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Youth handed 30-yr sentence for rape of Standard Six pupil

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

A 20-year-old youth found guilty of statutory rape and impregnating a standard six pupil was yesterday sentenced to 30 years in prison by the Geita district court.

Handing out the verdict, senior resident magistrate Samwel Maweda said the prosecution proved beyond reasonable doubt that Kasonoko Emmanuel, resident of Chibingo village of Geita District in Geita Region, committed the offence.

The punishment would serve as a lesson to the convict and other men who lure young girls into acts of sexual relationships, he said.

'Statutory rape' is non-forcible sexual activity in which one of the individuals is below the age of consent which is 18 in Tanzania and many other countries.

Maweda said prosecution led by state attorney Clemence Kato adduced in court four witnesses and three exhibits which

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ACT-Wazalendo 'consulting' on unity government option

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati sows maize seeds in a demonstration farm shortly after inaugurating the region's 2020/2021 farming season yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Tiganya Vincent

THE main opposition party in Zanzibar, ACT-Wazalendo is holding a series of meetings in its support bases here seeking consensus on participating in a Government of National Unity (GNU).

It is now one week since President Hussein Mwinyi unveiled his cabinet with slots reserved for the opposition left vacant, including the constitutional position of First Vice President.

An investigation by The Guardian indicated that the consultative meetings are taking place in Unguja and Pemba, with opinions differing as hardliners reject the proposal and moderates insist that 'bygones be bygones' and become part of the government.

Asked about the stance of the party, the ACT-Wazalendo director of communications and publicity, Salum Bimani said no decision had been made on the matter.

"We are still continuing with our meetings. We will make the decision known once we reach it,"

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VP set for SADC security summit

By Guardian Correspondent

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan is scheduled to represent President John Magufuli at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit on politics, defence and security slated for tomorrow in the Botswana capital, Gaborone.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the summit will among other issues, deliberate on urgent issues in the regional security situation.

The meeting is an extraordinary summit of a SADC organ known as the troika, grouping Botswana, Malawi

The SADC organ is responsible for coordinating peace and security efforts in the region, mandated to steer member states' initiatives on matters touching on threaten peace, security and stability in the region

and Zimbabwe, joined by other countries participating in the Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique.

The meeting will be preceded by senior officials of the SADC organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation followed by an extraordinary meeting of the ministerial committee of the same organ that were to meet in rapid succession.

The summit will deliberate on a reconfiguration of the brigade that operates under the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO); as well as the terrorism situation in the SADC zone, the minister noted.

VP Samia will be accompanied by the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign ministry, Brigadier General Wilbert Ibuge, and his Defence and National Service counterpart, Dr Faraji Mnyepe, along with the Acting Director for Regional Cooperation

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Mindu Dam besieged by irrigation farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

UNREGULATED farming activities on the upper reaches of Mindu Dam—the main source of water for residents of Morogoro municipality—are gradually pushing the reservoir to the bottom.

Speaking during an inspection tour to assess the situation yesterday, Morogoro Water and Sanitation Authority (MOROWASA) managing director Tamim Katakwasaid invading hitherlands of the dam by farmers drawn from regions like Singida, Kigoma, Mwanza and Dar



es Salaam was harmful they have engaged workers to channel water for irrigation.

The farming activities take place in Mzinga, Mindu and Luhungo wards around water sources that feed the dam, which assures water for 75 per cent of the municipality, whose total population is put at 500,000 residents.

The dam's depth was at a record low that has never been reached before, and if not checked it would render it impossible to ensure steady water supply for the municipality and its environs, he said.

Morogoro Urban MP Abdulaziz Abood (pictured), also on the tour, decried the destruction from farming activities by the newcomers, saying the receding water levels were

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Haroun Ali Suleiman (R), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Constitution, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance), receives office documents from his predecessor, Issa Haji Gavu, at a handing-over ceremony held yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Youth handed for rape of Standard Six pupil

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implicated and finally proved that he committed those acts.

The convict had on diverse dates between February and June this year, enticed the girl and finally had his way and the two proceeded to have sexual relations several times in the bush, the magistrate surmised.

Earlier, the court heard that the secret came out recently when parents of the girl (names withheld) realized that their daughter's tummy was unusually protruding and when they took her to a health facility, the pregnancy test came out positive.

The parents then took the girl to task—wanting to know who was responsible. That is when the girl named Emmanuel, confessing that the statutory rape took place not once but several times, the court heard.

Police arrested the suspect and

in his recorded statement, he came clean and told the officers that indeed he committed the offence without knowing that it was a criminal act to lure an underage girl and a pupil for that matter into sexual activity.

A medical officer from Katoro Health Centre who was one of the witnesses told the court earlier that the victim was four months pregnant by the time she was put to medical tests.

In his sentence, Maweda said the girl told the court sexual activities between her and the felon took place several times in the bush—the same thing Emmanuel owned up to in the police statement which he later disowned in court.

"I hereby sentence to 30 years in jail for raping the girl and another 30 years for impregnating a pupil," the magistrate intoned, with the sentences running concurrently, meanwhile as any unsatisfied party was free to lodge an appeal.

Mindu Dam besieged by irrigation farming

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unprecedented in recent years.

He told residents of the three wards to stop farming activities, with MP Abood saying that if farming activities are not controlled, Morogoro residents would soon face an acute shortage of water.

"President John Magufuli cared for us and gave us the big water project, but we may no longer access the water if we cannot protect water sources thereof that are being destroyed by farming activities. We must take steps to arrest the situation," he emphasised.

He said he inspected the dam and

witnessed how alarming the situation has become, "all due to what was going on around it."

Farmers are engaged in the cultivation of maize, tomatoes, cassava, vegetables, onions and other crops and use dam water for irrigation, he declared.

The MP intends to sit with the farmers or their representatives to see how to end the threat posed to the dam, including finding other areas for them to cultivate in order to protect the dam.

His office would donate 10,000 tree seedlings for planting around the dam to protect the environment, he added.

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he said.

Party insiders privy to the goings-on noted that engagements were being traded between hard-line positions taken by pro and anti GNU groups, as to the pros and cons of joining the government.

Even before the closure of voting on October 28, ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate for Zanzibar, Seif Sharif Hamad had declared that rigging was taking place.

In a spectacular move, Hamad stormed a polling station, calling on his supporters to move in and guard the votes, claiming that the party's agents

ACT-Wazalendo 'consulting' on unity government option

were being restrained from accessing polling stations, upon which the candidate was briefly arrested.

When the results were finally released and Dr Mwinyi had a 76.2 per cent win, Hamad called the entire process a sham.

ACT-Wazalendo won four seats in the House of Representatives but one fell vacant after the representative-elect for Pandani, Abubakar Khamis Bakari died.

Unveiling the cabinet at the Zanzibar State House last week, Dr Mwinyi said ACT Wazalendo need to fill the post

of First Vice President, and the Isles authorities were waiting for them to respond.

He also signaled two cabinet positions for the opposition party and even a number of deputy ministers, as the Isles president did not name any deputy ministers in his list.

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children and that of Trade and Industrial Development were reserved for the opposition party, he affirmed.

Tanzania horticulture export potential said to be over \$2 billion

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

TANZANIA is currently exporting horticulture produce valued at more than US\$780 million. However the industry's current potential is estimated to be more than US \$2 billion. The money will soon be realised from the opening up of new markets abroad.

"Our flagship horticultural products include avocados from the southern highlands, French beans and fresh cut flowers," revealed Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, the Chief Executive Director for TAHA which is the apex institution for the country's private sector.

She was speaking at the threshold of the forthcoming Horticultural Trade and Investment Forum organized by TAHA and which is scheduled to take place in Dar-es-Salaam on the 5th of December 2020.

According to Dr Mkindi, the hottest product on global horticulture trade at the moment are the Avocados commanding great demand and market value of US \$13 Billion, but as the fruits requests continue to escalate, soon the global value for the butter fruit berry is focused to hit the US \$23 billion mark.

"So far Tanzania is the only country in the region which can supply avocados to international markets and these fruits mostly originate from southern highlands," stated the TAHA official.

It was also reported that Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has expressed interest in buying black peppers (spices) from Tanzania and this provides marketing potential for horticultural produce from Tanga and Morogoro regions.

In the realization of such potential, Tanzania is thus organising the horticulture and investment Forum to tap from the industry.

To be held at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dar-es-Salaam City, the 'Horticultural Trade and Investment Forum,' themed: 'Unlocking Opportunities for horticultural products in Regional and International Markets', targets to address untapped potential market opportunities available in the industry.

According to Dr Mkindi, the event will bring together nearly 500 participants from the East African Community (EAC) member states (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and South-Sudan) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), including Malawi, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as well as the host Tanzania.

"We are going to discuss ways of discovering and opening up new markets for horticultural products within the EAC and SADC and how to harness them towards the transformation of various sectors of the economy, business ventures and capital investments," explained the TAHA Director.

Tanzania's horticultural sectors accounts for 38 percent of total Agricultural exports. However, ground handling and transport remain a major challenge with post harvest loss being estimated to be around 40 percent.



So far Tanzania is the only country in the region which can supply avocados to international markets and these fruits mostly originate from southern highlands

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and SADC national coordinator Agnes Kayola.

The SADC organ is responsible for coordinating peace and security efforts in the region,

VP set for SADC security summit

mandated to steer member states' initiatives on matters touching on threaten peace, security and stability in the region. It is

coordinated at the summit level, with a chairman, an incoming chairman and outgoing chairman, and reports to the current

chairman of the SADC Summit, as provided for under Article 2 of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.



John Ulanga (R), Trade Mark East Africa's representative in Tanzania, addresses a meeting of Female Future Alumni Network members organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him (from-L) are Peter Ulanga, a consultant on technology; ICT entrepreneur Cynthia Bavo and digital advisor Kai Mollel. ATE and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises launched the network last year as a professional networking and mentorship platform for career women in Tanzania advocating gender sensitivity in various aspects of business environment which excessively affect the performance and effectiveness of business. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

MORE than 70 per cent of farmers in Lushoto District, Tanga Region have had their lives transformed after adopting horticultural farming that earned them substantial incomes.

This was revealed by farmers from 'Umoja A' group in Mgwashi Village in the district saying horticulture farming boosted their lives.

They explained that their achievements from horticultural farming included producing

Horticulture farming transforms many lives of Lushoto residents

quality products.

They said as for now they only cultivate a small plot of land but harvest better quality crops readily demanded in the market.

"We now look for markets for the crops we cultivate hence we do not incur losses as we know what the markets want and in what quantities," said Simon Othinieli, a group member.

They also explained their plans in widening their market reach and have in mind Dodoma market including Zanzibar and Pemba.

Vumilia Zekankuba, coordinator of the project that empowers horticultural farmers (TANSEP) said the project in Tanga Region was being implemented in Lushoto and Bumbuli districts

and had a total of 38 registered groups.

"As you can see the project has been of great success as farmers have been empowered with the knowledge on crop quality and how to store them as well as looking for markets," she said.

She said initially the farmers faced the challenges of fighting destructive pests of their crops.



Africa's Master Chef Fred Uisso aka Masaptasapta (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing nationwide barbecue contest hosted by Tanzania Breweries Ltd. It is primarily meant to improve the quality of services provided in the food and drinks business. From his left: Safari Lager Brand manager Pamela Kikuli, assistant chef Hassanali Msiha and TBL marketing trainee Eva Mpongolo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

SIX people have died and two others injured after the car they were traveling in rammed into a stationary truck in Meserani Ward in Monduli District, Arusha Region.

Arusha Regional Police Commander (RPC) Salum Hamduni said that the accident occurred on Wednesday night at around 8 pm at Sofa Army Camp in Meserani Ward along Arusha-Dodoma highway.

He said that the accident involved a Toyota Land cruiser hard top with registration number T107 BMV, a property of Catholic Church, Msakta Babati Parish and a stationary truck registered RAA 168E.

The truck had a trailer with registration number RLO167-Mercedes Benz which was parked along the road after developing mechanical problems.

He said that one of

Six dead, two injured in Monduli car mishap

the dead includes Sixtus Massawe, a priest at Masakta Parish in Babati District, Manyara Region. RPC Massawe identified another person who died in the accident as Francis Gitayane (driver); Marko Slaa (56), Silas Giani, Patrice Faustine (34), Timothy Faustine, and another who was identified by a single name, Dismas. All of them were residents of Masakta in Babati.

He also said that the two people who were injured were rushed to Mount Meru Hospital for treatment.

RPC Hamduni said that the deceased bodies have been kept at the Monduli District Hospital.

He cited the recklessness of the Toyota Land Cruiser's driver one of the major factors of the accident. According to him, earlier investigation shows that

the driver was too speedy and he didn't even think of being more careful considering that they were travelling at night. The RPC further reminded all drivers to adhere to traffic rules and regulations to avoid unnecessary road crashes.

Reports show that 80 per cent of accidents in the country were due to reckless drivers, 12 per cent caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 per cent by climate change, while only 2 per cent of road accidents are caused by poor infrastructure.

The Global figures as provided by WHO in 2018, indicates that each year 1.35 million people die as a result of road traffic crashes, and millions more are injured or disabled while head injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability among motorcycle riders.

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has issued 480.20m/- in loan to Bagamoyo-based Ruvu Irrigation Farmers' Cooperative Union (CHAURU) for procuring modern farm inputs and agricultural machinery.

Established in 2002, CHAURU involved in irrigation since the past 18 years, but has been facing obstacles in access of farm inputs and modern machines to increase productivity.

Handing over the dummy cheque on Wednesday, TADB's director of finance, Deric Lugemala said that the loan is issued at an annual interest rate of 12 per cent, which is affordable to borrowers and more importantly boost the society's production capacity.

"CHAURU has been seeking for this loan since January this year. The main challenge is access to funds for inputs and machines. The loan will help them

Agro-bank empowers Ruvu farmers' co-operative union with 480million/-

in procuring these requirements hence boost productivity by cutting production costs;

We are aware of the vandalized irrigation infrastructure and lack of silos, I would like to assure that these challenges will be addressed in the next move of our business relationship," said Lugemala.

According to him, the agro-bank has so far remitted loans worth 20.8bn/- to agriculture related programs implemented in the coast region.

Sadala Chacha, CHAURU board chairman said that the loan has so far been deposited in the society's account and part of the money has been used in

procuring two 75 Horsepower John Deer tractors.

"The loan is to be paid back in three years while the farm inputs goes to twelve months at the same interest rate. From this amount 143 million is for procuring the two tractors, 90m/- for procuring 36 tonnes of Saro 5 TXD 306 paddy seeds and the rest 246m/- is for fertilizer;

"With the procurement of tractors we hope for cutting down operational costs in renting tractors for cultivation. We used to incur 90m/- in renting four tractors for every season. We will rent only two tractors" said Chacha.

He said out of the 3,209 hectares of

the farm, 720 hectares are for growing paddy through irrigation farming. About 350 hectares are for growing cashew nuts while 100 hectares are for horticulture. However, about 1,300 hectares are yet to be developed due to shortage of resources.

"The society started with 160 members back in 2002 but has today grown to 894 members. CHAURU has 13 permanent employees and about 1,500 temporary employees working on farms. In the 2019/20 season we utilized 650 hectares of the reserved farm for paddy but in the season 2020/21 we expect to utilize the whole 720 hectares following the TADB's

loan" he added.

He asserted that the society's paddy yields in the 2018/19 season were 4,800 tons that jumped to 5,200 in the year 2019/20 season. The 2020/21 target is to secure 6,000 tons in yield.

Chacha concluded that the society still needs more support from financial institutions for developing the farm infrastructures and building new silos enough for harvest. Currently the society's silos capacity can manage only 2,500 tons while the demand stands at 6,000. The rest of the yields are however being kept in society's members private silos for all these years.

Immigration officials in Mwanza hold Ethiopian citizens over formalities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

IMMIGRATION authorities in Mwanza Region are holding 52 illegal immigrants from Ethiopia who were arrested from a house in Buhuku area in Buhongwa Ward, Nyamagana District. Bahati Mwaifuge, Mwanza Region's Immigration Officer told reporters here on Tuesday that the immigrants were given shelter at the deserted house. She said after interrogation, they confessed to have entered the country illegally and that their aim was to go to South Africa to look for greener pastures.

Mwaifuge explained that of the 52 immigrants, four were arrested at a guest house in Mwanza City's Mabatini area while the others were arrested at Buhongwa.

She said of late there have a huge influx of illegal immigrants entering the country, adding that during this month alone the total has reached 59, as the case for the seven who were earlier arrested was in courts.

Mwaifuge said the arrests were conducted in collaboration with the police and that they would appear in court soon after completion of legal procedures.

She said the penalty for the offence of entering the country

illegally was 20 years in jail and/or 20m/- fine. He called on Mwanza Region residents not to shelter any immigrants from foreign, and instead they should report them to appropriate authorities.

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA RURAL ENERGY AGENCY



PUBLIC NOTICE

Addendum No. 1
For
Tender No: AE/008/2020-21/HQ/G/11
For
Rural Electrification Densification Project Round II(B)

Date: 27th November, 2020

1. The Rural Energy Agency has extended submission deadline for Tender No: AE/008/2020-21/HQ/G/11; Rural Electrification Densification Project round II(B).
2. The new submission deadline will be **Monday, 28th December 2020 at 1000 Hours**. The bid submission will be at 5th Floor, PSSSF House Wing B, Makole Road, Dodoma.
3. A complete set of pre-qualification documents in English may be purchased by interested applicants and voluntarily formed joint ventures on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Tanzanian Shillings (TZS 100,000.00 or USD 50). The method of payment shall be deposit in the Rural Energy Agency CRDB Bank Account No 0111029697400 (for TZS) and 0211029697400 (for USD). Applicants are responsible to collect Pre-Qualification Documents either in personal or through Courier upon presentation of proof of payment.

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By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Workers called on to improve health care delivery services

THE government has appealed to health workers in the country to improve service delivery in accordance with the country's lower middle income status, noting that health sector require better services.

The call was made by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Prof Mabula Mchemba while officiating at the opening of 7th Tanzania health summit that ended yesterday in Dodoma.

Among the institutions that attended the function was the Health Promotion and Systems Strengthening (HPSS) which used the occasion to publicise its well known project dubbed: Tuimarishé Afya which operates in Tanzania to support the Community Health Fund (CHF).

The programme is under the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government and the Ministry of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children to roll out the Community Health Fund to informal sector workers and rural populations.

According to HPSS's project manager, Ally Abdallah, the target of the project was to strengthen the engagement and

capacities of government staff such as health and community development officers in health promotion; Improving the health financing system: strengthening of public financial management as well as reorganizing the CHF into viable social health insurance schemes.

Others are improving the flow of "matching funds" from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to decentralized level; Support to the local government authorities in improving the management of supplies and essential drugs and the maintenance of the technical infrastructure (buildings, equipment) of the health system.

"The HPSS Tuimarishé Afya Project follows a 'systems approach' and is based on the understanding that the successful promotion of community responsibility and action towards improved health should raise demand for quality health services.

The rationale for the project is therefore: to improve community health, both demand and supply need to be strengthened concurrently and systems relating to access need to be

supported," he added.

The project which is sponsored by the government of Switzerland through Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation under Swiss TPHI focuses on health system strengthening and is to improve the health financing system.

This includes strengthening of the public financial management, supporting Community Health Funds through re-organising them into viable social health insurance schemes, and improving the flows of funding from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to the health services in Dodoma Region.

In an interview with this paper, HPSS project director, Manfred Stoermer said however, that the project's efforts to make additional financial resources available and to mobilize community activities may be undermined if the quality of health services is perceived to be poor.

"HPSS Tuimarishé Afya hence also aims to improve the management of supplies and essential drugs and the maintenance of the technical infrastructure (buildings, equipment) of the health system."



A Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technician moves to repair a leaking water pipe at Mbezi Msakuzi in Ubungu District yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MILAD UN NABI S.A.W & 77th Birthday Celebrations of His Holiness Dr. Syedna AliQadr Mufaddal Saifuddin (TUS)

PUBLIC NOTICE – ROAD CLOSURE

The General Public is hereby informed that on **Saturday, 28th Nov 2020**, A procession to celebrate **Milad u Nabi S.A.W and 77th Birthday of their Spiritual leader**, organized by **The Dawoodi Bohra Community in Dar es Salaam** will pass through Kaluta/Zanaki Street up to Elia Complex and cross Bibi titi Street and turn left to Olimpio Street and to Alykhan Road up to Annadiil Burhani Cricket Grounds from 4PM to 6PM. All are Welcomed to witness the event. Permit **NO. IMC/R.3/3/57**

Women urged to take lead in digital space

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIAN women have been urged to take lead, be innovative and make proper use of digital space opportunities to improve their brands and businesses.

Digital stakeholders in Dar es Salaam said yesterday during a 'Female Future Alumni Tanzania' breakfast meeting organised by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in collaboration with the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO).

John Ulanga, Country Director of TradeMark East Africa said digital space is no longer optional as it has a number of opportunities which in-turn brings positive impacts to people's lives.

He said that women can only be competitive in driving their agenda on social networks if they are able to reach

their audience with the right content in a timely manner.

"Unless you are not planning to be successful, but you are really mulled to achieve your goals, then you have to embrace digital space opportunities because this is where the World is focusing, you have to communicate to the public what you are doing," Ulanga said.

He was supported by Kai Mollel, digital communication consultant and entrepreneur who said that the internet has a good number of opportunities that are yet to be exploited fully.

"Nowadays majority of women spend a lot of time online (social media) earning nothing, they use much of their time and bundles to search things that have no positive impacts to them, some of them are not aware of the huge potential available in the

digital economy," she said.

Mollel underscored the need for continued awareness programmes to educate the public especially women on the wealth available in digital space.

According to her, encouraging women to utilise digital opportunities and building a gender balanced tech sector, will play an important role that will boost innovation and bring economic benefits to the country's economy.

For his part, Peter Ulanga, an international consultant on ICTs said to reap big from digital space, women have to first create their ideal and good online images. "While using the digital space, we should also remember protecting our information and privacy, this is another area that needs more measures to support women entrepreneurs and thus enable them

remain safe while also benefiting from the digital economy," he said.

Anabahati Mlay, ATE's female future coordinator said the meeting with a theme "Harnessing female Talent in the Digital Economy", brought women from various private and public institutions to discuss and share more expertise in the field with a push of helping more women pursues their dreams through use of technology.

"In July, 2019, ATE in collaboration with Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) launched Female Future Alumni Network as a professional networking and mentorship platform to career women in Tanzania intending to advocate for gender sensitivity in various aspects of business environment which excessively affect the performance and effectiveness of business."



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WITH THPS

Tanzania Health Promotion Supports (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under non-governmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGEC), Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems for comprehensive quality health services including HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of GBV; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services; laboratory systems and services and health management information systems (HIMS).

THPS is looking to fill the following position to provide support to the procurement department.

Title: Procurement & Logistics Assistant
Location: THPS Headquarters at Dar es Salaam
Reports to: Procurement & Logistics Manager.

Overall Job Summary:

The Procurement and Logistics Assistant will help the Procurement & Logistics Manager to ensure effective procurement systems are adhered to through following the purchasing processes and ensure timely delivery of items to intended recipients. She/he will assist the Procurement & Logistics Manager in the implementation of quality procurement services and work in close collaboration with all the Regional teams to provide procurement & logistics support.

