



DEVELOPMENT



ABU DHABI FUND PLEDGES FINANCING TANZANIA'S STRATEGIC PROJECTS PG 3

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BUSINESS

Korean tobacco firm donates water purifier worth 240m/- to Tabora public schools

Gadget sales defy Covid-19 to increase 25 per cent this year

Stellenbosch night-watchman becomes first black South African to obtain PhD

CTA to monitor local content at mega-projects

'Economic growth is stronger this year'

By Correspondent Geoffrey Tusiime

TANZANIA'S Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4.3 per cent during the second quarter of this year, reflecting recovery of economic activities from the effects of the COVID-19 slowdown.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) shows in a new report, the 2021 Economic Bulletin for the third quarter, which indicates that GDP growth was mainly driven by uptake of activity in a number of sectors.

These included agriculture, transport and storage, trade and repair, manufacturing, mining and quarrying, as well as construction, usually a hefty contributor to GDP growth in the past few years.

Information and communication however recorded the highest quarterly growth rate of 12.3 percent attributable to an increase in using digital mobile phone and its various services, expansion of broadcasting and widening use of internet services, it said.

In Angola and Zambia high inflation was driven by persistent currency depreciation, with higher prices of food and non-food items explaining higher inflation in Malawi and Seychelles,

"Electricity consumption grew by 12.1 percent to 1,764m kWh from 1,589m kWh registered in the corresponding period a year earlier, in the wake of wider power connections," the BoT noted.

Accommodation and food services on the other hand grew by 10.1 percent, an improvement from a negative growth rate in the corresponding quarter in 2020 as visitors flocked into hospitality centres.

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Political groups seek more democratic space, reforms

By Guardian Reporter

PARTICIPANTS at a political stakeholders' meeting which ended in Dodoma yesterday have appealed for more freedom for political parties to conduct their activities and reforms in legal powers of key institutions.

In resolutions read by Prof Rwekaza Mukandala for the groups represented in the meeting, the Police Force Act and the Political Parties Act came uppermost in what needs to be reformed so as to uplift democratic space.

The resolutions intimated that as Tanzanians await the formal restart of the constitution-making process, the country can pick a few issues that need urgent intervention so that the government addresses them.

Participants resolved that political meetings be allowed to take place in accordance with the law, similarly demanding that various complaints raised on the integrity of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) be worked on.

A task force will be formed to work on the recommendations and a formal report on implementation will be presented to the political parties governing council, for review and formal presentation to the government.

In his closing remarks, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi assured the political stakeholders that the Union and Zanzibar governments shall work on their recommendations to refocus multiparty democracy in the country.

Dr Mwinyi said that the government and political parties have key roles to play in ensuring the country's peace and harmony, where a peaceful environment is beneficial to the government and the public at large.

"We should harness the culture of dialogue and peaceful resolution procedures as we respect the rule of law. This meeting is testimony of democracy; let's make this sustainable for the benefit of future generations," the president appealed.

He reaffirmed that it was the intention of the two governments to see the country's democracy growing and providing room for all stakeholders to exercise their rights freely.

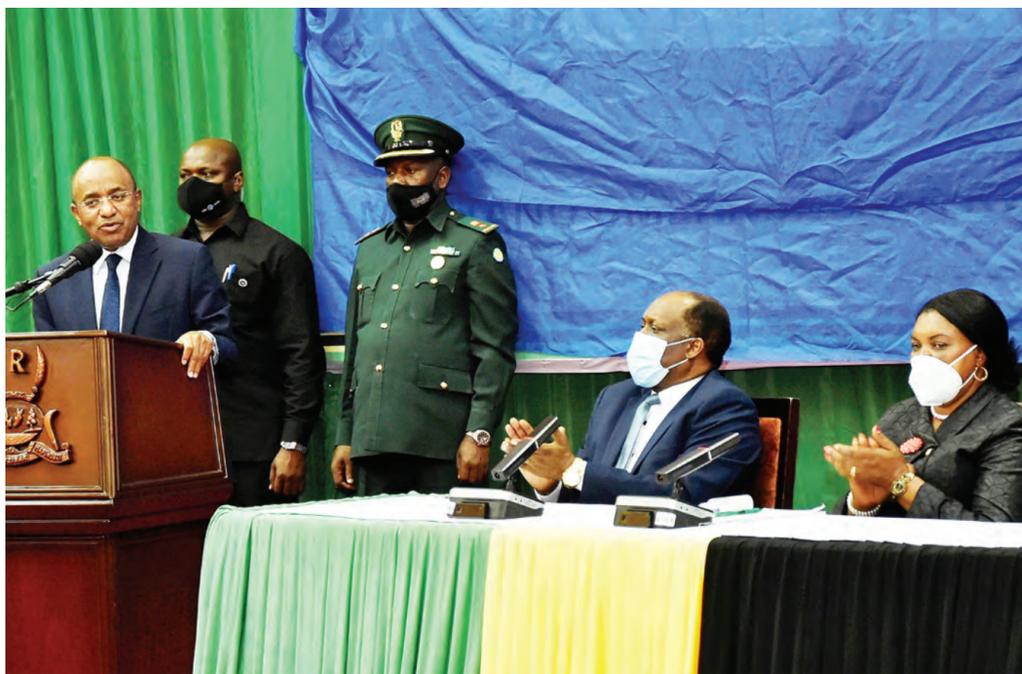
On Wednesday, when opening the meeting, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said no party holds a certificate of ownership of the country, asking politicians of different loyalties to forget the past and bury their differences.

The president said she was ready to forgive and start afresh for the wider interests of the country, directing the Registrar of Political Parties and the chiefs of the police force to sit together with democracy stakeholders.

They ought to find the best way to conduct political rallies without violating the country's laws, she declared, underlining that the government was ready to receive views for strengthening the law on political parties and related issues.

This effort is aimed at enhancing democracy, as political parties have legal right to conduct public meetings, "but as for now these have been halted due to many of them engaging in acts that may breach the peace."

Political parties need to use multiparty democracy to give the people alternative ideas on what needs to be done for the country's development. "Politics does not mean abuses or mudslinging, not violence, but should be used to spur development," the president intoned.



Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi delivers his speech closing stakeholders meeting which was discussing state of political multipartism in Tanzania held in Dodoma yesterday. Others are Political Parties Registrar Judge Francis Mutungi (C) and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with disabilities Jenister Mhagama. Photo: State House

Tragedy: Missing children found after three days, with one dead

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TWO children who were lost within the Mkungunero Game Controlled Area in Kondo District, Dodoma Region, have been found while one had died and the other was totally exhausted.

Evelyne Lala aged four and her younger sister Felister Lala (three) went missing on Saturday last week as they reportedly tried to pass through the forest to go a neighbouring village.

Hadija Malongo, head of the game zone, said she received a report about the two missing children from the Keikei village chairman that the two children had disappeared from their home, near the Mkungunero GCA.

For close to three days they were nowhere to be seen even with search teams being deployed to look for them, but on Monday (December 13) eventually one

The little girl then explained that accompanied by her younger sister, Felister, they had departed from the village, walking through the wilderness to get ...

of the search teams came across a very exhausted little girl.

She appeared lost and couldn't speak immediately. Upon being taken to the village she was later identified to be one

of the missing children, Evelyne.

The little girl then explained that accompanied by her younger sister, Felister, they had departed from the village, walking through the wilderness to get to Ikengwa village on the other side of the reserve.

However, the siblings got lost along the way, making the walking longer than they expected, so hunger and thirst took toll.

Worse, as they were trying to drink water from Tarangire River, one of them fell into the mud and drowned, with the little elder sibling unable to help.

Game wardens accompanied by police officers from Kondo Station resumed the search along the river bank and uncovered the body of the little girl stuck in the muddy bottom of the river, took her out and proceeded to the village for burial arrangements.

Girls invent pesticide, win at science contest

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SCHOOLGIRLS at Arusha High School have won short scholarships following a science problem-solving competition where they came on top, inventing an environment-friendly pest control solvent

that can be scaled up and help transform agriculture techniques countrywide.

They built a pest attracting stem shaped like a ripe sunflower stalk which doesn't repel or scare bugs, but attracts the pest to a smell it spreads around, which affects their circulatory systems.

Using naturally derived mixtures, the girls came up with the scented concoction

placed in the middle of any field of crops, capable of drawing pests and insects that upon touching it they die instantly.

The oily mixture is placed inside the crop looking gadget, known as S-Vepla, with an opening in which the bugs or insects get trapped as they fly in following the scent, judged as the best entry in the science competition held here.

Nice Namanya, one of the students, that the device is much safer, cheaper and easier to apply in farms as the mixture doesn't affect the soil, crops or the farmer using it. The device was fielded at an exhibition to showcase inventions entered in the student science busi

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Girls invent pesticide, win at science contest

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ness idea competition. Organized by Dar Teknohama Information Technology Business Incubator (DTBI) the 'Future Science Technical Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Business Leaders' Competition, was held at the Arusha Technical College, involving five secondary schools in the region. They were Arusha Girls High School which won the competition, Bishop Durning High School, Arusha Secondary, Edmund Rice and Ilboru Boys High School. The other schools produced a variety of plausible, but the bug killing scent lifted the day's trophy.

Josephine Sepeku, the project manager for 'Future STEM Busi-

ness Leaders,' said the competition winners will get three-week scholarships to study and develop their inventions and ideas.

The program, taking off in 2017, is executed among advanced classes of secondary school institutions in Arusha and Dar es Salaam regions, she stated.

Dr Mussa Chacha, the Arusha Technical College rector who officiated at the ceremony, pointed at the lack of facilities to seamlessly link scientific innovations and business.

"We face environmental and industrial difficulties whose solutions can only come from inventive young men and women," he said, presenting trophies to the winning teams and issuing certificates to all participants.



Natural Resources and Tourism Permanent Secretary Dr. Allan Kijazi airs his views at the forum of investment in tourism sector in Dubai recently. Left is Tanzania Tourism Board Chief Executive Betrita Lyimo. Photo: Happy Shayo

ISTANBUL

Somalia's President, Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, has arrived in Istanbul, Turkey for the third Turkey-Africa partnership summit.

The President was accompanied by First Lady Saynab Moallim, minister and other government officials.

The President was received by Turkish government officials and Somali ambassador to Turkey Jama Mohamed.

"President Farmajo and First Lady Saynab Moallim arrive in Istanbul, Turkey ahead of the Turkey - Africa summit accompanied by Somali delegation composed of ministers and high-level dignitaries," Villa Somalia said in a statement.

Farmaajo arrives in Istanbul for third Turkey-Africa summit

Farmaajo is expected to hold meetings with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and other officials during his two-day stay.

The third Turkey-Africa partnership summit will ensure that the strategic ties between Turkey and the African Union and African countries are carried forward to a new stage.

The summit is being held under the theme "Enhanced Partnership for Common Development and Prosperity."

Meanwhile, two Somali nationals have tested positive for Omicron just three days after they arrived in Hyderabad, India.

Both had arrived on December 12 via Abu

Dhabi and Qatar. A 24-year-old female had arrived from Kenya while a 23-year-old had come from Somalia.

The cases were detected tests conducted randomly on passengers arriving from non-risk countries.

Both had tested positive for Covid on arrival but they were allowed to go home as per the guidelines for passengers from non-risk countries.

However, their samples were sent for genome sequencing and reports received showed them to be positive for Omicron.

The discovery of Omicron triggered worries that it could cause another surge

in global infections, leading many countries to impose travel restrictions on several southern African nations.

At the same time, Director-General of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Somalia received a copy of the credentials of the ambassador of Norway in Mogadishu.

Gunnar Andreas Holm, the new Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Federal Republic of Somalia was appointed in September.

The Director-General of National Protocol wished the Norwegian ambassador success in performing his duties, in a way that enhances bilateral relations and

cooperation between the two friendly countries and peoples.

For his part, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway expressed his happiness at representing his country in Somalia.

He also stressed that he will strengthen and develop cooperation between the two countries in various fields of mutual benefit.

Gunnar Andreas Holm is also the Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya, and Seychelles and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-HABITAT from September 2021.

Prior to taking up his current position, he was the ambassador to Ghana (2017-2021) and to South Sudan before that (2016-2017).

AGENCIES



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr. Doroth Gwajima (2nd R) presents award to ITV reporter Jackline Silemu (3rd L) and cameraman Peter Rogers (L) after they emerged the Best Journalists in Health and Environment reporting 2021 category in television group in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Economic growth stronger this year'

FROM PAGE 1

Energy, fuel and utilities prices rose at an average of 4.4 percent in the third from 2.5 percent in the preceding quarter, due to a sharp rise in price of oil in the world market, with steady recovery of the global economy and fairly tight oil supplies.

Headline inflation averaged 3.9 percent, slightly above 3.4 percent recorded in the previous quarter, reflecting broadly satisfactory food supply in the country, the report asserted, noting that headline inflation is projected to remain within the medium term of 3-5 percent for 2021/2022.

This state of stability is supported by adequate domestic food supply, stability of the shilling exchange rate coupled with supportive fiscal and monetary policies, it stated.

Average domestic pump prices during the third quarter were higher than in the preceding quarter in 2021 and the corresponding quarter of 2020, after increases in world market prices and OPEC+ price targeting, it said.

Inflation in the East African Community (EAC) region averaged 4.4 percent, well below the regional targeted ceiling of 8.0 percent. Inflation arose from higher food and gas prices for Kenya, and food prices for Uganda, it further noted. Inflation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) remained within the convergence criteria of 3-7 percent, while Angola, Botswana, Seychelles, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe failed the mark.

"In Angola and Zambia high inflation was driven by persistent currency depreciation, with higher prices of food and non-food items explaining higher inflation in Malawi and Seychelles," the report added.

Young women entrepreneurs trained on sanitation and reproductive health

By Guardian Reporter

ABOUT 40 women doing small-scale businesses in various markets in Mpanda district, Katavi region have been drilled on environmental sanitation; reproductive health and COVID-19 prevention to enable them conduct their activities much safely.

Provided by Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women in Tanzania (HCCGWT), under the support of Urgent Action Fund Africa, the three-day training benefited young entrepreneurs from six markets.

Speaking during the session recently in Mpanda, Halima Lila, co-founder and managing director of HCCGWT said the women entrepreneurs came from markets of Soko Kuu, Msufini, Buzogwe, Soko la Matunda and Mpanda Hotel.

She said the objective of the training was to equip the

young women and women with knowledge on COVID-19 prevention, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), environmental sanitation and how to generate income hence to help them in making informed decisions on their sexual health.

"The training was facilitated by HCCGWT staff and other stakeholders from financial institutions and the Local Government Authorities (LGAs). The training content had six sessions which were Covid-19 precautions and prevention, HIV/AIDS, business and entrepreneurship, nutrition education, taxpayer education, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and child protection, and reproductive health.

Lila said provision of sanitation and sexual and reproductive health education is aimed at equipping young women entrepreneurs with self-awareness making them to conduct better decisions throughout

their life.

"Lack of accurate and adequate information about sexual and reproductive health leads young people to engage in risky behaviours and thus expose themselves to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, teenage pregnancy and other problems," she added.

The objective of the training was to equip the groups with knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 prevention and how to generate better income through their businesses hence to help them in making informed decisions as well as become economically independent.

She note that as the world is currently facing the fourth wave of COVID-19, women and girls should be well trained on how to overcome it as they are the ones that are mostly affected due to economic challenges brought by the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women, including lost work, increased care burden, and greater risks faced by women working on the front line of the COVID-19 response. Now, more than ever, targeted interventions through government policy and philanthropic investment are needed to improve the outcomes for women and girls, build a more resilient workforce and ensure a more prosperous future for all.

Hope Centre for Children, Girls and Women in Tanzania (HCCGWT) is a community-based, women and youth-serving human rights organization registered as a Not-for-Profit Non-Governmental Organisation. HCCGWT envisions creating a platform for amplifying the voices of adolescents and young people and maximising their level of engagement in socio-economic issues that affect their health and wellbeing in Tanzania.



Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Tanzania member, Mwashaban Mkutana airs her views at a meeting discuss restrictions facing parents of the children with disease in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Many babies born with Spina bifida get hydrocephalus (often called water on the brain). This means that there is extra fluid in and around the brain. The extra fluid can cause the spaces in the brain, called ventricles, to become too large and the head can swell. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Kahama district completes the construction of 247 classrooms

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA district in Shinyanga region has completed construction of 247 classrooms at both primary and secondary schools through the 5.6bn/- COVID-19 relief fund provided by the government.

The funds were released two months ago whereas regional authorities were mandated to construct classrooms in Msalala, Ushetu and Kahama district councils to enable students selected to join secondary schools in January 2022 to be accommodated in the classes.

Kahama district commissioner, Festo Kiswaga, made the remarks yesterday when speaking at a ceremony to hand over the 247 classrooms to directors of the councils.

Kiswaga said the district received 5.6bn/- from central government for construction of 247 classrooms whereas Msalala district council was given 1.8bn/- for construction of 90 classrooms at primary and secondary schools, Ushetu district council received 1.6bn/- for construction of 60 classrooms, of which, 12 are for primary schools and 48 at secondary schools.

He said Kahama district received 2.2bn/- to construct 97 classrooms for primary schools, 95 for secondary schools and two dormitories at special schools.

"We have successfully constructed all the classrooms and they are all equipped with desks and chairs. We are ready to receive Form One students next year," he said noting the constructed facilities will soon be handed over to Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Sophia Mjema.

Vice Chairman, Kahama District Council, Sandino said all the projects have been constructed at recommended standards.

Finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba was quoted saying the government was planning to spend part of the 1.3trn/- International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan facility to construct 18,000 classrooms to both primary and secondary schools.

Nchemba said the money would be used to implement development projects in the education, water, health and tourism sectors. He said the funds would also be used to execute projects that benefit the youth, women and children.

Makame forest community earns 1bn/- in carbon revenue

By Guardian Reporter

FIVE pastoralist communities have earned 1bn/- in the past year through a contract with Carbon Tanzania that generates certified carbon credits from the protection of their forest.

This remarkable milestone is being celebrated with a community event in Makame village where a

bush-modified Land Cruiser, donated by The Nature Conservancy, will be handed over to Makame WMA, giving Makame's community rangers greater mobility and reach as they continue to protect the community's land from illegal activities, including wildlife poaching.

The event will be attended by Manyara Regional Commissioner, Makongoro

Nyerere, Kiteto District Commissioner, Tumaini Magea, Kiteto Member of Parliament, Benedict Ole Nangoro and Kiteto District Executive Director, Tamimu Kambona.

David Beroff, Technical Advisor for Project Operations, Carbon Tanzania said: "It is inspiring to see what has been accomplished by the communities of the Makame

WMA in a relatively short period of time as a result of secure, direct investments into the community.

He said he Makame WMA has applied an innovative approach to benefiting from the protection of their natural resources through the voluntary carbon market and the result is 1bn/- and a healthy ecosystem that allows the community to con-

tinue with their traditional pastoralist lifestyle.

"We look forward to working with the WMA and our partners to enhance the biodiversity, social and economic impact of the project in the years to come," he said.

Alphonse Mallya, NTRI Program Lead, the Nature Conservancy said: "Witnessing Makame WMA's continued successes is an exciting,

yet humbling illustration of what The Nature Conservancy, Carbon Tanzania, Honeyguide Foundation, and UCRT can achieve in further creating an enabling environment for carbon investment, natural resource protection and developing innovative conservation models. We congratulate the pastoralist communities for attaining 1 billion Tanzanian shillings

in carbon credits and look forward to supporting them reach greater heights."

When commenting on the Makame Savannah Project's success, Project Manager Supuk Olekao said: "This carbon project is a good business that helps us to protect village land. Earning 1 billion Tanzanian shillings in carbon revenue shows huge success for my community and

EAC partner states to benefit from Kenya's judicial academy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kenyan government has vowed to support the National Judiciary's quest to develop the Kenya Judiciary Academy into a regional hub that would be beneficial to all EAC Partner States, President Uhuru Kenyatta has said.

President Kenyatta further disclosed that his government has allocated 55 acres of land in Nairobi for the construction of a world-class Kenya Judiciary Academy in a move to boost judicial education in Kenya and beyond.

"This support is already underway and the Kenya Judiciary Academy is already supporting the training of judges and judicial officers from Somalia and South Sudan," said President Kenyatta.

President Kenyatta made the remarks in a speech read on his behalf by the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, who is also Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, Hon. Adan Mohamed, during the Joint Symposium of the 6th East Africa Chief Justices Forum and the East Africa Judicial Education Committee in Mombasa, Kenya.

The Head of State noted that efficiency of the judicial system in the resolution of commercial disputes and securing property rights is critical, noting that investors' use this as a checkpoint in making investment decisions.

"The total banking sector balance sheet in Ken-

ya is about KShs 6 trillion. Approximately 10% of which is non-performing meaning those could be in disputes that end up in court. We could therefore unlock a lot of capital if we resolve disputes faster. We have therefore endeavoured to improve the performance of our dispute resolution system," said the President.

The Head of State said that Kenya has reviewed and enacted laws aimed at improving the regulation of economic and commercial relations.

