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National Pg 3
Taking the law into own hands



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China widening local agro-export volumes

By Guardian Reporter

CHINA has said it is expanding opportunities for imports of high quality products and agricultural produce from Tanzania to cement historic friendly relations and bilateral ties.

In responses to questions on the recent visit by Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Chinese Ambassador Wang Ke said yesterday that the new openings are meant to strengthen the two countries' bond of industrial and supply chains.

To facilitate this endeavour, China will provide support to competent authorities to accelerate negotiations on inspection and quarantine requirements regarding the access of Tanzanian high-quality agricultural products to the Chinese market, she said.

Secondly, China will actively use its own and international platforms to introduce Tanzanian high-quality products and tourist resources to Chinese consumers, she promised.

Thirdly, the country will encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agro and mineral



Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa (R) presents hemp seeds to one of the sisal growers Elizerberth Marandu at the Agricultural Research Institute Mlingano in Tanga yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

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Trump era ends as Biden enters, 46th US president

WASHINGTON DC

JOSEPH R. Biden Jr, better known as Joe Biden last night took oath of office as the 46th US president, drawing a curtain on the most tumultuous US presidency of modern times and charting a new course to tackle Covid-19 and seek to unite a splintered nation.

Outgoing President Donald Trump

(pictured) entered the White House four years ago as a brash billionaire outsider, but he is being ousted by a polar opposite whose deep knowledge of Washington and personal scars will unequivocally set a different tone.

Biden, a 78-year-old former vice president and senator for 37 years, was taking the oath of office at noon on Wednesday - a little after nightfall in East Africa - on the US Capitol's western front, the very spot where pro-Trump rioters clashed with police two weeks ago before storming Congress in a shocking far right mob riot.

While the transition of power occurred much as it has for more than two centuries, this inauguration is unlike any other.

Official Washington has taken on the distinctive look of an armed camp, watched over by some 25,000 National Guard troops,



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PM tells councils, sisal estates to plant, give farmers seedlings

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Tanga

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed sisal-growing districts as well as estates to set aside 10-acres of land each for production of seedlings for farmers.

The PM gave the directive yesterday when launching the exercise of planting and development of sisal seedlings at the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Mlingano centre in Tanga Region.

Majaliwa handed over seedlings to farmers during the launch event attended by government officials, TARI researchers, investors and farmers from various districts in the region.

“...It is doing research for the development of the crop and diagnosing diseases, therefore district councils, investors and big famers should join hands to help produce to attain our goal

The Prime Minister also instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to increase budget funds to improve TARI centre infrastructures, working tools like tractors and facilities of the research centre, saying he wants to see it becoming a centre of excellence for sisal research and development as a whole.

“If we are going to have 10-acres of nurseries for each district council that grows the crop, I am confident that until the end of this year or early next year, our farmers will have enough sisal seedlings. This exercise should start now,” he emphasised.

He also directed that extension officers should seek sisal bulbs

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TPA: Cargo ships arrivals normal after brief decline

By Felister Peter

THE outbreak of COVID-19 in the world resulted in reduced traffic of cargo vessels at the port of Dar es Salaam to four or five ships per day, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has highlighted.

“The pandemic outbreak slightly affected performance at the port as we received fewer cargo ships.



The situation has now normalized as we are receiving 12 to 15 vessels daily,” said the TPA Director General, Deusdedit Kakoko (pictured) in a press conference yesterday.

“We had no choice because the country had to impose various containment measures as well as ensuring adherence to protocols of hygiene. Revenue collections

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Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima presents the ministry's organisational structure and roles before the Parliamentary Committee for Service and Community Development in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Parliament

PM tells councils, sisal estates to plant, give farmers seedlings

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and take them to nurseries, underlining that the district councils have enough land to establish the nurseries and supply enough seedlings to the farmers.

He directed the Tanzania Sisal Board to make sure that one of the conditions given to sisal investors is that they must have special sisal nurseries for outgrowers, so that collectively they can contribute to the development of the crop.

"We should not leave this work of sisal production and dissemination to TARI alone. This research institute has a lot of work to do. It is doing research for the development of the crop and diagnosing diseases, therefore district councils, investors and big farmers should join hands to help produce to attain our goal," he said.

TARI Director General Dr.

Geoffrey Mkamilo said that in order to adhere to the directive by the Prime Minister, TARI shall speed up its work of producing improved seedlings. One of the varieties is hybrid I1648 which is recommended to farmers, he said.

Up to the moment, the TARI Mlingano centre has planted 2.5m seedlings on a 31.6ha farm, which shall be given to the farmers at affordable prices, he stated.

To make sure the crop is sustainable, TARI has provided extension education and demonstrating best farming practices to around 422 farmers and 840 agro extension officers, he said, noting that the farmers and agro-extension officers are now agents of change.

After expansion of the laboratory at TARI-Mlingano, it will be able to produce more than 10m seedlings per annum, he

further noted.

Sisal is among seven strategic crops which the government has decided to push so that it can effectively contribute to spur the national economy, and at present it grows in Tanga, Coast, Lindi, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara, with potential for extension elsewhere.

It is estimated that there are 44m hectares of potential land suitable for growing sisal but only 0.2 percent is being grown the crop, implying that there is still much land for farmers to expand acreage of the crop.

Currently, statistics show that sisal fibre produced in the country range between 36,000 to 38,000 tonnes, while worldwide sisal fibre production stands at 265,000 tonnes to 280,000 tonnes.

TARI Mlingano centre director Dr Catherine Senkoro assured the premier of massive production

of sisal seedlings as TARI is implementing a five year strategic plan (2019/20 to 2023/24) which among others aims at increased production of improved sisal seedlings.

The centre will identify improved seedlings that meet market demand and are resilient to climate change, as well as proceed with awareness creation to educate agro-extension officers as part of capacity building, she said.

Earlier, the TARI board chairman Dr Yohana Budeba and vice chairperson Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi said the board will increase supervision to see that directives given by the government are implemented on time to transform sisal crop and equipping farmers so that they graduate from being small holder farmers to commercial cultivators.

China widening local agro-export volumes

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processing industries, and develop Tanzania as a bridgehead for Chinese companies to enter the eastern and southern African markets. China will encourage cooperation on e-commerce, mobile payment and other new areas, as well as pursuing creative ways to boost bilateral trade, the envoy elaborated.

"China is speeding up the implementation of a new dual-cycle development pattern, and would like to take it as an opportunity to increase imports of Tanzanian sesame, cassava, soybean and other products, actively explore opening up the market for Tanzanian honey, sunflower meal and other agricultural products," she specified.

Ambassador Wang said her country will encourage bilateral e-commerce cooperation, support Tanzania to participate in the China International Import Expo (CIIE), the China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and Canton Fair, alongside promoting more exports of Tanzanian high quality products to China.

The focus will similarly be directed to infrastructure development with a view to helping Tanzania achieve improved connectivity with neighboring countries, she said.

"China will encourage competent companies to participate in the construction of Tanzanian key projects, assist Tanzania to update railway, road, port, airports, energy, communication and other infrastructure projects, and inject impetus to Tanzanian economic growth," she asserted.

During State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang's visit early this month, he attended the signing ceremony for the design and build contract for an electrified Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line from Mwanza to Isaka, among other engagements.

Ambassador Wang emphasized that China will strengthen productivity cooperation and enhance Tanzania's capacity for

independent development.

"China will encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, mining, tourism and other pillar industries," she stated.

She affirmed that China will help Tanzania to accelerate its industrialization process, translate its resource advantages into development advantages, and strengthen its internal driving force of independent development, she further noted.

The envoy emphasised that China will enhance cooperation in scientific innovation to help Tanzania achieve sustainable development. "China is willing to share its development experiences of digital economy, assist Tanzania to update the fiber optic backbone network and other communication facilities." The two countries have agreed to cooperate on renewable energy, pursue green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development, enhance public health cooperation and jointly advance the development of a digital technologies, the envoy added.



China will encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, mining, tourism and other pillar industries

Trump era ends as Biden enters, 46th US president

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ensuring that no far right groups mar inauguration proceedings in another riot.

And with the pandemic raging, the general public is essentially barred from attending the swearing-in, leading to the unprecedented sight of an empty National Mall on Inauguration Day.

With the death toll soaring past 400,000 cases, Biden on Tuesday led a moving tribute to victims of Covid-19 as he arrived in Washington.

Biden, who has suffered deep personal tragedy and is known for his public displays of emotion, has stressed the need to unite the country after the chaos during the Trump presidency.

"It's hard sometimes to remember, but that's how we heal. It's important to do that as a nation," Biden said in sombre remarks at the reflecting pool in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

Inauguration eve is normally a time of massive crowds gathering in the capital, but Biden, joined by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, was on deserted ground at the reflecting pool.

On the Mall's grassy expanse, some 200,000 flags have been planted to represent the absent crowds at the inauguration.

Trump, who has not appeared in public for a week, broke days of silence with a pre-recorded farewell video address on Tuesday.

For the first time, he asked Americans to "pray" for the success of the incoming administration - signaling a change of tone after spending months persuading his Republican followers that the Democrats cheated their way to

election victory.

Trump, whose efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and console its victims have been widely criticized, had already decided against attending the inauguration.

He has also refused to congratulate Biden - who first ran for president in 1987 - on his win, and did not invite him for the customary cup of tea in the Oval Office.

In one of his last acts before flying to Florida on Wednesday morning, Trump issued scores of pardons to people convicted of crimes or facing charges, including several key allies.

Influential former Trump aide Steve Bannon - charged with defrauding people over funds raised to build the Mexico border wall, a flagship Trump policy - was among 73 people on a list released by the White House.

However, neither Trump nor his relatives were listed, amid speculation he could use the legally dubious tactic of a pre-emptive pardon to fend off future charges.

Former Trump fund-raiser Elliott Brody was similarly pardoned, after pleading guilty last year to conspiring to violate foreign lobbying laws.

The rapper Lil Wayne, who last month pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, and faced 10 years in jail, also made the list.

"It's hard sometimes to remember, but that's how we heal. It's important to do that as a nation"



Director general of world vegetable centre Arusha branch who is also director of Eastern and Southern Africa Dr Gabriel Rugalema shows journalists among the crops under research yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

TPA: Cargo ships arrivals normal after brief decline

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dropped slightly compared to the amount collected during the 2018/2019 fiscal year," he stated.

Ongoing infrastructure development at the Dar es Salaam port, including the deepening of existing berths 1 to 7 to 14.5 meters is meant to increase efficiency and make it the leading port in East and Central Africa, he asserted.

The project which cost 337bn/- is now at 90 percent completion pace, with berth no. 1 already operating and capable of accommodating large cargo vessels of over 50,000 tonnes and measuring 300 meters wide, he pointed out.

Other berths will be completed within three months, he said, noting that this will improve the port that was previously

capable of offloading 500 motor vehicles per day, but with current improvements, over 1,000 vehicles can be offloaded at present.

"Completion of the expansion project will see the port handling vessels carrying more than 6,000 containers in total," he affirmed.

Plans are underway for commencement of a project to widen and deepen the port entrance channel to 15 meters and up to 19 meters deep, with the work scheduled to commence next month or in March, he said.

Efforts are also being directed to improve port facilities in Tanga, Mtwara and Bagamoyo, where at Tanga port the contractor has already started working to widen and deepen the entrance channel. Infrastructure development at Mtwara port aims shall enhance

service provision and improve cargo handling for Malawi, he further stated.

Anything up to 90 percent of the country's international trade transactions transit through the Dar es Salaam port with a large portion of the cargo intended for landlocked neighbours of Malawi, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

Burundi depends on the port for its international cargo by 99.2 percent while Rwanda uses the port to transport 86 percent of its cargo, he explained.

Despite competition from other ports such as Beira port in Mozambique, Durban in South Africa and Mombasa in Kenya, Dar es Salaam port continues to attract a good number of general cargo vessels due to enhanced

marketing strategies, the CEO noted.

The port will further improve its cargo traffic following ongoing improvement of rail linkages with the upcoming Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), he affirmed, noting that cargo transport services from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma are expected to start next year.

Dar es Salaam Port director Elihuruma Lema said port efficiency had improved, with ability to offload 72 vehicles per hour while the number of transit cars has also increased, as infrastructure development had contributed to reduced accidents.

The port authority has also installed eight container scanners in Tanga, Mtwara and Dar es Salaam that can scan up to 1,400 containers per day, the director added.

Conjoined twins parents commend govt support

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

PARENTS of the conjoined twins from Nyamahana village in Mlowa ward, Iringa District, Iringa Region have commended

the government for provision of quality health care services at its facilities.

The parents said they have received quality health care services at both, Tosamaganga district designated hospital

and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH). The twins Dorice and Dorcus were born in July, 2020.

The twin's mother, Annet Juma (30) said she happily received the arrival of the twins

although she is worried if she would be able to raise them well due financial challenges.

Annet appeals for support from Tanzanians to be able to take care of the children because her husband does not have means to generate income.

"This is the first time I am giving birth to twins; I have six other children," she said, adding that people from the Maasai community consider the conjoined twins bad omen.

Sister Julieta Mzena, a nursing officer in charge at the Tosamaganga district designated hospital said the twins are currently in good health. She said doctors in Iringa Region experienced difficulties to separate them because they share the chest and heart hence the decision to take them to MNH.

"Their parents are not capable enough to take care of the twins; they will be handed over to missionaries of Saint Theresa of Little Jesus in Iringa for care as doctors finalise medication procedures. Additional support will be provided by the government," said Mzena.

Dr Tabitha Matei, a gynecologist at the district hospital said that Dorice

and Dorcas were born in July 2020 and that they have undergone surgeries at Tosamaganga district hospital and MNH.

Dr Luka Brashiri, a pediatrician who works with the CUAM (Doctors with Africa) said the babies were unable to properly breathe and breast feed from their mother's nipple.

He said that apart from using the same heart, the twins could not breathe properly. He said after surgeries at MNH they can now breathe as the heart can properly pump oxygen to the lungs.

"The twins are doing well and their weight has increased from four to six kilograms," he said.

Iringa District Commissioner, Richard Kasesela said the government has completed all procedures to transfer the twins to the missionaries.

Kasesela called upon Tanzanians who wish to support the children to consult the government through the social welfare department and St. Theresa of Little Jesus currently taking care of them.

The twins were born 24 years after the birth of other conjoined twins, Maria and Consolata who died in 2018.



Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo (L) accompanied by Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro arrive to inspect construction of police headquarters in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: HoA

LHRC warns public against taking the law into own hands

By Guardian Reporter

LEGAL and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has warned against the tendency of leaders to take the law into their hands and instead seek legal redress instead of taking matters in their own hands, which is criminal.

In a statement, LHRC said the tendency by the officials was against human rights.

"It is now evident that leaders at different levels have decided to take the law into their hands by beating crime suspects, this is a violation of human rights,"

said LHRC in a statement signed by its executive director Anna Henga.

LHRC called upon the government to control such acts which were against the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966 and others covenants as indicated in the constitution.

"LHRC is appealing to the government to take actions in controlling the malpractice including suspending the mentioned officials especially when such incidents arise and all suspected must be taken to appropriate institutions for

legal measures," reads the statement in part.

The centre congratulated Mbulu district executive director Hudson Kamoga for suspending a village official who attacked a citizen.

Recently government leaders have flogged crime suspects.

Among them was Arusha District Commissioner Kenani Kihongosi who in December caned three students allegedly for stealing 108 school desks worth 10.8m/- and selling them as scrap metal.

The DC is said to have questioned the Form

One student at Sinoni secondary school in the city and according to him, all confessed to have conspired and steal the desks.

He caned the students before their parents and ordered a compensation estimated at 10m/- by those who were allegedly arrested in collaboration with the parents of the suspect students.

Another one was Mbeya RC Albert Chalamila who caned students at one of the secondary schools in the region for allegedly being involved in torching one of the schools.

Jafo irked by poor exams results

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) minister Seleman Jaffo has been irked by poor results for Form IV exams at Itega secondary school in Dodoma City despite having 40 teachers.

Talking with students and teachers yesterday called on school leadership to ensure pass marks go up in future examinations.

The minister called on the school's headmaster and the academic teacher to ensure students perform well as the current examination results were not satisfactory at all.

"This school has a total of 40 teachers but the examination results are very poor, and it is not acceptable that only three students got Division 2 and 18 Division 3 while very many obtained 0 Division," he said.

He added: "I have come here to urge you to work even harder in order to make Itega secondary school do better as the

current situation is very disappointin. You must change."

Meanwhile, Jafo directed for repairs of a classrooms for elementary students of Nkuhungu primary school and gave two weeks for the school authority to ensure that by February 22, this year repair work is completed.

He said the aim of the government is to have in place friendly environment for both students and teachers.

In regard to the Std IV examination results at Nkuhungu primary school Jafo instructed student pass mark should be 100 per cent and there should be no student to repeat classes

Earlier, the head teacher of Nkuhungu primary school Bernard Chanai said the school was established in 1992 with six classrooms comprising 102 students and three teachers.

He said by this year the school has 104 students in elementary school and 3,646 ordinary students of whom 1,821 are boys and 1,834 girls from Std I to 7.

He further said the school has one administrative building, 24 classrooms, while the actual need was 82 classrooms a shortfall of 58 classrooms.

Dodoma Urban Member

of Parliament Anthony Mavunde said in the past the school had the problem of students'

congestion but as for now the situation has improved and promised that he would

provide 70m/- out of Constituency Fund for purchase of school desks.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION:
RFQ N° UNFPA/PROC/RFQ/2021/001

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Comprehensive Assessment of Midwifery Workforce in Tanzania

Introduction
The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) in collaboration with UNFPA is seeking the services of individual consultants or a firm to critically assess, explore, and provide recommendations to improve the Midwifery workforce for quality and safe practices in Tanzania mainland

Objectives of the Project

Main
To assess comprehensively the Midwifery workforce in terms of education and training, practices, policy and regulation in Mainland Tanzania.

Specific
• The specific objectives are presented according to the project's key thematic areas.

Qualification and Experience of the Assessment Team

Team Leader and Policy and Regulation Expert

- Postgraduate degree in Midwifery, Public Health, Medical, Nursing and/or other Health-related Academic qualifications.
- A minimum of 10 years' experience in the Tanzania Health Sector and in conducting complex assessments in the field of Human Resources for Health and the Midwifery workforce in particular, including experience in leading similar assignments or research efforts.

Other Team Members

- An advanced degree in Midwifery, Masters of Public Health or equivalent qualification.
- 7 years' experience in the Tanzania Health sector, particularly in Midwifery and/or Nursing Education and Training.

Duration of the consultancy
The duration of the consultancy is 45 working days.

How to apply
The Request for Quotation (RFQ) template and Terms of Reference (TOR) for this consultancy are posted on the UNFPA Tanzania Country Office website accessible at <http://tanzania.unfpa.org>. Within the site the RFQ N° UNFPA/PROC/RFQ/2021/001 and TORs can be found at <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/submission/rfq-n%C2%BA-unfpa-procrfq2021001-comprehensive-assessment-midwifery-workforce-tanzania>. Interested firms, institutions or individuals can send their application documents i.e. technical and financial proposals to tanzania.office@unfpa.org

The deadline to submit application documents is 03 February 2021 (5 pm Tanzanian Time).

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Woman gets back two houses she surrendered to loan shark

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

PREVENTION and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Shinyanga Region has reclaimed and returned two houses belonging to Josephine Kiyuga, resident Mwadui grounds in Shinyanga municipality that she had surrendered to a loan shark firm.

In his statement to the media early this week, Shinyanga Region's acting PCCB head Francis Luena also said during the second quarter of FY 2020/21, the Bureau managed to reclaim 10m/- and the two houses.

He said the woman, received 5.5m/- from Mselikare loan firm of which she was required to pay back 7.7m/-.

In the loan agreement the borrower surrendered to the lender title deeds of the two houses and when she failed to

repay the money within the agreed time, he two houses were taken over.

"Thereafter, the woman tried to repay 8m/- instead of the 7.7m/-, and increase of 300,000/- interest and penalty for delay in repaying the loan," said Luena.

He added: "The lender received that money but refused to surrender the title deeds, claiming the delay in loan repayment as reason, therefore if she wanted her two houses back, she had to purchase them from the borrower at a cost of 19m/-. Thereafter she came to us."

He further said the Bureau also managed to reclaim 10m/- belonging to various retirees who were defrauded by their employers, the money which, he said, had already been handed to them.

Josephine Kiyuga thanked the Bureau for getting her two houses back, saying she was desperate after the lender clung onto them.



Mbulu District Commissioner in Manyara Region Chelestino Mofuga (L) accompanied by Defence and Security committee inspect construction of Maretadu secondary school's dormitory on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Buigiri school appeals for health insurance support

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PUPILS at Buigiri school for the blind in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region have appealed for well-wishers to support them get health insurance.

Located just outside the capital city of Dodoma, the Buigiri primary school is home to 120 pupils, about 50 students are totally blind, 11 have severe visual impairment and the others have normal vision and 14 with albinism.

Almost all of the pupils in the school, especially those with blindness come from very poor, rural families who simply cannot afford the fees for boarding and tuition.

Speaking at the school recently, school nurse, Monica Mlolele said due health complications that call for regular medical attention, the pupils highly need community health fund

(CHF).

The CHF is a cheaper health insurance introduced by the government in endeavour to make health care affordable and available to the rural population and the informal sector.

Monica said they have always accessed the service through donations from well-wishers, explaining that the current period for the health fund is expiring next month. "There is no hope of getting CHF cards after the current ones expire in February this year and we appeal to stakeholders to rescue the situation", she said, adding with only 30,000/- six pupils can get health insurance for a period of one year.

The same plea was made by one of the pupils, Daniel Richard, explaining that without the health insurance treatment is almost not affordable to them.

Merea, Standard 7 pupil who is suffering from albinism noted that they constantly need health services and through the CHF they can access treatment in any hospital.

Speaking at the weekend after receiving donations from Albinism Awareness Foundation (AAF), a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Dodoma, they said several various organisations have come to their aid, making them feel valued, but a lot more need to be done.

During the occasion, AAF donated equipment worth 5.2 mn/- which included walking sticks, boxes of sunscreen oil, special eye glasses for those with poor vision, caps and telescopes.

AAF director, Suleiman Magoma said the donation was from friends, well-wishers and work mates who saw the need to help less fortunate pupils.

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

STUDENTS who performed better in last year's Standard Seven national examinations and Standard Four assessment exams in Mwanza Region will be awarded in an event to be held at the CCM Kirumba Stadium this Saturday.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, the City's Education Officer (Primary), Ephraim Majinge said the ceremony will also include provision of awards to teachers whose schools performed better in the exams.

"We will award teachers depending on performance of students in particular subjects," he said noting they have been organising such events every year to motivate

Mwanza best students in Standard Seven, Four exams to be awarded

both students and teachers.

Majinge added that this year's event will be big compared to previous events because the region was ranked 3rd in last year's national Standard Seven examinations countrywide.

Public schools, Butimba 'A' and Butimba 'B' were ranked 5th while the privately owned Mumtaaz primary school was ranked 9th in the examinations countrywide, said the education officer.

The city also had two schools that were among the top 10 schools in the 2020 Standard Four assessment examinations. They are Mizigu and Musabe primary schools.

He added that two students namely Daud Elias from

Mizigu Primary School and Samson Shayo from Musabe Primary School were among the best 10 pupils at the national level.

To colour the occasion, the city has arranged various sports events which include teachers from different schools. The sports event includes soccer, netball, volleyball, traditional dances and choir. There will also be a football match between Mwanza city officials and ward councillors.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (education), Gerald Mweli will be the guest of honour.

PATH

VACANCIES – Re Advertised

PATH is a global organization that works to accelerate health equity by bringing together public institutions, businesses, social enterprises, and investors to solve the world's most pressing health challenges. With expertise in science, health, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales solutions—including vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and innovative approaches to strengthening health systems worldwide. PATH is recruiting for the positions below as part of its projects implementation in Tanzania. All positions are contingent upon donor funding and approval.

