



National Pg 3

49 illegal immigrants arrested



National Pg 4

Construction of cashew nuts factory



National Pg 5

NGO to boost sunflower farmers



National Pg 6

Training in forest preservation



Sultan of Oman congratulates Dr Magufuli on re-election

By Guardian Reporter

THE Sultan of Oman, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said (pictured), has sent "hearty congratulations" to Dr John Magufuli on his re-election for a second and final five-year term following his landslide win in Wednesday's Presidential Election while standing as the ruling CCM's candidate.

In line with Tanzania's Constitution, the election was held simultaneously with the parliamentary and councillorship polls across the country.

The sultan also directed the congratulations to "all the people of Tanzania", saying: "Your victory is a pure testimony of the trust and confidence that the Tanzanian people have on your leadership and performance after steering the country in the right direction during the previous term of five years. We wish you well in this endeavour."

According to the final results of the Union presidential election as announced on Friday by the National Electoral Commission, CCM Magufuli garnered 12,516,252 votes (84.4 per cent of all valid votes cast). Tundu Lissu of the opposition Chadema came second with 1,933,271 (13 per cent).

Tense wait as US election winner remains unclear

WASHINGTON, DC

THE outcome of the US presidential election is on a knife edge, with Donald Trump and his rival Joe Biden neck and neck in key swing states.

Trump, a Republican, claimed to have won and vowed to launch a Supreme Court challenge, baselessly alleging fraud.

Earlier Biden, a Democrat, said he was "on track" to victory.

Millions of votes remain uncounted and no candidate can credibly claim victory as yet. There is no evidence of fraud.

The US is on course for the highest electoral turnout in a century. More than 100 million people cast their ballots in early voting before Election Day, and tens of millions more added their vote on Tuesday.

With the nation on edge, the final result may not be known for days.

Trump has defied the pre-election polls to do better than predicted, but Biden is still in the race and the overall result is not yet clear.

In the US election, voters decide state-level contests rather than an overall, single, national one.

To be elected president, a candidate must

TURN TO PAGE 2

Dr Mwinyi cautions on slack 'business as usual'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar



Janet Charles Mwaluko (L) signs a document relating to occupancy rights in the wake of ongoing land review by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, to resolve land occupancy contentions in Mtakuja area of Chang'ombe in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Munir Shemweta

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday asked officials heading government institutions and agencies to embrace the work ethic for the Isles to achieve its development targets.

Conducting an inspection tour of the newly-built warehouse facility meant to decongest the main port of Malindi, Dr Mwinyi said the business as usual work culture is a big problem that must be combated.

He directed top officials of the Zanzibar Port Corporation and the Zanzibar offices of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to immediately take measures to end congestion of cargo at the port.

"We have a new warehouse facility here and yet our port is congested. This is just a matter of changing our attitudes towards work," he told port officials.

He said even the warehouse facility took too long to complete despite being constructed by a special operations agency under the Isles government, namely the anti-smuggling unit, KMKM.

KMKM works supervisor Hassan Sarboko said construction was completed three months ago, and then the newly inaugurated Isles leader wondered why the facility was not

TURN TO PAGE 2

Friendly leaders arriving for Magufuli swearing-in

●TB Joshua, Obasanjo, Museveni, Mnangagwa among them

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TWENTY heads of state and government have arrived here to witness the swearing-in ceremony of president-elect Dr John Magufuli today.

Briefing reporters yesterday, chief government spokesman Dr Hassan Abbasi said 83 resident diplomatic representatives have also confirmed attendance.

A number of countries had sent vice presidents or prime ministers and similar top officials, to feature in the first ever swearing-in ceremony in the newly completed capital of Dodoma.

Prominent guests include former Nigerian

president Olusegun Obasanjo and renowned Nigerian televangelist TB Joshua, a friend of various top political leaders who have frequented his open air church assembly in Lagos.

Heads of State expected include President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, President Azali Assoumani of the Comoros, and President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe, the spokesman noted.

"Soon after the swearing-in, cabinet ministers and their deputies will cease to hold their positions to pave the way for the formation of

TURN TO PAGE 2

Lindi steps up security after Mtwara terror hit

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

LINDI Region has swung into action to beef up security, instructing residents not to accommodate strangers when they appear, and instead they should report them to local government authorities.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi said the precautions follow the deterioration of security in neighboring Mozambique and last month's terrorist attack in Mtwara Region.

Lindi has lately seen unusually big numbers of

guests arriving in the town, ostensibly intending to do business or engaging in religious activities, apart from just being casual visitors.

He called on law-abiding citizens not to trust people they do not know as they can turn out to be terrorists, appealing to owners of accommodation facilities not to stick to the 'business as usual' outlook but demand proper identification for guests and report suspicious cases.

"The situation is bad in Mozambique," he stated, noting that Lindi in particular and the

TURN TO PAGE 2

The Guardian Nipashe

Congratulatory Message

The Guardian and Nipashe welcome you to send congratulatory Messages to President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan on their re - election

Book your space today!
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Russian tourists fill in Immigration particulars moments after jetting into Abeid Amani Karume International Airport in Zanzibar on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Tense wait as US election winner remains unclear

FROM PAGE 1

win at least 270 votes in what is called the Electoral College. Each US state gets a certain number of votes partly based on its population and there are a total of 538 up for grabs.

The president is projected to have held the must-win state of Florida - a major boost to his re-election bid.

The UK channel BBC projected Trump win in another conservative sunbelt state, Texas, where the Biden campaign had dreamed of an upset victory.

But Biden was on course to take Arizona, a once reliably conservative state, which Fox News and the Associated Press projected it was leaning to the Democrats.

In late night remarks (early morning East African time) Trump aired hopes for taking the previously Republican-voting state but within hours that hope was dashed, with Biden in unassailable lead.

The rust belt battlegrounds of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, which chroniclers say propelled Trump to the White House four years ago, were the principal states to watch at the close of press time EAT yesterday.

Pennsylvania was leaning for Trump though the votes were still being counted, with the main worry being the large number of mail-in ballots that the Trump campaign doesn't trust, but late voters tended to vote Trump, on the basis of extensive exit interviews and assessments early yesterday.

Biden retained a narrow lead in Wisconsin and a dithering lead, changing hands from time to time, made people hold their breath constantly in Michigan.

Georgia had largely been won by Trump as well as North Carolina, as well as retaining Ohio and Missouri, known as bellwether states because they have so often predicted the eventual winner, on the basis of analysts' projection.

Controlling the two chambers of the legislature, House of Representatives and Senate was also at stake, apart from the White House, as Republicans battled to hang on to a majority in the Senate while the House of Representatives is expected to stay in Democratic hands.

Trump hosted an election night gathering inside the White House with about 100 guests.

In a speech at about 02:30 local time (07:30 GMT) he said: "We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election."

He went on to express suspicions the Biden camp is 'working to steal this election,' and curiously demanded that no more ballots be received after end of voting on the US in the evening, as late ballots and mail in votes are dreaded by Republican strategists as favoring Democrats. Trump even talked of going to the US Supreme Court to stop receiving late ballots in swing states, but Vice President Mike Pence in brief remarks asserted that 'every ballot will be counted.'

"We want all voting to stop," the president had declared, as it was well past midnight in the US, but analysts saw his remarks as directed at postal ballots. The law on such ballots differs from one state to another as US polls are held at state level.

Observers said millions of ballots have yet to be counted and there was no evidence of fraud.

After the president's remarks, former vice president Biden condemned the president's statement as "outrageous, unprecedented, and incorrect," calling it a "naked effort to take away the democratic rights of American citizens."

Earlier, at about 01:00 local time, Biden predicted in a speech to supporters in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, that he was headed to victory, a statement that even at that point was seen as overly optimistic by experts interviewed on BBC.

The Democratic contestant said: "We feel good about where we are, we really do. I am here to tell you tonight we believe we're on track to win this election."

He added: "We're going to have to be patient until the hard work of tallying votes is finished and it ain't over until every vote, every ballot is counted," but the trend was by early morning EAT already showing major swing states going Trump by late voting, though early ballots had mostly veered towards a Biden win.

Friendly leaders arriving for Magufuli swearing-in

FROM PAGE 1

another cabinet by the president," he said.

Ministers and deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and their deputies as well as heads of government

agencies, High Court and Appeal Court judges, top religious leaders and political party chiefs will park their vehicles at Chinangali gardens from where special buses will pick them to Jamhuri Stadium.

"The first bus will leave the gardens

at 6.30 in the morning; the earlier they are there, the better," he said.

President-elect Magufuli secured his second and constitutional final term by winning 84 per cent of votes in last Wednesday's General Election, with CCM sweeping all parliamentary seats

but two on the Mainland.

Main opposition parties Chadema and ACT-Wazalendo have since cried foul, alleging widespread irregularities. The parties demand fresh elections under a reformed elections management body.

Dr Mwinyi cautions on slack 'business as usual'

FROM PAGE 1

handed over.

As it is a government project implemented by government agencies, there was no palpable reason to withholding handing over as it often happens when a facility is built by private contractors, he stated.

The problem is with government officials, he said, insisting that the government keeps losing money from port inefficiency, with responsible officials failing to make simple decisions. Ships docking at the port had sharply declined recently as it takes simply too long to unload cargo, he pointed out.

Excess cargo at the port must be moved to the new warehouse facility to allow space for incoming ships to dock at the port, the president directed.

Mcha Hassan Mcha, TRA assistant commissioner in Zanzibar and Salum Udi, acting director general for the Zanzibar Ports Corporation promised to shift cargo, starting to use the new warehouse right away.

The president had on Tuesday visited the port and Maruhubi area to inspect cargo clearance and what delays operations, his first public activity since being sworn in on Monday.

Zanzibar's main port of Malindi is notorious for cargo clearance delays, with queues of containers and incoming ships staying long out at sea before berthing, and now the new leadership is pushing deliberate efforts to end the situation by removing containers at the port to the new warehouse, and speeding up clearance.

Zanzibar's economy very much depends on the port and its sluggish activity causes ripples to economic growth, if ships with cargo destined for Zanzibar berth at the port of Dar es Salaam or the port of Mombasa over the northern border.

Offloading Isles cargo elsewhere

causes inconveniences and losses to importers and Isles traders, as some importers opt not to bring their cargo directly to the Malindi port, the president noted, stressing the need for solutions.

Port authorities have to increase the pace of offloading and clearance of cargo to reduce waiting time for ships needing to berth, as delays cause rising prices from waiting charges, storage of goods at the port.

A dry port facility would reduce congestion of cargo containers within the vicinity of the port, while port managing director Juma Sururu Juma said some importers delay to clear their goods, apart from bureaucratic red tape.

Goods that obtain fast-track clearance include foodstuffs, cement and special oil cargoes, while berthing of ships involves staying at the port for not more than five days as cargo, he said, as offloading is done day and night.

Ali Haji Haji, the acting director general of the Zanzibar Port Authority (ZPA) said Maruhubi area which will soon be designate as a dry port.



We have a new warehouse facility here and yet our port is congested. This is just a matter of changing our attitudes towards work



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects ongoing preparations at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma where the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Dr John Magufuli is expected to take place today. Photo: PMO

Lindi steps up security after Mtwara terror hit

FROM PAGE 1

southern corridor in general are prone to attacks, so public officials and residents must be proactive on the issue.

The RC who is chairman of the regional defence and security committee directed similar committees from village to regional level to come up with strategies to ensure security in each administrative unit.

He pointed at students who walk several kilometres in the heavily wooded areas to and from school, saying that they must be protected. The committees need to ensure that they are safe, in which case parents must be involved, he explained.

"All of us must be involved; the government can't by itself guarantee security if citizens are not engaged," he asserted.

Last month, Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro said that around 300 terrorists entered from nearby Mozambique and attacked a police station in Tandahimba in Mtwara Region, causing loss of lives and property.

Local people had received them and were working with them as they invaded a police station at Kitaya village, the IGP said.

He said they come from the same cell of terrorists that attempted to set base in Kibiti and Rufiji districts (from early 2015 to 2017), noting that the police force routed them at that time and intends to do so this time as well.

After the attempt to set a terrorist base in Coast Region failed, the group relocated to Mozambique from where they were reentering Tanzania from the border in Mtwara region, he added.



NMB Western Zone manager, Sospeter Magesse, inspects various products displayed by business persons who attended the Bank's business club forum meant to impart financial literacy knowledge to over 200 participants from Kigoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

49 illegal immigrants from Ethiopia arrested in Saadani National Park

By Guardian Reporter

OFFICIALS of the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) have nabbed 49 illegal immigrants believed to be Ethiopians in Saadani National Park.

Tanapa's Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner, Pascal Shelutete said the immigrants were nabbed early this week at Saadan village on the shores of the Indian Ocean, in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

Shelutete said the arrest was facilitated in collaboration with the villagers and Saadani National Park

authorities who had handed them to the police and the Immigration Department for legal procedures.

He said Tanapa warned all those who use national parks in violation of the laws to stop doing so at once, else legal steps would be taken against them.

"Tanapa is well mobilised to make sure reserve areas remain to be safe for reserve and tourists' activities and not for anything else," he said.

He called on people living around national reserves to continue working together with Tanapa wardens by unearthing all those engaging in criminal activities in the reserves.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanga

'Human settlements along wildlife corridors spur jumbos invasion'

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region said the invasion of elephant herds in human settlements in Mwanga and Same districts is due to the construction of human settlements in the wildlife corridors.

Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander Emanuel Likula said: "We have already called game wardens to chase away the elephants, but also the people should understand that the areas they have built up their settlements are animals' corridors."

"This is because they have the habit of moving along their routes even after 100 years. Move about with care and inform the authorities whenever you sight them," he added.

Likula was commenting on reports of the death of a teacher from Kwakoa secondary school in Mwanga District who was killed by an elephant on November 1 this year.

A wildlife corridor is a link of wildlife habitat, generally native vegetation, which joins two or more larger areas of similar wildlife habitat.

Corridors are critical for the maintenance of ecological processes including allowing for the movement of animals and the continuation of viable populations.

RPC Likula said the body of the deceased was transported to his home village in Mbeya Region for burial.

Asked about frequent elephants' invasion in people's settlements, the Commander of Wildlife Division Anti-Poaching Unit (KDU) Emanuel Nko confirmed the increase of elephant herds in the said areas, and have started

chasing them away to the reserves.

Experts raised concern over the blocking of wildlife corridors linking the protected areas with the adjacent ecosystems.

The ecologists working with the Arusha-based Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) once quoted as saying that the growing problem should urgently be jointly addressed by all stakeholders, including local governments and the surrounding communities.

Head of conservation department at the Arusha National Park Maria Saidia, said: "The blockage of our only remaining wildlife corridor is a matter of concern." She said the 322 square kilometer park near Arusha

city has only Kisimiri route used by the animals to move to and from the adjacent nature reserves such as Mount Kilimanjaro and the game-rich Longido and West Kilimanjaro plains.

Ecologists at the Tarangire National Park expressed similar concerns, saying a wildlife corridor which once linked it with Lake Manyara National Park, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and other areas had been effectively blocked by human activities, including farming, construction of structures and grazing of livestock.

In the past, they said, the corridor stretched between Makuyuni township in Monduli District and Minjingu phosphate mines in Babati district.

Apology: Mount Kilimanjaro fire story

One of the news stories we ran in yesterday's issue was an update on the fire that hit Mount Kilimanjaro last month. The story was attributed to Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) Conservation Commissioner Dr Allan Kijazi, who is also Tanapa CEO and a Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry. He was quoted as having the cause of the incident as carelessly discarded cigarette butts. However, owing to a technical hitch, we mistakenly illustrated the story with a photograph of Chief Secretary Ambassador John Kijazi. We regret the error and apologise for any inconvenience it will have caused. - Editor



The German Embassy and The British High Commission Dar es Salaam

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES CEMETERY

On **Sunday 8th November 2020, 8 a.m.**, Remembrance Day will be observed at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in remembrance and commemoration of the end of the First World War.

In the course of the service, wreaths will be laid on the Commonwealth War Memorial and the German Memorial by Tanzanian Institutions, Diplomatic and Consular Missions, Veterans' organisations and others. The service will commemorate all victims of war.

The event is being jointly organised by the German Embassy and the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam.

Due to the world wide situation this year's commemoration will be held on a smaller scale.

Press is most welcome

UN TANZANIA REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS (Construction of Hospitals, Schools, WASH facilities, etc.)

As a part of UN Country Programme support to the government of Tanzania, various UN agencies based on Tanzania will be constructing various hospital buildings, clinical wards, blood centres, WASH facilities, school building blocks and other administrative building blocks in different parts of the country.

UN Tanzania is developing a roster of pre-qualified contractors who will be invited to participate in the competitive tendering process for the construction of the above-mentioned facilities.

Interested construction companies are hereby invited to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) by submitting the requisite summarized documentation to support the Pre-qualification Eligibility criteria below:

- Detailed company profile including evidence and year of registration as legal entity and authorization/permit to perform such work in the mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.
- Registered professional building construction company with a minimum of 5 years' experience in the related area.
- Prove that it is tax compliant and holds valid VAT registration certificate
- Provide audited financial company accounts for two successive years.
- Provide at least two references of customers providing similar services (name and contact numbers)

For the detailed instructions including the EOI form are available on the following UNGM web portal:

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/116622>

The EOI along with other mandatory documents should be submitted by 23.59 hrs (Tanzania time) on, Monday, 9 November 2020.



WWF for a living planet®

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – RFP

Consultancy: World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Country office Brand Awareness Survey

Introduction

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is a global conservation organization that was founded in 1961, and has grown to become one of the world's largest, experienced and independent conservation organizations, with about 5 million supporters and a global network active in nearly 100 countries. WWF's Mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which human's live in harmony with nature.

Tanzania Country Office

WWF Tanzania has a long history of conserving and protecting the natural resources in Tanzania. From wildlife, marine, forests, fresh water to some of the most endangered species in the world. Through working collaboratively with different stakeholders and partners both within and outside the country WWF has made a significant contribution to improve management and protection of natural resources and biodiversity statuses in different areas in Tanzania.

WWF Tanzania Programme Office was formally established in Tanzania in 1990 and operates under the auspices of a formal Agreement with the Tanzanian Government. As of July 2009, WWF in Tanzania changed its status from a Programme Office to a Country Office. WWF Tanzania envisions that By 2030, Tanzania's outstanding and globally significant natural Wealth and biodiversity are sustained, and support equitable and gender-sensitive local livelihoods and national economic development for present and future generations.

Justification for the survey

WWF Tanzania wishes to have a better understanding of the level of perception and awareness of the WWF brand in the country amongst the mass public. It is expected that the results of this Survey will inform how WWF communicates with key audiences, develops marketing and partnership initiatives, and delivers conservation at a scale that matters.

2. Purpose of the Brand Survey

The findings of the survey shall inform the various activities that will be carried out as part of the WWF Tanzania Organization development process. As such, the Survey will be expected to contribute directly to the attainment of the following objectives:

1. Provide a clear picture of the health of the WWF brand in Tanzania amongst the mass public
2. Support in the formulation of sustainable marketing and partnership strategies that are resilient at the sectoral and multi-sectoral levels;
3. Support in the implementation of the TCO Communication Strategy for more effective partnerships development, enhanced brand awareness and greater impact on conservation of the country's rich natural resources and livelihoods improvement;
4. Support in awareness-raising and outreach activities to the broader public, while providing a basis for advocacy activities directed at key development actors;
5. Provide an understanding on the need to engage with various target groups as well as tactics to achieve optimal engagement.

Context:

Based on the survey template developed by Hall & Partners and adapted by several WWF offices globally the research approach for TCO shall consist of a number of core questions. However, the consultant will be allowed a room to develop locally relevant questions without moving away from the network's brand survey objective. The successful consultant shall be provided with the template from Hall and Partners and granted permission to make relevant edits by liaising with WWF Tanzania.

3. Scope of Work

In line with the objectives of the above-mentioned Survey, the main tasks of the consultant shall be as follows:

1. Consult and provide a comparative brand analysis of other conservation organizations similar to WWF in Tanzania.
2. Develop fieldwork guidelines and field questionnaire (that will be reviewed and approved by WWF) to conduct the Survey in Tanzania.
3. Work together with the WWF Tanzania team and WWF International Brand team to guide adopting the materials in (2) above.
4. Conduct the Brand Survey in Tanzania.

4. Methodology

The proposed methodology should include the following stages:

- (a) A desk review of the available secondary data, especially while conducting a comparative analysis of the WWF brand;
- (b) Key informant interviews with relevant government, private sector and I/NGO staff;
- (c) Primary data collection (predominantly qualitative however supported with reasonable and sample based quantitative information), using fieldwork guidelines and field questionnaires provided by WWF;
- (d) Audience analysis and mapping (audiences can be the general public, organizations, community groups, government departments,

CSO networks or individuals with an analysis of what their perception of WWF is);

- (e) Feedback and discussions in consultation workshops.

The selected consultant/s will be expected to develop detailed methodology in agreement with WWF Tanzania.

5. Outputs

Deliverables must clearly contribute to the attainment of the afore-mentioned Survey objectives and include in particular:

1. An in-depth brand analysis, which recommends a set of key areas to be pursued with target audiences at the local (program area), regional and national levels.
2. A branding implementation plan comprising the principal activities to grow the WWF brand for enhanced marketing, building partnerships, and raising awareness of the brand.
3. Reports and minutes of preparatory meetings and training workshops.
4. A final report presenting the principal stages of the process, the work done, the lessons learnt as well as recommendation towards future replication of the approach.
5. A PowerPoint presentation to WWF Tanzania Senior Management Team (SMT) and staff on deliverables 1 – 4 above.

6. Competencies

This work should be done by an experienced consultant or consultancy firm (with the lead consultant taking full responsibility for the work and delivery of products). The consultant or lead must have strong competencies in Communications, Public Relations, Media Relations and organizational development. The consultant(s) must have excellent knowledge in Branding and Communications Strategy development and demonstrated experience on performing similar assignments. Additionally, they should have an understanding of the conservation environment in the country.

7. Required Skills and Experience

The Lead Consultant should:

- a) Have at least 5 years' experience in development of communication or branding strategies and or similar products.
 - b) Should possess strong working knowledge of international development, NGO sector, government institutions;
 - c) A good understanding of the realities of public relations and communications for promoting conservation issues;
 - d) Proven experience in strategic planning and organizational development;
 - e) Demonstrated analytical and research skills.
8. Requirements for submission
 - a) A technical proposal detailing the Methodology and work plan to be followed to perform the task
 - b) Financial proposal detailing your professional fees (State if tax inclusive)
 - c) Demonstrate your capacity to undertake the task and provide reference as appropriate.
 - d) Curriculum Vitae of lead person(s) to perform the task.
 - e) Support documentation e.g. registration, tax registration certificates.
 - f) Any other information that may be useful for reference may be cited and later provided if requested.

9. Timeframe

This activity should be conducted and completed within a period of 12 weeks from the date of contracting.