Speaking at the symposium, Kenya's Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court, Justice Martha Koome, said that the Judiciary is in the process of setting up additional court stations. She noted that this is set to fast-track cases in trial courts to be concluded within three (3) years, while those in the appellate courts to be concluded within one (1) year and for those in the Small Claims Courts to be concluded within 60 days.

"We are banking on the Small Claims Courts to reduce the cost and time for hearing and determination of commercial disputes and consequently support the ease of doing business in Kenya," said the CJ.

Justice Koome urged the EAC Heads of State Summit to ensure that all countries seeking to be admitted into the EAC have judicial systems that are functional, independent and properly funded, given the role of courts in resolving trade disputes in the region.

Abu Dhabi Fund pledges to continue financing implementation of Tanzania's strategic projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Abu Dhabi

THE Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged to continue financing implementation of the country's strategic flagship projects that are geared to foster people's development in the tourism, agriculture and livestock sectors.

The pledge was made in Abu Dhabi, UAE by the Director General of the fund, Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi during his meeting with Tanzania a special Tanzania delegation from President Samia Suluhu Hassan led by Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Al Suwaidi said that ADFD has been enjoying a good relationship with Tanzania and that UAE will provide Tanzania with concessional loans as well as investing in the country's agriculture and tourism sectors.

He assured the Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba and Zanzibar Minister in the President Office (Finance and Government Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali to arrange a meeting between UAE and Tanzania's private sector, a forum which will attract UAE private sector to establish projects in Tanzania.

"There are a lot of things we can do together in supporting implementation of your flagship projects as well as providing concessional loans for various projects. We are also thinking of direct investment in some viable projects," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Nchemba appealed to the fund to support implementation of flagship projects including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Julius Nyerere Hydro Power project (JNHPP) construction of road infrastructures at airports, agriculture, fishing and education.

He said completion of the SGR project from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza would boost the country's development as well as opening a number of economic opportunities available in the Lake Zone regions and the six countries bordering Tanzania.

For his part, Zanzibar Minister in the President Office (Finance and Government Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali said requested the fund to assist in constructing at least 10,000 low cost houses in the Isles. He said the houses would be used by civil servants and other citizens. He added that the government of Zanzibar would appreciate the support in construction of Munga-Pwani port as well as improvement of the tourism sector. He said the port will have a special area for preservation of containers which will be used to store oil and gas.

The UAE's Abu Dhabi Fund for Development has so far provided funds for implementation of different projects including construction of a hospital in Wete-Pemba, Kidawe-Uvinza road, a water project in Zanzibar and expansion of the Kagera Sugar factory. The fund is also financing construction of the Uvinza-Ilunde-Malagarasi road at a cost of \$15 million.

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR



Bid No. SMZ/K0108/G/OD/2021-2022/0041
for
Procurement of Tractor

Invitation for Bids

Date: 18th December 2021

1. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of The State University of Zanzibar during the financial year 2021-2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the supply of tractor
2. The State University of Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible suppliers for supplying tractor
3. Bidding will be conducted through the open domestic procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board TRANSLED building, Tunguu Campus from 8:30 am 3:30 on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.

5. A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand (100,000). Payment should be settled through the following Account details:

The State University of Zanzibar.
The Peoples Bank of Zanzibar
Payment made by control number available to the accounting section Tunguu Campus

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid-Securing Declaration

7. All Bids in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below

Secretary of the Tender Board
Procurement and Disposal Management Unit
TRANSLED Building
Tunguu Campus
Zanzibar

at or before 7th January 2022 Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the opening at the Conference Room Administration Tunguu Campus

8. Late bids, a portion of bids, electronic bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bids opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

VICE CHANCELLOR
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR
P.O. BOX 146
ZANZIBAR

JICA provides training on solid waste management

By Guardian Reporter

IRINGA Mayor, Ibrahim Ngwada has said the garbage storage containers in Iringa municipal council are in bad shape due to peoples' habit of dumping hot waste in the containers.

Ngwada made the statement during a meeting with a group of people who studied in Japan with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), namely JICA Alumni Association of Tanzania (JATA), to discuss waste management issues in the region.

During the meeting which was held on November 26th, 2021, Ngwada urged community members to stop dumping hot wastes in the containers for the equipment to last longer.

"The municipality faces a huge shortage of garbage trucks. We therefore ask the community members to stop dumping hot wastes in the containers because they cause damage to the storage facilities," he said.

The council, according to him, plans to continue repairing the damaged containers regularly, while providing education on sanitation to ensure that the municipality remains clean.

In another development, Iringa municipality showed its gratitude to JICA for continuing to support environmental protec-

tion and sanitation for a long time.

Iringa municipal council has recently been a top runner in national cleanliness competitions and hopes to maintain this top position during the 2021 sanitation and hygiene race.

JATA Chairman Gregory Mlay said amongst other field areas, the association is now looking for better ways of recycling the wastes as a way of sustainably improving sanitation in the region.

JATA, according to him, also provides education to groups of people in the community on the collection of wastes and safe disposals so that they do not cause environment disruption when stored in garbage storage containers.

JATA members had an opportunity to visit sewage systems which were constructed by JICA training alumni who is now an Iringa District Council Environmental Health Officer, Christian Ndenga.

Ndenga suggested a need of engaging stakeholders when dealing with solid wastes to see how they can control them before dumping them to the dumpsites.

He stressed the need of sorting wastes before storing them in garbage containers or dumpsites.

"The council has 18 groups which are in training for wastes collections and recycling. However, the waste sorting skills remain as a major challenge here", he said.



Engineer Nadhifa Kumikimba the Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Water officiates a stakeholders consultation forum on water resources protection at Wami-Ruvu Basin in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Muraji Msala

'Poverty is the main factor that stimulates bush meat poaching'

By Guardian Reporter, Manyara

ECONOMIC empowerment to communities living near wildlife areas and national parks has been cited as one of the best ways that will contribute to eradicating bush meat poaching in the country.

Dr Alfian Risa, a senior lecturer at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)-Wildlife Management Department, made the statement saying that they have conducted several researches and found

out that poverty is the main factor that stimulates bushmeat poaching. He said this during Journalists' sensitization workshop for changing Community behaviour in Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor, held in Babati-Manyara Region.

The workshop has been organised by Traffic, a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustain-

able development.

The don said if the country wants to address this, communities should be empowered economically because the bushmeat poaching is mostly done for domestic consumption.

Dr Risa said as per the research conducted; found that for a period of one year, a total number of 300,000 animals at Serengeti national park have been killed due bushmeat poaching.

He said the community

engaged themselves in bushmeat poaching in order to find something to eat due to the hardship of life. According to Dr Risa, law enforcement itself can not address the problem; instead by empowering the communities will lead to behavioural change that will enable them to find alternative means of getting income to accommodate their families.

Willbright Munuo, a Senior Conservator from Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) said that killing for

bush meat is still a big challenge in wildlife areas led by the northern zone.

"Despite the enforcement of wildlife laws, bushmeat poaching is on the rise due to high demand and poverty," the conservator explained.

Jane Shuma, a behaviour change manager with Traffic East Africa Office, said that early next year Traffic is expecting to begin implementing behaviour change initiatives at the Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor. The Kwakuchinja corridor

between Lake Manyara Biosphere Reserve and Tarangire National Park is crucial to maintaining the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, recognised for its globally-significant biodiversity.

The initiatives are supported by the USAID Conserving Natural Capital and Enhancing Collaborative Management of Transboundary Resources in East Africa (CONNECT) project which is being implemented by three organizations namely, International Union for Con-

servation of Nature (IUCN), WorldwideFund for nature (WWF) and TRAFFIC. The project supports the East African Community in the implementation of its commitments to conserve wildlife and habitats.

Started in 2019, it's a four year project implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

The behaviour change manager noted that the project has a specific focus on supporting the implementation of the East African Community's "Strategy to Combat



NMB Ag. Eastern zone manager Harold Lambileki hands a Skymark three wheeler to Saddick Ali Said, the winner after participating in the ongoing 'Bonge La Mpango' campaign by NMB Bank. Through the three month campaign which is designed to encourage a saving culture for customers in the country, NMB has handed over 10 m/- in cash prizes and a total of 26 Skymark three wheelers to lucky winners across the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma region collects 21.96bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent

DODOMA region has collected 21.96bn/- which is 35 per cent of the projections of collecting 64.07bn/- in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC) Anthony Mtaka said here when presenting report on the implementation of the CCM's 2020 General Election Manifesto in a period from January to November, this year.

He however said, the region continue to invest efforts to increase collections and thus expand development activities in the region.

"During the 2021/22 fiscal year budget, the region has been projected to collect 64,069,966,000/- whereby by November 2021, a total of 21,954,702,178.37/- were collected," he said.

He said that in the 2020/21 at total of 27,416,259,808/- were allocated and released for the implementation of various development projects in all councils in the region.

"Projections of collections for the fiscal year 2021/22 is 64.07bn/- where 42.34bn/- are expected to be allocated for development projects," he said.

In addition, between July and November 2021, a total of 9,715,664,957 were released to facilitate various development projects.

Mtaka further said in the 2021/22 fiscal year, Dodoma Region was allocated with a budget of 314,667,336,350/- of which, 128,440,880,350/- are for development projects.

"As of November 2021, at total of

115,016,943,291.86/- (33.7 percent) were received whereby 95,589,518, 744.52/- have been spent."

The regional leader said in November, the government issued funds for the implementation of Covid-19 pandemic plan where Dodoma was given 17,667,017,106.40/- thus making the regional budget to be 359,334,353,456.40/-

He said the allocated funds have helped to implemented various projects including construction of classrooms in primary and secondary schools, laboratories, toilets, desks, dispensaries as well as implementation of other strategic projects.

On people's economic empowerment, Mtaka said until November 2021, a total of 584 small-scale entrepreneurship groups were registered and 520 groups given loans.

He said as of November 2021, a total of 5.8bn/- has been issued as loans to 461 groups. This is equivalent to 97 percent of the allocated 6bn/- .



During the 2021/22 fiscal year budget, the region has been projected to collect 64,069,966,000/- whereby by November 2021, a total of 21,954,702,178.37/- were collected

Global community steps up to boost resilient recovery in world's poorest countries - WB

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has announced a \$93 billion replenishment package of the International Development Association (IDA) to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

The financing brings together \$23.5 billion of contributions from 48 high- and middle-income countries with financing raised in the capital markets, repayments, and the World Bank's own contributions.

The financing package, agreed over a two-day meeting hosted virtually by Japan, is the largest ever mobilized in IDA's 61-year history.

IDA's unique leveraging model enables it to achieve greater value from donor re-

sources - every \$1 that donors contribute to IDA is now leveraged into almost \$4 of financial support for the poorest countries.

World Bank Group President David Malpass said: "Today's generous commitment by our partners is a critical step toward supporting poor countries in their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. We are grateful for the confidence our partners have in IDA as a non-fragmented and efficient platform to tackle development challenges and improve the lives of millions of people around the world."

The funds will be delivered to the world's 74 poorest countries under the 20th replenishment (IDA20) program, which focuses on helping countries re-

cover from the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

The on-going pandemic is worsening poverty in these countries, undermining growth, and jeopardizing the prospects of a resilient and inclusive development.

Countries are struggling with falling government revenues, increasing debt vulnerabilities, rising risks to fragility, conflict, and instability and dropping literacy rates. About a third of IDA countries are facing a looming food crisis.

To help countries build back greener, a substantial portion of these funds go to tackling climate change, with a focus on helping countries to adapt to rising climate impacts and preserve biodiversity.

IDA will also deepen support to countries to better prepare for future crises,

including pandemics, financial shocks, and natural hazards. While IDA20 will support countries globally, resources are increasingly benefiting Africa, which will receive about 70 percent of the funding.

IDA will be able to scale up its support in the pandemic and address health challenges, helping 400 million people receive essential health and nutrition resources.

The social safety nets program is also expected to reach as many as 375 million people.

The IDA20 program has more ambitious policy commitments that will support countries in prioritizing investments in human capital, covering issues such as education, health and nutrition, vaccines, safety nets, and support for

people with disabilities.

IDA will also increase its ambition in addressing other major development challenges such as gender inequality, job creation, and situations of fragility, conflict and violence, including in the Sahel, the Lake Chad region, and the Horn of Africa.

A continued emphasis on governance and institutions, debt sustainability, and digital infrastructure interventions will help foster economic and social inclusion.

IDA20 will cover the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025. The IDA20 policy architecture builds on the strong foundation of IDA19, with enhancements to make IDA20 even more ambitious and fit for today's challenges.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (C) hands over Dar es Salaam's Master Plan to Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla on Thursday. Left is regional administrative secretary Hassan Lugwa. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

EU committed to fighting SGBV in the SADC region

By Guardian Reporter

THE European Union (EU) has said it is committed to ensuring freedom from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) around the world and is supporting Zambia to fight this scourge through a €24 million programme which seeks to prevent and support survivors of SGBV, specifically in the northern and Luapula provinces.

This was said by EU representative, Bruno Hanses, at the opening of a training workshop for Gender Based Violence (GBV) for the Zambia Police Services (ZPS) which coincided with the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism Against GBV in Lusaka, Zambia.

Called "Natwampane" (meaning-coming together), the programme works with the government of Zambia to strengthen the institutional capacities of all responsible duty bearers working in this sector.

It also provides psychosocial counselling to those affected by SGBV and works with local radio stations to raise awareness against this violence.

Hanses said SGBV is best addressed when multiple sectors and organisations work together not only on SGBV response, but also on prevention, and that the police service is a key partner in the work to reduce the violence, particularly the Victim Support Unit (VSU), which works to assist with forensic evidence collection, investigation, and access to justice.

He said sexual violence is also associated with additional stigma, meaning that only a few survivors seek help, and even fewer seek assistance or report to the police. There is a big responsibility therefore, that police proactively ensure adequate and sensitive treatment of SGBV cases, including referral paths to legal support, health care and psycho-social counselling.

Hanses said the police were also an essential partner to ensure access to justice in general. In this

area, the EU and Germany have been partners working with all actors in the justice sector to improve the justice delivery.

The EU and Germany have supported law enforcement in a number of areas, including the development of a training module for police recruits on the protection of human rights, and hope to continue supporting this work.

The police training workshop on GBV was funded by the EU through the Support to Peace and Security in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, a programme aimed to strengthen peace and enhancement of public security in the SADC region as an essential element for socio-economic development.

Katharina Kammerer, Programme Manager Enabling Access to Justice, Civil Society Participation and Transparency at German development agency, GIZ, said police should be equipped to respond quickly and appropriately to investigate reported incidents of GBV, apprehend perpetrators, and to record the evidence needed to prosecute them in the courts of law.

Kammerer said the provision of quality care and access to justice of GBV victims and suspects is largely dependent on the quality of investigations undertaken. Therefore, integrating issues of GBV is a core component of a comprehensive, effective and sustainable police sector reform process.

She said GIZ is providing support to state and non-state actors in the fight against GBV through various programmes, targeted at women and girls as they are the most impacted by GBV and in addition, boys and men, in order to bring about a comprehensive change in social gender norms in the GIZ partner countries.

With the ZPS, GIZ has successfully implemented a number of activities, such as awareness raising campaigns on GBV and the provision of legal aid services for

members of the public at police stations. Jointly with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and EU, GIZ has supported the review and development of a Module on GBV for the training of ZPS recruits.

Kammerer said GBV remains among the most pervasive problems confronting women, children and the elderly across Zambia today and that while gender inequality and discrimination are the root causes of GBV, various other factors such as poverty, lack of education and livelihood opportunities, and impunity for crime and abuse, also tend to contribute to and reinforce a culture of violence and discrimination based on gender.

Gregory Saili, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative and Governance Advisor, said his organisation acknowledges ongoing efforts by the Government of Zambia, through the ZPS, aimed at addressing GBV by prioritising capacity development of its officers.

He said through support from the governments of Sweden and Ireland, the UN and Government of Zambia are implementing a Joint Programme on GBV and working with ZPS to revise various pieces of legislation, guidelines and review and finalisation of curriculum to train police officers on GBV.

Saili said more needs to be done to get to zero GBV in Zambia, including violence against children, ending adolescent pregnancy and child marriage.

The 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey highlights significant concerns related to the status of women and girls in the country, with four in 10 women (36%) having experienced physical violence at least once since age 15. One in 10 women (14%) have experienced sexual violence, 46% of women compared to 26% of men aged 15-49 agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in certain specified cases.

Petra to sell 50 per cent of stake in Williamson Mine

By Guardian Reporter

PETRA Diamonds Limited has announced that it has signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to sell 50 per cent (less one share) of the entity that holds Petra's shareholding in Williamson Diamonds Limited (WDL) along with a portion of shareholder loans owed by WDL, to Caspian Limited for a total consideration of \$15 million.

Caspian is the long-term technical services contractor at the Williamson Mine in Tanzania.

WDL is the operator of the Williamson Mine. WDL is currently 25 percent owned by the government and 75 percent owned by Petra, with Petra having acquired its majority interest in WDL in 2009.

However, further to the framework agreement with the government announced on December 13, 2021, which provides for a capital restructuring of the WDL entity, Petra's effective interest is due to decrease to 63 percent and that of the government to increase to 37 percent.

Upon completion of the transactions contemplated by the MoU and upon the capital restructuring in the aforementioned framework agreement becoming effective, Petra and Caspian will each indirectly hold a 31.5 percent stake in WDL but with Petra retaining a controlling interest in WDL.

Richard Duffy, Chief Executive of Petra said: "We are pleased to be partnering with Caspian, who bring con-

siderable local and mining experience. This will assist us in optimising the ore body for the benefit of all of Williamson's stakeholders, both in the short term as we continue to ramp-up operations and in the longer term to fully realise the mine's potential in an improved economic environment."

"Our new arrangement with Caspian, following the framework agreement signed with the Government of Tanzania on 13 December, puts Williamson on a very solid basis for the future. The reduction in Petra's equity interest in to WDL, from 75 percent to 31.5 percent while still retaining control, both reduces Petra's exposure in line with our stated objectives outlined in our Preliminary Results while maintaining a share of the upside that we believe exists following the signing of the Framework Agreement with the Government who continue as partners," he added.

Rostam Azizi, Chairman of Caspian said: "Caspian is a wholly Tanzanian owned company. It is also Tanzania's largest mining contractor with over 30 years mining related experience. We have been the contractor of choice to most mines in Tanzania and have maintained long and successful relationships with companies such as Petra, De Beers, Barrick and Anglo Gold Ashanti. In addition, we also own the largest fleet of mining equipment in Tanzania. As a company, we are committed to adopting and adhering to the latest internationally recognised standards throughout all aspects of our business."



WWF for a living planet

WWF Tanzania Country Office
Plot 252, Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni
P O Box 63117
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania

Tel: 255 22 2700077
Fax: 255 22 2775535
trep@wwftz.org
www.wwftz.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP Terms of Reference

Undertaking Feasibility Project Description (FPD) for a carbon project in Tanzania

1. Background

WWF Tanzania is in the process of developing a forest carbon project through improved forest management in response to a funding launched by a private company "VELUX Group" – a Danish roof window manufacturer in partnership with WWF Denmark. WWF Denmark and the VELUX Group have launched one of the most ambitious corporate climate actions seen, taking responsibility for both past and future actions. This commitment forms part of a historic 20-year global partnership between WWF and the VELUX Group which will deliver a significant part of the company's commitment to become Lifetime Carbon Neutral by 2041. Nature is in crisis and climate change is the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. Tackling it involves every single one of us and governments and businesses need to commit to more ambitious action in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In response to this, the VELUX Group has committed to reduce its future CO2 emissions in line with a 1.5°C decarbonisation pathway. Additionally, the VELUX Group will capture its historical carbon footprint, dated from when it was founded in 1941, through WWF forest conservation projects. This will benefit both biodiversity and communities, and will make the VELUX Group Lifetime Carbon Neutral by its 100-year anniversary in 2041. The partnership is based on investments in implementation of a portfolio of forest projects in Africa, South America and Asia. Potential project sites are currently being scoped to find the most promising areas for full implementation.

Tanzania is one of the countries in Africa involved in the scoping phase and have selected the Ruvo South Forest Reserve and Uzigua Forest Nature Reserve for scoping. The carbon removal through this project will be accounted for in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in Tanzania. Sites are selected that can support carbon removal including sequestration such as Improved Forest Management (IFM), Afforestation, Reforestation and Re-vegetation (ARR) and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). In addition to carbon removal, the project aims to conserving biodiversity and improving local livelihoods. For the scoping phase, a Feasibility Project Description (FPD) report will be developed, analysing and describing the existing biodiversity, climate, socio-economic and political context of the proposed sites. If the proposed project meets the eligibility criteria to support carbon removal, then the project will be selected for implementation. WWF Tanzania is seeking to recruit a consultant to support with the development of the Feasibility Project Description report, due for submission 1st March 2022.