Chief of Party - C3HP HIV/TB Project (Tracking Code 10230)

The Chief of Party is expected to lead an anticipated five-year USAID-funded contract working on comprehensive client centered care for HIV and TB in Tanzania's northern regions. The Chief of Party will help to accelerate HIV epidemic control and eradicate TB in Tanzania by leveraging disruptive approaches and driving equitable access to differentiated, client-centered, efficacious HIV and TB tools, systems, and services. The successful candidate will have excellent technical capacity in HIV and TB, and considerable experience and proven excellent capacity in project and team management.

Deputy Chief of Party (Finance and Administration) - C3HP HIV/TB Project (Tracking Code 10231)

The Deputy Chief of Party (Finance and Administration) is expected to lead the administrative and financial management of an anticipated five years USAID-funded contract working on comprehensive client centered care for HIV and TB in Tanzania's northern regions. The successful candidate will support the project's technical team to accelerate HIV epidemic control and eradicate TB in Tanzania by leveraging disruptive approaches and driving equitable access to differentiated, client-centered, efficacious HIV and TB tools, systems, and services.

Deputy Chief of Party (Technical) - C3HP HIV/TB Project (Tracking Code 10232)

The Deputy Chief of Party (Technical) is expected to lead the technical implementation and work with the Chief of Party in supporting an anticipated five-year USAID-funded contract working on comprehensive client centered care for HIV and TB in Tanzania's northern regions. The successful candidate will help to accelerate HIV epidemic control and eradicate TB in Tanzania by leveraging disruptive approaches and driving equitable access to differentiated, client-centered, efficacious HIV and TB tools, systems, and services. The Technical Director shall be responsible for ensuring technical soundness, quality and safety of the interventions delivered at facility and community level in alignment with the national guidelines and other normative guidance and global best practices

Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Manager - C3HP HIV/TB Project (Tracking Code 10233)

PATH seeks an experienced Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Manager to support an anticipated five year USAID-funded contract working on comprehensive client centered care for HIV and TB in Tanzania's northern regions. The successful candidate will support the project's technical team to accelerate HIV epidemic control and eradicate TB in Tanzania through rigorous technical monitoring, performance management, accurate and timely reporting, and rapid course-correcting mechanisms, across PATH's innovative approaches, activities, and tools for differentiated, client-centered, and efficacious HIV and TB systems and services.

Detailed job descriptions and application instructions

Please visit our website <https://www.path.org/about/careers/> for more details on these positions. Qualified candidates should submit their resume and cover letter online to apply through our website not later than Wednesday Friday, February 5, 2021. We appreciate your application but only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted.

PATH IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



BARRICK

NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER MINING RELATED SERVICES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from interested and qualified parties to provide various mining related services.

Available Packages - Mining Related Services

- (1) Rock Crushing/Screening and Rehandle
- (2) Rehandle and Crusher Feeding
- (3) General Services and Machine Hire
- (4) Minor Services including construction and cement handling
- (5) Surface Piping Installation
- (6) Labour Supply Services

Information to Tender

Information to Tender may be obtained from:
nm.proposal@barrick.com

Applicants must quote reference "Mining Related Services MINE11/2020" in the subject line of your email and submit your company profile. Interested parties may submit tenders for select individual packages, or for all available packages.

Key Dates

- Last date to request Information to Tender 28 January 2020
- Tender submission closing date 12 February 2020

North Mara Gold Mine Limited
19 January 2020



**Habib African Bank Limited
Dar es Salaam**

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2020
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 31.12.2020	Previous Quarter 30.09.2020
A. ASSETS		
1. Cash	4,282	10,245
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	59,664	43,468
3. Investment in Government Securities	51,174	79,376
4. Balances with other banks and financial institutions	32,072	24,265
5. Cheques and items for Clearing	39	45
6. Interbranch float items	79	61
7. Bills negotiated	1,472	1,579
8. Customer liability on acceptances	2,209	1,783
9. Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10. Investment in Other Securities	0	0
11. Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of allowances for probable Losses)	131,384	124,847
12. Other Assets	1,166	2,089
13. Equity Investments	0	0
14. Underwriting accounts	0	0
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	6,294	6,364
16. TOTAL ASSETS	289,834	294,121
B. LIABILITIES		
17. Deposits from other Banks and financial institutions	0	0
18. Customer deposits	236,266	239,622
19. Cash Letters of Credit	0	0
20. Special deposits	2,449	4,486
21. Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22. Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	68	89
23. Accrued taxes and expenses payable	5,416	5,582
24. Acceptances outstanding	2,209	1,783
25. Inter branch float items	73	55
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	0	0
27. Other liabilities	5,525	5,593
28. Borrowings	0	0
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	252,006	257,210
30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 minus 29)	37,828	36,911
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31. Paid up share capital	2,600	2,600
32. Capital reserves	321	243
33. Retained earnings	29,550	29,671
34. Profit (Loss) account	2,071	1,154
35. Other capital accounts	3,287	3,243
36. Minority Interest	0	0
37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	37,828	36,911
38. Contingent liabilities	49,149	53,480
39. Non performing loans and advances	8,128	8,032
40. Allowances for probable losses	128	(304)
41. Other non performing assets	0	0
D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS		
(i). Shareholders Funds to total assets	13.05%	12.55%
(ii). Non performing loans to total gross loans	5.95%	6.18%
(iii). Gross loans and advances to total deposits	57.24%	53.28%
(iv). Loans and advances to total assets	47.14%	44.22%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	74.05%	77.68%
(vi). Deposits Growth	-2.21%	3.03%
(vii). Assets growth	-1.46%	1.27%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2020
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 31.12.2020	Comparative Quarter (Previous Year) 31.12.2019	Current Year Cumulative 31.12.2020	Comparative Year Cumulative (Previous Year) 31.12.2019
1. Interest Income	5,263	5,798	21,608	23,091
2. Interest Expense	(3,211)	(3,034)	(12,527)	(11,641)
3. Net Interest Income (Iminus 2)	2,052	2,764	9,081	11,450
4. Bad Debts Written Off	0	0	0	0
5. Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	128	274	(27)	114
6. Non-Interest Income	1,109	1,252	4,189	4,911
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	212	266	1,017	1,159
6.2 Fees and Commissions	318	340	1,134	1,312
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0	0	0
6.4 Other Operating Income	579	646	2,038	2,439
7. Non interest Expenses:	(2,582)	(2,760)	(10,212)	(11,030)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(1,486)	(1,535)	(6,146)	(6,130)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(84)	(74)	(303)	(304)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(1,011)	(1,152)	(3,763)	(4,595)
8. Operating Income/(Loss)	707	1,529	3,031	5,444
9. Income Tax Provision	210	(390)	(960)	(1,605)
10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax	917	1,139	2,071	3,838
11. Other Comprehensive Income (Itemise)	0	0	0	0
12. Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year	917	1,139	2,071	3,838
13. Number of Employees	89	92	89	92
14. Basic Earning Per Share	353	438	796	1,476
15. Number of Branches	4	4	4	4
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	1.24%	2.23%	0.71%	1.97%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Funds	9.82%	11.92%	5.42%	10.17%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	40.52%	39.15%	39.59%	39.39%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	3.72%	4.61%	4.15%	4.84%

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2020

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements.

Name and Title	Signature	Date
S. S. HASAN RIZVI (Managing Director)		18.01.2021
EPHRAIM MKONDE (Finance Manager)		18.01.2021
SHAIBU GWANDI (Ag. Internal Auditor)		18.01.2021

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
1. ZAIN HABIB		18.01.2021
2. VAZIR A BUKHARI		18.01.2021

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31.12.2020
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current quarter 31.12.2020	Previous quarter 30.09.2020	Current Year Cumulative 31.12.2020	Comparative Year Cumulative (Previous Year) 31.12.2019
I. Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net income (loss)	707	425	3,031	4,958
Adjustment for:				
Impairment/amortization	100	104	419	437
Net change in loans and advances	(6,537)	1,860	10,570	(12,359)
Gain/loss on sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
Net change in deposits	(5,393)	7,189	11,594	(10,761)
Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	(23,270)	53,153	24,369	3,255
Net change in Other Liabilities	(236)	(170)	152	(221)
Net change in Other Assets	1,081	(847)	2,394	2,919
Tax paid	210	(360)	(1,124)	(1,605)
Others (Specify)	0	0	0	53
Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities	(38,339)	63,354	51,405	(12,824)
II. Cash flow from investing activities:				
Dividend Received	0	0	0	0
Redemption of Long-Term Debt	(14)	(33)	(168)	(201)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Sale Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Others (Specify)	0	0	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities	(14)	(33)	(168)	(201)
III. Cash flow from financing activities:				
Redemption of Long-Term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	0	0	0
Payment of Cash Dividends	0	(2,300)	(2,300)	(2,300)
Net change in Other Borrowings	0	0	0	0
Others (Specify)	0	0	0	0
Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities	0	(2,300)	(2,300)	(2,300)
IV. Cash and cash equivalents:				
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(38,353)	61,020	48,937	(15,325)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter/Year	124,696	63,676	37,407	52,733
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter/Year	86,344	124,696	86,344	37,407

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31.12.2020
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Other Reserve	Total
Current Year 2020							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	31,644	3,715	-	262	38,221
Profit for the year	-	-	2,071	-	-	-	2,071
Dividend paid	-	-	(2,300)	-	-	-	(2,300)
Transfer to statutory/Regulatory Reserve	-	-	429	(429)	-	-	-
Transfer to other Reserve	-	-	(59)	-	-	59	-
Prior years tax paid	-	-	(164)	-	-	-	(164)
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	31,620	3,287	-	321	37,828
Previous Year 2019							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	2,600	-	32,445	576	1,283	230	37,134
Profit for the year	-	-	3,166	-	-	-	3,166
Dividend paid	-	-	(2,300)	-	-	-	(2,300)
Transfer to statutory/Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(3,140)	3,140	-	-	-
Transfer to general Reserve	-	-	1,283	-	(1,283)	-	-
Transfer to other Reserve	-	-	(91)	-	-	31	-
Difference in right of use and lease liability as at 01.01.2019	-	-	221	-	-	-	221
Balance as at the end of the year	2,600	-	31,644	3,715	0	262	38,221

**DISCLOSURES MADE UNDER REGULATION 11 OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (DISCLOSURES) REGULATIONS, 2014
MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES (GHARAMA ZA HUDUMA ZETU)**

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
		USD	TSHS
1.0	Current Accounts		
a)	Required minimum opening balance	500	500,000
b)	Monthly Ledger fees	35	35,000
c)	Bank cheque cancellation charges	15	15,000
d)	Withdraw charges	1.0%	Free
e)	Bank draft	35	-
f)	Interim statement per page	2.00	2,000
g)	Temporary statement per page	2.00	2,000
h)	Cheque book	35	35,000
i)	Cash deposit charges	Free	Fcy with small denomination-5%
j)	Bank draft cancellation charges	60	-
k)	Closing Account	25	25,000
l)	Stop Payment	-	10,000
m)	Tiss transfer	10	10,000
n)	Balance enquiry	Free	Free
o)	Dishonoured cheque	50	50,000
p)	Bulk Cash deposit charges	Free	Free
q)	Overdrawn account interest charge	13%	27%
r)	Unarranged overdraft	13%	27%
s)	Certificate of balance	25	25,000
t)	Letter of introduction	25	25,000
u)	Salary handling	-	10,000
v)	Banker's cheque	30	30,000
w)	Dormant Account Activation	15	15,000
x)	Clearing Charges	-	Tzs 1,000 per cheque
xi)	Other (please specify)	-	-
2.0	Savings Accounts		
a)	Required minimum opening balance	50	50,000
b)	Monthly Ledger fees (half yearly)	14.50	13,200
c)	Withdraw charges	1.0%	Free
d)	Temporary statement per page	2.00	2,000
e)	Interim statement	2.00	2,000
f)	Account closure	25	25,000
g)	Dormant account activation	15	15,000
h)	Cash deposit charges	Free	Fcy with small denomination-5%
3.0	Electronic Banking		
a)	Internet banking monthly fee	-	-
b)	Internet transfers	-	-
c)	SMS banking	-	-
d)	Other	-	-
6.0	Foreign Remittance charges		
	LCY to FCY	50	Nil
	FCY to FCY (Usd or Equiv.)		
	Up to 10,000	50	50
	From 10,001 to 25,000	50	100
	From 25,001 to 50,000	50	150
	From 50,001 to 100,000	50	175
	From 100,001 to 250,000	50	250

Note: Above charges may vary at the discretion of the management approval

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
		USD	TSHS
4.0	Foreign Exchange Transaction		
a)	Purchase of foreign cheque	25	-
b)	Inward foreign transfer	20	-
c)	Outward foreign transfer	50	-
d)	LC Opening commission (Cash covered) per quarter	1.75%	-
e)	LC Opening commission (No Cash covered) per quarter	2.00%	-
f)	LC Advising commission (Inward/Export)	200	-
g)	Foreign documentary bill for collection (Inward/Export)	1.00%	-
h)	Telex/Swift	2.00%	-
i)	LC Acceptance commission	2% per quarter	-
j)	LC Payment/Settlement commission	+50 swift charges	-
k)	LC Amendment commission	0.75% of LC Value	-
l)	Treasury bill bid charges per bid	125	-
m)	LG Issuance per quarter	-	100,000
			1.5% to 2.0%
5.0	Personal Loans		
a)	Processing/ Arrangement/ Appraisal fee	1.50%	1.50%
	(i) Personal loans	1.50%	1.50%
	(ii) Overdrafts	1.50%	1.50%
	(iii) Mortgage Finance	1.50%	1.50%
	(iv) Asset finance	3.00%	5.00%
b)	Unpaid loan instalment	-	-
c)	Early repayment	Actuals as per valuer	-
d)	Valuation fees	-	-
e)	Other	-	-

OTHER DISCLOSURES (VIAMBATANISHI VINGINEVYO)

No.	ITEM/TRANSACTION	CHARGE/FEE	
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Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati looks at one of the logs held by Isawima game reserve officials in Kaliua District yesterday. Photo: Vincent Tiganya

Expedite reserve formalisation process to control illegal logging - Tabora RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has been told to expedite the process for the legal formalisation of Isawima Wildlife Reserve in Kaliua in order to stop the ongoing wanton destruction of the area.

The call was given here on Tuesday by Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati during his visit to inspect a consignment of logs seized from the various areas of the reserve and whose owners fled. He said lack of a legal apparatus to oversee the reserve has spurred wanton destruction of the Isawima Wildlife Reserve.

The RC added that even the Isawima Wildlife Conservation Community has not been legally entrusted with the reserve because the process thereof was yet to be completed.

In the circumstances, he said both TAWA and TFS have remained in the sidelines because they have no legal mandate to oversee the reserve area.

Dr Sengati said it would be better for the process that had been started to be finalized as quickly as possible to save the area from ongoing destruction.

He also directed that while the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism was still in the process, the District Defence and Security Committee should continue with the responsibility to oversee the reserve area against destruction.

Earlier, Kaliua District Commissioner Abel Busalama said Kaliua District, working together with Isawima Wildlife Conservation Community managed to assemble a huge consignment of logs after they were abandoned by illegal loggers.

He said a huge quantity of the logs were of 'Mninga-maji' type that were cut down a long time ago and abandoned in various areas of the forest.

Western Zone TFS Manager Valentino Msusa said the reserve was home to huge quantities of 'Mninga-maji' type of trees which spurred wanton harvest without permits from appropriate authorities.

Conflict erupts on Rujewa farm earlier given to youth by govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

FIFTY youth from Rujewa Town in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have failed to benefit from the land provided to them by the district government two years ago due to obstacles from some rich people who claim the area as their own.

In 2018 the government in Mbarali District allocated 57-acre land from Mdogela area in Rujewa Town to the youth for rice farming.

The youth now claim that since that time they have not benefitted from the land due to their frequent arrest by the police whenever they want to develop the area.

Speaking to reporters early this week, the youth appealed to the government to intervene in the conflict saying the

district government failed to help them.

One of the youth, Baraka Mwilongo, said each one of them was allocated an acre but no one ever cultivated anything due to the said conflict of which they said they did not know their true adversary.

"We are being arrested every now and then and taken to the police and when we pursue the issue no assistance is accorded to us, and we are now tired, we now appeal to higher government authorities to help us," said Mwilongo.

Another youth, Maria Dismas said a big percentage of the youth have families to feed from the farms but as for now they were stuck.

She said they were now appealing to the Lands and Housing Minister William Lukuvi to assist them, and if he will fail, then they will appeal to the President.

Jangulutu Village Chairman, Abdul

Nungwe, confirmed his involvement with the district government in providing the land to the youth and added that as for now the government cooperation in finding a solution to the problem was small.

Rujewa Town Executive Officer Tuntufye Chamba said before the youth were allocated the land, it belonged to the government and all procedures were followed in providing the youth the land for farming.

He said there are few people who come up claiming the land was theirs, which has now been the cause of the ongoing conflict, and added that it was not clear from where they get support.

Mbarali District Commissioner said he played his part in providing the land to the youth and that the ensuing conflict was beyond his responsibilities.

Free medical check-up benefits more than 1,500 villagers in Meru District

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OVER 1,500 residents of Meru District Council in Arusha region have benefited from free medical screening organised by STEMM organisation in partnership with the US-based Christian organisation—Hand of Hope (Joyce Meyer Ministries).

Speaking to journalists yesterday the Medical Officer for Mbuguni Health Centre, Dr Brian Cheyo said about 5000 residents are expected to benefit from the five days exercise.

He said through the exercise, they aim to reach out to a huge number of people where he said the main challenge was pneumonia and other respiratory infections.

"We have received a huge number of people with respiratory complications, this is a result of weather and people aged above 60 and children below five years usually suffer," he said.

For his part, the Director for the organisation in Tanzania Isack Mkea said it was the first time for the organisation to offer

such services saying it will be continuous.

He said the exercise will cost 40m/- and is aimed at helping the needy who are in search of medication.

Dr Kim Alger from the Hand of Hope said his organization is committed to providing such services to the public.

Mbuguni village chairperson, Hosea Palangyo commended the organisers of the programme, which has been a redeemer to many people in the area.

One of the beneficiaries of the free medical check-up, Julieth Msangi lauded people behind the screening, saying: "such services are rare in villagers, something that make us to continue living with health problems due to lack of awareness." The government strives to expand health insurance coverage to at least 50 percent of population in efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

NHIF being an established and effective health financing option, a pioneer of Health Insurance in Tanzania resolved to undertake various interventions since 2001 to date in order to ensure improved access.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title : Director of Community Support
Reference No. TZ - TASAF-156658 -CS-INDV

- The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to ensure adherence to the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual in relation to the delivery of the functions of the directorate.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
 - Holder of Masters Degree in Social Science, Business, Engineering or any other development related field from a recognized university,
 - A recognized professional qualification where applicable.
 - At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven (7) years must be at senior managerial position.
 - Must be computer literate.
 - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
 - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels.
 - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
 - Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
 - Experience with community based development initiative and social fund related operations are an added advantage.
 - Self-motivated and able to work effectively, efficiently and independently without direct supervision.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 19th February, 2021.

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Kambarage Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
Dodoma, Tanzania
Tel: +255 26 2963866
Fax: +255 26 2963871
E-mail: hrm@tasaf.go.tz

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)
Assignment Title : Director of Internal Audit
Reference No : TZ-TASAF-156656 – CS - INDV

- The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to manage the internal audit functions of the Project as specified in the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
 - Holder of Masters Degree in Finance, Accounting and Finance, Business Administration or any other related field from recognized university.
 - Must possess internationally recognized accounting professional qualification such as CPA (T), ACCA, CIMA, CISA or other related profession.
 - Must be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in the category of Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) or Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA) or any equivalent international recognized board.
 - At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven years (7) must be at senior managerial position.
 - Must have a working knowledge of computerized Accounting and Audit systems.
 - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
 - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels. .
 - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
 - Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
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- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 19th February, 2021.

The Executive Director,
Tanzania Social Action Fund,
Kambarage Building,
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,
P. O. Box 2719,
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Water minister Jumaa Aweso (C) cuts a ribbon to launch Same-Mwanga-Korogwe water project under the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Second left is Dawasa Chief Executive Officer Cyprian Luhemeja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Stakeholders offer to build dormitories in Busokelo District secondary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Busokelo

DEVELOPMENT stakeholders in Busokelo District Council in Mbeya Region have appealed to the government to allow them build dormitories in all secondary schools in the district to enable all Form I to IV students stay at the schools.

They claim the aim of the plan is to raise academic levels in the district as while at the schools' premises students would study hard.

The stakeholders presented their plan early this week during the festival to advertise Busokelo culture and traditions as well as to mobilise for development that was held at Luangwa town.

The Chairman of the Busokelo Cultural Association Gwakisa Mwasyetete said students take much of their time walking to and from school, they get tired and could not study well.

The stakeholders said they have the capabilities to build the dormitories and what they needed was the permission and cooperation as they would need some experts from the government as well as various directives in the construction

work. "1.08bn/- is quit sufficient to build dormitories in all secondary schools in our district, as we aim to erase Division O's, 3's and 4's in Form IV examinations, we want our children to pass well with Divisions 1 and 2," he said.

He said the government did well to remove school fees from primary to secondary education but what was now needed was the refurbishing of the infrastructures in many schools.

Busokelo Council Executive Director Eston Ngilangwa said the opinion of the stakeholders was good and would be beneficial to the education sector, adding that he would immediately work on it.

"I will cooperate with these stakeholders in the construction of the said dormitories in secondary schools including Luanga, Lufilyo, Ntaba and Mzalendo that have big numbers of students," Ngilangwa said.

Representing the Mbeya Regional Commissioner at the festival, Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika praised the step contemplated by the stakeholders who are indigenous Busokelo people living within and outside Mbeya Region.

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

Govt warns embezzlers in cooperative unions

THE government has cautioned officials in the country's cooperative unions who embezzle members' funds saying it will not hesitate to intervene to make sure the unions flourish for the benefit of their members.

The country's Deputy Cooperatives Registrar Collins Nyakunga issued the warning early this week during the General Meeting of Chunya Tobacco Cooperative Union (CHUTCU) in Mbeya Region that also elected its

various officials. Nyakunga said the government was the main guardian of the cooperatives hence when it is proven that their officials engage in funds embezzlement, the government will not hesitate to take stern measures against them.

He said during the exercise to elect Union's officials, members are required to avoid picking officials who offer bribes, saying such people do not have good

intentions to strengthen the union.

Chunya District Commissioner Simon Mayheka said the government cannot remain silent if all was not well in the cooperatives and it will be ready to take steps against the culprits.

He said in his district he will make sure cooperatives develop due to their importance to both the people and the government especially in supervision of various

crops sold via cooperatives.

"There are some few officials who are always corrupt, they hate to see cooperatives develop, they employ all means to destroy them," said Mayeka.

Acting CHUTCU Manager Juma Nshishi appealed to the government to assist some of tobacco farmers who to date have not received their payment for the crop sold in the last season.

He said the farmers claim more

than USD 200,000 and that many times they have gone to CHUTCU officials for assistance so that they continue with tobacco farming this season.

"Some of them had hired labourers who are yet to be paid and others bought inputs on credit, they have no means to settle these debts," he added.

Some of tobacco farmers also appealed to the government to assist them in increasing the

number of firms that buy tobacco in order to spur competition that would benefit farmers.

Francis Kasekwa, a tobacco farmer said right now there is only one firm in the district buying tobacco.

Chunya tobacco growing area incorporates farmers from twin districts from two adjacent regions - Chunya District in Mbeya Region and Songwe District in Songwe Region.

Arusha to host horticulture World Summit

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA is next week expected to host a three-day World Summit on horticultural products, whereby 250 people will attend in person while another 350 will attend online owing to Covid-19 restrictions, according to organisers.

Briefing reporters here yesterday on the summit, director general of the International Center for Research on African Indigenous Vegetables, Dr. Gabriel Rugalema said preparations for the summit are almost complete and the meeting will be held partly online and live owing to threat of Covid-19.

According to Rugalema, researchers and experts from across the globe will extensively discuss issues related to loss of nutrient rich indigenous African crops.

"The countries that have confirmed participation include the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, American, Thailand, countries in Asia, as well as East African countries including Kenya and Uganda," he said.