10. Mode of application

Interested applicants are required to direct their soft copy applications only to the procurement e mail tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org. Deadline for submission is 5pm, Monday 16th November 2020. Address your applications to:

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

- More information can be found in the following website links:

https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/ ;
https://wwf.panda.org/jobs_wwf/

11. WWF reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal
12. Technical review will precede the financial
13. All forms of canvassing will lead to automatic cancellation of the proposal in question
14. Only successful candidate shall be contacted

US firm to establish cashew nuts processing factory in Manyoni

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

US-based Ward Holdings International (WHI), has announced the construction of a big cashew nuts processing factory in Manyoni District, Singida Region, the step that stand to economically assist cashew nuts farmers in the region.

After visiting the 22,000 acre Masigati farm in Manyoni District with more than 700 farmers, WHI president for Africa Godfrey Simbeye said the factory to be built will be of its kind in the country.

"This company is different to others because whenever it sells the crop outside the country the dividend on profits is ploughed back to the farmers," Simbeye said.

After Manyoni district started cashew nuts farming already four investors have shown the interest of establishing cashew nuts processing factories, including WHI.

Charles Fussi, Manyoni District Council Executive Director expressed his pleasure on the establishment of the factory, saying it will help farmers access to reliable markets.

He said WHI was different from other firms that had showed interest in the district to invest because it does not have difficult terms and conditions for farmers.

Abubakar Ndwata, TIC central zone manager detailed many opportunities for those wishing to invest in the country and called on them to come to invest in Manyoni District.



This company is different to others because whenever it sells the crop outside the country the dividend on profits is ploughed back to the farmers

Traders in Mbeya, Songwe regions urged to abide by business ethics

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SMALL entrepreneurs in Mbeya and Songwe regions have been required to abide by business ethics to ensure competitive markets for their products both internal and international markets.

The plea was given here on early this week by Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika when speaking to people with disabilities (PWDs) from the two regions to enable them identify counterfeit goods.

Ntinika said the PWDs group need to be given appropriate training in identifying counterfeit goods.

He said the training will be sustainable in order to reach other PWDs groups in remote areas who, due to geographical and financial considerations it was not easy for them to get the knowledge even though some of them are entrepreneurs and customers of various goods.

Some among the deaf said lack of identification knowledge of fake goods in the market greatly affect them especially their health as well as the loss they incur whenever such goods are seized by concerned authorities.

The chairman of Association for the Deaf in Mbeya Region Tusekile Mwalwega said he was among of the victims who had used fake cosmetics that had been smuggled into the country.

She said she her skin was affected after applying cream that had been banned and she had no information about the ban.

Recently, Godfrey Mshana, the Director of Control of Counterfeit Goods from the country's Fair Competition Commission (FCC) said the deaf group have special needs hence should be accorded with safeguards agi9nst counterfeit good in the market.



Workers putting final touches on new Dar es Salaam International Bus Stand at Mbezi Mwisho in Ubungo District as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Moraji Msala

Well-to-do persons told to lend a hand to the needy

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakansya,

Songea

WELL-to-do persons have been challenged to extend their support by helping the needy children for them to realise their education dream and live a decent life as it is to other people.

Secretary of Saint Theresa Orphans Foundation (STOF) Mozes Nyirenda made the call here recently when handing over assorted food items worth 12m/- to Chipole orphanage located 40km from Songea Municipality. Among the donated items, include 600 boxes of milk, which are for children aged between zero to 12 years.

He encouraged wealthy people to inculcate a culture of helping others with what God has blessed them with, noting that there is a good number of needy people in the society, who have no access to basic needs—food and

shelter.

“So our plea is for all whom God have blessed to come up with something to share with other people,” Nyirenda said.

Nyirenda said that extending support to people in need including those living in vulnerable environment is an important thing to show love, humanity and tenderness for the sake of the present and future generation.

“Majority of children here at the centre come from different areas in Ruvuma, they include those with poor families, street children and those who were neglected by their mothers soon after birth, so taking good care of them is vital so as to enable them grow well to become good persons,” he said.

Detailing more on the use of the milk, STOF coordinator Garus Mpepo said the milk is divided in various formulas fit for children from the age of

zero, six months to one year and above.

“We have donated 600 bottles of milk of which, 180 bottles are for children from the age of zero to six months; 300 bottles for children from six months to one year and 120 bottles for children aged one year and above,” he said.

According to him, if well used, the nutritional milk will be able to improve health status of the children and save the children needs for the next three months.

For her part, Sr Akwinata, the head of the Chipole orphanage commended STOF for its generous support which will bring joy to the children at the centre.

“The centre commenced on 1963 and it has been able to support a number of needy children from various areas giving them light of life and majority of them have succeeded well and are living a better adult life now, we currently have 69 children at the centre,” she said.

NGO plans to assist Chemba, Kondoa sunflower farmers to boost production

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN EFFORTS to maximize cultivation of sunflower and oilseeds production in central zone corridor, Livelihood Basic Tanzania (LBT) is planning to enroll and assist at least 6,000 farmers in the two districts of Chemba and Kondoa, Dodoma region.

This is after the timely project to prove positive results in its first intervention conducted in the said two districts, whereby a total of 3,000 farmers were benefited.

LBT is a non governmental organisation (NGO) which majors in assisting farmers with free quality sunflower seeds, agro-mechanisms as well as imparting them with sounding knowledge over standard growing methods.

Granting an exclusive interview to The Guardian over the weekend, LBT country Director Atilio Mbwilo said in the next growing season the project expects to register other 3,000 farmers, making a total number of beneficiaries farmers to stand at 6,000.

“During the first phase of our project, beneficiaries managed to acquire professional growing skills hence they yielded bump harvests, ever before. Such an impressive record motivated others to lodge countless request seeking to join with the project in order to benefit from the same,” he expressed.

Mbwilo detailed that through the initiative farmers are also receiving professional training from Kibo Seed Company Ltd, Ilonga Agriculture Research Institution and extensional officers from Chemba and Kondoa Districts.

“Most farmers were lacking capital to afford purchasing quality recommended seeds like Records and Kenya Fedha, they also experienced major challenges of getting assured of market for their yields,” he said, adding that the project was assisting the farmers in the two sides.

Speaking with this paper in a separate interview, Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge said despite being endowed with all potentials for the cultivation of sunflower, farmers in the region are yet to benefit from such a rarely economic opportunity as they encounter myriad challenges.

“Most farmers are short of capital to venture into large plantations, they don’t have assured and better market for their harvest,” he said.

However, Dr Mahenge assured the striving farmers the government in the region was working round the clock in partnership with key stakeholders from the private sector to develop the performance of the key sub-sector.

Dodoma and Singida are famous in production of sunflower and oilseeds but farmers and relevant investors are yet to benefit from their executions due to poor farming methods and lack of enough capital.

In recent years, the government and the private sector initiated various efforts to help spur performance of the farmers so as to boost sunflower oilseed processing industries.

Among the initiatives was the decision by the government to include the two region among regions that are benefiting from SME Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund.

Others proceeding intervention for boosting sunflower growers in the two regions are the Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) and the 2016-2020 Sunflower Development Strategy Plan.

Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Njombe, Singida, Shinyanga, Manyara, Lindi and Mtwara are among regions with cultivation of sunflower.



Most farmers are short of capital to venture into large plantations, they don’t have assured and better market for their harvest

TPB BANK PLC

Congratulations



Hon. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli



Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of TPB Bank Plc would like to congratulate the President **Hon. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli** and Vice President **Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan** for being re-elected to lead our country for another five years (2020 – 2025).





CONSULTANCY ON COMMISSIONING A CALL CENTRE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background on PASS Trust

The Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) Trust was established as the project in year 2000 in order to stimulate investments and growth in private sector commercial agriculture and related sector through access to finance in Tanzania. It was registered in 2007 as an autonomous non-profit organization under the Trustees' Incorporation Act of Tanzania, founded by Government of Denmark and Government of Tanzania.

For many years access to finance for the agricultural sector has been challenging in Africa, and Tanzania in particular. Financial Service Providers (FSP), mainly Banks, have viewed it as too risky to finance due to, among other reasons, weak collateral, poor production skills, low technical skills and a general lack of bankable investment opportunities which would provide FSPs with a commercial incentive to finance. PASS Trust has a vision to unlock this challenge and aspiring to be an innovative agri-finance development institution that improves the quality of life for small-scale agribusiness entrepreneurs. Its mission is to facilitate access to financial and business development services for agribusiness entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

Objective of the Consultancy

PASS Trust has an existing telephony system (VOIP System) which acts a communication channel within the organization. This happened due to PASS vision of transforming its operations to digital. The system supports all PASS Trust offices including Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza and Mtwara. To increase outreach and efficiency PASS Trust is about to implement a robust call centre through a toll-free line that will allow stakeholders to engage with PASS Trust for information, support and awareness to PASS Trust products.

The new call centre system is expected to integrate with the existing VOIP System which will enable customer agents to route of calls to PASS extensions. To build the state-of-the-art call centre the following initiatives will be considered:

1. To ensure efficiency in service delivery through effective communication, learning and sharing of information as envisaged in our 2018-2022 strategic plan.
2. To ensure more Tanzanians are facilitated towards accessing financial and business services- mainly small and medium size commercial farmers, farmer groups and agribusinesses (SMEs).
3. To improve our customer experience and engagement with our stakeholders.

Therefore, PASS intends to engage an experienced vendor who has experience in call centre deployment for in-house customer service.

Scope of Work

Under the supervision of ICT unit, the vendor shall perform the following tasks:

1. Work with ICT Unit and Communication specialist on gathering of information that will define the call centre architecture, workflows and functional requirements for call centre call reports requirements.
2. Install the call centre that will be able to work with Softphone in Windows Environment and VOIP handsets.
3. Integrate the call centre to the existing PASS Trust Yeastar S100 VOIP PBX
4. Train PASS Call Centre Staff

Requirements and Deliverables

Language

The vendor shall ensure that English and Swahili are properly set up to manage both languages. The system should let the customer agent know the preferred language of the caller.

Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

The vendor shall ensure that the IVR feature is set up on the system based on the PASS requirements. The IVR shall provide the caller the ability to:

- a) Select one of the two languages either English or Swahili
- b) Listen to pre-recorded information
- c) Ask the caller to use the touch-tones and guide the caller to an area of interest

Call Recordings

- a) The vendor shall ensure the system in place is set up to record all the voicemails, calls, call-backs made and calls received by PASS. All call recordings shall be stored on a storage that can be easily retrieved.
- b) The vendor shall ensure that the system informs all callers that their calls are recorded or monitored.

Call Queues

The vendor shall ensure the system is set up for call queuing. When a caller finish going through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) prompts and unable to reach to get a customer agent. The system should place the caller on the queue waiting for a customer agent to free up.

Call Transfer

The vendor shall ensure that the system is set up for a customer agent to be able to transfer calls without disconnecting the caller. Calls can be transferred to another customer agent or can be transferred to PASS VOIP system to the intended extension.

System Monitoring and Reports

- a) The vendor shall ensure that the system provides PASS with a real-time dashboard for monitoring call activities. The dashboard shall display real-time status of call statistics including and not limited to the following:
 - Number of agents on calls
 - Number of agents online
 - Number of agents offline
 - Calls in queue for each agent
 - Calls abandoned
 - Calls answered
 - Longest call on wait in the queue
 - Average wait time

Regular Reports

The system shall be able to report various reports including but not limited to the following:

- Generate reports of different PASS Products based on the incoming calls
- Generate reports on how many Calls have been abandoned
- Generate reports on how many Calls have been answered
- Generate reports on the Longest call on wait in the queue
- Generate reports on Average wait time
- Generate reports on how long customer agent has been online
- Generate reports on how many calls customer agent has received

Training

The vendor shall train PASS Customer Agents and ICT Unit. The training shall ensure the customer agents are equipped with the proper knowledge and skills in handling the calls and support the system.

Provisional of the Operational Manual of the System

The vendor shall produce operational manual for customer agents, administrators and including but not limited to troubleshooting of simple system errors.

Qualifications and Experience:

The ideal vendor must have relevant qualifications which include but not limited to

- Proven expertise in deployment of call centre include list of certified engineers and Manufacturer Authorization letter.
- Must have experience in deployment of call center platforms with at least three references of similar project.
- Must have all business legal documents/Certificates (TIN, VRN, Business License, TCRA, Certificate of Incorporation)

Interested vendors will be required to submit their Technical and Financial Proposals electronically as per this TOR Guidelines to the web address: <https://pass.or.tz/procurement> and click the APPLY NOW button to upload and submit your proposal. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of proposals we receive, we will not be able to respond to each individual proposal/bidder, only the shortlisted/awarded bidders will be contacted. As PASS Trust commitment to Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) strategy and paperless office, we will only accept electronic submissions and not physical submission. The deadline to receive the proposals shall be on **16th November 2020, 12.00 noon.**

7 councillors-elect to contest for Moshi Municipal mayor's position

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

SEVEN CCM councillors-elect have emerged to vie for the mayoral post in Moshi Municipal Council.

The party's secretary for Moshi Urban, Kataba Sukuru said the process for collecting nomination forms will close today.

"Our cadres, the councillors-elect have already started collecting nomination forms and up to yesterday seven of them collected the forms and no doubt there will be great competition," Sukuru said.

He mentioned those who picked nomination forms with the wards

they come from in brackets as Juma Raibu (Bomambuzi), Dr Charles Lyimo (Msaranga), Francis Shio (Shirimatunda), Benedicto Mwashambwa (Longuo), Zuberi Kidumo (Njoro), Apaikunda Naburi (Mawenzi) and Deogratius Mallya (Karanga).

One among the councillors-elect who did not like his name revealed said: "We are the ones who will vote, our fear is that we might find ourselves with a mayor who does not know our ethics, hence we will be faced with difficult decisions for our Moshi Municipality."

Moshi Municipal Council has 21 wards all of which were won by CCM,

which gives the party to lead the council after 10 years without a mayor from CCM.

In two separate periods Moshi Municipal Council was led by a mayor from Chadema.

During 2010/2015, the council was led by Chadema's Jaffari Michael as mayor who is the former MP for Moshi Urban Constituency.

During 2015/2020 the council had Raymond Mboya (Chadema) as Mayor who was the party's parliamentary candidate in this year's election but defeated by CCM's Priscus Tarimo, former councillor for Kilimanjaro Ward.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir Bin Ally (L) in discussion with his host Shia Ithnasheriya leader Sheikh Hemed Jalala during Maulid ceremony held at Pipo Kigogo grounds in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

TFCG embarks on training in forest preservation in Handeni

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

TANZANIA Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) has started providing education in environmental preservation in villages to rescue forests in the Eastern Arc that are in danger of extinction to their wanton destruction in Handeni District, Tanga Region.

This was revealed by TFCG researcher, Justine Gwajime, at a training seminar for village officials of Handeni District during the ongoing environmental campaign for the preservation of natural forests.

He said the training was part of the strategies to rescue the forests from

wanton tree-cutting.

He said from various researches conducted, the level of destruction was huge thereby endangering the entire ecosystems and other living organisms.

"We have come here in Handeni to provide education to village officials to enable them to educate the people on the importance of sustainable forests' protection.

Revocatus Njau, Communication Officer from a network of community members dealing with forests conservation (MJUMITA) said the government can step in for assistance if villagers would embark on inclusive management of their forests.

"More than 17.6 million hectares,

equivalent to 80 per cent of the entire forest area in the villages can be formalised and become protected forest reserves, the move that would be earning income to the villagers," Njau said.

Some villagers from Mkuzi, Kanga'ta and Madebe villages in Handeni District said they have started to discern the effects of forests' destruction, including the shortage of rains and drying up of water sources.

It is estimated that more than 460,000 hectares of the country's forests disappear every year causing significant drop of government income due to human activities in the forests.

School leavers urged to stay safe and behave responsibly

By Guardian Reporter

SECONDARY school leavers have been urged to stay safe, behave responsibly refrain from juvenile gangs if they are to live their dreams.

Prisons' deputy commissioner Jeremiah Katungu made the call recently at the Form Four graduation at Bwawani Secondary School in Coast Region.

Katungu was the chief guest at the function challenged graduates to protect themselves from risk behavior and groups that may spoil their education dreams.

The commissioner wanted the young girls and boys to abstain bad behavior as they are going to join other groups in their communities.

"After you have completed your national exams in the next few weeks,

new life starts, this is where you are going to meet and stay with various groups in your home areas, so make sure that you stay faithful, protect the good manners you got from school and work hard to achieve your goals," Katungu told the graduates.

He pointed out that young graduates usually faces several challenges associated with peer groups which eventually leaves them into disasters, urging the graduates to be careful when using social media because if used bad, may affect their education development.

"The school has raised you very well to become good graduates, you leave here having good manners in everything that you do, but make sure that you maintain your behavior and never allow someone to persuade you to enter into immoral acts," he

insisted.

School headmaster Anthony Sogoseye said that some 146 Form Four students have graduated this year, urging them to be good ambassadors to others and make well use of the skills attained to bring changes in their societies.

"We are also calling on parents to invest in their children's education, this include making sure that their children have all the required needs when in school, they should ensure that they pay school fees and other expenses on time to enable their children learn comfortably without being disturbed," he said.

Rajab Hamza, head of prisons in Morogoro Region urged the students to use the remaining short time to do revision and be ready to perform well in the forthcoming national exams.

70m/- worth Geita Green Space project in pipeline

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Geita Town are excited to be part of a local community initiative, which involves developing and maintaining a Geita Green Space. The Geita Green Space project will be executed at a cost of 70m/- and completed before the end of the year.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony at Kalangalala ward in Geita Town, the Geita Regional Commissioner Eng Robert Gabriel said Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and Geita Town Council under the 2020 Corporate Social Responsibility

Plan have jointly agreed to execute the project.

The project will cover an area of 4000 square meters and has objectives of creating recreational areas for Geita residents for physical activity, relaxation, peace, and an escape from the heat.

“Our aim is to see people come here and enjoy the fresh air because there will be a special Regional Memorial Monument with passages from different directions. The space will also have the well-decorated paving blocks, street concrete benches, and paving slabs all aiming at making a good and friendly environment for people to

rest and enjoy,” said the Regional Commissioner.

The GGML Managing Director Richard Jordinson said Geita Gold Mining Limited has always worked diligently to change the appearance of the Geita community by establishing sustainable projects.

“GGML is proud that as we celebrate our 20 years anniversary this year, we have successfully executed a number of impactful strategic projects including the monumental community projects of Geita Town round about, market frames, street lights, health centres, schools and tarmac roads,” he said.



Geita Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel (3rd R), shows GGML managing director Richard Jordinson (C) a site lay out plan of Geita Green Space project in Geita town yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Researchers develop low-cost rapid malaria test

By Special Correspondent

RESEARCHERS have developed a simple microneedle patch similar to a bandage to detect malaria, which could ease the burden of disease in countries struggling with poor health infrastructure.

The device developed by researchers from Rice University could cost about a dollar once the manufacturers start producing it in bulk. The microneedles in the patch collect interstitial fluid from the skin, which contains several biomarkers that help detect diseases like malaria.

With 16 hollow microneedles in a 4-by-4 array on one side, the sticky patch is coupled with an antibody-based lateral-flow test strip. The antibodies react when they sense protein biomarkers for malaria and turn two readout lines on the strip's exposed surface red. If the test is negative, only one line turns red, researchers said.

The findings published in the Nature journal Microsystems and Nanoengineering maintain that the test can be completed in less than 20 minutes and require no equipment.

The rapid test project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been developed by Peter Lillehoj and Xue Jiang from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Rice University.

“The disposable patches could be programmed to detect other diseases, potentially including COVID-19,” said Peter Lillehoj. “Xue and I have applied the patch to our skin, and it doesn't feel painful at all compared to a finger prick or a blood draw. It's less painful than getting a splinter. I would say it feels like putting tape on your skin and then peeling it off.”

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), nearly 3.4 billion people in 92 countries are at risk of being infected with malaria. There were 435,000 malaria deaths, with 93 percent of deaths occurring in the African region.

“Malaria rapid diagnostic tests have the potential to significantly improve management of malaria infections, especially in remote areas with limited access to good quality microscopy services,” says the WHO guideline on malaria control and elimination.

Diagnostics and prevention of the

disease become even more crucial during the coronavirus pandemic in Africa, where nearly 95 percent of all the world's malaria cases and deaths occur.

The WHO has already raised the alarm over disruptions to insecticide-treated net campaigns and access to anti-malarial medicines due to coronavirus pandemic could lead to a doubling in the number of malaria deaths in sub-Saharan Africa this year compared to 2018.

Tragically, children below the age of five are among the most vulnerable groups affected by malaria, requiring prompt support from medical teams for diagnosis and treatment. In African countries, more than 285,000 children died before their fifth birthdays in 2016.

The new test, according to the researchers, may provide some comfort, especially to children. “We didn't intend for it to look like a bandage,” they said. “We started with a rectangular shape and then just rounded the edges to make it a little more presentable. We didn't plan for that, but perhaps it makes the patch more relatable to the general public.”

AU launches month-long continental youth celebrations amid COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union (AU) Commission has launched Africa Youth Month, a one-month-long continental celebration focusing on about 75 percent of Africa's over 1.2 billion inhabitants, which is said to be under the age of 35.

“We celebrate Africa Youth Day this year in extraordinary circumstances forced upon us by the global COVID-19 pandemic,” Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat said in his message regarding the continental celebrations issued on Monday.

“As the world continues to learn painful lessons from this unprecedented threat to global wellbeing, I wish to salute all frontline workers working tirelessly in our communities to keep our families safe and healthy. Many of these frontline workers are the youth, using innovation and creativity to help track, trace the virus while informing populations with

compelling and accurate information, often in our local languages, on how to stay healthy and protect our loved ones and communities,” he added.

Noting that African youth also raised their voices against the unseen impact on mental health that the pandemic was wreaking, the AU Commission chairperson also stressed that the Youth have also stepped up to support their communities and countries to continue working, keeping communities fed during these challenging times.

“Overall, we have seen Africa come together acting early and aggressively at all levels to contain the virus through a coordinated continental strategy,” Mahamat said.

Figures from the AU show that over 75 percent of Africa's 1.2 billion total population are under the age of 35, while some 453 million Africans are aged between the age range of 15 to 35.

Noting that the youth are at the “very heart of Africa's development

agenda,” the AU stressed that “it goes without saying that the development outcomes of Africa's young people have a significant and lasting effect on the continent's trajectory.”

The African continent under the leadership of the AU Commission is celebrating the Africa Youth Month against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, from Nov. 1 to 30 under the theme “Youth Voices, Actions, Engagement: Building a Better Africa.”

According to the AU, this year's theme of the Africa Youth Month is a clarion call to all young people to view their natural spaces as opportunities to influence their environment, communities, countries and consequently, the African continent.

The Africa Youth Month, among other things, envisaged encouraging young Africans to see themselves as integral to realising Africa's continental development Agenda 2063, it was noted.



Request for Proposals – RFP

Advertisement Consultancy Assignment

Request for Consultancy Services to Prepare General Management Plan (GMP) for Magingo WMA in Liwale District

1. Background Information

The Government of Tanzania (GOT) recognizes that economic development is highly dependent on and closely related to the environment and biodiversity. This realization was translated into policy and legal formulation, which led to the introduction of the Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (WPT) that was passed in 1998 (and revised in 2007) as one of the policy changes fostering greater local community participation, ownership, and benefit-sharing. This shift of policies led to the establishment of the (Wildlife Management Areas) WMAs on village lands as programs responsible for managing natural resources.

