow damaged health centres to continue providing care.

After Noemia Horténsia, 19, lost her house, belongings and rice crop in the small village of Magica, she and her children went to the resettlement site of Sopa Parreira, where she received one of more than 200 dignity kits that had to be transported by canoe because of the storm-damaged road and bridge. "My house fell because of the flooding. I was afraid that it was going to fall on me or on my son and daughter," she said. "We lost everything."

Amazon losing far more carbon from forest degradation than deforestation - research

By Graycen Wheeler

THE assumption has long been that deforestation - easily and accurately measured from satellites - poses the greatest threat to the billions of tons of carbon stored in the biomass of the Brazilian Amazon. But forest degradation due to environmental and human disturbance is responsible for the bulk of that carbon loss, according to researchers at the University of Oklahoma.

In fact, degradation - the loss of forest quality - released three times as much carbon as deforestation between 2010 and 2019, they say.

"We're excited that we can analyze the forest area, forest cover change and the biomass change," says Yuanwei Qin, a researcher in the University of Oklahoma's Center for Earth Observation and Modeling and the lead author on the study. "But after we saw the results, we have some concern about forest conservation in the Brazilian Amazon... We need to do something to increase the carbon sink in the forest to help mitigate climate change."

This study is part of a growing body of research that emphasizes the importance of forest degradation in the Amazon. "Their work is important and new and pushing the science in an important new direction," says David Skole, a professor in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University who was not involved in the study. "Bringing degradation into the discussion is so important."

Deforestation is defined

as the total removal of trees, which in the Amazon is mostly carried out to facilitate ranching or to grow crops, and historically observable from satellite. Forest degradation is a more subtle process, and in the past harder to measure and monitor, though far more widespread. Degradation is a loss in the quality and health of the forest, the result of environmental influences (such as drought, storms and intensifying heat) or human influences (such as fragmentation due to illegal logging to remove high-value trees, or from fires, which in the Brazilian Amazon are mostly set by people to make land more valuable and usable).

Although humans clear huge swathes of forest every year, this deforested area still represents only a small fraction of the Brazilian Amazon. However, human and environmental degradation can touch vast regions, leading to massive biomass loss and carbon release even in areas where trees still stand. "You might even walk through it and say, 'Wow, this is a tropical forest,'" Skole says. "But it could be heavily degraded by human activities."

To compare the effects of forest degradation and deforestation on carbon loss, the research team led by Qin used annual maps of above-ground vegetation depth as a proxy for carbon storage. They also used radar imaging to measure forest coverage, as they reported in Nature Climate Change last year and presented at December's American Geophysical Union meeting.

The scientists charted the relationship between forest area and aboveground biomass from 2010 to 2019. "We found that yes, deforestation did contribute to the biomass loss," Qin says. But the mathematical relationship wasn't perfect - areas without any deforestation were still losing biomass.

In 2019, for example, the Brazilian Amazon lost 39,000 square kilometers of forest area, but in 2015, just 30,000 square kilometers was lost. "However, the net AGB [aboveground biomass] loss was three times smaller in 2019 than in 2015," notes the study. The team believes that a strong El Niño, causing extreme drought and storms, likely contributed to heavy forest degradation and biomass loss in 2015.

Drought is a key driver of carbon loss from forest degradation, say the researchers. Their analysis shows that biomass losses grew as annual precipitation levels fell. "Under water stress, the trees don't grow, or they lose their leaves for years," says Xiangming Xiao, director of the University of Oklahoma's Center for Earth Observation and Modeling and a study author. That means less vegetative material in which carbon can be stored. Those drought effects can persist for years. While drought can be a natural environmental impact, human-caused climate change and "the burning of forests to clear land for agriculture and grazing" have significantly intensified drought in the Brazilian Amazon in recent years, according to a 2019 NASA study.

BUSINESS

Zanzibar current account deficit widens by 24.9 percent in 2021

By Guardian Reporter

The decrease of income receipt widened Zanzibar current account by 24.9% to a deficit of projected \$237 million in 2021 from a deficit of \$190 million in 2020.

The Bank of Tanzania monthly economic review for January 2022 reported that secondary income slowed by 92% to projected \$9 million in 2021 from \$116 million recorded in 2020.

Inflows also slowed to \$15.6 million from \$126 million respectively.

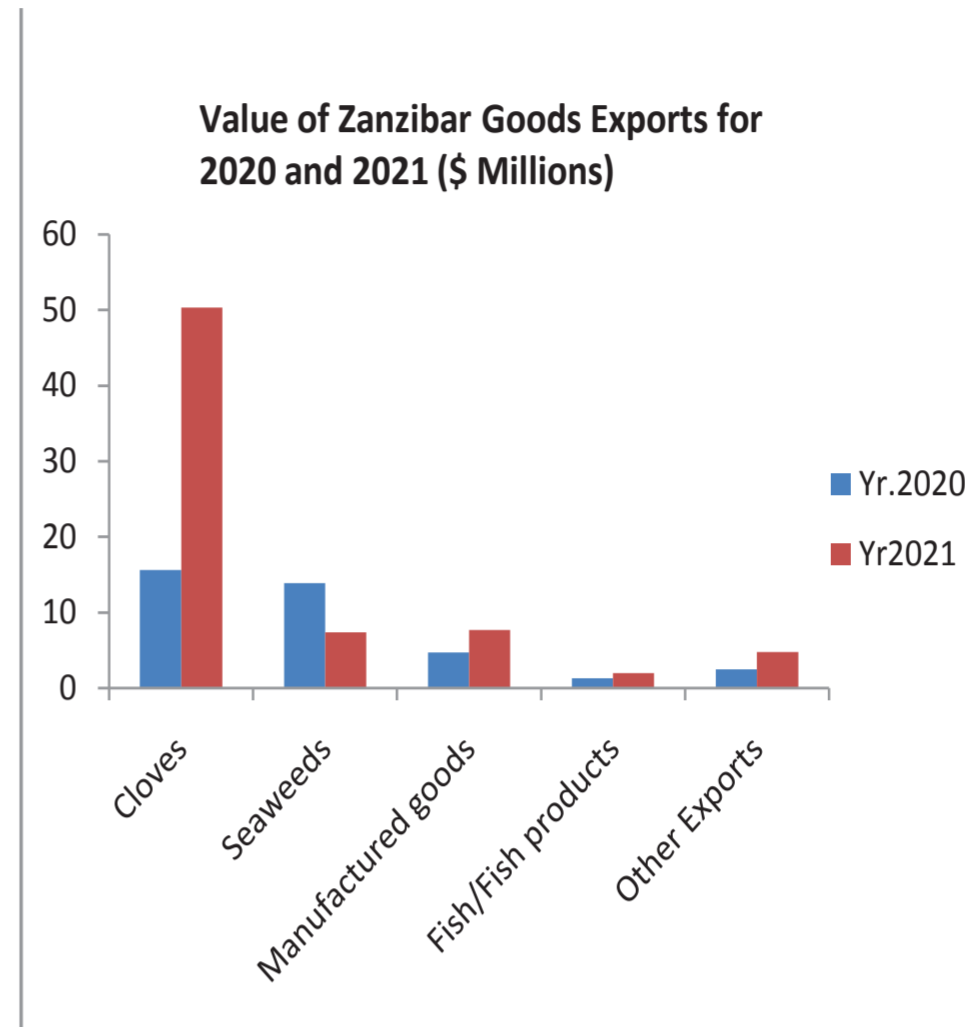
The review shows exports of goods jumped by 83.7% to projected \$70.2 million in 2021 from \$38.2 million, which slowed goods account deficit from \$287.2 million in 2020 to projected \$260.8 million last year.

The sharp growth of exports earnings was due to increase of cloves exports income, which recorded both volume and unit price gain.

The unit price gained by 49.6% during the reviewed period.

Cloves business accounts for more than 70 percent Zanzibar total exports earnings. In 2021, the archipelago islands exporter 6800 tonnes cloves valued \$50.3 million, the unit price of \$7,435.5 per tonne.

The review shows during 2020, Zanzibar exported 3,100



tonnes of cloves valued \$15.6 million at a unit price of \$4,935.5 per tonne.

However, the major price gain recorded in December last year, when the unit price was nearly double of the current price \$13,285 per

tonne, but there was no crop exports recorded.

According to the review, seaweeds exports earning slowed to \$5.1 million from \$13.9 million, due to decrease in both volume and unit price. Exports volume for

seaweeds slowed by 63% to 1700 tonnes to 1200 tonnes, while the unit price slowed by nearly half to \$414.9 per tonne from \$821.3 per tonne.

Manufactured goods exports also recorded a tremendous growth of 64.1%

during the reviewed period to \$7.7 million from \$4.7 million, with December 2021 being the peak month after recording \$2.5 million exports earnings.

Other exports including spices and souvenir went up sharply by 90% to a projected \$4.8 million in 2021 from \$2.5 million recorded in 2020.

Fish and fish products exports increased by half to \$2 million in 2021 from \$1.3 million recorded in 2020.

Meanwhile, Zanzibar imports of goods and services amounted to \$432.2 million in the year ending December 2021, edging up from USD 432.0 million in the corresponding period in 2020.

The development was associated with decrease in imports of capital goods. The decline in imported capital goods was recorded in machinery, transport equipment and building and construction, according to BOT and Tanzania Revenue Authority.

However, intermediate and consumer goods imports increased by 98.6 and 6.0 percent respectively due to increase of oil imports.

Oil imports during the period increased by 91.3 percent to USD 82.1 million largely attributed by increase in world market price.



Gold hits 2-week high on mounting inflation worries

New York

Gold prices touched their highest level in two-weeks on Thursday, supported by a weaker dollar and as data showing a spike in U.S. consumer prices boosted the metal's appeal as a hedge against inflation.

Spot gold prices fell as much as 0.6% after hotter-than-expected U.S. inflation data supported the case for aggressive rate hikes, but recouped losses to trade 0.2% higher at \$1,835.71 per ounce by 13:43 ET (1843 GMT).

U.S. gold futures settled mostly unchanged at \$1,837.40.

"A rising interest rate environment does nip at the heels of the gold market," said David Meger, director of metals trading at High Ridge Futures.

"However, the other side of that coin is a confirmation of the ongoing inflationary trend that we believe is the underlying fundamental push behind gold's recent move."

The dollar slipped to a near one-week low, making bullion less expensive for holders of other currencies. [USD/]

While gold is considered a hedge against soaring inflation, a resultant

hike in interest rates would increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

The U.S. consumer price index jumped 7.5% in the 12 months through January, the biggest year-on-year increase since 1982, topping expectations of a 7.3% rise.