The meeting will among other things discuss how to encourage and increase production of vegetable crops of African origin.

He said the meeting is important because research shows that the leaves of vegetable crops, especially those of

African origin, are rich in nutrients. He noted that these indigenous African crops are disappearing due to population growth. He warned that expansion of cities and other development activities are infringing on wild life areas and affecting the growth of these indigenous species.

Dr Gabriel also cited climate change such as drought, frequent floods and other unpredictable weather conditions are also contributing to the continued decline of these natural crops.

The United Republic of Tanzania President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the vulnerable poor households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

TASAF Executive Director is inviting applications from suitably qualified Tanzanian nationals to fill the empty vacant post of **Livelihood Enhancement Manager**.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz.

How to apply:

- 1) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail to the following address:
 - a) Executive Director
Tanzania Social Action Fund
P.O. Box 2719
Kambarage Tower.
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road
Dodoma
 - b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email: hmr@tasaf.go.tz
- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
- 3) Deadline for receiving applications is 19th February, 2021,
- 4) Only successful candidate will be contacted.

Ladislau Mwangi

Ladislau Mwangi
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROVISION OF GOODS, SERVICE AND MINOR WORKS

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya. MCCL is proud to offer an exciting opportunity for experienced and suitably qualified suppliers to provide spare parts and services for its 2021-year requirements. MCCL invites all interested companies to participate in expression of interest for provision of goods, services and minor works at MCCL company site as per below list of Lots.

LOT No.01	Supply of Vie belts	LOT No.19	Supply of Welding Electrodes
LOT No.02	Supply of Bearings	LOT No.20	Air condition Maintenance services
LOT No.03	Vehicle Maintenance (Garage services)	LOT No.21	Fire extinguisher maintenance services
LOT No.04	Supply of Vehicle Tires	LOT No.22	Compressor maintenance services
LOT No.05	Supply of Conveyor Belts and Idlers	LOT No.23	Courier Services
LOT No.06	Supply of Industrial Gases and LPG	LOT No.24	Supply of Mechanical Consumables
LOT No.07	Kiln Brick Lining services	LOT No.25	Supply of Electrical Consumables
LOT No.08	Plumbing Services	LOT No.26	Supply of Stationaries
LOT No.09	Minor civil works and maintenance	LOT No.27	Burner Pipe Maintenance and Repair
LOT No.10	Ball mill Maintenance	LOT No.27	Scaffolding Erection
LOT No.11	Satellite Cooler Maintenance and repair	LOT No.28	Box conveyor Maintenance and repair
LOT No.12	Welding and Fabrication works	LOT No.29	Motor Rewinding Services
LOT No.13	Conveyor belts Replacement	LOT No.30	Bucket elevator Maintenance repair
LOT No.14	Open gear Maintenance	LOT No.31	Limestone crusher Overhaul
LOT No.15	Hired Labour (Skilled & Unskilled)	LOT No.32	Filter bags replacement
LOT No.16	Industrial Fan Maintenance and repair	LOT No.33	HGG Brick lining and Repair
LOT No.17	Filter bags Maintenance	LOT No.34	Hire of Crane /Lifting Equipment
LOT No.18	Weighbridge Maintenance and Repair	LOT No.35	Chain Conveyor Maintenance Repair

Interested companies meeting following minimum requirements should respond to this EOI:

1. A minimum of three (03) years' experience in provision of selected Lot(s)
2. Compliance to all statutory requirements for running the business
3. Certification of dealership or distributorship (if any)
4. Financial capability.

Interested Suppliers are requested to submit the following documents while responding to this EOI:

- Letter of interest clearly indicating the above LOT no. reference(s), and years of experience in similar provision of goods, services or works.
- Copy Company Profile
- Copies of Business licenses and relative certifications and registrations (if any)

Interested companies that meet the minimum requirements and have the capacity to undertake any of the above-mentioned Lots, should express their interest by sending together with all documents requested to the email address mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com on or before 13:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 27th January 2021. Companies satisfactorily meeting the above minimum requirements will receive a detailed pre-qualification questionnaire for further evaluation by Company. Note: Only shortlisted companies/contractors shall receive call for Invitation For Tender

The meeting will among other things discuss how to encourage and increase production of vegetable crops of African origin

THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Why Africa needs to invest in mental health

CURRENTLY, a majority of Tanzania's population relies on traditional or alternative medicine and mental illness is the second most common condition managed by practitioners of traditional medicine. Depression is one of the most common mental disorders globally.

It is projected to become the leading cause of disability worldwide by the year 2030 and is currently the leading cause of disability among those aged 15 to 44. Africa carries the largest burden of disease of any continent and has significant challenges in the provision of mental healthcare.

About 2.5 million people in Tanzania are suffering from mental illness. 20 per cent of them have access to mental health services. Since the WHO declared the coronavirus a pandemic early last year, mental illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, have surged in populations around the world.

Mental illnesses also sometimes referred to as mental disorders are conditions that affect an individual's thinking, feelings, moods, and behaviours. They are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work, or family activities. Ranging in duration from temporary or occasional to long-lasting which is called chronic, mental illnesses can impact an individual's ability to function, substantially interfere with or limit major life activities, or affect how one relates to and interacts with others.

While mental illnesses can take several forms and are of many different types, some of the most

frequently occurring or common ones include: anxiety disorders including panic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and phobias (abnormal fears), depression, bipolar disorder, various mood disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, addictive behaviours, dementia, developmental disorders and intellectual disabilities, and psychotic disorders.

Contrary to popular general perceptions, mental illnesses are actually quite common. In fact, medical research and estimates from international organisations suggest that mental health conditions will affect as many as one in four people at some time in their lives. Globally, mental illness remains a considerable challenge and problem.

For instance, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global burden of mental disorders continues to grow with significant impacts on health and major social, human rights and economic consequences in all countries of the world.

Based on recent figures and data, around the world an estimated 264 million people are affected by depression, about 45 million people are affected by bipolar disorder, approximately 20 million people are affected by schizophrenia, and an estimated 50 million people have dementia.

Importantly, there are effective treatments for mental illnesses and a number of different ways to alleviate the suffering caused by them do exist. Generally, with appropriate treatment and support, people that are affected by mental illnesses can continue to function in their daily lives.

We can prevent unnecessary child deaths from malaria

IN 2012, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued guidelines for implementing intermittent monthly drug administration, also known as Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) saying in areas of high transmission that occurs during particular seasons can help prevent malaria in children under five years old.

WHO says giving antimalarial medicines to children monthly during the rainy season cut malaria deaths in children by 42 per cent, making a case for wide implementation in malaria-endemic African regions

The wet season sometimes called the rainy season is the time of year when most of a region's average annual rainfall occurs. Generally, the season lasts at least a month. The term 'green season' is also sometimes used as a euphemism by tourist authorities. Areas with wet seasons are dispersed across portions of the tropics and subtropics.

In areas where the heavy rainfall is associated with a wind shift, the wet season is known as the monsoon. Many tropical and subtropical climates experience monsoon rainfall patterns. Rainfall in the wet season is mainly due to daytime heating which leads to diurnal thunderstorm activity within a pre-existing moist airmass, so the rain mainly falls in late afternoon and early evening in savannah and monsoon regions. Further, much of the total rainfall each day occurs in the first minutes of the downpour. Most places have only one wet season, but areas of the tropics can have two wet seasons, because the monsoon trough, or

Intertropical Convergence Zone, can pass over locations in the tropics twice per year. However, since rain forests have rainfall spread evenly through the year, they do not have a wet season.

According to the WHO study malaria killed 643,000 people globally in 2019 and more than half of these were children under five, with the majority of the deaths occurring in West and Central Africa.

According to the study published last December in *The Lancet*, data collected from outpatient clinics also showed that malaria cases reduced by 25 per cent in several African countries.

Some countries were quick to adopt the new strategy, but there were obstacles to implementing it widely, including a shortage of quality-assured medicines and lack of funding.

The UNICEF-funded project sought to scale-up implementation of SMC on a large scale in the seven countries, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the intervention and to evaluate safety, feasibility, and effects of large-scale use on drug resistance.

In 2015, about 12.5 million treatments – combinations of antimalarial medications amodiaquine and sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine – were administered over four monthly cycles between July-August and October-November. The programme reached about 3.2 million children who were aged between three months and five years. In 2016, about 25.1 million treatments were administered by more than 47,000 distributors to 6.9 million children.

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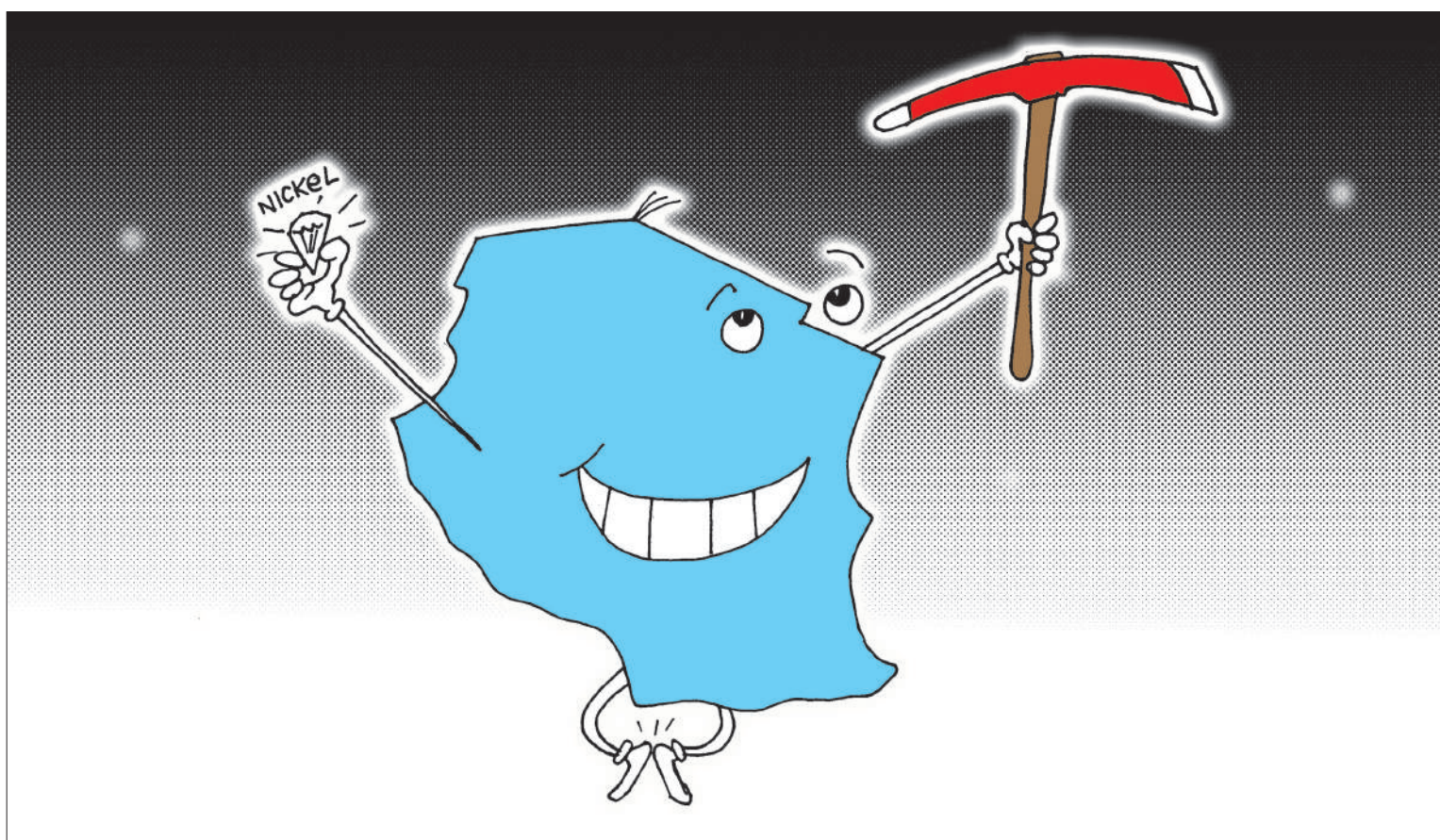
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By Ismail Lagardien

THE social good is above the individual good, only insofar as individuals make up a society and their actions attain the good of the society - in its entirety. The ANC and EFF have long crossed the line of moral rectitude. The DA is too smitten with liberalism's excessive individualism and mythical market forces to consider the common good as indivisible from individual good.

There is a growing diminution of ethics in South African politics, or at least a blurring of lines between the historical, somewhat acceptable, binary of utilitarian and Kantian ethics.

Utilitarian ethics, put quite simply (I hope not too simplistically - this is an enormous subject, I apologise in advance for taking short cuts) is that you treat someone in a particular way, because you expect something in return.

Kantian ethics is that you treat someone with kindness, respect, grace, dignity, and you dispense justice because these are good in and of themselves - and you don't expect anything in return.

Our politicians, those in government as well as elites outside government, have either dispensed with any moral obligation to do good for its own sake, or they have surrendered any notion of justice for its own sake, and abandoned any ethical considerations. That's a mouthful. But let me try to explain.

First, I should lay out my (personal) position of departure, which is that I consider "ethics" to be the ultimate ends of human conduct, and that ethical conduct - treating someone with kindness, respect, grace and dignity - is good in and of itself. This rests on the (firm) belief that one should never treat someone (else) as a means to an end, but as an end in themselves. Yes, this is drawn from Kantian thought, but (for the record) I disagree with him on the immortality of the soul, the existence of god, and on free will.

There is a vast literature on ethics reaching back to at least 400 BCE. I am, therefore, necessarily and because of space constraints terribly brief. To avoid accusations of ignoring African ethics, I tried to find African literature on ethics from around the same time as Plato, or Socrates, and especially Aristotle (400-300 BCE). It was a fruitless search. What I did find was produced mainly in the 20th century. In this literature I noted the African ethics postulate of "partiality," which I consider to be exclusivist, and contradictory to the cosmopolitanism I associate with. I cannot see the value in being partial in the process of securing rights, justice, or providing public

The end of ethics in South Africa

goods and services.

There may, indeed, be instances where the state ought to focus on rolling back injustices of the past, and be "partial" to previously disadvantaged groups. But in the process, rent-seeking has been rampant in South Africa, with naught for the comfort of the precariat. This, more than anything, has ruined any ethical basis of government and leadership for the common good, increased rent-seeking, and the building of fortunes among the elite.

The life world of South Africans

It is fairly evident that our politicians have failed us - most especially over the past 10 years - and many of them (and their cronies) have become wealthy in the process. To them, and to many elites, getting to positions of power is enough. In such instances, partiality ethics is homologous to "it's our turn to eat", in the sense that it once was other people's turn to eat, and now you battle and trample on others to get to the top because it's your turn. This way, ethics of partiality, and the masses of evidence that we have seen over the past four or five years, demonstrate that once you have achieved your goal of, say, becoming a CEO (Brian Molefe), or a COO (Hlaudi Motsoeneng), or a presidential spokesperson (Khusela Diko), "you've made it" to the feeding trough, and it's "your turn to eat".

Anyway, beyond that, there is no commitment to the common good, and all senses of rectitude have been violated. The ethical motive is to get into a position of power, for its own sake, and the idea of doing good (for the public) either for utilitarian reasons or because it's necessarily good, is ignored or dispensed with.

There is no need, here, to go through all the cases of corruption, maladministration, nepotism, cronyism (that made very many people wealthy) and the continued decline in the delivery of public goods and services. It is well enough embedded in all our minds. The evidence is overwhelming that there is a growing gap between most of the political elite, and public service, and the life world of the population, which is (ontically) beset with crime, violence - especially against women and children - displacement, dysfunctional municipalities, failures in the delivery of goods and service, and a growing precariat that has pushed people to the threads of our horribly frayed social and political economy fabric. Compare that with the apparently unabashed corruption, theft, maladministration, bra'skap

(the idea that we have to be partial to our own kind, and not criticise or rat on them to supervisors), and the mendacity and selective morality of elected leaders - those in government, and in opposition. Set these in the context of State Capture, and the picture that emerges is one of a complete absence of ethics, or, at best, an ethics of partiality. It's our turn to eat.

A return to ethics?

In any society, we look to parents, teachers, pastors and politicians for guidance. We also expect political parties, in particular, to lead us and conduct the business of government, and the public service in an ethical manner. Unfortunately, the main political parties, the ANC, the DA and the EFF are in various states of dysfunction, denial and self-defeat. The political economy is on its knees, and although the Covid-19 pandemic is relatively small in the longue durée, the fractures and fault lines that were exposed in about 2007 have only widened and deepened.

The government and the political parties have presided over State Capture, and the hollowing out of the state. Almost six years (March 2015) ago, having developed some insights into the way that the state had been hollowed out, I wrote, in this space, the following passage (with reference to organised crime in Italy) which has become even more relevant as we enter 2021:

"Claims of corruption are usually quite rapidly followed by an ethical outcry. In other words, there is almost no time-lag between the act and the outcry. Over time, however, the delay becomes longer; ethical outcries arrive late, and eventually, they peter out. At the latter stages, there is no outcry, and then resignation, tolerance and permissibility become the norm. The criminal propaganda machinery goes into overtime. The public become inured to crime and corruption. For their part, agents in the criminocracy would dismiss accusations of systemic unlawful conduct as myth-making, lies or conspiracy theories."

I did not have the time, ability and skill-set to do what colleagues at amaBhungane did the following year, with the detailed exposure of State Capture. But the whole shebang is now in front of us, for everyone to see - with the customary denials, and cries of persecution and victimisation. The question is, can we return to ethical governance and public service - and cut off the flow of money to cronies?

Is there a single ethical basis, or are there several?

One of the more prominent

contestations in the world today is the continued, and eternal validity of the beliefs, values and scientific methods that emerged from the European Enlightenment. This is an enormous subject, that has most recently been sparked (again) by Steven Pinker, (I have several disagreements with Pinker's arguments, but that's for another essay) from which a single strand may be pulled: the idea that one should always treat a fellow human as an end in itself, and not a means to an end.

This is, of course, not always followed or adhered to; especially not in capitalist society, the ethics of which rests, in large part, on the dual beliefs in the natural, and eternally applicable and valid concept of utility maximisation, and the improvement of productivity, to the point where human labour is (rapidly) replaced by a somehow natural progression of technology - as a means to increase production and returns. I am really simplifying capitalist ethics, but I don't think that what I have drawn is too much of a caricature of capitalism.

There is a case to be made that in Aristotelian terms, an "individual cannot regard his own well-being apart from others". This has clearly not been part of the thinking among South African elites - although one can single out decent individuals among them.

But, it should be stressed that the social good is above the individual good only insofar as individuals make up a society and their actions attain the good of the society - in its entirety. We know that the ANC and EFF talk a good game, but have long crossed the line of moral rectitude. The Democratic Alliance is too smitten with liberalism's excessive individualism and mythical market forces to correct injustices, to consider the common good as indivisible from individual good.

In the meantime, we have a society that has reached what one clever person referred to as the end of ethics. It's probably not entirely true, but looking at the corruption and looting that were part of State Capture, it's hard to claim it's totally false.

To conclude, there are, indeed, very few general ethical principles that can be used with precision unless they take into consideration the life world of people - of individuals and communities, as a totality of society. A good place to start would be to treat all civilians, the publicum, as recipients of public goods and services, as ends in themselves, and never as a means to an end. And to treat public service, and politics, as a commitment to the common good, and not in a utilitarian way - as a means to become wealthy.

Biden's first year could see record employment growth. More will be needed

By Jonnelle Marte

JOE Biden's first year in office could go down in history as a record-breaker on the job-creation front, with an expansion in hiring expected as the coronavirus vaccine rollout allows Americans to emerge from a year in hiding.

It may not be enough.

Only slightly more than half of the 22 million jobs lost in the pandemic were regained by the end of last year. Even if 2021 hiring shatters the post-World War Two record of 4.27 million jobs created in 1984, roughly a quarter of those who lost work could still be on the sidelines, with bleak prospects for regaining their vocations in an economy reshaped by the pandemic.

As Biden takes the oath of office on Wednesday, the job market awaiting him presents a monumental challenge.

Just a year ago, a record-long expansion was creating more opportunities and higher pay for women, minorities and other workers on the margins. These same groups - key to his election victory - were disproportionately harmed by pandemic job losses in service-sector jobs that face the longest road to recovery.

"It's not only about recouping what we've lost, it's recouping what could have been," said Diane Swonk, chief economist for Grant Thornton. "You need a lot of tail wind to get there."

Biden unveiled an ambitious \$1.9 trillion plan last week for shoring up the economy by enhancing jobless benefits and providing more direct cash payments to households. A second phase of his plan is expected to boost job creation through investments in infrastructure, clean energy projects and education. It is unclear how many of his proposals will pass through Congress, but Democrats' slim majority in the Senate may help.

Janet Yellen, the former Federal



Reserve Chair and Biden's nominee for Treasury Secretary, urged lawmakers on Tuesday to act aggressively. "Without further action, we risk a longer, more painful recession now - and long-term scarring of the economy later," Yellen said during her confirmation hearing.

That fiscal support, if delivered, could be bolstered by another tailwind: Easy monetary policy from the Fed.

Fed officials committed last year to a new framework that aims for "broad-based and inclusive" employment. Under the new approach, policymakers will no longer raise interest rates preemptively when the labor market is heating up in anticipation of faster inflation. Instead, rates will stay low for longer, giving the economy more time to benefit disadvantaged workers.

"They're going to keep their foot on the accelerator even beyond the time when we're at full employment," said Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics. Combine that with additional fiscal support, and you suddenly have "a lot of policy juice to the economy," he said.

PAIN UNEVENLY SPREAD

It took more than six years for the U.S. labor market to recoup all of the jobs lost during the last recession. Policymakers are expecting the recovery to happen more quickly this time around with the help of effective vaccines.

But as the post-pandemic jobs landscape takes shape, some workers may need extra help

moving into different lines of work.

Special attention may need to be paid to the 4 million Americans who have been out of work for more than six months, putting them at greater risk of facing pay cuts or dropping out of the labor force altogether. In their ranks: Many of the servers, cooks, bartenders and other leisure and hospitality workers left jobless by the shutdowns meant to curb the virus.

"Unless we act now, we're going to again leave behind millions of Americans," said Senator Chris Van Hollen, one of several lawmakers who met virtually last week with Cecilia Rouse, Biden's nominee for chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, to discuss programs that could help the long-term unemployed.

The low-wage workers hit hardest by pandemic job losses - including women, Black and Hispanic workers - are also among those at greater risk of falling through the cracks as the economy heals.

"Even though by next year the economy should be booming, it still is going to take quite a while" for Black and Latino workers to see labor market gains because they are more subject to discrimination, said William Spriggs, chief economist with the AFL-CIO, the largest federation of U.S. labor unions.

For instance, the unemployment rate for white workers dropped to 6% in December, below the overall unemployment rate of 6.7%. But Black and Hispanic workers faced higher jobless rates of 9.9% and 9.3%, respectively.

Many women are also at risk of facing lasting scars after being disproportionately affected by shutdowns of schools and child care centers. Of the 3.9 million people who dropped out of the labor force between February and December, 55% were women.

Bringing them back to work will require policies that make caring for children and other relatives more affordable, said Kathryn Anne Edwards, a labor economist for

the Rand Corporation.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said last week that he is hopeful the labor market may surpass pre-crisis levels soon.

"We've got to get through this very difficult period," he said on Thursday during a virtual event organized by Princeton University. "But as the vaccines go out and we get COVID under control, there's a lot of reason to be optimistic about the U.S. economy." **Agencies**

HEALTH ECOSYSTEMS AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (HEED) LIMITED (UNDER VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all CREDITORS and DEBTORS of HEALTH ECOSYSTEMS AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (HEED) LIMITED and the GENERAL PUBLIC that HEALTH ECOSYSTEMS AND EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (HEED) LIMITED is undergoing Voluntary Liquidation under the appointed liquidator UPENDO JOEL MMBAGA (ADVOCATE).