The objective of the WMA implementation program includes (i) to increase the participation of local communities in the management of wildlife resources; (ii) to enable local communities to derive benefits from wildlife resources; and (iii) to enhance the conservation of wildlife resources.

Magingo WMA, managed by Magingo CBO, is one of the 24 WMAs comprised of the eight villages (Mirui, Naujombo, Kimambi, Barikiwa, Chimbuko, Mlembwe, Ndapata, and Mpigamiti) and that is responsible for the Liwale Wildlife Management Area (LWMA). The WMA is located in the Liwale District of the Lindi Region of Tanzania.

To guarantee sustainable conservation of wildlife resources in WMAs and safeguard the interests of traditional communities, the Wildlife Conservation (Wildlife Management Areas) Regulations 2018 calls for the development of a General Management Plan (GMP) or Resources Management Zone Plan (RMZP) before the establishment of WMAs. An RMZP, which operated for five years only (20210-2015), before a GMP. Currently, the Magingo RZMP has outlived its usefulness, which calls for a reversion

World Wide Fund for Nature – Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) with funding from WWF UK and WWF Sweden. Is facilitating Magingo WMA to prepare a General Management Plan (GMP) to replace the expired RZMP as per wildlife management regulation (2018) section 31 (1) (c). In this context, WWF seeks to engage consultants to prepare GMP for Magingo WMA.

2. Objective of this Assignment

This assignment's main objective is to prepare the General Management Plan to guide the management and utilization of resources in Magingo WMA as per the provisions of WMA Regulations (2018), section 36(1). In undertaking this assignment, the process shall as outlined WMA regulation section 35(1) -

- Conduct a situational analysis of the implementation of the current RZMP
- Baseline data collection for developing a general management plan
- Analyze problems, issues and concerns, including resource conflicts analysis;
- Analyze outstanding resources and values;
- Analyze the significance of the WMA;
- Carry out GPS survey for demarcating management zones and prepare GIS-based maps;
- Develop management programs; and
- Carry out a rapid environmental assessment for the proposed activities/programs in the WMA.

3. Expected Deliverables

The consultant shall provide: -

- An inception report describes team composition and qualifications, the methodology of undertaking the assignment, work plan, and the report's proposed content. The inception report shall be submitted to WWF ten days after signing of the contract;
- Draft (hard and soft copy) of the GMP detailing the issues covered in the specific objectives. The report shall have the following as annexes: -
 - o Vicinity/location map of the WMA showing adjacency to neighboring protected areas.
 - o Management zones map showing infrastructure and physical features, and a land cover map for the WMA.
 - o The draft report must be submitted to WWF thirty days after the signing of the contract.
- After the review, the consultant shall provide ten (10) hard copies and soft copies in a Flash of the GMP document and all GIS files to WWF on the last day of the assignment.
- All deliverables must be in English and translated correctly in the Kiswahili language, and submitted in a similar number/format as required above.

4. Expertise Required

This assignment requires a multidisciplinary team that combines various skills and experiences. The team leader must possess an MSc or Ph.D. in natural resources and the environment with solid knowledge in wildlife management issues, community-based natural resources, and management aspects, GIS, and not less than five (05) years of working experience in natural resource-related issues.

5. Time frame

The assignment must be completed within 45 calendar days after commencement.

6. Mode of Application

The interested consultant should send their combined technical and financial proposals describing the methodology, experiences, and CVs of key personnel. Responsibilities and Logistics. Interested applicants are requested to submit their hard/soft copy tender application documents (Complete proposal) to the Secretary, Procurement Committee, through email address tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org to reach us by or before 10 am 19th November, 2020.

7. WWF is not bond to accept any lowest or highest applicant, Evaluation will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and procedures and that, only successful candidate will be contacted.

The Guardian

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THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2020

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

No Commonwealth help in demand for unlikely General Election probe

THERE are new contributions to the debate on the propriety of the recent general election in Tanzania, one from the Commonwealth and another one is a local view, from a well known research outfit at the University of Dar es Salaam. Comparing the two is like bringing peer review to bear not on the polls but on some reactions, for instance what was contained in a statement by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. The Commonwealth Secretariat said it is ready to offer support if the government of Tanzania asks it, to establish the truth about the just ended general election. The varsity view more or less spells it.

Secretary General Patricia Scotland strongly urged authorities to investigate allegations of serious electoral irregularities, violence and deaths, particularly in Zanzibar, urging the country's authorities to "transparently and expeditiously conduct the necessary investigations and ensure that the rule of law, justice and accountability prevail, in order to maintain the people of Tanzania's confidence in democracy." There is another remark the Commonwealth statement made which was answered the time that the statement was being issued, that "positive lessons from previous elections could inform current processes. Secretary General Scotland said pointedly that "I hope that every option will be explored to maintain trust in the electoral process and to ensure that democracy, peace and unity are safeguarded in Tanzania." That is what is being done, for instance the offer for a national unity government in Zanzibar.

It would all the same be difficult to expect that all concerns of opposition parties - as echoed in the statement by the Commonwealth, and earlier by the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam - can be

adequately addressed, as they basically concern how scrupulously electoral laws were observed. The REDET report, from the UDSM outfit on research and democracy in Tanzania, puts the pass mark on conducting free and fair elections at around 85 per cent, noting irregular incidents or violence as few and largely irrelevant in relation to the outcome of the polls, the large numbers, that is. Most concerned observers will accept it.

There are other areas which are unlikely to have been documented even in the REDET report, apart from the summary remarks by its board chairman, which in legal terms constitute provocation, and that is sufficient cause to impede chances of victory by certain political forces. ACT-Wazalendo national chairman and its presidential candidate for Zanzibar, Seif Sharif Hamad, told a last minute campaign rally that he would form a police force for Zanzibar if elected, an expression of intent to put aside the Union Constitution and replace it with ACT-Wazalendo policies on the sanctity of the union. It was thus a little audacious on his part to expect that with such clearly destabilizing intentions he just runs to the post.

While it is right and proper that various countries and international organizations demand and obtain answers about how the general elections were organized and administered, it is also useful to note that they also ought to consider the circumstances. Elections in mature democracies pit distinctive views about things like budgets and tax levels, which are constantly reviewed in the country depending on inputs from different sociopolitical stakeholders. Opposition forces on the other hand focus on far-fetched claims of substantive illegitimacy of the government, the political system, even wishing to tear up the country.

The battle against poverty and hunger can be won by transforming Africa's food production

AFRICA is the continent of untapped potential and remains a key priority for us all. We are convinced that agricultural and rural development are the keys to winning the battle against poverty and hunger in Africa. Africa's potential gives us hope that the battle against poverty and hunger can be won.

"This year's FAO regional conference for Africa is a unique multi-sectoral platform," President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa said in his opening address. Zimbabwe is the Conference Chair, taking over from Sudan. "We must share experiences and proffer solutions to common problems affecting the African region. The elimination of hunger in Africa and the response to the different structural challenges we face as a continent requires strong partnerships, collaboration and commitment among the various stakeholders," he said.

Malnutrition is a condition that results from eating a diet in which one or more nutrients are either not enough or are too much such that the diet causes health problems.

Whereas, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

While most of the world's hungry people continue to live in Asia, much of the increase in hunger since 2015 occurred in Africa and South America. The FAO's 2017 report discussed three principal reasons for the recent increase in hunger: climate, conflict, and economic slowdowns.

The 2018 report focused on extreme weather as a primary driver of the increase in hunger, finding rises were especially severe in countries where the agricultural systems were most sensitive to extreme variations in weather. While the FAO's 2019 report found there was also a strong correlation between increases in hunger and countries that had suffered an economic slowdown.

Many thousands of organisations are engaged in the field of hunger relief,

operating at local, national, regional or international levels. Some of these organisations are dedicated to hunger relief, while others may work in a number of different fields. The organisations range from multilateral institutions, to national governments, to small local initiatives such as independent soup kitchens. Many participate in umbrella networks that connect together thousands of different hunger relief organisations. At the global level, much of the world's hunger relief efforts are coordinated by the UN, and geared towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for "Zero hunger".

"This year's FAO regional conference for Africa is a unique multi-sectoral platform," President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa said in his opening address. Zimbabwe is the Conference Chair, taking over from Sudan. "We must share experiences and proffer solutions to common problems affecting the African region...The elimination of hunger in Africa and the response to the different structural challenges we face as a continent requires strong partnerships, collaboration and commitment among the various stakeholders," he said.

The Conference comes amid rising hunger in Africa, driven by climate change, conflict and economic slowdowns. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing food insecurity.

Amid several challenges, the Director-General mentioned concrete examples of partnerships among FAO, Members and donor partners, such as the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control to ensure a strong coordinated approach at country, regional and global levels as well as the good progress in the control of the desert locust.

"In East Africa, the anticipatory action approach was quite successful with national Governments in collaboration with FAO and partners, protecting over 580 million USD worth of crops, enough to meet the annual cereal needs of 13 million people," Qu said. The Director-General also pointed to gender equality as part of the solution. "We must give equal opportunities and rights to rural women," he said.

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Gold: A safe haven, or too hot to handle?

By Michael Kruger

THE spike in the gold price has every person and their dog interested in investing in the yellow metal. Is this a good idea? History may provide some context.

Financial market moves in 2020 can best be described with one word - unprecedented. Equity markets experienced one of the sharpest and speediest declines in the first quarter of 2020, only to recover most of these losses in the four months to the end of July.

The market moves have been nothing short of breathtaking, with the swift action of governments and central banks to provide support in the form of fiscal stimulus and lower interest rates no doubt playing a role in the recovery.

One of the most significant winners year-to-date in 2020 has been gold. The price of the precious metal has risen 30% in US dollars since the beginning of the year (to the end of July), in the process becoming one of the most talked-about trades of 2020.

ADVERTISING
This has driven the performance of gold counters listed on the JSE - many of which are up by more than 100% since the beginning of the year.

Even long-term gold cynic Warren Buffett made news headlines recently when it was announced that his company, Berkshire Hathaway, added shares of Barrick Gold to its portfolio in

the second quarter of the year.

Gold has a long history as a safe haven investment. This is largely since the price of gold is independent of other asset classes, which means that the metal has generally performed well during periods of market stress or volatility.

Gold has also traditionally been a refuge against US dollar weakness, largely due to the inverse relationship between the world's reserve currency and commodity prices. Investments in gold generally take place in one of two forms: buying the commodity itself (gold bullion) or buying shares of companies that mine and sell gold (gold equity).

In the South African environment, investments in physical gold usually take the form of investments in gold exchange-traded funds or ETFs.

Due to the impact of leverage (both financial and operating), investments in gold stocks tend to be more volatile than the direct investment in the physical commodity, which depends only on the price of the metal.

Investing in gold as protection against market declines

Historically, gold has excelled during periods of significant market declines and periods of unusually high market volatility. The metal has posted significantly better returns during market drawdowns and in some cases, has even notched positive total returns during periods of steep losses in equity markets.

The behaviour of gold during the Covid-19 sell-off provided an interesting case study, in that although gold fared better than stocks, it still posted a small loss. This has been attributed to many factors, including the fact that the sell-off was liquidity-driven (and therefore all-encompassing) and the feeling that interest rate cuts will support the US dollar (a negative for commodity prices).

Lockdown measures introduced across the globe also caused mine closures and production shutdowns, which affected gold producers negatively. Gold did, however, reverse course, moving significantly higher in the months following the market selloff, reaching a peak of just above \$2,000 an ounce.

Gold as an inflation hedge

Despite often being regarded as a hedge against inflation, gold's record of protection is rather mixed. The metal did provide significant protection during the high inflationary period of the 1970s, when higher oil prices and an expanding money supply pushed inflation to extreme levels in the US.

During more muted periods of inflation, including the early 1980s and between 1988 and 1991, gold delivered negative returns, lagging equity markets in the process. Given the unprecedented levels of fiscal stimulus delivered by major central banks and governments in response to the pandemic, concerns have been raised that this may lead to a significant uptick

in inflation. While this may be true, the evidence suggests that gold's role as an inflation hedge may be overdone and that there is no guarantee that the metal will provide protection if inflation becomes a problem.

Does the introduction of gold improve risk-adjusted returns?

Depending on the period in question, adding gold to a portfolio can improve risk-adjusted returns.

What is important to highlight, however, is that the results are largely period-dependent. In some cases, total returns, risk and/or risk-adjusted returns were improved, but the results are not conclusive enough to indicate that adding gold allocations to a portfolio will always be beneficial.

So, what can we conclude about gold from the evidence?

The introduction of gold in a portfolio is not guaranteed to improve risk, returns or risk-adjusted returns for every period. Rather, the track record of the precious metal is mixed, and gold can go through long periods of underperformance.

The strongest evidence for holding gold appears to be as a safe haven in periods of significant market volatility.

In our view, it should be viewed as an insurance policy rather than a core holding. Investors should also be wary of the hype currently surrounding the price movements of gold - after all, as Buffett once famously said: "What the wise man does in the beginning, the fool does in the end."

Covid-19 challenging technical ingenuity through innovation

By Special Correspondent

THERE is absolutely no shred of doubt that indeed desperate times call for desperate measures and the current global pandemic is a case in point, to say the least. While the world is caught in an entangled web of what could be the panacea to the novel COVID-19 pandemic that has bedeviled the world, there are some positives that could be drawn from the ravaging menace of this cataclysmic virus against humanity. Truly, necessity is the mother of invention and the technical ingenuity and shrewdness of the world have surely been put to the test in these harrowing times.

The world changed its garment in the dying embers of 2019 when a strange virus was discovered in Wuhan, China. The COVID-19, a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This was new and first of its kind ever to be discovered. This also

meant a new challenge to test the medical acumen of experts globally. However, in reality, it was a waging war on the survival of humanity that was brewing in the world. Like wildfire in a dry season, it spread and ambushed many unsuspecting countries.

Suddenly, the attention of the world is constantly drawn to the statistical doom spelt by the pandemic on a spreadsheet on daily basis and the press having a feeding frenzy on the new viral attack on the human race. It wasn't getting funny anymore. The numbers were alarming and an obvious premonition of annihilation was in the air.

However, if there is any silver lining that could be seen in this dark cloud upon the land, it will surely be the world's rapid response through innovation and technological invention to combat the spread of the virus and to alleviate the pain inflicted on its victims. Have you heard about the Snood with germ trap? Indeed, 2020 has been a year of novelty in all sense and this innovation coming from the United Kingdom typifies that. This innovation is a mask with "germ trap"

technology. This is a result of a 10-year project with the biotech firm Virustatic but had to be hurried into production owing to the pandemic. The product acts as a barrier that attracts, traps, and kills viruses in droplets invisible to the human eye. The masks are safe to wear and, according to the developers, the virus becomes inactive after touching the fabric.

In Mexico, there has been a brainwave that has birthed an invention of a Protective Plastic Capsule. The Mexican Company XE Medical Engineering drew inspiration from neonatal chambers that protect newborns from external bacteria and viruses and reversed the product and developed an isolation capsule to keep pathogens from escaping, lowering the chance of it spreading to health workers. The chamber is a sealed, flexible plastic capsule that has a filter system to keep it inflated. According to the company, the device can be used in ambulances, emergency rooms and hospital wards.

China has also had her fair share of the global rage of innovation and invention provoked by the pandemic.

Kuang-Chi Technologies have developed a smart helmet that can scan the temperature of hundreds of people every minute from a distance of up to five metres away.

The headset features an infrared thermometer and can connect to the nearest hospital. It also has an augmented reality visor with facial recognition technology, which allows users to see the person's name and medical history. The company has sold more than 1,000 temperature-scanning helmets and received orders from the Middle East, Europe and Asia so far.

Similarly, a company in Denmark has also created a sterilizing robot that looks like a group of lightsabers on wheels. Using concentrated UV-C ultraviolet light emitted by eight bulbs on its top, each robot can destroy viruses, bacteria and other harmful microbes and sanitize hospital wards without the need for chemicals. This reduces the need to leave these areas empty for several hours during cleaning, allowing hospitals to care for patients in the wake of the pandemic.

Interest-free loans crucial in empowering marginalised groups

BY CORRESPONDENT DANIEL

SEMBERYA

After realising that women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs) lack employment, face financial restraints and have limited access to other opportunities, the government of Tanzania directed all the municipal authorities in Tanzania to allocate 10 per cent of their annual revenue specifically for these groups.

Presenting his paper over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during Policy Forum Breakfast debate on "Economic rights: Making 10 per cent loan work for women, youth and people with disabilities," Secretary General at the United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA Tanzania), Reynald Maeda said that the 10 per cent loans was first introduced in 1993.

Maeda noted that the mandatory interest free loans were issued by Local Government Authorities (LGAs) from own revenue for empowerment of women, youth and people with disabilities groups to carry out income generating activities to lift their households out of poverty.

He further said that 4 per cent of loans were given to women, 4 per cent to youth, and 2 per cent to people with disabilities (PWDs).

According to him, UNA Tanzania advocated for governance and effective implementation of 10 per cent loans regulation at local and national level.

"We raised awareness and information sharing with youth, women and people with disabilities to capitalise on 10 per cent opportunities for improved livelihood hence ensure no one is left behind in Tanzania."

He however said that despite its potential benefits to the targeted groups, the loans still face some challenges.

For instance, Maeda said that at the LGAs level, the loans lacked proper machinery for governance; lacked economic empowerment skills to monitor groups development. "There was no enough knowledge in the LGAs to give proper knowledge to these groups on how to manage the loans secured."

There were no special desks confined to work on 10 per cent loan. "The loan given was insufficient to the group for them to start something meaningful," he noted.

On ghost groups, "Sometimes people with disabilities don't form common groups with common goals."

Challenges realised at the side of the beneficiaries included defaulting by some beneficiaries; lack of lenient mechanisms for PWDs to access loan smoothly; poor groups formulations and short period until start of loan repayment.

In order to ensure the 10 per cent loan work for the identified groups, Maeda suggested the following measures to be taken by responsible authorities.

They should reduce the number of group members from 10 to 5; engage stakeholder advice for group formulation before



Secretary General at the United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA Tanzania), Reynald Maeda (right) insists on a point during PF breakfast debate over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. File photo

why give funds to groups that are so diverse in terms of what they do and not consider organising a group of poultry farmers and give them an incubator

for instance. Thirdly, is the issue of too small a fund compared to the number of people in need. A question for reflection is, being a

revolving fund wouldn't it be a good idea to give capital machines for instance and task the groups to support in kind more other similar groups

to start a similar business in their household?

That way we create more opportunities to improve household incomes not by giving money but assets to generate income and support services.

Again there have been a handful of complaints concerning who gets the loans, it is suggested that a proper mechanism be put in place to ensure that the funds are given out on no regard to political affiliation, power or any other discriminatory criteria.

Most importantly, the government through the minister of finance needs to report the numbers of groups who have benefited in disaggregates (sex, age and geographic criteria).

According to a research done in 2015 by the British

Council in Tanzania named Youth Voices in Tanzania, over half of youth are fearful that they will not achieve their dreams, while almost one-quarter mentioned financial security as one of their biggest fears.

There is a high dependency and poverty rate among these groups and as a result, their participation in governance and political processes has also been very low.

A big chunk of loans provided by the LGAs targeting women, youth and people with disabilities is not spent on the intended purposes, instead the groups divert the funds for some other projects.


The funds are aimed at helping women, youth and people with disabilities to access loan for them to build their economic

capabilities through agriculture and other economic undertakings.


The other challenge is that youth and women who access the funds for agricultures were not equipped with the right knowledge and that is why they fail to progress with farming and switch the money into other projects.

Findings have shown that about 800,000 to 1,000,000 youth graduate from universities annually, but only 300,000 get employed.

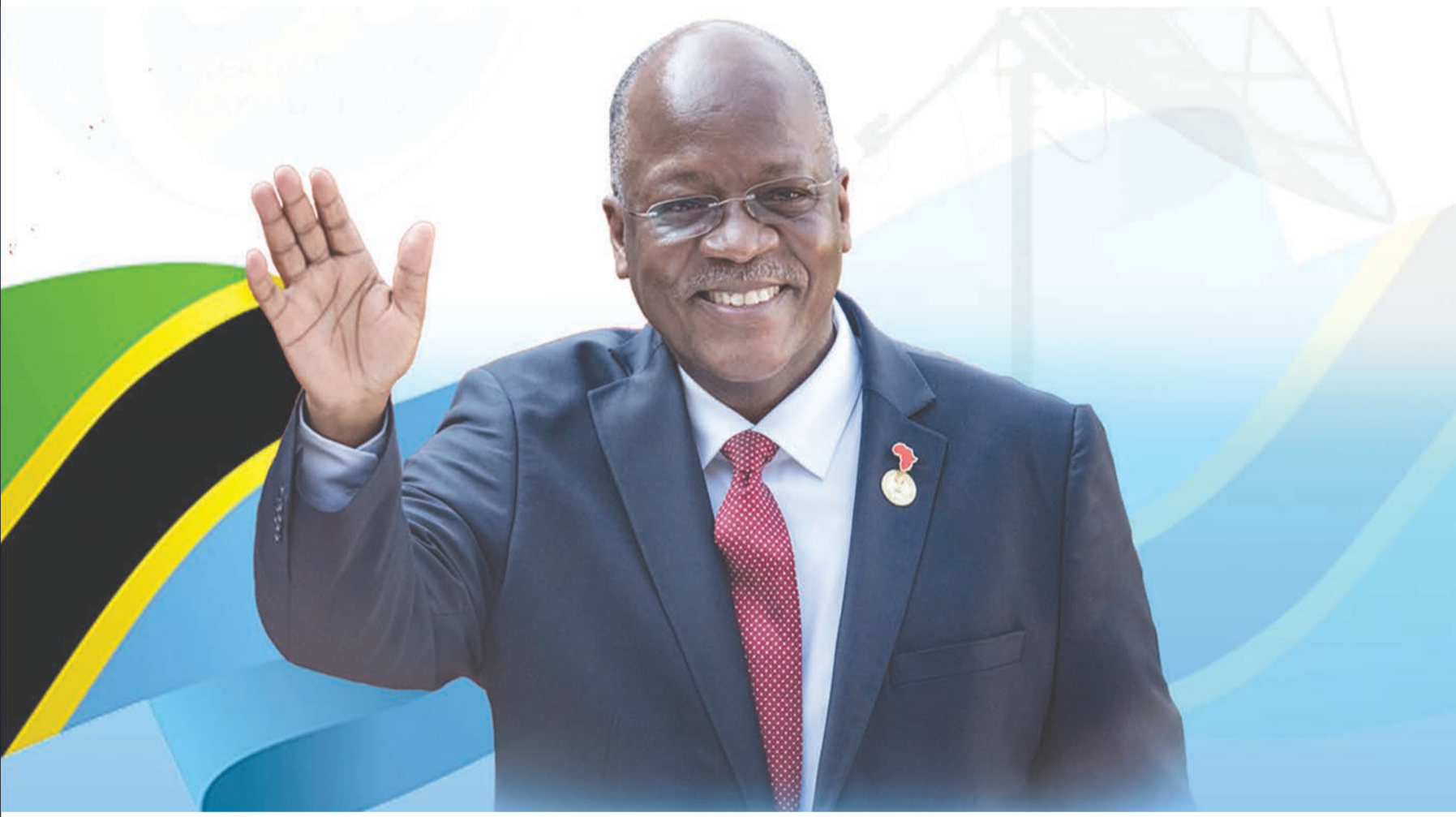
The findings further showed that the actual average of budget set aside by the LGAs was only five per cent, therefore, some of LGAs did not practically release the funds to the targeted beneficiaries.