Federal funds rate futures increased the chances of a half percentage-point tightening by the U.S. Federal Reserve at next month's policy meeting following the data.

Meanwhile, benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury yields topped 2% for the first time in 21/2 years. [US/]

"I guess with market participants now pricing in six rate hikes this year, there is some concern that it might impact economic growth down the road, and that is supporting the gold price," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

Wall Street's main indexes dropped on Thursday, with Big Tech leading declines. [N] [MKTS/GLOB]

Elsewhere, spot silver gained 0.7% at \$23.46 per ounce, platinum rose 0.2% to \$1,035.55, while palladium fell 0.3% to \$2,272.81.

Oil prices slip on hot US inflation concerns

Beijing

Oil prices eased on Friday as hot U.S. inflation fanned worries about aggressive interest rate hikes and investors await the outcome of U.S.-Iran talks that could lead to increased global crude supply.

Brent crude futures fell 58 cents, or 0.6%, to \$90.83

a barrel at 0730 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude declined 45 cents, or 0.5%, to \$89.43 a barrel.

The benchmark oil prices are also in line for their first weekly decline after seven consecutive weekly gains, though both contracts had earlier climbed to a seven-year high.

"Yesterday's inflation

number likely puts more pressure on the U.S. Fed to act more aggressively with rate hikes. This expectation is weighing on oil and the broader commodities complex somewhat," said Warren Patterson, ING's head of commodities research.

"In addition, Iranian nuclear talks appear to be progressing, which another

factor is holding prices back."

St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank President James Bullard had said he wanted a full percentage point of interest rate hikes by July 1, following the release of U.S. inflation data that saw its biggest annual increase in 40 years.

Investors have also been eyeing indirect talks between the United States and Iran

to revive a nuclear deal, which resumed this week after a 10-day break. A deal could see the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil and ease global supply tightness.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the talks have "reached an urgent point," and that a "deal that addresses the core concerns of all sides is in sight."

"The crude price rally has finally run out of steam as optimism grows that Iran nuclear deal talks are headed in the right direction and as the dollar rallies as money markets start to price in a supersized Fed hike," said Edward Moya, senior market analyst at brokerage OANDA.

"The oil market is still very tight, but exhaustion in the crude price rally has settled in. If the dollar continues to rally, oil prices could continue to decline further."

Tight supply was seen in U.S. crude oil stockpiles, which unexpectedly fell 4.8 million barrels in the week to Feb. 4 to 410.4 million barrels as overall refined product demand reached an all-time record, said the Energy Information Administration. This compares with an analyst forecast of a 369,000-barrel rise.

Meanwhile, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said that world oil demand might rise even more steeply this year. The group forecast a gain of 4.15 million barrels per day (bpd) this year, as the global economy posts a strong recovery from the pandemic.



FILE PHOTO: Crude oil storage tanks are seen from above at the Cushing oil hub in Cushing

Inflation down in January despite food price rises

By Francis Kujabi

Despite increases in prices of goods, mainly food, the inflation rate last month slowed down slightly, compared with December 2021.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, annual headline inflation rate slowed to 4.0% from

4.2% recorded in December.

This indicates that the rate of prices increases for goods and services in January were lower than those of December 2021.

"The decrease of the headline inflation explains that, speed of price change for commodities for the year ended January, 2022 has decreased compared to the

speed recorded for the year ended December, 2021," NBS says.

Surveys in various markets have shown that the prices of maize flour, beans, rice and other food commodities have been rising time to time due to supply shortages.

The retail price of maize flour, which is the main staple food for

most Tanzanians in both urban and rural has increased by 10% to 1,100/- per kilo from 1,000/-

NBS report shows that on monthly basis, the price of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which accounts for 28.2% weigh of the CPI increased by one percent between December 2021 and January 2022.

On annual basis, core index increased by 3.3%, non-core index went up by 6.0% while energy, fuel and utility index jumped by 7.3%.

The report shows overall index went up from 101.53 in January, 2021 to 105.59 in January, 2022.

According to the report, annual food and non-alcoholic bever-

ages increased by 6.3% as its CPI increased to 106.99 from 100.60 recorded in January 2021.

Other rising CPI o annual basis were recorded by housing, water, electricity and fuels, transport, restaurants and accommodation, clothes and footwear, information and communication as well as furnishings, household equip-

ment and routine households.

According to a fresh report by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) consumer price index shows that consumers are still digging deep into their pockets in purchasing Food and non-alcoholic beverages, Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, transport, clothing and footwear.

Kenya central bank now tests market with digital currency

Nairobi

The proposed Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) digital currency will for the first time allow Kenyans to directly keep cash at the apex bank, placing it in direct competition with commercial banks for deposits.

The Kenyan version of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), whose introduction has been under debate for the last few years, will be exchangeable on a one-to-one basis with physical cash.

It will enable customers to bypass banks, with the CBK taking on a new role of keeping track of holdings, transactions and settlements.

The CBDC is being eyed mainly to ease cross-border payments and complement mobile money in the local digital payments space.

The CBK on Thursday invited the public to give their views on the potential introduction of the digital currency, in a shift from its original opposition to crypto assets.

The regulator noted, however, that having its own digital currency for retail customers could lead to a migration of deposits from commercial banks to the CBDC.



This, it warned, would have far-reaching effects on the ability of the lenders to continue offering sufficient credit to the

economy.

"A CBDC could make the financial system safer by allowing individuals,

private sector companies and non-bank financial institutions to settle directly in central bank money, rather than bank

deposits," said the CBK in the discussion paper.

"This would significantly reduce the concentration of liquidity and credit risk in payment systems. This in turn reduces the systemic importance of large banks and PSPs [payment service providers]. However, the central bank would enter into direct competition with the banks and payment service providers it regulates."

Banks rely on customer deposits for funds to lend to both the private sector and the government as part of their role as financial intermediaries in the economy.

Losing deposits, especially those accessed at low cost, would squeeze bank interest margins, forcing them to raise the cost of loans to mitigate the risk of lower profits.

"If significant deposit balances are moved from bank deposits to CBDC, banks' ability for credit creation could get constrained. Since central banks cannot provide credit to the private sector, the impact on the role of bank credit needs to be well understood," said the CBK.

"While a significant shift from deposits to CBDCs can pose risks to financial stability, this could be controlled if the banking sector is given sufficient time and flexibility to adjust.")

NMB awards prize to winner of savings campaign draw

By Guardian Correspondent

NMB Bank PLC yesterday handed over a Toyo-three wheeler worth 4.5m/- to Bileshi Hamisi a resident of Chanika, Dar es Salaam after emerging winner in the bank's just concluded Bonge la mpango promotional campaign.

The handover ceremony was held at the NMB bank in Kisarawe, Pwani Region.

During the bank's three months campaign that ended on December 30, 2021 geared towards promoting savings culture, the Prizes worth 237m/- including cash and 50 Toyo-three wheelers were rewarded to lucky winners.

Speaking during the handover of the motorcycle, the NMB Kisarawe Branch Justina Kikuli said the campaign received positive response from the bank's clients.

"The Bonge la Mpango campaign was very successful and very many people benefited from it. I take this opportunity to thank both our new and existing customers for taking part in the campaign," Kikuli said.

Speaking soon after receiving the toyo-three wheeler, Bileshi said he thought it was a hoax when he received a call notifying him that he had emerged winner.

"I take this opportunity to thank NMB bank for this prize. When I first received a call that I had emerged the winner, I thought the call was from comen trying to play games with me so I did not take it seriously. I call upon other NMB customers to continue taking part in the bank's campaigns as they are genuine," he said.

Bileshi was accompanied by his wife Masha Ally, who revealed that the general public including close family members, friends and neighbors all laughed them off when they revealed that he had won a toyo-three wheeler warning them not to believe comen.



The Bonge la Mpango campaign was very successful and very many people benefited from it. I take this opportunity to thank both our new and existing customers for taking part in the campaign

Tourists arrivals rise in 2021 on post-pandemic recovery

By Guardian Reporter

TOURISM sector is continuing to recover from the impact of Covid-19, following an increase of foreign tourists' arrivals in 2021 compared with 2020.

High Frequent Data at the ending December 2021 released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that major increase recorded during the third and fourth quarter of last year.

Number of tourists arrival last year were 922,692 against 620,867 who were recorded in 2020.

Russia was the leading source of tourists during last year with 74,570 arrivals from 316 who arrived in 2020, followed by Kenya with 34,611 tourists in 2021 against 7,762 who were recorded in 2020 during the peak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Burundi was third major source of tourists as 26,189 were recorded in 2021 from 4,253 in 2020, followed by Malawi with 18,466 tourists in 2021.

Other main sources of foreign tourists were Poland (16,351), US (16,199), Rwanda (14,017), DRC (11,917) and Zambia (10,572).

Tanzania is one of the key tourism destinations attracting nearly 1.5



million tourists who leave behind \$2.6 billion annually, thanks to its amazing wilderness, incredible natural landscapes, friendly people coupled with safety and security element.

As the tourism sector transitions gradually into recovery mode with the rest of the world, the latest World Bank report urges authorities to look toward its future resilience by addressing long-

running challenges that could help position Tanzania on a higher and more inclusive growth trajectory.

Areas of focus include destination planning and management, product and market diversification, more inclusive local value chains, an improved business and investment climate, and new business models for investment

that are built on partnership and shared value creation.

Tourism offers Tanzania the long-term potential to create good jobs, generate foreign exchange earnings, provide revenue to support the conservation and maintenance of natural and cultural heritage, and expand the tax base to finance development expenditures and poverty-reduction efforts.

The latest World Bank Tanzania Economic Update, Transforming Tourism: Toward a Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Sector highlights tourism as central to the country's economy, livelihoods, and poverty reduction, particularly for women, who make up 72 percent of all workers in the tourism sub-sector.

Malaysia economy rebounds in 2021, amid easing of pandemic

Washington

Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia said its economy returned to expansion at the end of 2021 amid easing pandemic restrictions, while flagging risks for this year from inflation, further virus disruptions and global growth.

Gross domestic product growth in the December quarter rebounded to 3.6% from a year earlier. Malaysia's central bank said Fri-

day, beating the 3.3% median growth expected in a Bloomberg survey. That pushed full-year GDP up 3.1%, within the official forecast range of 3%-4%.

Growth is expected to accelerate going forward as Malaysia rolls out vaccine booster shots and prepares to reopen its borders. The country is poised to benefit from stronger global demand and higher private

spending in 2022, according to the central bank.