All debtors of the company and all persons holding in their possession any asset/properties of the company to pay their debts to the liquidator at the address below not later than 12:00 noon 5th February 2021 and to surrender the assets and the said properties to the liquidator at the address below not later than 12:00 noon 5th February 2021.

All creditors of the company are hereby given notice that they should submit their claims with supporting documents to the liquidator at the address below not later than 12:00 noon 5th February 2021 without fail.

**UPENDO JOEL MMBAGA (ADVOCATE)
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RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

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Consultancy service to conduct research on the role of youth led change in community development Tanzania

Background

Restless Development is a global agency for youth-led development. Since 1985, the agency has been working with young people supporting them to demand and deliver a just and sustainable world for all. Restless Development works to ensure young people have a voice, a living, sexual rights and are leaders in preventing and solving the world's challenges. We listen to young people, our work is led by young people and together we help young people make lasting change in their communities.

While delivering our youth-led approaches, we are often asked: 'Why youthled development? What does involving young people in delivering programmes, informing conversations, and influencing others bring?' We believe that our work and the young leaders whom we partner with speak for themselves. However, to date, we have not had a well-evidenced, rigorous answer to this question - and neither, we've found, do others who work through youthled approaches. As part of our FY 20/21, we would hope to use some of our Sida Core fund support to develop a robust answer to these questions. By doing so, we hope to inform our own future programming as well as those who want to maximize the value that youth leadership can bring

The Research Focus

There is a wealth of information that we already have documented - in M&E data, in programme documents, in activity reports, in monthly reports, in quarterly reports, etc. - but there has never before been a dedicated investment towards aggregating this information at a global and strategic level, unpacking these 'how' questions. So, the primary method that this research will employ is a systematic desk-based evidence review.

Submission of Proposals

- Detailed terms of reference for this assignment can be downloaded at our website www.restlessdevelopment.org/country/tanzania
- Interested consultants and firms should submit Technical proposals and Financial proposals separately addressed to the Procurement Committee and submitted by email to procurementtanzania@restlessdevelopment.org
- All queries should be directed to procurementtanzania@restlessdevelopment.org by 26th January 2021

The deadline for submission of the proposals is Tuesday 26th January, 2021 at 17.00 hours



for a living planet®

Invitation to Tender

- WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
 - conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- WWF Tanzania secured some funds from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting Protection of key ecosystems, increased resilience and adaptation for sustainable use by local communities in Enduimet, Ikona, Makao and Lake Natron Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Most WMAs lack the capacity especially in terms of equipment to assist them in discharging their duties. WWF-TCO intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund eligible payments under the contract of the project to procure an assortment of the following categories:

TENDER CODE	TENDER DESCRIPTION
WWF/TCO/BMZ/OT/JAN2021/01	Beehives and its supporting equipment i.e. (Honey harvesting kit, Solar wax extractor, Candle making machine and Honey extractor) to promote beekeeping as means to diversify income generating activities to increase community financial resource base
WWF/TCO/BMZ/OT/JAN2021/02	Supply Global Positioning System (GPS), Solar charging unit, electronic radios, protective gears, ranger camp equipment for effective monitoring of Wildlife.
WWF/TCO/BMZ/OT/JAN2021/03	Supply of Motorcycles
WWF/TCO/BMZ/OT/JAN2021/04	Supply of Tree Seedling (Indigenous Trees)

- WWF Tanzania Country Office, invites applications from competent, qualified, reputable, reliable and experienced local service providers preferably, wholesalers and distributors (for goods) who are willing to submit their tender to supply as per the above tender categories.
- All the above tender categories are independent. Interested bidders may inspect and obtain a complete tender document for each category from: https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/ ; https://wwf.panda.org/jobs_wwf/
- Mode of application:** Interested applicants are required to direct their soft copy applications/bids only (as mostly staffs are still working from homes) to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org Deadline for submission is 10am, **Thursday 04th February 2021**. Address your applications to:

**Secretary,
Procurement Committee,
WWF Tanzania Country Office,
Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni
P.O. Box 62117 Dar Es Salaam.
Email: info@wwftz.org; e mail; procurement@wwftz.org**

Pandemic blamed for rising gun violence

By Ai Heping in New York

MENTAL imbalance, poverty, “Wild West syndrome”, alcoholism and too many guns are just some of the factors that have been seen for decades as causes of gun-related homicides in the United States, which has the most-armed civilian population in the world.

Now, police, government officials, criminologists, social workers and mental health experts are saying that last year a new factor helped fuel gun violence and gun sales the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of people killed in the US by COVID-19 approaches 400,000 and health officials are trying to vaccinate millions to stem the surge. Meanwhile, the country has seen gun sales and related violence rise since the early stages of the pandemic.

New case numbers show no signs of falling, according to law enforcement authorities, and there is fear that the storming of the Capitol Building in Washington on Jan 6 could lead to civil unrest, with people buying guns to protect themselves.

Brandon Wexler, owner of a gun store in Delray Beach, Florida, told ABC News in a report on Dec 18, “When COVID initially hit the streets in the United States of America, business really started to take off.”

Jimmy Gong, owner of Jimmy’s Sport Shop in Mineola, Long Island, about 32 kilometers east of Manhattan, also said he has seen a boom in gun sales.

“It’s the pandemic and the instability of our government,” he said, pointing to the storming of the Capitol. “People are scared.”

At Gun for Hire in Woodland Park, New Jersey, an employee who answered the phone on Jan 16 but would not give his name, said there had been a four-hour wait that day to use its indoor shooting range.

Asked why there were so many customers, he said, “The main reason is the pandemic”, adding, “People are scared.”

According to the 2019 Small Arms Survey, there are more than 393 million guns in the US. That is more than one-third of all civilian-owned guns in the world, making the US the No. 1 country in terms of gun ownership.

Texas had the most registered guns 830,109 and Rhode Island, the smallest state, the lowest number, with 4,784.

US firearms dealers reported record sales last year, with an estimated 21 million guns sold, up by 73 percent year-on-year, according to an analysis of FBI background check data by The Trace, an independent investigative news site.

The Brookings Institution estimates 3 million more firearms have been sold since March on top of the number normally sold during this period, with half of this total being seen in June alone.

In New York City, where it can take more than a year to get a firearms license, the police department said applications for gun licenses nearly doubled last year.

It said that for the first six months of last year it received 3,830 applications for handguns, rifles and shotguns compared with 2,012 in the same period the previous year a 90 percent rise.

Last year, Chicago, New York and other US cities saw sharp rises in gun violence from late spring.

From May to June last year, homicides in 20 major US cities rose by 37 percent, led by Chicago, Philadelphia and Milwaukee, according to the Council on Criminal Justice, a nonpartisan think tank. These rises coincided with the end of pandemic-related shutdowns, mass unemployment due to the outbreak, mass protests condemning anti-Black police violence, and the summer, when crime each year increases.

Homicides and shootings in New York City rose sharply last year, NYPD officials said.

Police resources were stretched thin by the pandemic and by re-

sponses to large-scale protests over the death in May of George Floyd, an African American allegedly killed in Minneapolis by a white police officer.

The number of murders in New York City rose to 462 last year, up by nearly 45 percent from 319 in 2019. It was the city’s bloodiest year in nearly a decade, according to the police department.

The murders were accompanied by the biggest rise in gun violence for 20 years, according to police statistics.

Data show the number of shooting victims in the city more than doubled to 1,868 last year, up from 923 in 2019.

Police Department officials said head count was reduced after hundreds of officers contracted COVID-19 in the spring. Summer protests over Floyd’s death also strained the department’s workforce, the officials said.

“I can’t imagine a darker period,” Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said in a year-end briefing with reporters, citing the influence of the pandemic and the protests.

Shea and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio also cited a number of other factors fueling the rise in shootings and killings in the city.

Changes to laws allowing bail, slowdowns in court proceedings and a reduced number of arrests have been cited by law enforcement officials, politicians and criminologists as factors fueling the rise in violent crime.

Gang violence

Police Department officials in New York City have also pointed to rising activity among gangs as a factor in about half the shootings in the city.

From March to May last year, in the first three months of the pandemic, researchers from the University of California, Davis, and the University of California Firearm Violence Research Center estimate there was an 8 percent rise in firearms violence, with 776 additional injuries or deaths nationwide.

“We find a significant increase in firearm violence in the United States associated with the coronavirus pandemic-related surge in firearm purchasing,” findings published by the researchers stated. The findings have been publicly released, but have not yet been peer reviewed.

The study’s authors noted that the rise in sales alone likely did not fully explain the increased violence.

“The pandemic has exacerbated factors that contribute to interpersonal violence, including financial stress, tension, trauma, worry and a sense of hopelessness,” they wrote.

Julia Schleimer, the study’s lead author and a UC Davis data analyst, said: “All of that can make people feel on edge, hopeless. Again, the trauma is something that drives violence, so it’s important to recognize all of those contributing factors.”

Samantha Meltzer-Brody, psychiatry department chair with the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, also attributes the rise in violence in large part to the pandemic and the additional stress it has caused.

“I think all of us have increasing concerns that the longer this (the pandemic) continues, it will continue to have a greater toll on people’s emotional well-being, their mental health, and it will lead to more and more destructive ways of coping for those that are in a vulnerable place,” she said.

The pandemic alone does not cause violence, Meltzer-Brody said, but it can inflame existing anxiety, stress or tension. Even before the pandemic, the US was facing what many health experts call both mental health and gun violence epidemics.

Existing pattern

Health experts said their biggest concern is what could happen as the pandemic takes a higher toll across the country.

Joseph Williams, medical direc-



tor for the addictions detoxification unit at UNC Wakebrook, a mental health hospital operated by UNC-Chapel Hill, fears that as the pandemic continues, gun-related violence and homicides will rise.

“You have this pattern that already exists, where in the summer months, there is an increase in the violence rate and the homicide rate in this country,” he said. “And I think it likely that this will get worse before it gets better.”

In December alone, US citizens bought an estimated 1.45 million guns, according to an analysis of FBI data. The seasonally adjusted figures comprise about 860,000 handguns and 590,000 long guns (rifles and shotguns).

Law enforcement authorities associate rising violence with mounting firearms purchases.

The study by the University of California, Davis, and the University of California Firearm Violence Research Center links rising firearms sales to more violence.

During the first two months of widespread stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic, many cities appear to have seen a reduction in homicides the majority of which are shootings.

However, it now appears that homicide rates are rising again as many states reopen, signaling that any reduction in these numbers was short-lived.

Data show homicides fell in a few cities at the start of the pandemic, possibly due to reduced interpersonal interactions as people complied with stay-at-home orders. However, more recent data point to a rise in violence when compared with similar months in previous years.

There tends to be more violence in summer than in winter, but early indications show there was a rising number of such incidents last summer than in recent years.

Data from the Gun Violence Archive show that 69 homicides were linked to mass shootings in June. From 2017 through 2019, there was an average of 40 such homicides in June.

The Gun Violence Archive defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot or killed.

Few studies have looked at how the pandemic has specifically impacted violence. However, a study of 64 large US cities found that homicide rates in April and May were lower last year compared with the average rates for those months from 2017 to 2019. The researchers said the rising number of people staying home contributed to the decline.

The research was carried out for the philanthropic group Arnold Ventures by Thomas Abt, a senior fellow with the Council on Criminal Justice, and Richard Rosenfeld, professor emeritus of criminology and criminal justice at the University of Missouri St. Louis.

“Crime requires opportunity,” they wrote. “Without victims there can be no offenders. As more people stay indoors, opportunities for street crime decline.”

While the overall homicide rate declined for the 64-city sample, it did not fall in every city. The study found that such rates fell in 39 cities, but rose in 25.

In a June interview, Rosenfeld said it was likely that as states relax stay-at-home orders, they could see more homicides.

Smith & Wesson, one of the leading US gun manufacturers, reported major rises in sales and profit in the three months ending Oct 31, just days before Joe Biden became US president-elect. The 168-year-old company said sales more than doubled to US\$248.7 million, compared with US\$113.7 million in the same period

a year ago. Net income was US\$52.2 million for the three months, compared with US\$1.3 million for that period in 2019, the company said.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Smith said it was the company’s second consecutive record-breaking three-month period.

He said the boom in gun sales is being spurred by politics, the promise by Biden to push for stricter gun control laws, and new buyers, including African Americans, as the fastest-growing group of gun owners.

During his election campaign, Biden, who owns a shotgun, declared gun manufacturers “the enemy” and has vowed to introduce sweeping new restrictions on guns.

Proposals to control guns will require legislative action, which in the narrowly divided Congress will be hard to carry out. Then there is the National Rifle Association, which claims 5 million members and has lobbied Congress against any changes in gun laws.

On Jan 15, the NRA said it had filed for bankruptcy and was moving its headquarters to Texas, where it says it has 400,000 members.

The association is currently based in New York, where the state attorney general has filed a lawsuit alleging financial crimes by its top officials and is seeking to disband the organization.

In May, the NRA laid off dozens of employees and shut down fundraising and its national convention amid the pandemic.

Smith said a fear of gun control regulation “drives a lot of our consumers to go out and buy firearms”.

Robert Boyce, a retired New York Police Department chief of detectives, told ABC News, “I don’t know what laws will be passed, but that’s got people (thinking) ‘buy my gun now or I’m not going to be able to get it again.’”



Wang Yi's visit to Tanzania key in reinforcing Beijing-Dar traditional friendship, envoy says

By Guardian Reporter

EARLY this week, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania H.E. Wang Yi gave a written interview to The Guardian-Tanzanian English daily on Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's recent visit to Tanzania. Excerpts;

Question: Your Excellency, could you brief us on the highlights and major outcomes of this important visit?

Amb. Wang: Invited by Tanzanian Foreign Minister Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid an official and friendly visit to Tanzania on 7-8 January 2021. Prior to his visit to Tanzania, H.E. Wang Yi visited Nigeria, D.R. Congo and Botswana. Afterwards, he paid an official visit to Seychelles.

During his visit to Tanzania, H.E. Wang Yi met with President John Pombe Magufuli, held bilateral talks with Foreign Minister Palamagamba Kabudi and jointly met the press with the latter. He also attended the signing ceremony of the Design and Build Contract for an Electrified Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Line from Mwanza to Isaka, inaugurated Chato District Vocational Training Centre together with Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, and visited the Mwaloni fishing village.

In their meetings, H.E. Wang Yi, President John Pombe Magufuli and Foreign Minister Palamagamba Kabudi reached four consensuses. First, China-Tanzania traditional friendship is a precious treasure shared by both sides and the people of China and Africa. It must be cherished, passed on from generation to generation and carried forward. Second, both sides have agreed to make full use of our shared vision and goals in the construction of country, political parties and armed forces, in a bid to further enhance communications at all levels and deepen exchanges of experience on governance. Third, both sides have agreed to strengthen practical cooperation under the Belt and Road, support more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzania and expand import of Tanzanian high-quality products. Fourth, both sides have agreed to strengthen coordination in international affairs, jointly support multilateralism, oppose foreign interference, safeguard international fairness and justice, and build a strong fortress to safeguard each other's core interests and the common interests of developing countries.

Attending the inauguration ceremony of Chato District Vocational Training Centre, H.E. Wang Yi, on behalf of the Chinese Government, announced the donation of RMB 1 million yuan (around US\$154,000) to support the Training Centre in procurement of fishing materials and equipment, which was highly praised by the Tanzanian side.

Question: China-Tanzania relations have been the focus of media attention recently. On 15th December 2020, President Xi Jinping had a historic telephone conversation with his Tanzanian counterpart John Pombe Magufuli. Lately, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid an official friendly visit to Tanzania. Why did

State Councilor Wang Yi choose Tanzania as one stop of his first overseas visit in 2021? What's the significance of this visit to the development of China-Tanzania relations?

Amb. Wang: Chinese Foreign Minister's visit to Africa at the beginning of a year has been a fine tradition for 31 years, and has become a major feature of China's diplomacy. In particular, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has upheld this tradition and taken concrete actions to demonstrate the great importance China attaches to Africa and the unbreakable brotherly friendship between China and Africa.

The development of China's friendly relations with Tanzania plays an important role in China's diplomacy. China-Tanzania relations play an exemplary and leading role in China-Africa relations. In March 2013, President Xi Jinping visited Tanzania on his first overseas visit after taking office, where he put forward the policy of sincerity, real results, affinity and good faith. Tanzania is the place where China initiated its policy toward Africa in the new era. Last October, after President John Pombe Magufuli was re-elected, President Xi Jinping was the first head of state outside Africa to send a congratulatory message to him. Last December, the two heads of state held a historic telephone conversation, charting the course for the future development of bilateral relations.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Tanzania at this important juncture aims to help the two sides build more consensuses, implement the outcomes of the phone talk between the two heads of state, and strive for early and more tangible results. His visit also aims at further expressing China's congratulations and support to President John Pombe Magufuli on his re-election and the establishment of the new Tanzanian government, as well as China's firm determination to strengthen the bilateral friendly relations. It is worth mentioning that during his visit to Tanzania, State Councilor Wang Yi announced China's seven-point proposition on upgrading China-Africa cooperation, which highlights the special status of Tanzania during his visit to Africa.

State Councilor Wang Yi's visit was fruitful and played an important role in promoting the sustained development and upgrade of China-Tanzania comprehensive partnership.

This visit has deepened the consensus for consolidating the traditional friendship between China and Tanzania. Both sides spoke highly of the historical and present-day significance of China-Tanzania friendship to the development of both countries and China-Africa solidarity, stressing that China-Tanzania friendship is a precious treasure created by the older-generation leaders of the two countries and should be inherited from generation to generation. State Councilor Wang Yi has said on several occasions that China and Tanzania are the best friends in the world. His heartfelt and sincere remarks were warmly responded by the Tanzanian side.

This visit has injected im-

petus into the practical cooperation between China and Tanzania. The two sides conducted in-depth exchanges on mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, especially in trade and economic fields, identified key areas of cooperation for the next step, and formed new ideas for China and Tanzania jointly building the Belt and Road, so as to further expand the converging interests of the two sides and create new growth points for cooperation.

This visit provides an opportunity to form synergy between China's and Tanzania's development strategies. Both countries have entered a new stage of development and embarked on a new historic journey. The two sides agreed to better align China's 14th Five-Year Plan with Tanzania's 2020-2025 Election Manifesto, consolidate and expand the strategic opportunities facing the development of China-Tanzania ties, properly handle problems and challenges in the course of cooperation and development, and provide greater impetus for Tanzania to realize its strategic goal of independent development.

Question: Belt and Road cooperation is an important topic in H.E. Wang Yi's visit to Tanzania. From what areas and projects will China start in its Belt and Road cooperation with Tanzania, and what concrete measures will China take to promote such cooperation?

Amb. Wang: President Xi Jinping has proposed making the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a model of cooperation, health, recovery and growth. This has charted the course for the Belt and Road international cooperation. When Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid his official visit to Tanzania, China and Tanzania decided to strengthen practical cooperation and will join hands together to pursue BRI cooperation. In the next step, both sides will enhance policy communication and coordination, seek greater synergy between our development strategies, actively implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and President Magufuli in last December, and jointly promote BRI cooperation in the following areas.

First, we will focus on infrastructure construction and help Tanzania achieve connectivity with neighboring countries. China will encourage competent companies to participate in the construction of Tanzanian key projects, assist Tanzania to update railway, road, port, airport, energy, communication and other infrastructure projects, and inject impetus to Tanzanian economic growth.

Second, China will expand imports of Tanzanian high quality products and strengthen the bond of our industrial and supply chains. China is speeding up the implementation of a new dual-cycle development pattern, and would like to take it as an opportunity to increase imports of Tanzanian sesame, cassava, soybean and other products, actively explore opening up the market for Tanzanian honey, sunflower meal and other agricultural products. We will encourage bilateral e-commerce cooperation, support Tanzania to participate in China Inter-



Chinese ambassador to Tanzania H.E. Wang Yi

national Import Expo(CIE), China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo and Canton Fair, and promote more exports of Tanzanian high quality products to China.

Third, we will strengthen productivity cooperation and enhance Tanzania's capacity for independent development. China will encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agriculture, livestock, manufacturing, mining, tourism and other pillar industries, help Tanzania to accelerate industrialization process, translate its resource advantages into development advantages, and strengthen its internal driving force of independent development.

Fourth, we will enhance cooperation in scientific innovation to help Tanzania to achieve sustainable development. China is willing to share its development experiences of digital economy, assist Tanzania to update fiber optic backbone network and other communication facilities. Both side will cooperate on renewable energy, pursue green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development, enhance public health cooperation and jointly advance the development of a Health Silk Road.

Question: During the visit, the Tanzanian side has put forward some specific appeals to China, such as to expand the imports of agricultural imports from Tanzania, to forgive some debts that Tanzania owes to China, and to open direct flights between Tanzania and China. How will China respond to these appeals?

Amb. Wang: China has always attached great importance to expanding imports

of Tanzanian agriculture products in recent years, and will import more Tanzanian high-quality products through building the new development paradigm of dual circulation.

Firstly, we will support the competent authorities of both sides to accelerate negotiations on inspection and quarantine requirements regarding the access of Tanzanian high-quality agricultural products to the Chinese market. China has opened its market to Tanzanian tobacco, cassava flour and soybean, and will further grant market access for Tanzanian sunflower meal, honey, avocado and other agricultural products. Secondly, we will actively use CIIE and other platforms to introduce Tanzanian high-quality products and tourist resources to Chinese consumers. Thirdly, we will encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agro and mineral processing industries, and develop Tanzania as a bridgehead for Chinese companies to enter the eastern and southern African markets. Fourthly, we will encourage cooperation on e-commerce, mobile payment and other new areas, and pursue creative ways to boost bilateral trade.

China attached great importance to the challenges caused by COVID-19 to African countries and is actively implementing the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). Thanks to China's effort, G20 has extended the period of DSSI to 30th June 2021. At present, China ranks the first among G20 members who have carried out DSSI by suspending US\$ 1,353 million of debt service payments from 23 countries, in-

cluding US\$ 817 million from 15 African countries. China takes in account Tanzania's debt fragility issue resulted by COVID-19 seriously. The two sides have successfully signed the DSSI agreement for 2020, and currently are discussing the debt service suspension by June 2021 in an active manner.

Air Tanzania is to launch direct flights between Tanzania and China, which is a big event in the history of China-Tanzania relations. It will facilitate personal exchanges, and greatly advance the communication and mutual understanding between our two countries and two peoples. We hope this flight route could be opened as early as possible, forging a strong bond of friendship among our peoples, and further promote bilateral cooperation in the fields such as economy and trade, culture and tourism in the future.

Question: We have noted that Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the Tanzanian leaders have agreed to strengthen China-Tanzania coordination in international affairs and promote international fairness and justice. What is the reason for this and what will the two sides do in this regard?

Amb. Wang: China and Tanzania are not only close friends sharing weal and woe, but also sincere partners for common development on the way forward. Strengthening coordination in international affairs and promoting international fairness and justice by China and Tanzania have a long history, and it is in the common interests of China, Tanzania, and other developing countries.

First of all, this is a fine tradition of solidarity and cooperation between China and Tanzania. China-Tanzanian relations with the original mission of opposing power politics, seeking freedom, and advocating justice, started from the period of struggles for African national liberation. China's assistance in the construction of TAZARA and Tanzania's support for the restoration of the People's Republic of China's lawful seat in the United Nations have left good stories in the history of international relations.