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAJI
MAMLAKA YA UDHIBITI WA
HUDUMA ZA NISHATI NA MAJI
(EWURA)



CONGRATULATIONS!



The Board, Management and Staff of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), join hands with all Tanzanians to congratulate **His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli** on his re-election to be the president of the United Republic of Tanzania.

EWURA would like to assure him full support in his efforts towards economic reforms that are meant to foster national development for a **POSITIVE IMPACT**

EWURA wishes him a prosperous term in implementing his Party's Manifesto for the best interest of our Nation.

"FAIR REGULATION FOR POSITIVE IMPACT"

By Sérgio Spagnuolo

Automation can free up journalists to focus more on reporting

Last August I decided to hire a journalist to produce content for a project. This person would help me with social media posts, newsletters and reports, with the goal of providing other journalists with scientific knowledge coming from social media.

After a few weeks, having worked on the budget and the targets I had in mind, I pivoted the whole plan and hired two part-time developers to create a Twitter bot (software application programmed to do certain tasks) and an automated report delivery system.

In one stroke, I solved two problems: feeding my project's Twitter timeline and providing newsletter content for the users. After the launch, no human hands needed to touch those two streams of content.

It was a classic scenario in which automation literally stole a journalist's job. After all, why would I need someone producing content that my algorithms already provided me almost free of charge? Also, the initial plan was to hire a journalist for a limited time, while automation will last as long I want it to.

As I dug deeper into the development of these automated products, one question always popped up: we need strategy and thinking, we need... a journalist. What is the point of just putting content out there with no strategy? So on top of that I hired a community manager to run the ship for a while, and we are now better off with both bots and humans.

Automation in journalism is something that continues to raise quite a few eyebrows - not only for its potential to eliminate tasks that journalists often do, but also because machines are just not the best journalists.

Journalists might (and should) be wary of the effects of automating every single aspect of a newsroom - as Microsoft tried to do with MSN - but the key thing I took from that experience is



that automation is a great ally, not a standalone solution.

Automating repetitive tasks and simple content creation can have a very useful place within journalism and, arguably, it can lead to better jobs in the industry. Think of an elevator operator: with notable exceptions, we now usually don't need people pushing elevator buttons for us anymore. This is just a reality.

This brings me back to 2012, when I was working for Reuters in Brazil with the main purpose of reading corporate filings and

writing quick, basic headlines based on them.

I basically repeated what the fillings said. If a public-traded company announced financial reports, a share buy-back or a new product, I would publish one to four paragraphs and leave it to the beat reporter of that industry to figure out the rest.

It was a mechanical, repetitive, boring job. It had importance at the time for the company and for the readers, but the gig had no strategy involved, no actual reporting and decision making.

Why would a journalist need to do that? Fair question, with a predictable answer: exceptions apart, mostly bots do that now.

As with any other matter facing the changes that journalism is undergoing right now, there are definitely issues that should be addressed. A March 2019 report from the Institute for Information Law cited "concerns about selective exposure and selective access to information, detrimental effects on the public sphere, ill-designed recommendation algorithms, and concentration of

attention on a few platforms to the detriment of a wider, flourishing media market".

"Undeniably, there is also a risk that AI-driven technologies will be developed to exploit vulnerabilities of users to manipulate, erode privacy, institutionalise intellectual surveillance, and create, intentionally or unintentionally, new digital inequalities," the report noted.

There is a way of thinking about the place of automation in newsrooms - including smaller ones - that does not lead to journalists

losing their jobs.

But that does not mean that software should do journalistic work. Not at all. If journalists redirect their resources to the work that matters the most - like actual reporting, investigation, analysis - we can leave the repetitive, boring and petty tasks to the bots. They don't mind.

Reuters, Bloomberg and most news agencies do this already. A great story by The New York Times employs exactly that strategy of having automation do the menial things. The Washington Post even won an award for a bot of theirs.

Now that we have more and more powerful tools - like OpenAI's GPT-3, a promising language model that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to generate automated human-like text released in June 2020 - automation sounds even more promising (and maybe also challenging) than ever for journalism. We should study it and put it to our advantage.

There is a back-and-forth discussion among those who see automation as a foe, predicting chaos and mass unemployment, and those who see it differently.

However, there's one thing everyone is on the same page about: it's happening one way or another, in a lot of different industries at once - journalism included - and it is up to us to make an ally out of it, preserving journalism jobs the best we can and increasing productivity in our newsrooms. We just need proper (human) strategy.

• Sérgio Spagnuolo is a Knight Fellow with the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) operating from Brazil. This article was originally published on StoryBench. It was republished by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), an ICFJ project.

Counter-terrorism in Africa must adapt to new realities

BY SHEWIT WOLDEMICHAEAL

Africa experienced 168 terrorist attacks from January to August 2020 - 18% more than the 982 incidents in the same period in 2019. Years after numerous counter-terrorism operations were deployed, including the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram and many non-African missions, the continent is no closer to defeating or containing violent extremism.

The threat is even spreading to regions such as the Great Lakes and Southern Africa, and to countries such as Mozambique and West African coastal states that until recently hadn't experienced such attacks.

Increasingly, extremist groups are able to launch and sustain military offensives. They've developed the capacity to finance their operations through illicit international networks and transnational crimes such as piracy and mercenary activities, along with trafficking in people, counterfeit goods, drugs, firearms and natural resources.

In some cases they hold territories that are already experiencing instability. Their job is made easier when states have weak security institutions, poor governance and large ungoverned spaces. Another factor is the return of foreign fighters to these areas following the fall of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

The PSC couldn't agree on whether a counter-terrorism unit under the ASF was the best response

The growing threat posed



As the terror threat grows and spreads, could a special unit in the African Standby Force help? FILE PHOTO

by violent extremism across Africa shows the need to revisit existing continental responses. African heads of state at the February 2020 AU summit directed the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) to consider forming a special counter-terrorism unit in the African Standby Force (ASF).

The PSC discussed the proposal on 28 October. Members acknowledged that violent extremism had become a continent-wide threat that required bolstering Africa's responses. But the council couldn't agree on whether a counter-terrorism unit under the ASF was the best response.

A taskforce comprising all stakeholders including the PSC Military Staff Committee, regional mechanisms and AU security cooperation agencies has been formed. It will evalu-

ate the technical, structural, doctrinal and financial implications of the proposed unit and submit proposals to the PSC in the next six months. The AU's Specialized Technical Committee on Defense, Safety and Security will also provide input.

A counter-terrorism unit under the ASF could help streamline the ad hoc nature of existing missions that some African states believe has made it difficult to fine-tune a structured response to terror threats. Under the ASF, the AU's counter-terrorism operations can be supported by the African Peace and Security Architecture.

Africa's response to terrorism could also expand from its current heavy military focus to include non-violent preventive measures aimed at the

underlying conditions driving radicalisation and violence.

An ASF counter-terrorism unit could help streamline the ad hoc nature of existing missions

An amendment to the definition of peace support operations (PSOs) in the PSO Doctrine that is currently under revision should be endorsed by the PSC before the February 2021 AU summit. This policy recognises that AU-authorized or -endorsed multinational and multidimensional operations deployed to restore or maintain peace amount to PSOs. If this definition is endorsed, African-led counter-terrorism missions will be able to access funding from the Peace Fund.

Some members of the PSC believe however that the proposed unit would create re-

dundancy. This is because the ASF - as it stands - is expected to have a multidimensional capability to respond to violent extremism.

Experts also question the merits of an additional counter-terrorism unit in Africa, calling for existing mechanisms to be held accountable. Others criticise the lack of regional consultations before the proposal was discussed at the PSC, as each regional body has already established counter-terror mechanisms. Some states worry about anti-terrorism units composed of contingents outside their regional bloc, and not under their direct control, being deployed in their 'neighbourhood'.

While the AU has developed a general definition of terrorism, what qualifies as a terror threat is articulated differently

by member states. This will become a major obstacle in deciding whether the ASF should be deployed in response to specific 'terror' groups.

To reach consensus on the proposed unit under the ASF, the PSC must agree on a draft United Nations (UN) resolution regarding accessing UN-assessed contributions. It must also decide on what kinds of interventions will be aided by the Peace Fund, and conclude the Common African Position on Financing.

If the PSC endorses an ASF counter-terrorism unit, it will have to negotiate extensively with the UNSC

Annette Leijenaar, Head of Peace Operations and Peacebuilding at the Institute for Security Studies, argues that ad hoc arrangements are nimble ways to address the terror

threat in geographical areas that are in the operational theatre of the countries involved in the ad hoc missions. They can also receive funding from the European Union and other partners, which is less complicated than getting financial support from the UN.

The AU's definition and mandate of PSOs differ from those of the UN. While the UN Security Council increasingly depends on the AU for deployments in response to terrorism in Africa, the global body continues to insist that UN-mandated PSOs cannot take part in military responses to terrorism.

The UN Security Council and PSC are also at loggerheads over the mandate of active missions such as AMISOM. While the AU, under the provisions of Chapter 8 of the UN Charter, has given the mission a political mandate, this isn't recognised by the UN Security Council.

Ad hoc counter-terrorism missions in Africa currently focus more on military responses to extremism. Yet as experiences worldwide show, these interventions alone cannot overcome the threat. Adopting a hybrid definition of PSOs would help the AU address this problem. However it's unclear whether the UN would support the AU's definition of PSOs.

If the PSC endorses the proposal to form a counter-terrorism unit under the ASF, it will have to negotiate extensively with the UN Security Council. The significant doctrinal variance regarding the deployment of PSOs for counter-terrorism missions, so as to access UN-assessed contributions, needs to be resolved.



Agriculture must take responsibility for water conservation - experts

BY LLOYD PHILLIPS

WITH the lingering after-effects of a crippling drought, and the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan likely to kick in next year, it was time that all stakeholders in South African agriculture started taking responsibility for their role in protecting the country's scarce freshwater resources.

This was according to water conservation and water law experts, who were speaking during Nedbank's webinar, 'The future of water in South Africa's agricultural sector', held on Tuesday, 3 November.

Shelly Fuller, programme manager of sustainable fruit and wine projects at Worldwide Fund for Nature South Africa, said agriculture used the largest proportion of South Africa's surface and groundwater resources.

While the sector made vital contributions to the country's economy and society, it had to proactively implement meaningful actions to conserve water for its own long-term sustainability, and for the future needs of the rest of the country.

"All farmers and other landowners must be the stewards of their land and of the water that is on, or moves through, their farms. How land and water are managed on a farm has a big impact on farms, people and other businesses downstream. Improved management must be carried out individually on the farm, and also collectively with others at catchment level."

Fuller added that such

management efforts needed to include the removal of alien invasive plants that consumed up to 20% more water than indigenous vegetation, and improving soil health through conservation agriculture practices.

James Brand, a senior associate specialising in natural resources and the environment at law firm ENSafrica, said the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) had given South Africa's farmers until 10 March 2021 to install water-use meters for their operations.

While the DWS could use readings from these meters to penalise farming operations that exceeded their allocated water supply, farmers could also use these meters as tools to monitor how effectively their on-farm water-use efficiency improvement efforts were working.

Brand encouraged farmers not to grudgingly improve their water-use efficiencies because the law ordered them to do so, but instead to be motivated by the imperative that water conservation was the right thing to do to protect the future of farmers and the wider South African society.

"The water reality that we are facing is potentially daunting. Water rights and water-use monitoring can be complex, so it's advisable to use the services of an expert to help you understand these aspects, and to handle them within the law," he said.

Fuller added that individuals, businesses, organisations and government needed to collaborate on and coordinate their efforts to secure the country's freshwater resources into the future.

AfDB provides training on development of projects eligible for Green climate fund

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has just launched a training of trainers' programme for the development of projects eligible for funding from the United Nations (UN) Green Climate Fund (GCF). The training involves 80 participants from across the African continent.

The aim of the new training programme launched by the African Development Bank (AfDB) is to strengthen the skills of 80 government institutions, civil society organisations and universities in Africa. Participants in this

programme will then be responsible for passing on their knowledge to potential beneficiaries of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

"Following an independent and thorough selection process, 80 participants have been selected, including about 40 from Anglophone countries and 40 from Francophone and Lusophone countries," says the AfDB. The online training will last 120 hours.

A period during which participants will acquire knowledge through the AfDB's Climate Change and Green Growth De-

partment.

As part of this initiative to increase the GCF's climate financing in Africa tenfold, the pan-African financial institution is receiving support from the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Trust Fund, which is financing the work. According to the AfDB, the training programme builds on its work with the GCF and other partners "to help the Bank's regional member countries directly access the resources of the Green Climate Fund".

Launched by the United

Nations (UN) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the aim of the Green Climate Fund is to transfer funds from the most advanced countries to the most vulnerable countries. These investments should enable them to set up projects to combat the effects of climate change or to adapt to climate change.

But in Africa, access to this source of climate finance faces a major challenge, including "the complexity of designing climate change projects to meet

funding criteria. This training will build the capacity of African authorities, governments and nationally determined African consultants by training trainers to facilitate future training courses," says Gareth Phillips, the Director of the Environment and Climate Finance Division in the AfDB's Climate Change and Green Growth Department.

Through its training programme, the development finance institution hopes to reduce these barriers to make African countries more eligible for GCF funding.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DAR RAPID TRANSIT AGENCY



CONGRATULATIONS



The Management and staff of the Dar Rapid Transit Agency - DART, congratulate Hon. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi for being elected the President of the Eighth Phase of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council.



Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS)
P.O. Box 29, ACT Building
Seventh Avenue, Dodoma
Tel +255 26 2323 084



PROJECT: RENOVATION OF NATIONAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION CENTER IN DODOMA.

Tender No. HPSS/NT/HTM/1

Invitation for Tenders

4th November 2020

Renovation of Calibration Center facility at Mirembe Hospital, Dodoma region.

1. SwissTPH in Tanzania Health Promotion through the project Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) has set aside funds towards the cost of proposed construction/renovation of the National Medical Equipment Calibration Center in Dodoma at Milembe Hospital.
2. Tender Board of Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS) invites sealed tenders from tenderers registered in Class V and above with Contractors Registration Board for the proposed construction of National Medical Equipment Calibration Center in Dodoma.
3. Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS), ACT Building-Seventh Avenue, P.O.BOX 29, Dodoma from 08:00am to 04:30pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. Contact person Ms. Adiya Hassan- Mobile No: +255 756 444 305.
4. A complete set of tendering documents in ENGLISH may be purchased by interested Tenderers upon submission of a written application a Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project. After submission of a written application, Tenderers will be given bank account detail for payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 100,000/= and be required to submit bank deposit slip.
5. All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount of Tanzanian Shilling Thirty Million Only (TZS 30M). The Tender security shall be clearly addressed to the Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) P.O. Box 29 Dodoma and shall be valid for thirty days after the tender submission deadline
6. Tender can either be submitted physically or electronically.
7. Instruction for physically submission are as follows; The bid in one original plus two copy, enclosed in separate plain inner envelope and marked 'Original' and 'Copy' as appropriate, sealed in one plain outer envelope, properly addressed to "of Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS) P.O.BOX 29, ACT Building, Seventh Avenue. For electronically submission the bid has to be sent through the email address of zakaria.justine@hpss.or.tz and the financial part/ budget must be encrypted and the security code shall be given on the day of tender opening.
8. Tenders shall be valid for a period of 30 (thirty) days after tender opening. The deadline of submission of bid is on 20/11/2020 at 10:00 Hours. Tenders shall be opened shortly thereafter at the same address in the presence of the bidders who choose to attend.
9. Telegraphic, Telex, Telefax and applications which are received late will not be accepted. Bids not received and not opened at public opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance and will be returned unopened.

Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS)

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By Carlyn Beccia

Beauty: A curse or a boon in the workplace? Surprising research on the 'bimbo effect'...

MY boss knocked on my cubicle. His cheeks flushed and his shoulders clenched like a tightened drum. He had the weary look of a man about to shoot a lame horse.

"I need to speak to you in my office." Every employee dreads those words. I was fresh out of college in my first sales job and, like most young women, I had the stench of people-pleasing sticking to me like cheap cologne.

However, in less than six months, I was bringing in more revenue than most of the seasoned salespeople. I showed up early and left late. My clients loved me and repeatedly told my boss how much they appreciated my hard work.

What could I have possibly done wrong? I stepped into his office and stumbled as the point of my heel snagged his Berber carpet. I straightened my skirt and sat in the cold metal chair facing his desk. He averted my gaze and snapped his pen like he was cocking a gun.

Click. Click. Click. Yes, I was definitely in trouble. "A few of the women in the office have voiced some complaints about you."

My mind catapulted through my possible traitors. Was it Janet from accounting? I was always pilfering the gumdrops she left out on her cubicle shelf. But so did everyone. No, no...my Judas had to be Trisha from Marketing. She hated everyone.

Click. Click. Click. Double click. Silence. Damn pen. Just say it. My boss sighed and continued: "It's your skirts. Several of the women have complained that your skirts need to be a more appropriate length."

Now it was my turn to redden. I instinctively pulled my skirt towards my knees, wishing it could swallow my harlot legs. I was suddenly back in Catholic school - Sr. Josephine's ruler measuring the distance between my mid kneecap and the hem of my plaid skirt. Shame stuck in my throat as I tried to speak.

"Oh ok, well... I will stop wearing skirts." And that was the end of the conversation. I wore baggy pants and conservative blouses from that point



forward. I stopped wearing makeup and even cut my hair off. And I did not have the cheekbones to pull off a pixie cut.

The women in my office stopped complaining about my skirts, and I was one of the company's top-performing salespeople that year.

I eventually left that job but continued to dress like a schoolmarm at a bake sale. At one company, the men in the office nicknamed me "the librarian" because of my dowdy blouses and tight hair buns.

I didn't care. It was far better than being slut-shamed. My clothing choices never became an issue again.

To be fair, my skirts probably were too short for an office. Back then, my fashion sense could best be described as Rainbow Brite meets Madonna ("Like a Virgin" years.)

I was defiant, artsy, and determined not to blur into the dreary grey canvas of corporate America. But I also didn't have enough sense to rein in my inner Cyndi Lauper.

However, I learned an even more valuable lesson than any fashion 'blunder' - women are sometimes really hard on other women. And it didn't need to be that way.

If my female coworkers took umbrage with my ebullient fashion choices, they could have pulled me aside and given me a much-needed girl talk.

In this dream sequence, I imagined a rueful Betty White counselling me on why dressing like I was going to a punk rock festival might send the wrong message.

But no one did. Instead, my coworkers took the biblical 'stone her to death' approach. And even worse, they made my boss throw the first stone.

My story is not unique. Many women have had a Jezebel moment and wondered why they were castigated for their sexuality. And the slut-shaming can happen with something as benign as the length of your skirt.

Obviously, women waste a lot of resources trying to increase their erotic capital. And we all know why. Research on the halo effect shows that pretty people are viewed as kinder, smarter, and more competent.

Older studies on "Pulchronics" - the

economics of physical attractiveness - found that pretty women earn more than their ugly stepsisters. They get lighter prison sentences. They even are more likely to get help when stranded on the side of the road.

But dig a little deeper and the newer research might surprise you. Using data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health, researchers tracked participants ranging from 16 to 29 years of age over thirteen years.

They then analysed the data against the Big Five personality traits - conscientiousness, agreeableness, extraversion, neuroticism, and openness. Then they cross-referenced these with intelligence and health.

They found that physical attractiveness alone was not an indicator of success. Instead, success was determined by a combination of beauty, intelligence, good health, and winning personality traits. And so the Cinderella plot thickens...

Another study found that female attractiveness was actually a detriment to getting hired. In a study from the Graduate Recruitment Bureau, researchers sent out over 5000 CVs containing pictures of female job candidates with the same qualifications.

They found that unattractive women were twice as likely to get a job interview than attractive candidates. And oddly, the reverse was true for men. Attractive men were twice as likely to get an interview than unattractive men.

Researchers have even coined a term for this beauty bias in reverse - the Bimbo Effect. And the "bimbos" who didn't get a call back were judged by their faces alone. No one even checked their skirt length.

But before ladies start adding warts to their headshots, perhaps the solution is to check your bias at the boardroom door. Maybe next time you see a woman in a mini-skirt, try not to judge. And at the very least, put down the stone.

This is because you are throwing the stone into a pond. And that just might ripple back at you.

• **A Medium publication dispatch.** Carlyn Beccia is an author, illustrator & people watcher.

Six years with Al Qaeda: The Stephen McGown story

By Maverick

In a few short weeks, the hotly anticipated Six Years With Al Qaeda: The Stephen McGown Story will be released. Here, for the first time, you can get a taste of what to expect from this incredible true-life story of courage and resilience.

Action movies give you a false sense of what real life situations are like. It's always binary - fight or flight, bravery or cowardice. There's no grey area, no description of the paralysis of panic. When you've got people shouting at you, pointing guns at you, dragging, pushing and pulling you, it's fucking terrifying. How you react is beyond your control.

I remember walking. Every movement was very deliberate, I could feel each muscle moving, my foot placed where it was supposed to be placed as my knee lifted up my other leg for the next step. My body awash with adrenaline, it felt like I was wearing a heavily padded jacket and there was this tiny version of me right in the middle. I was aware of everything, from Adam hitting me with the flip-flop, to the contrast of the shade and the sun as I walked out into the street, but I didn't truly feel it. The jacket muted all sounds and sensations. My visual memory of what I saw in those moments is not a high-definition single-take video, but a slideshow of skits. The Table Skit. The March to the Street Skit. The Being Bundled into the Truck Skit.

The initial shock overwhelms you. There is so much new data rushing at your brain and your body; from the guys with guns



to escape options, to the whereabouts of the others, the warp speed of what had just happened to our baking hot Friday afternoon as tourists in Timbuktu, and even thoughts about the afterlife. It was as if I had been hacked by a supercomputer, spitting out the unbelievable questions which I did not have the mental capacity to process and to which there were no answers anyway.

Screenshots of Al Qaeda are from Al Jazeera

Where are they taking me? What will they do with me? What do they want with me? How will my family find out? Am I going to die? Will I feel pain? Will I hear the gun? What happens then? Where do I go? At this stage, heaven

and hell become quite real considerations.

We all know we are going to die, but most of us are pretty confident it is not going to happen today. We envisage it as some future point with ever shifting goalposts the older we get. If it's something out of our control, like getting hit by a car, well, that's just really bad luck, but at least that kind of thing will happen quickly. Standing there with a gun against me and a guy screaming at me in a language I did not understand was like getting the spoiler for how a film ends.