Roles and Responsibility

- Compile documents for payment (Attach the received invoices on the Purchase order) and send the same to Accounts department
- Archiving of procurement documents such as purchase orders, proformas and analysis documents for various sourced out Supplies, Services, works and Consultancy.
- Receive all invoices and manage the workflow with regard to when they arrived at Procurement Department and when were they sent to Accounts for payment
- Fill in and keep updating the Excel Spreadsheet for various procurement for future Procurement updates to Programs.
- Update the materials specifications and price for various procured materials for future references.
- Prepare Vendor analysis for the obtained bids and Purchase orders
- Work on all Open Purchase orders to ensure vendors are paid
- Undertake orders expedition and ensure materials are delivered to the required final destination.
- Receive various Procured items in case the stores Person is absent
- Undertake all other activities as shall be provided by the supervisor.

Qualifications, Experience & Skills required:

- Bachelor Degree in Procurement and Logistics Management. PSPTB registered under graduate category will be an added advantage.
- At least three years working experience in Procurement and Logistics management.
- Experience working with NGO's and/or donor-funded programs will be an added advantage
- Ability to work under minimum supervision and with highest degree of integrity
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Kiswahili
- Basic computer skills with minimum of Microsoft word, and excel application.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should send their application cover letter one page maximum and CV four pages maximum to (recruitment@thps.or.tz) by **4th December 2020** with a subject line of 'Position' Procurement and Logistic Assistant. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Please do not attach any certificates when submitting online.

THPS is an equal opportunity employer;
Women, people living with HIV/AIDS and people living with disability are encouraged to apply.

Dr Mwinyi swears in Deputy PS (ICT) in President's Office

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday swore in Rashid Said Rashid as Deputy Permanent Secretary for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Office of the President (Finance and Planning.)

The swearing in event was held at Zanzibar State House attended by various top government officials including the Speaker of the House of Representatives Zubeir Ali Maulid, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Finance and Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali and the former Zanzibar

Attorney General Dr Mwinyi Talib Haji among others.

Soon after he was sworn in Rashid said Zanzibaris had high hopes and should expect to get quality and better services. He stressed that ICT would not be on taxation alone, but would also cover every sector including the blue economy, health services, education and others.

He said there was the need for using technology in solving problems facing teachers, adding that the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) has a great capability to do that.

Rashid said the aim of the government was to assure the people to pay taxes with ease as well as issues in the follow ups of birth certificates

He said the government will mobilise itself in ensuring graduates from Zanzibar's institutions of higher learning were oriented in serving Zanzibaris as there will be no need to bring in foreign experts.

Before his appointment Rashid Said Rashid was Director of ICT Systems in Bank of Tanzania (BoT).



Soon after he was sworn in Rashid said Zanzibaris had high hopes and should expect to get quality and better services

Empowering Women and Youth in Horticulture Production and Marketing (KIBOWAVI) Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) is a Swiss INGO actively contributing to the improvement of the living conditions and status of economically poor and socially disadvantaged people in more than 33 developing countries. HELVETAS has its Head Office in Switzerland (www.helvetas.org). HELVETAS is one of the most experienced and largest development organisations in Switzerland. In its programme in Tanzania, HELVETAS is implementing development initiatives in the two thematic fields of Skill Development and Education (SDE) and Sustainable and Inclusive Economics (SIE) through various projects including the School based In-service Teacher Training (SITT), Grain Post Harvest Loss Prevention (GPLP) project in central corridor regions, the Empowering Smallholder Women and Youth on Rice Postharvest Management and Marketing (RIPOMA) project in Morogoro region, the Organic Cotton project in Singida and Simiyu regions, the Save Safe Food (SSF) project in Rukwa and Katavi regions, Youth Employment through Skills Enhancement (YES) project in Dodoma and Singida regions and KIBOWAVI in Southern Highlands.

HELVETAS Tanzania is receiving funding from the European Union for the implementation of its four years project named as 'Kilimo Bora cha matunda na mbogamboga kwa Wanawake na Vijana (KIBOWAVI)' The project aims at improving livelihoods of 75,000 rural people, including 15,000 directly targeted poor smallholder farmers (at least 70% women, 50 % youth) by contributing to inclusive economic growth, promote private sector development and job creation in the horticulture sector, and to increase food and nutrition security in the Southern Highlands regions (Songwe, Mbeya and Katavi regions) through targeted interventions in the horticulture sector to increase productivity, production, resource-efficiency, diversity, local value addition and marketing.

HELVETAS Tanzania in partnership with Tanzania Food Processors Association (TAFOPA) for its KIBOWAVI project invites applications from qualified and dynamic Tanzanian citizens to fill for the following position. Qualified candidate will be posted/stationed in Mbeya region with regular travels to Songwe and Katavi regions.

Position :	Project Officer
Duration :	3 years upon successful performances and availability of funding
Benefits :	Very attractive, as per the rules and regulations of HELVETAS Tanzania and TAFOPA

Application Procedures:
Interested candidates are requested to ask for the detailed Terms of Reference via Email: kibowavi@helvetas.org
Women candidates are highly encouraged to apply. Deadline for submission of applications is **3rd December 2020**.



Ni Zaidi ya Pesa

Ada za wateja. Piga *150*01#

Kiwango (Tsh)		Ada kwa mteja (Tsh)		
Kuanzia	Mwisho	Kutuma pesa kwenda Tigo Pesa	Kutuma pesa kwenda Mitandao washirika	Kutoa pesa kwa Wakala/ATM
100	999	15	15	N/A
1,000	1,999	30	50	300
2,000	2,999	30	50	400
3,000	3,999	50	100	600
4,000	4,999	60	100	650
5,000	6,999	130	200	950
7,000	9,999	150	200	1,000
10,000	19,999	360	550	1,450
20,000	29,999	380	600	1,850
30,000	39,999	400	680	1,850
40,000	49,999	410	750	2,350
50,000	99,999	720	1,250	2,700
100,000	199,999	1,000	1,600	3,650
200,000	299,999	1,200	1,900	5,300
300,000	399,999	1,500	2,300	6,500
400,000	499,999	1,500	2,500	7,000
500,000	599,999	2,200	3,200	7,500
600,000	799,999	3,300	4,300	8,000
800,000	899,999	3,500	4,300	8,000
900,000	1,000,000	3,500	6,000	8,000
1,000,001	3,000,000	5,000	6,000	8,000
3,000,001	10,000,000	5,000	6,000	10,000

Tukio	Kuanzia	Mwisho	Ada
Kuweka pesa	1,000	5,000,000	BURE
Kutuma pesa kwa mteja ambaye hana akaunti ya Tigo Pesa au akaunti ya mitandao washirika	1,000	1,000,000	Ada ya kutuma + Ada ya kutoa
Kutoa pesa kwa mteja ambaye hana akaunti ya Tigo Pesa au akaunti ya mitandao washirika	1,000	1,000,000	BURE
Kutuma pesa kwenda nchi za nje	100	5,000,000	Kulingana na kiwango
Malipo kwa Tigo Pesa	500	5,000,000	Kulingana na kiwango
Tukio			Ada
Kubadilisha namba ya siri			BURE
Kuangalia salio/ Taarifa ndogo			50
Kurudisha muamala uliokosea (Jihudumie)			50
Kupata taarifa ya mwezi			Ada
Taarifa ya Mwezi jana/Mwezi huu			BURE
Taarifa ya Miezi 3			1,000
Taarifa ya Mwaka 1			2,000

Kwa vigezo na masharti ya huduma tembelea tovuti: <https://www.tigo.co.tz/tigo-pesa-standard-terms-and-conditions>. Ada zote zimejumia kodi zote zinazohusika. Kwa Ada za huduma nyingine tembelea tovuti: <https://www.tigo.co.tz/tigo-pesa-tariffs>

Furaha
Malipo kwa
Tigo Pesa:



KUMBUKA:

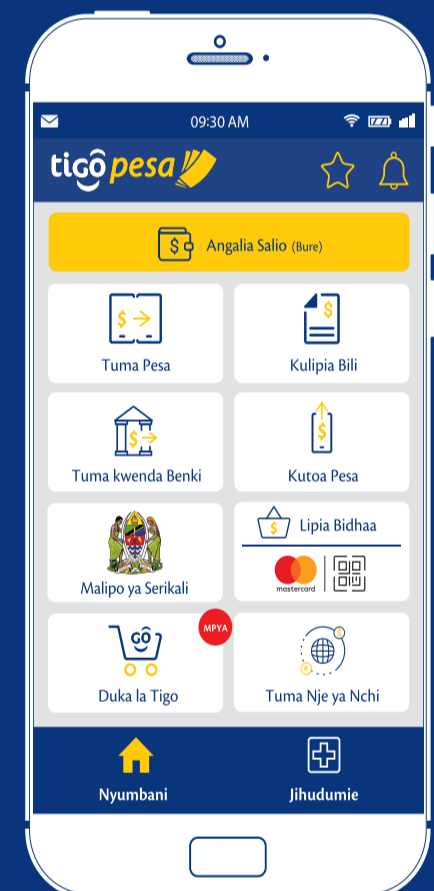
- Unaweza kuweka au kupokea hadi TSh 5,000,000 kwa siku na unaweza kutoa au kutuma hadi TSh 5,000,000 kwa siku, pia unaweza kuhifadhi hadi TSh 10,000,000 kwa wakati mmoja kwenye akaunti yako ya Tigo Pesa, kama usajili wako umekamilika.
- Onesha kitambulisho chako kabla ya kuweka au kutoa pesa kwa Wakala.
- Hakikisha taarifa zako za usajili ni sahihi kwa kupiga *106# kisha 2 au piga huduma kwa wateja kwa maelezo zaidi.
- Hesabu pesa zako na hakikisha salio lako la Tigo Pesa linaendana na muamala uliofanya kabla ya kuondoka kwa Wakala.
- Kila mara unapotuma pesa, kumbuka kuhakiki namba ya mpokeaji kuepuka kukosea na usumbufu.
- Hakikisha unahifadhi namba yako ya siri (PIN) kwa usalama. Usimpe wala kumtaja mtu yeyote namba yako ya siri; iwe wakala wa Tigo Pesa, mfanyakazi wa Tigo au mhadumu wa Tigo Huduma kwa Wateja. Pia kumbuka kubadili namba yako ya siri mara kwa mara.
- Kutuma muamala wa zaidi ya TSh 5,000,000 ni kwa wafanyabiashara waliosajiliwa pekee.
- Tigo itakupigia kwa 0713800800 au 0713123103 Tu.
- Kutoa taarifa yoyote dhidi ya udanganyifu Piga simu namba 100 au tuma ujumbe kwa barua pepe kwenda customercare@tigo.co.tz
- Unaweza kupokea pesa kutoka zaidi ya Nchi 150 duniani

Unaweza kurudisha muamala uliokosea, token ya luku, ku-unbar akaunti yako ya Tigo Pesa na kuriseti PIN

Piga *150*01#
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App yenye urahisi wa kushangaza!



Fanya malipo ya Serikali



Pakua kwenye




Kuwasaliana na huduma kwa wateja,
Piga 100 bure au tembelea duka lolote la Tigo!
Ada hizi ni kuanzia June 2020



Experts plead for joint efforts to support exclusive breastfeeding

By Getrude Mbago

HEALTH experts and stakeholders in the country have called for more coordinated efforts to ensure that infants are exclusively breastfed in their first six months after birth.

According to the 2015 Tanzania Demographic Health Survey, only 59 per cent of children are exclusively breastfed in their first six months of life with over 40 per cent children lacking the essential service, a factor which contributes highly to under-five deaths.

Prof Karim Manji, a pediatrician at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) acknowledged that despite strides made by the government and stakeholders to promote exclusive breastfeeding, there is still a good number of infants who do not receive the service.

Prof Manji noted that although breastfeeding is a natural process, it is reported to be influenced by different socio-cultural factors, habits, standards, and behaviors.

He said that it has also been proven that infants that are exclusively breastfed are also 14 times less likely to die within their first six months of life, compared to infants that are not exclusively breastfed.

"Exclusive breastfeeding is the best way to keep infants safe from various diseases in the early development and lifetime; breast milk has high immune globulins that help an infant to be safe from infections as they contain antibodies," he said.

He said that breastfeeding also reduces deaths due to respiratory tract infections and diarrhea, which are two of the main causes of death for children in Tanzania.

He also urged mothers to stop giving their babies artificial milk (formula feeding) as these are not safe for infants.

"This needs coordinated efforts to educate the public on the effects of formula feeding, parents should be educated on this intensively when they attend clinics," he said.

A paediatrician and breastfeeding specialist from Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Dr Mariam Noorani highlighted several challenges that thwart exclusive breastfeeding in the country.

"There is widespread knowledge about the importance of exclusive breastfeeding

and most mothers would wish to exclusively breastfeed. However, there are many challenges that families face that may result in the baby not being able to complete exclusive breastfeeding," he noted.

Dr Mariam named some of the challenges as some mothers feeling like their milk is not enough and thus start giving additional milk.

Another reason is poor support from their families including husbands.

Dr Mariam urged men to be supportive to their wives during breastfeeding and stop giving them unnecessary stresses as this can reduce the amount of milk.

"Shortage of trained health care providers who can support breastfeeding as well as adequate support for mothers to be able to continue breastfeeding even after maternity leave. This can include national policies to strongly allow babies at the workplace and a space to express and store milk," she added.

She also said that many women face breastfeeding difficulties like sore nipples, infections, baby refusing the breast or low milk supply. These problems need to be adequately managed for exclusive breastfeeding to continue. "Training health care workers in breastfeeding support will ensure that mothers receive support that they need. In many countries, there are trained specialists called lactation consultants who manage breastfeeding problems. We should make such a training program available locally," Dr Mariam said.

The expert further admitted that because many mothers don't follow the recommendations by health experts that babies should receive regular breastfeeding for their first six months or so, acute malnutrition and stunting are still common among local children.

She emphasized that breast milk is a baby's first vaccine, the first and best protection they have against illness and disease with newborns, accounting for nearly half of all deaths of children under five, saying early breastfeeding can make the difference between life and death.

"With breast milk being the major medicine and protection to various baby diseases, we have the specialists to intensify our efforts so that many more Tanzanian children and their mothers benefit from optimal breastfeeding practices," she noted.



Special Seats MP Bahati Kenneth (2nd-R) presents to Ubungu municipal director Beatrice Dominick (2nd-L) a donation in support of children admitted to Dar es Salaam's Sinza hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

Govt support guaranteed, Songwe Rc tells farmers

THE government in Songwe Region has assured stakeholders in the agricultural sector of cooperation to identify and find solutions to challenges facing the sector in order to have in place an enabling environment for its growth and contribute to the national income.

The remarks were given by John Palingo, Mbozi District Commissioner, who was representing Songwe Regional Commissioner Brig Gen Nicodemus Mwangela when speaking to reporters here early this week after opening a conference that brought together the public sector and other various agricultural stakeholders from Southern Highland Regions.

Palingo said the government will work together with the private sector in solving challenges facing the farming sector that employs more than 75 per cent of Tanzanians. "I congratulate the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor

of Tanzania (SAGCOT), Mbarali Cluster for organising the conference to discuss on how to develop the agricultural sector in the Southern Highlands regions," said RC Mwangela.

He further said Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe and Njombe regions are situated near the main gate to markets in SADC countries hence it was important to have in place strategies to develop the agricultural sector to cater for those markets.

He said the conference should discuss on strategic crops that could be cultivated in those regions and pledged that the government would play its part to ensure of an enabling environment for the implementation of the strategies.

"We should have one voice in our goals to strengthen the agricultural sector that would also spur the establishment and

development of industries to enable the country attain industrial economy status by 2025," Mwangela said.

The RC also appealed to farmers to abandon traditional farming practices and adopt modern farming practices by using modern equipment, farming inputs and quality seeds.

Tulla Mkonge, SAGCOT's Mbarali Cluster Manager said SAGCOT's aim was to empower farmers get connected to various service providers in farming to enable them access to both internal and external markets, including those of SADC countries.

John Nakei, SAGCOT's Kilombero Cluster Manager said apart from educating farmers on better farming practices, SAGCOT would also provide training in environmental protection.



Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (L) makes remarks at a ceremony at which the Hombolo Local Government Training Institute feted some workers and students for outstanding performance. It was held in Dodoma on Wednesday. Photo: MbarakaKambona

By Guardian Reporter

Over 4000 young women to gain from business guide programme

MORE than 4000 young women will benefit from a business guide programme implemented by the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) by end of this year.

To achieve the target, CAMFED has developed tools to support business guides as well as facilitate their teaching sessions and business mentoring to young women entrepreneurs. Under the programme, a total of 970 business guides will be trained.

The business guides manual which was launched in Dar es Salaam on Thursday comprises various topics such as introduction to agriculture as a business, positioning for growth, good business practices, access to capital, customer relations and marketing. Addressing delegates, training manager from the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), Steven Bondo said the programme which intends to economically empower young women is in line with the government's strategy

to transform the country into an industrialised nation by 2025.

Bondo added that the business guide program will help the government in implementing its various policies including the education development policy, youth policy and the small and medium enterprises development policy.

He said SIDO partnered with organisation in providing entrepreneurship training to CAMFED alumni association (CAMA) members in Tanga, Iringa, Morogoro and Coast regions.

"The government recognises the great job you are doing to support vulnerable girls through education and business trainings. At last 1,193 girls have so far benefited with more than 1.7bn/- business loans and capital", said the official noting the girls are from 32 districts in 9 regions.

He however underscored

the need for district business officers and district committees to continue following up on the girls to make sure they reach their business potential and connect them with a number of business opportunities available for women and youth.

CAMFED board chairman, Jeanne Ndyetabura said that supporting girls who fail to continue with their education to higher learning institutions are assisted through provision of life skills and entrepreneurship trainings.

"This is just one of the programmes we are implementing, CAMA members who will be trained as business guides will dedicate their time to educate and mentor ten or more young women within a year. We want them to assist 4,300 young women by end of December," said Ndyetabura.

Beneficiary of the programme, Eva John said that through CAMFED she has been able to grow her pineapple farming business from one acre to six acres.

"I am thankful to CAMFED for supporting us with business capital and loans. The trainings we received have made me who I am today," she said noting that her business started with a small capital of 800,000/- only.

CAMFED was launched in Tanzania in 2005, it works with the government to boost secondary school enrollment. It started working in Iringa region before spreading to eight other regions across the country. It works with 819 partner schools in 32 districts.

It has also supported more than 3.3 million children to go to school in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Malawi.

BMUs boost revenue sources five times in Pangani District

By Guardian Reporter

REVENUE collections have gone up five times in Pangani District Council from the support members of Beach management units (BMUs). This is one of the achievements recorded in the implementation of the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth (SWIOFish) Project, which is being executed in five pilot districts—Pangani, Bagamoyo, Mkinga, Tanga Urban, and Lindi Rural.

Under World Bank funded project, fifty BMU groups were established and before venturing into the new task of collecting revenues, members of fishery units were trained on how better to do the job. The task was part of empowering members with financial muscles.

In one year, the revenue collection in the district increased to 250m/- from 50m/- the used to collect in the past.

"This is one of the achievements of the project. As we trained group members on BMU in the district and they made a very wonderful job and they have proved to be effective," said Dr Rashid Tamatamah, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

He said: "So, we're encouraging other councils to use these BMUs to collect revenues from fisheries resources."

Through the six-year project, construction of BMU offices are in different stages of construction including Mkinga District at Zingibari, Pangani (Kipumbwi), Lindi Rural (Sudi), Bagamoyo (Dunda), and Chalinze (Saadani)

"Construction of offices at Zingibari, Dunda, and Kipumbwi is above 70 percent and the roofing and finishing are underway. Sudi and Saadani sites are lagging," he said.

Dr Tamatamah said that illegal fishing had been controlled by 100 per cent, adding that the

involvement of people under BMU groups contributed to such milestone achievements.

According to him, before SWIOFish project, only 25 per cent of fishing equipment was registered and until June, this year, the figure doubled to 58 per cent.

"This is an outcome of an awareness programme," he said Dr Nichrous Mlalila, coordinator of SWIOFish when presenting a progress report of the project recently in Dar es Salaam.

On illegal fishing, Dr Mlalila said that 600 suspects have been held for illegal fishing, thanks to strengthened monitoring control and surveillance measures under SWIOFish Project.

He said that the suspects were arrested following four major land and sea operations mounted along the coastline.

Coast, Lindi and Mtwara are the regions involved in the operations, whereby 73 cases related to illegal possession of explosives, spears and gas cylinders were reported.

Twenty-eight fisheries staffs were trained in investigation and field operations on bomb fishing and supported awareness-raising workshops for 72 judiciary and prosecutors on the impact of blast fishing were conducted.

The World Bank finances the regional programme which is implemented in Tanzania, Comoro and Mozambique.

Ezra Mutagwaba, acting director of fisheries in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries said that in Tanzania, the programme which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries (Zanzibar) and the Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA) focuses on six priority fish species.

He said that fisheries such as tuna and tuna-like species, prawns, reef fishes, small and medium pelagic species and octopus are priority of the project.

WHO urges African countries to ramp up readiness for COVID-19 vaccination drive

By Guardian Reporter

AS the race to find a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is showing increasing promise, a new World Health Organization (WHO) analysis finds that Africa is far from ready for what will be the continent's largest ever immunisation drive.

All 47 countries in the WHO African region have received WHO's vaccine readiness assessment tool which is intended to be used by Ministries of Health, with support from WHO and UNICEF. It provides a roadmap for countries to plan for COVID-19 vaccine introduction and covers 10 key areas: planning and coordination, resources and funding, vaccine regulations, service delivery, training and supervision, monitoring and evaluation, vaccine logistics, vaccine safety and surveillance and communications and community engagement.

Forty countries have updated the tool and provided data to WHO. An analysis finds that based on the self-reports by the countries, the African region has an average score of 33 per cent readiness for a COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, which is well below the desired benchmark of 80 per cent.

"The largest immunization drive in Africa's history is right around the corner, and African governments must urgently ramp up readiness. Planning and preparation will make or break this unprecedented endeavour, and we need active leadership and engagement from the highest levels of government with solid, comprehensive national

coordination plans and systems put in place," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

WHO together with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation and other partners is working to ensure equitable access to vaccines in Africa through the COVAX facility, the vaccines pillar of the WHO Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. When vaccines are licensed and approved, COVAX will work to secure enough doses to provide protection to an initial 20 per cent of the African population.

However, the WHO analysis of the country readiness data finds only 49 per cent have identified the priority populations for vaccination and have plans in place to reach them, and 44 per cent have coordination structures in place. Only 24 per cent have adequate plans for resources and funding, 17 per cent have data collection and monitoring tools ready and just 12 per cent have plans to communicate with communities to build trust and drive demand for immunization.

"Developing a safe and effective vaccine is just the first step in a successful rollout," said Dr Moeti. "If communities are not onboard and convinced that a vaccine will protect their health, we will make little headway. It's critical that countries reach out to communities and hear their concerns and give them a voice in the process."

WHO estimates the cost of rolling out a COVID-19 vaccine on the African continent to priority populations will be around US\$ 5.7

billion. This does not include an additional 15 per cent - 20 per cent cost for injection materials and the delivery of vaccines, which require trained health workers, supply chain and logistics and community mobilization. This cost is based on COVAX facility estimates of the average vaccine price at US\$ 10.55 per dose and that a two-dose regimen will be needed.

WHO and partners recently released guidance on COVID-19 vaccination planning and deployment for national governments, aiming to help them design strategies for the deployment, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 vaccines and better integrate their strategies and financing to boost efficiency.

Dr Moeti spoke during a virtual press conference today facilitated by APO Group. She was joined by Professor Helen Rees, Executive Director, Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand, Chairperson, African Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) and Chairperson of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. Other speakers were Professor Pontiano Kaleebu, Director Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and MRC/UVRI and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Uganda Research Unit; and Professor Fredrick N Were, Perinatal & Neonatal Medicine, University of Nairobi and Chief Research Scientist, Kenya Paediatric Research Consortium.