2. Justification

WWF Denmark and carbon consultants from Face the Future Consultants have technically supported WWF Tanzania to develop the Theory of Change for the project. Given the time for submitting the FPD report, it is imperative that WWF engage a Consultant to support the development of the full proposal document. The Consultant will work in close collaboration with WWF Tanzania, Tanzania Forest Services, and WWF Denmark and Face the Future Consultants.

3. Methodology

This consultancy should employ acceptable data collection and analysis tools. Multiple methods will be used to collect, analyze, and refine information to prepare feasibility project document. The consultant will develop the data collection tools and share with WWF TCO, WWF Denmark and Face the Future Consultants for review. Particularly the methodology will include both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. Specifically this will include; literature review, stakeholders consultation and analysis; structured interviews and key informants interviews and Focus Groups Discussions.

Detailed ToR and more other information including the scope of the assignment, expected outputs, expected deliverables & timelines can be accessed through our website at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/

4. Proposal Submission

Please, submit your full proposal (softcopy only) to procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org

5. Deadline for submission:

Applications must be concise and include a combined technical & financial proposal, fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specifying time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed 5th January 2022 at 5.30 pm EAT.

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid. Only successful applicant will be contacted.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima speaks with participants of primary health and response of COVID 19 vaccination organised by Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, regional administration and local government, Amref and regional health officers: Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchala



Dar es Salaam resident carry grass for his livestock to respond to the call of zero grazing issued by Ubungo municipal yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Mozambique's Nyusi warns of restrictions to the unvaccinated

MAPUTO

MOZAMBICAN President Filipe Nyusi, has urged people to comply with measures to control the spread of the new coronavirus variant.

He told everyone to get vaccinated against Covid-19 while threatening to introduce restrictions of services to unvaccinated people.

This comes amid a rise in recent days in the number of daily infections.

On Tuesday, the country registered more than 700 cases, a situation that has been worsening every day this month amid emergence of the new Omicron variant.

The country has already confirmed 17 cases of the Omicron variant.

Last month saw a steep decline in the number of daily infections, with the coronavirus figures being in the single digits before they started to rise this month.



He told everyone to get vaccinated against Covid-19 while threatening to introduce restrictions of services to unvaccinated people

OCODE views education as key to human development for social cultural independence

By Guardian Reporter

INCLUSIVE education has a particular focus on those groups that have traditionally been excluded from educational opportunities; the group includes children with disabilities and special educational needs.

The organisation for community development (OCODE) views education as a key to human development, as it opens door for social cultural and economic independence.

Digna Mushi, education manager at OCODE said: "In our Organization Strategic Plan (2019-2023), our education program focuses on im-

proving quality education for all by ensuring the excluded children such as children with disabilities, children from poor families and all children from all types of vulnerability situation are enrolled and attending school. Our programme schools are Goba, Kiluyva, Malamba-Mawili and Kibwegere in Ubungo municipality.

She said, in complimenting the government's efforts on inclusive education, the organization works with school authorities in four programme schools to assess and identify pupils with disabilities.

"A total of 71 children with disabilities have been identi-

fied for the period of 2020-2021. Four children with severe disabilities were taken to CCBRT hospital for further medical process and the use of assistive devices. The organization has supported them with wheel chair and ankle foot orthoses. We have organized awareness meeting with their parents and addressing issues of stigma and discrimination," said Digna.

She added: "The organization has so far organized various training and meetings with teachers and school authorities on inclusive education. Recently we had school debates with pupils on the rights to education for children with

disabilities and other children from minority background. We have constructed ramps in the schools where the supported children learn so that they can access classrooms easily."

Mustafa Sefu, 10, from Kibwegere primary school who lives with his grandmother is among the pupils who received assistive device from CCBRT through OCODE support.

Speaking during the handover of school ramps at Kibwegere primary school his grandmother said: "I thank OCODE for providing my grandson with ankle-foot orthoses to support his leg and hand. Not only that, they also gave

him one-year health insurance which will help him to attend his clinics for checkup and in case of any medical issue arise. They constructed school ramps and my grandson is entering in the classroom easily. I really appreciate OCODE for the support," she stated.

Kibwegere primary school Head Teacher, Charles Kulemba said: "We are grateful for the support from OCODE. They have constructed ramps to our classrooms which were not accessible by children with physical disability. Now the classrooms are friendly and children with disability are accessing without obstacles. This entire milestone is due to

OCODE programs".

Ubungo Municipal Inclusive Education Officer, Jonas Mchunguzi thanked OCODE for the efforts in ensuring everyone is at the fore front in implementing inclusive education.

"They have trained teachers, talking to parents and school authorities to make sure we have common understanding on the right to education to children with various challenges. I am very sure that if every one of us does his or her part we will leave no child behind in attaining quality education as we believe that education is the foundation for human development," he said.

Inclusive education means all children, regardless of any challenges they may have placed in age-appropriate general education classes that are in their own neighborhood schools to receive high quality instruction, intervention and support that enable them to meet success in the core curriculum.

Education is highly essential in child life and lies the foundation of his/her successful in adulthood later in life, through education is when the pupils were able to be shaped and developed mentally and emotionally thus includes all pupils.



Mustafa Seif with his grandmother walking on the ramps constructed by OCODE, with his ankle-foot orthoses that supports his leg and hand. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

ERB warns engineers conducting businesses without being registered

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Engineers Registration Board (ERB) has warned those who are conducting engineering activities without being registered, saying that stern legal measures will be taken against them.

ERB chairman Prof Ninatubu Lema made the statement here during the opening of the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)'s Public lecture which was aimed to discuss the contribution of engineers in economic growth.

He said that all engineers are required by the law to be registered by the board before commencing their activities.

According to him, engineers take oath immediately after joining the board, a move which requires them to live up as per the job's ethics by which include implementing their duties professionally, timely and maintaining quality.

To date, according to Prof Lema, Tanzania has over 30,000 registered engineers where half of them are based in the construction sector. "As per rapid technological chang-

es, it is important for the nation to invest in the engineering course on the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) so as to coup with all digital transformation for the country's development," he said.

He noted that Tanzania still has a low number of engineers compared to current demand, and there are some engineering courses that have the lowest number of experts, something which needs more efforts to increase enrolment of candidates in the area.

Prof Lema also said that the board has been taking disciplinary measures to registered engineers who are found violating professional integrities and oaths

The chairman urged local engineers who are yet to be registered with the board to do so as to benefit from various tenders inside and outside the country.

The ERB is a statutory body established to monitor and regulate all engineering-related activities in Tanzania. This forum gives all Tanzanian engineers an opportunity to share their ideas and experience in the engineering practice.

'Without documents our women at high risk of gender-based violence'

By Special Correspondent

BONISIWE is plagued by a recurring nightmare about Siphso, a knife-wielding ex-partner who subjected her and their toddler to years of psychological and physical abuse. Twenty years have passed since the harrowing experience, but the memories are still fresh.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," whispers the 52-year-old as she recounts how Siphso would return home in a bad mood, finding fault in everything she did.

"He would slap me so hard it would send me reeling. Then he would punch me and throw me to the floor," she adds. The last time he attacked her, he drew out a knife. That was her cue to strap baby S'phamandla to her back and flee into the night.

They spent that night under a broken-down truck in a nearby scrapyard. Bonisiwe has spent most of her adult life going from one abusive relationship to another - a vicious cycle she attributes to her lack of identity documents and the

fact that she does not legally exist.

She was born to a sickly single mother in KwaMashu Township, in Durban. Her mother did not register her birth and wasn't able to put her through school.

"After two years in primary school I had to drop out so I could take care of my sick mother. We had nothing and relied on our neighbours," she says.

At 17, she had her first abusive relationship with a 30-year-old man and had a son with him, Mthokozisi.

"He called me an illiterate fool and said

that no man would want me because I was ugly, and he was doing me a favour," she adds.

Her situation mirrors that of thousands of women in South Africa and around the world.

One in three women worldwide experience physical, psychological and sexual violence; mostly inflicted by an intimate partner, according to UN Women. The situation is worse for undocumented women like Bonisiwe, as they are often reluctant to report abuse to law enforce-

ment for fear of arrest, discrimination, and further ill-treatment. Without proof of identity which would confirm their nationality, they lack access to protection measures of the government where they live, and the legal recourse that someone with a national ID could avail themselves of.

In South Africa, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is strongly advocating for addressing the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV), with one of them being lack of documentation.



A mason constructs a protection wall along Morogoro Road at Kimara Stop Over in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Babato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter

RICE farmers in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region have hailed the government and stakeholders for training them on a system of rice intensification technology (SRI) saying that it has shown more resilience to the hazards of climate change and increased crop productivity.

System of rice intensification (SRI) is a rice farming method that uses less water and fewer seeds but following the best agricultural practices such as timely ploughing, planting seedlings within seven to ten days from the nursery enables the farmer

Rice intensification technology benefits farmers in Morogoro

to get higher yield than traditional farming.

Maua Hamis (52), a resident of Mkindo village in Mvomero district is among the farmers who have benefited from the training which have in turn transformed her lives due following increase of yields in farm.

Maua, a mother of four, has spent almost over 30 years in farm but was only getting a few harvests due to lack of skills, tools and needed support to improve her farming. She is now happy follow-

ing the training provided to her and other fellow farmers in the village on the new rice farming technology which pays them a lot.

Dubbed "Development of an Inclusive, Competitive and Sustainable Rice Value Chain", the five year project commenced on 2019, is implemented by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania and funded by the European Union under the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Southern African Confedera-

tion of Agricultural Unions (SACAU).

As a lead farmer, Maua says that with new technology, she has increased rice production from the previous 8 to 10 bags per acre to more than 40 bags per acre.

She explained that the majority of farmers have changed ways of growing rice and managing water and soils and are now witnessing increased rice productivity.

"In the 2019/20 season I harvested 40 bags of rice which I later sold and bought

dairy cows, something which has boosted her daily income," she said.

In the 2020/21 season, harvest dropped to 28 bags per acre due lack of rainfall, but majority of farmers who applied traditional methods ended up harvesting 3 bags per acre.

"I used the funds from the farm to renovate my house by putting in new and modern windows, the other funds I bought 100 chickens to commence poultry farming. The SRI technology has come as a

24 rhinos found dead in South Africa in two weeks

By Special Correspondent

SAVE the Rhino has, during the past few days, been monitoring rumours of horrific rhino poaching incidents in South Africa. The South African Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has now confirmed that 24 rhino carcasses were found in the country between 1 and 14 December.

As always in cases like this, it is essential that we work with our conservation partners in South Africa to determine the facts and allow the responsible authorities to dictate the timetable for releasing potentially sensitive information.

According to the DFFE statement, the 24 carcasses were reported in four separate areas: KwaZulu Natal - 6; Western Cape - 4; Mpumalanga - 7; and Kruger National Park - 7. The statement does not confirm how many of these rhinos were poached, nor how many were found on public or private reserves. However, the four rhinos poached in the Western Cape were all killed in Inverdoorn Game Reserve, a private reserve, in one incident on 8 December. Outraged South African Citizens Against Poaching (OSCAP)

claims that 23 rhinos were poached in 36 hours during the period Tuesday 7 to Thursday 9 December.

In 2020, 392 rhinos were poached in South Africa, an average of more than one rhino every day. However, annual averages often mask seasonal variations. If all 24 rhinos lost in December were, in fact, poached, this would give an average daily loss rate of nearly 1.75 rhinos per day, apparently a significant increase on the 2020 average. Unfortunately, however, it is not unheard of for rhino poaching to spike at this time of year.

We've previously seen poaching increase in December as criminal syndicates aim to fulfill 'Christmas orders' for rhino horn - an upsetting thought. We will have to wait for more data to understand whether these horrible statistics represent a longer-term trend or a short-term spike as poachers and their criminal masters go 'Christmas shopping'.

Whatever the situation, these upsetting numbers and the horrific images of the reality on the ground are a painful reminder of the pressures and threats that both rhinos and the brave people who protect them face every day.

quires the farmer to dedicate full time to make sure that all the advice of experts are carefully followed.

"Me and my many fellow farmers here at the village are now aware of all procedures to follow from farm and nursery preparation, how to plant, fertilise, control pests, diseases and weeds using recommended pesticides and other methods," he said.

Haruna added: "I advise my fellow farmers to adopt the SRI farming technology as it does not use a lot of seeds, only one kilogram is enough for one acre, while other types of cultivation uses 15-20 kg of seeds per acre."

Another farmer, Haruna Jacob said through ACT training, he now knows well all the procedures of farming so as to earn more. He says SRI re-

The villagers now hoping for change following recent visit by the minister

By Correspondent Mohamed Kazingumbe

VILLAGERS along Ubena Zamozzi to Kidunda ferry in Morogoro rural constituency, Morogoro region have not fully benefited from the 60 years of independence with good roads and stable supply of water.

The villagers are now hoping for changing following a recent visit by the minister who assured them the government was implementing various projects to improve social services across the country.

In an interview the villagers said that the route covering about 80-kilometers has troubled them to the extent that the majorities have abandoned their economic activities on ground over lack of market.

The abandoned economic activities include agriculture, cattle rearing, leave alone lack of human services, health and education.

Villages on this route cover Ngerengere, Diguzi, Lukose, Matuli, Kwaba, Vianzi, Mkulazi, Chanyumbu, Mkulazi II to Kidunda Ferry.

However, the problem persist all the time at a section of the road between Mkulazi II and Kidunda forcing buses to end their trips at

Chanyumbu—a distance of about 20 kilometers from the villages.

One of the villagers, Japhet Tingisha (86), from Chanyumbu village expresses his concerns that the land is fertile to grow all sorts of seed and plants that could support good welfare of villagers, but road problem has dragged development.

He called upon the government to consider constructing the road since it is economic viable.

"Since independence only Nyerere had visited this area", the old-man shouted as a sign of desperation.

He said his father who lived in the area in the 50's and 60's had initiated the construction of the road through self-help with fellow villagers by pulling down or cutting trees to allow the passage but the move was later abandoned for no reason.

Retired school teacher, Ramadhani Kondo Zangira said due to the same problem accessing health services has been a challenge to the villagers. He said they also have a few dispensaries, health centers, and hospitals, the thing sometimes force expectant mothers to deliver with assistance



One of the program beneficiaries, Maua Hamis

Private sector, SMEs crucial for AfCFTA development benefits, primary commodities export bias a problem

By Special Correspondent

A Survey of more than 400 CEOs from 44 countries in Africa and two outside has reflected the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa.

The continent's bias towards the export of primary commodities, however, reduces the relative developmental value that would accrue from trade in higher value-added manufactured goods, trade finance institution the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) African relations and

trade policy consultant Patrick Utomi said on December 14.

The Africa CEO Trade Survey, conducted by private sector trade organisation the Pan-Africa Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee (Pafrac), gauged the sentiment of business leaders towards the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the perceived opportunities, benefits and challenges presented by it.

During the unveiling of the survey results, Pafrac chairperson Professor Pat Utomi said Africa's marginalisation in

global trade was, in no small part, owing to its reliance on primary commodities and a bias towards extractive sectors, which consequently also impacted on intra-African trade.

"Trade remains an important driver of economic growth and the means through which African nations can insulate themselves from economic shocks. However, Africa has not captured enough trade and growth enhancing benefits, accounting for 17% of the global population, while its portion of glob-

al trade has stagnated below 3%," he noted.

Initially, the export of primary commodities helped African countries achieve some of the highest growth rates in the world, but increased their exposure to global volatility and adverse trade shocks.

"Excessive reliance on primary commodities and low levels of intra-African trade, despite integration efforts and established regional economic communities, means that African economic fortunes remain contingent on commodity price movements and

external shocks.

"The enhancement of intra-African trade is essential to mitigate global volatility, and enhance diversification and competitiveness of economies. Africa has charged ahead with economic integration. This is an important step to rationalise African regional trade, deepen economic integration and create economies of scale and regional value chains to accelerate the process of industrialisation of African economies," said Pat Utomi.

However, preliminary esti-

mates suggest AfCFTA could significantly expand industrial production and intra-African trade, with intra-African trade expected to more than double in the first decade of implementation, he highlighted.

"A study by Afreximbank showed that, as intra-African trade comprises higher skills and technological components compared with trade with other regions, the AfCFTA can improve the diversification of sources of growth and trade of African Union member states," he pointed out.

Further, an integrated Af-

rican market is also likely to result in increased flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the benefit of the participating economies, and these countries could shift FDI from natural resources to industry and manufacturing as investors seek out the advantages of increased market size and enhanced economies of scale, said Pat Utomi.

Enhanced integration of African economies into the global economy will also strengthen countries' multilateral and bilateral trade positions.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 2021

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

Yes. Madame President, such Health ministry is far too large

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has given a clear indication of moving to restructure the current Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children into a more streamlined ministry. Her remarks at a Generation Equality Forum organised by UN Women focused on Health remaining on its own, implying either shifting the other functions to the Prime Minister's Office or the President's Office, or elevating those functions to a separate ministry. Still to some observers the components look like an extension of PO-RALG, (Regional Administration and Local Governments).

The question though is whether the same old problem won't recur if those functions are shifted to another ministry, or their lack of anchorage as a sector of economy and society to maintain an independent existence won't impinge the correct functions of the components if they are elevated to a ministry.

It is something that top level advisers will figure out how to go about it, and presumably the conclusion will be applied and remain so at least during the sixth phase. The issue is that earlier intentions of placing the women, elderly and children portfolio under Health to ease hospital care prerogatives is scarcely working.

To a certain extent this new intention has been facilitated by the flow of resources into the two subsectors, health itself and community development (including women uplifting, elderly and children) over the past year and especially over the past few months. The president is at the moment chairperson of a working commit-

tee of UN Women charged with economic uplifting of women, and to follow those tasks in a rapid way can't be organised if these issues are a minor aspect of the Health ministry properly speaking. And in addition Health itself has plenty more on its hands when AIDS has a worse accomplice, COVID-19 as a public health menace, so fully occupying ministerial authorities to see what is being done at any moment.

Following up on reports on vaccination for other early childhood diseases like polio, and following up in HIV/AIDS supplies for those who live on antiretroviral drugs, it was clear that 'supply chain breakdown' dangers hovered on the horizon in each of those spheres. It implies the need to strengthen certain departments in the ministry to ease the task of following up and sorting out momentary bottlenecks caused by resource dislocations. Reordering supply priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic comes in.

This adds to the need to streamline the ministry, to make it more adequate to its tasks, and remove burdens that are better allocated elsewhere.

Complexities of whether it is a ministry or an auxiliary department will be solved within the advisory committee context which has been tasked with the Generation Equality Forum goals, and thus needing a cabinet portfolio more responsive to those concerns, either as a natural extension of such a portfolio or as an auxiliary provision. What is clear however is that obtaining the right treatment for women, children and elderly isn't assured by being part of the ministry.

International Migrants Day and Arab Language Day makes an admirable coincidence, of sorts

AS December 18th is marked worldwide as an International Migrants Day and then as an Arab Language Day, it is interesting to see how the two are marked together, as definitely they are in substance far apart, but by coincidence there is something that puts them together.

For Africa or for that matter Tanzania that link may not be too apparent but activists will hardly fail to see the link in Europe, where the flow of migrants from the Middle East, chiefly from Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Afghanistan is a pre-occupation of public authorities. Ethiopia also has refugees but they head to Israel or to southern Africa, noticeably.

Chroniclers say that on 18th December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

It is an issue that has considerably been on public attention here due to some tendencies especially in the Gulf Zone (it may be changing as it is getting to be more sensitive to UN humanitarian protocols of late) of luring young girls to work in hospitality, but end up being brutalised as domestic servants. East Africa had a share of those problems but South Asia took the brunt of those treatments.

The UN Arabic Language Day is observed annually on December 18 as well, with the event having been established by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2010, as it sought

to celebrate multilingualism and cultural pluralism at a global level. Arabic is a language of a broad part of the world, namely the whole of North Africa and the breadth of the Middle East, and by virtue of its cultural position as the language of the core book of a major religion, it is widely used in Asia and at an academic or higher cultural level, or by migrants, in Europe and North America. It is a world language.

When marking these two days is brought into contention, what comes up is how far the UN marking of Arabic language internationally shall help those who use the language to more intensely accept the values for which this UN Day was created. The reason there are so many migrants from the Middle East is an unsettled climate of political culture, where tradition battles democracy, and social quarters holding arms do all they can to stop self expression and adopting ways of living that the world calls liberty.

They want an undiluted respect for traditional ways of living, customary law that is also enshrined in religious ideas.