I thought this gun could go off in 10 seconds. Maybe that's all I've got. A countdown of 10. Nine, eight, seven, I've got seven seconds

of life left. It's like running a 100m race. You spend all your life charging into the wind with all your might, but now there's a finish line coming up on you very quickly. That final line is zero. When you cross it, it's all over, lights out.

Six, five, four seconds of life.

We walked out into the street. On the left was a beige Toyota Land Cruiser truck, idling. The tailgate was down and the gunmen were putting Sjaak, now handcuffed, in the back, lying down next to the spare wheels. I was waiting in the street as if in a queue with my hands up looking confused. Once they had Sjaak how they wanted him, they handcuffed me. This was even more terrify-

ing. I had never been handcuffed before and these things took on their own personality; the metal deliberate and uncompromising, their intent submission and control. I climbed onto the back of the vehicle and lay down immediately behind Sjaak. I felt more vulnerable and at the mercy of fate than ever before. Instead of lying from front to back across the bed of the truck, they had made Sjaak lie from left to right in front of the wheel arch. I was lying awkwardly squeezed between the two wheel arches. Then they brought out Johan.

When Johan heard Tilly screaming he came out to investigate. He left his bedroom, walked down the passage, turned the corner

to the patio, and came face-first into the business end of a Kalashnikov. Like Sjaak and me he was marched out, down the stairs, across the sand and out to the Land Cruiser. He was handcuffed and forced to lie down in the back of the vehicle. There was some jostling for feet position - to fit between those wheel arches who would need to be four foot tall, and I had nowhere to put my feet. Both Johan and Sjaak were lying on their left hand sides facing the cab, but I was lying more on my back, looking upwards at the sky. I could not see the compound at that angle, but out of the corner of my eye I could see part of the street. By now I had figured out there were three gunmen

and one driver.

Three seconds. Two seconds.

The next thing I saw were gunmen dragging Martin out of the Alafia. Martin was completely out of control. Three mujahideen were pulling at him and he was fighting them every step of the way, hitting their hands off him, pushing them away and walking backwards. He wasn't saying anything but he was making a lot of grunting sounds. The mujahideen were grappling with him, while trying to control their AK47s, which were slung over their shoulders. I could see they were getting irritated because their guns, swinging around like unruly handbags, were getting in the way of their attempts to

control Martin, who by now was about three meters from me. He was up against the side wall of the compound when I saw him stumble backwards into the street and disappear just below the tailgate flap of the truck. I lost sight of him, but he was right there, almost within touching distance.

One second.

At the exact moment Martin fell, the tallest of the three, whose name I later learnt was Ghanda Hari, had had enough. As the two other gunmen stepped forward as if to pick Martin up, Ghanda Hari simply stopped fighting the momentum of the AK47's sling, allowed the gun to swing up into his hands and fired three shots.

Zero.

I couldn't see what they saw, but the finality with which all three mujahideen turned and walked to the vehicle told me that Martin was dead. One of them gave the "A-OK" sign to the driver. The expression on Ghanda Hari's face was one of mild irritation, like when you hit the enter key on your keyboard and it doesn't register or you find your stapler is empty. A slight inconvenience. He didn't look like he had just killed somebody.

I said to Johan and Sjaak, who were facing the other way, "Shit, I think they've killed Martin."

I could hear Tilly on the patio screaming and shouting.

I felt a blanket and then a cargo net being dropped over us and secured.

I lost the light. The driver revved the engine and the vehicle started to move.

I didn't know it, but the longest journey of my life had just begun. **Agencies**



Thursday 5 November 2020

MDBs want smaller banks, SMEs to learn exploit available trade financing

By The Banker Reporter

SMALLER banks and businesses should be sensitized to exploit trade financing products available at Multilateral Development Banks in Africa.

A survey commissioned by leading MDBs on the continent established that many small banks and small business owners don't know or understand presence of a variety of trade financing products that they have hence suffer from liquidity shortages.

"Most respondents report little awareness of available MDB funding or risk-sharing programs. Only the larger corporate banks were abreast of available programs. None of the small to medium-sized banks interviewed were aware of these facilities," said the Pulse Check-Trade Finance in Sub-Saharan Africa during Covid-19 report stated.

Commissioned by African Development Bank, East Africa Development Bank, Arab Development Bank (BADEA), International Chamber of Commerce, Africa Trade Development Bank and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation, the report further stated that MDBs support to the private sector was not absent during the advent of the virus earlier this year.

"Support to governments has been more prominent and in addition,



African Development Bank President, Adesina

travel restrictions could have compounded the lack of awareness problem, preventing typical face-to-face meetings to discuss financing opportunities," the Pulse Check report added.

The survey also established that at the onset of the crisis, MDBs responded with a range of facilities to support the private banking industry throughout sub-Saharan Africa. "The intervention of MDBs

is particularly relevant as African banks increasingly depend on MDB support for trade financing," the report stated.

In the next few months, governments will likely continue to prop up household consumption, investment and companies and central banks will try to maintain sufficient liquidity. Continent-wide organizations will plough on with wide-range initiatives in hard, which

include transport, logistics and soft trade infrastructure like lower intra-continental tariffs, regional settlement platform and collateral registries.

The report also pointed out that banks' flight to safety has excluded a huge share of enterprises from access to trade financing because of COVID-19 uncertainties. "Good businesses are simply unable to get affordable financing to respond

to new orders. To help match financing supply with demand, MDBs could strengthen their role in lowering the cost of credit for these country bank clients and real economy sectors," the report noted.

In addition, the MDBs report said the move would complement existing initiatives such as the creation of specialized micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSME) agencies, establishment of collateral registries and enablement of a regional payment settlement platform.

"Such facilities offered to banks to allow them to safely expand trade credit and ease access to confirmation counter parties whilst conforming to reporting needs. Respondents suggested MDBs' support could take the form of guarantees or low-rate risk participation agreements," the Pulse Check report stressed.

Looking ahead, "If the market has not collapsed according to interviewed banks, a second-wave insolvency cloud could be gathering on African businesses' horizon. Central Banks could be limited in extending current liquidity backstops as governments in the sub-region alleviate their international debt burden, and foreign investors continue to scale down direct foreign inflows," the report concluded.

Mozambique's sovereign fund to be supervised by parliament

MAPUTO

The Bank of Mozambique yesterday gave assurances that the future Mozambican sovereign wealth fund would, in the name of transparency and accountability, be directly supervised by the Assembly of the Republic and be subject to independent audit.

Mozambique's central bank gave its guarantee during a round table on "The analysis of the model proposal for the sovereign fund of Mozambique" promoted by the Institute for Multiparty Democracy (IDM).

"In the [technical] proposal, we opened the space for the Assembly of the Republic to create, if it so wishes, a body to directly supervise the overall management of the fund," Bank of Mozambique director Jamal Omar said. Under the central bank's proposal, parliament would also have to approve the entire legal apparatus, moving away from a regulatory framework defined at governmental level.

The fund, Omar continued, would also be subject to audit by an independent entity to be designated by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as by the Administrative Court (TA), whose reports would be submitted to parliament.

Omar said that the central bank would conduct the operational management of the fund under contract or delegation of functions by the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), which would in turn have the task of outlining the fund's investment policy and the supervision of its operational management.

A specialised commission would be created within the MEF to provide advice to the Minister. "We believe that, as this is a matter of specialty at the level of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, we propose the creation of a specialised technical commission to assist the minister in decision-making or in the definition of investment policy parameters," Omar said.

The Bank of Mozambique document foresees 50% of revenues from the exploitation of natural resources being allocated to the sovereign wealth fund and 50% to the State Budget, during the first 20 years of the fund's operation.

In the 21st year, when revenue from natural gas projects is expected to decline, the proportion allocated to the State Budget would drop to 20% and the portion transferred to the sovereign wealth fund increase to 80%.

The Mozambican central bank advocates that the sovereign fund fulfil a double objective: the accumulation of savings, and fiscal stabilisation, given the need to face fiscal shocks resulting from the fluctuation of raw material prices in the international market. Jamal Omar said that the fund would not be used to pay or contract debt in the revenue-generating sectors that will feed the fund itself.

Mozambique expects to receive US\$96 billion (€81.4 billion) over the productive life of the Rovuma gas fields - almost seven times the current gross domestic product, according to the central bank proposal released for public debate on 12 October. The document foresees a 20-year maturation period for the fund, after which it would contribute 4% of its balance to the State Budget. Prior to that, it would only release funds in the event of a "public calamity" or an "extreme shock" to the economy.

RMB announces brand refresh

JOHANNESBURG

Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) has announced an investment in its brand - recently valued at R4bn by Brand Finance - to align with its evolved business strategy and a rapidly advancing digital business environment.

"A lot has happened since our last brand refresh in 2006, both in terms of our operating strategy and the business environment in general," says RMB CEO James Formby. "The latest investment in our brand reflects these changes, ensuring that the RMB brand remains relevant, modern and distinctive in the broader African market and with our growing client base."

The new brand reflects RMB's over-arching purpose, which is to liberate diverse talent to do good business for a better world. "Our purpose is the deepest expression of why our brand exists," says Formby. "We have always had a strong focus on talent, ethics, innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit. These factors are reflected in the various building blocks that make up the brand."

"There are numerous touch-points that shape our brand in the hearts and minds of our employees, clients and society to bring the purpose to life - from the way our people engage with clients, our events, our advertising, our communication and the types of business opportunities we undertake, to the everyday experiences people have with RMB."

RMB's long-standing tagline "Traditional values. Innovative ideas." remains a central part of the current brand iteration, as it perfectly captures the bank's ongoing operating philosophy and approach to doing business.



RMB CEO, James Formby.

"The strong values on which our founders started the business are still relevant today, as

is our constant pursuit of innovation in order to ensure success for our clients," says Formby. "The brand refresh is symbolic of the confidence that we have in our business. Similar to the way we invest in our infrastructure and people, the brand refresh is a necessary investment in RMB and will be done in a responsible way."

Formby says RMB will continue to execute on its strategy and set the business up for future success. The refreshed brand will play a role in ensuring this is the case by reflecting a contemporary African brand that is rooted in purpose and shaped by client needs.

RMB's recently unveiled Brand Refresh project is the creation of HKLM who were awarded the project in late 2019 after a three-way pitch. The ever-evolving world of technology has also influenced the brand evolution.

"As we design for a digital world, we need to keep things as clean and simple as possible," says RMB CMO Alison Badenhorst. "As such we have evolved our logo. The old logo, which shows a standing lion holding a key, has been distilled to an icon of the lion's head, conveying simplicity, modernity, stature and strength." The new logo represents an evolution rather than a revolution, retaining a sense of familiarity and building on the strength of RMB's brand. "The RMB lion's head represents our African heritage, strength, and the pride we take in doing good business," says Badenhorst. "The subtle use of orange is associated with joy and the African sunshine. Together with the black and white, it makes the brand look more contemporary." The new RMB brand will be rolled out in a phased approach starting November 2020.

Africa's vast funding needs to drive Islamic finance industry's growth, Moody's says

ACCRA

Africa's vast financing needs and growing interest of sovereigns in Sharia-compliant debt to bridge funding gaps will help drive the Islamic finance industry's growth on the continent, according to Moody's Investors Service.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about 16 per cent of the world's Muslim

population yet Sharia-compliant bank assets in the region make up about 1 per cent of global Islamic banking assets, Moody's said in a report released on Tuesday.

"We expect Africa's large Muslim population, low starting base and growing government interest in the sector to drive growth in Islamic banking assets in the continent," Mik

Kabeya, assistant vice president, at Moody's, said.

Governments in Africa - one of the last global frontiers of growth with a population of more than 1.2 billion - have increasingly looked to issue Sharia-compliant debt to shore up capital and meet their financing needs. Average annual sukuk issuance for Africa was negligible until 2012, but has av-

eraged \$433 million per year between 2013 to 2019, Moody's said.

Expanding into Islamic finance would help African sovereigns diversify their funding sources and reduce funding gaps, as they face an exacerbated financial crisis because of the coronavirus pandemic, the rating agency said.

Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria and

Senegal, all with major Muslim populations, are expected to lead Sub-Saharan Africa and boost their Sharia-compliant banking assets and raise funds through Islamic debt instruments. Existing and rapidly evolving regulatory and supervisory structures will underpin growth of the Islamic finance industry in these countries, Moody's said.

Egypt and Morocco, the rating agency said, will lead growth in North Africa. "Improved political confidence in Egypt and Morocco's stronger economic performance relative to regional peers, along with Nigeria's low banking penetration and populous markets will provide high structural demand for Islamic banking over the next decade," Moody's said.

BoT says Isles, Mainland exports volumes grew in first half 2020



Bank of Tanzania Governor, Professor Florens Luoga.

By Francis Kajubi

EXPORTS of goods and services for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar grew significantly during the year ending August 2020, Bank of Tanzania has said.

In its August monthly economic review, the central bank said the Mainland's exports amounted to US\$9.30 billion (over 20.88trn/-) in August compared to US\$8.97 billion (18.55trn/-) during the corresponding period last year.

"The rise in the value of exports on the Mainland was realized owing to increase in goods exports. The value of traditional goods exports almost doubled to US\$996 million during the period under review from US\$513

million recorded in the corresponding period in 2019," the BoT report explained saying the increased exports value was for cashew nuts, cotton, cloves and sisal.

The report however pointed out that sisal exports rose on account an increase in both volume and unit prices. Export values for cashew nuts, cotton and cloves rose due to improved export volumes, supported by improved production. By contrast, export values for coffee and tea, declined on account of low volumes and unit prices.

On the part of service receipts, the central bank report said that receipts declined to US\$3.10 billion from 4.20 billion during the period owing to a decrease in travel receipts. Travel receipts declined by

35.8 percent to US\$1.66 billion from 2.59 billion due to a decrease in the number of tourist arrivals attributed to the coronavirus outbreak.

Meanwhile for Zanzibar, export earnings from goods and services increased by 12.5 percent to US\$222.3 million (over 514.85bn/-) from US\$197.6 million (over 459.06bn/-) in the year ending August 2019. The outturn was occasioned by increased cloves and seaweeds exports.

Clove export earnings rose more than seven-fold to US\$17.5 million compared to US\$2.3 million earned in the year under review, while seaweed export earnings increased by 31.2 percent to US\$5.4 million from 4.08 million.

Capitec launches its first full home loan offering

JOHANNESBURG

JSE-listed Capitec, South Africa's largest retail and digital bank based on number of clients, has announced its foray into the home loan market in partnership with SA Home Loans.

The Stellenbosch-based banking group said in a statement on Tuesday that the launch of "its first full home loan offering" is built on the principles of simplicity and affordability, with the product having "one of the fastest application processes in the country." Its new home loan offering would allow consumers to initiate an application in under five minutes - alongside highly competitive linked interest rates from 6%.

Francois Viviers, Capitec's executive of marketing and communications, says the offering was developed in response to strong demand for a simple and efficient, digitally-led home loan option. "We've continually received requests from both clients and the public asking us to challenge the norms of home loans as we have done with banking... Previously, application processes have required a lot of paperwork as well as time. We've simplified this by offering potential clients an easy four-step online application that takes less than five minutes to complete," he adds.

"You don't need to have any documents on hand and the questions are easily answered through multiple choice or simple entries such as name, surname and income," he says. We found most application tracking to be vague or use terms that are not easily understood by someone who is unfamiliar with the process. Our tracking is comprised of six easy-to-follow steps, with clear communication describing the details of each step and if anything is required from the client," Viviers explains.

Capitec will offer home loans up to R5 million over 30 years. It notes that clients will get a discount of up to 50% on lawyer fees through SA Home Loans' National Panel of Attorneys. However, it is unclear whether the partnership with Durban-headquartered SA Home Loans goes beyond this element. To qualify they must use the government employee housing scheme (GEHS) stop order.

"This special home loan package (for government) offers a flexible term of up to 20 years on 100% of the purchase price, depending on the applicant's affordability... After an application is underway, it can be tracked in real-time on the home loan portal," Capitec notes.

"Alongside the portal, clients are also assigned a home loans consultant, should they require further assistance through personalised human interaction." Capitec's share price was up more than 2% in morning trade on Tuesday at R1 206 a share at around 11am.

Bank shares down 33pc on new loan rates row



Central Bank of Kenya governor, Patrick Njoroge.

NAIROBI

Bank share prices have fallen by an average 32.8 percent since the start of the year, mainly hit by a decision by the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to freeze a bid to raise cost of loans following the scrapping of lending rate controls on November 7, 2019, analysis shows.

The regulator had asked banks to submit new loan pricing formulas that would be the basis of setting interest rates on new credit in an environment where the government was not controlling loan costs.

Approvals on the submissions are yet to be made by the regulator - dimming the performance of bank stocks despite the recent positive sentiments following a phased reopening of the economy by President Uhuru Kenyatta from July 6, after months of a lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19.

A review of bank stocks shows that Co-operative Bank is currently trading at Sh11.2 down from Sh16.3 at the beginning of the year, Equity Bank at Sh34.4 from Sh54.25, KCB at Sh36.6 from Sh54.25 and Stanbic at Sh80 from Sh109.25. Analysts at Egypt-based investment bank, EFG Hermes said approval of risk pricing models by the CBK could lift bank shares.

"The 'Gremlins' that could potentially derail our positive outlook for the sector are margins remain low for longer than expected as the CBK continues to delay the approval of the banks' risk pricing models or does not allow the banks to significantly re-price lending rates upwards," EFG Hermes said. The CBK, which last year warned banks against reverting to punitive interest rates of more than 20 per cent in post-rate cap regime, wants every lender to justify the margins they put in their formulas.

The government removed the cap after it was blamed for restriction on credit growth during its three years of existence. Banks use a base rate that is normally the cost of funds, plus a margin and a risk premium, to determine how much they should charge a particular customer.

The cap, which set rates at four percentage points above the central bank's benchmark lending for all customers, had taken out that equation and the flexibility that lenders say they need in order to accommodate customers deemed as risky borrowers.

Nedbank Avo app scales to over 100 000 customers

JOHANNESBURG

Nedbank's Avo app has surpassed the 100 000 customer mark and signed up over 1 600 merchants since its launch during the height of the COVID-19 National Lockdown.

"The growth we have seen on

the Avo super app has not only been exponential but also inspiring in terms of South Africans robust appetite for digitisation and innovation," says Ray Naicker, Chief Digital Officer of Nedbank Group. "Listening to our user base is key to our success. Data is an invaluable currency that

informs and embodies our new features, offerings and campaign-driven approach." The core Avo propositions, which are primarily online grocery shopping, deals shopping and home services, have started to gain traction.

"As Avo grows, we're answering the calls of our customers.

Our next release is underpinned by our disruptive seller model, which empowers third-party local businesses to sell their products through Avo. We have embarked on a full digitisation of top malls, allowing customers to shop digitally in a full mall experience, with a single-home-deliv-

ery or click-and-collect option."

"In a year where education has been on the minds of so many, we made an informed decision to integrate with Karri and other market-leading education partners, offering easy and affordable revision content to South Africa's learners," adds Naicker.



Francois Viviers, Capitec's executive of marketing and communications.

NEWSINDEPTH

Banks raise German assets by \$462bn as Brexit looms

FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank has said banks have agreed to ultimately move a total of €1.3 trillion of assets to the euro area. Germany will take the lion's share of the assets that lenders are moving out

of the UK as a consequence of Brexit, according to the Bundesbank.

Non-German lenders are in the process of moving an additional €397 billion (\$462bn) of holdings to the country, taking their combined balance sheet there to €675bn at the end of the year,

the Bundesbank said in a presentation to reporters on Monday. The European Central Bank has said banks have agreed to ultimately move a total of €1.3 trillion of assets to the euro area.

With less than two months to go until the Brexit transition period expires,

international banks have been beefing up operations in the European Union to make sure they can service clients, given the prospect that UK-based firms won't retain passporting rights in a trade deal. While the fallout from Brexit could hit the region's economy as a whole, finan-

cial centres across the bloc have been keen to profit by winning business and a higher number of well-paid bankers.

Those banks that have been granted a German licence will probably move as many as 2,500 jobs to Europe's biggest economy, according to the Bundesbank.

Germany received 64 financial services licence applications, of which 40 have been granted, according to the central bank. The Bundesbank said banks are generally well-prepared for Brexit and it doesn't expect any "serious turmoil" when the transition phase ends.

Banks should focus more on customer centric products and services

By Dr Joe Masawe

TRADITIONALLY, banking used to be characterized by the personal relationship between bank managers and their customers and managers were seen as advisors to customers, sometimes even on matters unrelated to banking. But as banking developed, this relationship started to fade as banks concentrated more on selling products to customers with digital means of transacting meaning that personal relationships between customers and their banks have relaxed.

As banks continue to embrace technology, the biggest concern is that the distance between banks and their customers will widen and this could make them less customer focused, or centric. During the recent annual Financial Inclusion Conference organized by the Tanzania Bankers' Association to discuss the role of banks in deepening financial inclusion, banks resolved that the industry needs to focus more on products and services that address the needs of their customers, rather than products and services pushed from the supply side to satisfy their needs.

It was also resolved that technology, which is going to revolutionize banking in the years ahead, should be used as an opportunity for banks to

become more customer centric. It is noteworthy that never before has there been such high demand for technological change in the banking industry.

While the coronavirus pandemic has played a key role in speeding up the adoption of technology by the banking sector as the financial institutions try to minimize physical contact, it is now common knowledge that regardless of the impact of the virus, technology or digitization in banking cannot be avoided in future.

The modern tech-savvy generation is already calling for more use of technology, in order to reduce transaction costs, increase the speed of delivery of value and also safeguard security of their transactions. Technology however, is going to change the competitive landscape in the banking space, where banks are not just competing against each other, but also competing with technology giants which are not banks but can offer banking products and services such as the Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon (GAFA) alliance.

In this scenario, banks will have to be technology-driven and technology must help banks to provide banking products and services in a more competitive manner and products tailored to meet the needs of customers. Therefore, embracing technology should not only be an opportunity for banks to increase their efficiency, but

also an opportunity to be more customer centric by knowing them better, in terms of the challenges they are facing in their current environment and provide banking products and services that are solutions to their problems.

Technology therefore, should help banks in delivering great digital banking experience while at the same time help them maintain the human touch through which to deliver banking products and services that are customer-centric.

Customer-centricity isn't as simple as asking customers what they want and making good of it but rather requires banks to re-evaluate what they know about their customers and to better understand who they are, what interests them, what they value and what drives them. It's about building a relationship that is more meaningful than the transactional one, that banks traditionally used to have with their customers. It is a relationship that looks more like a partnership and that is attuned to the customer's needs. It is about recognizing what the customer value beyond your current products and services.