NMB Bank Plc digital sales manager Hezbon Mbate (L) speaks at a Taxpayers Day event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture

AGRICULTURAL non-state actors forum (ANSAF) is set to identify and unlock youth opportunities embedded in agriculture, industries, trade and related value chain for them to be able to generate income, offer them employment and spur the nation's economy.

Announcing this year's annual learning events at a press conference in Dar es Salaam, ANSAF Executive Director Audax Rukonge said that the forum will also focus on the challenges, look at the solutions so that the youth can fruitfully engage in productive agriculture, fisheries and Livestocks.

He said the forum is waiting for confirmation but they had requested the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to officiate the Annual Learning Events.

Elaborating further, Rukonge said the annual learning events are one of the platforms used to provide necessary evidence to trigger changes in policy and practice.

"You are all aware that about 65 percent of the industrial raw materials are from agriculture. Again, 34 percent of all Tanzanians are the youth aged between 15 years and 35 years old but unfortunately there is very small rate of employment in the formal sector, that's why we are emphasizing on unleashing youth

employment in agriculture by leveraging on industrialization," he said.

When opportunities are opened, the youth and others will be able to engage in productive agriculture, produce enough goods and products to feed the industries, generate income and spur the country's economy.

"This year we expect to bring together the youth from diverse background but only serious youth engaging in agriculture and its related sub-sectors. We expect the youth will get an opportunity to discuss and interact with agricultural experts and other stakeholders from the government and private sectors particularly in fruitful production, service provision, storage and processing products into value chain," he said.

The annual learning event to be held in Dodoma next week is themed: Unleashing youth employment in agriculture by leveraging on industrialization.

He said the participate will get an opportunity to discuss the role of ICT in the industry-agriculture linkages among the youths including identifying how they should be enabled in the development of ICT solutions and motivated to utilize ICT as one of the opportunities. A clear

pathway of linkage between these issues and markets as well as functional training areas should also be elaborated, he said

Some invited stakeholders to the learning events are from public and private institutions such as the youth, financial institutions, decision and policy makers, regulatory bodies, service providers, farmers groups, media, CSOs, Donors, etc.

At the end of 2015, the government announced industrialization as its key priority in making Tanzania become a semi-industrialized country by 2025, for which the contribution of manufacturing to the national economy must reach a minimum of 40% of the GDP. The aim is to become an economy with a broad and diverse base of manufacturing, processing and packaging industries that will lead both the production and export trade sectors.

However, increased efforts are still needed towards industrialization, structural transformation of the economy, enhanced trade competitiveness and effective utilization of the country's geographical advantage. Youths need to be educated, mobilized and supported in the context of policy and pragmatically.

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Joint Media Release

Atlas Mara Limited, ABC Holdings Limited and KCB Group Plc sign share purchase agreement for the acquisition of African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited

Complementary transaction that combines KCB's strong corporate and retail banking franchise with BancABC Tanzania's retail and commercial banking operations

Dar es Salaam – Atlas Mara Limited ("Atlas Mara"), ABC Holding Limited and KCB Group Plc ("KCB") announce that they have signed a definitive agreement regarding a proposed acquisition of African Banking Corporation Tanzania ("BancABC") by KCB followed by a subsequent merger with KCB's wholly owned subsidiary operating in Tanzania, KCB Bank Tanzania Limited ("KCB Tanzania"). Once implemented, the combined bank is expected to strengthen its financial and regulatory ratios, resulting in a robust balance sheet and capital structure that will support business growth and ensure the banks' customer base benefits from being a part of one of the biggest banking groups in East Africa.

The transaction is subject to the meeting of various conditions precedent which, amongst others, include regulatory approvals by the Bank of Tanzania, competition authorities, and all relevant entities.

The key highlights of the proposed transaction include:

- A complementary transaction that combines KCB Bank Tanzania's strong retail and corporate banking franchise with BancABC's retail and commercial banking operations.
- KCB Bank Tanzania and BancABC's customers to benefit from a well-capitalised bank, a more sophisticated product and service offering, and an enhanced distribution network across Tanzania.
- Following the legal merger of the two banks, the enlarged entity is expected to rank as a top ten bank in the industry and will be a wholly owned subsidiary of KCB Group Plc

Commenting on the transaction, KCB Bank Tanzania Managing Director Mr. Cosmas Kimario, said: "We are very pleased to have reached an agreement on a proposed merger with BancABC, a retail and commercial bank with complementary branch and agent network across key regions in Tanzania. This merger, will see the combined bank increase its market share and distribution network across the country, and improve our operating leverage by enabling us to deliver our existing product offerings to a wider base of customers in Tanzania while positioning the bank for sustainable growth in the long-term. In addition, BancABC's customers would benefit from best in class digital capability, transactional banking solutions and international banking offering from KCB's broader regional footprint. Notably, this transaction will allow us to play a greater role in Tanzania's robust economic growth, using our combined balance sheet to support our corporate customers while leveraging our enhanced distribution network to deepen financial inclusion in Tanzania.

Imani John, MD of BancABC, said: "We are delighted about the proposed merger with KCB Bank Tanzania. This transaction represents an opportunity for BancABC to benefit from being part of large banking group with significant operational track record across the East African region. Our combined operation will benefit from KCB Tanzania's strong digital banking capabilities, complementary branch and agent network, and innovative product offering, as well as international banking offerings leveraging the KCB regional footprint. I want to assure our clients that safety, security, and customer service will remain our top priorities during the transition, and they can look forward to new products and services as the combined institution pursues sustainable growth. Our mission to serve and support our customers during this time and to continue to contribute to economic development of the country will benefit significantly from this proposed merger, and we look forward to working with the KCB Tanzania team."

KCB Group Plc is East Africa's largest commercial Bank that was established in 1896 in Kenya. Over the years, the Bank has grown and spread its wings into Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia (Rep). Further to the banking businesses in these markets, KCB Group owns National Bank of Kenya, a Kenyan lender. Today KCB Group Plc has the largest branch network in the region with 360 branches, 1,090ATMs and over 23,230 merchants and agents offering bankingservices on a 24/7 basis in East Africa. Additionally, KCB Group owns KCB Insurance Agency, KCB Capital Limited, KCB Foundation and Kencom House Limited as non-banking businesses. The Bank has a wide network of correspondent relationships totaling over 200 banks across the globe and our customers are assured of a seamless facilitation of their international trade requirements wherever they are.

The proposed transaction is in line with Atlas Mara's repositioning as a streamlined holding company with an increased focus on a core footprint. The merger will see BancABC's retail loan capability, branch and agent network leverage KCB Tanzania's best in class digital platform, complementary distribution network and product suite to create a platform for further growth and the facilitation of financial inclusion for the unbanked in the country. BancABC and KCB Bank Tanzania will draw on Atlas Mara and KCB's strong track records of post-merger integration to ensure a successful combination.

For further information, please contact Christina Manyenye-Head of Marketing & Corporate Affairs; email: cmanyenye@tz.kcbbankgroup.com

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Czech investors' ideas take tourism sector to next level

THINGS might start to take a new look in the tourism sector, not at once but with a sort of fresh start, on the basis of designs of foreign investors as stated by members of a delegation of investors from the Czech Republic. They jetted in the country to survey investment opportunities in tourism, with setting up wildlife conservation projects their top priority. So far we are used to links between local conservation organizations and some foreign agencies, especially in the scientific and environmental aspects, not quite in setting up such areas, which implies managing a number of specific tourist attractions by themselves.

The coming of the delegation was said to have occurred as an uptake after efforts of the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) which sent a delegation to liaise with businessmen in the sector in several European countries, to market the country in a number of trade fairs. This is also part of the itinerary of the Czech business delegation, as it is working to organize a three-month long 'Tanzania Fair' slated for Prague sometimes in June to August 2021. Evidently it will be a prime travel, tourism and investment exhibition.

One refreshing aspect in what the Czech business delegation observed upon touching down and talking to TTB officials and the media was that while it is well known that East Africa has plenty of wildlife, most people in European tourism markets usually tie this awareness with Kenya as the proper destination. It appears that the correct version of things is beginning to percolate among travel industry operators and exhibitors near and far, given the kind of efforts that TTB and diplomatic missions abroad have over their past two or three decades done to correct the

faulty impression. This now appears to be changing, rapidly.

We are now starting to have more numerous voluntary and authoritative spokespersons for that view of things, as the Czech delegation was saying, that "Tanzania has abundant wildlife, something which most people in European countries are yet to learn and as Czech investors we are going to ensure that Tanzania gets well promoted.

Our country will serve as a portal for conveying visitors from those countries to East Africa, and more precisely Tanzania," was a straightforward assertion by Patrick Kupka, one of the six delegates.

It is other affirmations from the visitors which bring to light a new aspect in the tourism industry, as another delegate, Radan Dungalova from Brno Zoo in that country, said they were envisaging several conservation programs in Tanzania. This initiative would be in addition to being actively involved in the country's tourism sector on a mutual basis with Brno City. Not only do they wish to do conservation in Tanzania but also present that picture in their national market and well beyond, as they have wide links.

Zoo director Martin Hovorka was among the delegates, where his associate underlined the wish to "start raising awareness among our people that Tanzania has 21 national parks in addition to major game reserves. Czech people also need to know that the world has many other wildlife species apart from the few found in Asia and Europe, and most of these beasts only roam in Africa." References were also made on the need to invest in import and export ventures between Tanzania and the Czech Republic, to open a fresh link between Europe and Africa.

We have to scale up efforts in fight against TB in Africa

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) is an infectious disease usually caused by bacteria. Tuberculosis generally affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body. Most infections show no symptoms, in which case it is known as latent tuberculosis. About 10 per cent of latent infections progress to active disease which, if left untreated, kills about half of those affected. The classic symptoms of active TB are a chronic cough with blood-containing mucus, fever, night sweats, and weight loss.

Tuberculosis is spread through the air when people who have active TB in their lungs cough, spit, speak, or sneeze. People with latent TB do not spread the disease. Active infection occurs more often in people with HIV/AIDS and in those who smoke. Diagnosis of active TB is based on chest X-rays, as well as microscopic examination and culture of body fluids.

A total of 1.5 million people died from TB in 2018 including 251 000 people with HIV worldwide. TB is one of the top 10 causes of death and the leading cause from a single infectious agent above HIV/AIDS.

Tuberculosis incidence in Tanzania has gone up from 62,908 new cases recorded in 2015 to 82,166 being attended to at present, partially because testing has been enhanced.

This assessment was made by the Chief Medical Officer, Prof Abel Makubi, when opening the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme annual meeting recently. According to him fatalities from the infectious bacterial disease declined from 30,000 in 2015 to 20,000 deaths recorded this year, largely due to early treatment.

"Since 2015, the lives of over

300,000 patients, including 45,000 with mild symptoms, have been saved because of early detection and treatment," he said.

Prof Makubi said enhanced detection and early treatment were possible because of implementation of TB control strategies of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme.

The strategies include mass testing targeting at-risk groups such as households with patients, prisoners, artisanal miners, drug users and people living in congested settlements, he affirmed.

"We have also invested in new molecular techniques for easier and more accurate diagnosis of TB," he elaborated.

Dr Leonard Subi, the director of Preventive Services said the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has achieved its objectives set out in the TB control strategy that ends this year. "These numbers show that we have reached our death reduction target as well as the burden of the disease in the country," he said, pointing out that the government increased diagnosis centres for chronic TB from just one facility in 2015 to 145 at present.

The World Health Organisation Global TB Report 2019 showed that incidence and deaths have been falling relatively fast in the WHO African Region (4.1 per cent and 5.6 per cent, respectively, per year), with cumulative reductions of 12 per cent for incidence and 16 per cent for deaths between 2015 and 2018.

Seven high TB burden countries including Tanzania were on track to achieve the 2020 milestones in the fight against TB. Others are Kenya, Lesotho, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Zimbabwe, the agency noted.

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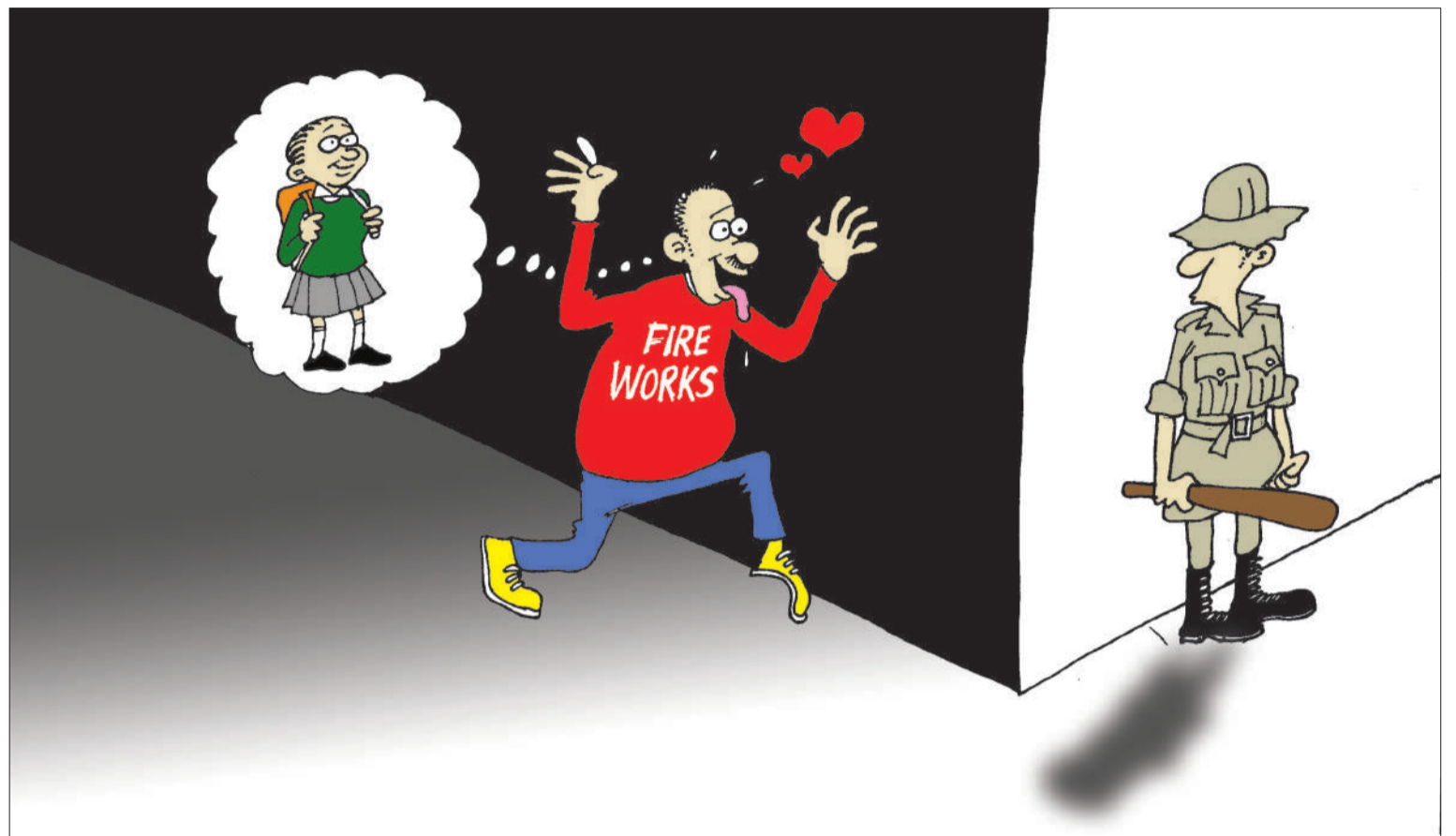
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President Weah and community of disabled

THE Liberian leader, President George M. Weah has been called upon to prioritise the inclusion of disabled persons into the current job arrangement of his government.

Alvin Jask whom himself is among a considerable number of qualified and highly experienced disabled professionals currently living with some form of disabilities, made the call on the Liberian President in an interview with media people recently from his Bernard's Farm-FDA community home near Monrovia.

Mr. Jask said, as much as he appreciates the President and a number of his Cabinet members such as the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Minister Nathaniel F. McGill for making efforts toward the inclusion of Liberian youths to form part of ongoing presidential appointments, he wants qualified disabled both in the country and abroad to also make the list of upcoming Presidential appointees during this half way term of the ruling party.

He further stated that putting qualified and professional disabled people to work, and facilitating skills building opportunities for people with special needs in the country, will not only reduce the very huge unemployment and joblessness amongst Liberian disabled professionals, but will as well put the country on record for adhering to good international treaties, but equally to best global practices.

The Liberian media and access technology professional went on to remind President Weah of the 2005 act of the National Commission on Disabilities, NCD, which calls for at least four percent of every 100 able body employees of any given public entity in Liberia to be people with disabilities and to form part of an inclusive work environment of the Liberian civil workforce.

Mr. Jask noted that his call on the Liberian leader is also in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, UNCRPD, that mandates every State's Man to create the enabling environment for all persons with some form of disabilities and as well provide equal opportunity including empowerment, employment and income earning for persons with disabilities throughout the world.

He said, the training and capacity building of the would be qualified and professional disabled re-cruits is something that he is willing to be a part of in assisting. The office of the Liberian leader and the agency responsible for such task.

By this the disabilities resource mentor assured members of his community of the development of a number of accelerated modules on Computer Mediated Communication, CMC, to help them enhance their respective core competencies for the job they would be chosen for.

Monrovia is the capital city of the West African country of Liberia. Founded in 1822, Monrovia is named in honour of US President James Monroe, a prominent supporter of the colonisation of Liberia. Along with Washington, D.C., it is one of two national capitals to be named after a US President.

Liberia officially the Republic of Liberia, is a country on the West African coast. It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its northwest, Guinea to its north, Ivory Coast to its east, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south-southwest. It covers an area of 111,369 square kilometers (43,000 sq mi) and has a population of around 4,900,000. English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are spoken, representing the numerous ethnic groups who make up more than 95 per cent of the population. The country's capital and largest city is Monrovia.

Liberia began as a settlement of the American Colonisation Society (ACS), who believed black people would face better chances for freedom and prosperity in Africa than in the United States. The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847. The U.S. did not recognise Liberia's independence until February 5, 1862, during the American Civil War. Between January 7, 1822, and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born black people who faced legislated limits in the U.S., and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans, relocated to the settlement. The settlers carried their culture and tradition with them.

The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S. On January 3, 1848, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy, free-born African American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence.

Liberia was the first African republic to proclaim its independence, and is Africa's first and oldest modern republic. It retained its independence during the Scramble for Africa. During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn, the U.S. invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort,

which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of the League of Nations, United Nations, and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Americo-Liberian settlers did not relate well to the indigenous peoples they encountered, especially those in communities of the more isolated "bush". The colonial settlements were raided by the Kru and Grebo from their inland chiefdoms. Americo-Liberians developed as a small elite that held on to political power, and indigenous tribesmen were excluded from birthright citizenship in their own land until 1904, in an echo of the United States' treatment of Native Americans. Americo-Liberians promoted religious organizations to set up missions and schools to educate the indigenous peoples.

and political institutions from the Mali and Songhai empires. Shortly after the Mane conquered the region, the Vai people of the former Mali Empire immigrated into the Grand Cape Mount County region. The ethnic Kru opposed the influx of Vai, forming an alliance with the Mane to stop further influx of Vai.

People along the coast built canoes and traded with other West Africans from Cap-Vert to the Gold Coast. Arab traders entered the region from the north, and a long-established slave trade took captives to north and east Africa.

Early colonization

Between 1461 and the late 17th century, Portuguese, Dutch and British traders had contacts and trading posts in the region. The Portuguese named the area Costa da Pimenta ("Pepper Coast") but it later came to be known as the Grain Coast, due to the abundance of melegueta pepper grains. European traders would barter commodities and goods with local people.

In the United States there was a movement to resettle free-born blacks and freed slaves who faced racial discrimination in the form of political disenfranchisement and the denial of civil, religious, and social privileges. Most whites and later a small cadre of black nationalists believed that blacks would face better chances for freedom in Africa than in the U.S. In 1816 the American Colonization Society was founded for this purpose in Washington, DC by a group of prominent politicians and slaveholders, but its membership grew to include mostly people who supported the abolition of slavery. Slaveholders

wanted to get free people of color out of the South, where they were thought to threaten the stability of the slave societies. Some abolitionists collaborated on the relocation of free blacks, as they were discouraged by racial discrimination against them in the North and believed they would never be accepted in the larger society.

In 1822 the American Colonization Society began sending black volunteers to the Pepper Coast to establish a colony for freed blacks. By 1867 the ACS (and state-related chapters) had assisted in the migration of more than 13,000 blacks to Liberia. These free African-Americans and their descendants married within their community and came to identify as Americo-Liberians. Many were of mixed race and educated in American culture; they did not identify with the indigenous natives of the tribes they encountered. They intermarried largely within the colonial community, developing an ethnic group that had a cultural tradition infused with American notions of political republicanism and Protestant Christianity.

The ACS, supported by prominent American politicians such as Abraham Lincoln, Henry Clay, and James Monroe, believed repatriation of free African Americans was preferable to widespread emancipation of slaves. Similar state-based organizations established colonies in Mississippi-in-Africa and the Republic of Maryland, which Liberia later annexed.

The Americo-Liberian settlers did not relate well to the indigenous peoples they encountered, especially those in communities of the more isolated "bush", knowing nothing of their cultures, languages, or animist religion. Encounters with tribal Africans in the bush often became violent confrontations. The colonial settlements were raided by the Kru and Grebo from their inland chiefdoms. Feeling set apart from and culturally and educationally superior to the indigenous peoples, the Americo-Liberians developed as an elite minority that held on to political power. It excluded the indigenous tribesmen from birthright citizenship in their own lands until 1904, in a parallel of the United States' treatment of Native Americans. Because of ethnocentrism and the cultural gap, the Americo-Liberians envisioned creating a western-style state to which the tribesmen would assimilate. They promoted religious organizations to set up missions and schools to educate the indigenous peoples.

By Special Correspondent

Zimbabwe's industrialisation and economic growth needs all hands on deck and the widest possible range of strategies to maximise our potential as we move steadily, but at a good velocity to our vision of being a middle income economy by the end of the decade.

Existing industries need to grow and adapt to changing circumstances. New investors can bring in new capital and technologies, as they have started doing.

Zimbabweans with the required skills and access can open businesses using established technology and can be licensed when required to access those technologies.

But we must go further than this conventional approach or set of approaches and work out new ways of using our own natural resources, our own raw materials and our own skills.

And this is where the innovation hubs and the industrial parks that President Mnangagwa has been so keen on over the last two years come in. Zimbabwean taxpayers have spent a lot of money over the decades setting up universities, technical colleges and polytechnics, but they are not just there to graduate several thousand younger Zimbabweans every year with degrees, diplomas and certificates.

That role cannot be minimised, since we need the skilled manpower.

But we need more.

All universities and colleges have a research function, and in fact this is built into their degree systems. A doctorate is awarded for original research, for new insights, for finding out new facts.

You cannot be awarded a doctorate for regurgitating or organising existing knowledge. You have to advance human knowledge.

And even after winning their doctorate, a researcher needs to continue their research, as well as teach others coming up the ladder and help direct the research of those following them. So we already have the building blocks in place.

The question that follows is obvious: research into what? And it is here that the President would like the double, to advance human knowledge and systematically identify and solve Zimbabwean problems. For a wide swathe of disciplines, pure and applied, there are abundant opportunities to do precisely that.