Secondly, this is a realistic need of China and Tanzania to safeguard each other's legitimate rights and interests. Both China and Tanzania have urgent demands for safeguarding sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and face severe

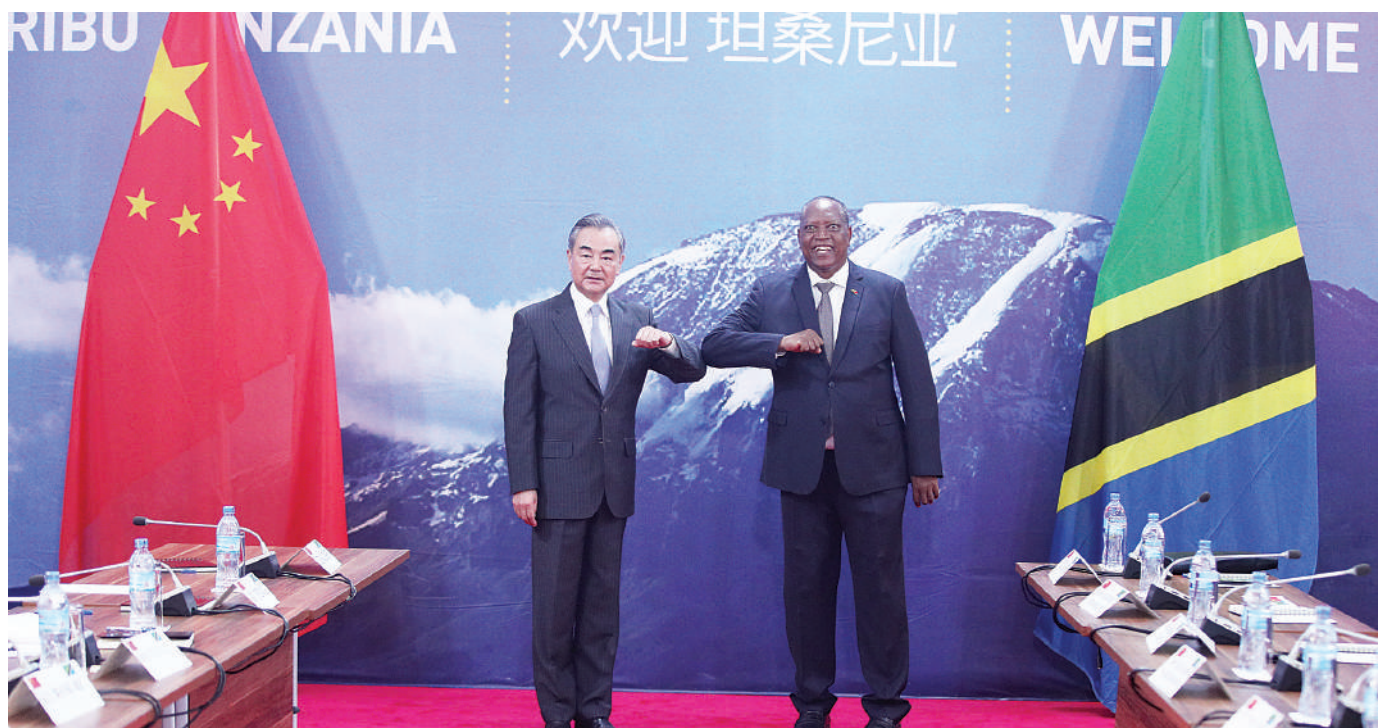
challenges in dealing with foreign interference. Tanzania has been firmly supporting China on issues relating to Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan since last year. China has also supported Tanzania in its efforts to hold an independent and smooth general election. The two sides share much common ground in terms of opposing foreign interference in their internal affairs, which further highlights the importance and necessity of China and Tanzania speaking out boldly to uphold justice for each other.

Thirdly, this is the proper meaning of solidarity and self-reliance among developing countries. At present, the COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating the pace of profound changes unseen in a century. The uncertainty and instability in the international situation have become more prominent, and the collective rise of developing countries has encountered more challenges. As principled and courageous countries, both China and Tanzania should defend multilateralism, practice international cooperation, and make more contributions to the maintenance of world peace and development.

In the future, China and Tanzania will continue to support each other's independent exploration of development paths that suit their national conditions, support each other's efforts to safeguard sovereignty, independence and national security, as well as oppose foreign interference, and continue to be "fellow travelers" watching and helping one another.

China and Tanzania will strengthen dialogue and cooperation in the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and other regional and sub-regional organizations, support Africa's self development through unity and revitalization, and expand the representation and voices of African countries in international organizations and international affairs.

China and Tanzania will continue to jointly safeguard the authority of the United Nations and the multilateral system, maintain close communication and coordination on global issues such as UN reforms, climate change, public health, poverty reduction and development, and promote the reforms of the global governance system in the direction of greater fairness and reasonableness in line with the overall and long-term interests of developing countries.



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Tanzanian Foreign Minister Palamagamba Kabudi greet each other in a style in Chato District, Geita Region on January 8, 2021.

We need a more flexible approach to the reopening of schools

By George Harris

THIS week, along with roughly 26,000 other school principals, I found myself trying to decide what the best course of action should be regarding the start of the 2021 academic year. Regrettably, it was a case of déjà vu, given the year we had in 2020.

Much is known about the inequality that exists in all spheres of South African life, but focusing on these inequalities without a plan to address them seems to be a zero-sum game. The partnership that the medical facilities have developed in providing beds during this pandemic must surely be a superb example of a public-private partnership that works for the best interests of all patients.

The Solidarity Fund has, at its core, the ideal of mobilising private funding into the public "spaces" that have the most desperate needs at a time when urgency and agility are of the highest priority.

Can our education fraternity think similarly at this time?

Every parent wants the best, in health and education, for their children - we are all the same in this. Every school principal wants the best, in health and education, for her or his charges - we are all the same in this.

We know, however, that resources differ dramatically. Could I suggest, implore, advocate for a differentiated

approach to the opening of schools based on a few guidelines? This pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future and we need to keep the well-being of our young citizens uppermost in mind. It is not going to get easier in the short term.

A few suggestions:

If all resourced schools, public and independent, were tasked with assisting one or two under-resourced schools with personal protective equipment provision and educational resources, be this human capital in the form of support or intellectual capital in the form of worksheets etc, and if these schools then stuck rigorously to the protocols required to limit the spread of Covid-19, these schools could be allowed to reopen.

If children in resourced schools, and here I refer more particularly to secondary schools, could partner with a "friend" in an under-resourced school by checking in daily and WhatsApping an exercise or two from their teachers, perhaps we can begin to bridge the great divide? Young people are often far more ready to share than we older folk are - indeed, they share digitally all the time.

If a region is particularly hard hit by the pandemic, then this region should be regulated differently than the region where very few cases are being registered. Currently, a few provinces are peaking while others are less challenged. Surely then, schools in different regions



can respond differently to enable their children to participate in their learning journey knowing that the peak may arrive at another time in their area.

The challenge with a blanket approach to regulation in the South African education landscape is that our schools are so very different. I would like to believe that my 26,000 colleagues would welcome the opportunity to partner with another school - many do already - in return for being able to remain open if we can ensure the safety of our learners.

To make this a reality, we would need the various advocacy groups and regulators to work together to craft a more nuanced approach to the regulations. The ability to deviate under Lockdown Level 3 in 2020 was a most useful tool for many of our schools - both public and independent - and something along these lines is a necessary option as we navigate 2021.

If we can align this opportunity to deviate with a national imperative to partner in some form or fashion, we may see the beginning of a new narrative away from the narrow and unhelpful current discourse of the haves and the have-nots in education.

Independent schooling is a necessary part of a national education landscape in a democracy. Private entities assist the national discourse in many disciplines and, as such, perhaps the time has come for the national education fraternity to embrace the strength of both the public and independent sector and work towards solutions that celebrate the value of both constructs.

The cliché that those in schools are our future, although trite, remains true. If more than one million young people left our schooling system in 2020, through the challenges of schooling being disrupted, the case for a differentiated approach in allowing schools to be open is most compelling. The challenges presented by the interruption of the school feeding schemes in 2020 illustrate the realities that many principals are having to deal with.

My plea, to those who are in the corridors of power, or who represent advocacy groups, independent schools' associations, unions, the government, is that we could consider alternatives to a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

All parents want the best for their children, in health and in education. All principals want the same. Notwithstanding the devastating pandemic numbers we are dealing with at this particular time, I would venture that a differentiated approach that provides a measure of autonomy and flexibility to principals with their superior knowledge of their community issues and their school context would get us further in this education journey than a blanket regulation that risks more regression than progression.

DM

Myths of US democracy have come to an end

By Li Yunlong

ON Jan. 6, a violent demonstration stormed U.S. capital Washington. Some protesters ran into the U.S. Capitol building and clashed with security officers. The conflict left four protesters dead, and a U.S. Capitol police officer lost his life, too. It also blocked a session to certify President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election.

This is a major failure of the U.S. political system.

Praising itself as a light-house country for democracy, the U.S. has always been acting as a role model in practicing democracy. It made up numerous myths of American democracy and is trying everything to sell them to other countries, even by force. However, the Capitol chaos this time laid bare the American democracy, proving the U.S. is not a Garden of Eden for democracy. The U.S. democracy has its flaws at the fundamental level.

The U.S. democracy is not able to guarantee a peaceful transition of power. One of the myths built by American democracy is that elections can avoid intensive conflicts and civil wars caused by power struggles and thus ensure smooth transition of power. That's why the U.S. is always fanning up the superiority of its regular renewing of administrations and requesting others to follow. Whenever a problem of power transition occurs to a country, the U.S. attributes it to the lack of an American-style election. However, many followers of U.S. democracy always had conflicts and civil wars, and the U.S. was either turning a blind eye to them or just declaring that they were not learning the essence. Today,

the reality show of the Capitol chaos, which was broadcasted live to the globe, proved that elections cannot always guarantee the smooth and peaceful transition of power.

The U.S. democracy failed to maintain political stability. The U.S. believes elections offer the most stable foundation of legality and effectively make modern countries rightful, which ensures long-term security and stability. This is completely a lie. Since the end of the World War II, especial the Cold War, many countries copied American democracy and implanted American election system. However, this set them into a vicious circle of political instability. In recent years, the U.S. witnessed severer political conflicts, and was swept by anti-racism demonstrations and campaigns. High-ranking officials of the Uncle Sam come and go, and the impeachment against the president was approved by the House of Representatives. The 2020 U.S. election failed to bring stability, but in turn triggered a bigger political turmoil.

The U.S. democracy failed to offer effective governance. The country always stresses that only regular elections can realize effective governance, saying the candidates must be responsible for the voters, and the tenure system and division of rights can prevent major wrong decisions. However, this has no basis. For instance, the U.S. democracy didn't stop the White House from launching the Vietnam war and Iraqi war, both of which were major wrong decisions.

In addition, the poor performance of the U.S. governance in handling the COVID-19 pandemic further proved that American democracy is not able to bring



effective governance.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, some U.S. politicians, being irresponsible for the lives of the people and ignoring science, didn't take any active approach to cope with the virus. As a result, the pandemic further spread and became a major failure. According to statistics from Johns Hopkins University, the U.S. topped 22 million COVID-19 confirmed cases as of Jan. 10, and the death toll hit 371,862. The U.S. only accounts for less than 5 percent of the world's population, but its confirmed cases of COVID-19 take as much as 24 percent of the world's total. Its COVID-19 deaths also possess a 19-percent share in the world, much higher than the global average. What's ironic is that no American official has

been dismissed due to poor containment performance. The failure of U.S. COVID-19 control has torn up the Emperor's New Clothes of the U.S. democracy, and revealed the incapability of U.S. politics and governance.

The U.S. democracy is not able to guarantee effective political participation of citizens. The White House declares that the American democracy can involve every of its citizens into the political progress and make them express their appeals. However, money politics is standing in the way, running through all links of the U.S. election, legislation and administration.

Elections have become a cash game in the U.S., in which money decides votes. The presidential election is spend-

ing more and more money, from \$700 million in 2004 to \$1 billion in 2008, and to \$2 billion in 2012 and \$6.6 billion in 2016. According to U.S. non-partisan research group Center for Responsive Politics, the cost of the 2020 election was close to \$14 billion, twice the amount in 2016, making it the most expensive political election ever in American history.

Besides, the midterm elections are also seeing rocketing prices, from \$2.18 billion in 2002 to \$5.2 billion in 2018. In the 2018 midterm election, it took an average of \$19.4 million to win a seat in the Senate, while the price for a House of Representatives seat stood at \$1.5 million. The high cost significantly raised the threshold for elections, killing the possibilities for the majority to run

an election. Just a few of the people who can raise substantial funds are qualified to join American elections. This is no doubt a breeding ground for the rich and interest groups to cajole the candidates. As a result, political participation is a privilege of the rich.

The U.S. democracy can't guarantee equal political rights and interests for citizens. The American democracy has built a myth of a so-called "majority ruling," saying the "one man one vote" democracy is a way to govern the country at the will of the majority. However, the American democracy is neither the rule of the people nor the rule of the majority. Voter turnout is generally low in each election. The U.S. implements an electoral college

system, which means the candidate who receives the most votes may not be elected as the president. In the 21st century, there have been two U.S. Presidents who didn't win the popular vote.

According to the U.S. political system, each state gets two senators, regardless of population. In this way, a senator can be elected by only 500,000 citizens in Rhode Island, while nearly 20 million are needed in California. This indicates that votes don't have the same value. In a word, the U.S. election mechanism cannot guarantee the political interests and rights of the American citizens, and elections are just a tool of the few to manipulate politics.

People's Daily



Thursday 21 January 2021

Steel group teams up with banks to offer 100 entrepreneurs cashew nut processors

By The Banker Reporter

ASPIRING local entrepreneurs who want to venture into the lucrative cashew nuts processing business only need to have 16.92m/- to get equipment worth 84.6m/- to be financed through a bank loan.

Steel maker, Kamal Group Chairman, Gagan Gupta said in Dar es Salaam mid this week that the hire purchase arrangement will, initially, benefit 100 Tanzanian entrepreneurs who want to make a fortune out of cashew nuts processing.

Gupta said in supporting government plans to industrialise the economy, his steel making conglomerate has borrowed a leaf from India where the bulk of the kernels are processed by small-holder entrepreneurs.

"It's like going to a university to study for a degree course where you also pay school fees but in this case, apart from learning the cashew processing trade, you also earn profit," he said adding that the 16.92m/- which is an equivalent of 20 percent of actual cost of the processing plant.

He said the remaining 67.68m/- will be provided by a bank at modest interest rate with a three year repayment period. "In return, each of them will be able to make up to 37.8m/- each year in profits from the cashew nut processing business after deducting all operational costs," he said.

Without naming which banks will Kamal Group work with in implementing the ambitious



Kamal Group chairman, Gagan Gupta speaks in Dar es Salaam mid this week. With him is the group's public relations manager, Hedwick Peter. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

projects which aligns well with President John Magufuli's semi industrialization cum middle income status by 2025. Gupta said profits may go up to over 60m/- per year after completion of payment of the loan.

"The processing factory will also become property of the entrepreneur after three

years and this suggests that the project simply seeks to create Tanzanian millionaires," he said charged while pointing out that, in a broader sense, the country will also be able to save up to US\$300 million of what is currently spent in exporting the bulk of raw cashew nuts per annum.

Each of the 100 entrepreneurs to be selected from the list of applicants will create 20 jobs directly, suggesting that in total, some 2,000 jobs will be directly created by the project in its first phase, the Kamal Group Chairman argued.

Within the first five years, the project will

likely see at least 15,000 tonnes of cashew nuts being processed locally by small scale processors with the possibility of the country being able to process all of its commodity within 10 to 15 years. Currently, Tanzania exports over 90 percent of its cashew nuts in raw form.

Kamal Group is implementing the project through its subsidiary, Kamal Agro Limited under a banner titled, 'Developing Tanzania National Entrepreneurship in Cashew Processing Industry,' and will be built on a system that is largely employed in India.

"In India, between 70 to 80 percent of cashew nuts are processed by small scale entrepreneurs. The large scale ones come in when it comes to branding and other value addition aspects before the product is exported.

This is exactly what we want to do here," he added. According to statistics from Cashew nut Board of Tanzania, the country's production has decreased from 358,000 metric tonnes in 2016/17 season to 227,778 tonnes in the 2019/20 season.

Absa fires, lays criminal charges against data leak employee

JOHANNESBURG

ABSA says it has dismissed and laid criminal charges against an employee who is accused of exposing customer data to external parties, in a data leak that took place last year. The big four bank suffered a data leak in November, when the now former employee unlawfully made selected customer data available to external parties.

In an e-mail interview with IT-Web, the bank confirmed investigations into the data leak revealed a total of 209 000 customers were affected by the leak, which is approximately 2% of its total local client base. It also emerged that the former employee had sold the customer data to a "small number" of third-parties for personal financial gain. "In other cases, for example, a customer's name, surname, contact numbers and vehicle details were shared. The data that was shared does not include passwords or PIN codes. We have taken further steps, including dismissing the employee, who was initially suspended," says Sandro Bucchianeri, Absa Group chief security officer.

While the bank is not able to provide more details on how the former employee gained access to confidential customer data, it notes that upon discovering the contravention, it secured High Court orders that enabled search and seizure operations at various premises and secured all devices containing the data. The data on the devices was subsequently destroyed



Sandro Bucchianeri, Absa Group chief security officer.

and all affected customers were notified in November, it says. "Absa takes the protection of personal data extremely seriously and we have taken proactive steps to mitigate the risk of customer data being misused, as well as taking steps to address the internal processes that enabled the employee to share the data," notes Bucchianeri. "We have reviewed our controls and processes, in light of this leak, to further strengthen our defences and reduce the risk of an incident like this from re-occurring."

COVID-19 has created new opportunities for cyber attackers, with security experts warning of an increase in advanced attacks exploiting the global health crisis. Ac-

ording to a report compiled by Atlas VPN, the number of leaked data records exposed globally reached 36.1 billion in the first three quarters of 2020 - more than double the number of records leaked in the entire 2019.

Last year, several local companies suffered cyber attacks on their systems, including credit bureau Experian, Absa Bank, construction group Stefanutti Stocks, Lombard Insurance and Momentum Metropolitan.

Experian confirmed at the time that it experienced a breach of data which exposed the personal information of as many as 24 million South African bank customers and 793 749 business entities to a suspected fraudster.

World's rich fled Alibaba after monopoly probe, Citi says

BEIJING

WEALTHY investors rushed to offload stock in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. after China began an investigation into alleged monopolistic practices at billionaire Jack Ma's internet giant, according to Citigroup Inc.'s private bank.

"A large number" of the bank's ultra-rich clients from the Europe, the Middle East and Africa region cut or exited their holdings in China's largest e-commerce firm in December, after reports of the probe emerged, Citi Private Bank's Lab for Family Offices said in a report released Tuesday. China's stock market previously attracted significant inflows from the firm's wealthiest customers in the second half of the year, according to the report.

Once hailed as drivers of economic prosperity and symbols of the country's technological prowess, Alibaba and rivals including Tencent Holdings Ltd. face increasing pressure from regulators after amassing hundreds of millions of users and gaining influence over almost every aspect of daily life in China. The \$35 billion initial public offering of Alibaba's affiliate payments firm - Ant Group Co. - was abruptly halted last year, helping send Alibaba's American depositary receipts down more than a fifth since late October.

China's central bank said last week that Ant Group is working on a timetable to overhaul its business



while ensuring operations continue, underscoring the determination to rein in Ma's business and offering little clue on how far the firm needs to go to assuage Beijing. Ant Group makes up more than a quarter of Ma's \$52.9 billion fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Alibaba shares jumped as much as 11% in Hong Kong trading on Wednesday as Ma resurfaced for the first time since early November, when he went quiet amid the government's probes into Ant and Alibaba. He addressed teachers via livestream during an annual event he hosts for rural educators, people familiar with the matter said, helping quell rumours about his fate.

Mastercard study predicts massive Fintech disruption in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

A NEW study by the Mastercard Economics Institute says the COVID-19 pandemic has presented Africa with massive growth opportunities for fintech companies, predicting the sector will, this year, play a catalytic role in boosting financial inclusion on the continent.

The study, Economy 2021, says with concerns over contracting COVID-19 from visiting bank branches and using hard currency, the need to bring the population into the digital economy through fintech solutions has become paramount.

Economy 2021 - a global outlook report providing detailed analysis of the economic impact of COVID-19, including permanent changes in digital consumer spending habits - says the pandemic is the biggest opportunity yet for fintech firms to provide banking solutions that solve financial inclusion challenges on the continent.

"We recognise the overwhelming pressure that small business owners are currently facing and are committed to supporting them through COVID-19 and beyond



Mastercard country manager for SA, Suzanne Morel.

as they adapt to a new way of operating and evolved customer needs. This is why we have collaborated with Standard Bank, and Google to help small business owners move their operations online, accept digital pay-

ments and attract more customers," says Suzanne Morel, country manager of Mastercard SA.

In addition, the study notes that as digital innovation improves and Internet access increases, digital payment solutions such as contactless, virtual card numbers and quick response codes offer more possibilities than ever before.

Among the key trends analysed by Mastercard in the study is the sharp shift to digital platform use, driven by changed consumer behaviour, mobility restrictions and the necessity to generate business revenues beyond brick-and-mortar locations. Within the scope of accelerated digital transformation, the report also notes that continued digitalisation in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) is key to advancing financial inclusion.

According to the study, this is especially relevant in regions such as East Africa, where International Monetary Fund research found that even where financial inclusion through traditional banking services was declining, expanded access to digital tools and services increased financial inclusion.

CRDB Taifa Cup scholarship beneficiaries vow to acquire the market popular skills

By The Banker Reporter

BY The Banker Reporter FOR Nuru Mbaraka basketball has always been a game of passion. The Arusha based budding basketball star, never imaged that one day, the global popular game may take her to new heights.

"For me it's a dream come practical, this scholarship award will help me move to the next level in life after acquiring skills to generate income," said Mbaraka who was one of the 26 budding basketball stars who performed impressively in last month's CRDB Taifa Cup basketball tournament.

The Dar es Salaam based lender which sponsored this year's national basketball competition held in Dodoma in January, splashed over 200m/-. The annual competition which is organised by Tanzania Basketball Federation drew elite teams from several regions of the country including Dar es Salaam.

"I never imaged that it will come to this, CRDB has indeed shown that it is a bank that listens," said Abdulaziz Abdullah who also was among the scholarship winners. He said, this year's Taifa Cup which was bankrolled by CRDB did indeed show that basketball is no longer just a game but also means life.

Both Mbaraka and Abdullah who come from humble families, said the life skills that they will get through the sponsorship will enable them be self employed but also employ others if they happened to succeed in their trades.

The duo's observations were echoed by CRDB's Corporate Affairs Director, Tully Mwambapa who said that the bank was inspired to bankroll this year's competition and future competitions because its leadership understands the importance of sporting activities as a type of employment for young people.

"Sporting activities such as basketball are no longer simply for entertainment and body health only but also money making occupations," Mwambapa said after presiding over the scholarships presentation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

She said the sponsorship is continuation of the bank's policy to develop capacity of local youth so that they can employ



Deputy Minister for Information, Arts, Youth Sports and Culture, Abdallah Ulega (2nd R) presenting a certificate to Nuru Mbaraka (C) from Arusha during a ceremony to award 26 budding basketball players with scholarships worth 50m/- after excelling at this year's CRDB Taifa Cup held in Dodoma City last month. The event was held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

themselves as jobs are hard to come by. "The bank through its CSI policy saw it fit to associate sports and education hence decided to award the best performing basketball players with scholarships to attend training courses that will give them skills to exploit economic opportunities in the market," she said.

She further noted that the successful players were selected on merit both on the basketball pitch but also their performance at school through a review of their records.

Deputy Minister for

Information, Arts, Youth Sports and Culture, Abdallah Ulega who was guest of honour during the event, commended the bank's leadership for backing government efforts to commercialise sports and develop capacity of youth to meet growing market demand for skills.

Ulega urged Tanzania Basketball Federation to work in partnership with likeminded stakeholders such as CRDB, Azam Television, Sanlam Insurance, Mayfair Insurance and Cool Blue and ensure that youth acquire skills that will complement

their sports talents.

"We at the Ministry promise to cooperate fully with all stakeholders to boost development of basketball and other types of sports because the sports industry is currently one of the biggest employers in the country," he added.

In a vote of thanks, TBF's President Phares Mageza thanked CRDB's management for the sponsorship saying decision to extend the education scholarships will motivate more youth to participate in the game and qualify for the national event next year. "We hope that more



A physical imitation of a Bitcoin is displayed at a crypto currency shop in Istanbul.

Volatility in cryptocurrencies is hampering their wider adoption

BERN

CONCENTRATED holdings and thin market volumes are driving volatility in cryptocurrencies, which is one of the greatest barriers to their adoption in real world transactions, according to Swiss private bank Lombard Odier.