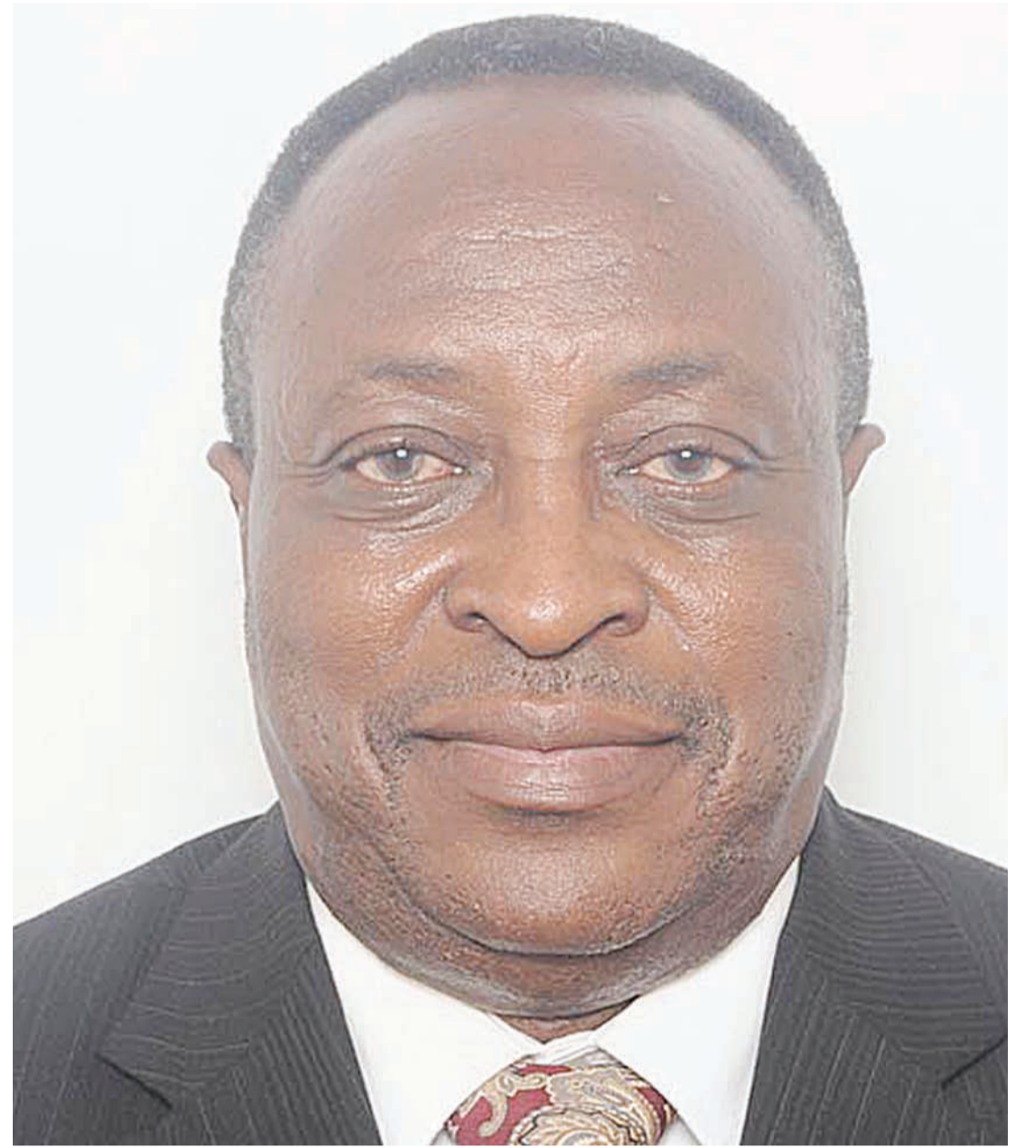
Technology will help banks to collect enormous data and build huge data bases and through big-data analytics, banks will be able to know their customer behaviours and preferences better. For example, data collected through enhanced

technology on customer product sales cycle, income sources, customer service inquiries, customer profiles and so on, can be consistently processed and analyzed to provide banks with information that enables them to understand their customers better and the mentality of 'one-size-fits-all.'

Suffice to say that as Tanzanian banks learn to become more customer centric, they must ensure that financial services and products will have to be more and more individual specific and this will be facilitated by technology. Banks must therefore use this moment to adjust to the new realities of the future of banking, where customer's preferences, values and interests must be treated as a top priority.

A true customer-centric banking model not only helps banks to gain a holistic view of the customer and uncover valuable insights, but also represents a commitment to making customers feel as though their bank truly understands what they want and need.

In conclusion, it is important to praise the vision adopted by banks in the country of using technology to become more customer-centric in the delivery of products and services, in order to provide solutions to individual needs. We believe that by so doing, banks in Tanzania will maintain their relevance in the global banking space,



Dr Joe Masawe is Head of Research and Policy at Tanzania Bankers Association.

Broke Kenya seeks second Covid-19 loan from IMF

NAIROBI

Kenya has for the second time in less than six months reached out to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for budget support to weather the coronavirus economic hardships.

IMF resident representative Tobias Rasmussen said the government had asked the Brettonwoods institution for another loan following the \$739 million (Sh79.3) billion received in May that Kenya sought to help it respond to the economic shocks caused by the pandemic.

This signals the gravity of the country's rapidly deteriorating cash-flow situation that is marked by falling revenues and worsening debt service obligations. Revenue collection underperformed by Sh40 billion in the first two months of the financial year, July and August, amid the coronavirus-related disruptions. The type of credit Kenya has sought from the IMF is a quick-disbursing facility where money flows straight into the budget to top up the public purse and is used at the discretion of the government.

Under the administration of former President Mwai Kibaki, Kenya kept away from this type of credit, with most of the support from institutions like the IMF and the World Bank coming in the form of project support.

"Following up on the support provided by the IMF in May under our Rapid Credit Facility (RCF), the Kenyan authorities have expressed interest in a Fund arrangement. IMF staff is in discussions with the authorities toward such an arrangement," Mr Rasmussen told the Business Daily in an e-mail response.

The budget support funding is not tied to specific projects and can be used to fund politically important activities. This comes amid a spike in Covid-19 cases that has seen infections jump 45 percent to 56,601 over the past month and deaths 42 percent to 1,027. This could trigger fresh restrictions from the government, risking reducing economic activity and denying the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) opportunities to grow tax collection.

Kenya's economy shrank by 5.7 percent in the second three months of 2020, its first quarterly contraction since the global financial crisis 12 years ago, as the Covid-19 pandemic shut businesses and kept people at home. The Treasury expects growth of less than 2.5 percent compared to 5.4 percent last year, and international institutions are making lower forecasts.

Tax collections in the three months to September dropped 14.69 percent to Sh317.6 billion, raising fears Kenya's budget deficit for this financial year could increase due to revenue shortfalls. The Treasury is September said it was in early talks with the World Bank for the provision of an additional budgetary support loan, which was potentially going to



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.

be used in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

The loan will be the third from the World Bank after the Washington-based lender started issuing such financing to Kenya last year. The Jubilee administration looks set to borrow an average of Sh2.5 billion daily before the end of President Uhuru Kenyatta's final term in August 2022, highlighting its growing appetite for foreign debt.

Treasury chiefs project in a draft Budget Review and Outlook Paper new loans of Sh1.87 trillion in the two years to June 2020 or Sh2.5 billion daily, pushing Kenya's debt to Sh8.06 trillion. If that comes to pass, Mr Kenyatta will have borrowed at least Sh6.1 trillion to implement his manifesto in 10 years in power having inherited slightly more than Sh1.89 trillion in June 2013.

The Jubilee administration has ramped up spending since 2013 to build new roads, a modern railway, bridges and electricity plants, driving up borrowing to plug the budget deficit. The increased debt has seen Kenya commit more than half of taxes to paying loans, leaving little cash for building roads, affordable housing and revamping of the ailing health sector.

But faced with revenue shortfalls amid the coronavirus-related disruptions and

the push to complete projects ahead of Mr Kenyatta's exit, the Treasury is expected to accelerate borrowing over the next two years.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) - which advises lawmakers on financial and budgetary matters - says underperformance in revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to drive Kenya's debt beyond the Sh9.0 trillion legal threshold, a year after Mr Kenyatta leaves power.

"In previous financial years, the primary balance grew on account of significant expenditure on infrastructural projects, energy production as well as social expenditures," the PBO wrote in a budget watch report earlier this month.

"The impact of Covid-19 on the economy is expected to adversely affect revenue generation. Given the current and projected expenditure demands, it is estimated that the Kenyan debt stock could reach Sh9.2 trillion in FY 2022/23."

Kenya plans to spend Sh904.7 billion on debt repayments this financial year ending June 2021 from Sh707.8 billion the previous year against expected taxes of Sh1.52 trillion. This means that nearly 60 percent of taxes will be committed to debt repayments.

WB to disburse \$1.2bn to Rwanda in three years

KIGALI

The World Bank Group will inject an estimated \$1.2 billion (approximately Rwf1.1 trillion) as part of the Rwanda Country Framework for the period between 2021 and 2023.

The partnership framework and funds committed on Monday this week are expected to play a major role in the country's recovery from the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The partnership framework shows that the \$1.2bn that was committed will go into five broad areas; improvement of human capital, improvement of conditions for Private Sector Development, expansion of access to infrastructure and the digital economy.

The funds will also go into increased agricultural productivity and commercialization and intensified urban agglomeration. In human capital development, the intervention will go into improving learning outcomes which have been found to be falling back and uncompetitive.

In 2018, the World Bank undertook a study dubbed, Human Capital Index where Rwanda scored 38 out of 100. That means that a Rwandan child can be es-

timated to be 38 per cent productive as they could be if they had full basic education and health services.

The interventions to be rolled out will seek to raise the odds for Rwandan children through multiple ways such as capacity of teachers, enhancing coverage and equity in access to critical social programs and improve nutrition among others.

The funds and initiatives will also be directed towards supporting the local private sector improvement such as access to affordable capital, reducing cost of operations and increasing availability of skills in the labour market. The implementation of projects with the funds is expected to have an impact on poverty reduction over time which experts say has been less responsive to economic growth seen over the years.

Aghassi Mkrtyan, World Bank Senior Country Economist for Rwanda noted that a country diagnostic carried out to inform the framework had among other things revealed that poverty was becoming less responsive to economic growth witnessed over the years.

This, he said, could be traced to challenges such as low human capital levels, low agriculture productiv-

ity, limited participation of the private sector in the economy as well as recurring negative effects of climate change.

Rolande Pryce, the World Bank Country Manager, told The New Times that the rollout and implementation of the programmes under the framework is expected to edge the country closer towards the country's strategic development plan, National Strategy of Transformation among other development plans.

"The process to identify key objectives and interventions includes; analytical work by the bank, the government strategy, assessment of World Bank's comparative advantage as well as lessons learnt. We then define targets that we want to achieve together," Pryce said.

Uzziel Ndagijimana, the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, said that the new framework comes at a critical juncture of socioeconomic recovery following the impact of the Covid-19 which has made the economy fragile and will take a while to recover. The latest economic projections noted that the economy will contract by 0.2 per cent in 2020 before resuming about 5.7 per cent growth in 2021.



Uzziel Ndagijimana, Rwanda's Minister for Finance and Economic Planning.

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020: Trump falsely claims victory, after rival Biden voices confidence

WILMINGTON, DEL./WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump falsely claimed victory over Democratic rival Joe Biden on Wednesday with millions of votes still uncounted in a tight White House race that will not be resolved until a handful of states complete vote-counting over the next hours or days.

Shortly after Biden said he was confident of winning the contest once the votes are counted, Trump appeared at the White House to declare victory and said his lawyers would be taking his case to the US Supreme Court, without specifying what they would claim.

"We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election," Trump said. "This is a major fraud on our nation. We want the law to be used in a proper manner. So we'll be going to the US Supreme Court. We want all voting to stop."

Polls have closed and voting has stopped across the country, but election laws in US states require all votes to be counted, and many states routinely take days to finish counting legal ballots. More votes still stood to be counted this year than in the past as people voted early by mail and in person because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Earlier in the evening, Trump won the battlegrounds of Florida, Ohio and Texas, dashing Biden's hopes for a decisive early victory, but Biden said he was confident he was on track to winning the White House by taking three key Rust Belt states.

Biden, 77, was eyeing the so-called "blue wall" states of Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that sent Trump, 74, to the White House in 2016 for possible breakthroughs once those states finish counting votes in hours or days to come.

"We feel good about where we are," Biden said in his home state of Delaware, shouting over a din of supporters in cars honking their horns in approval. "We believe we're on track to win this election."

Winning those three states would be enough to give Biden an Electoral College victory. Fox News projected Biden would win Arizona, another state that voted for Trump in 2016, giving him more options to get to 270 Electoral College votes.

Biden leads 220 to 213 over Trump in the fight for the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, according to Edison Research.

Even without Pennsylvania, Biden victories in Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin, along with his projected win in a congressional district in Nebraska, which apportions electoral votes by district, would put him in the White House, as long as he also holds the states that Trump lost in 2016.

"We are up BIG, but they are trying to STEAL the Election. We will never let them do it. Votes cannot be cast after the Polls are closed!" Trump said on Twitter before his White House appearance, which swiftly tagged the tweet as possibly misleading.

"It's not my place or Donald Trump's place to declare the winner of this election. It's the voters' place," Biden said on Twitter in response to the president.

Trump has repeatedly and without evidence suggested that an increase in mail-in voting will lead to an increase in fraud, although election experts say that fraud is rare and mail-in ballots are a long-standing feature of American elections.

In Pennsylvania, Democratic Governor Tom Wolf said the state still had to count more than a million mail-in ballots. He called Trump's remarks a partisan attack. According to Edison Research, more than 2.4 million early ballots were cast in the state, of which nearly 1.6 million were by Democrats and about 555,000 by Republicans.

Supporters of both candidates called the election a referendum on Trump and his tumultuous first term. The winner will lead a nation strained by a pandemic that has killed more than 231,000 people and left millions more jobless, racial tensions and political polarization that has only wors-



US President Donald Trump speaks in the East Room of the White House, early yesterday in Washington. (AP)

ened during a vitriolic campaign.

Trump monitored election returns with members of his family in the living room of the White House residence. Going in and out of the room were first lady Melania Trump, his son-in-law Jared Kushner and his daughter Ivanka among others. "He's calm, chilling," said a source familiar with the scene.

In the East Room of the White House, where 200 Trump supporters were having drinks and eating chicken fingers, sliders and cookies, cheers broke out when Fox News called Florida for Trump, said a source in the room.

"The place just erupted," said the source, who said the mood was both "extraordinarily positive" and "cautiously optimistic." "Everyone started cheering." Florida was a must-win state for any Trump path to victory.

Voters were also to decide which political party controls the US Congress for the next two years, with Democrats trying to recapture a Senate majority and favored to retain control of the House of Representatives.

A Democratic drive to win control of the Senate appeared to fall short, with Democrats picking up only one Republican-held seat while six other races remained undecided early on Wednesday. The six were in Alaska, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and two in Georgia.

No early surprise

There were no early surprises as the two contenders split the US states already projected. Trump captured conservative states like Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee while Democratic-leaning Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont went to Biden, according to projections by television networks and Edison Research.

"We feel good about where we are," Biden said in his home state of Delaware. "We believe we're on track to win this election."

Trump's strong performance in Florida was powered by his improved numbers with Latinos. His share of the vote in counties with large Latino populations was larger than it was in the 2016 election.

For months there had been complaints from Democratic Latino activists that Biden was ignoring Hispanic voters and lavishing attention instead on Black voters in big Midwestern cities. Opinion polls in key states showed Biden underperforming with Latinos in the weeks leading up to the election.

Many younger Hispanics were ardent sup-

porters of US Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders during the party's primary campaign, but in opinion polls expressed little enthusiasm for Biden, viewing him as too moderate and out of touch.

In the Miami area, Latinos are predominantly Cuban Americans, where generations of families have fled communist rule in Cuba. Trump's messaging about Biden being a socialist seemed to work with them and with Venezuelans there despite Biden's denials.

Edison's national exit poll showed that while Biden led Trump among nonwhite voters, Trump received a slightly higher proportion of the nonwhite votes than he did in 2016. The poll showed that about 11 percent of African Americans, 31 percent of Hispanics and 30 percent of Asian Americans voted for Trump, up 3 percentage points from 2016 in all three groups.

Edison's national exit poll also found that support for Trump declined by about 3 points among older white voters, compared with 2016. The poll found Biden made significant gains in the suburbs.

In 42 suburban counties spread across 13 states where most of the votes had been counted, Biden was doing about 5 percentage points better than Clinton did in 2016 and than Barack Obama did in 2012.

US stock futures jumped late on Tuesday as Trump's showing improved, but were volatile and last up 0.25 percent at 1:50 am ET (0650 GMT).

"I think markets were jolted a little bit by how close the race now appears. We are seeing a little bit of a flight-to-safety response in some asset classes," said Mona Mahajan, senior US investment strategist at Allianz Global Investors, New York.

On betting website Smarkets, odds reflected a 74 percent chance of Trump winning, up from 33 percent earlier in the day.

Voters, many wearing masks and maintaining social-distancing to guard against the spread of the coronavirus, streamed into polling places across the country through the day, experiencing long lines in a few locales and short waits in many other places. There were no signs of disruptions or violence at polling sites, as some officials had feared.

Biden, the Democratic former vice president, put Trump's handling of the pandemic at the center of his campaign and had held a consistent lead in national opinion polls over the Republican president.

Agencies

Hurricane Eta slams C. America, causes deadly mudslides

MANAGUA

HURRICANE Eta ripped roofs from homes, unleashed major flooding and caused landslides as it battered the coastline of Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras on Tuesday, reportedly killing at least three people and putting dozens of fishermen in peril.

Eta, one of the most powerful storms to hit Central America in years, plowed into Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale, battering roads and bridges in Honduras. Hundreds of people were evacuated.

Barreling ashore south of the port of Puerto Cabezas, Eta was expected to cause "catastrophic" wind damage as the eye of the storm moved inland along the northeastern coast of Nicaragua, the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

When it struck the coast, Eta was blowing potentially devastating winds of 225 kilometers per hour, the NHC said. The storm should weaken rapidly as it advances inland, it added.

On Wednesday the NHC said Eta has weakened to a tropical storm and is expected to become a tropical depression later in the night.

Eta was located about 140 km west of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kph, it said.

Nicaraguan media reported Tuesday that two artisanal miners were killed by a mudslide. In Honduras, a 13-year-old girl died in a landslide on her home, the fire department said. Meanwhile, about 60 fishermen were trapped and in danger in the eastern Mosquitia region of Honduras, according to Robin Morales, a representative of the local population.

The fishermen "remain adrift at sea shouting for help", Morales said, adding that a Honduran Navy official told him it was currently too dangerous to mount a rescue operation.

"If they aren't rescued, I don't think these people will remain alive for more than 24 hours," Morales said.

By early Tuesday, Eta had knocked down trees and power lines and caused serious flooding in northeast Nicaragua, disaster management agency SINAPRED said. Still, Vice-President Rosario Murillo said the initial damage had been less than feared.

"We're really afraid, there are fallen poles, there's flooding, roofs torn off, some of the zinc on my house fell off," said Carmen Enriquez, a resident of Puerto Cabezas.

The indigenous regions in northern Nicaragua are some of the country's poorest. Many people live in homes made of wood and adobe that are ill-equipped to withstand such a powerful storm.

Earlier, Javier Plat, a Catholic priest, had said there was a citywide power outage in Puerto Cabezas and government-arranged shelters had reached capacity.

Around 1,227,000 people in Nicaragua, including nearly 500,000 children, were at risk from the storm's fury, the UN children's agency UNICEF said in a statement.

Nicaragua on Monday evacuated at least 3,000 families, including fishermen who live in the most vulnerable villages.

In Honduras, rivers burst their banks, towns and cities on the Atlantic coast flooded, and landslides hit roads.

Eta is forecast to move into northern Nicaragua through Wednesday afternoon and hit central Honduras on Thursday.

Forecasting models then show it snaking back out into the Caribbean over Cuba as a tropical storm toward the end of the week and approaching the tip of the Florida panhandle on Sunday.

Flash and river flooding are also possible in Jamaica, south-east Mexico, El Salvador, southern Haiti and the Cayman Islands, the Miami-based hurricane center said.

Agencies

Malawi to open embassy in Jerusalem in 2021

JERUSALEM

MALAWI will open an embassy in Jerusalem by the summer of 2021, Malawian Foreign Minister Eisenhower Mkaka said during his visit to Israel on Tuesday.

Mkaka, who arrived in Israel on a three-day trip, made the announcement during a joint press conference with his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi in Jerusalem.

"Mkaka reiterated the intent of the Republic of Malawi to open a fully-fledged Embassy in Jerusalem," said an official joint statement signed by the Israeli and Malawian ministers.

In return, Israel agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, tourism, investment technology, education and trade, according to the statement.

In a separate statement, Ashkenazi hailed the Malawi government "a pioneer" as the country will be "the first African country to establish its embassy in Jerusalem."

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera first announced in September his intention to open an embassy in Jerusalem. Malawi and Israel have had official ties since the south-eastern African country won independence in 1964.

Xinhua

Lavrov calls for honest dialogue with European Union

MOSCOW

MOSCOW will not make unilateral gestures of goodwill to the European Union as EU countries should understand that dialogue is only possible when it's honest, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with the Kommersant daily.

"It should be clear to our European colleagues that interaction is only possible on an honest and equal basis and with respect for each other's interests," he pointed

out. "There will be no unilateral gestures of goodwill on our part.

We expect that practical approaches and common sense will eventually prevail in the Brussels institutions and EU capitals. We don't mind waiting for it to happen," Lavrov added.

According to the top diplomat, Russia is not to blame for the current crisis in relations with the EU.

He emphasized that EU bureaucrats and certain EU countries "seek to use any excuse, including the most absurd ones, to boost at-



tempts to contain Russia."

Lavrov noted that the number of sanctions regimes kept growing, though they were illegal from the standpoint of international law. "European media outlets con-

tinue a large-scale anti-Russian campaign. As for trade, Brussels bureaucrats keep taking protectionist measures, violating WTO regulations and introducing politicized rules," Lavrov said.

"At the same time, they tell us that Russia can 'deserve the right' to have normal relations with the EU if it changes its behavior. The cynicism is off the scale," he added.

"We appropriately respond to unfriendly actions but we also remain open to dialogue with the

EU, which remains an important trade and economic partner for us. Businesses on both sides are clearly interested in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

Russia-EU energy cooperation also remains relevant," the Russian foreign minister stressed.

According to Lavrov, there are many fields where the parties need to cooperate, including crisis management, healthcare, climate, personal data protection and artificial intelligence.

Agencies

China to make greater contribution to safeguarding world peace

"THE great victory of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea is a declaration that the Chinese people have stood firm in the East, and an important milestone in the Chinese nation's march toward the great rejuvenation."

The above remarks made by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a meeting marking the 70th anniversary of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) army entering the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to fight in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, perfectly demonstrate the willpower and strength of China.

The great victory of the war showcased Chinese people's tenacious character,

their firm determination to safeguard world peace, as well as the great courage of the Chinese army.

History proved that China has not only the unbreakable will, but also the great strength to safeguard peace.

The War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea is a page in the history that shall never be forgotten. When the People's Republic of China (PRC) was just founded, it faced daunting tasks of rebuilding itself from the ravages of war and turbulence, and the Chinese people, who had suffered enough invasion and wars since the modern times, were in dire need of peace. However, the imperial invaders once again forced a war on them. At the

request of the DPRK, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government, with remarkable courage, made a historic decision to resist U.S. aggression and aid Korea, and the CPV forces crossed the Yalu River to fight the war of justice. After arduous battles, the Chinese and DPRK armies defeated their fully-armed enemy, destroyed the indestructible U.S. army, and forced the arrogant invader to sign the truce agreement.