Of course this has been happening for a long time. Zimbabwean biological and agricultural scientists have achieved world reputations in a number of disciplines.

Zimbabwean geologists have mapped the rock belts that all those mining companies, after carefully studying the results, dig into; Zimbabwean chemists and engineers have been looking for practical solutions for industrial problems.

But it is obvious that we can go a lot further. Some innovative research will need multi-disciplinary teams, and just about the only place where you are likely to be able to assemble a team of scientist and engineers is at a university or technical institute.

So we need to encourage scientists and engineers to climb out of their silos and talk to each other and work together. We also need to break down the barrier that some academics erect between pure research and applied research, along with the very English attitude that if it is practical then it is of a lower order.

In fact the distinction is false. Most pure research has practical applications and solving practical problems often requires some pure research, and in any case leads to questions that do create fundamental breakthroughs.

Our industries need to take the universities and colleges more seriously as well, as a source of solutions.

Many top managers in industry see a university as a source of manpower, to be precise young trainable manpower. And so they are. But how many faced with a difficult problem think about asking their local university for ideas?

For that matter, how many industrialists and miners think about sponsoring a decent graduate student in an appropriate discipline to

Let's connect research, industry in Zimbabwe



dig into the materials they mine or use and find solutions and new products?

They could hire their own, but having that person attached to a university or research institute means they will get a lot more bang for their buck, since that person will have access to colleagues and access to research tools and laboratories.

Some industries have already done this. The tobacco industry, for example, set up the Kutsaga Research Station, funded it through a levy, and encouraged a constant flow back and forth between the practical research station and the universities.

As with many other areas, tobacco has led the innovation drives simply because Zimbabwe is a world leader in the crop and cannot borrow other people's methods and research because those methods do not exist and the research has never been done.

But a lot of other people in Zimbabwe can do the same, as individual businesses or, combining a tobacco has done into a sectoral approach.

The universities and research institutes are now reacting. To take one example, that the President was shown in Gweru at the Midlands State University when he went down last week for the graduation ceremony and to commission the university's small, but growing industrial park.

Coal tar is a waste product from a number of processes. It has been used for more than a couple of centuries as a road surfacing material, but only in colder temperate climates since it has a low melting point. Petroleum based bitumen has been the product of choice, and in tropical climates the only choice.

But some bright researchers at MSU have figured out a way of processing coal tar into a functional material for sealing Zimbabwean roads, using some results from modern "pure" nanotechnology, and even went out and obtained the first MSU patent.

Now they are going through the necessary certification of their product, and the setting of manufacturing standards, before starting production.

The interesting point is that this is the last material we need to make a Zimbabwean road 100 percent Zimbabwean. The rock, stone, clays and the like are all local, and so is the cement when we need culverts, drains and kerbs.

We have to import the bitumen for the final layer, a potential bottleneck. But as MSU moves through the steps from science to engineering to industry, that bottleneck vanishes, some disgusting waste product is put to good use instead of polluting the environment, and a bunch of Zimbabweans will get jobs making the stuff.

This sort of triple win is what the new results-orientated research culture is supposed to produce.

Zimbabwe officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. The capital and largest city is Harare and the second largest being Bulawayo. A country of roughly 16 million people, Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most commonly used.

Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organised states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade. The British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s; it became the self-governing British colony of Southern Rhodesia in

1923. In 1965, the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia. The state endured international isolation and a 15-year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty as Zimbabwe in April 1980. Zimbabwe then joined the Commonwealth of Nations, from which it was suspended in 2002 for breaches of international law by its then-government, and from which it withdrew in December 2003. The sovereign state is a member of the United Nations, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It was once known as the "Jewel of Africa" for its prosperity.

Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980, when his ZANU-PF party won the elections following the end of white minority rule; he was the President of Zimbabwe from 1987 until his resignation in 2017. Under Mugabe's authoritarian regime, the state security apparatus dominated the country and was responsible for widespread human rights violations. Mugabe maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric of the Cold War era, blaming Zimbabwe's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries. Contemporary African political leaders were reluctant to criticise Mugabe, who was burnished by his anti-imperialist credentials, though Archbishop Desmond Tutu called him "a cartoon figure of an archetypal African dictator". The country has been in economic decline since the 1990s, experiencing several crashes and hyperinflation along the way.

On 15 November 2017, in the wake of over a year of protests against his government as well as Zimbabwe's rapidly declining economy, Mugabe was placed under house arrest by the country's national army in a coup d'état. On 19 November 2017, ZANU-PF sacked Robert Mugabe as party leader and appointed former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa in his place. On 21 November 2017, Mugabe tendered his resignation prior to impeachment proceedings being completed. On 30 July 2018 Zimbabwe held its general elections, which was won by the ZANU-PF party led by Emmerson Mnangagwa. Nelson Chamisa who was leading the main opposition party MDC Alliance contested the election results and filed a petition to the Constitution Court of Zimbabwe.[26] The court confirmed Mnangagwa's victory, making him the newly elected president after Mugabe.

The name "Zimbabwe" stems from a Shona term for Great Zimbabwe, an ancient ruined city in the country's south-east whose remains are now a protected site. Two different theories address the origin of the word. Many sources hold that "Zimbabwe" derives from dzimba-dza-mabwe, translated from the Karanga dialect of Shona as "houses of stones" (dzimba = plural of imba, "house"; mabwe = plural of bwe, "stone"). The Karanga-speaking Shona people live around Great Zimbabwe in the modern-day province of Masvingo. Archaeologist Peter Garlake claims that "Zimbabwe" represents a contracted form of dzimba-hwe, which means "venerated houses" in the Zezuru dialect of Shona and usually references chiefs' houses or graves.

Zimbabwe was formerly known as Southern Rhodesia (1898), Rhodesia (1965), and Zimbabwe Rhodesia (1979). The first recorded use of "Zimbabwe" as a term of national reference dates from

1960 as a coinage by the black nationalist Michael Mawema, whose Zimbabwe National Party became the first to officially use the name in 1961. The term "Rhodesia"—derived from the surname of Cecil Rhodes, the primary instigator of British colonisation of the territory during the late 19th century—was perceived by African nationalists as inappropriate because of its colonial origin and connotations.

According to Mawema, black nationalists held a meeting in 1960 to choose an alternative name for the country, proposing names such as "Matshobana" and "Monomotapa" before his suggestion, "Zimbabwe", prevailed. A further alternative, put forward by nationalists in Matabeleland, had been "Matopos", referring to the Matopos Hills to the south of Bulawayo.

It was initially unclear how the chosen term was to be used—a letter written by Mawema in 1961 refers to "Zimbabwe-land" — but "Zimbabwe" was sufficiently established by 1962 to become the generally preferred term of the black nationalist movement. In a 2001 interview, black nationalist Edson Zvobgo recalled that Mawema mentioned the name during a political rally, "and it caught hold, and that was that". The black nationalist factions subsequently used the name during the Second Chimurenga campaigns against the Rhodesian government during the Rhodesian Bush War of 1964–1979. Major factions in this camp included the Zimbabwe African National Union (led by Robert Mugabe from 1975), and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (led by Joshua Nkomo from its founding in the early 1960s).

Archaeological records date human settlement of present-day Zimbabwe to at least 100,000 years ago. The earliest known inhabitants were probably San people, who left behind arrowheads and cave paintings. The first Bantu-speaking farmers arrived during the Bantu expansion around 2000 years ago.

Societies speaking proto-Shona languages first emerged in the middle Limpopo valley in the 9th century before moving on to the Zimbabwean highlands. The Zimbabwean plateau eventually became the centre of subsequent Shona states, beginning around the 10th century. Around the early 10th century, trade developed with Arab merchants on the Indian Ocean coast, helping to develop the Kingdom of Mapungubwe in the 11th century. This was the precursor to the more impressive Shona civilisations that would dominate the region during the 13th to 15th centuries, evidenced by ruins at Great Zimbabwe, near Masvingo, and by other smaller sites. The main archaeological site uses a unique dry stone architecture.

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was the first in a series of sophisticated trading states which had developed in Zimbabwe by the time the first European explorers arrived from Portugal. These states traded gold, ivory, and copper for cloth and glass.

From about 1300 until 1600 the Kingdom of Zimbabwe eclipsed Mapungubwe. This Shona state further refined and expanded upon Mapungubwe's stone architecture, which survives to this day at the ruins of the kingdom's capital of Great Zimbabwe. From c. 1450 to 1760 Zimbabwe gave way to the Kingdom of Mutapa. This Shona state ruled much of the area of present-day Zimbabwe, plus parts of central Mozambique. It is known by many names including the Mutapa Empire, also known as Mwene Mutapa or Monomotapa as well as "Munhumutapa", and was renowned for its strategic trade routes with the Arabs and Portugal. The Portuguese sought

to monopolise this influence and began a series of wars which left the empire in near collapse in the early 17th century.

As a direct response to increased European presence in the interior a new Shona state emerged, known as the Rozwi Empire (1684–1834). Relying on centuries of military, political and religious development, the Rozwi (meaning "destroyers") expelled the Portuguese from the Zimbabwean plateau by force of arms. They continued the stone-building traditions of the Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe kingdoms while adding muskets to their arsenal and recruiting a professional army to defend recent conquests.

Around 1821 the Zulu general Mzilikazi of the Khumalo clan successfully rebelled against King Shaka and established his own clan, the Ndebele. The Ndebele fought their way northwards into the Transvaal, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake and beginning an era of widespread devastation known as the Mfecane. When Dutch trekkers converged on the Transvaal in 1836, they drove the tribe even further northward, with the assistance of Tswana Barolong warriors and Griqua commandos. By 1838 the Ndebele had conquered the Rozwi Empire, along with the other smaller Shona states, and reduced them to vassaldom.

After losing their remaining South African lands in 1840, Mzilikazi and his tribe permanently settled in the southwest of present-day Zimbabwe in what became known as Matabeleland, establishing Bulawayo as their capital. Mzilikazi then organised his society into a military system with regimental kraals, similar to those of Shaka, which was stable enough to repel further Boer incursions. Mzilikazi died in 1868; following a violent power struggle, his son Lobengula succeeded him.

Colonial era and Rhodesia (1888–1964)

In the 1880s, European colonists arrived with Cecil Rhodes's British South Africa Company (BSAC). In 1888, Rhodes obtained a concession for mining rights from King Lobengula of the Ndebele peoples. He presented this concession to persuade the government of the United Kingdom to grant a royal charter to the company over Matabeleland, and its subject states such as Mashonaland as well.

Rhodes used this document in 1890 to justify sending the Pioneer Column, a group of Europeans protected by well-armed British South Africa Police (BSAP) through Matabeleland and into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now Harare), and thereby establish company rule over the area. In 1893 and 1894, with the help of their new Maxim guns, the BSAP would go on to defeat the Ndebele in the First Matabele War. Rhodes additionally sought permission to negotiate similar concessions covering all territory between the Limpopo River and Lake Tanganyika, then known as "Zambesia".

In accordance with the terms of aforementioned concessions and treaties,[41] mass settlement was encouraged, with the British maintaining control over labour as well as precious metals and other mineral resources.

In 1895, the BSAC adopted the name "Rhodesia" for the territory, in honour of Rhodes. In 1898 "Southern Rhodesia" became the official name for the region south of the Zambezi, which later became Zimbabwe. The region to the north was administered separately and later termed Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Shortly after Rhodes' disastrous Jameson Raid on the South African Republic, the Ndebele rebelled against white rule, led by their charismatic religious leader, Mlimo. The Second Matabele War lasted in Matabeleland until 1896, when Mlimo was assassinated. Shona agitators staged unsuccessful revolts (known as Chimurenga) against company rule during 1896 and 1897.

Following these failed insurrections, the Ndebele and Shona groups were finally subdued by the Rhodes administration, which organised the land with a disproportionate bias favouring Europeans, thus displacing many indigenous peoples.

Effective use of fertiliser to accelerate industrialisation

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

EFFECTIVE use of fertiliser key in scaling up the country's industrialisation agenda, a senior official has said.

A senior irrigation Engineer at Kilimanjaro Regional Office, Saltatory Matemu made the call here on Tuesday when speaking at the launch of new fertiliser product dubbed; MiCROP, which is manufactured and supplied by Yara Tanzania. The new farm input is meant to increase productivity for maize and rice. According to him, farmers need to be empowered on the best use of fertiliser to increase production per acre.

However Matemu welcomed the product launch, saying that it was timely following a request from farmers who wanted the firm to bring the product close to them.

"We really appreciate the services rendered by YARA Tanzania especially in our region and it is my optimism that MiCROP will stimulate crops production," Matemu explained.

YARA Tanzania, the leading manufacturer and supplier of fertiliser in the country has launched a new product dubbed 'MiCROP' in Kilimanjaro Region in its efforts to help maize and rice smallholders increase production.

Speaking after launching the new product in Moshi on Tuesday and witnessed by the government officials, farmers, distributors and the press, the Firm's Commercial Manager, Philipo Mwakipesile described the product as a panacea for small growers get more yield.

Mwakipesile said the new blended fertilizer which targets small scale farmers countrywide to benefit



Salvatory Matemu (C), a senior irrigation engineer with the Kilimanjaro regional commissioner's office, launches the use of MiCROP fertiliser in the region earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

from the product, has Zinc and Sulphur Micronutrients that are required for stronger and better crops.

"We are proud to launch MiCROP fertiliser on Tuesday here where maize and rice smallholder farmers will have a splendid opportunity to get more yield and improve their incomes yet increase food production," he said.

According to Mwakipesile,

the fertiliser will be blended locally at the YARA plant in Dar es Salaam.

"This is in line with the government's initiative of promoting and building an industrial economy by 2025. We (YARA Tanzania) is behind the move as this time round we are producing it right here," he said.

He called on farmers to take advantage of MiCROP for a

better yield adding that it will be distributed countrywide.

During the event, the YARA Tanzania team handed over the fertilizer to their distributors and showcased the sample of the products.

YARA is the leading crop nutrition company in Africa and millions of farmers have undergone training on better and sustainable farming techniques that have a greater

and profitable yield for farmers.

YARA manufactures high quality fertiliser that is available all over the continent at any time and works in partnership with farmers' institutions, community based organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations in offering education and nutritional solutions so as to improve their livelihoods.

Infusion more effective than tablets: Treatment of iron anaemia in Africa

BY PAUL NICOLAUS

AS the coronavirus pandemic rages across the globe, much of the focus centers on the growing human death toll, which has climbed above one million. But experts caution that a handful of our closest living relatives in the animal kingdom are also in jeopardy from SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

A recent analysis of more than 400 vertebrate species, including birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, predicts that critically endangered primate species such as the northern white-cheeked gibbon, the Sumatran orangutan, and the western lowland gorilla—as well as the endangered chimpanzee and bonobo—are at risk. A Diagnostic Investigation at Michigan State University. (Read more about the hunt for the next potential coronavirus animal host.)

In By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A STUDY conducted in Tanzania has now demonstrated the advantage of iron infusion therapy over the usual treatment with iron tablets. This was

reported by an international research team in the journal "The Lancet Global Health".

In sub-Saharan Africa, anaemia is a major public health concern with roughly 60 percent of the population suffering from anaemia. Around half of those cases are due to iron deficiency. Anaemia has a negative impact on an individual's quality of life, and the economic development of a country. Women are at particularly high risk, and their risk increases during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum.

An international study led by the University of Basel, the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania for the first time compared the safety and efficacy of iron infusion versus oral iron tablets to treat iron-deficiency anaemia. Results showed that iron infusion is highly effective in low-income settings compared to oral iron tablets.

In this phase III clinical trial, postpartum women in Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam received either an iron infusion or oral iron tablets to treat their

iron-deficiency anaemia. A total of 533 women were screened, 230 of whom participated in the study.

The study found that 80% of the women who received an iron infusion had normalised levels of haemoglobin after just six weeks, compared to 51% of women who were given the oral iron tablets. Importantly, the women who received the iron infusion continued to have better haemoglobin and ferritin levels after one year, indicating that the iron storage in their bodies had been regenerated.

"This is an important finding, particularly for women who have subsequent pregnancies but do not seek medical care between births," says Sandrine Meyer-Monard, study author and lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Basel.

"Providing an iron infusion during their time at the hospital is a powerful strategy to deliver a straightforward, effective and longer-lasting iron supplementation before discharge," states Professor Claudia Daubenberger, Head of the Clinical Immunology unit at Swiss TPH.

The currently recommended therapy for iron-deficiency anaemia in low-resource settings is daily oral iron tablets. These tablets are affordable, but they require strict compliance over a long period of time and may cause side effects. Iron infusion, while more expensive than oral iron tablets, requires just one or two doses, and treatment can be delivered at time points coinciding with routine medical visits.

"Treatment with iron infusions is routinely done in high-income settings and is increasingly replacing oral iron tablets," says Dr. Fiona Vanobberghen, study author and research associate at the University of Basel and Swiss TPH. "This study shows that infusions can be delivered safely in district hospitals in a resource-limited setting."

Further, the infusions can be stored at room temperature, and have a shelf life of three years making the supply chain of this product manageable.

This study was funded by Vifor Pharma, the R. Geigy Foundation, the Voluntary Academic Society and the Swiss TPH.

China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre opens in Beijing to promote green development

BEIJING

THE China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre has opened in Beijing. The centre is designated to provide an open, inclusive and cooperative platform to enhance China-Africa environmental cooperation, promote green development, and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063.

At the inauguration ceremony, China's Environment Minister Huang Runqiu said: "Chinese and African people share a common wish for a beautiful environment and prosperous life and the environmental sector has become a key field of cooperation between the two sides. In recent years, China and Africa have maintained successful environmental

cooperation in terms of protecting the ecology and climate change. The establishment of the center will be a new starting point to deepen and enrich that cooperative relationship."

He said that China has so far signed agreements with five African countries, including South Africa and Ethiopia, and has helped train over 900 Africans through workshops on urban environmental management and water pollution control since 2015.

China has also signed 14 deals on tackling climate change with 13 African nations since 2011, and has donated a large amount of equipment to help countries in the continent cope with climate change, including more than 10,000 sets of solar photovoltaic power generation equipment and launching a small satel-

lite.

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Li said the center will offer a new platform to ramp up China and Africa's exchange of information on industries and technologies in the environment protection sector.

Senegal's ambassador to China, Mamadou Ndiaye, who is also the co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), said the center would help African countries boost their capacity for environmental management and sustainable development.

The establishment of the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center was firstly proposed at the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit in 2015.

In September 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the opening cer-

emony of 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit that China will launch eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries in the next three years and beyond. Green development is one of the major initiatives for China-Africa cooperation. President Xi pointed out that a China-Africa environmental cooperation center will be set up, and more policy dialogue and joint research on environmental issues will be conducted.

In the future, the center will implement the China-Africa Green Envoys Program, China-Africa Green Innovation Program and other flagship programs to actively advance the development of a platform for policy dialogue, a platform for cooperation networks, a platform for capacity building, and a platform for project demonstration.

African scientists fear the continent will be left behind as gene editing transforms food production, says IITA

By Joseph Opoku Gakpo

SCIENTISTS in Africa are calling on their governments to ensure the continent isn't left behind as gene editing revolutionizes food production.

Gene editing is a good tool that can help enhance Africa's food security, say scientists across the continent, and it shouldn't suffer the same fate that has stymied the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) over the last three decades.

As GMOs continue to face regulatory barriers that are hampering their acceptance across the continent, scientists are convinced that gene editing offers a new frontier for introducing advanced technology to tackle food security issues in Africa.

"Very soon, GMOs may be forgotten," Prof. Walter Alhassan, retired director general of Ghana's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, told the Alliance for Science. "Now we have new breeding techniques [with] gene editing. This technology is moving, and Ghana should not be left behind."

"We hope our government will put money into science," Alhassan added. "That is how the nation will develop. COVID-19 has been a rude awakening... Without science, we cannot develop... We are all ready to move ahead with the technology, but our governments must put their money where their mouth is."

Dr. Chiedozie Egesi, senior scientist at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, said that gene editing technology can help make African crops more resilient, more productive and more nutritious if applied appropriately.

"We need technologies such as gene editing to increase our productivity, enhance the nutrition status of our crops and make them more resilient to climate change and a pandemic environment," Egesi said. "For example, we have seen promising landmark research for virus resistance in banana and cassava, pest resistance [against] the fall armyworm in maize and better nutrition, like less cyanide in cassava and high iron and zinc in cassava, among others."

Zimbabwean scientist Nyasha Mudukuti, who earned a master's degree in plant breeding and genetics, agrees. "I've had the firsthand experience of working on gene editing of crops and plants that are of importance to us as human beings," she said. "So, it's something that I can tell you that we have the science that backs it up. It's safe to use."

Mudukuti said governments need to make existing policies more flexible, or enact new enabling policies, "so that farmers can adopt this if they want to. Let the farmer make a choice for him or themselves about whether or not to use this technology."

Gene editing (also referred to as genome editing) is a set of molecular biology techniques that allow scientists to delete and silence specific genes, or otherwise manipulate the genomes of living organisms, to address productivity challenges in agriculture.

CRISPR is of the most popular editing techniques. CRISPR, or Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, refers to treating specialized DNA stretches with an associated enzyme, Cas9, which works like a pair of molecular scissors capable of cutting DNA strands and editing the genes to suit specific purposes.

In humans, CRISPR has the potential to stop the perpetuation of diseases. In plants, it has the potential to help them use nitrogen and water more efficiently, accelerate the photosynthesis process, provide more nutrients, resist insects and diseases, tolerate increased soil salinity and otherwise thrive in an erratic climate.

Some research has been ongoing in Africa using the technology to improve crops and animals, although no product is on the market yet. The Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and two other international organizations are using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to improve maize germplasm so it becomes resistant to maize lethal necrosis. The devastating viral disease reduced maize yields in Kenya by an average of 22 percent in 2013, forcing many farmers to abandon the crop entirely.

A team of scientists from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has used CRISPR-Cas9-based genome editing to inactivate the endogenous streak virus, a plant disease, and develop virus-resistant banana varieties.

Gene editing has a number of advantages. This includes the ability to apply it in a very targeted manner to introduce small genetic changes that can have potentially significant impacts, such as conferring crops with tolerance to various plant diseases. Additionally, it has the advantage of being easily applicable to orphan crops, which are often indigenous staple foods. Until now, they have largely been ignored by plant breeders because of their low economic significance.

There are, however, some constraints to the application of the gene editing technology, including the prospect of over-regulation if African policy makers decide to treat gene edited crops like GMOs.

A lack of solid infrastructure for novel scientific research has been a challenge to adopting improved technologies like gene editing on the continent, Egesi observed. "We make efforts to train African scientists in some of the finest research centers in the world but often times the scientists get disillusioned on returning home to poor funding, poor [electrical] power to sustain a lab, and sometimes, no lab at all," he explained.

People first: Getting to the root of degrowth in South Africa

By Roland Ngam

John F Kennedy's environmental adviser, the economist Kenneth Boulding, once quipped that "anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist".

Boulding saw the slow rise of consumerism during his early childhood in England and when he moved to America, he witnessed first-hand how manufacturers and advertisers constantly pushed the envelope to get people to buy and consume more stuff every day.

Belief in the Keynesian concept of continued population growth and productivity was unshakeable.

Boulding's contemporary, the Austrian Joseph Schumpeter, would later develop a theory on production known as "creative destruction" – the tendency for new innovations to rapidly replace old ones and render them obsolete.

American firms leveraged America's post-World War II global dominance to export GDP obsession, rapid innovation, hyper-consumerism, privatisation, supermarketisation, Macdonaldisation and other free-market policies to the rest of the world.