All sectors of the economy showed improvement in the last quarter, Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus said in a briefing Friday, adding that momentum through this year will be driven by global demand and trade, as well as resumption of domestic activity.

"Going forward, Malay-

sia's GDP should be able to record respectable growth, given there are likely to be fewer restrictions on mobility following the indication that international borders would reopen in March," said Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, chief economist at Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd. The economy will likely grow 5.5% in 2022, he said, while flagging risks to the forecast from supply chain

issues and the prospect of higher borrowing costs.

Malaysia's main equity index rose 0.6% to more than a three-month high at the close. The ringgit fell 0.2% to 4.1902 per dollar while 10-year bond yields were up two basis points to 3.72%.

Shamsiah added that cost pressures remain from high commodities prices and supply-chain issues, and that inflation is expected to

edge up this year while its core measure will remain "modest." She cautioned that there would be an impact on the economy from "premature withdrawal" of monetary policy support.

"We will remain vigilant of the latest developments and any new data," she said. "Any adjustment to the degree of accommodation will depend on how these developments will affect the growth

and inflation outlook." Given the nation's current-account surplus, Bank Negara Malaysia can "still afford to hold out a bit more unlike some of its EM peers" on raising rates, said Wellian Wiranto, an economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. in Singapore. "We see a rate hike to come only in 3Q, and by a muted 25 basis points this year."

Risks to Malaysia's out-

look include slower-than-expected global growth and financial market volatility, higher commodity and energy prices and worsening supply-chain disruptions, as well as tighter pandemic restrictions domestically, Shamsiah also said Friday.

The official GDP forecast this year is for 5.5%-6.5% expansion, with the central bank set to announce any revisions on March 30.

WORLD

Petition urges Biden to close Guantanamo military prison

HOUSTON

MORE than 30,000 people have signed a petition asking United States President Joe Biden to shut down the Guantanamo Bay detention camp created in 2002 during former president George W. Bush's administration.

The petition, calling Guantanamo a "human rights disaster", was started by the American Civil Liberties Union.

"For 20 years, the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay has been a stain on our country. Today, 39 Muslim men remain indefinitely detained there at the astronomical cost of \$540 million per year," it says.

The prison, which is inside the US' Guantanamo Bay Naval Base on the southernmost coast of Cuba, was created following the 9/11 attacks on the US. It has been used to indefinitely hold terrorism suspects, some of whom await trial. The Cuban government has said the base is illegal.

Since January 2002, around 779 Muslim men and boys have been held at Guantanamo. Most have been held without charges or trials, and many were tortured, according to media reports and a senior member of the Bush administration.

About 540 were released during the Bush administration, another 200 or so were released during the Obama administration, and one was released during the Trump administration. Nine have died at the camp, the ACLU says.

Of the 39 men still in detention, 12 have been charged with war crimes. Of those, two have been convicted and 10 are waiting to be tried. Eight detainees are held in law-of-war detention, while another 19 are held in law-of-war detention but have been recommended for transfer to another country when security conditions are met, according to the Guantanamo docket, The New York Times reported.

Under international law of war, it is legal to detain enemy combatants without charge in order to remove combatants from the battlefield.

US authorities have recommended Mohammed al-Qahtani for transfer to Saudi Arabia, most recently on Feb 4. Suspected of being al-Qaida's intended 20th hijacker for the 9/11 attacks, he was among the first detainees sent to Guantanamo. Al-Qahtani has been detained for almost 20 years.

The torture of al-Qahtani and other detainees was widely reported during the early years of the operation. Various media outlets have reported that al-Qahtani was subjected to prolonged isolation, sleep deprivation, sexual humiliation and other abuses.

The Bush administration had repeatedly denied torture until Susan Crawford, a senior member of the administration, admitted for the first time in 2009 that torture had been carried out at Guantanamo.

"We tortured Qahtani. His treatment met the



US President Joe Biden

legal definition of torture," Crawford told The Washington Post in 2009.

The US government was criticized and condemned by human rights groups. The United Nations tried unsuccessfully to shut down the detention center.

The Bush administration made the decision to use Guantanamo Bay Naval Base as a detention camp because it believed the prison, being on foreign soil, would not be subject to the jurisdiction of US courts.

Since 2004, however, in more than one ruling, the US Supreme Court has said that US courts did have jurisdiction and that the prisoners were entitled to minimal protection under the Geneva Conventions.

The Bush administration asserted that detainees weren't entitled to those protections, which ensure humanitarian treatment of war combatants, saying the detainees were "unlawful combatants" or "enemy combatants" rather than war com-

batants.

Since the prison's inception, various human and civil rights groups have brought lawsuits against the US government for holding the detainees without trial or charges and for allegedly torturing them.

Facing criticism both domestically and internationally, then US president Barack Obama had planned to close the detention center. However, in 2015, the US Senate passed a bill on a 91-3 vote explicitly prohibiting the Obama administration from transferring Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States.

In 2018, then president Donald Trump signed an executive order to keep Guantanamo open indefinitely. Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU National Security Project, writing on the 20th anniversary of the opening of the detention camp, called Guantanamo "a symbol of racial and religious injustice, abuse and disregard for the rule of law".

Foreign secretary invites Lavrov to visit UK in coming months – Foreign Office

LONDON

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss invited Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to visit the UK in the coming months, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office said in a press release on Thursday.



"The Foreign Secretary noted that our differences were with the aggressive policy of the Russian government towards Ukraine, not with the Russian people. She highlighted the cultural and educational links between Russia and the UK and invited Foreign Minister Lavrov to visit the UK in the coming months," it said.

"The UK wanted to see an improved bilateral relationship, but this depended on Russia choosing to deescalate and taking the path of diplomacy," it added. Moscow has firmly and consistently rejected the claims from the West that its actions are aggressive.

"In her meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said that the aggressive build-up of Russian forces on Ukraine's border threatened Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. She made clear that Russia needed to live up to the international commitments it had entered into," the release said.

"She added that any further Russian invasion of Ukraine would have massive consequences and incur severe costs. Russia needed to deescalate, withdraw its forces from the border and pursue a diplomatic path as NATO allies had offered," it stressed.

Liz Truss also warned that Russia's action "was counterproductive and had increased tensions, to which NATO and Ukraine had to respond". "The Foreign Secretary noted the right of every nation to choose its own security arrangements. She rejected the notion that improving one nation's security threatened another's," the press release said.

Lately, Ukraine and the West have been increasingly echoing claims of an alleged possible Russian "invasion" of Ukraine ever more frequently. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov branded such information as an "empty and groundless" escalation of tensions, emphasizing that Russia does not pose a threat to anyone.

That said, he didn't exclude the possibility of provocations being whipped up in order to justify such claims and warned that attempts to resolve the problem in south-eastern Ukraine through the use of force would have the most serious consequences.

Cooperation on Afghanistan and Iran

Liz Truss and Sergey Lavrov also discussed cooperation on the situation in Afghanistan and the return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) at their talks in Moscow on Thursday.

"The Foreign Secretary said as Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, the UK and Russia had a responsibility to maintain international peace and security and the pair discussed cooperation on addressing Iran's nuclear programme and the situation in Afghanistan," the document said.

Devaluing China's zero-COVID approach disregards facts

AS the omicron strain still rages worldwide, lashing China's "dynamic zero-case policy" becomes the groupthink that is often hyped up by some Western media.

Some media outlets and individuals argue that China's strict measures will not stop the highly transmissible omicron but only lead to economic disruptions, and the country should shift to living with the virus and lifting restrictions.

The premise of devaluing China's zero-COVID approach is flawed in the first place, and China has every reason to chart its own path in the fight against the virus.

Chinese health officials have noted that the goal of the "dynamic zero-case policy" was to prevent domestic flare-ups through timely interventions rather than achieve zero infections, with a focus to strike a balance between disease control and ensuring people's normal everyday lives.

However, China's interpretation of its policies has fallen on deaf ears. Harboring deep insecurities about their own economic future, some Western countries, represented by the United States, are again accusing China groundlessly in an attempt to shift the blame from mistakes entirely of their own making.

Last December, some countries scrambled to impose border and travel curbs after omicron made its viral debut following delta, which actually makes them lose ground by accusing China of sticking to its cautious approach.

Some countries have downgraded the threat posed by the omicron strain. But a recent study published in China CDC Weekly shows that if population mobility had been restored to 2019 levels in countries and regions which take a similar COVID approach as China, more than 234 million infections would have been seen within a year, including 2 million deaths.

Xinhua

US urges Canada to use federal powers to ease border disruption

WINDSOR, Ontario/WA SHINGTON

CANADA should use federal powers to ease the growing economic disruption caused by the blockade of a vital US-Canada trade route by protesters opposed to coronavirus mandates, US President Joe Biden's administration said on Thursday.

The closure of the Ambassador Bridge, North America's busiest international land border crossing and a vital supply route for Detroit's carmakers, has halted some auto output and left officials scrambling to limit economic damage.

Canadian truckers started their protests as a "Freedom Convoy" occupying Ottawa, the capital, to demonstrate opposition to a vaccine-or-quarantine mandate for cross-border drivers mirrored by the US government.

They began blocking the Ambassador Bridge on Monday and have since shut two smaller border crossings in Alberta and Manitoba provinces.

As many pandemic-weary Western countries near the two-year mark on coronavirus restrictions, copycat protests have spread to Australia, New Zealand and France, although the wave of infections caused by the highly infectious Omicron variant has begun to subside in some places.

US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg on Thursday urged their Canadian counterparts "to use federal powers to resolve this situation at our joint border," a White House official said.

"US and Canadian border and

customs authorities are working with great urgency to ensure the continued flow of goods and services across our international border, leveraging alternative land routes, as well as air and sea options."

Canadian federal ministers have asked the blockade illegal and called protesters to return home.

In a tweet on Thursday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he had spoken to Drew Dilkens, the mayor of Windsor, Ontario, which borders Detroit, and said the federal government was ready to help Windsor and the province get the situation under control.

"It is causing real harm to workers and economies on both sides of the border," he said.

Police near the Ambassador Bridge have begun receiving additional manpower, Dilkens told CNN earlier.

"(If) the protesters don't leave, there will have to be a path forward. If that means physically removing them, that means physically removing them, and we're prepared to do that," he said.

Dilkens later said Windsor was seeking a court injunction to have the protesters removed, adding he was striving to resolve the issue peacefully.

"(While) it may be gratifying for someone to see the forced removal of the demonstrators, such action may inflame the situation and certainly cause more folks to come here and add to the protest, and we don't want to risk additional conflict," he said.