In that way, for the world to mark the day for migrants' rights and the Arabic language at the same time is a challenge to leaderships in Arab countries and communities, to move their ideas of social organisation a stage higher. They ought to send creative individuals or investors outside, not desperate immigrants. The world needs that favor when marking the day.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

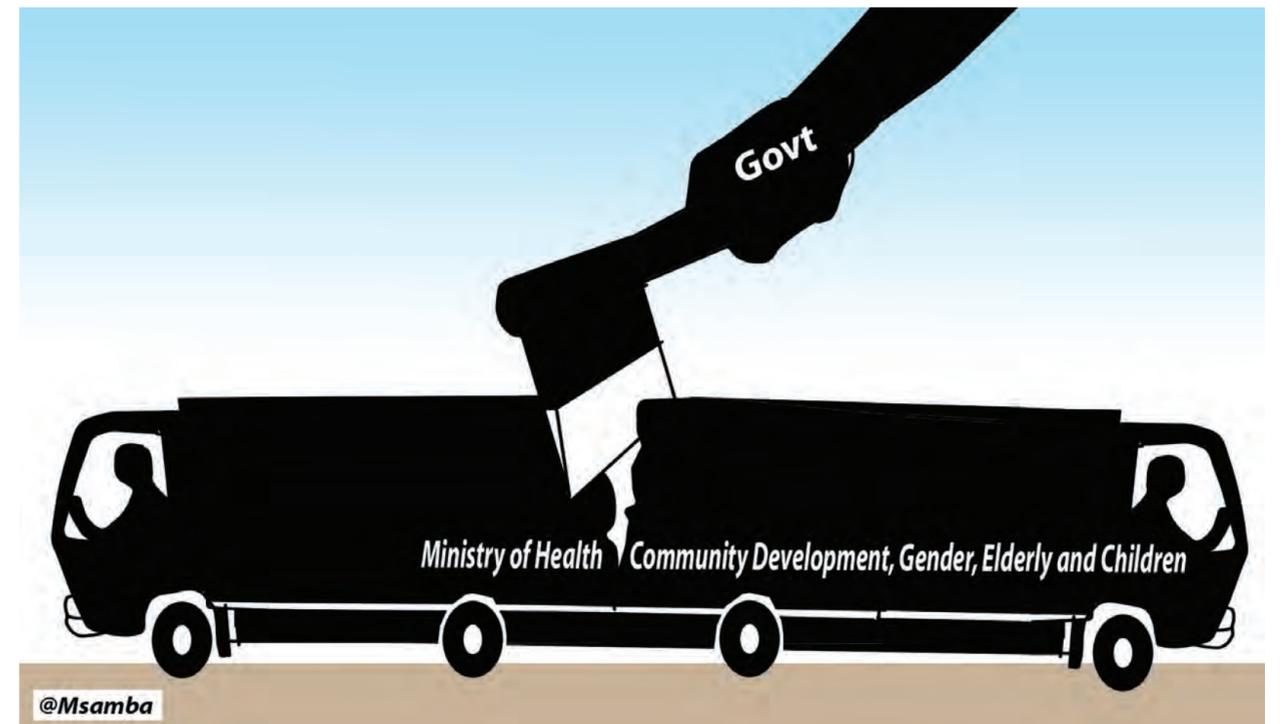
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



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Omicron: How politics infested a virus

By Dakuku Peterside

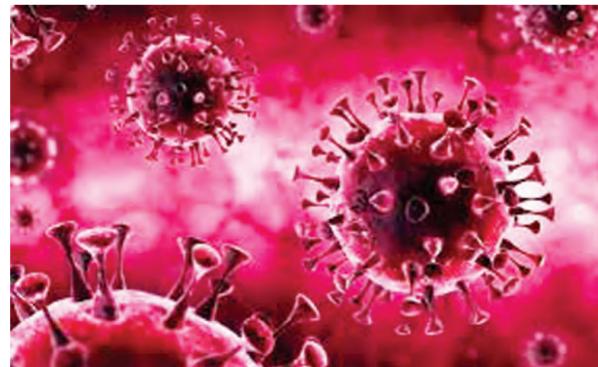
CONTAINING the spread and impact of COVID-19 is a herculean task for Africa and African governments. It is even more challenging when western countries and their allies deliberately conspire to allow politics and economic nationalism instead of science to define global response to a virus that we know little about. Its origin, transmission and severity are still matters of contention among experts. From the day South African medical scientists raised the alarm about discovering the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the western world came out in full force to display its racist diplomacy against Africa. Critical thinking and scientific inquiry were jettisoned, and the new variant was inappropriately dubbed the "African COVID-19."

Politics indeed plays a role in health affairs, but it should not define global response to an epidemic requiring an evidence-based response. Viruses do not know colour, creed, nationality, or race. As evidenced with the COVID 19, humans across all strata and genealogy are exposed to this deadly disease. Singling out a group to target and discriminate against is a folly taken too far.

On November 26, the World Health Organisation (WHO) labeled Omicron a "variant of concern", the fifth version (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta having come before it) of the virus to be thus marked out. Omicron has generated quite a stir globally in the past few weeks and has put Africa and Nigeria in the middle of it all. There were earlier predictions that the Covid virus would continue to mutate, and so this did not come to public health experts as a surprise. What may have caused the uproar is the West's response to this new variant.

Immediately South Africa announced this new variant, the West flinched back to protectionist and nationalistic mode, and Africa became a target of opprobrium and discrimination. The narrative and actions of affluent western countries immediately toed Africa's dominant historical 'narrative' as a dangerous place with exotic diseases that will threaten other parts of the world. Usually, one will assume that the global community should praise South Africa for its openness and scientists for working hard to identify this new variant. But that was not the case. Fuelled by self-destructive nationalism, the West was in a hurry to shut down the world on South Africa and other southern African countries, and later even countries in West Africa, including Nigeria.

Reacting to this, WHO Executive Director posits, "It's really important that there are no knee jerk responses here, especially with relation to South Africa. South Africa is picking up interesting and important information for which we are doing the proper risk assessment and risk management. We have seen in the past that when there is any mention of a variant then everyone is closing borders and restricting travel. It is really important that we remain open



and focused on characterizing the problem, not punishing countries for doing outstanding scientific work and being open and transparent about what they are seeing and what they are finding".

Furthermore, CBS News reported that Dutch health authorities announced last Tuesday that they found the new Omicron variant of coronavirus in cases dating back 11 days, indicating that it was already spreading in Western Europe before the first cases in southern Africa were identified. The RIVM health institute found Omicron in samples dating from November 19 and 23. Also, in many European, North American, and Asian countries, Omicron was seen in numbers sizeable enough to be of concern, but the reaction that followed did not target these countries but only African countries.

The statements so far from the West have all the trappings of intellectual and scientific incoherence. Once Africa is involved, the West suspends logical reasoning backed by scientific evidence and wears the cap of self-protectionism, discrimination, and fear mongering to paint Africa in a bad light. The West acts as if when a variant is linked to a place it was detected first, it must create many stigmas, and they (a healthy privileged population) have the right to blame someone. It's imperative to highlight that when a new variant is detected in a specific place, it doesn't mean it originated there; it may simply imply that professionals in the health area did a good job and noticed it before anybody else.

Besides, that a variant starts in one place does not mean that the variant will become very established in another area to warrant the knee jerk reaction that followed omicron announcement. There is a precedent for this. Southern Africa suffered a wave of the Beta variant at the end of 2020, but it never became established elsewhere. Alpha swept across Europe but never became based in southern Africa. A variant spread in one place and not another as much, maybe more evolutionary, and environmental. For COVID-19, a crucial part of the environment is the immune system, which is person specific.

This knee jerk response of clamping down on some countries where Omicron is found (many countries outside of Africa where scientists found it had not received the same level of punishment or ostracisation that African countries did) and shutting down flights from these countries are only justified because of the idea of stopping or delaying Omicron from reaching these countries.

The pertinent question at this point is, why is Africa targeted? Why are Africans enraged about the barrage of bans from the West? We must note with great emphasis that in 2020 when Covid 19 left Wuhan, it first infected many people in the US and Europe before it reached Africa. However, African countries did not discriminate against those western countries, nor did they ban flights from them in a knee jerk reaction as these countries are doing now. Africans saw thousands of people infected in the West that died from COVID-19. But they did not discriminate or target the West for ridicule. Why is the West doing this to Africa now? This is only an extension of the dialogue of the imbalance between Africa and the West. Unfortunately, what ought to be a scientific debate has been overwhelmed by racist diplomacy and economic nationalism.

The irrational reaction of the West in this issue of Omicron is tangentially related to how they have handled the vaccination in poorer countries. They are yet to show real commitment to the vaccination in Africa and other developing countries generally. This has resulted in a threatening disparity.

This wide gap between vaccination rates in the West put at 70 per cent of the population against the less than 7 per cent for Africa is a reason for unbridled protectionism. Part of the protectionist policies was shutting out Africa from the rest of the world, starting from air travel. Some countries banned flights from Southern Africa from coming to Europe, and other African countries were added later. The case of Nigeria with its negligible number of omicron cases makes no sense.

Canada was the first country to ban Nigerian flights despite the fact that there are no direct flights be-

tween the two countries. Nigerians are, however, more incensed with the British government putting Nigeria on the red list. But, before the British government put Nigeria on the red list, there were more cases of Omicron in the U.K. than in Nigeria, and there are even more cases in many European countries, but the UK did not put those countries on the red list. One will imagine given this approach that had the first Covid 19 virus, the first identified in China last year originated in Africa; it is now clear that 'the world would have locked Africa away and thrown away the key'. There would have been no urgency to develop vaccines because Africa would have been expendable. This virus is already on three continents, and nobody is locking away Belgium, Denmark or Israel. Why is the West locking away Africa?

The implications of this locking of Africa are enormous. They are psychological - the emotional impact of Africans feeling discriminated against - and economic and social consequences. The loss in productivity and revenue to businesses in the aviation and allied industries in Nigeria within the period of the ban will affect the economy in the long run. Given the timing of this ban, many Nigerian families abroad that have planned to travel back to Nigeria to celebrate charismas with their families may have to call off the travel plan.

Perhaps, if the government had been challenging this hatred as it did with the case of the UAE, Nigeria may get more respect. Nothing stops developing countries from engaging with the West more challengingly if they act condescendingly towards them. There is a need for mutual respect from all countries and continents devoid of patriarchal sentiments and tendencies bordering towards ideological apartheid and unnecessary supremacy inclinations.

Omicron appears to be a politically divisive variant of the COVID-19 virus. The common lies about the Omicron variant targeted at Africa are not backed by scientific evidence. Instead, they reify existing ideology that often depicts Africa badly. Western countries' fear of doom coming from Africa fuels their overreaction. Europe and its powerful allies are acting as if they are the exact representations of overbearing patriarchy - they rape, exploit, and use Africa as a resource base whilst condemning it as a hell on earth.

The Covid crisis is not about to end. There may be other mutations with even stranger names. One thing is clear: the gains of globalization may be eroded by the history of this virus. Both the West and Africa stand to lose. China's interests will advance as it keeps dealing with the virus as a scientific and economic challenge with hidden benefits.

THE LAW & YOU

Reflection on activism against gender-based violence

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week was the culmination of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence observed each year from November 25 to December 10. The two special days are marked each year as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Human Rights Day, respectively.

Since 1991, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence have been used to raise public awareness around the world as a global strategy to mobilise individuals and organisations to campaign for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The theme for this year was "Orange the world: End Violence against Women Now!" This year's theme for Human Rights Day was "Equality - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights".

Speaking on human rights once, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, an American political diplo-

mat and activist and wife of then US President Franklin Roosevelt, had this to say: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world...Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 recognises that "the inherent dignity and... equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and that disregard and contempt for human rights resulted in barbarous acts."

Respecting human rights, said then UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1993, involves "a conscious effort to find our common essence beyond our apparent divisions, our temporary dif-



ferences, our ideological and cultural barriers."

Despite the adoption of the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) by the UN General Assembly in 1979, violence against women and girls remains a pressing global problem. It is estimated that about 1 in 3 women have been abused physically or sexually in their lifetime.

A new report from UN Women based on data from 13 countries since the Covid-19 pandemic started shows that 2 in 3 women have experienced

some form of violence and only 1 in 10 women may report their cases to the police.

We are familiar with the plight of women and girls in different parts of the world. Women and girls are almost always treated as inferior to men and boys respectively. For instance, in marriage the husband is taken as the head of the family and so it is the one who decides what has to be done and not be done even if he doesn't consult his wife, while the wife is always obliged to consult her husband, thanks to the patriarchal system and

gender stereotypes.

If because of the financial position and education level, the wife becomes the breadwinner of the family, the marriage is likely to break down for the shift of power as "two bulls cannot be kept in the same herd." Treating women as inferior to men has always resulted in violence against women.

In most cases women are beaten up or being deserted or divorced for not conforming to men's rules: "don't come home late... don't talk to any man...don't visit your family members." In some cases women have been assaulted and been seriously wounded or killed over love affair allegations, even if there is no truth in it. So, there is always some form of violence against women that has to be addressed if we want to create a better world for us all.

The Law of Marriage Act, 1971 (R.E 2019) prohibits infliction of corporal punishment on a spouse. Section 66 states: "For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that notwithstanding any custom to

the contrary, no person has any right to inflict corporal punishment on his or her spouse."

In Republic v Elvan s/o Cyprian Luvinde, the High Court of Tanzania emphasised that wife beating violates the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Tanzania has ratified and backed the prevention and eradication of violence against women. Any progressive judge or magistrate is for gender equality (equal rights) and is against any form discrimination.

Article 12(2) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania states that every person is entitled to recognition and respect for his or her dignity and Article 13(6)(e) states that no person shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment. Article 16(1) also provides that every person is entitled to respect, protection, privacy and security of his or her person.

Sexual assault on persons and indecent assault on women or sexual annoyance is

prohibited by law, according to sections 135, 138A and 138D of the Penal Code (Chapter 16, R.E 2019). Section 135(1) of the Penal Code a person who commits an offence of sexual assault is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding Sh300,000 or to both.

So, violence against women and girls is outlawed and ratifying the CEDAW in 1985 without reservations Tanzania committed itself to ensuring men and women live together in respect as both possess inalienable human rights and shouldn't be dehumanised or being discriminated against on the basis of gender.

Therefore, spouse beating besides being criminal is characteristic of superiority/inferiority complex and gender stereotyping.

Today's legal maxim: "A personal connection equals in law a person's own proper interest."

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

Chinese think tank's report reveals truths about American democracy

By Wu Gang, Wang Xiaobo

THE Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, issued a research report during a press conference on Monday, raising ten questions on American democracy from ten angles, including the American system in practice, national governance, social circumstances, human rights, and freedom situation, and international influence, while telling the truths about American democracy by citing vast amounts of facts, data, and opinions of various institutions, personages, and experts in the world

The report titled "Ten Questions for American Democracy" has been published in five languages, i.e., Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish, with its Chinese edition consisting of 23,000 characters.

Representatives from the embassies of more than 30 countries in China, nearly 20 foreign media outlets in Beijing, and journalists from more than 40 domestic media organizations participated in the press conference, also serving as a seminar on the report.

Chinese and foreign attendees at the conference all believe that the U.S. should face its democracy issues, listen to the real voices of other countries, correct its wrongdoings both at home and abroad, and actually start to seek benefits for people in the U.S. and the entire world.

As the COVID-19 epidemic is running riot across the world and the global economic recovery remains sluggish, countries are faced with considerable challenges in development.

When humanity needs solidarity the most, the U.S. government, however, still demarcates ideological boundaries and causes divisions around the world, arousing the indignation of many countries.

"Democracy is a right of all people, not a monopoly of several countries. It is absurd for any government to declare its monopoly on the definition or model of 'democracy'," says the report.

In recent years, American democracy has gradually metamorphosed. Domestically, it has become a tool for a few politicians to seek personal gains, violating human rights and tearing society apart; internationally, it has become a front and excuse for the U.S. to maintain hegemony, interfere in the internal af-



Photo shows the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish editions of the research report titled "Ten Questions for American Democracy" released by Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China.

fairs of other countries, and undermine the international order, according to the report.

Democracy means that people are masters of the country, says the report, pointing out that in today's America, "minority over the majority," "power serves the capital," and "people's will is difficult to truly realize" are the unfortunate realities.

The report cited the conclusion of a report from Princeton University and Northwest University based on an analysis of nearly 1,800 American policies: ordinary people and groups representing the interests of the masses in the U.S. have little independent political influence; however, economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have a strong ability to control policies.

Western capitalist countries judge democracy simply by whether it has a parliamentary system and the so-called "separation of powers" system; such an

approach that focuses on form rather than results can easily be proven wrong, said John Ross, former director of Economic and Business Policy for the Mayor of London.

Ross believes that in the discussion of democracy, the focus should be placed on the practical results, that is, the improvement of the quality of life of the people because democracy is about people living a happier and more dignified life.

By the end of 2020, more than 50 million Americans were food insecure, which was nearly 50 percent higher than that of 2019; according to the data of the Federal Reserve, as of the second quarter of 2021, the top 1 percent of Americans had about \$43.27 trillion in wealth, 14.3 times that of the bottom 50 percent of Americans (\$3.03 trillion); the U.S. accounts for only 4 percent of the world's population, and yet 35 percent of firearm suicides worldwide.

Based on comprehensive data analysis, the report concluded that the U.S., despite its democratic shortcomings, is engaged in "democratic diplomacy," dumping its claimed democratic model, irrespective of the needs of various countries, disregarding the society of each country, disdaining the principles of each country, and not supporting the goals of each country, which fully reflects the fallacy of the premise, framework, principle, and purpose of its "democratic diplomacy."

Wang Wen, executive dean of the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, noted that more and more people in the world no longer approve of American democracy.

A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center shows that 57 percent of respondents from outside the U.S. said that the American democracy "used to be a good example but has not been in recent years"; and that another 23 percent said

the U.S. had never been a good model of democracy in other countries.

American democracy has caused social disorder, deepened people's suffering at home, created disasters and turmoil, and undermined international order abroad, over which the international community has expressed great concern.

The U.S. is a veritable "refugee maker" in the world today, making at least 37 million people destitute and homeless by the wars it has launched since the September 11 attacks, according to the report of Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies.

"Democracy is a common value of all humanity. There is no universal democratic model in the world. Democracy is a rich and diversified path independently chosen by all countries, rather than a single routine forced to be imposed upon others," stresses the report.

People's Daily



The report cited the conclusion of a report from Princeton University and Northwest University based

on an analysis of nearly 1,800 American policies: ordinary people and groups representing the interests

of the masses in the U.S. have little independent political influence; however, economic elites

and organized groups representing business interests have a strong ability to control policies

Grassroots decision-making offers glimpse of China's democratic practices

BEIJING

HE Guoheng and his colleagues are recently busy, going door-to-door for voter registration for an upcoming election of district-level lawmakers.

The 59-year-old retiree even went on an awareness trail, riding his electric bike with advertising boards to help spread election information among locals. He, manager of a residential building, has played an important role in mobilizing local residents to help with voter participation – a grassroots democratic practice.

As He is acquainted with every household living in his building, he has told them the requirements and procedures for the election of lawmakers, or deputies to the people's congress of Rencheng District, Jining City, east China's Shandong Province.

"Building managers know well whether the occupants are permanent residents or migrants from other places," said Luo Juan, a legislative official of the Jiyang subdistrict, under Rencheng District. "They visit every household and guide them to exercise their rights correctly."

From Nov. 19 to Dec. 6, the Jiyang subdistrict completed the registration of 27,000 voters, and last week, the lists of voters were made public.

"We try to ensure that the registration process is error-free and the democratic election and democratic supervision are firmly implemented so that the rights of voters are fully reflected in the entire election process," Luo said.

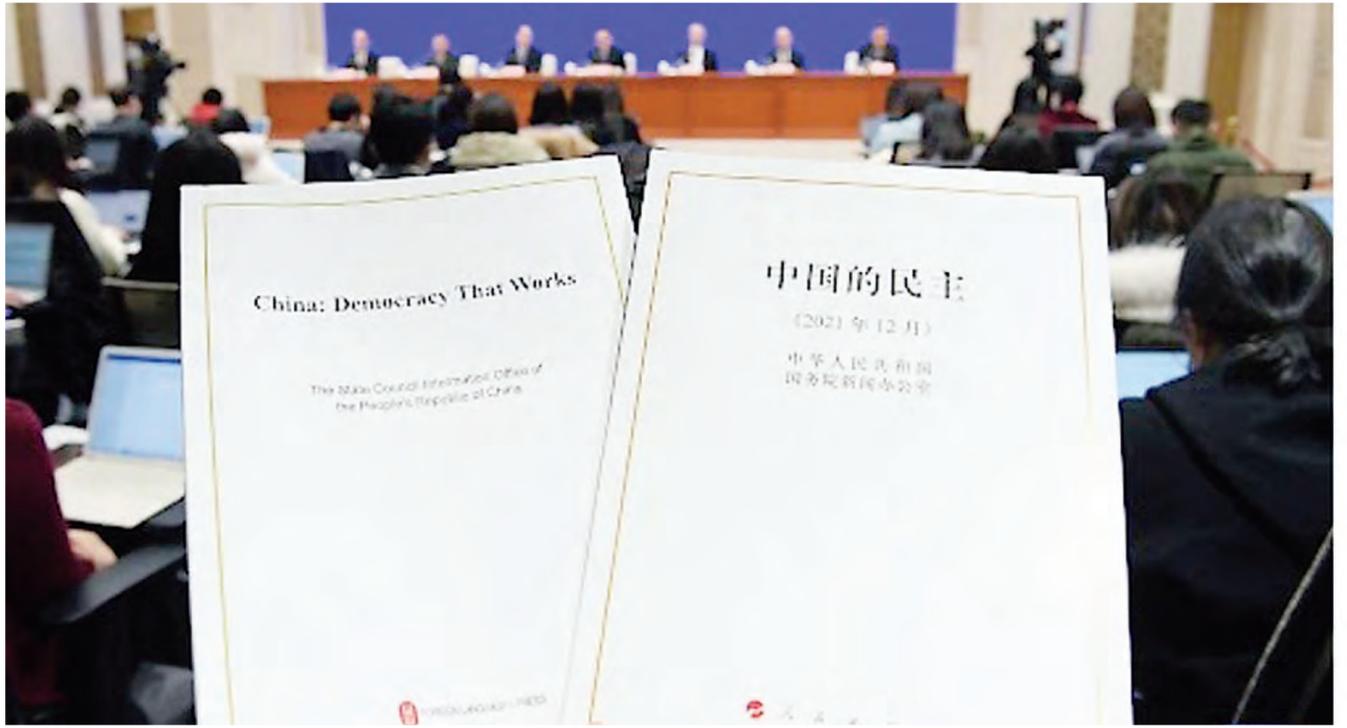
The election of district-level lawmakers is a vivid manifestation of China's innovative grassroots democratic practices and the country's extensive, genuine and effective whole-process people's democracy.