As free-market GDP growth became the dominant orthodoxy globally, hyper-consumerism led to two things: 1) ecological collapse with kneecapping of ecosystems' capacity to renew themselves; and 2) rising wealth inequalities around the world.

In "Laudato Si on Care for our Common Home", Pope Francis says this about the global economy's "rapidification" and throwaway culture:

"Each year hundreds of millions of tons of waste are generated, much of it non-biodegradable, highly toxic and radioactive, from homes and businesses, from construction and demolition sites, from clinical, electronic and industrial sources. The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century", which starts



with an analysis of the Marikana massacre as a symbol of wealth disparity in South Africa, shows that the wealth gap between the rich and the poor has increased exponentially over the past two decades.

He believes that without major interventions, this trend is set to continue.

Another one of Boulding's contemporaries, John Maynard Keynes, noted before Piketty that free markets do not really possess self-balancing mechanisms, and so the state (or some other countervailing force) has to intervene to make proper adjustments for the good of society in general.

In the face of environmental degradation, pollution and accelerated privatisation of commons (with the dramatic rise of private water companies for example), some people started calling for a new kind of society in the 1960s.

The degrowth movement was born precisely to amplify the calls for this new society.

Although the word degrowth causes consternation in some quarters where people link it to regression, deprivation, post-growth and even stagnation, it is really about a new relationship between humankind, its environment and the commons, as André Gorz once noted, and as I showed in the definitions section (Part One) here in Daily Maverick.

It is definitely not a call for the abolition of free markets, but rather a call for a different type of free market.

From Gorz to Serge Latouche, José Bové and even Nicolas Hulot, what degrowthers want is really a more just and

inclusive society where there is less ecocide and more deliberate focus on human beings' wellness.

And this brings us to economics and accumulation in a South African context. South Africa's economy is driven largely by fossils and intensive agriculture that is heavily reliant on water, pesticides, capital, fertilisers and mechanisation.

The problem with this accumulation logic is that most of the generated wealth is funnelled to a tiny minority while large swathes of the population remain poor. The three richest South Africans own wealth equal to the poorest 28 million.

There further has to be greater investment in and more efficient use of commons (water, electricity, public transit systems, parks, recreation facilities, etc) with community members playing an integral part in managing all these resources.

According to Statistics South Africa, 30.6 million South Africans were living below the upper-bound poverty line of R992 per person per month in 2006.

Although there has been an improvement in the data, about 35 million people still lived below the new upper-bound poverty line of R1,227 in 2019.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further complicated this picture with more than 2.2 million jobs lost in 2020. Everybody agrees that this is unsustainable.

What would degrowth in South Africa look like? What do South African degrowthers – or even those who do not identify themselves thusly but agree

with the movement's policies – want? Gorz argues that it is not sufficient to just say what you are fighting against – you have to state what you stand for.

The first order of business for degrowth in South Africa is obviously rapid migration from coal power to clean energy.

Of the 51,309 megawatts (MW) of electricity that is generated in South Africa every year, only 4,533MW comes from clean, renewable sources. The country's coal-power fleet, the seventh biggest in the world, accounts for 80% to 90% of the country's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

South Africa emits about 512 million metric tonnes of fossil carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per annum – the highest in the developing world per capita. At the same time, we know that the southern African region is heating rapidly due to these emissions, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has called for capping these GHG emissions below 1.5%.

To reverse this trend quickly, President Cyril Ramaphosa can launch an era of rapid renewables growth by working together with all provinces to set up independent power producer (IPP) projects around the country.

Deliberate effort must be made to prioritise IPPs owned by large sectors of the population, including trade unions, women's groups, cooperatives and ordinary workers rather than foreign venture funds.

The best way to allay the fears of energy-sector workers who wonder

what will happen to them after Eskom is unbundled is to encourage them to become shareholders in these projects, among other things.

Consider this: most of rural America was electrified by cooperatives, not big business. Another example: the most recent expansion of the Suez Canal was financed by ordinary Egyptians who poured an eye-watering \$9-billion into the project.

The second degrowth priority is to help reduce the carbon footprint of the next two biggest polluters in the country, i.e. agriculture, forestry and other land use (Afolu) and transport.

The Afolu sector, which consumes 60% of the country's water and contributes 5.2 million tonnes of CO₂e, must be incentivised to adopt more efficient irrigation systems and plant more cover crops. This will ultimately help them save a lot of money in the long run as the periods between droughts shorten and climate change accelerates.

Similarly, new urban projects should build more integrated suburbs where people do not have to travel long distances to get to work, school or retail and recreation centres.

The precious stones, mobile phones and cars we buy also have human costs. Every time we replace a mobile phone we probably invest in conflict minerals from eastern DRC.

There further has to be greater investment in and more efficient use of commons (water, electricity, public transit systems, parks, recreation facilities, etc) with community members playing an integral part in managing all these resources.

With better integrated cities, people get to spend more time with their families and loved ones. As part of the government's integrated spatial planning, the land reform programme should prioritise and accelerate transfer of smaller plots to more beneficiaries in priority nodes where equipment centres and processing cooperatives also exist to support them.

Ownership of land and economic empowerment of the poor and marginalised is absolutely important, especially in rural areas where job opportunities are few. People must be given the chance to own their own small part of South Africa where they get to build their own South African dream. Land and homes anchor people to a long-term project and give them hope.

Third, as we migrate to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, machines are replacing humans in a growing number of jobs. However, a majority of South Africans have never experienced full participation in the economy.

By Tunde Bello

Financial inclusion as lever in improving livelihoods

The COVID-19 pandemic makes clear what has been true all along. Your health is as safe as that of the worst-insured, worst-cared-for person in your society. It will be decided by the height of the floor, not the ceiling. Beyond its impact on human health, COVID-19 has shown us just how vulnerable agricultural value chains are to external shocks – and how much more we need to do to build the sector's resilience.

Nigerian farmers have it tough. On one side, they are barricaded by unfavourable climate changes, limited access to domestic and international markets, increased transportation costs, lack of adequate infrastructure; and now on the other hand, by the effects of COVID-19.

Media coverage had focused on 'essential workers' getting the world through this time of insecurity, especially health workers – and rightfully so. But other unsung heroes are at the first step of the agricultural value chain, ensuring the foundations for many of the products we enjoy so much – from our cocoa beverages to palm oil: smallholder farmers.

Because of COVID and the impact on food security, more and more companies have woken up to the risk of not being able to create products or stock shelves. Businesses are suddenly interested in how farmers are performing – and whether they will be able to continue supplying their raw materials in the future.

Smallholder farmers are the nucleus of the world's agricultural value chain; sustaining a plethora of sectors, commodities and companies. For example, Anheuser-Busch InBev, a leading brewing company, depends on more than

20,000 direct smallholder farmers, across thirteen countries and five continents, to grow high-quality crops to brew their drinks. In Nigeria, over 80 per cent of our domestic food supply is provided by small-scale farmers who work on less than a hectare of land. In Ghana, smallholders cultivating less than two hectares of land per farm, produce an estimated 20 per cent of the world's cocoa, making Ghana the second-largest producer in the world, with cocoa exports accounting for about 40 of its foreign exchange earnings and 8-12 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Despite their importance, there is a lot of poverty in the sector, especially in countries like Nigeria, where smallholder farmers make up around 80 per cent of the total number of farmers in Nigeria; yet, only 27 per cent of the farmers live above the poverty line (\$2.50 daily).

During the height of the first

wave of the coronavirus pandemic, in addition to an already grim reality, farmers were dealt a further blow, mostly rural smallholder farmers that are typically family-run operations with limited access to credit, information, technology, storage options and labour. The pandemic exacerbated these issues with disruptions to transportation, market access, labour availability, and uncertainty for farmers who were worried whether or not their crops would still be purchased as entire industries came to a halt. Restaurants had to stop buying as much food, purchases of cotton for consumer goods slowed, and low oil prices reduced demand for ethanol, hurting corn planters.

In an impoverished country, where unemployment was rife even before the pandemic, it is time to ask: what support our unsung heroes need to keep going – and, eventually, to recover while improving their livelihoods and

competitiveness?

With Targeted Support Comes Success

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recommends timely and well-targeted support to the needs of smallholder communities – especially at farm level (SDG 2). For instance, farmers' financing needs are determined by expenses and cash outflows at various stages of the growing season – at the start of every growing season, there is a huge outflow of cash (e.g. to buy seeds and other farm inputs) and this negative cash flow grows until farmers can harvest and sell their crops. Credit products must therefore be customised to farmers' unique circumstances, financing needs and revenue-generating activities.

Well-targeted support like those offered by Babban Gona, empowers smallholder farmers to succeed in the transition to more resilience against shocks and cli-

mate changes (SDG 13), sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), competitive, safe and inclusive employment (SDG 8), and to ensure "no one will be left behind" (SDG 1). People get left behind when they lack the choices and opportunities or endure disadvantages or deprivations that limit their options and opportunities to participate in and benefit from development progress. Many smallholders live in extreme poverty and operate in the hard-to-reach rural communities and can thus be considered 'left behind' and the most adversely impacted by the pandemic.

For Umar Dangari – a 55-year-old farmer in Adamawa state, northeast Nigeria – in planning for the next planting season, he finds that a bag of fertiliser he purchased for his farm for 7,500 just before the lockdown more than seven months ago is now sold for 22,500 because the lockdown affected the import of these agricul-

tural inputs. To further exacerbate the situation, Umar is unable to access loans from financial institutions because of the perceived high risk of lending to the agricultural sector. For a start, reaching remote rural areas can be expensive. Weather risks, crop concentration, and price volatility increase the credit risk for financial institutions that are primarily interested in short-term lending and high returns.

The disruptions to the supply of farming inputs such as fertilisers and seeds could negatively affect agricultural output. It follows that we may be approaching a dire situation where farmers prioritise buying food today over planting seeds for tomorrow, raising the threat of food shortages later on.

We have begun to see the far-ranging consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world, and it is now more apparent than ever that the COVID-19 health crisis could soon become a food crisis. Yet, Nigeria's COVID-19 stimulus relief packages are difficult to access by small-scale farmers like Umar that are critical players in preventing this looming food crisis. Recently, we watched in shock as people carted away COVID-19 palliatives from warehouses across Nigeria. Let's also consider the Agri-Business, Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS) Non-Interest Fund offered by the Central Bank of Nigeria. The process requires a Bank Verification Number (BVN) in a country where 40% of the population are financially excluded, and many rural communities are unbanked and hard to reach electronically.

A new analysis estimates that by the end of 2020, 265 million people in low and middle-income countries will be under the threat of starvation, up from the 135 million in 2019. In Nigeria, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Consumer Price Index Report shows that Nigeria's food inflation rate has maintained a steady rise from 14.67% recorded in December 2019 to 15.48% in July 2020. This means that the purchasing power of Nigerians has declined and their ability to afford the same quantity of food has reduced significantly.

Overcoming the Crisis



SONGAS GRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM NURTURING YOUNG ENERGY PROFESSIONALS

Exxon and Total in talks over Mozambique LNG resource-sharing deal

MAPUTO

ExxonMobil and Total are in negotiations over their massive LNG projects in Mozambique, with each seeking to extract more gas from a shared field that straddles the two developments and cut costs, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The talks between the energy majors also involve the Mozambican government, according to the sources, as it has to give final approval to any new agreement. The field that straddles the projects happens to contain gas that is thicker and therefore cheaper to extract and convert into LNG than reserves elsewhere in the projects.

The volume each project could extract from the shared area was set out in a 2015 “unitisation” – or resource-sharing – agreement. However both U.S. major Exxon and France’s Total are now renegotiating that contract with each other, the sources said. The companies are looking to cut costs wherever they can, bruised by a COVID-19-induced collapse in global oil and gas prices and facing a worsening security situation in Mozambique.

Across the industry, most companies have been forced to delay decisions on new LNG projects and write down investments in existing production plants, in stark contrast to last year’s record level of approvals for plants.

Success in the talks could be particularly important for Exxon, which still has to woo investors ahead of a delayed final investment decision (FID) on its \$30 billion Rovuma LNG project, which the sources now don’t expect until early 2022. The FID on Total’s \$20 billion Mozambique LNG project was made in June 2019.

The current contract was signed by Eni and Anadarko. In 2017 Eni sold a stake in the Rovuma venture to Exxon, which is now the project operator, while Anadarko sold Mozambique LNG to Total last year. It allows the projects to extract a combined 24 trillion cubic feet of gas from the “straddling” reserves, with a 50/50 share in phase one of development.

Now Exxon and Total are trying to rework the agreement to increase extraction from the straddling reserves as a way to boost efficiency and increase their projects’ annual LNG production, according to the sources.

“They want to use the cheapest gas first – which is the straddling resources,” said one of the sources. Asked about the negotiations, an Exxon spokesman said: “As a matter of practice, we do not comment on third-party rumour or speculation.”

“ExxonMobil continues to actively work with its partners and the government to optimise development plans by improving synergies and exploring opportunities related to the current lower-cost environment,” he added. Total said the operators of the two projects “continue working together to maximize synergies and optimise future phases of development.”

Mozambique’s state oil and gas company ENH, which owns 10% of Rovuma LNG, and 15% of Mozambique LNG, referred Reuters’ questions to the National Petroleum Institute (INP), the body that manages the nation’s energy development. The INP did not provide answers to Reuters questions.

Boosting production
 A Standard Bank study from 2019 said Exxon’s Rovuma LNG would use 15.1 Tcf of straddling gas reserves, above the unitisation cap as it included gas reserved for domestic use and condensate, plus 6.4 Tcf of non-straddling reserves – to produce 15.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG.

Instead, the source said, Exxon wants to extract only gas from the straddling reserves, increasing the amount it can access from the shared area to around 20.1 Tcf, which would result in 7.9% higher production, at 16.4 MTPA, and lower unit costs. This would mark a considerable efficiency gain for Rovuma’s phase one, projected by Exxon to last 25 years.

Mozambique LNG expects to produce the first LNG in 2024, delivering 12.88 MTPA of LNG in its first phase. Reuters was not able to establish what Total wanted to change its straddling gas and LNG production figures to.

By Property Watch Reporter

AN industrial practical training program launched by Songas Limited to nurture the next generation of energy sector professionals in 2011 has already managed to groom 113 Tanzanian graduates. Songas Human Resources Manager, Agatha Keenja said in Dar es Salaam this week that the natural gas to electricity producing company’s Industrial Practical Training enrolled graduates from different universities with qualifications ranging from finance to technical engineering.

Keenja who has spearheaded the growth of the program since inception, elaborated that it was strategically developed to ensure that the selected interns are equipped with necessary skills to become full-time employees of the company.

“The unique feature of our program is that upon recruitment, the selected candidates go through a rigorous on the job training and after a few months on the program are treated like other full-time employees,” she said.

The Songas HRM further added that the new recruits are entrusted with taking charge of their career paths with guidance and support from their line managers and senior management team. She pointed out that the IPT program is one of



Songas Limited’s technical engineer Raphael Bukene ready for work at Ubungo Power Plant in Dar es Salaam. He is a product of the company’s industrial practical training programme. Photo courtesy of Songas.

the company’s continuous efforts to ensure professional sustainability of its business but also help the country get experienced experts in the energy sector.

“We have a strong corporate culture, which prides itself on developing people; it is a key cultural component for us to nurture and grow young talent for the company and country,” Keenja added while revealing that so far, 20 of the interns have become full-time employees of Songas.

Among those recruited permanently include Raphael Bukene, Stewart Peter Irene Machaku who said the program has added value to their degrees with practical experience. Commenting

about his experience with the IPT, Bukene who is a graduate in electrical engineering said the internship exposed him to managing large electrical equipment but also upgrading machinery needed to improve plant performance.

“When I first joined Songas, my expectations were to gain working experience related to my field of expertise. But to my amazement, this opportunity gave me a platform to move beyond my skills, to the extent of managing large projects within the company,” Bukene said.

He said the success of the IPT program can be attributed to good management,

supervision and the conducive working environment at Songas where the trainees have been lucky to receive mentorship from the best experts in the industry.

Mentors cultivate a supportive working relationship with the graduate trainees, acting as a point of contact for any concerns that the trainees might have, as well as providing ongoing performance feedback, he noted.

Bukene’s testimony was back by Peter who went through a series of jobs including being a teacher before landing an opportunity with Songas through the IPT program. “Since childhood, I had an interest in technical subjects. Joining

the IPT program was a dream come true and my interest grew into understanding how electrical energy is generated from renewable energy sources - I learned more than I had imagined,” said Peter.

He noted that over and above harnessing his technical skills, the Songas internship taught him the value of teamwork, leadership when executing tasks and the importance of valuing the ideas of each team member regardless of their rank or experience. “I am looking forward to taking on additional responsibilities that will contribute towards ensuring the availability of reliable and affordable electricity in the country,” he added.

As for Machaku, the IPT program has given her an opportunity to learn more about how operations are run in the energy sector. Machaku who joined Songas as fresh graduate in finance and accounting, was given room to explore and understand the operations of the company. “It’s been almost two years, I am overwhelmed by the wealth and depth of knowledge I have acquired. The energy sector has for a long time been looked at as a male-dominated field but I have managed to beat that stereotype through the IPT programme,” she revealed.

“I would like to encourage more young girls to explore the opportunities available in the energy sector,” Machaku added while noting that through the IPT program, Songas is building a team of competent and experienced young graduates to serve the country rapidly growing energy sector.

The sector, which remains one of the most important key aspects of the country’s economy, has so far created over 33,325 jobs while contributing 6.9 percent of gross domestic product.

What can be done to check the raging floods in Kigali suburbs?

KIGALI

Urban planners have disclosed that a storm water management plan being devised could be the sustainable solution to manage floods that have ravaged the different suburbs of the City of Kigali.

Storm water is surface water in abnormal quantities resulting from heavy rainfall and experts say the high volume of this water in Kigali is being caused by rapid urbanisation that has no sustainable way for managing floods.

Benon Rukundo, the Acting Director of One Stop Centre in the city told The New Times that they have embarked on a study on how best to manage storm water and that it is being done in collaboration with Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC).

“With rapid urbanisation and more plots being developed, more floods could hit the city if there is no storm management plan,” he said. Although he didn’t exactly mention when the study will be completed, he said it will be carried out and implemented in different phases.

“The study is going to map all watershed catchments areas that are causes of the floods and their confluence so that we can devise appropriate technologies to reduce the pressure of storm water flowing into drainages,” he said.

Rukundo said that after mapping the flood hotspots, the city will come up with technologies that treat storm water by filtering and removing waste at established retaining water points before being discharged into wetlands and rivers.

“The same study will also inform the decision to rehabilitate ravines and drainages. It will also help us to provide construction



The newly-constructed Kanogo drainage has helped reduce floods in Kigali.

permits for residents in a certain watershed catchment with specific recommendations to control storm water,” he said.

The official said that where it is possible, besides rain water harvesting, water permeability in homes can be checked through establishing gardens and adding proper drainage of runoff water from homes without causing floods is the best approach.

“Currently, the prime cause of floods is high pressure of storm water that is beyond capacity of existing drains. What is suitable is approaches to drain storm water and get treated before flowing into wetlands,” he explained. Currently, the City of Kigali is facing a Rwf30 billion deficit for rehabilitating and expanding over 40 drainages that can control floods.

A \$400million investment

Rukundo said the storm water management plan will be in line with the National Adaptation Plan. According to the 10-year climate action plan to adapt to climate change recently submitted to the

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Rwanda committed to invest \$400 million in increasing the percentage of urban population in areas covered by master plans with storm water and drainage management considerations over the next years.

“As settlement is upgraded, storm water management must also be integrated. We Nyarugenge District,” he said. Rwanda Water Resources Board is also set to establish telemetry stations to monitor the trends or peak flow of rivers, drainages and other flood hotspots as part of early warning systems aimed at minimizing the likely impacts of floods and plan for flood-resilient infrastructure.

What experts say

Aimé Tsinda, a researcher and senior lecturer in the University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology told The New Times that finding sustainable solutions to flooding in Kigali requires first understanding clear causes of floods. “Storm water runoff has become a

significant problem in Kigali and one of the causes is extended urbanization,” he said. The increase in urban areas has considerably altered the natural landscape by replacing previous land cover with impervious materials and raised a number of environmental and economic concerns, he explained.

“But by developing more green spaces, the City of Kigali can reduce runoff problems more effectively. To control the flow of runoff, some existing curb can be removed and curb outlets can be installed at carefully chosen intervals which will allow storm water to flow onto well vegetated areas and therefore avoiding erosion and flooding,” he said.

Tsinda said that an overall planning and design based on upgrading the hydraulic capacity of the drainage system. “Sustainable solution requires finding a good application mix of both structural and no-structural measures appropriate for the City of Kigali. This requires an extensive research, involving a number of experts from different backgrounds,” he said.

AIRLINK TO LINK DAR AND J'BURG CITIES EFFECTIVE FROM TUESDAY

By Property Watch Reporter

PRIVATELY owned regional airline, Airlink will debut passenger flights between Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport and Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg effective next Tuesday.

Airlink's CEO, Rodger Foster said the airline is establishing direct services - and flying its brand new colours - on this new route between Dar es Salaam and Johannesburg to facilitate movement of people. "The two cities enjoy special historical, significant political and economic commercial bonds as regional trading hubs for business and leisure travel and tourism," Foster said.

Foster explained that the process of appointing a local general sales agent to represent Airlink in the Tanzanian market is underway. "Our services to and from Dar es Salaam will provide travellers with seamless connectivity onto Airlink's new direct flights linking Johannesburg with Cape Town and with Durban," he stated.

Connections are also available to Airlink's other South African destinations, such as Port Elizabeth, East London, Bloemfontein, he



An Airline plane parked at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.

explained while adding that the airline is rebuilding and expanding its network with the resumption and addition of services to destinations throughout the Southern Africa Development Community region, all reachable with Airlink connections via its hub at OR Tambo International Airport.

Airlink's great value for money Economy Class fares include a 20kg free economy class checked in luggage allowance plus a 15kg sporting equipment allowance. Onboard, customers are treated to a complimentary light meal, refreshments, generous leg room and a choice of aisle or window seat.

Airlink's intra-continental Business Class service is available on selected flights operated by state-of-the-art Embraer E-jets, with wide seats arranged in a two plus one abreast configuration with plenty of legroom between each row.

"Our service on these flights includes complimentary meals and beverages, a 30kg check-in luggage allowance and priority boarding," Foster added while noting that flights will carry passengers between the two cities on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

To check against current global health concern, the aircrafts are equipped with

High Efficiency Particulate Air Filters (HEPA), which are effective at blocking 99.97 percent of particulates, including Coronavirus molecules. These HEPA filters continually sterilize the air in our cabins, which is renewed entirely every three minutes.

Airlink has more than 50 commercial jetliners operating throughout Southern Africa. Last year, the airline carried two million passengers on more than 63 000 flights involving 55 routes to 39 destinations in nine African countries and Saint Helena Island.

Builders inches into shopping malls with Cresta store opening

JOHANNESBURG

The new Builders store set to open at Cresta Shopping Centre in Johannesburg this November will be the first branch located inside a super-regional mall.

Builders Cresta will offer the full Builders Express range of products and services, including a garden centre and a paint tinting and mixing counter. Other departments to look forward to include power tools, flat pack furniture and building materials. Shoppers can also expect services such as delivery, installation and assembly as well as free pool water analysis.

This store represents a significant shift from standalone format stores and is part of the brand's effort to respond to the needs of those that prefer one destination for all their shopping needs.