Diverting Cargo



A protester affixes a flag to the top of a truck, parked beside another with a sign calling for the jailing of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, outside Parliament Hill, as a protest against COVID-19 restrictions continues into its second week in Ottawa on Feb 7, 2022. AP

With traffic at times shut in both directions, General Motors Co and Chrysler-parent Stellantis said they had to cancel or reduce shifts because of parts shortages, tacking on to earlier production cuts announced by Ford Motor Co and Toyota Motor Corp.

Toyota said it was suspending production through Saturday at its plants in Ontario and Kentucky, affecting manufacturing of the Camry, RAV4 and other popular models.

Ford is looking at flying in some auto parts to a plant in Windsor that produces engines for popular models, a union official said.

An Ontario court on Thursday froze funds donated to anti-vaccine protesters through the app GiveSendGo. The convoy group had

raised more than \$8 million as of late Thursday afternoon, the Boston-based company said.

Protesters began gathering with their vehicles in Ottawa nearly two weeks ago and have occupied the main downtown street that runs by parliament, the Bank of Canada and the prime minister's office.

More US disruption to come?

More than two-thirds of the \$511 billion in goods traded annually between Canada and the United States is transported by road. The Detroit International Bridge Company, which owns the Ambassador Bridge, urged Canada to end the protest by repealing the vaccine mandate or remove the vehicles so trade can resume.

A third option was to do "nothing and hope this ends on its own: an option that will most likely prolong the blockade, further crippling our economy and putting more jobs at risk," the company's chairman, Matt Moroun, said in a statement.

Seeking to show support for the Canadian protesters, some US truckers said they will send two convoys this weekend to a fourth border crossing that connects Buffalo, New York, and Fort Erie, Ontario.

The United States is adding staff to its command post at the National Football League's Super Bowl in Los Angeles in response to reports of a convoy that could cause disruptions at Sunday's game, the White House official said.

Chinese elements in the opening ceremony of Beijing 2022

THE opening of the 24th Olympic Winter Games betokened a brilliant bond between China and the Olympics as it coincided with "Lichun," or the Start of Spring, the first of the Chinese 24 solar terms.

It glittered with Chinese culture from the very start when a 24-second countdown performance was staged, with each second representing one of the 24 solar terms. Then a three-dimensional cube that resembled a block of ice was gradually broken and turned into crystal clear Olympic rings. Children from rural areas in north China's Hebei province sang the Olympic Anthem wearing stylized tiger heads on their costumes and

shoes to mark the Year of the Tiger.

These details displayed traditional Chinese culture in a modern way and enriched the aesthetics of the Olympics with Chinese elements, showing to the world the unique charm of the Chinese culture.

Those appreciated by the world must have their distinctive national features. As a matter of fact, Chinese marks have been left on the Beijing 2022 since the start of the preparations for the sports gala. The National Ski Jumping Center, a major venue for the Beijing Winter Games, is built in the shape of a "Ruyi," a traditional Chinese auspicious ornament that connotes the meaning of

"good luck." The National Speed Skating Oval, the only new venue built for ice competition, has "ice ribbons" around it made of curved glass.

Besides, the design of the emblem of the Games was inspired by the Chinese character for "winter," and the Beijing Winter Olympic flame lantern also drew inspiration from a bronze lamp dating to the Western Han Dynasty (206BC-25AD). In addition, the sports pictograms of the Beijing 2022 were designed based on traditional Chinese seal engraving.

The Beijing 2022 is a window through which the world can both see the profound culture of China and witness the

major country's demeanor and progress.

Better sports help make China stronger, and a stronger China would in turn make sports better. Sports are an indicator of national strength and a symbol of national unity.

Fourteen years ago, the 29th summer Olympic Games in Beijing presented the wonders of sports to numerous people around the world. Today, as a city that has hosted both the summer and winter editions of the Games, Beijing is once again attracting the attention of the globe.

It was stirring to see representatives from all walks of life and the nation's 56 ethnic groups passing the national

flag to the flagpole at the Beijing 2022 opening ceremony.

Civilizations have become richer and more colorful with exchanges and mutual learning. At the opening ceremony, "snowflake" elements appeared in every link, from the countdown performance to the placards leading the athletes in the parade of nations, and from the peace dove performance to the background when the theme song for the opening ceremony was sung.

As the 91 placards, representing 91 participating countries and regions, formed a giant snowflake, it sent a message that the world is a common-

wealth that should unite together for a shared future.

Under the sky that was lit up by the Olympic torch, guests and friends from across the world gathered in the ancient capital of Beijing. The grand sports event has turned "you" and "I" into "us," building a bridge of communication for athletes and people from different countries and regions.

It is a platform for exchanges and mutual learning among the diverse civilizations around the world, and has injected a strong impetus into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

US Navy comes under fire for massive fuel leaks in Hawaii

LOS ANGELES

U.S. state of Hawaii is up in arms over an ongoing water contamination crisis due to fuel leaks from the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Hawaii House lawmakers on Tuesday advanced two bills aimed at shutting down the enormous fuel facility built inside mountains, which has contaminated water supply and is sending hundreds of residents to the hospital and forcing thousands of households to be relocated.

House Bill 2514 would add a provision to state law mandating that the maximum capacity of an underground storage tank "shall not exceed" 100,000 gallons. While HB 2274 would prohibit the issuance of state permits for underground fuel storage tanks within a half-mile (804.5 meters) of an aquifer, starting July 1.

The Red Hill depot located near the Pearl Harbor-Hickam Joint Base includes 20 massive 250-foot underground steel tanks encased in concrete, each holding more than 12 million gallons of jet and other fuel.

And it is situated just 30 meters above Hawaii's main aquifer that supplies fresh water to most of Honolulu and much of Oahu County.

However, despite local lawmakers' latest efforts to close the facility through legislation, the federal government has been fighting against the Hawaiians' demand by challenging the state's shutdown order in court.

Following reports of the contamination in late November 2021, Hawaii's health department issued an emergency order to the Navy to shutdown the facility immediately to avoid further contamination and escalation of the public health crisis.

Instead of complying, on Feb. 2, the Navy opted to file lawsuits against the state of Hawaii in federal and state courts in an effort to delay the shutdown.

The courts upheld Hawaii's shutdown order, but the Navy is now appealing, arguing that it needs the fuel facility to protect national security and to use as a "strategic reserve" for operations in the Pacific. Two legal appeals are currently pending in federal and state courts.

Military families started complaining of the smell of jet fuel in the tap water in their homes.

By Dec. 1, testing showed that the local elementary school water was contaminated with fuel, but the Navy commander issued a statement saying that the water was safe to drink. Hundreds of people ended up at the hospital due to the tainted water.

The whistleblower, Congressman Kaiali'i Kehele from Oahu, said at an online briefing Tuesday that he immediately went door-to-door in the affected area, speaking to worried residents and collecting water samples that clearly smelled of jet fuel.

Alarmed by continued denials on the part of the Navy, he immediately flew to Washington, D.C., where he and some of his congressional colleagues demanded immediate action.

"Would you drink this water?" Kehele demanded of the Navy officials at an emergency hearing, offering them

a sample of the contaminated water. "This is a catastrophe for Hawaii."

Governor David Ige and Hawaii's Congressional delegation have called for immediate shutdown of the Red Hill tanks and, on Sunday, the health department ordered the Navy to suspend operations at the facility and remove all fuel from the tanks.

The Navy refused, calling Hawaii's emergency order "Erroneous, Arbitrary, Capricious, and Abuse of Discretion; Clearly Unwarranted," despite official data from the Navy's Annual Water Quality Report showing toxicity readings well above legal safety limits.

Water is sacred to native Hawaiians, because fresh water on an island isolated in the middle of the salty sea is very hard to come by. "All Hawaiians are taught from childhood that Water is life", Kelehe said.

Since the facility became operational during WWII in 1943, there have been 72 documented leaks.

The public was never warned of most of those leaks until the facility was declassified in 1995. At a press conference on Feb. 2, Oahu Water Protector Mikey Inouye insisted that there should be consequences for the Navy violating the terms of the health department's emergency order.

The Navy argued that because the tanks are buried, the number of leaks and degrees of damage to the tanks and supply piping are difficult to assess. But local media pointed out that the Navy's broader concern is that the depot supplies fuel for military operations throughout the entire Indo-Pacific theater, or roughly 50 percent of the world.

Decommissioning part of or all of it would seriously impact the scope of the naval and other U.S. military operations worldwide.

The public outrage and dismay has rapidly spread from community activists in the native-Hawaiian community to the public at large, and all the way up to Hawaii's state and federal leadership.

Senator Mazie Hirono issued a statement on Feb. 1, saying "This (draining of the tanks) must happen expeditiously and without any unnecessary delays. Let me be clear: the safety and well-being of the people of Hawaii must be the top priority."

Senator Brian Schatz also noted in a statement, "The DOD made a grave and unforced error that undermines public trust. Fortunately, we have civilian oversight of the military." Law firm Earthjustice's attorney David Henkin, who represents the Sierra Club of Hawaii, said in statement on Jan. 31,

"We cannot leave it up to the military to decide what is needed to protect Oahu's irreplaceable drinking water supply." "The military should take very seriously the outrage of the local population over their threat to the drinking water for all the residents of the island and should withdraw its lawsuits and immediately state that it will permanently shut down the dangerous fuel tanks," Ann Wright, a retired U.S. Army Colonel and U.S. diplomat, said. Other local residents are calling on President Joe Biden, as the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, to shutdown or even dismantle the Navy's red Hill storage tanks.

Xinhua

Putin's Munich Speech 15 years later: What prophecies have come true?

MOSCOW

Fifteen years ago, on February 10, 2007 Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the Munich Security Conference with a speech that was instantly interpreted as the harshest-ever manifesto since the Cold War era, but Putin himself does not believe that he went too far back then in any respect.

NATO's expansion, a unipolar world, disarmament problems, the erosion of the OSCE as an institution, the Iranian nuclear problem and Europe's energy security - TASS has summarized Putin's warnings and prophecies from his Munich speech that have come true simply because nobody turned an attentive ear to them.

NATO's eastward expansion fomented tension

Putin's Munich speech: "NATO expansion does not have any relation with the modernization of the Alliance itself, or with ensuring security in Europe. On the contrary, it represents a serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust."