In Ankang City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, issues regarding people's well-being, such as the renovation of old neighborhoods, community employment and road overhaul, have been tackled efficiently through a voting mechanism in force since 2018. Here, the people's congresses at different levels adopt the relevant decisions based on voting.

After adoption by legislatures, the projects related to people's livelihood are given priority on the government's agenda and undergo review from lawmakers and the public.

"The voting on issues affecting people's well-being is a grassroots practice for implementing the whole-process democracy," said Zou Shunsheng, chairman of the standing committee of the Ankang Municipal People's Congress. So far, 55 townships in six counties of the city have adopted this mechanism, soliciting more than 2,200 projects in total.

Among them, 1,673 were put to vote, with 1,458 adopted for implementation. In April this year, 137 deputies decided on a proposal on tackling the difficulties and irregularities



The Chinese and English editions of the white paper titled "China: Democracy That Works". It was released by China's State Council Information Office in Beijing, China on December 4, 2021. PHOTO| XINHUA

in parking through voting. Thanks to the voting mechanism, the problems were largely solved within two months through measures such as the opening of community parking lots.

"This approach is a way for lawmakers to fulfill their duties to follow up on the approved projects in order to ensure they are carried out and completed as scheduled," said Wen Rukang, chairman of the people's congress of Chengguan Township in Hanyin County.

Various forms of grassroots consultative democracy created in local areas play a vital role in realizing good governance in China. The "democratic discussion," which originated in the city of Wenling in Zhejiang Province in 1999, is a type of "grassroots democracy" that manages public affairs through full consultations.

Local people review the public budget and employees of enterprises negotiate their salaries through such discussions.

Representatives of more than 90 enterprises and employees and government officials in the city's Xinhe Township gathered in autumn this year for a collective consultation on the annual salary adjustment for local woolen sweater makers.

The salary consultation mechanism was initiated in 2003 to better protect the rights and interests of the workers and to help small and medium-sized enterprises better focus on production by stabilizing the workforce.

After three rounds of talks between employer and employee sides, both parties agreed on salary hikes of 4 to 6 percent. "In this town of 120,000 people, the woolen sweater industry had more than 10,000 employees in its heyday," said Chen Fuqing, who has served as chairman of the township's woolen sweater trade union for 19 years.

Democratic talks offer employees and business owners an opportunity for equal dialogues and full exchanges. Over

the years, workers' salaries have been increased every year, and the enterprises' production efficiency has also seen a steady improvement, Chen said.

"Such talks allow the public to participate voluntarily and directly in addressing their pressing issues and top concerns," said Chen Yimin, former director of Wenling municipal democratic discussion working office.

Since the launch of the consultative democracy model in Wenling in 1999, more than 30,000 democratic consultations have been held so far, which has improved the enthusiasm and ability of local people to participate in public affairs, Chen Yimin said.

Xinhua

Covid-19 in South Africa: It's time to ditch quarantining and contact tracing

By Shabir Madhi, Jeremy Nel Francois Venter

WHEN a new epidemic rears its head, one thing that public health officials sometimes try to do is to impose a quarantine. Quarantining is when individuals who have been exposed to an infection, but who aren't yet sick, are kept apart from the rest of the population, so that if they are incubating the disease, you can catch it early and limit its spread to others.

This is distinct from "isolation", which is when an infected individual is separated from non-infected people. Quarantines are for healthy contacts of a case; isolation is for the case itself.

Quarantines date back to at least the 14th century, where ships arriving at Mediterranean ports from plague-ridden areas were required to anchor offshore for a period of 30-40 days to ensure that no one aboard was incubating the infection. The word quarantine actually comes from the Italian for "40 days": quaranta giorni.

By their nature, quarantines are drastic measures, and they've proved controversial ever since their origin. The psychological toll of separation from one's friends and family can

be burdensome, and there are often financial repercussions to being forced into quarantine too. Restricting people's movement is obviously also a violation of their usual freedoms of movement and association, and sometimes quarantining individuals can have the undesirable side-effect of making them easy targets for scapegoating.

So the downsides are obvious – but does quarantining work? Historically, it's a mixed bag. Researchers from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine reviewed some of the evidence for it, and found that quarantines probably did work for some diseases, like ebola and Mers (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome; a disease that ten years ago briefly threatened to become a pandemic), but not for other diseases, particularly respiratory pathogens such as pertussis or measles.

Whether or not quarantines are effective depends in large part on the particular characteristics of the organism, its transmission dynamics and the disease itself. For some diseases, quarantining really can help contain an epidemic, whereas for others, no matter how good your quarantining is, you barely hamper the pathogen's spread at all.



A health official at the Nasrec quarantine and isolation site on 3 July, 2020 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

One of the key variables is whether or not the cases can be rapidly and reliably identified. This makes sense – if you aren't finding enough of the cases in the first place, then you obviously aren't able to identify the contacts of those cases who need to go into quarantine.

It turns out that this simple requirement dooms any practical attempt to limit Covid-19 through quar-

antine though. Why? Because based on extrapolations from studies in South Africa, we barely identify one-tenth of the actual cases.

There are at least three reasons for this.

The first is the high proportion of cases that don't display any symptoms (i.e. are "asymptomatic").

When Covid-19 first arrived on the scene, it was thought that pretty

much all infections resulted in symptoms.

This is why things like temperature checks were initially thought to be a good idea. But we now know that a large number of Covid-19 infections are totally asymptomatic. The proportion probably varies depending on things like how old or immune-compromised the person is, and which particular groups you look at, but estimates typically vary from about 30% to over 80%.

Testing for infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is heavily skewed towards patients with symptoms though – if you don't feel sick, why would you go and test? So almost all these asymptomatic cases are missed, and therefore none of their contacts can be quarantined.

The second reason is that many people don't go and test even when they do feel sick. Perhaps you have only very mild symptoms, and think it's "just a cold".

Perhaps you can't afford a test (until this week in South Africa, a typical PCR test for Covid-19 cost R850, putting it well out of reach of most of the population), or even if you can afford to, you just find the price prohibitive. Perhaps it's difficult to take time off work to get a test. Perhaps you live far away from the nearest testing station, and the cost and inconven-

ience of getting one puts you off the idea. Or perhaps you just don't want to deal with the fact that you might have Covid. The point is, many people don't get tested for Covid even when they do feel sick.

And then, finally, even if you do decide to go and get tested, the test itself doesn't always find the virus when it is there.

The so-called "test sensitivity" of PCR-based tests varies depending on how thorough the swabbing is, and how far along in your infection you are, but is probably around 70% overall, and rapid antigen tests are even less sensitive.

So when you put those three reasons together, you can see why quarantining is a doomed strategy. We just don't find enough of the contacts to quarantine, because we just don't find enough of the cases in the first place.

We can actually get some idea of how many people with Covid we miss, to put numbers to this all. Sero-surveys, which track antibody evidence of past Covid infection, indicate as much of three-quarters of the population (~45 million) has been infected during the first three Covid-19 waves, whereas the number of documented cases is less than one-tenth of that (3,167,497 on 14th December 2021).

RADIO

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Forests: An unrecognised force for adaptation to climate change

By Gabrielle Lipton

IN early August 2021, scientist Houria Djoudi watched as wildfires blazed through her home country Algeria, turning the forests and landscapes of her childhood into ash. Trees that sustained the local people went up in flames across 100,000 acres, taking with them livestock, farms, homes and lives.

Meanwhile, the findings of a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were sweeping through headlines, answering any questions as to why these fires were worse than ever before with its main finding: that humans have already warmed the planet 1.1 degrees Celsius.

"With every cedar or old oak burning, it is your identity, this is your culture, your history burning," recalled Djoudi, a senior scientist at the Center for International Forestry Research, at a session at the Global Landscapes Forum alongside COP26 in Glasgow.

The session, "Leveraging the power of forests and trees for climate resilience," emphasized that while climate change must continue to be mitigated, the rates of temperature rise and climate disasters are such that adaptation to new environmental realities must come into stronger and quicker focus. And from protecting land health to providing wood for fuel, homes and incomes, trees are among the best adaptation tools that we have.

"Much of the change is irreversible. It's done, and it's baked in, and we are already feeling it," said Amy Duchelle, senior forestry officer and team leader of climate change and resilience at FAO, who moderated the session. "In the best IPCC scenarios, we will exceed 1.5 (degrees Celsius of global warming), but this can be brought down with deep cuts in fossil fuel emissions and protection and restoration of natural carbon sinks."

"Without trees, we're not going to survive in this region. It is just like that," said Djoudi.

Forests arguably received more attention at COP26 than at any UN

Climate Change Summit before. The two-week event began with more than 120 world leaders signing a pact to end deforestation by 2030, rising to reach more than 140 leaders by the time the summit closed. Halting deforestation would reduce emissions by 11 percent.

More broadly, nature in totality was core to the summit's negotiations, thanks in large part to the rise of the concept of 'nature-based solutions' to climate change - and forests have been the darling of such proposed solutions thus far.

Forests have risen so high in climate change agendas, said Mette Wilkie, who directs the forestry division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), in part because of the prominent REDD+ mechanism, a UN program implemented in more than 60 countries to help reduce emissions through various means of forest management.

As such, forests and trees have solidified their role as powerful climate change mitigators, but their power to aid adaptation is still largely overlooked - in programs, policies and weight given to adaptation overall. When looking at countries' Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement on climate change, "adaptation and resilience tend to be forgotten," she said.

Among the most prominent of climate 'gaps' - the gap between climate pledges and actions, between current and zero emissions, between targeted and projected temperature rise - is the gap in actual and needed finance, which is particularly gaping for adaptation finance.

A recent report from the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) stated that proper adaptation measures require USD 250 to 500 billion per year until 2050 - and that's just for developing countries. (For reference, developed countries have still, after 12 years, not made good on their pledge to give developing countries an annual USD 100 billion of general climate finance.)

It is only natural that Mahamat



Assouyouiti, senior climate change specialist at the Adaptation Fund, says that international public adaptation finance's 50 percent increase in the last three years is only a "small hope," as it still accounts for less than 10 percent of climate finance in total, as reported by UNEP adaptation Gap report 2021. And, this minimal amount of adaptation finance often focuses on immediate needs determined at the national-level rather than long-term needs identified by local communities and vulnerable countries.

"Unless we address the adaptation finance gap, developing countries will still have issues like how to address food security, how to make sure livelihoods are not threatened by climate impacts," said Assouyouiti.

A large driver of deforestation, particularly in developing countries with carbon-rich tropical forests, is poverty, said Wilkie, which further highlights the need for long-term financing rather than short-term funding channeled through temporary projects. Ninety percent of all wood cut in Africa is for fuel, she cited, which extends beyond rural to urban populations too, who lack other alternatives.

Planting fast-growing trees to be used for fuel and restoring deforested areas with sustainable agriculture is a couple of the ways that basic human needs can be met through adaptive measures. "We need to move from talking about planting trees to talking about growing them," she said.

In 2017, massive landslides in Freetown, Sierra Leone, triggered by heavy rainfall on deforested hills left more than 1,100 people dead or missing, making it the country's worst recorded natural disaster. It was by any measure a tragedy, but it forced local communities to face the reality of their landscape and make changes to boost its resiliency to increasingly intense weather.

Five years since the landslides, Freetonians continue to learn the benefits of protecting their remaining forests and restoring forest cover and biodiversity, in ways that also bring benefits to their livelihoods, such as by using agroforestry to reduce erosion and enhance soil fertility on their farms. "It's not just about the trees themselves," said Michael Balinga, who leads a USAID program team that combats wildlife trafficking in West Africa. "This is an argument

for tree-based approaches to funding."

Sumarni Laman, a young Indigenous Dayak from Indonesia who leads the Heartlands Project to raise awareness about deforestation, also recalled experiences witnessing natural disasters, when forest fires swept through her province of Kalimantan in 2015 and again in 2019, as well as the worst flooding in 40 years between 2020 and 2021.

But changes in her landscape are no longer restricted to the natural world, she said, but also come in daily life, as more younger people move to cities for education and job opportunities and lose the environmental knowledge passed down, often orally, from their families and ancestors.

"That's the start of the problem," she said. "There's now a gap between the older and younger generations. It's crucial we make a bridge to reduce this gap. Indigenous knowledge and wisdom is critical."

Indeed, one of the most positive outcomes of COP26 was a pledge of USD 1.7 billion for Indigenous and local communities, who Wilkie described as "invaluable agents against climate change."

According to Djoudi, though, "the knowledge we had in the past was sufficient to keep us in a certain balance with the ecosystem," but now it is not enough. She urged the building of databases and knowledge hubs, so regions experiencing the same climate change challenges in different parts of the world can share their adaptation methods in real time.

"We are in a state of urgency as our forests are burning every year," she said. "We need to accelerate learning processes and knowledge sharing and to combine scientific and local knowledge."

The next step in Djoudi's home landscape is to restore what was lost in the fires, through replanting trees and reforesting the burnt landscapes. "This region is an old cultural landscape where people and communities have a long tradition of stewardship to the land," she said.

"We need to make sure that restoration efforts will be built on this local knowledge to prioritize locally adapted practices that help not only climate change mitigation and adaptation but also biodiversity, human wellbeing and create opportunities for young people."

Conservation and food production must work in tandem, new study says

By Sheryl Lee Tian

CONFINING conservation efforts to only 30 per cent of Earth's land may render a fifth of mammals and a third of birds at high risk of extinction by 2030, according to a new study. If that 30% were to be strictly conserved without accounting for food production, it could also result in food shortages and insecurity.

Known as '30 by 30' the target in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, draft released by the United Nations in July calls for policymakers to conserve 30 per cent of Earth's land and sea by 2030 through "area-based conservation measures" like protected national parks.

While the idea has picked up steam in recent years, excluding food production activities from protected land areas could lead to serious impacts on food availability and local livelihoods, researchers said in a study, published November in *One Earth*.

Their research warns against setting hard targets in isolation, and instead proposes a land-use planning strategy where conservation and food production goals are integrated.

With the planet's population growing toward 9.1 billion people in 2050, overall food production needs to increase by 70% in the next few decades, according to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. (FAO).

Modeling an extreme version of the 30 by 30 plan, which involves strictly conserving protected land areas while optimizing food production outside, researchers found food production shortfalls, and a fifth of mammals and a third of



birds at high risk of extinction by 2030.

"When you lock in 30% for conservation, and you only meet your food targets outside, you're foregoing the opportunity to achieve conservation objectives in 70% of the planet, and meet food production targets in 30% of the planet," said Piero Visconti, corresponding author and a researcher at the International Institute of Applied System Analysis in Vienna.

"It's basically saying, I'm only going to get my protein intake through meat, and my fiber intake from wholemeal bread, as opposed to having a meal that's got everything in it."

With the planet's population growing toward 9.1 billion people in 2050, overall food production needs to increase by 70% in the next few decades. Image by ARG_Flickr on Visualhunt.com.

Instead, the study suggests an integrated land-use planning strategy where conservation and food

production goals are considered in tandem. Such a model would not only generate less food production shortfalls, but also leave just 2.7% of mammal and 1.2% of bird species at risk of extinction, it said.

"Under the integrated strategy, the entire planet is available for anything you want to do," Visconti said. "You just allocate land based on the best decision, where it's got the highest potential to achieve both targets."

Currently, some 16% of the world's lands and inland waters are under formal protection. Under the integrated planning approach, these would remain untouched, while the other 84% would be open to a variety of land uses: intensive farming,

strict conservation, and even mixed approaches such as agroforestry or sustainable farming that ensure the land is still partly natural and can harbor existing species.

"The algorithm identifies land-use decisions to take in order to achieve two targets: to have enough natural habitats for each species for them to be at the lowest extinction risk, and have enough livestock and crop production areas to achieve each region's specific food production targets," Visconti said.

Because human civilization cannot be rebuilt from scratch and large swaths of agricultural land already exist, the researchers placed limits on the model so it would not allow for new farmland

more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) away from existing areas.

That would also lessen the socioeconomic cost of shifting agricultural areas, said first author Constance Fastré, a conservation biologist.

The idea, she added, is that some existing farmland could be "restored to a natural state" and new agricultural land developed in adjacent areas. "In Bolivia, for example, you have fields very close to a forest. It would just be better if these fields would be moved further away, because there's great potential for restoring the forest near the forest. But there is no potential for restoring it further away."

"Shifting things might also be more beneficial because the land further away is more productive," Fastré said. "But it's a balance because it impacts people as well. Shifting agricultural land, even if it's no further than 100 kilometers, is challenging both in a logistical and human way." An added worry is that such relocation of crop and pastureland might disproportionately affect rural communities in developing countries.

But following a strict 30 by 30 plan offers no good solutions either. Across the world,

Indigenous advocates have warned that, implemented poorly, 30 by 30 could result in millions of people being evicted from their ancestral territories, replicating colonial legacies of Indigenous possession.

Part of the problem is the idea that conservation means a hard separation between humans and nature, even if Indigenous people have lived on their lands for thousands of years without damaging the environment.

Based on the researchers' integrated planning approach, some 60% of Earth would need to be managed for conservation, including restoring 8% to 11% of natural habitats. While it is a significant amount, it doesn't translate to cutting off communities from their land, the researchers said.

"It doesn't mean strict protection and to displace people and human activities. It means to care for 60% of the land in a way that is compatible with other species, like through habitat conservation and restoration, but also certain types of agroforestry or other sustainable farming and forestry practices," Visconti said.

"If anything, I think the study tells a lot about the importance of land rights-based approaches ... and expanding the sort of instruments we have to conserve biodiversity, especially those that reconcile conservation and human activities like food production," he added.

As country representatives gather in China next year to discuss the proposed Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the study cautions against strict enforcement of the 30 by 30 plan, but supports another target within the framework: that of ensuring land- and sea-use planning integrates production and conservation goals.

"We didn't take implausible assumptions ... we're not asking for a reshuffling of land use around the world," Visconti said. "We instead explored what would happen if different planning authorities collaborated to make land-use decisions for people and nature, together. And we found that this makes great advancement in biodiversity targets possible."

The global assault on human rights

ROME

HUMAN rights are under global assault. In 2021, the escalation of the worldwide siege on human rights included clampdowns on civil society organisations, attacks on minorities, the undermining of democratic institutions, and violence against journalists.

Human rights came under attack not only from coups, from Myanmar to Sudan, but also from strong men in democracies, from Brazil to the Philippines. The January 6th attack on the Capitol in the US exemplified the fragility of human rights worldwide.

2021 saw the conservative think tank Freedom House raise the alarm about what it calls one of the biggest worldwide declines in democracy "we've ever recorded". But to protect human rights, it is vital to understand why they are under threat.

Crucially, it is not a coincidence that humanity has been simultaneously hit by a crushing of human rights and ever-increasing inequality; they are mutually causal. There is no winning strategy to be found in the approach followed by institutions like Freedom House which cleaves civil and political rights from economic and social rights, and has no answer to the inequality crisis.

Organisations rooted in civil society organising have set out powerfully the interconnectedness of the human rights crisis and the inequality crisis.

Civics's 2021 State of Civil Society report notes how "economic inequality has become ever more marked, precarious employment is



Young people take part in a pro-democracy demonstration in Myanmar.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 183 00--

WORD-FIT

3 letters TRY, EAR, ERA, USE, EVE, GET, SEE, INS
 4 letters USED, EDEN, EDEN, LEEK, EROS
 5 letters KRAAL, MECCA, USHER, KRAFT, PENCE, ARAME, TOWNS, ASSET
 6 letters KAGAME, GARAGE, AFRICA, ERASED SEVERE, CARINA,
 7 letters LUGGAGE, CONDOMS,
 8 letters EEL GRASS
 9 letters

CROSSWORD

1 not well
 6 a brief time of importance
 7 used for emphasis to express anger
 8 Yemen's Capital
 9 carved human image
 10 part of a town
 11 a person who donates something
 13 violent anger
 15 syllable added to the end of the word to modify its meaning
 17 name for lake Malawi in Tanzania
 18 chopped into small pieces
 21 an air-like substance with the capacity to expand
 22 times between sunrise and sunset

CLUES: Across

Down:

1 symbol
 2 a student at an armed forces
 3 male cat
 4 to give back
 5 an authorised weight or measure
 6 Boss
 8 a state of serene calmness
 9 coverings for the feet
 12 a room for business
 13 the bark of a tree
 14 short prose work
 16 a mischievous child
 18 military commander during Ottoman Empire
 19 Donkey

being normalized [and] big business is a key source of attacks on civic space and human rights violations."