"Now shoppers visiting the mall to purchase groceries, fashion, cosmetics and electronic goods, can also shop our broad DIY offering ranging from seasonal appliances, flooring, electrical, plumbing, plants and related hardware services," says Munier Solomon, marketing operations manager at Builders.

Andre Steyn, Builders' vice president, adds, "Our new Cresta store is conveniently placed within the shopping centre, with ample on-grade parking, for greater convenience to our shoppers who are time-strapped. We will continue to increase our footprint by evaluating similar shopping centre opportunities in the future."

2,267sqm of retail space Builders Cresta will offer customers 2,267sqm of store space and an external dispatch yard of 714sqm. "We will also be offering shopper services that are found in any of our other Builders stores ranging from gas refills and exchanges, click and collect and much more," says Solomon.

Technology features inside the store come in the form of free Wi-Fi, high-definition screens, and tablets conveniently located across the store giving customers the opportunity to shop and place orders, as well as view promotions and search for product information or inspirational DIY content. Builders says that, as with all the brand's new stores, Builders Cresta will balance this technology with personable, helpful service to educate, entertain and inspire customers.

Magic of Kenya's award-winning golf courses

NAIROBI

Kenya has cemented her position as a top golfing destination in Africa, boasting over 40 world-class courses and a growing local and international fan base

When a handful of golfers tee off during the inaugural Kenya Open Golf tournament at Muthaiga Golf Club in 1967, this marked the genesis of golf tourism in Kenya. Kenya's first golf club, Royal Nairobi Golf Club, had opened its doors 61 years earlier in 1906. But for many years, golf in the country was a sport for the elite, played at exclusive courses.

Fifty-three years and millions of tees later, Kenya has established itself as a regional and continental golfing powerhouse. Local and international athletes swing away for leisure and the prize money in Kenya's world-class courses during tournaments all year long.

That World Golf Awards named Kenya Africa's Best Golf Destination in 2020 last month may not have come as a surprise to golf insiders. This recognition came on the back of multi-million-shilling investment in the sport, aggressive marketing, and near-flawless management.

On the way to winning the prestigious awards - sponsored by golf-ware manufacturer Druh Belts & Buckles, Etihad Airways, and Golf Saudi - Kenya beat Morocco, Egypt, and South Africa, considered the cream of Africa in



Aerial shot of Muthaiga Golf Course.

golfing.

Inclusive The era of golf as an elite sport is gone. Enter pocket-friendly packages for all. To respond to golf's popularity across different demographics, clubs such as Migaa Golf Estate in Kiambu County have introduced packages that target Kenya's middle class from a diversity of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Today, golf tourism is one

of the country's top-selling points internationally, according to Magical Kenya, the country's travel marketplace. For travellers on safari in Kenya, golf offers a deserved break from the breathtaking and often exerting excursions in Kenya's wild.

With the country's fair weather ideal for golfing throughout the year, golfers, professionals, and amateurs alike, travel from Europe,

the Far East, Middle East, and other African countries to play here, making the tournaments highly competitive. This surging demand for golf tourism has also given rise to a new business frontier: golf travel bouquets. Lordstown Travel Group is one such business.

Josephine Kuria, the founder, had been in the travel industry for 15 years when she started the company in 2018. "I wanted to

do something unique and traditional travel wasn't for me. I wanted to establish a niche within tourism that was more appealing," Josephine narrates.

Coming at a time golf tourism has been gaining traction in Kenya, organising golf travels was, therefore, a no-brainer for her. "Many tourists today know what they want. They demand memorable and classic experiences beyond simply watching wildlife. Some want to play golf while others want to visit farms for coffee and tea tasting," She notes.

Golf Safaris

A member of the Global Golf Tourism Organisation (IAGTO), Lordstown Travels offers seven-day packages for tourists that include four days of golfing at Nairobi's various courses while staying at the city's top hotels. Travellers also get to visit attraction sites such as David Sheldrick Elephants Orphanage and Giraffe Centre.

"When tourists are visiting Maasai Mara, for instance, we identify nearby courses in Kisumu or Rift Valley where they can play. This makes it convenient to experience wildlife and to play golf," Josephine explains. Combining golf and safari, she argues, is a win-win for both the country's tourism sector and for visitors who get to see and do more during their stay.

Orascom Construction reports 6.2pc drop in Q3 profit as new contracts decline

CAIRO

Egypt-based Orascom Construction reported a 6.2 per cent drop in third quarter net profit as the number of new contracts declined amid a global economic recession-induced by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Net profit attributable to shareholders for the three months to the end of September fell to \$30.2 million, the company said in a statement on Thursday. However, quarterly revenue increased 4.4 per cent to \$824.5m from the same period in 2019.

New contract awards during the reporting period almost halved to \$674.4m from a year-earlier. The company's net cash position reached \$208.9m at the end of September. "Our focus on project execution and controls, cash preservation and collections, and cost optimisation are reflected in our financial results for the quarter,"

Orascom chief executive Osama Bishai, said. The quarterly revenue increase, he said, indicated continued operations of the firm "on a full-fledged basis."

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) rebounded in the third quarter, surging 44.9 per cent from the previous quarter to \$51m. The rise in Ebitda reflects "successful efforts in project controls and cost optimisation," Mr Bishai said.

The Cairo-based company is an engineering and construction contractor primarily focused on infrastructure, industrial and high-end commercial projects in the Middle East, Africa and the US. Net profit in the first nine months of the year fell nearly 31 per cent to \$65m from the same period a year earlier. Revenue in the first nine months rose 6.9 per cent to \$2.44 billion on an annual basis.

The company's backlog remained steady at \$5.3bn at the end of September. New awards during the nine-month period, however, declined

27.5 per cent to \$2bn. The group signed \$1.4bn worth of new awards in the first nine months, primarily in Egypt, of which \$480m were added in the third quarter of the year.

Main projects won during the first half were for transportation, data centres, water and commercial sectors. New work picked up in the third quarter includes contracts in Egypt's growing logistics sector, the country's New Administrative Capital and Al Alamein city.

In the US, the company's subsidiaries signed \$570m worth of contracts during the nine-month period. Data centre projects in the US account for a significant portion of new awards in the third quarter, it said. The standalone backlog of Besix, in which Orascom Construction controls a 50 per cent stake, fell 7.1 per cent year-on-year to €4.2bn. New awards totalled €407m in the third quarter, bringing the total in the first nine months to €1.5bn for BESIX, according to the statement.



Egypt's Orascom Construction site in Cairo.

CONSTRUCTION

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

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AUSTRALIA'S HOUSING BOOM SHOWING NO SIGN OF ENDING

SYDNEY

Australia's A\$7.1 trillion (\$5.2tn) housing market is facing the ultimate stress test - the first recession in almost three decades - and passing with flying colours, for now.

Economists had predicted property prices would tumble 10 per cent or more as Covid-19 swept Australia; now, they're scrambling to reverse those forecasts to gains of 5-15 per cent in the next couple of years. Policy makers have switched from worrying about plunging prices to being on guard for excessive exuberance.

A recent Saturday auction at the Sydney suburb of Forest Lodge - around 2.5 miles from the city centre - captured the bullish mood. About 30 people gathered in front of a four-bedroom Victorian terrace up for auction. The bidders - ranging from younger professionals to middle-aged people - kicked off at A\$2.4 million and moved up in increments of A\$10,000, then A\$5,000, until the hammer came down at A\$2.74m.

It's a dynamic that's emerging in other countries as low interest rates fuel asset prices. While housing strength is good news for the economy's recovery, to housing bears - who have been proved wrong time and again for a generation in Australia - further gains risk fuelling the bubble that is destined to pop one day, leaving a trail of bad debt.

The lending books of Australia's banks are among the world's most exposed to mortgages, with housing loans at the four major banks equating to about 75 per cent of the nation's approximately A\$2tn gross domestic product. The statistics office estimates the value of the nation's residential dwellings was A\$7.1tn in the



A busy intersection in Sydney city centre

June quarter, when the weighted average prices in capital cities rose 6.2 per cent from a year earlier.

Behind the bonanza are interest rates at levels unseen in Australia before. Three of the nation's four big banks are offering fixed-rate mortgages below 2 per cent, and HSBC is offering 1.88 per cent, according to broker Mortgage Choice. That's been facilitated by the Reserve Bank of Australia cutting its interest rate to 0.10 per cent, as well as its bond-buying and bank lending programs that aim to lower borrowing costs across the economy.

"It's not a place I think anybody thought we would be," said Susan Mitchell, chief executive of Mortgage Choice. "There's a lot of stimulus. I'm a bit worried about

prices spiking up." RBA modelling found that even in a scenario where the economy contracted by 20 per cent and unemployment soared to 20 per cent, banks still wouldn't breach minimum prudential capital requirements. "The likelihood of a major bank failing is very low," it says.

The RBA has made clear that reducing unemployment is its priority for now, rather than worrying about asset prices. Governor Philip Lowe has said the absence of population growth - with international borders still closed - changes housing market dynamics and he doesn't think an unsustainable increase in housing prices is likely. Yet there are tools should the situation change.

"We know from the experience of re-

cent years that the macro-prudential instruments can curtail the growth in debt in a stabilising way. So it's an issue we're watching carefully, but I'm not particularly worried about it at the moment," Mr Lowe said during a panel at the Australian's Strategic Forum 2020 on Wednesday. By contrast in New Zealand, where some regions are recording double-digit house price gains despite the worst recession in a century, economists expect loan-to-valuation ratio restrictions will be put in place early next year.

Fiona Guthrie, chief executive officer of Financial Counselling Australia, worries more people will end up finding themselves under financial strain from easier financing rules. "Weaker lending standards mean people will be loaded up with

as much debt as possible," she said. "There is significant profit to be made in pushing borrowers to the edge."

Yet, much like the uneven nature of the economy's recovery, the housing market strength isn't uniform. Many people living in inner city apartments in Sydney and Melbourne are looking for more space. "The virus has become a catalyst for change that is seeing us re-fashioning our homes and rethinking where we want to live," said John McGrath, chief executive officer of real estate agent McGrath Ltd.

The result has been a collapse in rents and flat prices - with more to come as apartment blocks are still under construction. That's unlikely to hurt Australian banks, which have steered clear of developers after a recent period of over-building. But it does impact small investors. In addition, there are households still on deferred mortgage repayments because they lost their job during Covid-19 lockdowns. When these are scaled back and loan holidays end sometime next year, they could be forced to sell.

World-champion kite surfer Ewan Jaspas is among the sea changers. Being in a trendy St Kilda flat 24/7 with limited outside space in Melbourne wasn't ideal, so he and his girlfriend decamped to tropical Queensland. Initially the plan was to stay for two or three weeks. That was a few months ago. "A lot of people are working remote anyway, so why would I be in the city in a tiny apartment when I could have a garden and outside space and be at the beach?"

Hong Kong cuts stamp duty on non-residential property to revive market

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's moribund commercial property market is getting a much needed lifeline. After widespread chatter about Chief Executive Carrie Lam and her council considering elimination of the seven-year-old supplementary stamp duty on commercial property, the city's top leader made the rumours a reality in her 2020 Policy Address on Wednesday.

Introduced in 2013, the double stamp duty (DSD) - officially the Ad Valorem Duty for Non-Residential Property - was an additional levy on commercial assets, scaled to as high as 8.5 per cent on sales of property valued at over HK\$21 million (\$2.7 million).

"Removal of the double stamp duty will help to improve the transactional volume for commercial properties as we move into 2021, which will also be boosted by pent-up investor demand," said Hannah Jeong, head of valuation and advisory services at Colliers International. But the agency veteran does not expect removal of the DSD to be a magic bullet.

Thawing out a frozen market In 2012, before the double stamp duty was enacted, Hong Kong recorded over 18,000 commercial property transactions for the year. Since the cooling measure was put in place seven years ago, trades of commercial assets have yet to reach 10,000 transactions in a single year.

In 2020, the market in Asia's wealthiest city grew colder still, with commercial property transaction volumes tumbling 62 percent year-on-year to \$5.3 billion from January through September compared with the same period last year, according to Real Capital Analytics. "The impact won't be too significant; it will fail to boost asset prices, as the rental market remains weak [and will] drop further in 2021," Jeong added.

Under the new policies introduced by Lam on Wednesday, the double stamp duty on residential properties will remain in place while the tariffs on sales



Cityplaza One in central Hong Kong.

of commercial and industrial assets will fall by half, back to their pre-2013 rates. The first signs of easing regulation in the stagnating commercial sector came in August, when the Hong Kong Monetary Authority raised the permitted loan to value (LTV) ratio on non-residential property to 50 percent from 40 percent. Lam went further by killing the DSD and allowing "relevant property owners to benefit immediately from the proposal."

The improved financing picture helped spark the sector to life even before the stamp duty changes became official, if marginally. "Though it failed to drive major transactions, the relaxation did encourage investment sentiment among mid-to-small-cap investors," said John Siu, Cushman & Wakefield's managing director for Hong Kong.

With many in the market apparently anticipating the policy change, 318 commercial and industrial properties worth a total of HK\$13.74 billion changed hands during the first 22 days of November, including Swire's HK\$9.85 billion sale of the CityPlaza One office tower to Gaw Capital Partners and Schroder Pamplet. Those totals were up from 208 transactions worth HK\$2.62 billion during the same period in 2019, according to data from Centaline Commercial cited by the South Chi-

na Morning Post.

Proptech registration column Among the deals happening in recent weeks, "King of Cassettes" David Chan of floated a pair of office spaces in the Center in Sheung Wan for HK\$126 million, and Sun Hung Kai Properties sold a retail podium in Ma Tau Kok for HK\$300 million. In the days before the policy address, the Hong Kong Christian Church

purchased a 4,542 square foot (422 square metre) unit in a Wan Chai commercial building for just shy of HK\$50 million, and Lofter Group and Alphaex Capital agreed to acquire 1-7 Ki Lung Street in Prince Edward from Tang Shing-bor for about HK\$347 million, according to a local media report.

The Executive Council approved the relevant amendments of the stamp duty ordi-

nance on the morning of the policy address, Lam said in her annual address. She underlined that the government would watch the commercial sector closely and reintroduce duties if needed, before stating that she had handed down a Public Revenue Protection Order so as to "give effect to the abolition of the DSD on non-residential property transactions" starting Thursday.



Vida Residences Aljada exterior day view.

Emaar teams up with Arada to develop Dh600m residential project in Sharjah

ABU DHABI

Emaar Hospitality, the hospitality arm of Emaar Properties, and Sharjah-based real estate developer Arada have teamed up to develop a Dh600 million residential project and a hotel in Sharjah, the two companies said.

Vida Residences Aljada project will come up in Arada's Dh24 billion master development in the emirate, the companies said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The introduction of Sharjah's first branded residences and our partnership with Emaar Hospitality Group is yet more evidence of our determination to bring high-quality partnerships and competencies to Aljada," Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, chairman of Arada, said. "Vida Residences Aljada buyers will benefit not only from exceptional amenities and the perfect design and location, but also from the world-class service for which the Vida brand is renowned."

"The partnership is to bring a superb brand to Sharjah," Arada chief executive Ahmed Alkhashabi told The National in an interview. "This was signed in 2018 and we were waiting for the right time (to launch)."

Construction on Vida Residences Aljada and the adjacent Vida Aljada hotel will commence in the second quarter of 2021 and is set to be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2023. Off-plan sales of the project's first phase which includes 168 residential apartments kicked off on Tuesday. Arada is targeting to sell 2,600 units next year with a sales revenue of Dh2.3bn from its Aljada master development as well as the new project with Emaar.

"We will be launching another big project which will be announced in the next few weeks. We feel that there is still a solid area for more growth and as long as you deliver a product, that is high quality with all the amenities and accessible price there is always going to be a market." The company is aiming to start a new project in Saudi Arabia next year is looking for new opportunities in Dubai as well, he said.

WORLD

Biden urges safe Thanksgiving amid pandemic; Trump pardons ex-aide Flynn

WILMINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden pleaded with Americans on Wednesday to take steps to remain safe over the Thanksgiving holiday as COVID-19 cases soar, while President Donald Trump pardoned a former aide who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Biden gave a presidential-style speech acknowledging people's fatigue with restrictions amid the coronavirus pandemic, but urged them to exercise caution as caseloads surge.

"I know the country has grown weary of the fight. We need to remember - we're at war with the virus, not with one another," Biden said as he urged Americans to forgo the type of big family gatherings normally associated with Thursday's holiday, wear protective masks and maintain social distancing.

The Democratic former vice president again said he would take immediate steps to

address the coronavirus pandemic when he takes office on Jan. 20. During the campaign, Biden accused Trump, a Republican, of panicking and surrendering in the face of a public health crisis.

Shortly after Biden spoke, Trump pardoned his former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who had pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the former Russian ambassador in Washington.

It marked the latest instance in which Trump has used his power of executive clemency to benefit a friend or associate.

Prominent Democrats responded quickly and angrily.

"President Trump's pardoning of Michael Flynn, who twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his dealings with a foreign adversary, is an act of grave corruption and a brazen abuse of power," House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.



Michael Flynn

More than 261,000 Americans have died from COVID-19, with the daily toll on Tuesday surpassing 2,000 for the first time since May, as infections and hospitalizations surge nationally. The United States leads the world in COVID-19 cases and deaths.

Biden said the United States faced "a long hard winter" but that it was during the most difficult circumstances that "the soul of our nation has been forged."

He said he hoped the recent positive news on vaccine development - the first shots potentially could be made available to some Americans within weeks - would serve as an incentive for people to take simple steps to get the virus under control. Since winning the Nov. 3 elec-

tion, Biden has offered a message of healing and reconciliation after Trump's tumultuous term, while the president still refuses to concede and falsely claimed again on Wednesday that Biden's victory was stolen.

Without mentioning Trump, Biden addressed the messy aftermath of the vote.

"Our democracy was tested this year," Biden said. "In America, we have full and fair and free elections and then we honor the results. The people of this nation and the laws of the land won't stand for anything else."

ECONOMIC APPOINTMENTS

Biden plans next week to name his choices for some important positions in his administration, including his economic team, his communications director, Kate Bedingfield, said. They are expected to include former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen as Treasury secretary.

Trump's administration gave the green light on Monday to formal transition efforts even as he continues to make unsubstantiated claims of voting fraud. As a result, Biden will begin receiving presidential daily intelligence briefings.

COVID-19 nasal spray 'ready for use'

LONDON

A NASAL spray that can provide effective protection against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been developed by British researchers, using materials already cleared for use in humans.

A team at the University of Birmingham formulated the spray using compounds already widely approved by regulatory bodies in the United Kingdom, Europe and the United States. They are also widely used in medical devices, medicines and even food products.

This means that the normal complex procedures to take a new product to market are greatly simplified so the spray could be commercially available very quickly.

A preprint study describes cell culture experiments designed to test the ability of the solution to inhibit COVID-19 infection. The research showed that cell virus cultures inhibited the infection up to 48 hours after being treated with the solution and when diluted many times.

The team said the spray could be useful in areas where crowding is less avoidable, such as in airplanes or classrooms, and regular application of the spray could significantly reduce disease transmission.

Richard Moakes, lead author of the study, said: "This spray is made from readily available products that are already being used in food products and medicines and we purposely built these conditions into our design process. It means that, with the right partners, we could start mass production within weeks."

Antiviral agent

The spray is composed of an antiviral agent called carrageenan, commonly used in foods as a thickening agent, and a solution called gellan, which was selected for its ability to stick to cells inside the nose.

Gellan is an important component because it has the ability to be sprayed into fine droplets inside the nasal cavity, where it can cover the surface evenly, and stay at the delivery site, rather than sliding downward and out of the nose.

Airborne pathogens pose high risks in terms of both contraction and transmission within the respiratory pathways, in particular the nasal region.

Agencies

Social media administration politically biased, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN digital diplomacy in the social media faces increasingly strong censorship elements and political bias of its administration, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a video address to the Digital Technologies and Science Diplomacy conference participants.

The spokeswoman noted that while digitalization of the information space made it possible to deliver Russian foreign policy positions, assessments and approaches to the widest audiences, it also "brought disinformation to a new level."

"Consequently, debunking fake news, unfortunately disseminated by Western media, has become a part of the routine," she pointed out.

"Another problem is the political bias of the social media administration. We have to effectively act on a hostile territory amid increasingly strong elements of censorship and unfair competition."

There have been a lot of such situations recently, the diplomat added. "Yet still, we don't give up. Working in the social media helps us open up the boundaries somewhat and stimulate direct contacts between both the countries and the ordinary people, who are far from politics. We see our goal in building bridges and removing conflict barriers. This is a perfect platform to make objective information about Russia available to everyone," she concluded.

In 2020, Facebook began labelling state-run accounts. Shortly, Twitter took the same decision in respect of accounts of governments and government media, though leaving media with independent editorial policy on the government payroll unlabelled.

The Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out that Western media, unlike that of Russia, remained unlabelled, which, according to the ministry, constituted a violation of democratic principles of freedom of information. Later, Instagram followed suit. Maria Zakharova commented at the time that actions of Twitter, Facebook and Instagram appear to be coordinated.

Agencies



Violence in Ethiopia spreads beyond Tigray region - UN

UNITED NATIONS

VIOLENCE and insecurity are reported spreading in Ethiopia beyond the conflict-torn Tigray region as people flee its major city of Mekele, UN humanitarian officials said on Wednesday.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said it has been receiving reports of the worsening situation "after the relocation of security forces to Tigray, with several reports of clashes and attacks in other places."

The government delivered a 72-hour ultimatum on Sunday to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to surrender. Published reports said the

Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) has surrounded Mekele, Tigray's major city with a population of about 500,000 people.

Nearly 42,000 people already have fled Ethiopia into Sudan, the humanitarian office said in a release.

Also, more than 95,000 people are estimated to be newly displaced in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNP), following clashes reported last week, OCHA said.

Food, water and shelter are urgently needed in the region. Most of the displaced people are in open spaces after public buildings, schools and facilities reportedly were burned in re-



Ethiopian soldiers rest at the 5th Battalion of the Northern Command of the Ethiopian Army in Dansha, Ethiopia, on Wednesday. (AFP)

cent violence.

The SNNP region is in Ethiopia's south, separated from the northernmost Tigray region by

other regional states.

"We are worried about this," Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres, told reporters in a regular briefing. "Our humanitarian colleagues are already trying to deal with the situation involving people fleeing from Mekele and our worries (are) that the situation could get worse."

The federal government's military operation began Nov 4 in Tigray following the TPLF's attack on the ENDF Northern command base, a division stationed in the region for over two decades and based in Mekele.

The Ethiopian government on Tuesday said a "large number" of Tigray Special Forces and the militia were surrendering as part of the Sunday ultimatum.

One child or youth under 20 infected with HIV every 100 seconds - UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

APPROXIMATELY once every minute and 40 seconds, a child or young person under the age of 20 was infected with HIV last year, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Wednesday.

Prevention efforts and treatment for children remain some of the lowest amongst key affected populations, and in 2019, a little less than half of children worldwide did not have access to life-saving treatment, UNICEF said in a new report.

Nearly 320,000 children and adolescents were newly infected with HIV and 110,000 children died of AIDS last year. "Children are still getting infected at alarming rates, and they are still dying from AIDS. This was even before COVID-19 interrupted vital HIV treatment and prevention ser-

vices putting countless more lives at risk," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

According to UNICEF, the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened inequalities in access to life-saving HIV services for children, adolescents and pregnant mothers everywhere, and there are serious concerns that one-third of high HIV burden countries could face coronavirus-related disruptions. "Even as the world struggles in the midst of an ongoing global pandemic, hundreds of thousands of children continue to suffer the ravages of the HIV epidemic," said Fore. Data from the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), cited in the report, showed the impact of control measures, supply chain disruptions, lack of personal protective equipment, and the redeployment of healthcare



workers on HIV services.