Since then, four other countries - Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia - have been admitted to NATO. Moreover, in 2008, one year after Putin's Munich speech a political statement was adopted saying that with time Ukraine and Georgia would be able to join NATO, too. The ensuing events merely confirmed that this policy was fraught with provocations and would imminently downgrade the level of security in Europe. In that same year, 2008, then Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili felt emboldened to launch a military adventure in South Ossetia, which caused heavy casualties and ruined any chances Tbilisi might ever succeed in restoring the country within the borders of the former Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The US-dominated North Atlantic bloc's ambitions to have Ukraine as its new member played a role in the 2014 events over Crimea. Putin then said that Russia not only protected the Crimeans from Ukrainian extremists and radical nationalists, and also found it impossible to let "NATO forces set foot on the soil of Crimea and Sevastopol, a land of Russian soldiers' and sailors' combat glory."

The risks of Ukraine's admission to NATO, which might entail a direct military threat to Russia's territory, are to blame for the current foreign policy tensions. This is precisely what Putin warned about 15 years ago.

Democracy by diktat won't work
Putin stressed in his Munich speech:



Russian President Vladimir Putin

"[The observance of human rights] is an important task. We support this. But this does not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, and especially not imposing a regime that determines how these states should live and develop. It is obvious that such interference does not promote the development of democratic states at all. On the contrary, it makes them dependent and, as a consequence, politically and economically unstable."

The past 15 years have seen quite a few examples of such destabilizing attempts to dictate "democratic norms," such as the "Arab Spring" chain of revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen and civil wars in Libya and Syria. Such foreign interference, which Putin described as impermissible, has caused tens of thousands of casualties, the actual loss of sovereignty by some countries and the emergence of the Islamic State (terrorist organization, outlawed in Russia). In the meantime, Russia has helped save Syria from collapse and has been promoting a peace settlement in Libya and other affected countries, but in doing so it does not try to dictate any rules.

On the list of victims from forcible pseudo-democratization, it would be appropriate to mention Ukraine. The government coup in Kiev was staged by self-styled radicals, enjoying heavy diplomatic and political support from the West. The radical change of government in Ukraine has resulted in the total severing of relations between Moscow and Kiev, Ukraine's loss of Crimea and hostilities in Donbass. Just as Putin warned, genuine democracy never ripens under such conditions.

An arms race will follow

Putin stated in his historic Munich speech: "No one can feel that international law is like a stone wall that will protect

them. Of course, such a policy stimulates an arms race... The potential danger of the destabilization of international relations is connected with obvious stagnation in the disarmament issue."

Putin's fears regarding another arms race have materialized only to an extent. Russia took a decision not to participate in a long-term marathon to make the final spurt right away. True, Russia has built up the share of modern military hardware in its armed forces up to 71% (in 2010 the rate was as low as 15%), but, as Putin said, Moscow is unable to compete with Washington's military spending and sees no reason why it should. Instead, the emphasis was placed on research and development that make any multi-billion missile defense systems meaningless. In his message to the Federal Assembly in 2018, Putin for the first time mentioned Russia's newest hypersonic weapons, including the Sarmat missile systems and the Avangard nuclear-powered cruise missiles and the air-launched Kinzhal ballistic missile. A year later, he described some features of the Tsirkon hypersonic ground and sea-based missile. Russia is not stopping here, though, and as Putin said, keeps working on technologies to counter the hypersonic weapons developed by its adversaries.

"Nobody bothered to listen to us then. Do listen to us now," Putin said in the 2018 message, 11 years after the Munich conference.

Unresolved Iranian nuclear problem

Putin noted in his historic Munich speech: "If the international community does not find a reasonable solution for resolving this conflict of interests, the world will continue to suffer similar, destabilizing crises... We are going to constantly fight against the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

The Iranian nuclear program issue remains suspended. In 2015, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to permit Tehran to conduct peaceful nuclear activity on a number of conditions. However, in 2018, the United States under the Trump administration unilaterally quit the JCPOA.

When Joe Biden took over, Washington expressed the readiness to resume compliance with its obligations under the deal. The relevant consultations began and it is to be hoped that the negotiations on restoring the JCPOA to its original form and Washington's return to this multilateral agreement will be completed in February 2022.

Long-term contracts and energy security
Putin stated in his Munich speech: "And now about whether our government cabinet is able to operate responsibly in resolving issues linked to energy deliveries and ensuring energy security. Of course, it can! Moreover, all that we have done and are doing is designed to achieve only one goal, namely to transfer our relations with consumers and countries that transport our energy to market-based, transparent principles and long-term contracts."

Over the past 15 years, Russia has diversified gas export to Europe by commissioning the gas pipelines Nord Stream and TurkStream.

Russia remains a reliable provider of gas for consumers in Europe, despite the gas transit problems with Ukraine, the general worsening of relations with Kiev and the sanctions imposed on Russia following Crimea's reunification.

Amid the record-high growth in gas prices on the spot market in Europe in 2021 the countries that have long-term contracts with Russia have been getting this fuel at prices way below the current ones. Putin said that the commissioning of Nord Stream 2 would drive down Europe's gas prices even lower, but this project's actual launch has run into politically motivated obstacles.

Unipolar world's fall

Putin said in his Munich speech: "I consider that the unipolar model is not only unacceptable but also impossible in today's world. The model itself is flawed because at its basis there is and can be no moral foundations for modern civilization. There is no reason to doubt that the economic potential of the new centers of global economic growth will inevitably be converted into political influence and will strengthen multipolarity."

In Munich, Putin emphasized the growing economic and political influence of China and India. Even today, these countries insist on the importance of creating a fair multipolar system of international relations.

The Russian president's idea that a unipolar world is impossible has continued to be backed up by economic data in recent years. For example, China's GDP has grown five times (the estimate for 2021 is about \$18 trillion), and although this figure is still lower than that of the United States, the gap has been substantially reduced in comparison with 2007. At the same time, according to international experts, China may overtake the United States in the size of its gross domestic product by about 2033.

Agencies

Potential of China's domestic demand to be continuously unleashed



A citizen in Nanjing city, capital of east China's Jiangsu province, shops for flowers for the Spring Festival and the Lantern Festival, Jan. 27, 2022. File photo

"CHINA has maintained a leading position in the world in both economic development and epidemic prevention and control. China's advantage of a super-large market will continue to deliver benefits and the potential of China's domestic demand will continue to be unleashed," said an official with China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

In 2021, China continued to be a frontrunner in terms of economic development and COVID-19 containment. To guarantee stable economic operation, various localities and competent departments across the country rolled out a series of policies and measures to stabilize investment, stimulate consumption, and facilitate the growth of the domestic market last year.

These policies and measures have helped the country realize continuous recovery in its consumer market and sustain growth momentum in investment.

Domestic consumption has remained a major driving force for China's economic development, contributing 79.1 percent to the country's economic growth in 2021, up 4.4 percentage points from the previous year.

"In 2021, the giant vessel of the Chinese economy traveled steadily and far. During the journey, China's domestic market continued to expand, supply capacity constantly improved, reform and opening-up reached deeper levels and broader areas, and people's living standards were further raised," said the official with the NDRC.

These achievements are all helpful for continuously creating favorable conditions and more space for the growth of domestic consumption in 2022, according to the official.

China's domestic consumption still has huge potential for growth. In 2021, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 8.1 percent year on year to more than 114 trillion yuan (about \$18 trillion). Meanwhile, China's per capita GDP exceeded \$12,000, which is projected to surpass the global average.

Last year, China remained the world's

second-largest commodity consumption market. As its new urbanization strategy was further promoted, the percentage of permanent urban residents in the country reached 64.72 percent in 2021, up 0.83 percentage points from that at the end of 2020.

Continuous improvement in the quality of supply has guaranteed a smoother virtuous cycle of supply and demand in China.

In 2021, China deepened supply-side structural reform, promoted the development of industrial Internet, big data, smart manufacturing and reverse customization, and fostered new industries and new products at a faster pace.

China has built the world's largest 5G standalone network. Last year, the country's shipments of 5G phones amounted to 266 million units, an increase of 63.5 percent from the previous year.

The year 2021 also witnessed fast growth of both the production and sales of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) in China, with the country's NEV output and sales surging 159.5 percent and 157.5 percent respectively to around 3.55 million units and 3.52 million units.

"In 2022, China's advantages of full-fledged industrial system and stable production capacity and the continu-

ously improving innovation capability of enterprises will play a greater role in leading and creating domestic consumption," said the official with the NDRC.

As Chinese people's living standards have been improved continuously, their consumption desire has gradually recovered.

Last year, China's job market remained generally stable, while people's income continued to rise. The country added a total of 12.69 million new urban jobs in 2021, 830,000 more than that created in 2020. At the same time, China's per capita disposable income generally grew in step with the country's economic growth, rising 8.1 percent year on year in real terms.

The country's social security system continued to improve in 2021. The numbers of people covered by the country's basic old-age insurance and basic medical insurance stood at 1.03 billion and 1.36 billion, with the coverage rates of the two types of insurances exceeding 90 percent and 95 percent, respectively.

In 2021, China's Engel's coefficient was 29.8 percent, 0.4 percentage points lower than that of 2020.

Against the backdrop of sporadic resurgence of COVID-19 cases in mul-

tiply regions, China has well protected people's lives and safeguarded people's livelihoods, laying a sound foundation for further boosting the recovery of people's consumption desire, according to the official with the NDRC.

As China achieved continuous progress in reform and opening-up, the growth drivers of domestic consumption gathered greater momentum.

In 2021, China pushed forward with the construction of a unified national market in an orderly manner, carried out a pilot comprehensive reform of market-based allocation of production factors, and made plans for building a modern distribution system, further nurturing the vitality of market entities. The country is home to 150 million market entities, and sees a business activity rate of around 70 percent.

Thanks to the efforts made by various regions and departments across the country to earnestly implement policies and measures aimed at stabilizing foreign trade, continue to shorten negative lists for foreign investment, and facilitate cross-border foreign trade and investment, the country saw its total imports and exports surpass \$6 trillion and actual use of foreign investment exceed \$1.1 trillion last year, both representing new highs in history.

"The benefits of reform and opening-up will continue to be unlocked and inject more driving force into the growth of domestic consumption," said the official.

China will continue to deepen the supply-side structural reform and remain steadfast in the implementation of the strategy of expanding domestic demand, according to the official.

While ensuring strict implementation of science-based and targeted epidemic prevention and control measures, the country will endeavor to promote continuous recovery of consumption, actively expand effective investment, and strengthen the endogenous driving forces of economic development, so as to keep major economic indicators within an appropriate range, added the official.