The victory of the war was hard-won. Wars are always a competition of national strength for countries. However, the two sides in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea had incomparable powers.

In 1959, the gross output value of in-

dustrial and agriculture of the U.S. was 28 times that of China, and its steel production outnumbered China 144 times. According to a comparison chart displayed at the Memorial Hall of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, a U.S. division, usually had 17,000 to 25,000 soldiers, was equipped with 149 tanks, 35 armored vehicles, 72 canons, 64 artilleries, and 22 aircraft, while a Chinese division had no heavy equipment.

Therefore, the war was one between "flesh and iron," in which the Chinese army battled iron and steel with their indestructible wills. The imperial invader was never able to calculate the result of

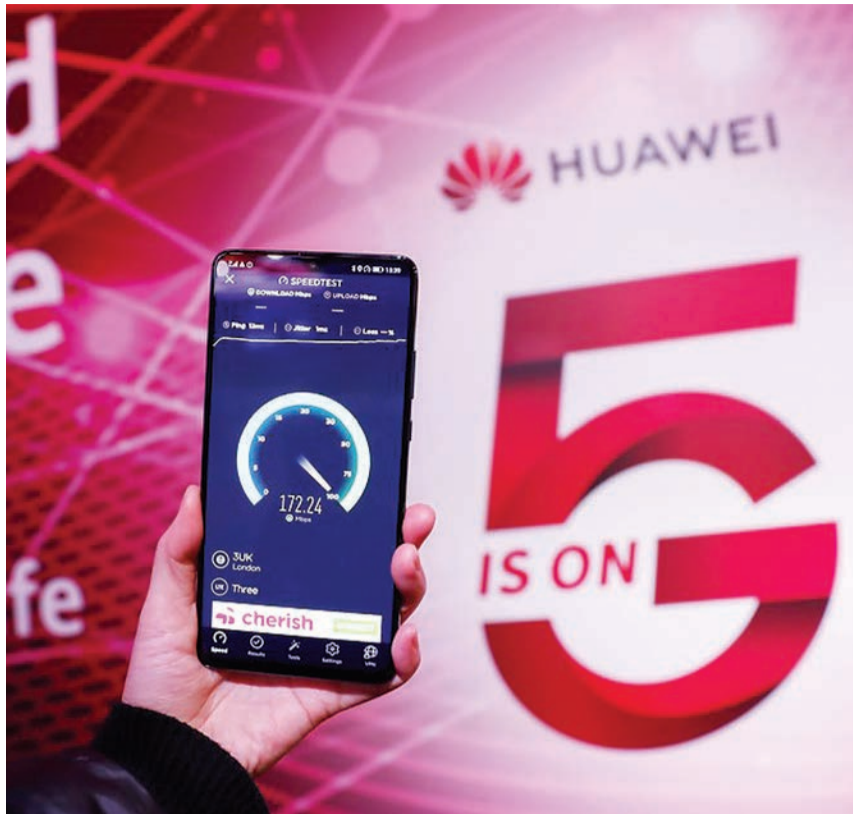
it. The CPV soldiers, daring to face the warcraft, tanks, and cannons of their enemy, and fearless of the severe cold and war flames, guarded their ground and defeated their enemy with huge courage.

The U.S. army fired more than 1.9 million shells, dropped over 5,000 bombs, and lost 25,000 soldiers and 274 planes in the battle of the Triangle Hill, but was still not able to cross the battlefield. The sand table used in the battle was later presented in the classes of the U.S. West Point. It is a history class that shall never be avoided by the U.S.

The great victory of the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea heralds that the Chinese people do not stir up

troubles, and they are not cowards when involved in some. The Chinese nation will never cower before threats, or be subdued by suppression. The Chinese people understand that it is necessary to speak to invaders in the language they know: that is, a war must be fought to deter invasion, and force must be met by force. A victory is needed to win peace and respect.

In the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea, the patriotic Chinese people made concerted efforts and showcased the world their magnificent power. They let the world know that "the Chinese people are now united and are not to be trifled with. If they are provoked, nothing good will come of it." *People's Daily*



Huawei 5G mobile phone testing speed at the Huawei 5G Innovation and Experience Center in London, Britain. (Xinhua)

Exclusion of Chinese 5G companies in Sweden hurts fair competition, consumers' interests

STOCKHOLM

BANNING Chinese 5G suppliers in Sweden will hurt the principle of fair competition and jeopardize the interests of Swedish consumers.

Although rare in the generally business-open Sweden, an administrative demand to strip Huawei and ZTE products from Sweden's 5G networks was announced last month by the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS), as the two leading telecom companies are poised to bid for the spectrum auctions starting on Nov. 10.

For years, Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE have been strictly observing local laws, promoting China-Sweden cooperation -- particularly in the information and communication technology (ICT) field -- and making contributions to the construction of infrastructure there.

According to an earlier report of Swedish National Television (SVT), none of the Swedish mobile operators it interviewed said that they see "a security problem with Huawei as a supplier."

Trumpeting so-called national security concerns but without presenting any evidence, the Swedish side is groundlessly discrediting Chinese companies by abusing administrative orders and state power.

The blunt and forceful demand also contrasts with the European Union (EU) toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity that was released in late January, which proposed a series of measures to strengthen 5G security from strategic and technical perspectives, but did not prohibit a Chinese or any specific company from participating in the construction of 5G networks in Europe.

Sweden's stance also contrasts with that of its Nordic neighbors.

Norway's largest mobile operator Telenor said it would continue working with Huawei for its 5G telecom network and the Chinese company would be involved in the entire process. Huawei was also one of the 5G equipment providers for Finland, which opened one of the largest 5G networks in Europe last December.

Finland has no intention of banning the use of Chinese telecom giant Huawei's equipment in its networks and Finland does not take a stand on the

countries of origin of such equipment that could pose a risk, Finnish Minister of Transport and Communication Timo Harakka told Finnish national broadcaster Yle.

"Huawei is an important contributor, rather than a threat, to Swedish ICT," Huawei said on its Europe website following the PTS's announcement.

The blatant suppression of Chinese telecommunication companies also politicizes normal economic cooperation and runs counter to the free, open, fair, just, and non-discriminatory market economy that Sweden pursues, as well as the international trade and investment rules.

"And now that only Nokia and Ericsson remain as alternatives in Sweden, it can also lead to a discussion about lack of competition," SVT's report said.

Moreover, Sweden's exclusion of Huawei and ZTE due to misconceptions and unwarranted accusations will negatively affect the quality and efficiency of its own 5G network construction. What's more, the inevitable cost increase resulting from a mandatory phasing-out of the existing Huawei equipment will unquestionably be a burden for Swedish tax payers.

The 5G era is a hallmark of global cooperation. Only by following market principles of open development and fair competition can a win-win situation be achieved for all, where there is faster, cheaper, more efficient and inclusive connectivity.

Manipulating free competition in the market with empty slogans of "national security" would only hurt a country's own interest.

A commercial posted on Huawei Europe's Twitter account on Aug. 18 answered a question about how Stockholm has generated so many start-ups.

"It's partly because Sweden has a long tradition of technical knowledge," the ad said, "and partly because Stockholm is very open to new influences from other parts of the world."

The Chinese market has remained open to European companies, including Sweden's. Sweden, largely characterized by an open and export-oriented economy, should also provide Chinese companies with an open and fair business environment, like the one it allegedly provides to other foreign investors.

Xinhua

Russians celebrate Unity Day online amid pandemic

MOSCOW

YESTERDAY, November 4, Russians celebrated the National Unity Day - most of the events in 2020 was held online.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has laid flowers at the monument to Kuzma Minin and Dmitry Pozharsky in Moscow's

Red Square. The flower laying ceremony traditionally takes place on National Unity Day. Russian citizens should know their rights, but also remember their responsibilities and a sense of duty to the Motherland, he said.

"Rights and responsibilities must

be in harmony with each other. It would be difficult for our entire society to exist without it," Putin said. He noted that citizens should know their rights and demand their implementation from the state, but each person also has responsibilities.

Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev congratulated the Russians on National Unity Day, noting that this holiday has become a symbol of respect for the rich history of the country. "National unity for us is not only a beautiful metaphor, but also the basis for the existence of our multi-confessional and multi-ethnic people," he wrote on his VKontakte social network page.

National Unity Day is one of the youngest national holidays in Russia. It was established in 2005, replacing the Day of Accord and Reconciliation, which had been celebrated on November 7 since 1996. The holiday commemorates the events of 1612, when people's militias led by merchant Kuzma Minin and Prince Dmitry Pozharsky liberated Moscow from Polish invaders.

On this day, concerts, fairs and other kinds of celebrations take place across the country. The Russian president presents state awards to prominent cultural workers and foreign nationals who contribute to friendship and cultural ties with Russia.

Agencies

US voters pin hope on next president to end pandemic, rifts

NEW YORK

BRAVING COVID-19 risks, US voters have been turning out in huge numbers to cast their ballots, making a consequential choice that will decide the direction of the country for the next four years and beyond.

More than 100 million Americans opted for voting early, a record-breaking number equivalent to about 73 percent of the total votes counted in the 2016 election, setting the stage for record participation this year, according to data compiled by the US Elections Project.

This year, former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, has taken on incumbent President Donald Trump in the White House race.

Pandemic game changer

A majority of the early voters chose to mail in their ballots during the raging COVID-19 pandemic, which some experts said has gone from bad to worse in the United States. As of Tuesday afternoon, the virus has infected 9.3 million Americans and killed more than 232,000.

Still, many prefer to vote in person on Election Day, while taking such precautions as wearing face masks and keeping social distancing.

"I just wanted to vote on Election Day. There was something special about voting on the day," said John Peterson, who arrived at a polling station in the state of Virginia at 5:50 am local time (1050 GMT).

The 29-year-old tech company employee voted for Biden, citing the Trump administration's pandemic response as one of the primary reasons that influenced his decision.

"I think his (Trump's) handling of the pandemic is similar to his handling of other issues, not well thought out, not planned or implemented effectively," Peterson said.

"The most crucial issue right now is the pandemic," said Alex Le, a Vietnamese American and doctor from New York State. The 22-year-old nonpartisan voter voiced his hope that the next administration could listen to doctors and scientists, and tackle the pandemic.

Figures have painted a bleak picture in recent weeks as most of the United States has recorded a spike in infections, deaths and hospitalizations since colder weather set in.

Nearly 100,000 new COVID-19 cases were reported on Friday, setting a global daily record. The country has not yet seen the worst of it, experts warned.

For many voters, pandemic response cannot be evaluated independently of



Voters cast their ballots at a polling station in Brooklyn borough of New York, the United States, on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

how the economic fallout is addressed, and the current government's performance in this regard is up for debate.

Tom Waters from the state of Missouri believes Trump is "getting blamed far more than he should be for how he handled things."

"I try to put myself in their shoes and I don't know what more he could do ... And I'm thankful that, the economy was opened back up and started to get back on track," said the soybean and corn farmer who voted for Trump.

The COVID-19-induced recession has to date rendered tens of millions of Americans without a paycheck. The number of Americans living in poverty has grown by 8 million since May, according to a recent Columbia University study.

"Like many Americans, I'm very concerned that the current administration failed to anticipate, manage, or in any meaningful way address the issues created by the COVID-19 pandemic -- be it the health emergency itself or the economic calamity caused by the pandemic," said Jon Taylor, who identified himself as an independent. The political science professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio voted for Biden.

Divisions run deep

This year's election is taking place at a time that many voters said is marked by "division," as racial tensions have been running high and partisanship is running deep in the country.

"People are very divided. 2016 was less divided," said Tom Donald, a Republican from the swing state of Wisconsin. "There is hate of America in our country on both sides," added the 54-year-old store manager, who voted for Trump. "The election has shown how divisive we are and the whole campaign has been that way. The ardent supporters of each candidate see

no good in the other candidate," Randy Hudderson, an engineering consultant, told Xinhua. The 71-year-old from the city of Kenosha in Wisconsin, who identifies as Republican, voted for Biden.

Back in late August, Kenosha became a focal point of both Republican and Democratic campaigns after 29-year-old African American man Jacob Blake was shot seven times in the back by a police officer, sparking protests nationwide demanding racial equity.

"I think no matter who wins the election, racial inequality and the resulting social issues will not be resolved immediately. The turmoil will go on," said Kevin Chan, a Chinese American from San Francisco, California.

The 51-year-old businessman said he did not vote for either presidential candidate. "The current partisan politics in the United States will continue to cause social division, polarization, and fracture, which is very disgusting."

Waters, the farmer from Missouri, used "scary" and "historic" to describe the election. "It's historic. I think the outcome either way is going to have long-term impacts ... it's scary just because we don't know right now, which direction our country's gonna take. And, there's a lot of unknowns and everybody likes to know what's going on."

A more immediate concern, meanwhile, is election-related chaos that federal and local authorities, as well as businesses, have been bracing for, leading to enhanced security measures introduced across the country.

"The protests this summer were bad and I don't want that again," said Kevin Wrightman from Kenosha of Wisconsin, describing the atmosphere of this year's election as "disconcerting." Identifying as Republican, the 64-year-old educator voted for Trump.

Xinhua

Kenya, Britain conclude trade talks to ensure smooth trade post Brexit

NAIROBI

KENYA and Britain on Tuesday concluded an economic partnership agreement (EPA) to ensure smooth trade when London leaves the European Union on Dec. 31.

Kenya's chief negotiator Johnson Weru, who is also the principal secretary at Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprises Development, and Britain's chief negotiator Paul Walters said that both parties have reached an agreement in principle of the Kenya/East African Community (EAC) -UK Economic Partnership Agreement.

"When, as expected, the agreement enters into effect at the end year this will secure long-term duty free and quota free access to the UK for Kenyan exports and our overall trade and economic arrangements. This agreement will provide continuity for our businesses, investors and supply chains and will set the foundation for further economic and development opportunities in the future," they said in a joint communique issued in Nairobi.

It said that government officials of the two countries have "initialed" the text, marking the end of the formal negotiations.

"The text will now be prepared for signature in the coming weeks before it is submitted to our respective national processes including parliaments to complete ratification processes," the two officials said.

Betty Maina, Kenya's cabinet secretary, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprises Development said that the negotiations covered a host of important issues including barriers to free flow of trade between the two countries.

"We agreed on shared approaches to trade and investment, including the need to adopt common rules of origin and through broader acceptance of products," Maina said.

Maina added that the agreement replicates the effects of the East African Community (EAC) EPA with the European Union that facilitates duty free quota free access to exports from EAC countries to the European market.

Maina noted the bilateral trade pact will deepen the EAC integration by ensuring that exports from Kenya and the EAC region continue to enjoy duty-free-quota-free access to the UK after Brexit - when the UK leaves the EU on Dec. 31.

Data from the ministry of trade indicates that trade between January to August shows that Kenya's exports were valued at 34.9 billion shilling (320 million U.S. dollars), while imports were valued at 185.2 million dollars and a trade balance of 154.5 million dollars in the east African nation's favor.

Rebecca Fisher-Lamb, British deputy trade commissioner for Africa, said that both countries have reached an "agreement in principle" on the text of the trade pact.

Fisher-Lamb added that the agreement lays the foundation to expand trade between the two countries.

She observed that by granting duty-free access to UK markets, bilateral trade can continue between businesses as it does now in horticulture, flowers, pharmaceuticals and vehicles.

Xinhua

US interferes in other countries' internal affairs, threatens global political security

WHAT is security? How can people guarantee safety?

Martin Luther King Jr., the American civil rights icon, had actually provided an answer to the questions long ago.

"I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe," he said.

However, some U.S. officials have obviously abandoned their conscience. Under the guise of safeguarding national safety, they have left no stone unturned to defame China and taken great delight in spreading rumors and deluding other countries into misunderstanding China.

Lately, the U.S. House of Representatives has introduced the so-called China Task Force Act,

shamelessly propagandizing the "China threat" theory and grossly interfering in China's internal affairs.

Before that, the U.S. also peddled malicious lies against China in terms of international security issues at the 75th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

The chaos and mess stirred up by such political manipulations will never cover up the fact that the U.S. is trying to gain hegemonic control of other countries.

Numerous hard facts have proved that the U.S. is the main culprit threatening global political security as it has frequently interfered in and subverted other countries' regimes, re-

garding such misdeeds as tools of foreign policy and causing a large number of tragedies that plunged people into great misery and suffering.

Throughout its over 200 years of history, the U.S. has created a disgraceful record of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter once referred to the U.S. as "the most warlike nation in the history of the world", a result of the U.S. forcing other countries to "adopt our American principles".

The world will never forget that the U.S. put forward the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, openly claiming the Americas its sphere of influence and wantonly en-

gaging in takeover and expansion. Although the international community has already seen through the hegemony nature of the Monroe Doctrine, some U.S. politicians today are still brazenly prettifying it, packaging it as a new version of the Monroe Doctrine and intensifying interference in other countries.

The unceasing wars in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria have shown the world that the U.S. is still manipulating the internal affairs of other countries from behind the scenes and stirring up troubles.

It has been clear to everyone that the U.S. was responsible for the turmoil in West Asia

and North Africa and directed the Color Revolutions, causing long-time insecurity and turbulence in many countries.

Under the guise of humanitarianism, the U.S. has wielded the stick of hegemony and caused disorder and humanitarian disasters around the world.

Since 2001, the U.S. government has conducted counterterrorism activities in 80 countries, and has appropriated and is obligated to spend an estimated \$6.4 trillion on counterterrorism efforts through Fiscal Year 2020, according to a survey on the costs of war conducted by the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University in the U.S.

At least 800,000 people have

died due to direct war violence. Over 335,000 civilians have been killed in direct violence of the wars and several times as many have died as an indirect result of the wars.

The survey also found that 21 million Afghan, Iraqi, Pakistani, and Syrian people are living as war refugees and internally displaced persons, in grossly inadequate conditions.

The question for some U.S. politicians is how should they pay for such a huge loss of life and property?

While arrogantly claiming the U.S. "a city upon a hill", some American officials have frequently interfered in other countries' internal affairs and exported wars to meet the need

of domestic politics, and fantasized about maintaining hegemony by intervening in and transforming other countries, becoming the biggest source of instability for global political security.

After the Cold War, the U.S. adopted a grand strategy that gave pride of place to military threats and methods; at worst, they turned the U.S. into a destructive actor in the world, said Stephen Wertheim, deputy director of policy and research at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Brutally interfering in other countries' internal affairs, the U.S. has incurred growing public outrage.

People's Daily



Fatma Samoura

FIFA Secretary General now inducted into International Women's Forum Hall of Fame

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

INTERNATIONAL soccer governing body 'FIFA' Secretary General Fatma Samoura has been inducted into the International Women's Forum (IWF) Hall of Fame as recognition for her transformative contributions to society.

Fatma worked on United Nations projects for 21-years before becoming the first-ever African, and woman to hold the role of Secretary General at FIFA in its 116-year history.

She has been joined by fellow Hall of Fame honourees, Mary Barra, Chairman and CEO of General Motors and Ginni Rometty, Executive Chairman of IBM, at the online 2020 IWF Hall of Fame Awards Gala.

The gala was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and featured interviews with each of the three inductees about the paths they took to lead them to their current roles, the advice they have for young women and the causes that motivate them in their daily work.

The FIFA Secretary General's interview touched on her 21-year career working on United Nations projects, her work at FIFA under the leadership of President Gianni Infantino, her six-month mission as FIFA General Delegate for Africa to assist CAF on its reform journey, her zero tolerance for racism and racist behavior and her advice for women.

In a video interview with FIFA's first-ever Chief Women's Football Officer Sarai Bareman, Fatma Samoura said: "In my 21 years as a development and humanitarian actor I met people from different backgrounds, whether religious, ethnic or also based on gender and I could see how they were reacting in the face of difficult and stressful situations... so this wealth of experience I brought in definitely to FIFA where, as I said, the human being is a key aspect of everything we do. Whether you

are a coach, a football player or a fan, you deal with human beings. The core values I brought along with my 21 years at the UN are respect of diversity, fighting discrimination, fighting for equal opportunity and a world that is more just and fair to everybody."

In joining the IWF Hall of Fame, the FIFA Secretary General joins women who were inducted for their work on tackling urgent issues the world is facing, including Maya Angelou, American poet and author, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Rosa Parks, mother of the American civil rights movement, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Nawal El Moutawakel, first Moroccan and first African Muslim woman to win Olympic gold.

Ella Fitzgerald, American jazz artist, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, US Supreme Court Justice, Louise Arbour, Chief Prosecutor, International Criminal Tribunals in the Hague, Hillary Rodham Clinton, former US First Lady, US Senator, Secretary of State, Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee nation, Audrey Hepburn, international film star and Shirley Temple black child star and US Diplomat are also in the list.

Referring to advice for women, Fatmasaid: "Ladies you have to remember this, if you have been trusted enough to be given a position it's because you have the skills and qualifications necessary to do the job. Look to your sisters for support and count on them."

The IWF was founded in the US by Elinor 'Elly' Guggenheimer - chair of the New York City Planning Commission, in 1974.

Its aim is to bring together women of diverse accomplishments and provide them with a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as advancing women's leadership globally and locally. It has over 7,000 members worldwide.

Mike Tyson sure sounds like his old self

BY KEVIN IOLE, COMBAT COLUMNIST YAHOO SPORTS

ROY Jones' voice raised several octaves and he sounded righteously indignant.

There has been a lot of speculation about what his Nov. 28 bout against Mike Tyson, which is officially classified as an exhibition, will be like.

After a news conference, Jones spoke on the phone to Yahoo Sports. He was asked if he believed that, despite the protestations of Andy Foster, the executive officer of the California State Athletic Commission who has been adamant the fight would be no more than "hard sparring," whether he felt Tyson would attempt to knock him out.

"Are you crazy with this?" Jones asked. "Of course he is! This is Mike Tyson we're talking about here, man. This is Mike Tyson. You think he's going to go out there and say, 'Oh, I can't hit too hard because the guy from the commission is going to be angry?' No. No way is he going to do that. This is a fight and I have to be ready for that."

The former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world certainly sounded during a conference call on Thursday as if he were back in his prime, when he was intimidating legendary champions like

Michael Spinks and building a reputation as perhaps the most fearsome heavyweight who ever lived.

There have been many ferocious and fearsome heavyweights before him, including a young George Foreman, Sonny Liston, Jack Dempsey and others, but Tyson put himself in a class by himself in his prime.

And on the call, Tyson sounded just like he did before he annihilated Spinks in 91 seconds in 1988 or when he won the title from Trevor Berbick in 1986 or like he did earlier in 1986 when, before a fight with Jesse Ferguson, he mused about how he enjoyed punching a guy on the tip of the nose to push the bone into his brain.

"Listen, I don't know what [Foster's] talking about that this is not a real fight," Tyson said. "You got Mike Tyson and Roy Jones and I'm coming to fight and I hope he's coming to fight. That's all you need to know."