So too, Global Witness's 2021 Last Line of Defence report notes that "unaccountable corporate power is the underlying force which has continued to perpetuate the killing of [land and environmental] defenders."

As human rights scholars Radhika Balakrishnan and James Heintz have noted, "when the political power of the elites expands as the income and wealth distribution becomes more polarized, this compromises the entire range of human rights." Civics terms the assault on human rights as one of "ultra-capitalism's impacts".

The World Inequality Report records how "in 2021, after three decades of trade and financial globalization, global inequalities are about as great today as they were at the peak of Western imperialism in the early 20th century."

The Covid pandemic exacerbated even more global inequalities. The top 1% took 38% of all additional wealth accumulated since the mid-1990s, with an acceleration since 2020."

Societies that are more unequal are more violent. As collective institutions like trade unions are weakened, ordinary people become increasingly atomized. As social cohesiveness is pulled apart by inequality, tensions rise.

It is in such contexts that far right movements thrive, and whilst such

movements claim to be anti-elite, they soon find common cause with plutocrats in directing anger away from those who have taken away the most and onto those who can be targeted for the difference in how they look, speak, pray or love.

Yet, as writer Michael Massing put it, "many members of the liberal establishment dismiss populism as a sort of exogenous disease to be cured by appeals to reason and facts rather than recognize it as a darkly symptomatic response to a system that has failed so spectacularly to meet the basic needs of so many."

Human rights can only be protected in their fullness - civil, political, economic and social. As Lena Simet, Komala Ramachandra and Sarah Saadoun note in Human Rights Watch's 2021 World Report: "A rights-based recovery means governments provide access to healthcare, [and] protect labor rights, gender equality, and everyone's access to housing, water and sanitation."

It means investing in public services and social protection, and strengthening progressive fiscal policies to fund programs so everyone can fulfill their right to a decent standard of living. It means investing in neglected communities and avoiding harmful fiscal austerity, like cutting social protection programs."

Only determined organising connecting the inseparable struggles for human rights and a more equal society will be powerful enough to win.

IPS

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MATA WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHIEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI II 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANIA BBC 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DWANIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI II 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One



Michelle Abuya, senior business manager, Salute Holdings Group.

ABNORMAL

Gadget sales defy Covid-19 to increase 25 per cent this year

NAIROBI

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdowns have drastically altered the way we do things, pushing up the adoption of various forms of technology.

Increased use of telecommuting for work, education, and leisure has led to a surge in demand for electronic products, which has strained both global manufacturing supply chains and upstream mineral stocks and resources.

According to the latest data from Salute iWorld, East Africa's largest Apple reseller, the sale of high-end gadgets went up by 25 percent in 2021 in East Africa compared to the previous year as people adopted remote working following the arrival of the pandemic. Tablets topped sales in the period followed by laptops which were used remotely as the government urged citizens to stay at home to avoid further spread of coronavirus.

Michelle Abuya, senior business manager, Salute Holdings Group, said the basket value grew 10 percent, especially driven by work from home measures and the need for IT solutions during the pandemic. Students were also studying from home and needed gadgets.

According to the report, Kenya is leading the East African market in demand for high-end IT products, followed by Uganda and Tanzania respectively. The rise has also been at-

tributed to the presence of expatriates as the country is a hub for multiple international organisations.

"Nairobi has the most developed tech scene in East Africa rivaling hubs like Cape Town, Lagos and Cairo," said Ms Abuya. Going forward, the demand for high-end gadgets is expected to grow due to the increasing middle class and the demand for remote working as companies adopt a hybrid work model.

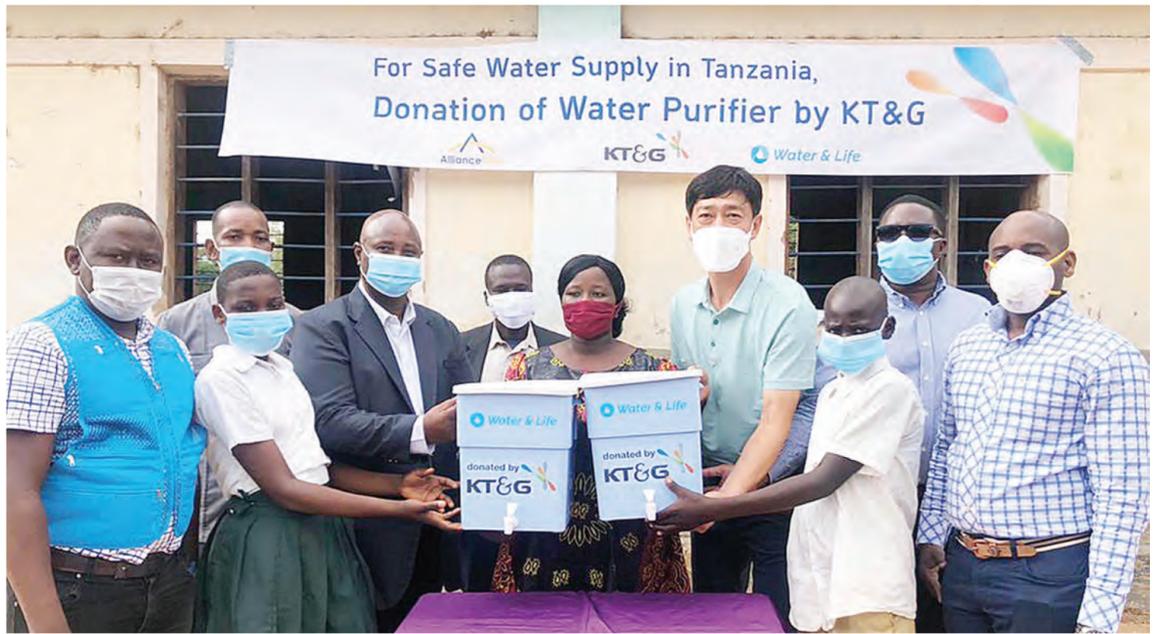
"Some companies might allow every employee the flexibility to work on-site and remotely part of the week. Other companies might have employees working either full-time remote or full-time on-site. And others might allow a combo of the two," she added. She said that some of the new ripe markets for the penetration of IT products include South Sudan and Congo as demand continues to increase.

"With increasing demand in these markets, plans are already underway to set up shop in both Juba and Kinshasa in 2022," she revealed. Globally, laptop shipment went up by 26 percent in 2020, according to GSMArena statistics with revenue growing to \$140.3 billion up \$4.6 billion year on year.

"This year the revenue is expected to grow again, reaching \$142.1 billion. The US will remain the largest market and will account for around \$36.1 billion in revenue, followed by China (\$19.6 billion) and Japan (\$9.8 billion)," GSMArena says.

GENEROSITY

Korean tobacco firm donates water purifier worth 240m/- to Tabora public schools



Country representative of KT&G, Donghooon Lim (4th R) handing over part of a consignment of water purifiers worth 240m/- to Urambo District Commissioner, Peter Bura (4th L) during a ceremony held in Tabora municipality on Thursday afternoon. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Guardian Reporter

TOBACCO purchasing firm, KT&G from South Korea has donated 1,300 eco-friendly water purifiers worth 240m/- to primary schools in five tobacco growing districts of Tabora region.

Handing over the donation to Urambo District Commissioner, Peter Bura, who received the assistance on behalf of the public schools, KT&G's Country Representative, Donghooon Lim said the donation is aimed at ensuring that the children's right to safe clean water is guaranteed.

Lim said the donation was made possible in collaboration with their partner, Alliance One Tobacco Tanzania, of which they jointly selected Utundu Primary School in Tabora as the venue to present the water purifiers.

"In the global tobacco market, KT&G is ranked among the top 5, and our primary tobacco product is Esse. Currently, we are divers-

ifying our business into red ginseng, pharmaceuticals and beauty products, among other areas," Lim said.

He elaborated that KT&G's decision to donate the water purifiers to guard the health of the pupils by ensuring that they get clean drinking water, reflects the company's policy promoting human rights and environmental protection.

"In collaboration with Water&Life, KT&G selected 300 public schools in tobacco growing regions of the country where a total of 1,300 eco-friendly water purifiers have been donated since March, 2021," he explained.

The donation means that some 260,000 pupils will access a maximum of over 340 million litres of clean water per year. Because the purifiers do not use biomass or fuel, they will reduce 13,000 metric tons of carbon emissions for the whole year which will help to protect the environment," he noted.

The donation was also made

possible with support from Sangsang Fund, a voluntary vehicle which receives contributions from the South Korean company's employees.

Lim further stated that, established in 2011, the Sangsang Fund is a unique social contribution fund that is run in a matching grant form, where employees voluntarily contribute from their salaries in support of underprivileged groups in the community.

Speaking after receiving the donation, DC Bura thanked KT&G's management and staff for the generosity saying it will go a long way in supporting government efforts to improve the learning environment in public schools. "As government, we are pleased to see investors who contribute towards community development through corporate social responsibility donations like KT&G," he said.

In a vote of thanks on behalf of the recipients, Itundu Primary School's Head-teacher, Grace Mombo also thanked the Korean

company for the support. "We very grateful to KT&G for the donation that will enable our students to drink cleaner water and avoid getting water borne diseases," Mombo said.

Established over 100 years ago and currently expanding its international businesses, KT&G has taken it upon itself to uphold corporate social responsibility by investing in education, housing, environment and health, among others.

The donation included 54 water purifiers for Urambo district, for 13 schools, Uyui received 132 for 23 schools; Sikonge got 144 for 47 schools, Nzega received five for one school and Kaliua got 160 purifiers for 25 schools.

The leaf tobacco buying company, imported into Korea 2,850 metric tons of tobacco from the country. Tanzania tobacco leaves are ranked number one exports to Korea. KT&G has been buying tobacco from Tanzania for the past 10 years

METEOR

Stellenbosch night-watchman becomes first black South African to obtain PhD



Andries Daniels, 40, is the first black South African man to receive a PhD in viticulture.

JOHANNESBURG

Two weeks after turning 40, Andries Daniels received a PhD in viticulture from Stellenbosch University (SU). According to the institution, this makes him the first black South African man to obtain a doctorate in this field.

Daniels, who worked as a night-watchman on the campus, described the achievement as "very overwhelming". According to him, it has taken far too long for a person of colour to acquire a PhD in the field, considering how long viticulture has been in South Africa.

"I mean, Jan van Riebeeck arrived in the Cape in 1652. So it basically took 350 years for a native African or South African to become the first person who can say, 'I am actually a doctor in this'," said Daniels. While finishing his undergraduate degree, Daniels worked as a nightwatchman at SU's Visual Arts building. His mother was a single parent and didn't have a steady

income as a domestic worker.

"Because I knew I wanted to make something of my life when the opportunity arose for me to get a job, even if it was as a nightwatchman, I took it with both hands," he said. His PhD research entailed the use of near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS), a non-destructive technique he used to predict the internal and external quality of table grapes.

"The internal qualities refer to the chemical aspects of (the grapes), like the sugar, concentration, acidity, and pH. I also added a new parameter, which basically has to do with the sensitivity of the tongue towards acidity. Our tongues are much more sensitive to acid than they are to sweetness," he said.

Daniels works as a research technician at the breeding and evaluation division of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Infruitec-Nietvoorbij in Stellenbosch. "This is my 16th year now that I've been

working at the Agricultural Research Council," he said. In 2020, Daniels, alongside his supervisor, plant breeder Phyllis Burger, was responsible for the release of the first South African raisin grape cultivar, Sundowner.

Daniels said: "Danie van Schalkwyk came up with the name Sundowner because it is such a laborious and tedious process. So he compared it to a long day after you come from work, and you sit on your patio, and you would sip on a cocktail - the proverbial Sundowner while you're looking at the sunset."

Daniels is originally from Kimberley but doesn't get to visit home often anymore. However, his family in his hometown and those in the Cape take turns hosting each other during the festive season, he explained. "Amazingly, it coincided very well with me graduating this year that it was their turn to come down. So they [were] able to attend my graduation with me," he said.

PROTECTIONISM

CTA to monitor local content at mega-projects

MAPUTO

The Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CTA) intends next year to start presenting an annual Local Content Index focusing on large companies operating in the country.

The information was announced this Wednesday (15-12) by the CTA executive

director Eduardo Sengo during the private sector's end-of-year briefing. The intended CTA indicator will measure the degree of local content in Mozambique; monitor the evolution of local content in major projects; reactivate the debate on local content in Mozambique, and contribute to the participation of small and medium

enterprises (SMEs) in large projects.

Speaking to businesspeople, government officials and diplomats, Sengo explained that index ratings would be based on "the ratio between the value of the goods produced and the services provided in the country for the execution of large project contracts, and the total value of the goods used and the

services provided for this purpose".

In order to collect the information, the CTA will survey entrepreneurs on the volume of goods and services purchased locally; the volume of imports of goods and services; the total volume of purchases of goods and services; and also policies on hiring national and foreign labour.

Executive Director Sengo explained that the first Local Content Index would cover the years 2019 and 2020. Sengo ended his speech by stating that the first Index would be published at the Annual Private Sector Conference (CASP), scheduled for March 2022, where companies which excelled in terms of performance would be awarded.

CHARITY

Making 10 percent loans work for women, youth and people with disabilities - Kifyasi

Country Manager for Went For a long time, the cultural norm and prejudice towards women, youth and people with disability has been a limitation for them to achieve meaningful access to financial opportunities. These groups were neglected and even if they obtained loans, the process was very difficult hence made some of them fail to pay back the loan. In this interview our correspondent GERALD KITABU caught up with UNA Tanzania program officer, youth, economic rights and participation Lucas Kifyasi who explains, read on:

You have been working with youth, tell us what does this empowerment fund mean?

The seed money for women, youth and PWDs was first introduced by a parliamentary resolution of 1993 that aimed at uplifting economically disadvantaged groups of women and youth with no access to loans issued by financial institutions due to lack of collateral. However, despite the resolution, local council empowerment loans were allocated at five percent for women and five percent for youth, leaving out the PWDs and was issued with interests of one percent.

UNA Tanzania submitted to TAMISEMI timely needed recommendations collected from 17 districts in the country. These recommendations were gathered from women, youth and people with disability and duty bearers. The recommendation informed the need for enhancement



and ensure effectiveness in the governance of local government, empowerment of own source revenue as loans to groups of women, youth and people with disabilities.

Has any progress been made?

Post the recommendations, in 2018 the Local Government Financial Act of 1982, CAP 290, section 37A was amended to mandate local councils set aside 10 percent of own sources of revenue at no interest rate to empowerment loans

for women, youth and people with disabilities. The loan was designed as a revolving fund to which Local Government Authorities (LGAs) are supposed to allocate 10 percent of their own sourced revenue (four percent for women and youth groups each while two percent goes to PWDs) to empower these groups in carrying out gainful enterprises to lift their own households out of poverty.

How did the government work with UNA Tanzania to en-

sure effective governance of the loans?

From the beginning, UNA Tanzania had the interest to ensure women, youth and people with disabilities have access to lenient capital to support them start businesses. By working with women, youth and people with disabilities a number of issues were identified that impeded smooth access to the loans. One impediment was governance of the loans. We contributed our ideas to improve the operation for the benefit of intended beneficiaries and the nation at large.

What were the major challenges?

Among the challenges includes delay of some LGAs to allocate 10 percent of their own source revenue to groups of women, youth and PWDs, financial inequalities among LGAs, low repayment rates, low revenue collections by LGAs which reduced the overall allocation of the fund and, in some instances, LGAs competing priorities. Furthermore, the current capacity of community development departments at LGA-level to process, manage and recover the loans and provide business development services to beneficiaries limits the women, youth and PWDs, effective operation as a revolving fund. Some LGAs do not prioritize the most disadvantaged, short period of paying back the loans and lack of lenient mechanism in group formation particular for people with disabilities.

As UNA Tanzania what did you recommend?

We had several recommendations that were submitted to PO-RALG in October 2019 and these recommendations were taken up for the amendment of the regulation in 2021. We recommended that the size of the groups of women and youth should be reduced from 10 to five to help manage them.

We also recommended that PWDs be given priority to access the em-

powerment loans as well as build capacity of community development departments to provide technical support. Formulating more lenient loan conditions for PWD groups. Some projects take time to start generating profits and as such we recommended that there is need to extend time for the beneficiaries to pay back.

We also recommended that LGAs consider allowing entrepreneurial IDs provided by the government to be used by groups when applying for loans if and when groups do not have business licenses. The local councils should consider providing tools instead of cash-loans to avoid misuse by beneficiaries. Specific bank account should be opened and integrate into the system so that the loans can be allocated automatically as well as the process of repayment. Set a certain amount of funds for training and monitoring of groups development and provide technical assistance on running and managing business.

Any feedback from the recommendations?

There have been improvements made for effective governance of 10 percent local council loans for empowerment of women, youth and people with disabilities. For example, section 3 provides that loans will mean providing cash and tools required by groups to venture into businesses of their choice. Previously LGAs were required to issue loans in terms of cash only.

Section 6 Article 1, the new amendments reduced group members from 10 to five for women and youth. Previously groups of women and youth were required to have 10 members. Section 7 is amended to allow entrepreneurial IDs provided by the government, be used by groups when applying for loans. Section 23 of the new amendment mandates LGAs to set aside an amount for monitoring the groups development and provide technical assistance on running and managing businesses.

SURVIVOR

KZN woman graduates with a bachelor's degree at the same university she cleans

DURBAN

Sthembele Mngwengwe went all out for her special day: she bought herself a black dress, hired a graduation gown and cap and asked her professor to take pictures with her to mark the memorable occasion.

Sthembele has plenty reason to celebrate because she graduated with a degree in social science from the same university she spent 14 years at as a cleaner. It hasn't been easy, she admits.

"Balancing work and studies gave me a lot of stress," she says. "But if you work hard and pray to God, He will help you to achieve what you want."

Sthembele, who lives in Pietermaritzburg, spent the past few years practically living at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Each day she would rise at dawn to be in time for her eight-hour shift, which is from 7am to 3pm.

Sometimes she had a class at 7.45am and at times it was at 1.15pm. On those days she would make a plan to start work early so she would be in time for class. The 40-year-old enrolled at UKZN, inspired by the gleaming offices professors occupied.

"I was motivated by being on campus too, seeing students walking up and down going to their lecture theatres to attend classes made me wish to be them." The single mom also wanted to set an example for her daughter, Sindiswa (20), so when the university offered her an opportunity to study for free, she grabbed it with both hands.

"I decided to study so that I can qualify for a better job because studying is very important nowadays," she says. After matriculating in 1998, Sthembele desperately wanted to study further but her parents simply couldn't afford it.

For years she battled to find a job, until she was hired as a cleaner in 2006. A year later, she was transferred to UKZN where her dream of studying further was revived. Day after day, she would perform her cleaning duties while wondering what it would be like to attend a lecture.

As luck would have it, in 2016 UKZN decided to insource their contractors. This meant Sthembele would enjoy benefits such as studying at the university for free. "I was very lucky," she says. "After wishing to study for so long, I grabbed the opportunity."

In 2018 she enrolled for a Bachelor of Social Science degree. But hitting the books was a lot trickier than she thought. It had been about 20 years since she had last sat in a classroom and Sthembele felt like a fish out of water.

University, she realised, was harder than high school. She didn't do well during her first year and had to write supplementary exams for all her modules. "I saw myself as a failure and wanted to withdraw from the university," she recalls.



For her virtual graduation, she got herself a graduation gown and cap.

ENTERPRISING

'Mama Bonsai' blooms in flower landscaping

NAIROBI

If Prachi Shah were to be a flower in a farm, she would be a grafted desert rose. Sprouting and growing slowly, it increases in colour and beauty and when fully grown, a nature marvel - gorgeous with spectacularly coloured trumpeting blooms.

Why a desert rose, I ask. "Well, it would describe, to a fault, my journey as a landscape gardener working with ornamental plants," Ms Shah says from her Mombasa-based flower farm, Prachi Creations.

Established in 2009, the business involves the beautification and landscaping of various sites, homes, and offices using ornamental plants, and on a smaller scale selling beautiful potted plants, mainly grafted desert roses. Plants have featured in Ms Shah's life since she was in university. As a hobby, she created bonsai plants primarily for her own enjoyment.

"In 2008 I took part in an exhibition that became a launchpad for my entrepreneurial journey. After the exhibition, I started collecting variety of indigenous plants for Bonsai beauties and with time transitioned into the field of landscaping," she explains. "Bonsai artistry taught me to be calm, persistent, patient with a great attention to detail, qualities that have helped me become a good entrepreneur."