People's Daily

Philippine poll brings fears over virus spread

HONG KONG

IN the shadow of still-high coronavirus infections in the Philippines, general elections loom as a possible super-spreader event with a three-month campaign season underway.

The season, which began on Tuesday, has seen the main contenders for the job of the Philippines' next president holding rallies and parades in their respective bailiwicks. The country's Commission on Elections has issued rules on campaign activities for the May 9 polls.

But health experts said that with huge crowds gathering during the rallies, and the COVID-19 vaccination rate at just over 50 percent, COVID-19 cases may surge once again during the campaign period.

This bodes ill for a country just recovering from a surge in infections last month. Gatherings during the Christmas and New Year holidays combined with the entry of the highly transmissible Omicron variant led to a spike in infections, with new daily cases hitting as high as 39,378 on Jan 10. The numbers have since declined, according to the Philippine Department of Health.

On Thursday, the Philippines lifted a nearly two-year ban on foreign travelers. Vaccinated visitors from 157 countries with visa-free arrangements will be welcomed back and will no longer be required to go into quarantine, according to The Associated Press. They must show a negative COVID-19 test result upon arrival.

Anthony Leachon, a health reform advocate, said political rallies conventionally involve mobility, and the movement of huge numbers of people in the middle of a pandemic can lead to a surge in infections.

Leachon, who once served as a senior adviser to the Philippines' COVID-19 task force, said this is an even bigger problem in rural areas where vaccination rates are lower than in the region around the capital Manila.

"So if the public healthcare system is weak, (and without enough) human resources (and health) facilities, then you won't be able to deploy the medical supplies, particularly vaccines, on time in affected areas. That's the problem," Leachon said.

Agencies



Taifa Stars' players celebrate a goal netted by forward, John Bocco, when the squad faced Malawi in an international friendly duel that took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Pro-local coaches pundits in slippery wish on Aliou Cisse's victory example

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

PUNDITS still bent on the local coaches theme that enveloped Dar es Salaam soccer fraternity at the time that Brazilian trainer, Marcio Maximo, was leaving, and before the Poulsen pair came in and exited coaching Taifa Stars at different moments, had a brief explosion of joy late Sunday.

It was the African Nations Cup final which the Senegalese side won with a 4-2 penalty shootout margin over Egypt, with the distinction that the Pharaohs are coached by Portuguese veteran Carlos Quieroz, and Aliou Cisse handled Senegal.

It was a moment to show that local coaches can do if trusted but at a closer look it splintered like chinaware.

This image of local coaches was not quite developed as an argument as it did not have enough time to be put in that form, and it would have to check the shoulder and rearview to see if it can stand queries on the details, like the background, experience, itinerary until arriving as Senegal head coach.

It was an issue raised in passing, in the fact of reflecting widespread sentiments building up in East Africa and elsewhere on how the Senegalese - a good team by tradition, but not among the most feared regularly - reached the final and clinched the cup.

Much as penalty shootouts quite literally are chancy, they involve sharp skills.

Whether it was in the shooting that Egypt erred or in the goalkeeping that Senegal excelled, the main clue is the fact that the hero of the tournament, other than Cisse himself, is likely to be custodian Edward Mendy.

He has won the second major championship in less than one calendar year after he won the UEFA Champions League title with the London club, Chelsea where his personal show was remarkable.

Chroniclers say Egypt lacked their topmost goalkeepers from injury and duty as Al Ahly were on a major seasonal competition, Club World Cup runs, and perhaps did not field their best goalkeeper(s).

What came up was that the coach has a profile precisely in the manner of a majority of his players, bred and raised in Europe from immigrant parents, and as a youth Cisse featured for French national youth team and then as a full adult chose to play for the Senegalese national side.

The prolongation underlines the same point, playing in UEFA circuit, ending his career, taking up coaching in the same environment and given his

national side loyalties, finally joined the Lions of Teranga as head coach.

Quite far from the profile of a local coach who played say for Yanga notion of African Football, notorious for its wish to be the spoiler in whatever relates to the UEFA circuit, may have picked a household name to cover up ignoring UEFA circuit as relevant to the contest. They can say they just looked at the tournament, not Africa's best player.

The tournament may have taught local fans that while it is possible we have crossed the state where any team in Africa and indeed even within the region would beat Taifa Stars in a competitive encounter, we are still very far from being able to call the shots at that level of competition.

And even at the African club championship level, where our ability to compete is more pronounced given that one is talking about confronting Africa-based players, the stint that a more able Simba SC put up at group level the previous year wasn't replicated this season.

When it comes to the Cup of Nations, the trainer has a CAF coaching diploma to show off.

This wish to pick some beneficial intuitions from the Senegalese coach's success has in actual factor a counter-intuitive implication, that it isn't just at the level of players that one needs those who haven't just been exposed to the UEFA circuit like Mbwana Samatta but those who were bred there.

Only Yusuf Poulsen fits this bill among players with loyalties to Tanzania, and like Cisse who appeared for clubs like Porto or Barcelona, he plays for top level German side, RB Leipzig, along with the Danish national side.

When one has players of this sort in several positions, and then Africa circuit players are added, such a side stands a good chance of making its mark on the tournament, Cisse took eight years to clinch the cup.

Still those who pick best player(s) of the tournament saw in Sadio Mane their best player, which suited the most recent memories as he scored the crucial spot kick finishing off the pulsating and heart thumping ordeal.

Just a bit before Mendy had stopped an Egyptian shot, which reduced chances for the Egyptians to equal the mark and when Mane scored there was no opportunity that the Pharaohs could hope to utilise, but settle for their runners-up medals.

Mendy all the same appears to be the one with the most remarkable personal achievement, but the confederal will be long.

Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon keen on preserving biodiversity in K'njaro

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 20th edition of the famous Kilimanjaro Marathon is approaching in earnest, with February 27 the date set for the great race being just around the corner.

Tigo, Tanzania's second-largest mobile cellular company, is the sponsor of the Marathon's 21.1km stretch, famously referred to as the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon.

The Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon, which amasses scores of seasoned and budding athletes across Tanzania, the neighbouring countries and beyond, is aimed at, among others, promoting sports, especially athletics in the country as well as unearthing new athletics talents.

This is besides promoting tourism, a major foreign exchange earner for the country.

Besides sponsoring the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon for the aforesaid reasons, Tigo has however, spread its tentacles further afield to another very important aspect of socio-economic development, biodiversity preservation with a particular emphasis on environmental conservation that is mainly targeted within the ecosystem that surrounds Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing peak in the world-the axis within which the great Tigo 'Kili' Half Marathon takes place.

According to Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, the telecom giant has been sponsoring the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon for seven years now and complements the sponsorship with community-based initiatives that are meant to contribute to the social wellbeing of the community within the Kili-



Kilimanjaro's rainforest.

manjaro region.

"Tigo has always been at the forefront in sponsoring the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon for over seven years now and our continued championing of the half-marathon category further cements our contribution to nurture local talents and support the sports sector in Tanzania," Shisael states.

Shisael adds: "Over the years, we have been able to complement our sponsorship endeavours with community initiatives especially through our Tigo Green Project which was launched in 2021 to conserve the environment around Mt. Kilimanjaro and ultimately reduce the adverse impact of global warming."

The main purpose for the Tigo Green for

Kili Project, Shisael states, is to safeguard the mountain's ecosystem, an endeavor for which Tigo has committed to contribute in implementing by planting over 10,000 trees within the region's ecosystem.

Tigo's gesture in playing a leading role in the conservation of environment is significant because it contributes in reducing the dangers posed by climate change through global warming to the biodiversity which, according to the Royal Society (royalsociety.org), could increase by more than 1.5 degrees centigrade by 2030.

"The threat posed by climate change to biodiversity is expected to increase, yet thriving ecosystems also have the capac-

ity to help reduce the impacts of climate change," the Royal Society, which describes itself as 'an independent society academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science for the benefit of humanity', notes.

Significantly, by spearheading the grand initiative of planting of over 10,000 trees through the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon, Tigo is immensely contributing to the reduction of deforestation in particular and environmental degradation in general in Tanzania, which is a thorny and worrying issue as per the available statistics.

With an estimated 39.9 percent of forest cover, Tanzania, according to Project Gaia (projectgaia.com),

has an annual deforestation rate of about one percent (around 400,000 hectares) which is twice the global rate of 0.5 percent per year.

While putting this fraught situation into context, Project Gaia, a non-profit organization that prides itself in 'providing access to sustainable fuels with a view to changing the face of energy poverty, notes that between 1990 and 2010, Tanzania had lost a whopping 19.4 percent of its forested land, which is an equivalent of about 8 million hectares.

Another disclosure from 'an assessment of global forests' by the United Nations (UN) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) suggests that more than 5.8 million hectares of Tanzania's forest were lost to deforestation and degradation between 2000 and 2015-representing approximately 10 per cent of the country's overall forest cover!

Among the top factors that come to the fore in causing this dire situation, are unsustainable charcoal production, shifting cultivation and illegal timber trading -these being the most recurrent and persistently gnawing culprits, besides other motley of 'lesser' factors.

The problems caused by these factors include land degradation, loss of wildlife habitats and deforestation, among others - and are so calamitous that urgent action is required to nib them in the bud.

It therefore, suffices that by addressing the issues of environmental conservation through the Tigo 'Kili' Half-Marathon, Tigo is not only spearheading a frontal attack in confronting the impacts of climate change but also seeking to improve the lives of people and their existence around the larger Kilimanjaro.



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam early this week to shape up for this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group Stage clash against ASEC Mimosas scheduled for Sunday in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC's predicted lineup vs ASEC Mimosas

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Group stage kicks off this weekend with Tanzania's representatives, Simba SC, facing a tricky home tie against ASEC Mimosas of Ivory Coast on Sunday afternoon at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

A combination of injuries to Chris Mugalu, Dennis Kibu and Taddeo Lwanga, suspension of Bernard Morrison and cup tied Clatous Chama will force a re-tweak of the squad to face ASEC Mimosas.

Here is the tweaked set up the Msimbazi Street club's head coach Pablo Franco may be forced to deploy in search of maximum points.

Aishi Manula (GK):

The former Azam FC shot-stopper is top in the race for the golden glove, having kept nine in the NBC Premier League so far. Aishi is the first name on the team sheet for Simba SC. Almost always plays if he's fit.

Mohamed Hussein (LB):

He has been first choice left-back

for many seasons, not that he has much competition. Has two assists and a goal in the league this season.

Israel Mwenda (RB):

There are fitness doubts over Shomari Kapombe, the undisputed first-choice right fullback, so Israel may feature at right-back.