Tyson: 'My mindset is totally bliss'
A 15-year-old girl who boxes was allowed to ask Tyson a question, and she wanted to know what his mindset would be like when the bell rings.

(Agencies)

Yanga coach heaps praises on Sarpong

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

YANGA's head coach, Cedric Kaze, has heaped praises on the squad's forward, Michael Sarpong, and insisted soccer enthusiasts in Tanzania will soon start appreciating the striker's potential.

Sarpong showcased his goal scoring prowess when Yanga locked horns with Biashara United in 2020/21/ Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash, which took place in Mara last weekend. He helped Yanga post 1-0 victory over their opponents, banging in the lone goal on the 68th minute of the clash.

Kaze disclosed he has faith in the Ghanaian forward, who has scored two goals for the club in the domestic top flight.

Yanga are now placed first in the domestic top-flight table, they have played nine matches, posting victory in seven and draw in two to record 23 points.

They are a point above second-placed Azam FC, which has seven wins, draw in one duel and defeat in one match.

Yanga are currently a team with the strongest defense in the competition, given they have conceded two goals in nine outings.

The VPL defending champions, Simba SC, are placed fourth in the competition with victory in five outings, draw in one duel and two losses, collecting 16 points.

They are a point below third-placed Biashara United, who have registered victory in five matches, draw in two outings and three losses.

Simba SC yesterday had an opportunity to reduce their points' gap with the VPL trophy challengers, given the former were set to confront Kagera Sugar in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Winning six points in two home fixtures is Simba SC's main task.

Nine points will later be at stake when Simba SC features in three away matches.

They will lock horns with age old rivals, Yanga, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday and thereafter confront Coastal Union and Dodoma Jiji FC.

Simba SC will face Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on November 21.

Dodoma Jiji FC will entertain Simba SC on November 24, the VPL defending champions will later confront Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC at Uhuru Stadium on November 29.



Yanga forward, Michael Sarpong.



Tanzania get COSAFA Women's U-17 Championship under way with big win

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

AISHA Masaka scored a brace as Tanzania started their 2020 COSAFA Women's U-17 Championship campaign with a resounding 5-1 victory over islanders Comoros at the St. Francois Xavier Stadium in South Africa on Wednesday.

Aisha opened the scoring for Tanzania on the 20th minute of the encounter with a neat finish into the bottom corner

of the net, but Comoros levelled four minute later through a well taken penalty by Noussrat Mistoihi.

Fifteen minutes after the restart, Aisha showed her lethal touch in front of goal to restore the advantage.

Tanzania's Joyce Lema put the game beyond Comoros when she fired in a superb shot from outside the box to make it 3-1 for the former on the 72th minute.

Tanzania ended with a flourish as they scored

two more in the final 10 minutes.

Mwanamvua Haruna got her name on the scoresheet, along with Protasia Mbunda that netted the fifth.

Tanzania will tomorrow take on Zambia in the tournament as the former look to make up for the disappointment of the aside's exit from the 2020 African U-17 Women's World Cup qualifying competition in March, when they went down 6-2 on aggregate to neighbours Uganda.

Tanzania's U-17 women team's head coach Edna Lema is hoping her young side will emulate the country's side that claimed the COSAFA Women's U-20 Championships at the same Nelson Mandela Bay venue last year.

The 2020 COSAFA Women's U-17 Championship has seen a reduced field of six teams take part in the tournament due to difficulties around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tanzania's U-17 side alongside the senior na-

tional women team, Twiga Stars, are taking part in the southern African region competition as the guest teams.

Tanzania first appeared in the COSAFA Women's Championship in 2011 and made a strong impression, walking away with the bronze medal.

Tanzania's line-up for the game: Mtunda, Mbunda, Luhala, Gindulya, Lema, Mohamed, Masaka, Haruna, Mohamed, Mdimu, Kisisa.

Liverpool and Bayern run riot in Champions League as Real Madrid edge Inter

LONDON

DIOGO Jota scored a stunning hat-trick in Liverpool's 5-0 demolition of Atalanta in the Champions League on Tuesday, as holders Bayern Munich scored six and Real Madrid struck late to beat Inter Milan in a thriller.

On a prolific night across Europe which also saw a rampant Borussia Mönchengladbach hit six in Ukraine, the star individual performances came from Jota and Alassane Plea.

Portugal forward Jota joined Liverpool from Wolverhampton Wanderers in September and has wasted little time making an impact with seven goals from just five starts.

In Bergamo, against an Atalanta side who reached the quarter-finals last season, Jota was brought into the starting line-up in place of Roberto Firmino and required just 16 minutes to open the scoring.

Another emphatic finish allowed the 2019 Champions League winners to double their lead before the break, and Mohamed Salah then broke away to get the third just after the restart.

Salah set up Sadio Mane for Liverpool's fourth before Jota got his hat-trick goal as the Premier League champions recorded their biggest win in Europe since beating Porto 5-0 away in February 2018.

"I'm playing in the best team of my career so far. I don't know if it's the best moment of my career but obviously scoring goals is my way of playing football," Jota told BT Sport.

With three wins from three, Liverpool are well on course to top Group D, with Ajax and Atalanta both five points back.

Ajax won 2-1 away to Midtjylland in Denmark, as Brazilian youngster Antony opened the scoring in the first minute and Dusan Tadic netted from an indirect free-kick inside the box soon after. Anders Dreyer got one back for the hosts, who remain pointless.

French forward Plea had earlier scored a hat-trick as Gladbach claimed a stunning 6-0 victory over Shakhtar Donetsk in Kiev, the German side's biggest European triumph since their 1970s heyday.

The unfortunate Valeriy Bondar scored an own goal, with Ramy Bensebaini and Lars Stindl also scoring as Gladbach went top of Group B, a point clear of Shakhtar and Real Madrid.

Gladbach coach Marco Rose said: "Six-nil is extraordinary. We did a lot right today -- not to say almost everything."

- Rodrygo wins it for Real -

AFP

Hat-trick hero Jota relishing playing alongside 'world class Salah, Mane'

LONDON

LIVERPOOL forward Diogo Jota credited playing alongside the likes of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane with lifting his game as he scored a hat-trick in a 5-0 Champions League win over Atalanta on Tuesday.

"I'm playing in the best team of my career so far," said the 23-year-old, who has now scored in four consecutive games since his move from Wolves in September.

The Portuguese became just the second player to score on his first two starts in the Champions League for Liverpool since Robbie Keane 2008, after notching the opener in a 2-0 win over Midtjylland last time out.

Jota scored a first half brace, completing his hat-trick after 55 minutes in Bergamo after Salah and Mane added two more just after the break in northern Italy.

"Obviously they (Mane and Salah) are two world class players, we all know their quality which makes it easier for me to do my job because they are outstanding and we had a great game together today.

"Five goals, that doesn't happen so often.

Real, the 13-time European champions, ran out 3-2 winners in a dramatic encounter with Inter behind closed doors at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium, as Vinicius Junior set up his fellow Brazilian substitute Rodrygo to lash in the decisive goal 10 minutes from time.

Karim Benzema had put the hosts ahead and Sergio Ramos headed in his 100th Madrid goal in the 33rd minute, but Lautaro Martinez pulled one back shortly after.

Inter were missing the injured Romelu Lukaku but looked set to escape with a draw when Ivan Perisic equalised midway through the second half, only for Rodrygo to pounce and leave the Italians bottom of the group.

- Bayern make it 14 in a row -

Reigning champions Bayern have now won a record-extending 14 consecutive Champions League games after a 6-2 victory against Salzburg in Austria.

German forward Mergim Berisha gave Salzburg an early lead only for Robert Lewandowski to level from the penalty spot, and a Rasmus Kristensen own goal put Bayern ahead before the break.

Japanese substitute Masaya Okugawa restored parity midway through the second half only for Bayern to run away with the game late on.

Jerome Boateng headed them back in front, Leroy Sane got their fourth and Lewandowski strained to head in his 12th of the season, before Lucas Hernandez wrapped up their win.

"We never give up -- that's what sets us apart," Boateng told Sky Germany.

Hansi Flick's side are firmly in control of Group A, five points ahead of Atletico Madrid, who drew 1-1 at Lokomotiv Moscow.

Jose Maria Gimenez's header for Atletico was cancelled out by Anton Miranchuk's penalty.

Meanwhile Marseille's 3-0 loss away to Porto saw them equal Anderlecht's record of 12 consecutive Champions League defeats.

Moussa Marega gave Porto an early lead before Dimitri Payet blazed a penalty over for Marseille.

Sergio Oliveira then scored from the spot to make it 2-0 for Porto and Luis Diaz sealed the win for the home side in Group C.

Manchester City are firmly in control of that section after Pep Guardiola's side eased past Olympiakos 3-0, with Ferran Torres, Gabriel Jesus and Joao Cancelo netting.

Maradona undergoes successful brain surgery on blood clot

BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINE football great Diego Maradona underwent successful brain surgery for a blood clot in a specialist private clinic in Buenos Aires on Tuesday, his doctor said.

"We managed to successfully remove the clot. Diego coped well with the surgery," Leopoldo Luque said at the icon's private clinic in the capital Buenos Aires.

"It's under control, there's a little drainage (of blood). He'll remain under observation."

World Cup winner Maradona had been taken to hospital in La Plata -- where he is the coach of top flight side Gimnasia y Esgrima -- on Monday for a series of tests after feeling unwell.

A scan revealed the blood clot, and on Tuesday he was transferred to the specialist clinic in a northern neighborhood of the capital.

Maradona, who turned 60 on Friday, has suffered ill health before. He has survived two heart attacks, and also contracted hepatitis and undergone gastric bypass surgery.

Groups of fans congregated outside the clinic with banners showing Maradona's face and the words "Come on, Diego!"

"I came with my wife to support the greatest player of all time," fan Oscar Medina told AFP.

"Once more his health has played a trick on him but he has antibodies to recover with the help of the people," added Medina.



Diego Maradona

"I feel very sad and impotent but we're going to stay by his side until the last day," said another fan, Matias Di Sciosio.

Earlier on Tuesday, Luque insisted it was "a routine operation" and that Maradona was "lucid" and "calm."

Argentine media speculated the clot was the result of a blow to the head.

Luque said the clot was "imperceptible" and that those suffering from one rarely remembered receiving a knock to the head.

"The operation consists of a small incision to drain the blood. In 24 or 48 hours the patient can leave the hospital," neurosurgeon

Raul Matera told TyC Sports channel.

- Anemic -

Maradona was transferred from the hospital in La Plata, 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Buenos Aires, to the capital at 6:00 pm (2100 GMT) accompanied by one of his daughters, Giannina. Dozens of Gimnasia fans outside the La Plata hospital chanted his name as he left.

Earlier in the day, Luque claimed Maradona was feeling "much better and eager to leave" hospital but insisted that the Gimnasia Y Esgrima coach was suffering from anemia -- a

lack of iron in his system -- and dehydration.

Luque said it has left him feeling "very weak, very tired." After further tests, he was diagnosed with the blood clot.

He also suggested Maradona's lifestyle had contributed to his condition.

"He's an elderly patient with many pressures in his life. It's a time when we must help him. It's very difficult to be Maradona," Luque said of the star, who celebrated his 60th birthday on Friday.

He said it was a condition that also affected current Vice-President Cristina Kirchner when she was president.

The doctor ruled out any link to the coronavirus pandemic, which is ravaging the South American country, much of it still under confinement.

Maradona is considered at high risk of coronavirus complications should he be infected.

Last week, he began self-isolation for the second time after a bodyguard displayed coronavirus symptoms, though he later tested negative.

He joined his players briefly at the club's training ground on his

birthday, but had obvious difficulty walking and had to be helped away by his assistants after staying only 30 minutes.

"It breaks my heart to see him like this," Giannina tweeted the next day.

- 'He needs support' -

Maradona has difficulty retaining iron due to a gastric bypass surgery he underwent in 2005 to lose 50 kilograms (110 pounds), leaving him prone to anemia, Luque said.

Though he has recovered from a well-documented addiction to hard drugs, Maradona takes medication in the form of tranquilizers and anxiolytics.

"With a patient on medication, there are times when hospitalization serves to adjust that medication. That's good," said Luque.

Gimnasia fans flocked to the La Plata clinic to leave messages of support for the ailing icon.

"What he needs most is the support of the people," Luque said.

Alongside Brazil's Pele, who turned 80 last month, Maradona is widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time.

AFP

Bale, Spurs on Europa League relaunch mission

LONDON

GARETH Bale will hope to use Thursday's Europa League game against Ludogorets to further sharpen his fitness following his return to Tottenham, while Arsenal and Leicester can take a step towards the knockout stages with a third win in a row.

Bale, 31, scored his first Spurs goal in seven years since rejoining the club on loan from Real Madrid to earn Jose Mourinho's side a 2-1 victory over Brighton at the weekend.

The Welshman is gradually working his way back to form after a knee injury delayed his second debut, with his only starts for Tottenham so far coming in Europe.

"I'm feeling good," said Bale. "I'm getting a lot fitter, obviously it's been good to get a couple of starts in the Europa League, getting more minutes (Sunday) will benefit me again.

"I'm staying patient, I know I have to build my match fitness, it's been a while since I put a couple of games together, so I'll continue to work hard in training every day, and in the games when I'm given the chance."

Spurs must hit the reset button after a limp 1-0 defeat by Antwerp in Belgium last week left Mourinho unimpressed, and bemoaning not being able to replace the entire team at half-time.

They visit a Ludogorets side hunting their first points in Group J after Elvis Manu's hat-trick came in a 4-3 loss for the Bulgarians at Austrian outfit LASK Linz on matchday two.

- Arsenal 'creating expectations' -

Arsenal will be on course for the last 32 with victory at home to Norwegians Molde. Both teams have six points in Group B.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's penalty earned the Gunners a 1-0 win at Manchester United on Sunday -- their first Premier League victory at Old Trafford since 2006.

"We are creating expectations as well because we beat United and then we beat Chelsea, and then we beat Man City, then Liverpool in the cup," said Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta.

"We need to generate the belief that we can go to any ground and be competitive. It's something that we've got already, in my opinion."

Leicester have shrugged off last season's collapse that saw them fall short of the Champions League by winning five of their first seven games in a top-flight season for the first time in their history.

The Foxes have beaten Zorya



Gareth Bale (R) scored his first Tottenham goal since rejoining the club from Real Madrid in a 2-1 victory over Brighton. (Agencies)

Luhansk and AEK Athens in Group G and next host Braga, who also have six points after two rounds.

Serie A leaders AC Milan put their 24-match unbeaten run on the line against Lille, who are second in Ligue 1 and also yet to lose in any competition this term.

Celtic host Sparta Prague

in the other game in Group H, while Steven Gerrard's Rangers are chasing a third win in as many fixtures away to Group D frontrunners Benfica.

Fixtures (kick-offs Groups A-F at 1755 GMT, Groups G-L at 2000 GMT unless noted)

Group A

Roma (ITA) v CFR Cluj (ROM)

Young Boys (SUI) v CSKA Sofia (BUL) (2000)

Group B

Rapid Vienna (AUT) v Dundalk (IRL)

Arsenal (ENG) v Molde (NOR) (2000)

Group C

Hapoel Beer-Sheva (ISR) v Bayer Leverkusen (GER)

Slavia Prague (CZE) v Nice (FRA)

Group D

Lech Poznan (POL) v Standard Liege (BEL)

Benfica (POR) v Rangers (SCO)

Group E

PAOK (GRE) v PSV Eindhoven (NED)

Omonoia Nicosia (CYP) v Granada (ESP)

Group F

Rijeka (CRO) v Napoli (ITA)

Real Sociedad (ESP) v AZ Alkmaar (NED)

Group G

Leicester City (ENG) v Braga (POR)

Zorya Luhansk (UKR) v AEK Athens (GRE)

Group H

Celtic (SCO) v Sparta Prague (CZE)

AC Milan (ITA) v Lille (FRA)

Group I

Sivasspor (TUR) v Qarabag (AZE) (1755)

Villarreal (ESP) v Maccabi Tel-Aviv (ISR)

Group J

Ludogorets (BUL) v Tottenham Hotspur (ENG) (1755)

Antwerp (BEL) v LASK Linz (AUT)

Group K

Dinamo Zagreb (CRO) v Wolfsberg (AUT)

Feyenoord (NED) v CSKA Moscow (RUS)

Group L

Hoffenheim (GER) v Slovan Liberec (CZE)

Red Star Belgrade (BEL) v Gent (BEL)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Maradona undergoes successful brain surgery on blood clot

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV THURSDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msimi Kitoani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 HHSHAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 aNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

Tanzania's athletes urged to stay focused

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has told the country's athletes to stay focused for summer Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan next year.

The Games initially were to be held mid this year but they were postponed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from its tradition dates in the wake of Coronavirus global pandemic.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary general, said that the local athletes should not relax as the dates for the much-anticipated Games are just around the corner.

Bayi, the 1500m Commonwealth Games record holder, said that despite the summer Games' postponement, other athletes across the world, who are determined to excel in the Games, are still in serious preparations for the showpiece.

"The Games are likely to be on, they should see the green light," Bayi, who smashed world records and revolutionized running during his illustrious career, disclosed.

"Our athletes have been magnificent in their positive attitude to training and preparation for the Games, I urge them to continue training hard and make sure that they excel," the TOC official said.

The Coronavirus pandemic has also forced some great runners to train in their respective countries, following travel restrictions aimed at reducing infections globally.

"While there will still be much to work out as a result of this change, the timing will allow athletes from around the world to properly prepare," he stated.

The IOC believes that coronavirus crisis will globally be under control as Tokyo will be hosting the Games.

The Coronavirus pandemic has however, affected several Olympic qualifying series as the final ones are due to take place early next year.

Bayi urged the Tanzania Boxing Federation (TBF) to use effectively their final qualification series in Paris, France in May and make sure that they secure tickets for the Games.

This will be the second attempt for the country's boxers after failing to do so in the Africa Boxing Championship, which took place in Dakar, Senegal in February this year.

Tanzania, according to Bayi, is also expected to feature athletes in swimming and athletics, should they qualify.

According to Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer, Tullo Chambo, only two runners have so far qualified for the grueling event.

They are Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Matanga, who was the first Tanzanian to seal a ticket for Tokyo Olympic Games after finishing third in Hamburg Marathon last year by clocking two hours, 27 minutes and 55 seconds behind Kenyan and Ethiopian runners.

She beat the qualifying time by almost two minutes. Simbu who competed in men's marathon at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, finished fifth with 2:11.15.

Simbu also won a bronze medal for the country in the men's marathon at the IAAF World Championship which took place in 2017.

Several other Olympic bodies had written to the IOC requesting that the Olympics be postponed whilst others were against the global Olympic body making such a rash decision.

Azam FC eager to make amends, Mtibwa Sugar target Coastal Union scalp



Azam Football Club

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AFTER failing to pick maximum points in successive games, Azam FC will be seeking redemption when they host newly promoted Dodoma Jiji FC in a Vodacom Premier League match at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today.

The hosts are winless in their last two games and failure to pick maximum points today will call for questions in their title credentials.

Azam FC, the 2013/14 Mainland Premier League champions, who are second in this year's

league standing with 22 points, are aware that a win will see them reclaim top spot after Yanga pulled ahead by one point with a 0-0 draw against Gwambina FC in Mwanza on Tuesday.

Azam have claimed 13 points from five home

matches this season, with their last result as hosts being a 1-1 draw with JKT Tanzania last week.

They will rely on top scorer, Prince Dube, and Obrey Chirwa for inspiration in today's game against Dodoma Jiji FC.

Visitors Dodoma Jiji FC

suffered their third defeat of the season when they were beaten 1-0 by Namungo FC in Lindi on Saturday.

The capital city side has taken just two points from the last 12 up for grabs in their last four games.

In head-to-head stats, this will be the first top-flight league match pitting Azam FC against Dodoma Jiji FC.

On the same day in Morogoro, Mtibwa Sugar will seek to bounce back from a 2-1 loss to Kagera Sugar when they host a wounded Coastal Union at Jamhuri Stadium.

Mtibwa Sugar caretaker coach Vincent Barnabas will be taking charge of his fourth game since taking over from head coach Zubeir Katwila who resigned to join Ihefu FC.

Head coach Juma Mgun-da's men were beaten 3-1 on the road the last match-day by Ruvu Shooting.

Going on, Coastal Union also have not won on the road this season, having played five matches so far.

In head-to-head stats, Mtibwa Sugar and Coastal Union have met in 14 league matches since the 2011/12 season. Each side has claimed five wins while four games have ended in draw.

Mtibwa Sugar have won four of their seven home league matches in the rivalry, suffering two defeats in the process.

The last time these two teams locked horns, Mtibwa Sugar recorded a 2-1 win.

In Mbeya, hosts Mbeya City FC will host Polisi Tanzania on the back of a goalless draw with the promoted side, Ihefu FC, last time out in the league.

They are second from bottom with six points from nine matches while Polisi Tanzania are ninth with 12 points.



Models display creations by a domestic designer at a recent Swahili Fashion Week, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Dar to host 2020 Swahili Fashion Week next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Swahili Fashion Week will be held in Dar es Salaam in December, with more than 45 designers from within and outside Tanzania set to showcase their products.

Swahili Fashion Week's founder and coordinator, renowned designer Mustafa

Hassanali, said the event is to be held for three days at Serena Hotel in the city.

He said building on the incredible success of the past 13 years the Swahili Fashion Week has taken place, the week is considered to be the leading platform in terms of innovation and curation.

Hassanali disclosed

that he hopes to build on this foundation enthusiastically.

"The year 2020 has been very challenging economically, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have over 45 designers showcasing at this year event, this is due to the positive action of our government under the

leadership of President John Pombe Magufuli, who managed to curtail this pandemic in the country," he disclosed.

He added that the goal of developing the continent remains at the forefront of what of what they are aiming to do.

Hassanali added that the 13th edition of Swahili

Fashion Week will continue to be the highlight of fashion weeks in Africa with both local, regional and international designers garnering millions of impressions under the tag line of 'Discover what makes Africa beautiful.'

He said Swahili Fashion Week intends to encourage more young designers

to use this year's platform as a stepping stone to their next level into the fashion world.

"We urge the public to support the designing industry and proudly wear locally made products, the local talents need to be nurtured to evolve them into synonymously globally recognized brand names," he disclosed.

"Charity begins at home, thus we look forward to support from local companies and organizations to facilitate fashion," he said.

Swahili Fashion Week is recognized by National Arts Council (BASATA) and this year's edition is sponsored by Italy's Embassy in Tanzania, Serena Hotel and other companies.

Speaking at the same event, Italy's Ambassador to Tanzania, Roberto Mengoni, asked designers in the country to take designing as a business, not pastime.

He also disclosed that Italian designer, Maria Laurenza, will show case her collections at the event and later on host a workshop for local designers.

"Over the past six years we have been partnering with Swahili Fashion Week and we are doing the same this year, we have witnessed the diverse and rapid growth of fashion industry in the country and it is an honour to be part of that growth," he said.

Geoffrey Mwingereza, BASATA Director, hailed Swahili Fashion Week's organizers for promoting home made products and said for the country to realize its dream of industrialization, designers must be part of it.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