Gains in crypto assets such as Bitcoin, the world's biggest digital currency, have attracted institutional investors looking for inflation havens, but the concentrated nature of their holdings - often by early adopters known as "whales" - makes them highly speculative, Stéphane Monier, the bank's chief investment officer said in a research note on Tuesday. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, he said, meet some of the standard economic definitions of a currency as they are hard to counterfeit and both durable and portable.

"However, they fail on two other criteria: they do not yet offer a ready means of payment and, because of their volatility it is difficult to argue that they provide a store of value, even if some physical currencies can also struggle on these [factors] too," Mr Monier said.

Bitcoin has experienced a meteoric rise in the past few months, rising on January 8 this year to almost \$42,000 and then slumping below \$33,000 in a matter of days. It has swung wildly since, and was trading 2.9 per cent higher at \$37,207 on Tuesday, with no clear catalysts. "The last time cryptocurrencies soared, in the space of just under one year, the price of Bitcoins fell from \$19,783 on December 17, 2017 to \$3,300 on December 7, 2018," Mr Monier said.

However, the main difference between the 2017-18 boom and bust and this year's record highs is that public interest is now "backed by cryptocur-

rency holdings with more traditional institutional investors and hedge funds looking for a cushion from inflation", he added.

Bitcoin's recent wobbles have turned the cryptocurrency spotlight onto other digital coins including Ether, whose gain this year has outstripped the performance of its bigger rival. Ether has risen 87 per cent in 2021 compared with Bitcoin's 28 per cent jump.

"Bitcoin has been in a range for the past few weeks, which gives time for capital to rotate" into other digital assets, Bloomberg cited Vijay Ayyar, head of business development with crypto exchange Luno in Singapore as saying. JPMorgan Chase strategists have said \$40,000 is a key level for Bitcoin, flagging the risk of a further drop unless it climbs back above that price soon.

The volatility of digital currencies has attracted greater scrutiny from regulators and central banks, some of whom view them as a threat to monetary stability as they cannot be subjected to the usual checks on capital flows.

"And while every transaction is transparent, they are also anonymous," Mr Monier said. "The real value in cryptocurrencies, we believe, is not the currencies themselves but the potentially disruptive blockchain technology that makes them possible."

The UK's Financial Conduct Authority, which described cryptocurrencies as "highly speculative" last week, said "if consumers invest in these types of product, they should be prepared to lose all their money." Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, also said last week that Bitcoin needs to be regulated at a global level.

Difficult year ahead for SA – BNP Paribas

JOHANNESBURG

THE outlook for the country's economy remains grim, says BNP Paribas in its 'South Africa Outlook 2021: Likely headwinds to recovery' report.

It says "energy supply constraints and other structural weaknesses" along with delays in the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, were the reasons it revised its GDP growth forecast downwards for the first half of the year. The French bank has a dimmer economic forecast than other institutions, which also expect the country to struggle.

"We maintain our sub-consensus 2021 growth forecast of 2.5% which compares with a current Bloomberg consensus of 3.8%," says BNP Paribas SA senior economist Jeff Schultz. There was some good news. The ending of national lockdown has seen a pickup in the economy.

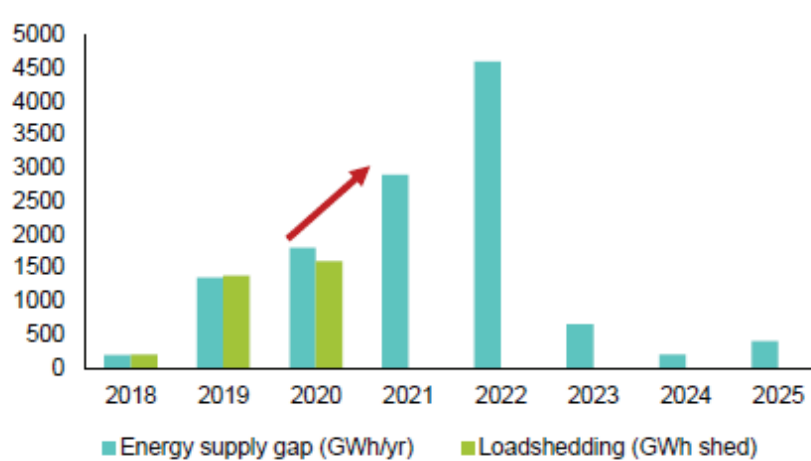
"We have, though, upgraded our estimate for last year by 0.9 percentage points to a contraction of 7.1%, reflecting a faster return to pre-pandemic activity levels for sectors such as mining," Schultz adds. Despite this, the country still has some difficult challenges it must deal with in order to overcome its economic difficulties.

Underpowered

One of the biggest drags on the economy is the unpredictability of the country's electricity supply. The report notes that despite collapsing domestic demand and curtailing supply-side activity, Eskom implemented record load shedding in 2020, despite more than 1 600 gigawatt hours (GWh) of power generation being taken offline. BNP Paribas says energy supply estimates from the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) indicate that the supply gap could be more than 60% larger this year.

"Large swathes of load shedding, therefore, seem unavoidable this

South Africa's energy supply gap set to widen further



year, in the absence of a marked improvement in Eskom's energy availability factor, which fell to just 55% in the early weeks of January." BNP Paribas says given the extent of the energy crisis, it's crucial that there is a continuation of the deregulation in the power sector and Eskom's separation into generation and transmission happens.

Long wait

SA's slowness in rolling out its Covid-19 vaccine programme is also an issue. In contrast with countries such as Russia, China, Chile, Argentina and Egypt, which expect to have 70-80% of their populations vaccinated by the end of the year, BNP Paribas does not see SA reaching 'herd immunity' by the end of the year.

The emergence of a more transmittable strain of the virus has also made containing the spread of the virus harder. BNP Paribas does not see the emergence of the 'second wave' of the Covid-19 pandemic leading to tighter restrictions - for now.

"Our base case forecasts do not assume that a 'hard lockdown' will be implemented because we think that economic considerations will be given more weight than in the initial wave. Should infections be seen to be spiralling out of control, however, we cannot rule out harder regulations with a greater economic impact."

Some good news

On the positive side, the weakness of

the dollar to the rand and a recovery in the Chinese economy could support "key industrial and precious metal commodity exports." This in turn could boost the contribution of exports to GDP growth.

This has created an opportunity for investors, as the yields on the country's bonds are high when compared to other emerging markets. "In our local markets model portfolio, we continue to hold South Africa rand and SAGB [South Africa Government Bond] duration as an overweight."

Fiscal cliff

Though the bond issues provide some cushion, they essentially just buy time for the government to make big cuts to its budget. With little space to raise taxes, it's likely that the state will push through with "austere budget plans." This, however, means getting control of the public sector wage bill.

The bank says this will be a real test for the government because the trade unions' relationship with National Treasury has taken strain since the Labour Appeals Court ruled that the state had the right not to increase public servants' wages. "We see a good chance of widespread strike action as early as February, possibly tempered by Covid-19 restrictions and existing high levels of unemployment."

MARKETTRENDS

More headwinds for Indian banks as bad loans mount amid pandemic

NEW DELHI

BAD debts on the books of Indian banks are set to soar, as companies and individual borrowers hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic continue to default on loans. Signs of progress on reducing the worryingly-high levels of bad loans made before the pandemic hit Asia's third-largest economy are already eroding, pushing the country's financial sector into a precarious position.

"The non-performing assets situation is likely to deteriorate over the next year," says Ajit Mishra, vice president of research at Religare Broking in New Delhi. Lenders have limited funding capacity and "that could make the matter worse for banks which could lead to a credit squeeze", he adds.

The Reserve Bank of India in its financial stability report on Monday said non-performing assets (NPAs) at Indian banks could almost double to 14.8 per cent by September this year under its "severe stress scenario", up from 7.5 per cent reported in September 2020. The report by the banking regulator projected that even in a "better case scenario", they could rise to 13.5 per cent this year. If the situation prevailed until March next year, it would unfold the worst financial scenario since 1999 for Indian banking and financial services companies.

"The financial services industry plays a pivotal role in enabling growth of overall economy and all other sectors," says Dnyanesh Pandit, managing director of financial services at Protiviti, a group of independent consulting firms. "The NPA numbers will be [affected] with the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown as the ability of borrowers, in general, to ensure timely payments has undoubtedly been affected."

The burden of bad debts has plagued Indian lenders for years. Before the pandemic, however, there were signs of improvement as authorities and lenders took steps to lower the ratio of non-performing loans and clean up banks' balance sheets. "India's banking sector was already struggling with high NPAs and the non-banking financial sector was also going through its own credit crisis," says Rajani Sinha, chief economist and national director at Knight Frank India. "In 2019, we saw things just about improving for India's financial sector, and then in 2020 we got hit by the Covid crisis."

30pc of Letshego Group's customer using digital banking channels

By The Banker Reporter

THIRTY percent of Letshego Holdings Limited's customers across all its markets in Africa including Tanzania adopted digital banking platform by mid last year from two percent in February.

In its 2020 report and outlook for 2021, the Botswana based banking group said acceleration of its digital transformation last year saw strong progress in digitising customer access channels to support business continuity and ensure the safety and wellbeing.

"Letshego is progressing well towards its long-term goal of achieving up to 80 percent digital adoption by 2025. From two percent digital adoption in February 2020, increasing to 30 percent mid-year, Letshego expects to conclude the year with digital adoption in the median percentile range," the report said.

The Botswana Stock Exchange listed group further noted that from January 2021, it will transition implementation of more differentiated digital and automated systems, a broader product offering and increasing enterprise agili-

ty.

"The group's transformation strategy is guided by the 5 Conversations, namely: product diversification; digital transformation; geographic rebalancing; enterprise agility and sustainable shareholder value," the report stated.

Letshego's transformation strategy focuses on three customer segments: mass and middle income individuals, as well as micro and small entrepreneurs. "During the second half of the year, we have seen positive growth across all three segments," the 2020 summary report added.

On performance of its subsidiaries, the banking group said rebalancing centres around its focus on enabling its small to medium subsidiaries seize local market growth opportunities and increase their contribution to group profits over the medium to long term.

"In the second half of 2020, East and West Africa subsidiaries continued to show growth in their contribution to the group's overall sales volumes and profits," the report noted while acknowledging that the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, the group saw strong busi-



Letshego Holdings Limited's CEO, Andrew Okai.

ness resilience.

"From the outset of the pandemic, Letshego has reiterated its commitment to prioritising the health and wellbeing of its customers and people,

while maintaining business continuity through the launch and enhancement of digital access channels and systems, all while tempering its risk appetite for the ensuing business conditions," the

report explained adding that in the second half of 2020, its financial performance indicated an improvement compared to the first half, in both operating income and profit before tax.

Bahrain's Bank ABC buys Blom Bank Egypt's assets for \$428m

BEIRUT

BAHRAIN'S second-biggest lender Arab Banking Corporation, or Bank ABC, is buying the Egyptian assets of Lebanon's Blom Bank for 6.7 billion Egyptian pounds (\$428.3 million). The deal is subject to the approval of Bahraini, Egyptian and Lebanese banking regulators, Bank ABC said on Sunday.

"The acquisition of Blom Bank Egypt is a unique opportunity for Bank ABC to fulfil its long-standing strategic commitment to inorganically expand its core business, giving us a significantly enhanced platform for future growth in one of the most attractive markets in the region," said chief executive Khaled Kawan.

Blom Bank entered exclusive talks with Bank ABC last month after discussions with Dubai's biggest bank Emirates NBD ended. Blom Bank is under pressure to comply with a central bank requirement that lenders raise their capital by 20 per cent by the end of February or risk being shut out of the market.

"This transaction demonstrates our continuous commitment to our stakeholders and dedication to our strategy," said Saad Azhari, chairman and general manager of Blom Bank Lebanon. "It will allow Blom Bank Lebanon to comply with the latest regulations issued by the central bank of Lebanon."

Lebanon faces its worst political and economic crisis in three decades, made worse by the rapid spread of Covid-19 in the country. Its currency, the Lebanese pound, has lost more than 80 per cent of its value against the US dollar. Another lender, Bank Audi, agreed to sell its assets in Jordan and Iraq last month to Jordan's Capital Bank.

It also resumed talks in October with First Abu Dhabi Bank about the potential sale of its assets in Egypt. Bank Audi's Egyptian subsidiary had 50 branches with assets worth about \$4.4bn at the end of September 2020. Bank ABC already has a presence in



Arab Banking Corporation's CEO, Khaled Kawan.

Egypt through Bank ABC Egypt, a subsidiary in which it owns a stake of more than 90 per cent.

The acquisition of Blom Bank's assets will consolidate its position, provide a "highly profitable franchise with significant future growth potential in one of the most fundamentally attractive markets" in the Mena region, the Bahraini lender said. The deal will add 41 new branches to Bank ABC's network and boost is small and medium enterprise, retail and corporate lending businesses.

The deal is expected to be completed in the second quarter of this year. Until then, the lenders will operate independently in Egypt,

North Africa's largest economy. The banks will work together to secure regulatory approval and "complete the deal as swiftly as possible", the Bahraini lender said. "We ... look forward to working with our new Blom Bank Egypt team to combine Bank ABC Egypt and Blom Bank Egypt, thereby creating a new powerhouse in the Egyptian banking sector," said Mr Kawan.

HSBC Bank Middle East is the financial adviser to Bank ABC, with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Zulficar & Partners acting as legal advisers. Blom Bank Lebanon was advised by CI Capital while Baker McKenzie acted as legal counsel on the deal.

Big firms 'riskier borrowers' than SMEs during Covid-19

NAIROBI

COMMERCIAL banks reported higher bad loans from corporate clients during the course of the pandemic, debunking the perception that SMEs were riskier borrowers, according to a new report.

In the 2021 Economic and Investment Landscape brief, ICEA Lion Group has said the revelation offers an opportunity for banks to increase their lending appetite to SMEs. "Banks have been starved of credit opportunities for almost five years now as a result of the rate cap and the pandemic. During the course of the pandemic, some banks have reported higher NPLs from their corporate customers compared to SMEs," ICEA Lion stated.

"Consequently, the pandemic offers banks the opportunity to increase their lending appetite for SMEs, by availing working capital facilities for them to get back on their feet, grow and help in resuscitating the economy." For close to four years, the SMEs had a higher risk rating that was attributed to the interest rate cap that was scrapped in November 2019. The repeal was followed by an economic crisis from pandemic restrictions that has seen banks continue to shy away from lending to the sector.

Central Bank of Kenya data show the non-performing loans (NPLs) rose to Sh403.9 billion in October, up from Sh349.9 billion at the end February, the sharpest eighth-month increase in recent history. This represented 13.6 percent of the total loan book.

The NPL increases were noted in the transport and communication, energy and water, tourism, restaurant and hotels and real estate sectors, mainly due to the disruption of businesses. The increases in NPLs were partially offset by repayments and recoveries in the trade, manufacturing and building and construction sectors.

MSMEs are concentrated in three main sectors- wholesale and retail (60 percent), manufacturing (11.6 percent), and accommodation and food services sector at nine percent. Private sector credit growth touched a high of 25.8 percent in June 2014, but dropped to 4.29 percent average during the interest rate regime.

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Loan rates to jump on loosening CBK controls

NAIROBI

THE cost of loans could jump by up to 1.5 percent if the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) yields to pressure from banks to allow them raise it citing market forces, analysts said.

Loan prices have remained relatively low despite Kenya scrapping legal controls of credit charges on November 7, 2019 because the regulator has blocked bids by banks to raise rates. Analysts at Ghengis Capital say that the regulator is likely to approve new loan pricing formulas this year that would be the basis of setting interest rates on new

credit in an environment where the government was not controlling loan costs.

"The sector had expected approvals for their models at the tail end of last year and we expect that CBK is likely to give the thumbs up from this year to support private sector credit growth, which has in recent years lingered in the single digits.

The risk-based pricing models are envisaged to increase customer loan rates by between 100-150 basis points," Ghengis Capital senior research analyst Churchill Ogutu said. Mr Ogutu, however said the



Central Bank of Kenya governor, Patrick Njoroge.

new rates are likely to apply to new loans rather than banks making adjustment to existing loan portfolios.

The cost of credit has been a thorny issue in the country with banks accused of being too quick to adjust rates upwards and too slow to bring them down when market conditions like Central Bank Rate (CBR) and the cost of money decline.

This formed a rallying call for Members of Parliament to cap interest rates in 2016 at 4 basis points above CBR. This, however worked against access as banks denied borrowers money opting to lend to the government instead.

The rates were finally removed in 2019, but banks were required to develop loan pricing formulas to be approved by the CBK. The regulatory gridlock and a lower CBR is partly the reason average lending rates dropped to 11.92 percent in October - record lows that was last witnessed in the early 1980s.

WORLD

Biden begins presidency as Trump ended his - with a sharp focus on immigration

LOS ANGELES

WITHIN hours of being sworn in as president yesterday, Joe Biden was expected to announce an immigration bill that would open a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the country unlawfully, a sharp contrast to the policies of outgoing Republican President Donald Trump.

Biden, a Democrat, was also expected to sign 15 executive actions yesterday, spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. At least six of those will deal with immigration, according to a memo, making it a major focus of Biden's first day in office.

The actions include immediately lifting a travel ban on some, mostly Muslim-majority countries, immediately halting construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall and reversing a Trump order preventing migrants who are in the United States illegally from being counted when U.S. congressional voting districts are next redrawn.

Biden was also expected to sign a memorandum directing the Department of Homeland Security and the attorney general to preserve the Deferred Action

for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects migrants who came to the country as children from deportation, and reverse a Trump executive order calling for stricter interior immigration enforcement.

Taken together, the actions show Biden is beginning his presidency with a sharp focus on immigration, just as Trump kept the issue at the center of his policy agenda until the last days of his administration. In one of his few post-election public appearances, Trump visited a section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall earlier this month.

Biden's decision to immediately roll back Trump's so-called Muslim ban - which targeted travelers and immigrants from several Muslim-majority nations - underscores his desire to restore U.S. standing in the world. While Trump insisted the ban was instated for security reasons, it was widely panned as discriminatory.

BILL NO SLAM DUNK

Lifting the ban may be an easier task, however, than getting Congress to pass the ambitious legislative proposal Biden



Joe Biden

plans to submit on Wednesday. The proposal will lay out an eight-year road map to citizenship for many of the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the country unlawfully, according to a fact sheet distributed to reporters by incoming White House officials on Tuesday.

Eligible immigrants who were in the country as of Jan. 1 will be given a temporary status for five years, before being granted green cards for permanent residency, which is subject to certain requirements, such as background checks. They could then apply for citizenship after three more years, officials said.

The wait time for legalization would be shorter - three years - for some of the approximately 645,000 beneficiaries of the DACA program and more than 400,000 immigrants living in the United States with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). It would also be expedited for some farmworkers.

Many DACA, TPS holders, and farmworkers would be immediately eligible to apply for green cards, officials said.

DACA and TPS currently offer eligibility for work permits and protection from deportation but no permanent

legal status.

Biden was vice president when former President Barack Obama created DACA to protect young immigrants, often called "Dreamers," brought to the United States as children.

Trump tried to end DACA and phase out TPS for some countries but was stymied in federal court. One case challenging DACA is still pending in Texas.

The legislative proposal raises annual per-country limits on legal immigration and calls for recapturing unused visas. It also authorizes regional processing centers in Central America for registration for programs like refugee resettlement.

If passed, it would be the largest legislative overhaul of the U.S. immigration system since the administration of Republican President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s.

For decades, Congress has failed to pass a major immigration reform bill. While Democrats effectively hold a majority in the House, the Senate is divided 50-50 with incoming Vice President Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote. A lack of bipartisan support has hampered past efforts to overhaul the immigration system.

Passing an ambitious bill with Republican support could be a struggle, said Jessica Vaughan from the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies, which backed many of Trump's most restrictive policies. "I think this is more about symbolism," she said, referring to the immigration bill's goals.

In the meantime, Biden faces a more immediate issue. Migrant caravans have been on the move in Central America, with some aiming to arrive at the southwest border after Biden's inauguration. On Monday, baton-wielding Guatemalan soldiers clashed with migrants, removing a large part of a caravan that included women and children.

Agencies

Trump ends tumultuous term under cloud, faces uncertain future

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump left the presidency yesterday under a dark cloud of his own making, ending his single four-year term stained by two impeachments, deep political divisions and his handling of a pandemic that has caused 400,000 U.S. deaths.

Trump, 74, was to bid farewell to the White House hours before President-elect Joe Biden was inaugurated. That made him the first outgoing president since Andrew Johnson in 1869 to skip the Inauguration Day ceremony marking the formal transfer of power, in a final display of pique at his failure to win re-election.

Trump and his wife, Melania, were to depart the South Lawn on the Marine One helicopter for Joint Base Andrews in suburban Maryland, where he was to preside over a military-style sendoff before boarding Air Force One one last time to fly to Florida. His arrival at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach was being timed to get him behind the wall of the resort before Trump's term as president expires at noon.

Banned from Twitter after his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, Trump used an old-school method - an emailed press release - to distribute a farewell video on Tuesday in which he veered from his usual divisive rhetoric and sounded an upbeat message.

"Now more than ever, we must unify around our shared values and rise above the partisan rancor, and forge our common destiny," he said. But he did not mention Biden, to whom he has not formally conceded.

Trump has a long way to go to rebuild an image left in tatters by his stormy presidency, particularly the final months. Trump now has a unique place in history - as the only president ever impeached twice.

Even after Trump leaves office, the Senate is still to hold a trial on the impeachment charge brought by the Democratic-led House of Representatives that he incited an insurrection. Its outcome could determine whether he will be disqualified from running again for president.

"He is going to be as an asterisk president, a one-termer who did more damage than good," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. Trump maintained to his last days in office that the Nov. 3 election was stolen from him, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Courts have rejected his campaign's unsubstantiated claims of widespread voter fraud and his vice president, Mike Pence, led the U.S. Congress in certifying Biden's victory over Trump's objections, after Trump-inspired protesters had been cleared from the Capitol following a deadly assault.

The Washington that Trump leaves behind is being guarded by 25,000 National Guard troops, while the National Mall, traditionally thronged with spectators on Inauguration Day, is closed to the public because of threats of violence from groups that attacked the Capitol.

While preoccupied with fighting the election results, Trump did not put a dent in the spiraling death toll from the coronavirus, which crossed the grim 400,000 mark in the United States on Tuesday, the most of any country. Pandemic-related shutdowns and restrictions have also cost millions of Americans their jobs.

Agencies

Africa emerging as hub for Chinese manufacturing firms - expert

NAIROBI

AFRICA is emerging as a hub for Chinese manufacturing firms seeking opportunities to expand their markets, an economic analyst said on Tuesday.

Churchill Ogotu, head of research at Kenya's investment bank, Genghis Capital Xinhua that as the Asian nation's economy matures, it is shifting its focus towards high technology products hence some firms are relocating to Africa.

"We are seeing a trend where more Chinese manufacturing firms are setting up base in Africa to produce for local and regional markets," Ogotu said when Genghis Capital released a report themed "Navigating the New Normal" that delves into Kenya's investment landscape for 2021 in the wake of the unprecedented crisis last year.

Ogotu said that rising labor costs in China means that the Asian nation is losing its traditional competitive edge in low technology products.

"China is therefore shifting towards more advanced products and this creates an opportunity for Africa to expand its manufacturing base," he said. Ogotu said that goods that were once imported from China are now being made in Africa and this has resulted in positive multiplier effects for the continent.

He observed that Chinese entrepreneurs are filling a gap through import substitution that is creating employment for Africans. "Africa is a virgin market and I don't see the trend of new Chinese manufacturing dissipating in the future," he added.

Xinhua

Iran's Rouhani says 'ball in US court' over nuclear dispute

DUBAI

IRANIAN President Hassan Rouhani urged the incoming US administration on Wednesday to return to a 2015 nuclear agreement and lift sanctions on Tehran, while welcoming the end of "tyrant" President Donald Trump's era.

US President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office on Wednesday, has said the United States will rejoin the pact, which includes restrictions on Iran's nuclear work, if Tehran resumes strict compliance.