Pediatric HIV treatment and viral load testing in children in some countries fell by 50 to 70 percent, and new treatment initiation by 25 to 50 percent in April and May, coinciding with partial and full lockdowns to control the novel coronavirus. Health fa-

cility deliveries and maternal treatment were also reported to have reduced by 20 to 60 percent, maternal HIV testing and antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation by 25 to 50 percent, and infant testing services by approximately 10 percent. Though the easing of control measures and the

strategic targeting of children and pregnant mothers have successfully led to a rebound of services in recent months, challenges remain, and the world is still far from achieving the global 2020 pediatric HIV targets, said UNICEF.

Despite some progress in the decades-long fight against HIV and AIDS, deep regional disparities persist among all populations, especially for children. While the Middle East and North Africa region recorded 81 percent pediatric ART coverage, only 46 percent and 32 percent were covered in Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, respectively. The South Asia region recorded 76 percent coverage, Eastern and Southern Africa 58 percent, and East Asia and the Pacific 50 percent.

Xinhua

US practices threaten global health security

THE fight against COVID-19 is a major test for mankind.

In the course of the world's response to the pandemic, there are two completely different approaches. The first one is the choice for most of the countries in the world - unity and active control measures aimed at cutting the spread of the virus, while the second one is the American way - ignoring facts and science, neglecting domestic control, politicizing the pandemic, stigmatizing other countries, withdrawing from the WHO and undermining global COVID-19 cooperation.

What goes around comes around. The White House will surely shoulder the bad consequences for its disrespect for science and public health experts, as well as its spread of false information.

"The only way we will defeat this outbreak is for all countries to work

together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Jan. 30 this year when declaring a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of novel coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the world is still not working as a whole today to fight against the virus, and the WHO has to always repeat the importance of "solidarity and cooperation." "A pandemic is not a political football. Wishful thinking or deliberate diversion will not prevent transmissions or save lives. What will save lives is science, solutions and solidarity," Tedros said recently.

As COVID-19 control gets severe in the world, it is alarming that some U.S. politicians are trying to make "po-

litical viruses" to seek private political gains. They violated the WHO Best Practices for the Naming of New Human Infectious Diseases, deliberately associating the novel coronavirus with specific countries and groups, which caused serious discrimination against the Chinese and even Asians. They fabricated rumors about the origin of the virus, and are addicted to blame game. The international society believes that the White House's political viruses are far more damaging than the COVID-19 pandemic.

The global fight against COVID-19 calls for effective cooperation on multilateral platforms. However, the U.S. is still obsessed with unilateralism and hegemonic practices, acting as a destroyer and troublemaker, which has seriously threatened the global

health security.

In May this year, the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly unanimously approved a resolution to combat the COVID-19 pandemic which made clear to recognize and support the WHO's leading role. The resolution called member countries to prevent discriminative and stigmatizing practices, stop wrong and false information, enhance cooperation on developing test tools, therapeutic methods, and drugs and vaccines, and timely assess the WHO's work on virus control. The resolution was co-drafted by over 140 countries including China. The U.S. didn't join the drafting process, and made remarks with reservation on the approval of the resolution. It fully demonstrated its double standards on multilateral

organizations and international consensus - using them when they serve its interests and abandoning them when they don't.

In September this year, the 74th UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, voted for by an overwhelming majority of 169 countries, to urge member states to promote inclusion and unity, take strong action against racism, xenophobia, hate speech, violence and discrimination, and refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. It also called on member states to enable all countries to have unhindered, timely access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable diagnosis, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines,

and essential health technologies and their components, as well as equipment, for the COVID-19 response. The U.S., as one of the only two that voted against the resolution, has revealed its intention to undermine international solidarity in COVID-19 response.

In fact, the practices of certain U.S. politicians to suppress the WHO well explain their lack of a sense of responsibility on issues concerning the common future of mankind, and their practices also drew wide criticism from the international community. For instance, Richard Horton, Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet, noted that the U.S. decision to defund WHO is simply this - a crime against humanity. The Guardian also commented that the U.S. politicians' attack on WHO damages public health around the world, calling it "ugly, dishonest, bullying and cruel."

People's Daily



Worker works at a textile factory in Renshou county, Southwest China's Sichuan Province on September 22. File photo

RCEP to boost region's textile sector

WITH China and 14 other economies signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement, on Sunday, the textile and apparel business will get a strong boost and form a more closely integrated supply chain in the Asia-Pacific region.

China's textile industry will reap rising benefits because the nation has the most complete industry chains in the world, Chen Jing, vice president of the Technology and Strategy Research Institute, told the Global Times on Monday.

"Cooperation in textiles between China and the emerging economies in Southeast Asia has been profound. For instance, China has been exporting textile products and textile intermediate products to Vietnam for years. The reduced tariffs on these products will benefit Chinese spinners," Chen noted.

The textile and apparel industry is a crucial sector benefitting from the RCEP deal, and it has long been a critical business among countries in the region. In 2015, the RCEP member countries exported \$4.5 billion of textile and apparel products, accounting for more than half of the world's total.

Textile mills in Southeast Asian countries will also benefit from the RCEP, thanks to the distinct pattern in the regional supply chain in the sector, Chen said.

"The elimination of higher trade barriers such as tariffs and investment barriers enabled by the RCEP agreement will strengthen Southeast Asia's textile industry, with more flowing of China's investment there," he said, noting the RCEP will enlarge China's role as the primary textile supplier in the industry chain, and make Southeast Asian countries better apparel producers.

More than 80 percent of textiles imported by members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

came from RCEP members in 2015 in terms of value, and around 81 percent of apparel imports by ASEAN were also from RCEP members, according to the World Trade Organization.

In recent years, a number of Chinese textile factories have shifted to offshore their manufacturing to Southeast Asian countries as labor costs is relatively low there.

Some of the industry's major clients, including prominent international clothing brands, prefer contractors with plants in places with the cheapest labor to ensure their businesses' competitiveness, Jin Xiaobo, CEO of Zhejiang Kaierhai Textile Garments Co, told the Global Times on Monday. But sometimes it is difficult to seek experienced workers.

"I went to some Southeast Asian countries and Bangladesh two years ago but didn't end up establishing any factories," Jin said. "The labor was cheap but there were not enough experienced workers. Now, we are thinking of putting it back on the agenda."

Jin said that textile companies with business ties in ASEAN are ecstatic over the RCEP, but the final decision to offshore operations will depend on tariff cuts and whether the cost of training local staff can be offset by lower labor cost there.

More than 85 percent of the company's business is for export, Jin said, and most of it goes to countries in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, which takes 40 percent.

"Southeast Asia represents an extremely important market for our apparel business, which has been steadily rebounding since June," Jin said. "We will definitely think about setting up more offices and plants in the region when finer details of the preferential policies from the RCEP are out."

Global Times

32,000 children flee impact of storm in Somalia - charity

MOGADISHU

MORE than 32,000 children including their families have fled the impact of Gati, the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Somalia on record, a global charity said on Wednesday.

Save the Children said about 70,000 people, including 32,000 children, have been forced to flee after the cyclone wreaked devastation across Puntland state in northeast Somalia.

"As in all humanitarian crises, children are among the most vulnerable, and this storm has worsened a pre-existing crisis for young people in Somalia," Mohamoud Hassan, Save the Children's country director for Somalia said in a statement issued in Mogadishu. Heavy rains and strong winds of 115 mph have triggered flash flooding, causing at least 40,000 people to lose their homes.

In the Bari region of Puntland, heavy rainfall is still ongoing and causing flooding, making the total number of

victims likely to rise in the coming days.

Hassan said most of the affected people are from pastoralist families, whose livelihoods had already been severely damaged by recurring droughts over the past few years.

"Their herds have dwindled, making their situation extremely difficult even before this storm hits.

Many had already been displaced and had little protection against extreme weather events like this cyclone - and now they are without access to even the most basic shelter," he added.

According to the charity, over the past year, locust swarms destroyed the crops of hundreds of farms and severe flooding has already displaced thousands of families in the south of the country.

"Like everywhere else in the world, people in Somalia have not been able to escape the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit the poorest and most vulnerable people the hardest and brought about a huge loss of livelihood," Hassan said.

Xinhua

Hong Kong embraces greater development opportunities with new policy address unveiled

HONG KONG

AS a series of support measures were unveiled in the new policy address on Wednesday, Hong Kong, still reeling from social unrest and the COVID-19 epidemic, is expected to gain momentum to revive its ailing economy, integrate into steady development of the country, and realize greater achievements in the future.

TAPPING INTO GREATER BAY AREA

Observers said the measures to help Hong Kong better participate in the develop-

ment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area became the major bright spot of the policy address.

With the great support of the central government, Hong Kong should make full use of the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and actively integrate into the national development landscape so as to enjoy the dividends of the country's robust growth, Hong Kong-based economist Liang Haiming said.

The new measures, among seven aspects of policy support by the central government, were tangible, detailed and practical, Chan Yung,

vice-chairperson of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, said.

Guo Yiming, deputy chairman of the Hong Kong Federation of Journalists, pointed out that further integration into the Greater Bay Area means easier cross-boundary travel, wider mutual financial market access and deepening innovation and technology cooperation, which will enable Hong Kong to break its development bottleneck.

The Greater Bay Area will also provide young people in Hong Kong with a much broader arena, observers said.

According to the policy address, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HK-SAR) government will earmark 100 million Hong Kong dollars (12.9 billion U.S. dollars) to subsidize nearly 200 startups of young entrepreneurs in the Greater Bay Area. Some 2,000 Hong Kong college graduates will get the opportunities of working in the mainland Greater Bay Area cities under a government scheme.

As the new policy address highlighted opportunities in the national development, Hong Kong will be able to find new economic growth points, facilitate better development

of the young people, and overcome the current impasse, observers said.

REINFORCING FINANCIAL HUB

The policy address also featured an array of measures to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international financial center, in particular the further deepening of the mutual access between the mainland and Hong Kong financial markets.

The central authorities will support the gradual expansion of the scope of eligible securities under stock connect programs, including the inclu-

sion of Hong Kong-listed pre-profit biotechnology companies and stocks traded on the mainland Sci-Tech Innovation Board, according to the policy address.

The implementation of the cross-boundary wealth management connect scheme will also be expedited.

Tan Yueheng, permanent honorary president of the Chinese Securities Association of Hong Kong, said the new policies will bolster the sustainable development of financial markets, bring new impetus into the Hong Kong economy and cement Hong Kong's role as a financial hub and a wealth

management center.

The further expansion of stock connect programs will help ensure the continued resiliency, vibrancy and attractiveness of Hong Kong's capital markets, Laura Cha Shih May-lung, chairperson of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, said.

With the new measures to facilitate mutual access of financial markets, capital flows between the mainland and Hong Kong will be more smooth, Cheng Shi, chief economist with ICBC International, said, expecting more global funds into the mainland markets. Xinhua

Russian envoy calls on UN to analyze damage done to countries by unilateral sanctions

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA calls on the United Nations to monitor damage done to various countries by the United States' and the European Union's unilateral sanction imposed in bypassing the United Nations Security Council, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya said on Wednesday at a UN Security Council informal meeting on the issue of illegal unilateral sanctions.

The meeting was convened at the initiative of Russia, China, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Niger, and South Africa.

"Illegal restrictive and punitive measures imposed by the United States and the European Union pose serious threat to international peace and security and impair the humani-



tarian situation in the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Europe," the Russian diplomat stressed.

He drew attention to Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to establish the so-called green corridors free from trade wars and sanctions to deliver daily necessity items, food products, medicines, individual protection gear needed to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

"As a next step, the United Nations member states and the or-

ganization's agencies may consider our initiative to involve UNN regional coordinators to monitor impacts of unilateral sanctions on economic revival of countries after the pandemic," Nebenzya added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on Group of Twenty leaders to impose a moratorium of various restrictions against countries most hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

In a video address to the United Nations General Assembly in September, the Russian leader once again drew attention to this initiative, saying that "green corridors free from trade wars and sanctions" were badly needed.

Agencies

US special envoy to Iran says more sanctions coming

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration plans to tighten sanctions on Tehran during its final months in power, the top US envoy to Iran said on Wednesday, as he urged US Democrat Joe Biden to use the leverage to press for a deal that reduces the regional and nuclear threats posed by the Islamic republic.

US Special Envoy for Iran Elliott Abrams, praising Biden's National Security Adviser and nominee for Secretary of State as "terrific people", cautioned against repeating what he saw as former President Barack Obama's mistakes in negotiating the 2015 nuclear deal. President Donald Trump left that deal unilaterally two years ago.

Biden, set to take office on Jan 20, has said he will return the United States to the Obama-era deal if Iran resumes compliance.

Abrams, at a virtual Beirut Institute event, said the Trump administration plans further pressure on Tehran, with sanctions related to arms, weapons of mass destruction and human rights.

"We will have next week, and the week after, and the week after - all through December and January, there will be sanctions that deal with arms, that deal with weapons of mass destruction, that deal with human rights. ... So this will continue on for another couple of months, right until the end," Abrams said.

US ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea said the United States could impose further sanctions on Lebanese figures over corruption and aiding the Iran-backed Hezbollah group after Washington in recent months blacklisted three former Lebanese government ministers, including the president's son-in-law.

"There are files that are in preparation under authorities that have to do with



US Special Representative for Venezuela and Iran Elliott Abrams

counter-terrorism and ... against corruption," Shea told the event.

Iran negotiations

Abrams said he expects a negotiation to take place with Iran next year and that he believes a deal will be struck under the Biden administration.

"We think the Biden administration has a great opportunity because there is so much leverage on Iran through the sanctions," Abrams said, adding he sees an opportunity to work with France, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as allies in the region, to strike a deal that addresses both missile and regional threats from Iran.

"If we discard the leverage we have, it would really be tragic and foolish. But if we use it there is a chance I think for constructive agreement that addresses all of these problems," he added.

He said it would be wrong to assume the new administration could reverse Iran policy like switching a light, and said negotiations would take many months.

Iran's clerical rulers have ruled out negotiations over its missile program or changing its regional policy. Instead it wants a change in US policy, including the lifting of sanctions.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have risen since Trump abandoned Obama's 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and restored harsh economic sanctions to pressure Tehran to negotiate deeper curbs on its nuclear program, ballistic missile development and support for regional proxy forces.

Agencies

African health ministers root for enhanced vigilance to tame surging COVID-19 infections

NAIROBI

HEALTH ministers drawn from the sub-Saharan African region on Wednesday urged enhanced vigilance to curb transmission of COVID-19 that has been on the upsurge in the continent.

The ministers said that robust surveillance combined with political goodwill, research and information sharing is key to minimize the impact of the virus on the continent's healthcare systems.

"We all need to continue to be vigilant in our testing, isolation and treatment, and our strong communication on the non-pharmaceutical interventions," said Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin, Ethiopia's minister for Health.

African health ministers early this week participated in the 17th virtual session of the

World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa to take stock of progress achieved in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

Jacqueline Mikolo, minister of Health and Population, Republic of Congo and chairperson of the 17th Regional Committee reiterated commitment by governments to contain a second wave of coronavirus transmission.

"It is crucial for all of us to fight complacency in observing COVID-19 preventive measures by strengthening communication and epidemiological surveillance," said Mikolo.

The African region has in the recent past recorded a steady increase in COVID-19 cases with WHO statistics indicating that 18 countries reported more than 20 percent spike in positive cases as of Nov. 22 when compared with the last seven days.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa said that enhanced vigilance was urgent amid risk of a surge in new infections during the holiday season.

"We need to prepare for a resurgence, including scaling-up precautions in risky situations such as festive and elections-related gatherings," said Moeti.

She said that WHO has supported timely roll-out of COVID-19 containment measures in Africa including enhanced surveillance, monitoring and reporting of new cases.

Zweli Mkhize, South African minister for Health said that strengthening containment measures at community level is key to avert a surge in positive cases that could overwhelm health care systems in Africa.

Xinhua



Selemani Kidunda

Selemani Kidunda seeks victory over Said Mbelwa

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S professional Super Middleweight boxer, Selemani Kidunda, has disclosed compatriot Said Mbelwa should brace for tough challenge from the former when the two boxers meet in a non-title bout in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kidunda noted Mbelwa should train well prior to taking on the former in the bout.

Kidunda is one of 16 boxers who will participate in undercard fights for an international, non-title fight between Tanzania's Idd Pialari and Philippine's Arnel Tinampay, which will take place at the Next Door Arena in the day.

Commenting on his preparations, Kidunda said he is an experienced boxer who was, before joining professional boxing, extremely consistent in amateur boxing.

He disclosed he is proud to have taken part in many fights in various countries around the world.

"I have joined professional boxing

to teach my fellow boxers how to fight because I have experience and I have met many boxers in the world, I'm telling Mbelwa that I am not a mere push-over," Kidunda, former national boxing team's skipper, stated.

Apart from the Kidunda versus Mbelwa bout, there will be other fights slated for the day, the fights' promoter Selemani Semunyu, disclosed.

Lulu Kayage will face Stumai Muki, Adam Yusuph will take on Adam Kipenga, Shadrack Ignas will take on Vicent Mbilinyi.

In other bouts, Ismail Galiatano will face Mustapha Dotto, Saleh Mkalekwa will come up against Ramadhan Shauri, Imani Daud will take on Japhet Kaseba.

Semunyu encouraged boxing enthusiasts to turn up in large numbers in the day to set a precedent.

He said he is proud that his firm, Peak Time Media Company, is one of the firms which are effectively contributing to promotion of the sport by taking it to places where other sports stakeholders could not.

Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania hosts Swahili Fashion Week pop-up shop

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

CANADA'S High commission to Tanzania will, today, host the Swahili Fashion Week (SFW) & Awards Pop-up Shop Sundowner in Dar es Salaam, organizers have announced.

Mustafa Hassanali, the SFW's founder, said the event will be held at the Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania's residence on 286 Toure Drive in the city from 3pm-8pm.

He stated that Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Pamela O'Donnel, will be the Pop-up Shop Sundowner's host.

He said the Pop-up Shop Sundowner is a half-day retail space that allows visitors to create a lasting impression of the creativity and versatility of participating vendors, artists and designers.

Hassanali further said the Pop-up Shop Sundowner gives the exhibitors an opportunity to showcase their works and also connects them with new markets to sell their works of art and creativity.

He added that not only does this

event encourages spontaneous purchase of products and service but also it helps participants extend their brands' visibility and create networking opportunities.

"The SFW and Awards, the biggest and largest annual fashion event in East and Central Africa, is organizing a Pop-up Shop Sundowner which will be held at the Canada's High Commissioner to Tanzania's residence, on 286 Toure Drive in Dar es Salaam today from 3pm-8pm," he disclosed.

"The Pop-up Shop Sundowner is a half-day retail space that allows visitors to create a lasting impression of the creativity and versatility of participating vendors, artists and designers," he said.

He said entry to the event is free to all as the aim is promotion of arts, crafts, fashion and accessories made in the country.

This year's edition of the SFW and Awards will be held at Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam next month and designers from across East Africa and beyond are expected to attend.

Winners and losers as Yanga beat Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

IN a Wednesday night of football, Yanga beat hosts Azam FC 1-0 at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam to go top of 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) table.

The victory puts the Green and Yellow team at the top with 28 points, three more points than second-placed Azam FC and five ahead of defending champions, Simba, who have a game in hand.

Who were the winners and losers in the Wednesday clash?

Winners:
Cedric Kaze

Yanga head coach Cedric Kaze has beaten Azam FC in his first attempt. His team played superbly and deservedly picked up a massive win to extend their unbeaten run to 11 matches.

This was his second big match after Yanga's VPL clash with age-old rivals, Simba, nicknamed 'Dar Derby', which ended in a draw.

Once again, Kaze's tactics were spot on. Eyebrows were raised when he dropped forward Michael Sarpong and midfielder Farid Mussa but he was proved right.

He set out Yanga to play direct football and they did cause Azam FC discomfort in both halves.

Even after the goalless first half, one could feel Yanga's pressure would ultimately result in a goal.

All in all, it is a fantastic bit of work that Kaze is doing at Yanga to turn the Jangwani Street-based outfit into such a solid side that has only let in four goals in 12 league games.

Deus Kaseke

Deus Kaseke is always criticised for his ludicrous decision-making, but he is rarely praised for his work rate. He



Yanga forward Ditram Nchimbi (R), challenges Azam FC defender Oscar Masai when the teams met in a 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) duel in Dar es Salaam in June. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

remains one of the most under appreciated players.

Against Azam FC, he misplaced passes but was just as impactful on the game. He tracked back into defence, won tackles and, more importantly, took his chance when it mattered to score the only goal of the night to take his side to the top of the league.

Losers:

Aristica Cioaba

Azam FC started the campaign in faultless fashion, winning their opening seven league matches to sit atop the table, but they hit a snag in the last five games. They have won only one of their last five outings.

They have collected five points out of 15 available. That is utterly inexcusable from a side as loaded with talent as they are and the blame for that has to go to head coach Aristica Cioaba.

Cioaba had three days to mull over that uncharacteristic defeat to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC as he faced a Yanga side with a redemption agenda. His task was to dispel

any early-season concerns.

This game was seen as a good test of how far along Azam FC is in the title race that is shaping into a proper three horse race, with defending champions, Simba, just two points behind.

Although Azam FC won this fixture last season, it was seen as a smash and grab, rather than a display of dominance.

He has failed in his first six-pointer of the season. His face at the end of the match tells it all. His side did not turn up for the game. They were second best in both halves.

Yanga strikers

The major worry for Yanga is their striking department. They hoped their forwards, Michael Sarpong, Ditram Nchimbi and Yacouba Songne, would find the back of the net against Azam FC but once again they left empty handed.

Yanga are winning games on the bank of a solid defence and midfielders chipping in goals.

Against Namungo FC, midfielder Carlos Fernandez scored for Yanga, Deus Kaseke chipped in for the club against

Azam FC.

Since edging out KMC FC 2-1 in Mwanza, Yanga strikers have not scored more than once in a Vodacom Premier League game.

There was no starting place for club leading scorer, Michael Sarpong, when Yanga took on Azam FC.

Prince Dube

Azam FC's Prince Dube's goalless run in the league is being blown out of proportion to the point that it is bordering on being a crisis for the striker, who netted for Zimbabwe against Algeria in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers last week.

Six goals netted by Dube in six VPL games set near impossible expectations.

The Zimbabwean, thus, came out to prove a point but instead he was absolutely shut down by the Yanga backline in the 24 minutes he played.

His night was made worse with an injury that forced him out of the game that his side could not muster a single shot on target.

Tactical approach steers Yanga to victory over Azam FC in VPL

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ON Wednesday, Yanga took on Azam FC in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, whereby Yanga won 1-0.

Former Mbeya City FC and Singida United midfielder Deus Kaseke netted for Yanga on the 49th minute of the duel.

The match, which was a big hit in the domestic media, ended up being a regular match on the pitch after it ended with a narrow win for the Jangwani Street-based boys.

Yanga, having chalked up three points, have confirmed their competence and experience in front of Azam FC, whose majority players did not show maturity.

Yanga head coach Cedric Kaze gave the team tactical power in the duel.

His selection of players goes hand in hand with his game plan in every match. Who expected Kaseke in that role of a supporting striker? I guess many did not.

Azam FC's performance on Wednesday has shown that there is a problem within the club both on and off the pitch.

Some of the club's players were walking, others were jogging. It is difficult to win a big match in this situation where players are neither concentrated on the game nor pressing high and deep on their opponents.