Henock Inonga (CB):

One of the few bright spots of Simba SC's season has been Inonga's emergence as a solid defender. Inonga has been a solid signing for Simba SC, he looks a far more assured defender in the backline than Pascal Wawa.

Joash Onyango (CB):

Simba SC is undoubtedly a more sturdy outfit with the former Gor Mahia man alongside Inonga in defence.

Coach Pablo deliberately rested Joash rather than losing him to injury against Mbeya Kwanza FC last week.

Jonas Mkude (CM):

The club's longest serving player has bounced back from a tricky

start to life this season and looks to be relishing the playing opportunities afforded to him with long term injury of Lwanga.

He is integral to Simba SC's control of possession, capable of executing both short and longer passes.

Sadio Kanoute (CM):

Taddeo Lwanga returning to training adds some much-needed competition in midfield but the Malian midfielder should continue there for now.

Pape Sakho (LW):

Has endured a turbulent start to life in Simba SC after his summer move from Senegal.

Sakho has not pushed on as many were hoping after his impressive displays in Mapinduzi Cup tournament where he was voted the player of the tournament.

Hassan Dilunga (RW):

He has been a weird one. He's never really nailed down a starting place at Simba SC in three years but he has looked good in patches.

He can frighten defences with

his direct dribbling and ability to change direction.

Rally Bwalya (CAM):

Knits Simba SC's play together nicely. With six goals and 11 assists in 55 appearances for Simba SC in all competitions.

He hasn't got the goal contributions he would have liked since his transfer from Power Dynamos in 2020.

Meddie Kagere (ST):

Simba SC's top scorer so far this term with seven goals in all competitions. He scored the winner in Simba SC's victory against Prisons to end a seven league match drought. With Kibu's possible absence, the goalscoring burden is largely on Kagere.

John Bocco (ST):

The veteran striker is having a nightmare season. He has one goal in 18 appearances across all competitions this season.

However, injuries to Kibu and Mugalu could be a huge opportunity for the misfiring striker to start.

Chelsea 'desperate' to avoid repeat Club World Cup flop

ABU DHABI

CHELSEA aim to put a turbulent past couple of months behind them by winning the Club World Cup final against Palmeiras today, the start of a season-defining period for the European champions.

The Blues have fallen off the pace in the Premier League after winning just three of 10 games but are still competing for multiple honours at home and on the continent.

Chelsea are through to the League Cup final against Liverpool on February 27, four days after the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie against French club Lille and just before the fifth round of the FA Cup.

A star-studded Chelsea side was beaten 1-0 by Corinthians in the 2012 final in Japan, and midfielder Mateo Kovacic is eager for the current group to make amends.

"We are desperate to win this trophy. We could be the first team in Chelsea history to bring this trophy to London so we are happy that we are in such a big final," said Kovacic.

"We will do everything to win it on Saturday." Standing in the way of their second title this season, after a penalty shootout win over Villarreal in the UEFA Super Cup, is a Palmeiras team aching to end the jibes from rival supporters about their failure to win the Club World Cup.

The Brazilians will be backed this weekend by an expected 15,000 fans in Abu Dhabi, prompting Chelsea assistant Zolt Low to say it would be like playing another away game -- after Saudi outfit Al Hilal enjoyed the majority of the support Wednesday.

The Hungarian has been deputising for Thomas Tuchel this week, with the German coach stuck at home after testing positive for Covid-19.

"Everybody hopes that Thomas can travel as soon as possible," said Low.

"He's following the government rules and is in self-isolation right now. Once he has a negative test, it opens the possibility for him to travel."

- Portuguese influence -

Abel Ferreira has steered Palmeiras to successive Copa Libertadores titles since taking charge in October 2020, following on from Portuguese countryman Jorge Jesus' triumph at Flamengo the year prior.

Ferreira, the former Sporting defender and Braga coach, said he owed his success to "hard work, persistence and dedication" in the wake of Tuesday's 2-0 victory over Egypt's Al Ahly.

"I started really low down the ranks, wasn't at teams like Barcelona or Real Madrid," said the 43-year-old Ferreira.

"Every final we play the butterflies in the stomach are always the same. It's a natural thing. I believe all great coaches feel that as well."

AFP

Traore sets tone as Barca look to sustain La Liga momentum

BARCELONA

ADAMA Traore will look to cement his status as the new darling of Barcelona this weekend after an impressive start to his Nou Camp career.

Last weekend, he delighted fans in the 4-2 win over Atletico Madrid.

One particular moment stood out when he nipped past Mario Hermoso, tumbled to the ground and a roar surged around the ground.

Some stood to applaud, others yelled and pumped their fists, convinced a free-kick earned a few metres into Atletico Madrid's half, with only two minutes gone, would set the tone for what was to come.

For Traore, it was the opening note of an hour-long recital, the winger terrorising and harrying the Atletico defence, Hermoso in particular, until finally he began to fade.

In the 61st minute, he was replaced and the Barcelona fans stood again, this time to give him a standing ovation.

By then, Traore had set up a goal for Gavi, his drive to the line furnished with a perfectly lifted cross for the smallest player on the pitch to head in.

He had run and crossed, defended and tackled. At the very least Traore was a key component in a rejuvenating victory, which propelled Barcelona two points above their opponents and back into La Liga's top four. Arguably, he was its driving force.

"It was a great debut for Adama," said Barca coach Xavi Hernandez.

"We want him to go at people and he'll give us a lot. He's a great signing."

There were circumstances that meant supporters were particularly eager to get behind Traore, who was playing his first game after signing on loan from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Traore was seen as the replacement for Ousmane Dembele, not least because the club had said so in one of its many failed attempts to persuade Dembele to leave or extend his contract, which expires in the summer, when he will be able to go for free.

Traore was the perfect antidote, a counter-point to Dembele's perceived disloyalty as a former La Masia graduate coming home, the player born in Llobregat Hospital only two kilometres from the stadium.

AFP

Liverpool need more silverware to be among club's greatest

LIVERPOOL, England

NINE points behind Manchester City, having played a game fewer than Pep Guardiola's team, and with a potentially crucial trip to Etihad Stadium still to come in April, Liverpool could still pull off a remarkable Premier League title triumph this season. Diogo Jota's double in a 2-0 win against Leicester City at Anfield ensured that Jurgen Klopp's team remain a threat to City's hopes of cruising to a fourth championship in five seasons.

This win kept Liverpool in that strange position of being mathematically close enough to City to not be out of it, but far enough behind for a title surge to seem highly unlikely. One thing for certain is that Klopp's side have no margin for error. One slip and they can surely wave the title goodbye.

"I do not think that [City] smell our breath already," Klopp said after this victory. "But we just try to win football games."

While the focus will understandably be fixed on that outside chance of a second title in three seasons, it should not be overlooked that Liverpool are, in the post-match words of



Jurgen Klopp

defender Andy Robertson, "still fighting for four competitions."

Liverpool face Chelsea in the Carabao Cup final at Wembley on Feb. 27, while their FA Cup hopes remain alive and kicking after being paired with Premier League strugglers Norwich City at Anfield in round five. And in the Champions League, while their round-of-16 tie against Italian champions Inter Milan will not be easy, Liverpool's pedigree and recent performances in the competition suggest they will progress to the

quarterfinals and possibly all the way to the final in Saint Petersburg on May 28.

Closing the gap to City is the immediate challenge, and it is one that will energise Klopp and his players. With Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane back in the Liverpool squad following Africa Cup of Nations duty, Klopp has a formidable group of players to select from in the months ahead and they are the one team that could achieve the near impossible.

No matter what happens in the Premier League, though, Liverpool must see the next three months as an opportunity to win the trophies that this team arguably deserves.

Since 2018, Liverpool have been City's most consistent challengers with a team that has earned comparisons to the club's greatest sides, but despite their incredible performances in the past four years, Klopp's team have won just two major honours in the Champions League (2019) and Premier League (2020). They have also won the FIFA Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup

as spin-offs from Champions League success, but it is the traditional honours that count for Liverpool, and this team has not won enough of them.

Over the same period, City have won eight major trophies. Eight to two is not a true reflection of the quality of City and Liverpool over the past four years, but City have taken the domestic cups seriously while Liverpool have put all their resources into Premier League and Champions League success.

This season gives Liverpool the chance to redress the balance, however, and rack up the silverware that will enable this team to share the pantheon with Anfield's greatest sides. The Premier League is arguably the most unlikely trophy they can win, but Salah showed no post-AFCON hangover during a 30-minute substitute appearance that could have seen him score a hat trick and Jota once again highlighted his ability to decide games with his two goals.

Jota put Liverpool 1-0 ahead on 35 minutes when he scored from close range after Leicester keeper Kasper Sch-

meichel palmed away Virgil van Dijk's powerful header. The former Wolves forward then made the points safe on 87 minutes with a neat turn and shot from 12 yards.

Jota's performance, and that of new signing Luis Diaz, were impressive and encouraging in that Klopp will know he can rely on both when, or if, Salah and Mane need to conserve their energy in the weeks ahead.

In the next 106 days, Liverpool will play a minimum of 19 games in all competitions, but if they are able to go all the way in the FA Cup and Champions League, they will have to play another eight. Twenty-seven games in 106 days would mean a fixture every four days, not to mention international fixtures for the majority of Klopp's players, so Liverpool will be tested to the limit if they are to sustain a challenge on four fronts.

But this team is good enough to do it, and it maybe needs to do so. When history judges this Liverpool side, it will seem an anomaly if they end up winning far fewer trophies than they were capable of.

English Premier League attracts top players, coaches. Why not referees?

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IT'S not really rocket science (or controversial) to suggest that in most industries, if you attract the best and brightest, regardless of race, religion, gender or country of origin, standards will rise. The Premier League is, by virtually any metric, the most successful football league in the world, and also the most diverse and cosmopolitan. Part of the league's success story lies in attracting not just top players and coaches from around the world, but also some of the best executives, sports scientists and, yes, ownership groups from every corner of the globe.

It's Economics 101: As markets open and globalize, competition for places increases and the available talent pool expands. This doesn't just apply to football, which is why in most developed nations there are very few jobs reserved exclusively for "natural-born" citizens, whether by rule or by practice: president, some law enforcement jobs, some intelligence jobs and, well, that's basically it.

Oh wait, one more: top-flight referee.

The Premier League has embraced "outsiders" (for lack of a better word) more than any other league, perhaps in any sport, and that practice has been a runaway success both on the pitch and commercially. It's not the only reason behind its success of course, but it's a major reason.