"The ball is in the US court now. If Washington returns to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, we will also fully respect our commitments under the pact," Rouhani

said in a televised cabinet meeting.

"Today, we expect the incoming US administration to return to the rule of law and commit themselves, and if they can, in the next four years, to remove all the black spots of the previous four years," he said.

Tensions have grown between Tehran and Washington since 2018, when Trump quit the deal between Iran and six world powers that sought to limit Tehran's nuclear program and to prevent it developing atomic weapons. Washington reimposed sanctions that have badly hit Iran's economy.

Iran, which denies ever seeking nuclear arms, retaliated to Trump's "maximum pressure"



President Hassan Rouhani

policy by gradually breaching the accord. Tehran has repeatedly said it can quickly reverse those violations if US sanctions are removed.

Antony Blinken, Biden's choice for secretary of state, said on Tuesday the United

States would not take a quick decision on whether to rejoin the pact.

"Tyrant Trump's political career and his ominous reign are over today and his 'maximum pressure' policy on Iran has completely failed," Rouhani

said. "Trump is dead but the nuclear deal is still alive."

Biden appears to see a return to the deal as a prelude to wider talks on Iran's nuclear work, its ballistic missiles and regional activities. But Tehran has ruled out halting its missile program or changing its regional policy.

Biden's choice to lead the Pentagon, retired Army General Lloyd Austin, said on Tuesday that Iran posed a threat to American allies in the region and forces stationed in the Middle East.

"The United States and other Western countries have turned our region to a powder keg, not Iran," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told state TV.

Agencies

Diplomat says some Trump supporters inquiring about Russian citizenship

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Sunday she receives messages via social networks from supporters of US incumbent President Donald Trump asking for information on how to receive Russian citizenship.

"The most frequent commentary I receive via social networks from the United States is how to receive Russian citizenship," she said in an interview with the Voskresny Vecher (Sunday Evening) with Vladimir Solovyov program on the Rossiya-1 television channel.

According to Zakharova, such messages are coming from those who supported the Republicans who fear possible persecution because of their political views.

"Welcome to reality," she noted.

Earlier, the US company Twitter said that it had permanently blocked access to Trump's personal account due to his violations of rules and also for fear he might try to trigger unrest.

Also, he was stripped of the right to upload posts to Facebook and Instagram pages until his term of office expired.

Apple temporarily re-



Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

moved from App Store the microblogs service Parler, very popular with Trump's supporters.

On January 6, a group of Trump's supporters forced their way into the building of the US Congress in an attempt to upset the certification of results of the US November 3 presidential election, in which Democrat Joseph Biden emerged the winner.

According to the authorities, during the unrest a woman demonstrator was shot.

Also, three unrelated deaths, described as medical emergencies, were reported. A Capitol police officer died after the clashes.

Agencies

China delivers robust performance of foreign trade in 2020

CHINA secured extraordinary performance in its foreign trade against headwinds in the past year thanks to the country's targeted measures to stabilize entities, market share, export orders and the industrial and supply chains.

Given the impacts from COVID-19, the Chinese government paid close attention to the trend of foreign trade and timely issued measures and policies to make the sector steady.

According to statistics from the customs, China's foreign trade of goods totaled 29.04 trillion yuan (about \$4.44 trillion) in the first 11 months last year, up 1.8 percent year on year and the highest January-November figure in history.

China's total exports hit 1.41 trillion yuan

in April, an uptick of 8.2 percent from a year ago, representing the first recovery of the country's exports after the sector experienced double-digit fall in the first quarter. Two months later, both China's exports and imports achieved positive growth.

In the first 9 months of 2020, the cumulative growth of China's foreign trade for the first time turned positive. In November, the country's foreign trade stood at 3.09 trillion yuan, up 7.8 percent and maintaining positive growth for 6 months in a row.

Despite the cold weather, the Leliu wharf in Shunde, Foshan, south China's Guangdong province was kept busy. Tractors loaded with newly manufactured containers were being cleared by the customs in an orderly manner at the gate. "Our

exports growth has turned positive since May 2020 and is kept rising," said Zhong Bingsheng, who's responsible for customs clearance work at Guangdong Fuwa Engineering Group Co., Ltd., the manufacturer of these containers.

However, it was not easy to achieve the recovery. Impacted by COVID-19 which made overseas market chaotic, the company only exported 14,784 containers in the first 4 months of 2020, whose value was only 403 million yuan, down by 39.49 percent from a year ago.

After thorough investigation, the office of Foshan customs in Shunde improved the management mechanism and video surveillance system for newly manufactured containers, thanks to which the con-

tainers can be monitored remotely and their numbers intelligently recognized.

"The customs clearance is now more efficient, which significantly lowered the logistics cost," Zhong said. In the January-November period, the company exported 108,300 containers with a total value of nearly 3.09 billion yuan, up nearly 90 percent from a year ago.

China's foreign trade delivered robust performance, from the setbacks in the first quarter, to the stability in the second quarter, and to the comprehensive bounce in the third quarter, said Liang Ming, director of the foreign trade institute of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation under the Ministry of Commerce.

Apart from the new historical high figures, the country also further increased its share in the global market, injecting new momentum to the recovery of global economy, Liang added.

"Declaring the cargos on China-Europe freight trains is our major business, and our performance doubled last year," said Yu Xuefei, a customs broker of a company in east China's Zhejiang province. According to him, the China-Europe freight trains attracted many clients for their steady services as COVID-19 impeded international air and marine transportation. Many of the company's clients who used to export their products via sea routes have turned to the freight service, he added.

People's Daily



A woman picks pitaya fruits in a greenhouse of a women's entrepreneurship center in Dongying district, Dongying city of east China's Shandong province, Aug. 19, 2020. (File photo)

All-China Women's Federation lifts over 5 million women out of poverty in past five years

WITH more importance being attached on women in China's poverty alleviation, a series of policies and measures have rolled out in the country since 2012 to help Chinese females get rid of poverty, offering strong support for impoverished Chinese women.

During the last five years, a poverty reduction campaign launched by All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) had lifted over 5 million impoverished women out of poverty by helping them developing handicraft, farming and husbandry, housekeeping service and e-commerce businesses.

The ACWF branches across the country also implemented a slew of policies to support Chinese women develop businesses, so as to ensure that no single female is left behind on the path of poverty alleviation.

Shi Shunlian, former Party chief of Shibadong village, Huayuan county of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao autonomous prefecture, central China's Hunan province, has brought wealth to the village by developing the business of Miao embroidery, a traditional folk art of the Miao people.

In 2014, Shi established a Miao embroidery cooperative after retirement. Since then, the woman, who's also the head of the village's women's federation, vitalized the Miao embroidery business of the village.

The business accounted for over 1/3 of the village's income when all 136 impoverished households of the village were lifted out of poverty in February 2017.

In Mengjin county of Luoyang, central China's Henan province, villager Lv Miaoxia contracted 150 mu (10 hectares) of land on which she built a strawberry plantation, paving a path to wealth for her fellow villagers. Inspired by the woman, 32 similar straw-

berry plantations have emerged in surrounding areas, covering over 30,000 mu and offering jobs for more than 5,000 people, 90 percent of whom are females.

In a 300-square meter poverty alleviation workshop of a garment factory in Shandong county, Zhangye of northwest China's Gansu province, stand dozens of professional sewing machines.

Batches of clothes are being completed by female workers as the machines hum. Such poverty alleviation workshops set up exclusively for women workers add up to over 10,000 across China, offering jobs for them at their doorsteps.

Gan Youqin is a livestream host in Lingshan county, Qinzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. She sold over 6 million kilograms of agricultural products produced in her hometown on livestream shows in 2019, and the total turnover reached 37 million yuan.

The ACWF's e-commerce programs also helped more than 500,000 impoverished women get rid of poverty through the new business form.

In recent years, the ACWF has established 786 demonstration bases of poverty alleviation across the country, with an investment of 39.3 million yuan (\$6.08 million), and also led regional women's federations to build over 20,000 poverty alleviation bases across the country exclusively for impoverished females.

In addition, Chinese women have established more than 300,000 family farms and agricultural cooperatives.

By actively guiding poor women to join local industries, the federation has brought them steady income growth and injected energy to poverty alleviation efforts.

People's Daily



A total of 1.45 million migrant workers from Ganzhou have returned home," said Wu Yuming, deputy director of the human resource bureau of the city. Jobs closer to home also help alleviate rural hollowing

China mulls codifying epidemic prevention, control experiences

BEIJING

CHINESE lawmakers are considering codifying epidemic containment practices that proved effective in the fight against COVID-19 in amending the country's physicians law.

A draft revision of the physicians law was presented yesterday to the 25th session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for the first reading. The three-day session began on Wednesday.

The country shall establish training and working mechanisms for physicians that suit modern disease prevention and control systems, accord-

ing to the draft.

It stipulates that physicians should be at the disposal of health authorities in case of an emergency and national defense mobilization.

Physicians are obligated to report to authorities immediately upon identifying epidemics, sudden outbreaks of diseases of unknown causes and abnormal health incidents.

The draft also stipulates that physicians who make outstanding contributions to the prevention and identification of such emergencies as well as saving people's lives should be recognized for their efforts.

Penalties for identity theft

Chinese lawmakers are considering specific penalties for those who steal the identities of others to enroll in a school or college as they deliberated the draft amendment to the nation's Education Law.

Such impostors will have their admission qualifications revoked and be barred from relevant national examinations for one to three years, according to the draft.

Impostors who have been awarded academic diplomas will have their diplomas revoked and those who have been employed by public institutions will be dismissed, according to the draft.

Wetland protection

Yesterday, Chinese lawmakers also started deliberating a draft law on wetlands protection, the country's first national legislation on conserving its lakes and swamps.

In strengthening the management of wetlands, the draft stipulates that a national catalog of important wetlands shall be compiled by forestry and grassland authorities and other related departments of the State Council, while provincial-level governments shall compile catalogs of important wetlands within their jurisdiction.

The draft prohibits any organization or individual from destroying the habitat of birds and aquatic life in wet-

lands. Those breaching the law may be fined up to 1 million yuan (about US\$154,523) or face criminal penalties if their violations constitute crimes, according to the draft.

Legal aid law

A draft of the legal aid legislation was submitted Wednesday to the ongoing session for the first reading to better protect people's legitimate rights and interests.

The draft defines legal aid as a service rendered by the country free of charge to people in financial difficulties and other personnel that meet the statutory requirements. The service ranges

from legal counseling to criminal defense.

According to the draft, applicants eligible for legal aid include those who seek compensation for work-related injuries as well as injuries sustained in traffic, medical, and food and drug safety accidents, and need a lawyer but cannot appoint one due to financial difficulties.

Those who make a claim for payment of child support or support for other family members, or for work remuneration, may apply for legal aid if they cannot afford a lawyer, the draft notes.

The agenda of the 25th session of the standing committee also includes reviewing

Opposing, deterring island's separatist activities urged

TOP political adviser Wang Yang stressed the importance of resolutely opposing and deterring any "Taiwan independence" separatist activities and external interference as the cross-Straits situation would remain complicated and grave this year.

Wang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, made the remark at an annual work meeting on Taiwan affairs held in Beijing on Sunday and Monday. He said, "There are changes in the opportunities and challenges facing our work on Taiwan affairs, and the 'time' and 'tide' are always on our side."

The Chinese mainland will resolutely deter secessionist forces from relying on foreign forces to seek "independence", and fully demonstrate its resolve to safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests, Wang said.

He reiterated that "we will never allow any person or any force, in any form, to separate Taiwan from the motherland". He called for efforts to promote peaceful and integrated development across the Taiwan Straits and to continue to advance progress toward the peaceful reunification of China.

In the CPC leadership's proposals issued in November for formulating the blueprint for development in the next five to 15 years, concerning the Taiwan question, the leadership gives high priority to being highly vigilant against and resolutely curbing separatist activities aimed at "Taiwan independence".

Li Zhenguang, a professor of Taiwan studies at Beijing Union University, said the proposition was raised given the current turbulent situation across the Straits caused by the pursuit of "independence" by the island's ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

Since the DPP came to power in 2016, and especially in the past two years, it has vigorously promoted anti-mainland hatred on the island and relied on the United States to seek "independence", which has led to increasing tensions across the Straits, he said.

Bao Chengke, a professor of cross-Straits relations at East China Normal University, said the mainland dominates cross-Straits relations as it grows stronger, and Taiwan's seeking of "independence" is expected to be restrained after US President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Wednesday.

Agencies

Fight against desert locusts in East Africa in peril amid funding shortfall

NAIROBI

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said on Tuesday that funding shortfalls could derail aerial fight against desert locusts in East Africa.

FAO said in a statement that a locust desert fighting aerial force that had been assembled by countries in the East African region risked being grounded amid dwindling funds.

"Without additional financing for fuel, airtime, and pilot hours, the 28 anti-locust aircraft which are now patrolling the skies to spot and spray locust swarms could cease operations in March," said FAO.

The east and horn of African region is staring at another wave of desert locust invasion amid threat to food security and rural livelihoods.

According to FAO, Kenya and southern Ethiopia are already experiencing a gradual invasion by the voracious pests amid intensive breeding that was fuelled by favorable weather conditions.

"Even the United Republic of Tanzania recently witnessed a swarm in the northeast," said FAO, adding that about 3.7 billion shillings (about 33.8 million U.S. dollars) was required

to contain desert locusts in the region by June. Laurent Thomas, FAO deputy director-general, said that assembling a robust aerial infrastructure to fight desert locusts in the east African region has contributed to averting a worst case scenario during the first wave of invasion last year.

"The locust fighting machine that has been assembled in East Africa is now fully equipped and able to contain, suppress and we believe, eventually end this record-breaking upsurge," said Thomas.

Xinhua

McConnell says Capitol riot 'provoked' by Trump



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (C) speaks at a press conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Dec. 15, 2020. (Tom Brenner/Pool via Xinhua)

WASHINGTON

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that the attack by President Donald Trump's supporters on Capitol Hill was "provoked by the president."

"The last time the Senate convened, we had just reclaimed the Capitol from violent criminals who tried to stop Congress from doing our duty. The mob was fed lies. They were provoked by the president and other powerful people," McConnell said of the mob that stormed the Capitol building on Jan. 6, disrupting Congress's certification of President-elect Joe Biden's election victory and leaving five people dead.

"They tried to use fear and violence to stop a specific proceeding of the first branch of the federal government, which they did not like," added McCo-

nnell.

Tuesday is the first day the Senate was back in session from the recess, and it was expected to hold an impeachment trial over the House's charge of "incitement of insurrection" against Trump.

The remarks by McConnell, who previously said he was undecided as to whether Trump should be convicted in the trial, were a sign that he tried to further distance himself from the president.

McConnell said the Senate was notified by the House of Trump's impeachment, but that the lower chamber has yet to transmit the article of impeachment. The Senate can't start the trial until it receives the article.

"While the press has been full of speculation, I have not made a final decision on how I will vote and I intend to listen to the legal arguments when they are pre-

sented to the Senate," McConnell wrote in a note to colleagues last week.

McConnell will become the minority leader later this month when the Democratic Party effectively takes control of the Senate following the swearing in of two Democratic senators-elect from Georgia.

The CNN reported Tuesday that Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, the two incoming senators, are expected to be sworn in by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on Wednesday afternoon, shortly after Harris assumes the office of the vice president.

The timing is still fluid, though, since Georgia is yet to formally certify the senatorial election results, which should happen before the swearing in.

Harris is also expected to swear in Alex Padilla, a California Democrat who will fill the Senate seat vacated by Harris's departure.

Xinhua

Russian experts to inspect Egyptian airport's security next week

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN authorities expect Russia's expert team to inspect the Hurgada International Airport's security on January 27, the country's daily newspaper Al-Masry Al-Youm announced.

According to the newspaper, Russian specialists will check the airport's security systems, in particular, they will inspect terminal 2's operation and new systems for ensuring the safety of passengers and baggage screening. Furthermore, the experts are going to check the airport at all stages of its activities, ranging from the entrance to the terminal to loading and dispatching aircraft.

Russia's experts will stay in Egypt for five days. In January 2020, a delegation of Russian specialists conducted the last inspection of the Hurgada and Sharm El Sheikh's airports.

It was not their first visit, but back then Cairo expected that it would be the last one before drawing up a final report on the Egyptian airports' security and the possible resumption of charter flights to Russian cities.

In late November 2020, Russia's Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov, who co-chairs the Russian-Egyptian intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, told TASS

that the sides would discuss the resumption of charter flights to Egypt's resort cities as early as the challenges related to COVID-19 were resolved.

"The Egyptian colleagues have done a lot to modernize the aviation security system <...> in Hurgada and Sharm El Sheikh," he said.

"We assume that as the challenges related to COVID-19 fade away, we will return to the discussion of this point, taking into account aviation security issues, as I said."

Air traffic between Russia and Egypt was completely suspended in November 2015, after the Russian airplane crashed in Sinai

during the flight from Sharm El Sheikh to St. Petersburg. All 217 passengers and seven crew members died. Russia's Federal Security Service announced that the incident was a terrorist attack.

In January 2018, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree resuming regular air traffic with Cairo. The first flight from Moscow took off in April of the same year.

Charter flights to Hurgada and Sharm El Sheikh are still closed. Over the past years, Egypt has improved the system of screening, monitoring and checking passengers and luggage, as well as significantly upgraded the airports' infrastructure. Agencies

Agencies

Xinhua

SPORT



Reliants Lusajo

Manager reveals reasons for forward's move to Namungo FC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORWARD Reliants Lusajo's manager, Ahmad Kassim, has stated the former opted to part ways with Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s club, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, due to the fact that he was unhappy at the outfit.

The towering forward has made his way back to his previous club, Lindi's Namungo FC, which also takes part in the VPL.

Lusajo, who was said to be wanted by the league leaders, Yanga, in this season's transfer period, joined KMC FC earlier in the season.

The forward inked a one-year contract with the outfit but has only served for five months after reaching mutual agreement with the squad to terminate the contract.

He has netted four goals for KMC FC in this season's VPL, thus turning out to be the team's leading goal scorer.

In the previous season, he scored 12 goals for Namungo FC, finishing as the top scorer in the squad whilst also finishing fourth in the VPL top goal scorers' chart.

Commenting on the agreement, Kassim noted: "It is true that we have reached an agreement to terminate Lusajo's contract with KMC FC following my client's unhappiness during the five months he was with KMC FC."

"And since we had an offer from Namungo FC, the area where Lusajo grew up, we decided it would be best to go home and get organized," he said.

It should be noted that before returning

to Namungo FC, the KMC FC management announced Lusajo's suspension.

A statement from KMC FC's information officer, Christina Mwangala, stated that Lusajo had been suspended by the side for misconduct.

Christina said the decision was reached after the management was satisfied that the player showed misconduct, so he had to be punished in accordance with KMC FC's regulations.

And after the mini transfer period had come to a close, Namungo FC defender, Edward Manyama, parted ways with the club and joined Ruvu Shooting.

Namungo FC is also taking part in this season's CAF Confederation Cup competition, with the outfit slated to play in the play offs.

Manyama has played for Namungo FC for just one season and he was one of the players, who have steered the outfit to progression to the CAF Confederation Cup's play offs.

It has been reported that the fullback, who had as well donned Yanga, JKT Tanzania, Oljoro JKT, JKT Kanembwa kits, has decided to join Ruvu Shooting after his contract with Namungo FC expired and failed to reach a contractual agreement with the side.

Ruvu Shooting have officially announced five new signings in the mini transfer period, including Manyama, who was also considered for a move to Yanga.

The fullback will be turning out for Ruvu Shooting for the second time.

Adam Kiondo (Yanga), Haruna Hamis Fadhil (free), Haji Mwyni Mngwali (Zanzibar's KMKM) and James Msuva (KMC FC) are the other players signed by the Coast Region club.

Dodoma soccer centre out to transform women's soccer

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DODOMA's Fountain Gate Academy's Director, Japhet Makau, has said the institution is committed to making sure the region's outfit, Tanzanite Queens, which battles it out in this season's Women's Premier League, performs well in it.

He as well oversees the Fountain Gate FC, which participates in this season's First Division League (FDL).

He said the women's team have been underperforming in the Women's Premier League so, they have now signed good players who will help the squad do well in the tournament.

According to him, the club has set out to finish in any of the top three spots in the league.

"You all know we bought the team when it was too late we couldn't do anything, that's why at the beginning of the league the team have done badly but now we want to bring about changes in football," he disclosed.

He said in a bid to strengthening the team, they have found five sponsors who will help in running the team to inspire the players to do well in the league and get out of relegation zone.

He mentioned the sponsors as Corie Super Rice of Morogoro, Simba Coconut, Jeff Solutions, Fountain Gate Academy and UBA Bank.

The UBA Bank, he disclosed, will focus on sponsoring the club's best player of the month's prize and offer cash prize of 50,000/- to any of the team's players netting goal in the squad's games.

Fountain Gate Academy's information officer, Juma Ayo, mentioned the registered players in the squad as Aquila Gasper (defender), Stella Wilbart (midfielder), Saada Ramadhan (midfielder) all from Simba Queens.

Mary Masatu (defender) Anna Ebron all from Ruvuma Queens, Zuhura Waziri (goalkeeper) and Madeline Augustino (defender) from Ilala Queens are as well the newly registered players.

Ayo moreover urged Dodoma residents to turn up in large numbers in a Women's Premier League clash between Tanzanite Queens and Dodoma's other club, Baobab Queens, which was scheduled to take place at Fountain Gate Arena in the city.

The team also unveiled their new jerseys to be used in their games after they had previously introducing only home and away jerseys.

SPORTS

Beach soccer bonanza scheduled for next week

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NATIONAL beach soccer team's head coach, Boniface Pawasa, has said that they currently have a plan to organize a special bonanza which is expected to take place in Dar es Salaam on January 31.

Pawasa, who is also a sports analyst in the country, performed well for Simba SC during his heyday.

He was a member of Simba SC, which made it to the 2003/04 CAF Champions League's group stage with memorable win over Egypt soccer giants, Zamalek.

In the 2003 Simba SC's squad, veteran keeper, Juma Kaseja, who now skips the Vodacom Premier League squad, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, also featured prominently.

Kaseja is also one of the senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' members, currently taking part in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) tournament in Cameroon.

Speaking recently, Pawasa said there are many initiatives in promoting and strengthening beach soccer, which are worked on closely.

He disclosed: "On January 31 we hope there will be a bonanza at Escape One ground in Dar es Salaam, which will be called 'Dar Beach Soccer', with the aim of educating the public to understand the rules and regulations of beach soccer."

He stated: "It will be a time for everyone to learn the game's rules, given it is a sport which is slowly gaining popularity in Africa, so, it is time for everyone to learn and recognize it."

"The biggest problem with beach soccer is that we do not have sponsorship so stakeholders should come forward in large numbers and give us support," he said.

Tanzania qualified for the AFCON beach soccer finals in 2018 which was held in Egypt.

It was the third edition of the Africa Beach Soccer tournament under CAF,



A section of national beach soccer team's players pictured after featuring in a past tournament in Dar es Salaam.

whereby Tanzania where in Group B alongside eventual champions Senegal who won their fifth title that year.

In addition, the Tanzania beach soccer team are three-time Copa Dar es Salaam Beach Soccer tournament's winners.

The squad won the showpiece's top honour consecutively, with the tournament involving five nations.

They lastly won it in 2019 when Tanzania hosted the competition in Dar es Salaam, beating Burundi in the final.

The host nation topped the championship's table with nine points, coming from their three wins against Seychelles, Malawi and finally Burundi

on the final day.

The only loss suffered by the champions was on the opening day against Uganda on penalties after a three-all draw in normal time.

Alex Emmanuel Wasswa netted a hat-trick in Uganda's 6-5 victory over Malawi on Boxing Day of 2019 and the results meant that Uganda, aka 'Sand Cranes', finished second in the five-nation tournament to take silver for the second successive year.

Last year, Tanzania's beach soccer team did not participate in any tournament due the coronavirus outbreak.