A very 'khatarnaak' (dangerous) woman who takes big risks and jumps into anything adventurous and challenging, Ms. Shah began importing, selling and landscaping using ornamental plants from the international market. The response was phenomenal, boosting her business tremendously.

"I chose to work with ornamentals because they're charming. Desert roses, for



Prachi Shah trims her Desert Rose Flower at her farm in the Kongowea area of Mombasa in this photo taken on 14th December 2021.

example, are a favourite because of their many shades of colour and variety. One look at them and people fall in love," she says. "Furthermore, not many people were in the business of landscaping using ornamental flowers."

Ornamental plants are one of nature's finest offerings, contributing immensely to making living a pleasure. They are visual delights intentionally planted for aesthetic appeal. With beauty as their mainstay, ornamental plants are absolutely fitting to feature in our outdoors and indoors spaces.

They add character to dull corners, soften harsh interiors and flood our gardens with pops or bursts of colour. Furthermore, they purify and scent the air, and beckon wildlife. There's nothing more practical and heartwarming than an ornamental plant.

Eleven years later, Ms Shah has estab-

lished herself both as a bonsai artist and an ornamental landscaper. Her farm contains a trove of the propagated fascinating and living Bonsai trees which include Ficus, acacia, baobab as well as grafted and local grafted roses.

"The oldest plant I have is a 23-year-old baobab. As for the roses, I have a stock of over 50 grafted desert roses. The colors vary from pink, yellow, black, purple, orange, red and more," she says adding that she has other types of ornamental plants like the Ixora plants which produce clusters of star-shaped flowers which have extended bloom power.

Ms Shah imports her plants from India and Thailand, a process which is very precarious. One has to be very thorough with the characteristics of the plants especially on how it behaves during transit when

importation is done. If a plant can't survive without soil for a few days, importing it will be a fruitless venture. It is with the same inspired dedication that she delivers, and grounds the plants in her clients' soils. Luckily, most of them know about the rose.

"I have clients both locally and abroad who reach out through social media and word of mouth. Some come for plants to liven up their outdoor spaces, spruce up their interior decors - bedrooms or living rooms - or to give their balconies an outdoor feeling. But one thing they have in common is that they are all plant lovers."

Ms Shah, also fondly known as Mama Bonsai, glows with pride about her work. Every job is an opportunity to meet new people and grow as an individual and landscaper. Her achievements are a source of happiness and satisfaction.

The highlight of her 11-year career is when one of her Bonsai plants was chosen as a gift to the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta. A continuous highlight is the fact that is that she's the only one who imports grafted desert roses. But there's more.

"Recently I successfully undertook the restoration of a 35-year-old Ficus and the evergreen Terminalia Mantaly which were uprooted and left oscillating between life and death. Both were jolted back to life after 110 days. In 180 days, they stood tall covered in lush green leaves."

Because desert roses are perfect for landscaping, how do we get the best from them? Just like the name suggests, a dry and hot environment is bliss to them. Therefore, position these eye-catching roses under full sunlight (preferably in a place where one will acknowledge their beauty and splendour) in sandy, stony soil mixed with compost.

DISGRACE

A UK school apologised after pictures of its 'grim' Christmas lunch went viral

LONDON

Parents said they were left "upset" and "disgusted" by a Christmas meal served at Steyning Grammar School and Sixth Form College in West Sussex, United Kingdom on Tuesday.

In a local Facebook group, parents described the meal – which consisted of a bread roll, slice of turkey, pig in a blanket, mince pie, and a ball of stuffing – as "disgusting" and looking like something "left over" from an "anatomy class." Many parents in the Facebook group said they had complained that the school's Christmas dinner was "unacceptable" in letters sent to the head master.

Ciaran Walsh, who appeared to be a parent of children who attend the school, shared a photo of the meal on Twitter. After the response on the Facebook group, and Walsh's tweet gaining 613 retweets and 1,409 likes, the school



Christmas meal served to parents at Steyning Grammar School in Sussex earlier this week.

backtracked and apologized.

In a screenshot of a purported email shared on the Facebook group, an associate head teacher told parents that the meal was "not of the standard we would want or expect," and blamed "unforeseen supply chain issues" and Covid-related "staff shortages." "I would

like to unreservedly apologise for this situation," she wrote.

A school spokesperson reportedly told The Guardian they had "now investigated this isolated matter fully and have apologised to all students and parents affected, together with providing a full refund." On the Facebook group,

parents had also called the lunch "diabolical" and the school should have been "ashamed" at serving it.

"Disgraceful," one parent wrote. "£3.50 for a roll, one bit of turkey, small bit of sausage and a bit of stuffing! And there was nothing else available for those who didn't choose Xmas lunch. Diabolical." Another said the food looked like "Lichen on dry bread," while one parent noted, "They didn't even push the boat out and put butter on the bap."

One parent said people can expect better food on airplanes and that people "get fed better in prison," they said. After his virality, Walsh posted a follow-up tweet, saying the school was "decent" and his kids are happy there.

"This lunch was obviously not their finest hour but we all get things wrong sometimes," he said. "Please don't be too harsh!" Insider has reached out to Steyning Grammar School and Sixth Form College for comment.

SETBACK

Miss World final postponed after Covid outbreak among contestants

SAN JUAN

The Miss World 2021 beauty contest has been postponed by its organisers because of concerns over coronavirus. The global broadcast finale was due to take place in Coliseo de Puerto Rico in San Juan on Thursday but has now been pushed back, organisers say.

The event was hit by at least 17 positive Covid test results, with seven "isolated" candidates reported to have possible infections. This led to more safety measures for the contestants, production team and spectators, which failed to stop the spread of infections.

The Miss World Organisation said it had decided to delay the event after discussions with the Puerto Rican Health Department. The final would be rescheduled and held in the same location within the next 90 days, it said.

Contestants and related staff now face "immediate quarantine, pending observation and further testing", and will be allowed to return home when they are cleared by local health officials.

Contestants from 98 countries are taking part in the Miss World contest this year, including Khadija Omar, Somalia's first hijabi candidate. The annual contest, which was cancelled last year, will mark its 70th anniversary on Thursday.

Last month at the Miss Universe pageant in Israel, Miss France, Clemence Botino, was forced into quarantine for 10 days after she tested positive on her arrival. "We are living [through] an international crisis. We have to handle it, now the situation made me stronger," she told the audience.

PENALTY

McDonald's ex-CEO pays \$105m to settle lawsuit over relationships with employees

NEW YORK

The former CEO of McDonald's Corp paid over \$105 million and apologized to the company in a settlement over the burger chain's allegations that he lied to cover up sexual relationships with employees.

As part of the settlement, ex-CEO Steve Easterbrook returned equity awards and cash worth over \$105 million that he received as a severance package in 2019, McDonald's said in a statement on Thursday. McDonald's sued Easterbrook in August 2020, nine months after reaching a severance deal, claiming he never gave directors a complete picture of his relationships with employees.

The company said that when it fired Easterbrook, it only knew of one non-physical consensual relationship with an employee. But an anonymous tip after his ouster led to the discovery of dozens of sexually explicit photos of women, including three employees, that Easterbrook sent to his personal email from his company account. In his response to the lawsuit at

the time, Easterbrook had claimed that McDonald's had information about his relationships on its computer systems when it negotiated his severance package.

"Today's resolution avoids a protracted court process and moves us beyond a chapter that belongs in our past," McDonald's Chairman Enrique Hernandez Jr. said in a message to employees seen by Reuters. McDonald's said it would dismiss its action against Easterbrook with prejudice.

"During my tenure as CEO, I failed at times to uphold McDonald's values and fulfill certain of my responsibilities as a leader of the company. I apologise to my former co-workers, the Board, and the company's franchisees and suppliers for doing so," Easterbrook said in the same news statement provided by McDonald's.

McDonald's said in April it would require new training at its restaurants to fight harassment and discrimination after facing lawsuits accusing it of subjecting female employees at corporate-owned outlets to widespread sexual harassment.



McDonald's ex-CEO, Steve Easterbrook.



MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV

MONDAY 13 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kipindi Maalum: Wizarata ya Madini - Live
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10 Soap: Love to Death
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Albu yako rpt
18:15 DWTV: Kesho leo
18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00 Afiya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW
22:15 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 14 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
10:25 Jagina rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afiya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt:
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Soap: Love to Death
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara

19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:20 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 15 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Uchumi wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Soap: Love to Death
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru rpt
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Soap: Rebecca rpt
18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo
19:00 Ijue Sheria
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Albu Yako
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:35 Ripoti Maalum
22:10 Soap: Love to Death
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

THURSDAY 16 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Shamba lulu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The base
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt

12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Shamsam za pwani
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Soap: Love to Death
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 17 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
10:25 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt
13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni Chetu rpt
14:15 Igizo: Rebecca rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean: Jumong
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

SATURDAY 18 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt

11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Korean: Jumong
13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt
15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe
16:15 Igizo: Rebecca
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Igizo: Rebecca
21:30 Art and Lifestyle
22:00 ITV TOP 10
22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt
01:15 DWTV

SUNDAY 19 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35 Bongo Movie rpt:
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebecca
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10 Mizengwe
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie:
00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt
02:05 Al Jazeera

CAPITAL

Mon 13 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Dw News Africa rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 The Décor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Beats of Love
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 14 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Innovation
20:30 Our Earth
Series: Beats of Love
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 15 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
Series: Beats of Love
20:00 Telenovela: Laws Of love
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 16 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:00 Our Earth rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Beats of Love
20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News

Frid 17 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:00 Shamba lulu rpt
12:30 Dw News Africa rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:00 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30
Capital Prime News

WORLD

Voters give scandal-hit UK PM 'a kicking' with by-election loss

LONDON

BORIS Johnson's Conservatives on Friday lost control of a parliamentary seat they have dominated for nearly 200 years, ratcheting up the pressure on Johnson from his lawmakers, who are in mutinous mood after a series of crises and scandals.

The defeat was described as 'a kicking' for the Conservatives, substantiating fears expressed publicly and privately that the party's reputation and electoral prospects are now suffering under Johnson's leadership.

The centrist Liberal Democrats party candidate, Helen Morgan, won the North Shropshire seat by nearly 6,000 votes, overturning a 23,000-vote Conservative majority from 2019.

"Our country is crying out for leadership. Mr Johnson, you're no leader," Morgan said in her victory speech.

The Conservatives had won every previous election for the mostly rural area of central England since the constituency was created in its current form in 1983. Conservative lawmakers have been dominant in the region for nearly 200 years.

The huge swing comes as British Prime Minister Johnson faces criticism on several fronts, including over reports his staff held

parties last Christmas when the country was in lockdown.

"Voters in North Shropshire were fed up and they gave us a kicking and I think they wanted to send us a message," Conservative chairman and lawmaker Oliver Dowden told Sky News. "I want to say as chairman of the Conservative Party, we've heard that loud and clear."

Nationwide opinion polls show Conservatives falling behind their main rivals, the Labour Party, following an outcry over lawmakers' second jobs, criticism of the way Johnson funded the lavish refurbishment of his flat, and a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"This has to be seen as a referendum on the prime minister's performance," Conservative lawmaker Roger Gale, a long-standing critic of Johnson, told the BBC.

"The Conservative Party has a reputation for not taking prisoners. If the prime minister fails, the prime minister goes."

Sleaze row
The vote for the North Shropshire seat, one of 650 in Britain's parliament, was called outside of the regular election cycle because the incumbent Conservative resigned after he was found to have broken rules on paid



Liberal Democrat candidate Helen Morgan speaks after being elected as Member of Parliament for North Shropshire at the by-election count centre in Shrewsbury, in the west of England, early yesterday. AFP

lobbying.

The government attempted to prevent that resignation by changing rules designed to stop corruption in parliament, but was forced to backtrack after the move provoked a backlash over integrity and trust under Johnson's leadership.

British voters often use such by-elections to punish the ruling party, but the scale of the Liberal Democrat victory suggests deep public dissatisfaction with Johnson's government.

It still holds a large majority of the seats in parliament after a comprehensive election win in 2019 built on a promise to 'Get Brexit Done' that united traditional right-leaning Conservative voters with a swathes of new supporters.

North Shropshire was a pro-Brexit, staunchly Conservative area. Analysts say yesterday's

heavy defeat may further undermine Johnson's authority over lawmakers, some of whom are already in open revolt over plans to introduce COVID-19 passports.

"He needs to change now. He needs to listen to the views of his party," said a senior Conservative lawmaker, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He described Johnson as a talented communicator in need of a better team of advisers.

Any leadership challenge would require 54 of the party's elected lawmakers to formally register their lack of confidence.

For now, that does not seem an imminent threat, with most of Johnson's toughest critics stressing the need for him to improve rather than calling outright for him to go

Britain's next national election is due in 2024.

Agencies

Chinese envoy: Democracy not a one-size-fits-all product

CANBERRA

DEMOCRACY is not a one-size-fits-all product that has only one model or configuration for the whole world, a senior Chinese envoy in Australia said.

"Whether a country is democratic or not should only be judged by its own people," Wang Xining, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Australia, said in an article titled "Why China's 'people's democracy' is a high-quality democracy" which was published in The Canberra Times on Wednesday.

"Democracy, ultimately, is whether the people can truly be the masters of their own country," Wang said, noting that the whole-process people's democracy created by the Communist Party of China has secured extraordinary historical achievements.

In the article, Wang explained the whole-process people's democracy in China, which includes democratic elections, consultation, decision-making,



The Great Hall of the People in Beijing. (PHOTO / IC)

ing, management and supervision. "It is a model of socialist democracy that covers all aspects of the democratic process and all sectors of society."

He pointed out people in some Western countries are awakened only to cast a vote but become dormant afterwards; they are offered great hopes

during electoral campaigning but have no say afterwards; and they are offered fulsome promises during electoral canvassing but are left empty-handed afterwards. "That is no true democracy," he added.

"There is no best democracy, only better."

China never exports its democratic model as every country has the right to choose a democratic system that suits its own national conditions, he said, noting that history has repeatedly proven that "it is not feasible for China to copy the political system of other countries."

"We should adopt an attitude of inclusiveness, learn from the strengths of others, digest and absorb them in the light of China's national conditions, so that we can turn them into our own strength, better ensuring that the Chinese people are the true masters of the country."

Xinhua

EU leaders struggle to find common ground on travel curbs

BRUSSELS

DIVISIONS within the European Union have deepened over travel rules to curb the spread of the Omicron variant of coronavirus, after Italy and Greece followed Portugal and Ireland in announcing additional curbs on travelers from other EU states.

The EU's 27 member states have been debating for weeks how to coordinate travel policy, with the aim of containing the virus without disproportionately disrupting travel within the border-free European Schengen area.

However, Italy said on Tuesday that from Dec 16 until the end of January it would require all travelers from EU countries to show a negative test on arrival, even if they are vaccinated.

The unvaccinated will face a five-day quarantine.

If applied strictly, the rules - which take effect on Thursday - would effectively restore frontier checks at Italy's land borders, echoing measures adopted by EU countries at the start of the pandemic. These triggered queues at the borders and caused shortages of food and medicines around the bloc.

"I have only seen that closing borders is in any case not the solution," Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel told reporters as he arrived for a summit of EU leaders in Brussels. The summit conclusions say any restrictions should be coordinated, based on objective criteria, and should not "disproportionately hamper free movement between Member States".



People queue up in front of a coronavirus testing station on Nov 24, 2021 in Berlin, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. File photo

Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins said freedom of travel inside the EU must not end.

Certificate

An EU diplomat was more explicit: "Adding tests to vaccine certificates means undermining the value of the COVID-19 certificate."

The EU introduced its COVID-19 certificate in July. It allows holders to travel freely across EU borders if they have been vaccinated against the disease, have recovered or have had a recent negative test.

The European Commission proposed on November 25 a tweak to the COVID pass that

would make proof of vaccination sufficient for unhindered movement across the EU for nine months after completion of the primary vaccination cycle.

The proposal has not yet been approved by member states. Portugal introduced a requirement for additional negative tests on the very day the Commission made its proposal. Ireland mirrored that move a few days later.

Greece announced the same measure on Wednesday, to take effect on Dec 19. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said it would apply only for the Christmas period and was meant to gain time against the spread of Omicron as Greece sped up its campaign to give a booster dose to all adults.

Agencies

Russia warns EU against hindering recognition of vaccine passports - diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has cautioned the European Union against politicizing and hindering efforts to mutually recognize vaccine certificates, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told TASS yesterday.

"We are working on the issue, we hope that results will be achieved quite quickly. We believe that since it is about making life easier for people and ensuring freedom of movement, the EU will neither politicize the process nor create artificial obstacles," he pointed out.

Russia and the EU are in talks on mutually recognizing coronavirus vaccine passports. The European Medicines Agency has still not approved Russia's Sputnik V jab for use in the European Union.

Member states that use Sputnik V (namely Hungary) have the right to issue EU digital vaccine certificates to those inoculated with Sputnik V, but other EU nations can act at their own discretion as to whether they will accept these documents or not.

S.Africa: Vaccines, prior infection leading to mild COVID-19 cases

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's health minister said yesterday that the government believed that vaccines and high levels of prior COVID-19 infection were helping to keep disease milder in a wave driven by the Omicron variant.

There have been early anecdotal accounts suggesting that the Omicron variant driving the fourth wave, which saw the country report a record number of daily infections earlier this week, is causing less severe illness than previous variants in South Africa but scientists say it is too early to draw firm conclusions.

"We believe that it might not necessarily just be that Omicron is less virulent, but ... coverage of vaccination (and) ... natural immunity of people who have already had contact with the virus is also adding to the protection," Health Minister Joe Phaahla told a news conference. "That's why we are seeing mild illness."

South Africa has given 44 percent of its adult population at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, more than many African countries but well short of the government's year-end target. But among the over-50s vaccination coverage levels are over 60 percent.

In another development, South Africa said it would donate roughly 2 million doses of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine to other African countries.

The shots will be made available over the next year through a medical supplies platform set up by the African Union.

"This donation embodies South Africa's solidarity with our brothers and sisters on the continent with whom we are united in fighting an unprecedented threat to public health and economic prosperity," the South African government said in a joint statement with an AU vaccine task team.

Africa calls for addressing health challenges with new public health order

ADDIS ABABA

COUNTRIES in Africa have called for addressing long-standing health challenges on the continent through a new public health order, officials and experts said here at a conference on Thursday.

The first international Conference on Public Health in Africa, which started on Tuesday, was co-hosted by the African Union and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The three-day event tackled the issue of vaccine inequity and weak health systems in Africa, as well as the impact and lessons learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The conference was held at an important time in history, said Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat.

"The African continent has not been spared the devastating effects of COVID-19, pushing our health systems to the limits," Mahamat said. Mahamat said the African Union's new public health order needs continental collaboration to bolster African manufacturing capacity for vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics.

He stressed the need to strengthen public health institutions for people-centered care, expand the public health workforce, establish partnerships and engage with the private sector.

President of Rwanda Paul Kagame, who is also the union's champion for domestic health financing, also echoed Mahamat's remarks.

"This has been a priority of the African Union for several years, but progress has not been fast enough. We cannot continue to rely on external funding for something so important to our future," said Kagame.

Xinhua

Britain's race to jab millions won't prevent case surge in coming weeks - experts

LONDON

THE British government's decision to ramp up vaccination in response to the new COVID-19 variant Omicron will take time to bring any benefit and may not prevent a surge in cases over the next few weeks, experts have said.

"Given the very high transmissibility of the Omicron variant and its ability to, at least partially, evade immunity, it should be clear that a rapid response is needed.

Instead, we have a policy based almost entirely on increasing vaccination rates that will take weeks to bring any benefit," Martin McKee, professor of European public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told Xinhua on Tuesday.

"This is an inevitable consequence of the disagreements within the ruling Conservative Party. It is a political rather than a scientific decision," the expert said.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently launched the "Omicron Emergency Booster National Mission" to encourage everyone eligible to "get boosted now."

Everyone aged 18 and over in England will have the chance to get their booster vaccine before the end of the year to combat the threat of rising Omicron variant cases.

The prime minister has also announced that England will move to "Plan B" amid the rapid spread of Omicron

in Britain, including a requirement for millions of people to work from home and mandatory face-mask wearing in a wider range of locations.

"The UK government has placed enormous emphasis on vaccines as the means of preventing the need to reimpose COVID restrictions. There was always a risk that a surge in cases could undermine that strategy," social policy expert Dr Stuart Wilks-Heeg from the Univer-

sity of Liverpool told Xinhua.

"The sudden emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant in the run-up to Christmas has made new restrictions inevitable.

Yet, the government's emphasis remains on vaccinations," said Wilks-Heeg. "Even with new rules on mask-wearing in public places and COVID passports for large events, it is a race that the UK's National Health Service is likely to lose," he added. "My view is that the govern-

ment, under pressure from the medical and scientific advisers, is erring on the side of caution while awaiting more extensive information on the risk from the Omicron variant," said Professor Iain Begg, an expert in politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Britain reported 78,610 new cases on Wednesday, the highest daily infections since the start of the pandemic, bringing the national caseload to 11,010,286, according

to the UK Health Security Agency. Another 4,671 Omicron cases have been confirmed in Britain on the same day, the biggest daily increase since the COVID-19 variant first detected in the country, taking the country's total Omicron cases to 10,017.