It is time for Azam FC's management to decide one of the two things, giving the coach protection and releasing some of the club's players or mutually parting ways with the head coach to get a new idea on the team mentally and tactically.

Azam FC is seen dropping points and form on the pitch as the league progresses.

Kaseke is an important player, hiding in the shadows of the purportedly prominent performers.

A goal getter, hard-working and talented, he is ready to play any role he is assigned by coach Kaze.

The midfielder sought to fulfil duties given to him by Kaze, not simply seeking to entertaining fans.

He covered a large area of the pitch when Yanga were defending and gave them another option in Azam FC's box when Yanga attacked. That was a fantastic performance shown by the unsung hero.

I don't know what is wrong with Azam FC forward, Obrey Chirwa, but the club severely missed his services against Yanga.

A warrior of his kind could be an important weapon against the Yanga defense marshalled by Lamine and Bakari Mwamnyeto.

The Yanga defenders were seen relaxed throughout the match, provided that Azam FC forward Prince Dube went off the pitch in the



Yanga midfielder (R), celebrates with team mate, Tuisila Kisinda, after the former netted for the side in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash against Azam FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

early minutes of first half after he had picked an injury.

Forwards Thierry Akono and Richard Djodji where not enough in Dube's absenceto cause problems on Yanga's backline.

Akono was not helpful, when it came to holding ups plays, as he could not protect the ball as a false number nine.

Yanga forward Yacouba Songne provided Kaseke with a good assist. That was outstanding but Songne has a relatively average form.

He is not seen as a striker with the quality which can help Yanga in difficult times. Soccer enthusiasts should maybe give him more time,

but, in the Wednesday clash, Yanga deserved to get a goal from him.

Mwamnyeto and Moro did not have much trouble in defending. They cleared the attacks, relaxed altogether and the task became easier for goalkeeper Metacha Mnata.

The defenders have used more of their intellect than force.

Azam FC midfielder Salum Abubakar has shown his ability day by day for the outfit.

He can shield the ball against tall and strong players, given his size is small, he was a thorn in Yanga midfielder Mukoko Tonombe's flesh.

The Azam midfielder also missed players he

could play with and cause problems on Yanga's goal.

Azam FC midfielders Ally Niyonzima, Ayoub Lyanga and Never Tigere were out of form.

They looked tired early on, they put a heavy burden on the side's fullbacks, Nicholas Wadada and Bruce Kangwa, to keep Yanga wingers in check.

It is, further, time for Yanga fullback Yassin Mustafa to improve his crosses in the opponents' box.

There are times when Kaze's plan requires goals from the sidelines.

Forward Ditram Nchimbi played very well for Yanga, he used his pace to harass Azam FC defenders and made them disorganized.

He, consequently, made it easy for his fellow strikers to make runs towards the opponents' goal.

I am happy to see that Nchimbi has chosen to provide scoring opportunities for fellow forwards.

His contribution therefore is worthier as he is not a regular scorer.

Michael Sarpong is so far Yanga's top scorer with three goals, the team are now leading the league with 28 points, followed by Azam FC with 25 points.

Yanga, the Mainland Premier League record champions, have now navigated one of the toughest hurdles in the campaign as they remain unbeaten in the league after 12 matches.

Pope Francis mourns Maradona's passing

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis remembers football legend and fellow Argentine Diego Maradona with affection and is keeping him in his prayers, the Vatican said on Wednesday.

Maradona, who died on Wednesday at his home in Argentina after a heart attack, met the pope several times at the Vatican after Francis was elected in 2013 as Latin America's first pope.

"The pope was informed about the death of Diego Maradona, he recalls the times he met him in these past years with affection, and he is remembering him in his prayers, as he did in the past days when he was informed about his condition," Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunni said.

Francis is a lifelong fan of the Buenos Aires San Lorenzo football team.

The official Vatican News website ran a story of Maradona's death on its front page with a headline calling him "football's poet."

It called Maradona "an extraordinary player but a fragile man," a reference to his struggle with drugs.

Maradona travelled to Rome several times to take part in several benefit games called "Matches for Peace," whose proceeds went to a papal charity for education in developing countries and for victims of the 2106 earthquake in central Italy.

On one occasion, Maradona gave the pope a signed jersey with a dedication that read in Spanish: "To Pope Francis, with all my affection and [wishes for] much peace in the world."

Before one match he told Vatican Radio: "I think we all feel something in our hearts when we see wars, when we see the dead. I think this match will put to rest the notion that we football players don't do anything for peace ... a football is worth more than 100 rifles."

Many of the world's biggest football players and clubs paid tribute to Maradona, following the news of his passing.

Among them were Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, as well as Pele, who was voted as one of FIFA's two greatest footballers ever alongside Maradona in 2000.

As well as Maradona's former clubs, ex-rivals Real Madrid, from his Barcelona period, Juventus, from his time at Napoli, and River Plate, from his stint at Boca Juniors also paid tribute.

Maradona won the World Cup with Argentina in 1986, but the Brazilian FA also released a statement in tribute, which read: "Football is in mourning. Diego Armando Maradona excited the world with his grit, irreverence and ability with the ball and on the pitch."

"A star who contribute in spreading the passion for football among South Americans."

(Agencies)

Maradona 'truly great' but 'hand of god' still riles Shilton

LONDON

DIEGO Maradona who died aged 60 on Wednesday possessed "greatness but not sportsmanship" said former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton who was victim to the infamous "hand of god" goal in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final.

Shilton told the Daily Mail he did not like that the Argentina football legend had never apologised for the first of his two goals in the 2-1 victory in Mexico.

Maradona, who Shilton described as a "the greatest player I ever faced", went on to score twice more in the semi-final win over Belgium and lifted the World Cup after Argentina defeated West Germany in the final.

"What I don't like is that he never apologised," said Shilton. "Never at any stage did he say he had cheated and that he would like to say sorry."

"Instead, he used his 'Hand of God' line. That wasn't right. It seems he had greatness in him but sadly no sportsmanship."

The 125-times capped Shilton, who won the European Cup twice with Nottingham Forest, added: "My life has long been linked with that of Diego Maradona -- and not in the way I would have liked."

"But I am saddened to hear of his passing at such a young age. He was undoubtedly the greatest player I ever faced and my thoughts are with his family."

- 'A special talent' -

Shilton, 71, says England were still reeling from the "cheating" when Maradona scored his sublime second goal.

"It was a great goal but we were in no doubt -- without the first goal he would not have scored the second," said Shilton.

Shilton -- who reached the 1990 World Cup semi-finals where England lost to Germany on penalties -- said he had rejected the chance to appear with Maradona on several occasions.

"My approach to that was always the same -- that I would be happy to do it if I thought he was going to apologise," said Shilton.

"I would have shaken his hand. But I was never given any indication that was likely to happen. Once I was asked to go on a talk show with him in Argentina. But again it didn't feel right."

"I felt it was all going to be a bit of a gimmick so I stayed away and I think I made the right decision."

Shilton says he hopes the notorious goal will not overshadow the former Barcelona and Napoli star's stunning ability.

AFP

Maradona was one of the greatest, soccer's ultimate flawed genius

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

IT was four minutes in a rich and fully lived life that spanned six decades, ending on Wednesday as news of the death of Diego Maradona filtered around the world. But, if you can begin to understand them, perhaps you'll understand why Maradona meant so much to so many. And why, as Lionel Messi -- his fellow Argentine and universal GOAT contender alongside Pele and Cristiano Ronaldo -- put it, "He is gone, but he will be with us for eternity."

As massive as Maradona's on-field legacy is -- and it includes titles in three different countries, as well as captaining Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup -- his charisma and resonance off the pitch might be even greater.

Those four minutes on June 22, 1986, in front of 114,500 souls at the Azteca -- the "Hand of God" that guided the ball over the head of Peter Shilton and into the English net, followed by the 10-second, 60-yard dash forever known as the greatest World Cup goal of all time -- encompassed the yin and yang of sports. They showed the craven, worldly drive to succeed at all costs (even by cheating, because that's what the "Hand" goal was) and the divine, celestial unimaginable skill that elevates star athletes, albeit briefly, into something superhuman.

But they went further than that. They fully re-



Maradona won a World Cup for Argentina and two league titles for Napoli, fully embracing the highs of his sporting talent with the lows of fame and high society. AP Photo

affirmed the narrative of Maradona as Messiah, the people's hero, the iconoclast both capable and willing to tear down the system. The fact that these goals came against England, the country that invented the game, that built an empire, that still -- rightly or wrong -- represents the very embodiment of the "Establishment" in the eyes of so many, is relevant too. So too is the fact that he got away with it, the fact that he metaphorically flipped England the bird and lifted the World Cup a few weeks later meant, to many, that a higher power truly was on his side.

Maradona, of course, fully embraced it. The underdog tale always suited him. He left Barcelona for Napoli in 1984 in a world-record transfer that left many tut-tutting. This was an impoverished city on the wrong side of the country's north-south divide, this was a team that had never won a league title. It was "bread and circus-

es," the art of feeding the masses an impossible dream and doing so at great expense.

Except Maradona made the impossible possible. He delivered two league titles to the city of Naples, beating out the wealthier blue bloods from northern Italy. And he didn't do it quietly. No, sir: He did nothing quietly. He did it while immersing himself into the city and the fan base, railing against the powers-that-be when things didn't go his way.

In that sense, Maradona was the eternal teenager. He spoke his mind, sometimes valiantly -- taking stands against war and poverty -- sometimes petulantly, happily playing the victim card when things didn't go his way and, over the years, attacking everyone from Pele to FIFA, with wanton abandon.

Was he playing to a crowd? Sometimes, sure. But it's not lost on anybody that he eventually made up with virtually

all of his adversaries. He didn't seek their forgiveness; he simply made it impossible for most to stay angry at him. The fact that to a man, virtually every player he has ever played with remembers him fondly, tells its own story. Yes, he was different, he trained when he wanted to, sometimes not training at all. But if you were close to him, you couldn't resent him. You fed off his greatness.

He lived a life of excess, very much in the public eye. Stories of drugs, prostitution, paternity suits, evenings spent in hot tubs with mobsters -- you've likely heard them all, and they're probably all true. He sucked the marrow out of life. He ascended as high as you can without losing the surly bounds of Earth, and he also spent more time crawling in the gutter than most.

Maradona did it all, and what's more, he paid for his transgressions. That moment at the Azteca was one of the few

instances when he got away with something. Health issues (both emotional and physical), a sense that high-level football passed him by (witness his disastrous stint as Argentina manager at the 2010 World Cup), the realisation that his achievements on the field could never be matched by anything he did off it ... he took all the blows.

You should leave comparisons with other GOAT candidates to the side. Different eras, different game. (For a start, he might have starred in the original viral video; if somebody attempted it today, you'd imagine it would be slicker and decidedly less organic.) But if you do get drawn into the most pointless of debates, please note that he achieved greatness on two different continents. Please note that he never received the protection from vicious fouls that are part of the game today.

Please note that he played on cut-up, divot-heavy pitches, not the putting greens of modern soccer. Please note that there were limits on the number of foreigners each team could field, and therefore he never enjoyed the stellar supporting cast (or the cannon-fodder opposition) today's stars enjoy. And please remind yourself of what he did to his body along the way.

In 1998, an hour before the World Cup final, I was with a group of 20 or 30 members of the media huddled around Pele in the bowels of the

Stade de France. Pele, the only other GOAT candidate at the time -- Messi and Ronaldo were children back then -- was holding court about the upcoming clash between Brazil and France. Suddenly, there was a commotion down the concourse. Within seconds, the media disappeared, racing away, cameras and notebooks in hand.

I, a young reporter at the time, was left with Pele and his media handlers.

"What's going on?" Pele asked.

"I think ... I think Maradona has just arrived ..." replied one of his aides.

Pele shook his head and smiled wryly.

One day, there might be another Pele or another Messi or another Ronaldo. One day, somebody might come along and do everything they'd done on the pitch, except do it better. But even if someone manages to emulate and surpass Maradona on the pitch, there is no way they will do it while emulating him off it. (And maybe that's no bad thing.) It's simply hard to imagine another Maradona. Ever.

There won't be one. There can't be one. Maradona was at once what we dream of being and what we say we abhor, perhaps because we see it inside of us. He rode his strengths and he failed to tame his weaknesses. But maybe that's precisely what made him human, balancing out his otherworldly genius and making him as fallible a sporting icon as you'll find.

Diego Maradona lived a life too large to capture

BY LEANDER SCHAERLAECKENS

THE duality in Diego Maradona's outsized life was perhaps laid out clearest within his most famous game. In the quarterfinal at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, against Argentina's hated rivals England, just four years after they fought the brief Falklands War, Maradona set up an attack that appeared to be going nowhere. But England midfielder Steve Hodge clumsily shanked the ball back between Maradona and English goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Maradona, standing a stocky 5-foot-5, somehow dinked the ball over the 6-foot Shilton, who was permitted to use his hands, to give the Argentinians the lead.

Replays showed that Maradona had used his fist to punch the ball into the net. The referees hadn't noticed. The goal stood.

Four minutes later, the 25-year-old from the slums of Buenos Aires, who had been the last player cut from Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning team when he was just 17, dribbled through just about the entire English team to score and win the game -- and keep his team on track to win the World Cup.

The first goal came to be known as the "Hand

of God."

In his description of the second goal, a tearful Argentine play-by-play announcer Victor Hugo Morales famously asked Maradona what planet he had come from.

Maradona inspired and Maradona defied the rules.

Maradona died on Wednesday, less than a month after his 60th birthday, likely from complications after a blood clot in his brain was treated surgically.

To some he was God. Or his hand was Godly, at least. There is even a Church of Maradona in Argentina with a congregation of his disciples, still going strong 23 years after he last kicked a ball professionally for his beloved Boca Juniors, the club that launched him to stardom. To others, he was otherworldly.

Because Maradona contained multitudes. He was one of the greatest players to ever play soccer, utterly dominating Serie A with unglamorous Napoli in the late 1980s in the prime of a long but tumultuous career, beset by conflict. He was also one of its biggest lightning rods.

For his divine-adjacent brilliance, for his uncatchable dribbles and irrepressible attacking thrust in the face of brutal tackles by unchecked defenses, Maradona also

had his demons. He was a hedonist, whose excesses may have slowed his career and certainly caught up to him later in his life. He was a habitual drug user and was kicked out of the 1994 World Cup for doping.

He was all too cozy with the Camorra crime organization when he lived in Naples.

He was a philanderer and took decades to acknowledge an illegitimate child. He owed the Italian government tens of millions of euros in back taxes that he never did get around to repaying. He could be racist. There's footage of him hitting a girlfriend. He consorted with dictators like Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez.

But for all the baggage, Maradona retained an

undeniable charm. His talent was so outrageous and his play so joyful as to be completely mesmerizing.

There is endless video of him dancing, even when he was old and overweight and barely able to move -- utterly unrecognizable from the forward who could be kicked but somehow never caught.

Maradona won the Argentine league with Boca and twice conquered Serie A with Napoli, also lifting the UEFA Cup with the club whom he lifted out of mediocrity. He brought Argentina to a second World Cup final in 1990. He scored 259 league goals for his clubs, even as he usually shouldered the dual burdens of being creator and finisher, while

also taking the brunt of the punishment from opponents. Perhaps a lifestyle more devoted to his craft might have yielded more. But that wasn't Maradona's way. He played the way he lived: with abandon.

Such was his stature that throughout his post-playing managerial career, which was littered with failures, he was nonetheless treated like a deity. In his final job, in charge of Gimnasia de La Plata of the Argentina Primera Division, an opposing team presented him with a throne from which to manage the game along the sideline.

He forever loomed over Argentine soccer, his opinions carrying the heft of a head-of-state, his playing legacy casting an immeasur-

ably long shadow over every subsequent attacking prodigy to emerge from the talent-rich nation -- one that even the all-conquering Lionel Messi has never entirely escaped.

Maradona was the kind of outsized character who, warts and all, can scarcely be sketched out in a retrospective of his life such as this one. He simply did too many remarkable things. The boy who rose from destitute poverty and supported his family from the age of 15 lived a life too large to capture.

Leander Schaerlaeckens is a Yahoo Sports soccer columnist and a sports communication lecturer at Marist College. Follow him on Twitter @LeanderAlphabet.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Kaze: Yanga deserved victory over Azam FC

SPORT

Maradona was one of the greatest, soccer's ultimate flawed genius

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA grabbed a well-earned three points at home to Azam FC, with a second half goal netted by midfielder Deus Kaseke proving enough to send them to the top of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) table.

Both teams looked to play attacking football, though Yanga were the ones who put together the better pass-

ing patterns in the opening half hour.

The club's approach created chances for forward Ditram Nchimbi, who started ahead of Michael Sarpog and Yacouba Sogne, Nchimbi shot straight into the side nets.

Azam FC's threats were limited, as they struggled to bring forward Prince Dube and later substitutes, Thierry Akono and Richard Djodi, into the action on a regular basis.

The victory has extended Yanga's 12-game unbeaten run in the 2020/21 VPL campaign.

Yanga head coach Cedric Kaze felt his side were deserving winners on the day in a top of the table clash played at Azam Complex.

During his post-match press conference, Kaze commented on his team's performance, saying: "It was a very tight game from start to finish because it involved two teams at the top of the

table."

"I can say it was a physical and tight affair but I feel we fully deserved the three points with our performance. We came to play the game, deserved to win."

He went on to add: "I can say we succeeded with our game plan though we could have got more than one goal with the chances we created."

"We also could have possessed better after going ahead in the second half. We

could have done better."

Yanga will return to the VPL action on Saturday when they entertain struggling JKT Tanzania at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam before taking on high flying Ruvo Shooting on December 6 at the same venue.

After that Yanga will shift focus to the 2020/21 Federation Cup first round action, which will see them take on a yet to be named opponent.

Kili Marathon participants urged to register early

By Guardian Reporter

ATHLETES who will participate in the 2021 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon have been reminded to continue registering and confirm their participation on time by making payment through online and Tigo Pesa.

The race's organizers said it is over a month since online registration was opened and the numbers are increasing by the day, hence, participants should not wait for last minute as they risk missing out once the entries reach capacity.

The Local Race Director, John Bayo said participants are registering through the race's website www.kilimanjaromarathon.com or local Tanzanian Citizens can register through Tigo Pesa.

In the statement released yesterday, Bayo advised that numbers will be limited again across all three races (Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon), Tigo Kili Half Marathon and Grand Malt 5km Fun Run to ensure the event sticks within the official IAAF regulations for a safe carrying capacity.

Bayo disclosed potential participants must, therefore, not delay, as it will be a case of first come, first serve and once entries run out, we will close registration!

This, according to Bayo, will ensure runners enjoy their time out on route without being overcrowded, and abide by the COVID Social Distancing rules and so that the organizers can ensure they get all logistics in terms of the hydration and medical support needed on route and at the finish in line with the numbers expected.

"We want all participants to register on time and ensure they pay as way of confirming their participation. This will help us prepare well in advance and ensure all logistics are in place in good time," he said.

He noted that they will soon announce race number collection dates and venues and, at the moment, they should keep the confirmation messages they receive after payment.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager and Grand Malt Manager, Irene Mutiganzi, also re-emphasized on the exercise and called on participants of the 42km race to complete the exercise on time as soon the entries will be full.

"We are calling on participants to avoid last minute rush and complete their registration on time to give the organizers ample time to prepare," she said.

The Tigo Head of Marketing Services, William Mpinga, said Tigo Pesa has made the registration process easy and fast. However, for those without Tigo lines can request their friends to register for them.

"I urge all participants to register for the Tigo Kili Half Marathon by dialing *149*20# and follow on-screen instructions and complete registration by paying with Tigo Pesa since it is easy and secured," he said.

Official sponsors for next year's event include, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor-42km), Tigo (Half Marathon), Grand Malt (5km Fun Run), water table sponsors, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Absa Bank Tanzania and Unilever.

The race's official suppliers are Keys Hotel, Garda World Security, Kibo Palace Hotel and CMC Automobiles.

Next year's race will be held at the Moshi Cooperatives University venue on February 28 and will play host to the IAAF route measured 42km, 21km races and a 5km Fun Run.

The event is locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Azam FC coach irked by lack of pressing in Yanga's loss

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC was outclassed by coach Cedric Kaze's Yanga as the latter went on to pick up a massive win in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Midfielder, Deus Kaseke, scored the only goal of the night to take Yanga to the top of the league and condemned Azam FC to second spot.

As a result, Azam FC now trails Yanga by three points and the former are just two points ahead of third-placed Simba, who have a game in hand.

This was Azam FC's second consecutive loss in the league after last weekend's 1-0 defeat to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Following the Wednesday match, Azam FC assistant coach, Vivien Bahati, could not mask his disappointment.

During his post-match press conference, Bahati commented on his team's performance saying the lack of pressing cost his side.

He disclosed: "If you watch the entire match, we have to congratulate Yanga. They played well to earn the victory. They fought for victory and got it. We did not show much."

He went on to stress the fact that it was the lack of pressing that ended up costing Azam FC the club's third loss of the campaign, as they have now dropped 10 points in the last five outings.

He noted: "Failure to press cost us. We played well when we



Azam FC midfielder, Mudathir Yahya (L), attempts to shoot past Yanga forward, Ditram Nchimbi, when the teams met in a Vodacom Premier League game, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

had the ball but struggled when we lost. We were poor without the ball."

"We did not press enough to win back the ball while Yanga did well in pressing and attacking."

The Burundian coach was also asked if he was happy with the performance of his players and, in response, he immediately fired back, stating: "I am not impressed with our

performances. There was no pressing, no tracking."

"You can't be happy with the lack of pressing and tracking back when we did not have possession. You can't be satisfied with such performance."

Azam FC, the 2013/14 Vodacom Premier League champions, will travel to Lake Zone next week to face Biashara United in Musoma and Gwambina FC in Mwanza.

Ihefu FC takes aim at Dodoma Jiji FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

IHEFU FC head coach, Zubeir Katwila, has said his charges are preparing well to win their Saturday's Vodacom Premier League match against Dodoma Jiji FC at the latter's venue, Jamhuri Stadium, in Dodoma.

The coach admitted that his charges are not doing well in the league, but said they will play to win the Saturday match against their fellow league debutants.

Ihefu FC anchors the 18-team league with six points from 12 matches while Dodoma Jiji FC has been placed 13th with 13 points from 11 games played.

Katwila said he has observed that many of his players lack league experience and there is a need for him to beef up the squad during the coming mini transfer window, which is expected to be opened mid next month.

After Ihefu FC's disappointing performance against Coastal Union mid this week, Katwila believes his charges can do better in tomorrow's game.

He said in the clash against Coastal Union, his side played well but they were failing to push forward, but promised to rectify the problems.

"We lost our game against Coastal Union, now we are working hard so that we can win our Saturday game against Dodoma Jiji FC, it will not be an easy game but I'm confident we will get good results," he disclosed.

"For the time I have been with the team, I have observed that we have good players but they lack experience, you know our league is very tough, I will talk to the management so we can add some players during the mini registration window," he said.

However, the Saturday game will not be easy for the two clubs as Dodoma Jiji FC performs well at their backyard.

Dodoma Jiji FC head coach, Mbwana Makata, recently told the media that morale in his camp is always high especially when his side plays at home.

He stated: "My boys always play their lungs out when playing at home, they play to entertain our supporters and fans and, at the same time, seek to collect maximum points."

"We have done that against many teams, we recently beat Mwadui FC and Ruvo Shooting in the league, I'm happy with the sacrifices which my players made at our backyard," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