And yet, in three decades of existence, the league has featured only two referees from outside the United Kingdom. One was Dermot Gallagher, who emigrated from Ireland to England aged 16 (and would hide his Irish accent) and the other is Jarrod Gillett, who is Australian and took charge of his first Premier League game this season. (More on Gillett later, because his is very much a special case.)

It's one area where, progressive as the Premier League may be elsewhere, it remains staunchly conservative and protectionist -- much like Europe's other big leagues. In practical terms, if you want to referee in the Premier League, you basically need to be English or English-raised (just as you need to be Italian in Serie A or German in the Bundesliga).

The reason behind this is structural and has to do with how referees are formed and trained. Most countries have a national referees' association or equivalent, as well as local offshoots. Kids start officiating in their teens, usually at the youth level, and the ones who enjoy it and are good at it move up the ranks, eventually entering semi-pro and professional football. In that sense, they're no different from players; in fact, the vast majority of referees are folks who realized in their teens that they were better as officials than as footballers.

The refereeing pyramid, of course, narrows as you get closer to the top, and while you get paid modest amounts of money throughout, it's really only once you reach the highest domestic level that you can call it a full-time job (and, even then, only in the bigger, wealthier leagues). If you're good enough to become one of the top officials in your country and get called to UEFA and FIFA competitions, you'll make a very good living for a decade or so. And if you're one of the best in the world, then you might even reach seven figures, if only for a year or two.

With some exceptions, it doesn't really become a career until you're in your 30s and even then, only if you're lucky and talented enough to move to the top echelon and go full-time. You spend your 20s giving up weekends -- and many midweeks -- for basically pocket change. It gets in the

way of your social life and, probably, your day job too. It's not a coincidence that before referees became professional, many were self-employed or had jobs as lawyers or doctors or financial advisers, gigs where they could be flexible with their time.

And that's one of the reasons why referees enjoy protected status. The pathway to becoming a professional referee is already tortuous and difficult, involving huge sacrifices. If, on top of that, after going through the system and knocking of the door of the top flight you find that suddenly the league is importing referees from abroad ... well, you're not going to be happy. And the entities that fund the PGMO (the organization that supplies referees in England) -- the Football League, Football Association and Premier League -- likely won't be happy either. They're going to ask themselves why they spend so much on referee training and development only for foreign refs to take their jobs.

The other reason is pride. Referees' associations take great pride in developing and training officials. They want to see them excel and take charge of the biggest international games.

Bringing in foreign officials theoretically limits their own guys' opportunities to grow.

Which brings us to Gillett. His story is emblematic because it shows the lengths somebody who is not from the U.K. has to go to officiate in the Premier League.

Gillett is a 35-year-old Australian referee who is a bit of a prodigy in officiating circles. At 24, he was officiating in the A-League. At 27, he became a FIFA referee, taking charge of games throughout Asia. By the time he was 32, he had been named the A-League Referee of the Year five times. If he were a footballer, he'd be Erling Haaland.

Like Haaland, he wanted to further his career. Unlike Haaland, he couldn't just sign a contract with the Bundesliga or Premier League. Gillett got a post-doctoral research job to study cerebral palsy in children at John Moores University in Liverpool, got a visa and moved to England. It's the sort of thing you can do when you have Ph.D. in biomechanics like he has.

The PGMO were aware of this and, in fact, their head, Mike Riley, had been to see him in Australia. They were excited that one of the most

promising referees in the world was moving to England, but they couldn't simply give him a job. Gillett had to go through the system, starting in League 2 in 2019 and working his way up through League 1 and the Championship to the Premier League this year. It's working out for him, but quite obviously, most referees don't have the advantages Gillett enjoyed to make this happen: native English speaker, officiating prodigy in his homeland, a Ph.D. that enabled him to move halfway around the world and the support of Riley and the PGMO.

Even then, Gillett did make sacrifices: His time in the lower divisions probably meant a pay cut relative to what he earned in the A-League. And because of the way World Cup officials are chosen, he likely will miss out on Qatar 2022, which for a referee could be the pinnacle of one's career.

Why does all this matter? Well, aside from the fact that where you grow up shouldn't determine your right to attempt to make a living if you've shown that you're talented enough, there are plenty more reasons. If you accept the fact that top-level refereeing is a skill and that, while it can be learned, some folks are just going to be better

at it than others, it makes no sense to de facto exclude people on the basis of where they developed as match officials. Especially when you don't do it for players, coaches, owners, executives and, yes, fans.

It's true for all top leagues and their refereeing corps and it's especially true right now in England, where in the words of former ref Peter Walton, "The talent pool isn't particularly deep." And he's right. It isn't, though some of that no doubt is cyclical. Just as footballing talents are born (and then developed), so too are refereeing talents. And ensuring the world's best league also has the best referees is, frankly, a no-brainer.

Gillett's presence in the Premier League is the classic exception that confirms the rule: We'll take the best from all over the world, unless they're referees, in which case we'll protect our own. It happened because he was considered a prodigy, because he had another career and because he was able to make considerable economic and professional sacrifices in the short term. You shouldn't have to be Jarrod Gillett to referee in a different country to the one in which you were born and raised.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool need more silverware to be among club's greatest

PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV UJENZI MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Azam FC shifts focus to 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup glory



Azam FC center-back, Abdallah Kheri (L), battles for an aerial ball with Transit Camp FC footballer when the squads met in 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s Round of 32's duel that was played in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC may be focused on trying to stay in the NBC Premier League title race, but today the squad's attentions turn to the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

They will be conscious of avoiding a Federation Cup giant-killing when they face third-tier side, Coast Region's Baga FC, in Round of 16's duel at the former's venue at Chamazi as they look to keep their dreams of lifting the trophy alive.

After the recent impressive NBC Premier League run, the club's head coach Abdi Hamid Moalin will be looking at his team's chances of going all the way to the final with huge anticipation.

Azam FC has fallen at the

semi-final hurdle in each of the last two seasons in this competition after overcoming Lipuli FC at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi to lift the 2018 edition of the showdown.

Following a slow start to

the season under the sacked Zambian George Lwandamina, there has been a breath of fresh air blowing at Azam FC since the arrival of the young American-Somali coach.

The 32-year old coach is cred-

ited with a return to a more attacking style of play.

That resurgence has seen the Azam FC steer their ship from the bottom half of the standings to an impressive third position on the Premier

League standings, where they are 12 points behind the league leader, Young Africans.

Despite that progress, though, Moalin and his charges are not punching above their weight, thinking they can push Simba SC and Young Africans for the league title.

And while the league is a marathon and with certain casualties along the way, the Somali is well aware the Federation Cup could be their realistic shot in their bid to end the trophy drought.

The winner of the Federation Cup qualifies to represent Tanzania at the CAF Confederation Cup.

Meanwhile, Baga FC makes the short trip from Coast Region to Chamazi intending to give the Ice Cream makers a run for their money.

There is though no doubt that Azam FC's league form and division make the Coast Region's footballers underdogs here.

The round's other Federation Cup match of the day will see First Division League's side, Mbuni FC, entertaining top-flight club Geita Gold FC at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, Arusha.

On Monday, Mtwara Sugar visits Coastal Union at Mkwawani Stadium in Tanga, Kagera Sugar are at home to Namungo FC at Kaitaba Stadium.

Para-Athletics Championships set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Para-Athletics Association (TPAA) has said it will host the National Championships in March at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

David Nyendo, TPAA Secretary-General, said the championships will be held on March 13 at the venue and invitations have been extended to all regions of the country.

He said they expect more than 100 athletes to compete at the championships which will be held for the first time in the country.

Nyendo said the championships will be used to identify new talents which will represent the country at the next year's Africa Games in Ghana and 2024 Paralympics in France.

The official pointed out: "We expect more than 100 Para athletes to compete at the championships which will be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in March, the country has many talented Para athletes but they are not exposed."

"We want to use the championships as a platform to expose and give them proper training, the athletes will participate individually as currently, we do not have regional offices, TPAA will refund them participation costs," he said.

He said to successfully host the Para-Athletics Championships they need 35m/- and he appealed to well-wishers, the government, and other stakeholders for funding.

Nyendo said the championships will involve men and women, battling it out in athletics.

According to Nyendo, the showdown will constitute 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m races, shot put, javelin, discus, long jump, high jump, and wheelchair racing.

Para-athletics is the sport of athletics practiced by people with a disability as a Para sport.

The athletics events within the Parasport are mostly the same as those available to able-bodied people, with two major exceptions in wheelchair racing and the club throw, which are specific to the division.

The sport is known by various names, including disability athletics, disabled track and field, and Paralympic athletics.

Top-level competitors may be called elite athletes with disabilities.

Competitors are typically organized into three broad categories, deaf athletes, athletes with a physical disability, and athletes with an intellectual disability.

Deaf athletes typically compete among themselves, while athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities are usually assessed and given a para-athletics classification, which groups together athletes with similar ability levels.

Six athletes set for 2022 Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIX Tanzanian athletes will represent the country at this year's Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon which will take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) next week.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer Rogath Stephen mentioned the six as Gabriel Geay, Felix Simbu, Fabian Sulle, Faraja Damas, Jackline Sakilu, and Marceline Mbua.

He said the six will depart for the UAE on Wednesday and they will not be accompanied by a coach.

Stephen said AT is confident that the athletes will perform well at the event which always attracts top runners from across the world.

"Our athletes will compete at the Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon which will be held on Saturday in the United Arab Emirates, they will depart on Wednesday...we are confident they will perform well as most of them will compete at various events this weekend."

According to organizers of the half marathon, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA), a stellar line-up of world-class runners will be a part of the event.

The RAKTDA said vying for the top spot in the world's fastest half marathon is Kenya's Abel Kipchumba and Brigid Kosgei.

The athletes will both com-

pete against recently announced international elite athletes Jacob Kiplimo, and the reigning champion of the 2020 Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon, Ababel Yeshaneh.

Intending to better her personal best time of 1:04:49, current Marathon world record holder, Kosgei, is an experienced and highly sought-after runner and

makes an excellent addition to the impressive elite line-up confirmed so far.

Kosgei's achievements include ending second in the 2021 Olym-

pic Games, finishing first in both the 2020 and 2019 editions of the London Marathon, and getting second place in the 2020 Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Chen Mingjian (L), participates in table tennis with Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Mohammed Mchengerwa, at a reception held at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Tanzania's premises in Dar es Salaam on February 4 to celebrate the opening of the 24th Winter Olympic Games in Beijing. PHOTO: COURTESY OF EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN TANZANIA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