Zimbabwean female boxer to participate in international bout in Dar es Salaam

By Correspondent Ismail Tano



Revai Madondo

BUDDING female boxer, Revai Madondo, is set to become the first Zimbabwean boxer to feature in a series of international bouts, known as 'Rumble in Dar', scheduled to start in Dar es Salaam this month.

The series is slated for January 29 and it is organized by Global Boxing Stars firm, which seeks to empower boxers whose career has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boxer stated: "It's a great opportunity for me and others to showcase ourselves. We really need this considering the time we spent without any activity. I hope to raise my profile higher as well as the country's flag high."

She noted: "I think the fight will not be very difficult for me but I'm preparing hard, although COVID-19 has been disturbing, I remain fit."

The country's other boxer, Elvis Moyo 'Bulawayo Bomber', is also set to take part in the fights in March.

The series' organizer, Jeremy Bean from Global Boxing Stars, is upbeat that boxers from Southern Africa will bring a special flair to the 'Rumble in Dar'.

He stated: "We are calling it the 'Rumble in Dar', and we are looking to give boxers from all over Africa and, specifically, SADC countries an opportunity."

He noted: "For that, we have made partnerships with a number of broadcasting partners such as Soweto TV and Azam TV, among others, to bring these fights closer to fans."

"We have a very exciting partnership with the Jackson Group Sports in Tanzania where we will be bringing fight nights for six alternate months starting with January 29 until November," he disclosed.

"We have made partnerships with a number of broadcasting partners such as Soweto TV and Azam, among others to bring these fights closer to fans," he said.

"And we will grow the broad cast footprint as we go show by show. We are lucky because the coronavirus protocol is a bit relaxed in Tanzania."

"In March we are also looking to feature another boxing sensation from Zimbabwe, Elvis Moyo, who has been inactive for a while."

"We hope to revive him so that he can look forward to his overseas opportunities of his career."

What has gone wrong in Liverpool's title defence?

LONDON

AFTER romping to a first league crown for 30 years last season, Liverpool are suffering a hangover in their title defence as Jurgen Klopp's men have gone four games without a Premier League win for the first time since 2017.

The champions find themselves down in fourth with Klopp claiming just a return to the Champions League next season would be a success given his side's struggles of late.

However, an unpredictable season due to empty stadiums and a packed fixture schedule, has meant no side has stormed clear like the Reds did last season.

Liverpool are still just four points off the top, so can their problems be resolved in time to retain their title?

Injuries

The loss of the talismanic Virgil van Dijk for the season to knee ligament damage would have been a big enough loss on its own to challenge Liverpool's title credentials.

However, the Dutchman's absence has been compounded by another long-term injury to a centre-back in Joe Gomez and Joel Matip's fitness problems.

Without a recognised senior centre-back in recent weeks Klopp has resorted to fielding midfielders Fabinho and Jordan Henderson at the back.

Liverpool's defensive record since Van Dijk's injury is still impressive, conceding just eight goals in 13 games.

But that has come at the expense of destabilising the front-foot style that has restored the glory days at Anfield under Klopp.

Without the comfort of Van Dijk and Gomez's pace to hold a high line and the ball-winning ability of Fabinho and Henderson in midfield, Liverpool's pressing game has eased off.

Injuries have also taking their toll further forward without Diogo Jota over the past month.

The Portuguese made a blistering start to his Liverpool career, scoring seven times in his first nine appearances.

Since Jota suffered a costly knee injury in a Champions League dead rubber against Midtjylland in early December, Klopp is short on options to provide competition for Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino.

Father time against front three?

Salah, Mane and Firmino will

live long in even Liverpool's storied history as a front three that ended the Reds' long wait for a league title and delivered a sixth European Cup.

Over the past four seasons they have been the perfect foil for one another, combining to score 248 goals.

However, all three are at the least approaching the latter end of their peak years. Salah and Mane will be 29 this year, while Firmino turns 30 in October.

Jota's injury offered little chance for respite over the busy festive schedule and with all three failing to find their form, the goals have dried up.

For the first time since 2005, Liverpool have not scored in three consecutive league games.

Salah's complaints about not being made captain for the match against Midtjylland in a rare interview with Spanish newspaper AS was interpreted as the Egyptian inviting offers from Real Madrid.

Yet the time may have passed for Liverpool to cash in their major asset at the right time as they did in selling Philippe Coutinho to Barcelona three years ago.

Hunger gone?

Klopp's men followed up on an unprecedented title showdown with Manchester City in 2018/19, which saw them miss out despite amassing 97 points, with a club record 99 points last season.

After also reaching two Champions League finals in the past three seasons and the often soulless atmosphere of a season without full stands, it is understandable if Liverpool's desire has dropped off this season.

City suffered themselves last season after racking up 198 points in the previous two campaigns.

After the record-breaking numbers set by City and Liverpool over the past three years, the points tally required to win the title this season will fall.

The complexities of a coronavirus-affected campaign have been attributed to more surprise results, but an improvement in the Premier League's middle class has also played its part.

Aston Villa, Everton, Southampton and West Ham have propelled themselves into contention for Europe, while Leicester are again threatening to challenge for the title, asking more questions of the traditional top six.

AFP

Solskjaer: I've proven I'm the man for Man United

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer says he has proved he is the right man to manage Manchester United but admits it's "easy" to get the top of the Premier League but much harder to stay there.

Solskjaer has faced doubts about his credentials since taking the reins at Old Trafford having only had previous spells with United's reserves, Cardiff and Molde.

But the Norwegian says the progress the club has made since his appointment in December 2018 has justified the faith of executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and the board, although he accepts the job is not yet done.

"Hopefully I have proven that I can help the club going forwards," said Solskjaer.

"Personally I have felt very strong backing and leadership from the club, which has made the journey that we've been on -- ups and downs -- clear.

"The position we are in now is due to loads of hard work by everyone. We are halfway through the season and we are up there.

"It is not about getting there once -- that is the easy bit to go up the league.

"Staying there is the challenge and that is the challenge we are looking forward to. Focusing on every game

and building this squad and hope that in the end we can lift the trophy. That is when you can talk about moving the team where it should be."

Solskjaer has spent heavily to strengthen his squad with additions like Harry Maguire, Bruno Fernandes and Aaron Wan-Bissaka but he has also benefited from an upturn in form from players he inherited.

Luke Shaw, Anthony Martial and Paul Pogba often struggled to get into the team under former manager Jose Mourinho but have become central to Solskjaer's plans.

Shaw, in particular, was regularly criticised in public by Mourinho but has since become Solskjaer's first-choice left-back and put in a man-of-the-match performance during the 0-0 draw with Liverpool on Sunday.

"We have set a culture in the way we want to behave, that's helped them," said Solskjaer.

"But personally I like to speak to them, I like to have individual chats. I am probably more honest with them there than what I am with you [the media]. And you always try to walk out that room having affected each other.

"If it's a smile and walk out in a good mood, or I've made them think what they need to do to get back into the team. Individual chats I do really enjoy, I think it's important.

Where did it go wrong for 'Assist King' Ozil at Arsenal?

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE "Assist King" has left the building as Mesut Ozil heads to boyhood club Fenerbahce after agreeing to terminate his Arsenal contract with six months remaining.

It wasn't supposed to be this way; in fact, Arsenal fans once hoped he'd stay forever. Ozil's £42.4 million arrival from Real Madrid in September 2013 and his subsequent £350,000-a-week deal to stay at the club, signed five years later, were heralded as landmark moments for the Gunners in their pursuit of a return to former glories.

At first, Ozil had a unifying effect on a fan base whose disgruntlement under Arsene Wenger was just beginning. But over time, the midfielder became the most polarising figure at a club evolving dramatically behind the scenes as the game's elite clubs disappeared over the horizon.

In the end, Ozil, heralded as the new Dennis Bergkamp, ended up as peripheral as Barcelona loanee Denis Suarez. His groundbreaking contract morphed from a statement of intent for a club near the top to a crippling burden for a team in need of serious repair. Ozil became a diamond-encrusted outcast; a thick slice of Black Forest gateaux at a club on a diet.

Ozil still commands ferocious support on social media. One reason Arsenal offered him such a huge wage in the first place was his marketing power and online pull. At the time of writing, Arsenal have 16.9m Twitter followers; Ozil's stands at 25.8m. On Instagram, the Gunners boast 18.8m; Ozil has 23.5m. Yet instead of a symbiotic, mutually beneficial relationship, Ozil increasingly resorted to social media to communicate his pariah status as Arsenal sought to cut ties with a player once seen as the talisman of a new era but now a relic of past mistakes.

Each side blames the other for how this played out, but how did it come to this?

Ozil has been an emotive subject ever since joining Arsenal 7½ years ago, and it's difficult to underestimate the excitement generated by his arrival.

It was billed as more than a transfer. A year earlier, in 2012, Arsenal had sold Robin van Persie to Manchester United, the latest in a long line of talents either approaching or at the peak of their careers who'd go on to fulfil that promise elsewhere. Van Persie would win the Golden Boot with 26 goals and fire United to the Premier League title in Sir Alex Ferguson's final season. Once bitter adversaries, here was Wenger handing Ferguson, his longtime rival, the missing piece in his puzzle.

Years of frugality due to the self-funded move from Highbury to Emirates Stadium rendered Arsenal unable to compete at the top end of the transfer market, especially one bloated by the billions of Manchester City, who followed Chelsea in fast-tracking their way to success through lavish spending. Arsenal's trophy drought dated back to 2005, weighing heavier on Wenger's shoulders with each passing year. But by landing Ozil, who agreed to the move on Sept. 2, 2013, Arsenal were finally competing. More than that, they were signing a bona fide star for Real Madrid and Germany -- a playmaker about to turn 25 years old, with the pedigree to add real potency to Wenger's aesthetic approach.

In a near-perfect distillation of the transition the Gunners were making, earlier that day they signed goalkeeper Emiliano Viviano on a season-long loan from Palermo, a deal more in keeping with a transfer window in which they also agreed terms with 20-year-old French striker Yaya Sanogo and re-signed midfielder Mathieu Flamini. But, with the clock ticking down to the deadline, Arsenal shattered their transfer record almost three times over to pay £42.4m for Ozil. He became



Mesut Ozil

the third-most expensive signing in British football.

Earlier that summer, then-chief executive Ivan Gazidis told an Arsenal fan forum that "we are beginning to see the escalation in our financial firepower" and Ozil's arrival was proof that rhetoric could come to fruition.

Except Gazidis had in fact originally gone to Madrid to enquire about signing Angel Di Maria. A deal for Ozil only materialised as a possibility when manager Carlo Ancelotti told the Germany international that he would not be a guaranteed regular and, with Wenger a long-term admirer, Arsenal moved in to pounce, reportedly much to Cristiano Ronaldo's chagrin.

Ozil settles in, but Arsenal spend poorly around him. Ronaldo's frustration at Ozil's exit from Madrid emanated from losing the ammunition provided by a man dubbed the "Assist King." It took just 11 minutes into Ozil's Arsenal debut to set up his first goal for Olivier Giroud. His first season ended with silverware, the 2014 FA Cup. They would sign forward Alexis Sanchez from Barcelona that summer too, another considerable coup for around £35m, and retain the trophy a year later.

In 2015-16, Ozil reached new heights, totalling 19 assists -- one short of the record held by Arsenal legend Thierry Henry (2002-03) and Man City's Kevin De Bruyne (2019-20). According to Opta, Ozil created 146 chances that season, 10 more than any other player has managed since the company started its records nearly 20 years ago. A stunning finish to win a Champions League group stage game against Ludogorets at the beginning of November ranks to this day as the best goal he scored for the club.

However, this season is perhaps where things started to go wrong. Wenger declared in the summer of 2015 that his squad was good enough without any additions beyond veteran goalkeeper Petr Cech from Chelsea. Arsenal would be the only team in Europe's top five leagues not to sign an outfield player (though they added Mohamed Elneny in January), yet the Gunners finished second that season, 10 points behind shock champions Leicester City. Many of the established teams looked at Leicester's incredible title win as both a fairy tale and a missed opportunity of their own, but perhaps none more so than Arsenal. Wenger later admitted his "regret and guilt."

What followed was a series of missteps in the market.

The Gunners signed Granit Xhaka, Shkodran Mustafi, Lucas Perez for around £86m in the summer of 2016. Ozil ended the 2016-17 season with nine Premier League goals and eight assists, but the Gunners finished outside the top four for the first time in Wenger's reign, dating back to 1996.

Against this backdrop, Ozil and Sanchez, the team's two standout performers, entered the final year of their contracts as the 2017-18 season began, and their relationship with the rest of the squad became complicated as negotiations dragged on. Sources have told ESPN that Ozil and Sanchez missed "club days" -- once a month, players would have to give up their time to fulfill the club's various commercial, media and marketing contracts -- on more than one occasion. It is understood the duo kept each other informed of their contract talks, knowing their bargaining power was even greater combined.

A deal to sell Sanchez to Manchester City collapsed in the summer window, and the situation began to grow toxic. Sanchez's on-field form fell off a cliff and sources have told ESPN he stopped replying to internal staff emails. Relations never deteriorated to the same extent with Ozil, and by the time Sanchez was allowed to join Manchester United in January 2018 -- with Henrikh Mkhitaryan coming the other way in a rare "swap deal" between two top clubs -- Arsenal recognised they needed to make another statement of intent.

The pressure to stop another top player leaving -- a past they felt they'd left behind -- had reached a critical

level. And so, on the day they broke their transfer record to sign Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Borussia Dortmund for around £56m, it was announced Ozil had signed a £350,000-a-week deal, a contract extension that would shatter the club's existing wage structure.

Sources have told ESPN that Aubameyang wanted to know if Ozil was staying before agreeing to join the club and, similarly, Ozil had asked for indications the club would quickly invest in the squad to get back into the Champions League, having already acquired striker Alexandre Lacazette for £46.5m from Lyon.

Speculation over Wenger's future was reaching fever pitch. Ultimately, Gazidis determined that Ozil would be the team's central component no matter who was in charge, but things panned out rather differently.

Arsenal try to evolve, Ozil left behind

The three key figures involved in Ozil's contract negotiations -- Wenger, Gazidis and chief negotiator Dick Law -- all left the club by the end of 2018. Gazidis had quietly begun stripping back Wenger's autonomy, appointing nine new department heads and hiring Sven Mislintat from Borussia Dortmund to head up the club's recruitment.

The appointment of manager Unai Emery was designed to inject fresh energy into a tired backroom setup, re-establishing a strong work ethic and banishing a culture of comfort that had permeated the dressing room under Wenger, who although a fervent supporter of Ozil's, still had reservations about the huge wage he had been given.

Ozil's languid style and intermittent form made him an obvious target. Emery recognised his talent, but questioned his motivation. The new power brokers, which also included former Barcelona executive Raul Sanllehi as head of football, came to view Ozil and his contract as a symbol of past largesse, and the strength of Emery's relationship with Ozil fluctuated.

There were some memorable moments, particularly when wearing the captain's armband against Leicester on Oct. 22, 2018 -- a goal and assist barely did a magnificent overall display justice. However, he was used sparingly throughout the season, with Emery voicing concerns over his fitness and commitment. Criticism that Ozil failed to produce in the big games lingered, particularly after the 2019 Europa League final, when he was substituted for teenager Joe Willock with the Gunners losing 4-1 to Chelsea.

Arsenal tried to move Ozil on that summer but failed to find a club ready to take on his wages. Ozil's attitude was again questioned in certain quarters, though there is conflicting information as to whether he acted up due to mismanagement or out of arrogance. Sources have told ESPN that, on one occasion, Ozil turned up at the club's London Colney training ground for treatment on an injury only to be sent home after being told there were no treatment tables available.

'Football reasons' behind Ozil's exile, or something else?

Emery's tenure unravelled -- several leading players, not just Ozil, became disillusioned -- and he was sacked in November 2019. Interim boss Freddie Ljungberg restored Ozil to the side, but quickly lost patience, citing the moment when he kicked his gloves into the air after being substituted against Manchester City as one to "make a stand" against because "at Arsenal, that's not how we behave."

New arrival Mikel Arteta then started Ozil in his first 10 Premier League games as Gunners boss, albeit with modest returns. Ozil's public criticism of China's treatment of the Uighur Muslim population caused diplomatic issues for the club, but the importance of this in his marginalisation is overplayed given that he still stayed in the team. It was only in March 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, when he refused to join the majority of his teammates in taking a pay cut, that Ozil fell out of favour for good under Arteta.

The Spaniard has cited "football reasons" for leaving Ozil out, but whatever the shift in style of play, there have been many games when 20 minutes of Ozil would hardly have made the situation worse. Arteta was central to convincing the squad to take a reduction in wages at a time when their Premier League counterparts were discussing deferrals. He personally intervened to negotiate with players on behalf of the ownership, but Ozil wanted more assurances over where the money would go. That stance deepened the internal divisions because if Ozil's contract was a symbol of grander thinking, COVID-19 had accelerated Arsenal's shift back towards greater fiscal conservatism, making 55 non-playing staff redundant, reducing the scouting network and even dispensing with Sanllehi.

Sources told ESPN that it felt personal to Arteta that Ozil would not heed his call for unity in taking the cut, and any chance of a reconciliation between the two was gone. They did not speak much after that, exchanging simple pleasantries whenever their paths crossed at the training ground. Ozil continued to train alongside the first-team, giving out advice and sportswear from his MIO brand to several of the younger squad members.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Where did it go wrong for 'Assist King' Ozil at Arsenal?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Traditional musicians perform in a recent Sauti za Busara festival in Zanzibar.

Zanzibar ready for another edition of Sauti za Busara festival

By Guardian Reporter

PREPARATIONS for the 18th edition of Sauti za Busara festival, scheduled to take place in Zanzibar next month, are at top gear.

A statement released yesterday by organizers of the annual event, Busara Promotions, said this year's festival that will bring performers from across Africa and revelers from around the world will take place from February 12-13 at its usual location, Stone Town.

"The walls of Stone Town will again be shaking to the sounds of African music, with seven groups representing Tanzania and seven more from across the continent," reads the statement.

According to the advisory, the main spotlight this year will be on young and emerging talents, adding that highlights to watch out for include Yugen Blakrok (South Africa), Morena Leraba (Lesotho), Barnaba Classic (Tanzania), Dulla Makabila (Tanzania), Djani (Algeria), Sika Kokoo (Ghana), Dawda Jobarteh (The Gambia), Siti Muharam (Zanzibar), Sandra Nankoma (Uganda), Stone Town Rockerz (Zanzibar), Richie Lumambo (Tanzania), Dogo Fara (Reunion) and many more.

"Generous discounts are offered on tickets for Tanzanian citizens, East Africa Community residents and all African passport-holders. Celebrating Tanzania's unique situation regarding the global pandemic, the theme of this year's festival is 'Alive & Kickin!'. However, for the well-being of visitors and the local population, additional health and safety measures will be in place," reads the statement.

Speaking on preparations yesterday, Festival Director, Yusuf Mahmoud, said this year's event campaign theme is 'Mazingira Yetu Maisha Yetu (Our Environment Our Life)'. He added that its main aim is to raise awareness, promote dialogue and action for change on the climate crisis, which is already reaching emergency proportions across the globe.

He stated: "Activities will draw attention to the importance of recycling, with educational projects on the hazards of single-use plastic, ocean pollution, deforestation and other concerns." "The festival will propose simple actions each of us can take to play our part in helping to save the planet, such as conserving water, using solar energy, protecting our marine ecosystem, planting trees and buying locally made products," he said.

In collaboration with Hamasa Zanzibar, the Soko la Busara Food & Crafts Market will take place alongside the festival, selling unique, eco-friendly and locally made products.

"Our main responsibility is to ensure that the festival impacts widely in bringing tangible benefits for Zanzibar in particular and Tanzanian society at large," Mahmoud said.

"Whilst bringing together people of different backgrounds in unity and celebration, we keep our cultural heritage alive and focus on activities that build knowledge and skills and generate income for local people, especially women, youth and marginalised communities." Speaking on the upcoming event, festival manager, Journey Ramadhan, said for many years Sauti za Busara has been at the forefront in promoting Zanzibar and Tanzania across the world, attracting international promoters and offering opportunities for musicians to share their work with global audiences.

"Since 2004 when the festival first opened its doors, our focus has been to showcase music with cultural identity that is performed 100 per cent live. We have consistently demonstrated there is a market and demand for new, exciting and original sounds that are uniquely local," he said.

Azam FC appoints new chairman

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NEWLY appointed Azam FC's Chairman, Nassor Mohamed Idrissa, has promised to work hard to bring glory to the club.

Idrissa (pictured) has replaced Shani Christoms, who has gone back to his job as Head of Legal and Administration of Bakhresa & CO.

Speaking yesterday, Idrissa said he needed support from all of the club's stakeholders to achieve his dream of helping the side turn into Vodacom Premier League (VPL) champions this season.

This is the second time for Idrissa to serve as the outfit's Chairman, he previously held the post for six months.

"We need to improve. We must work hard to achieve our dream of winning trophies this season, that should be our dream," he said.

He disclosed that all the season Azam FC has been in the league, apart from one season, the dream has been to win the Premier League's top honour and other tournament's trophies.

He said the club has, nevertheless, failed to realize it due to a number of problems.

He hailed Christoms for successfully leading the team.

He noted: "Christoms worked tirelessly during his tenure to help Azam FC achieve a lot both on and off the pitch."

"It was not easy to run the team, Azam FC is a model of professional football in the country because of the structures he established," he said. Azam FC, under Zambian coach George Lwandamina, is placed third in the VPL standing with 32 points from 17 games.

Recently the team have been performing badly in the Premier League. The club has boosted its squad by signing new players, namely Tanzanian Yahya Zayd, who was playing for Egypt's Pharco, and Ugandan goalie, Mathias Kigonya, who was playing in Zambia.

The team are in Zanzibar preparing for the Premier League's resumption.

Azam FC has played two friendly matches against the Isles' teams, Malindi and KMKM, where they notched 2-0 victory over Malindi before losing 2-0 to KMKM.



Ndayiragije: Taifa Stars still have chance in CHAN finals



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije has said his team still have the chance to make it to the next round of the 2021 Total African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals despite losing to Zambia on Tuesday night.

Taifa Stars got their group stage campaign underway with an underwhelming 2-0 loss to Zambia in Limbe, Cameroon.

Second-half goals by captain Collins Sikombe and Emmanuel Chabula settled the Group D match played in the city.

Playmaker Sikombe converted a second-half penalty on the 63rd minute before Chabula sweetly volleyed with nine minutes remaining to complete an impressive showing by the 'Chipolopolo'.

But the Zambians could have won the match by a wider margin, had their forwards converted chances which came their way.

Zambia's Chabula missed a sitter with Taifa Stars' goalkeeper, Aishi Manula, completely beaten on the

75th minute.

'Taifa Stars' forwards Yusuf Mhilu, Ditram Nchimbi and Ayub Lyanga managed to get goal scoring chances but were let down by poor decisions when it mattered most.

Lyanga blasted wide after he made a good turn to beat his marker in the first half.

Nchimbi was put through on goal by a good pass from second half substitute Farid Mussa but he opted to chip the onrushing goalkeeper from a tight angle and saw his effort go over the crossbar.

Despite seeing his side lose the game, Ndayiragije said it was a 50-50 open game that either side could have won.

He disclosed: "The game was basically a 50/50 and our opponents Zambia managed to capitalize and take their chances. The two teams played good football and the fans enjoyed what they saw."

The Taifa Stars' coach also insisted that his team still have every chance of qualifying from their group and progressing to the quarterfinals of the tournament.

He added: "We need to keep working hard because we still have two games to play in the group and we have a chance."

In the other Group D match played on Tuesday, Guinea beat Namibia 3-0, while Rwanda held Uganda to a goalless draw in a Group C fixture played a day back.

Two first-half goals by striker Yakhoubba Barry and his AC Horoya teammate Morlaye Sylla put Guinea in cruise control of the Group D match in Limbe

Tanzania will play Namibia in their next group match on Saturday while Guinea take on Zambia in the day's other game

The CHAN tournament brings together locally based players playing in the domestic leagues of their respective countries. Morocco are the competition's defending champions.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA!
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

DADAZ. A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

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