The latest data came as England's Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty warned that there will continue to be record numbers of COVID cases over the next few weeks.

Xinhua

President's human rights vision lauded

THE evolving Chinese philosophy on advancing human rights, as presented by President Xi Jinping, offers a viable approach to tackling difficulties facing the world amid the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, said leaders, officials and experts said.

They made the observation as China has made notable progress in basic elements constituting human rights, including people's livelihoods, health and democracy.

A book collecting Xi's discourses in recent years on respecting and protecting human rights was published this month by the Central Party Literature Press and distributed across the country.

In his articles, remarks and comments, Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, underscored the consistent Chinese philosophy of advancing human rights through development as well as the country's dedication to whole-process people's democracy.

"The ultimate human right is that people can lead a happy life. Since the first day of its founding, the CPC has fully committed itself to the well-being of the Chinese people and human development," Xi wrote in a letter in 2018 to a symposium celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Han Dayuan, a professor at the Law School of Renmin University of China and director of the university's Human Rights Cen-

ter, said, "In the early days of the founding of the Party, human rights became the goal pursued by the CPC. It can be said that the 100-year history of the Party is the history of exploring and realizing human rights in China."

Siddharth Chatterjee, the United Nations resident coordinator in China, highlighted the country's philosophy on advancing human rights in a recent interview, in which he cited a congratulatory letter sent by Xi on Dec 8 to the 2021 South-South Human Rights Forum.

In the letter, Xi said that putting people first and taking people's desire for a better life as the goal is the responsibility of all countries, and China is willing to "contribute wisdom and strength to the sound development of the international human rights cause".

Chatterjee said Xi's message was "about people's human rights being an aspect of human civilization and how important it is to adopt a people-centered approach".

"After all, 750 million people were lifted out of poverty in a matter of four decades. The UN has been a part of this journey since 1979 in China," he said.

According to Chatterjee, one of the most important principles of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals is to "leave no one behind", and this principle has been echoed by Xi's message, as well as the Global Development Initiative proposed by Xi earlier this year.

As for human rights in the global



President Xi Jinping

context, Xi's discourses stress that the practicing of human rights is varied, and countries around the world should and can choose the development path of human rights that suits their own national conditions.

"In terms of human rights protection, there is no best way, only the better one," Xi said in a congratulatory letter to a forum on human rights in 2015.

Xi's comments were made at a time when "quite a few politicians in some Western countries made paradoxical gestures on human

rights", said Tian Dewen, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences' Institute of European Studies.

"They ignore basic rights including health and safety while prioritizing political rights. They turn a blind eye to their own country's human rights problems, and they arbitrarily seek unilateral sanctions on other nations using the excuse of human rights," Tian said.

At the heart of all these paradoxical gestures is the Cold War era mentality fixating on confrontation, and "developing countries

should shore up their unity in preserving human rights based on the overwhelming public will and needs in their countries, boycott human rights-based diplomacy sought by Western countries and boost their global say in human rights", Tian said.

John Ross, former director of the London Economic and Business Policy Office, said at a symposium earlier this month that fewer than 5,000 people on the Chinese mainland had died from COVID-19, but "the US claims human rights and democracy are better in the US than China".

"What type of absurd reasoning can try to justify such a conclusion, which is in violation of all the facts on literal matters of life and death the most fundamental of all human rights?" said Ross, a senior fellow at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China.

Xinhua



Kremlin does not rule out contact between Putin, Musk

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin hopes the Russian market will be of interest for CEO of SpaceX and Tesla Motors Elon Musk and contact with President Vladimir Putin is not excluded in such a case, presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"Certainly, the President is open to communication with foreign businessmen, entrepreneurs, visionaries; he regularly communicates with them," the Kremlin's spokesman said, responding to a question whether Putin is interested in talking with Musk.

The Russian leader "has regular, actually annual communication with businessmen - the French, the Germans, with those having a broad presence on the Russian market," he noted.

"Elon Musk does not have a presence on our market but we hope this market will also become interesting for him over time and then we do not exclude communications with the President," Peskov added.

After all, 750 million people were lifted out of poverty in a matter of four decades. The UN has been a part of this journey since 1979 in China

China's Shenzhou-12 crew makes first public appearance since return from space

THE three astronauts of China's Shenzhou-12 crewed mission met the press on the afternoon of Dec. 7, making their first public appearance since their return to the Earth three months earlier.

At the press conference held by the China Astronaut Research and Training Center in Beijing, the three astronauts, i.e. Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo, were in good shape and full of energy.

Jing haipeng, head of the Astronaut Corps of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, introduced the crew members' recovery from their 90-day stay in space and their follow-up plans at the press conference.

According to Jing, recovery of the crew members following their return to Earth includes three stages, specifically quarantine, recuperation and observation. So far, they have already completed the first two stages.

The three astronauts are emotionally stable and in good psychological condition. Their weight is at the same level as that before the space flight, and their muscle strength, endurance, as well as motor and cardiopulmonary functions have been further restored and met expectations.

Jing said the three astronauts have entered the observation stage and will resume their regular training after completing health assessment.

During their stay in space, the crew members verified many key technologies for the construction and operation of China's Tiangong space station in orbit, including technologies concerning astronauts' long-term stay in orbit, bioregenerative life support system, supply of space materials, and extravehicular activities (EVAs), said Nie, noting that the three-month stay in space was both long and short.

Meanwhile, the astronauts completed the daily management of the



Chinese astronauts Nie Haisheng (middle), Liu Boming (right) and Tang Hongbo meet Chinese and foreign journalists at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China before setting out for the country's Shenzhou-12 spaceflight mission, June 16, 2021. File photo

combination of the Tianhe core module of the Tiangong space station and the Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, conducted a large number of science and technology experiments, and performed two EVAs, accumulating a lot of valuable experience, Nie added.

Nie, who has flown into space three times, said that each flight brought him something new. "The spacecraft has become roomier, more comfortable and reliable. The food we have in space is more diversified and we have gained more experience in enjoying the life in space, which couldn't have been possible without the wisdom and hard work of aerospace scientists and researchers," he said.

According to Liu, the first astronaut in China that has completed two EVAs, though faced with many unknown challenges during the Shenzhou-12 mission, China's first manned mission for the construction of its space station, they felt confident about finishing the tasks from the very beginning, as they had received strict, scientific, systematic, and comprehensive training before venturing into space.

"After actually living and working in space, I'm more convinced that our training has been effective and comprehensive," Liu pointed out.

The most challenging part of EVAs is the preparations before actual spacewalks, Tang said, who shared his EVA during the Shenzhou-12 mission at the press conference.

For one week, the crew prepared for their first EVA in collaboration with ground control to make sure that

extravehicular mobility units were fully functional with no possible omissions. It was because of such careful preparations that their first EVA during the Shenzhou-12 mission, which lasted for seven hours, went smoothly and all their tasks were completed successfully.

"After I stepped out of the space station, I felt like I was in a science fiction film. I will never forget the magnificent and impressive scenery in space," he said.

Tang is one of the first astronauts to enter China's space station. "It is really big and deep. The sleeping zone is quiet and the view from the space station is amazing," Tang said, adding that he couldn't wait to take pictures of the spectacular scenery outside the window with his mobile phone during break.

"Most importantly, the Tiangong space station is the space science experiment platform of our country. It provides precious opportunities for conducting science experiments and operations, which were fascinating and made us proud," he said.

People's Daily

Japan police investigate arson as at least 24 dead in clinic blaze

OSAKA, JAPAN

A FIRE swept through a psychiatry clinic in the Japanese city of Osaka yesterday and killed at least 24 people, police said, adding that they are investigating the incident as suspected arson.

The blaze broke out on the fourth floor of an office building in a busy district of the western city around 10 am, public broadcaster NHK said.

A man who looked in his 60s was seen carrying a bag that was leaking liquid into the clinic's reception area before the fire started, NHK said, citing people close to the probe.

An official at Osaka city's fire department earlier told Reuters that 27 people had suffered from cardiopulmonary arrest, the term used in Japan before death is officially confirmed. Another person was injured, the official said.

The fire was largely extinguished within 30 minutes, according to NHK. Footage showed smoke pouring out of the windows of the fourth floor, as well as the roof.

"When I looked outside I saw orange flames in the fourth-floor window of the building. A woman was waving her hands for help from the sixth floor window," a 36-year-old woman who works at a company nearby told Kyodo.

Located in a shopping and entertainment district not far from Osaka's main train station, the building also houses a beauty salon, a clothes shop and an English-language school, NHK said.

By evening most of the fire trucks were gone. The burned out, broken windows were covered with blue tarpaulin. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida offered condolences and said authorities were working to

determine the cause.

The father of a doctor who ran the clinic was unable to reach him by mobile phone, he told the Yomiuri newspaper. "Around noon I heard there was news of a fire on television and was surprised. My wife went to the site but we still don't know what's going on. I can't get through to my son's phone," he said.

The clinic's webpage was not accessible but an internet archive from earlier this year showed it treated patients for depression and panic problems, as well as physical issues such as sleep apnea and anemia.

Another woman who said she saw smoke coming from the window told Kyodo that power briefly went out in the surrounding area.

An arson attack at an animation studio in the city of Kyoto in 2019 killed more than 30 people and injured dozens. Agencies



Firetrucks are seen in front of a building, where a fire broke out in Osaka on yesterday. AFP

Egypt, Saudi agree to boost cooperation in maintaining regional security, stability

CAIRO,

EGYPTIAN Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Thursday agreed to boost cooperation in maintaining regional security and stability.

"We discussed the issues of fighting terrorism, the developments in Libya, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen, and the Iranian nuclear issue and the current relevant talks in Vienna," Shoukry said at

a joint press conference following their meeting in Egypt's capital Cairo.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have shared visions on dealing with the many challenges facing the national security of both countries, he added, hailing the "special relations" between the two countries at the official and public levels.

Meanwhile, the Saudi foreign minister agreed that Saudi Arabia and Egypt enjoy historical and firm relations and close cooperation in several fields, noting the leader-



Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry (R) meets with Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Cairo, Egypt, on Dec. 16, 2021. Xinhua

ships of the two countries have sincere willingness to take them to broader levels in all fields.

Prince Faisal said the meeting addressed several issues of mutual interest, including bolstering joint work to maintain security and stability in the Middle East and Africa.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia support the government of exiled Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and reject the current control of the Houthi rebels over vast swathes of Yemen including the capital Sanaa.

A Saudi-led coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict in 2015 to support Hadi's government by launching regular airstrikes on Houthi military targets, while the Houthis have responded with drone and missile attacks against Saudi border cities.

"We discussed the Saudi initiative to end the Yemeni crisis and reach a comprehensive political solution, as well as the political and security challenges facing the Arab region," the Saudi minister said at the press conference. Xinhua

Company committed to supporting tennis

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE African Institute of Integrative Medicine (AIIM) says it is committed to the development of sports in Tanzania, officials of the company disclosed recently.

An official from the company, Camilla Sherr, issued the comments at the end of this year's Kijenge Open Senior tennis tournament which was held in Arusha last weekend.

She said AIIM is happy to be involved in sports development in the country and promised to continue helping the development of tennis.

AIIM, which is based in Moshi, was the sponsor of the Rafiki Foundation team, which competed in the tournament, and some of its players performed well in the showdown.

Camilla pointed out: "AIIM is very happy to sponsor the enthusiastic Rafiki Foundation Moshi tennis team."

"We also provide the team with natural products to help the players in case of injuries and other health care issues."

"Sports and exercises play an important role in keeping a person healthy and strong," she said.

AIIM is a natural, holistic, and alternative healthcare organization that seeks to improve the health and well-being of people throughout Tanzania and Africa.

It has a center in Moshi and 12 outreach clinics to reach those living in distressed conditions, providing care for about 13,000 patients in Kilimanjaro.

AIIM is a registered Tanzanian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Arusha Gymkhana Club (AGC) senior tennis players dominated the four-day Kijenge Senior Open event which took place at Arusha Inter-

national Conference Centre (AICC) courts.

AGC player, Omari Sulle, emerged as the tournament's winner and the club's other player, Frank Menard, was runner-up in the men's singles of the four-day tournament.

Esther Nankulange and Edna John, also from the same club, emerged as winner and runner-up respectively in the showdown's women's singles event.

Justine Massawe from Dar es Salaam's Kijitonyama Tennis Club and Sulle from AGC were winners in men's doubles while Menard and Goodluck Shelemo, both from AGC, was the event's runners-up.

The cash prize was handed over to winners, the men's singles event champion was presented with 400,000/-, the runner-up got 250,000/-.

Two semi-finalists walked away with 100,000/- each, the quarterfinalist got 50,000/- each.

In women's singles, the winner received 300,000/-, runner-up walked away with 200,000/-, two semi-finalists raked in 100,000/-.

Kijenge Senior Open tennis tournament's organizer, Jackson Mdee, stated 64 players featured in the tournament, which ended on Sunday.

He thanked all players and sponsors of the tournament, including main sponsors CPS, for making it very successful.

The 64 players came from Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, Morogoro Gymkhana Club, Moshi Tennis Club, Dodoma Tennis Club, Kijitonyama Tennis Club, and Kijenge Tennis Club.

Mdee said the tournament was staged after an outcry by many senior tennis players who feel sidelined as many tennis events in the country are for juniors.

Athletes head to Arusha for Karatu Festival

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

PREPARATIONS for the Karatu Sports and Culture Festival, to be held in Arusha on December 24, 2021, are gaining pace.

The organizer of the annual festival, Meta Petro, said preparations are progressing well, and athletes continue to register for the festival.

He said athletes from the military including Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF), Prisons, National Service (JKT), street clubs, and other athletes have registered in large numbers.

The festival is expected to involve 10km for men, 5km race for women, and 2.5 km for youngsters, as well as cycling races for men and women.

The men's race will witness the competitors cover 60km, female competitors will feature in the 30 km race.

There are also soccer, volleyball events, acrobatics, dances, and choir contests.

Petro said that December 20 is the deadline for registration for the festival, which will have no entry fee.

Various prizes have been set aside

for winners.

He said that apart from people getting the opportunity to watch the festival free of charge, the participants' accommodation and food expenses have been paid for.

Petro said since the start of the Olympic Solidarity (OS)-sponsored festival 15 years ago, participants do not pay an entry fee.

According to Petro, the decision gears towards uplifting the Karatu youths' talents, giving them a platform to follow in the footsteps of athletics legend, Filbert Bayi, who hails from Karatu.

Bayi won the men's 1500m race at the Commonwealth Games held in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1974.

Bayi ran the first 800m in an astonishing one minute, 52.2 seconds, conserved energy on the third lap, and held off 22-year-old New Zealander, John Walker, to set a new world record of 3:32.16.

He also broke the World One-Mile record and won a silver medal in 3000m steeplechase at the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

Scanning reasons for Azam FC second stint head coach Lwandamina's failure

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

SOCCER analysts are groping for explanations why experienced Zambian coach, George Lwandamina, has failed in his second stint as head coach at Azam FC, indeed at the same time as Cameroon also-great, Joseph Omog, similarly threw in the gauntlet at Mtibwa Sugar FC.

Finding the reasons can at times be a game of wit rather than investigation for the proper causes for that to happen, though situations differ.

The two coaches have worked within one season, for an entire year for Lwandamina and a lesser portion for Omog who came later.

Former Geita Gold FC head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, once coached Taifa Stars and also failed, a bit differently though.

Raising these three instances of failure of expatriate coaches is helpful for it widens the scenario such that it becomes more or less normal, instead of being a strange situation where a foreign professional coach fails to handle a premier league side.

Comparisons are helpful to see if the dominant elements that appear to have characterized one or another situation were also noticeable in the other areas, or indeed if they have been examined by pundits for the sake of public clarity on the issues.

It is a bit of precision but also some guesswork issues as to what mattered in one or another situation as failures are unexpected.

In the case of Etienne Ndayiragije at Geita Gold FC, the position was virtually unanimous that the coach failed to keep up with club politics and intrigue, whose impact on training and team cohesion is anybody's guess, but the situation was clear enough.

It would thus imply that Fred Felix 'Minziro,' a veteran in the club who took the side to the Premier League, is more at home with those situations and is unlikely to be deterred, that people may try to 'eat' behind his back, etc. Rough places need rough people.

Not so easy either with Lwandamina or Omog, and again it is unclear how far their situations were similar, but for once,



Zambian coach, George Lwandamina. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

the two clubs appear to be more well organized than the Premier League newcomers despite their admirable potential for funds for the club if they wish.

From what transpired in an FM radio station interview about the return of coach Salum Mayanga to Mtibwa Sugar after a stint with Prisons FC, it is clear that clubs are falling back on experience to cover gaps.

Recruiting of real player talent as well as the coaching staff is done selectively, to check excessive costing at any moment.

All these coaches are national team level coaches so they are being present in Premier League sides at the same time says something about the level of financing of our soccer at present by comparison with others, despite that, like themselves, we have crying gaps in that area.

But for precisely that reason, it wouldn't be expected that either of them would fail to satisfy expectations of club managements, while by contrast failure also means that coaches that may not be rated as high as themselves, did a better job at that.

In a similar vein, organizational drawbacks

are peppered over by recruiting an experienced coach, belatedly.

While Lwandamina, Ndayiragije, and Omog failed to impress, the situation seems a bit different for Mayanga, who is returning to his traditional point of engagement as an employee with professional abilities that can be fielded anywhere depending on circumstances.

Still, there is a circular itinerary of going up to the top (Taifa Stars) and then coming down (to well-placed Premier League sides first, and then back home), which is also the mark of players recruited, and letting down those teams.

For once, analysts figure out that many players that scouts look for are past their peak, and fail to help those clubs.

That adds another parameter as to whether this aspect can be corrected in how the Premier League, in particular, is conducted, especially the lack of academies where talent is groomed, or not enough to go around.

Youth competitions bring promise but it isn't an argument against older, experienced players but a matter of balance, and indeed just who fits into what position and by what philosophy of the game.

Coaches often don't have enough time to do such experiments, often end up with negative results.

So there is a marginal issue of what this string of failures mean for the coaches and for the clubs, where a simple answer is to repeat the player scenario on coaches - as to what philosophy he brings to the game, and more intensely, what level of motivation he displays after a decade or longer in that field.

So coaches can be compared to players and at times they change over a short period, for instance how Hans van der Pluijm, after a string of successes with his Yanga squad, started to be overly friendly with players and could even dine and wine in hotels in their company.

The leadership smelt a rat and called it a day.



Officials of the Tanzania Athletes Commission (Kawata) and their counterparts from the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) in a group photo with members of the Kawata General Assembly after the meeting at the Dodoma Hotel Hall last Thursday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Former athletes to help in sports development in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S former athletes have committed to help in the development of sports in the country.

The former athletes said so on Thursday in Dodoma at the opening of the Tanzania Olympians Association (TOA)'s annual general meeting and Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) general meeting.

The meeting was opened by TOC president, Gulam Rashid.

Rashid asked the former athletes to be at the forefront of developing sports in the country.

He said if the former athletes

actively play part in developing sports, the country's sports sector will grow to the desired levels.

"Former athletes have vast experience in sports, they can be good coaches, we are asking them to contribute to the development of sports by operating as leaders, coaches."

"The contribution of former athletes is much needed in the country especially at this time," he said.

TOA was set to go to the polls on Thursday in Dodoma where new office bearers were expected to be elected.

Delegates were to vote for chairman, vice-chairman, secre-

tary-general, assistant secretary, treasurer and assistant, and executive committee members.

After TOA general meeting and election, the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) will hold its annual general meeting.

TOC assistant secretary, Suleiman Jabil, disclosed all preparations for the annual general meeting were completed.

"All is set for the annual general meeting and delegates have started arriving for the meeting, we hope it will be a fruitful meeting with positive results coming out of it," he said.

The annual general meeting will among other issues discuss

activities which were undertaken in the just-ended year and plans for next year.

In a previous interview, Jabil said after the annual general meeting, TOC will host a three-day seminar that will involve delegates from all local sports associations affiliated to the committee and government sports officials from both Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania.

He said they will use a participatory approach at the seminar. Henry Tandau and Jabil were set to be the training instructors.

"We will, among other issues, discuss the importance of sports to development, sports manage-

ment, the way forward to competing at 2024 Paris Olympic Games," he revealed.

He also said the seminar will clarify ways used for selecting athletes to represent the country at All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games.

The official pointed out: "You will agree with me that of late there have been complaints from sports stakeholders, government and national sports associations about how the teams, which represent the country at major international tournaments, are selected, so at the end of the seminar people will know which format is used."

"It has now become a tendency that everyone blames TOC when the country is represented by few athletes at All Africa Games, Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games."

"During the time ahead of those games we work closely with national sports associations and they know what to do for them to have many athletes at those games."

"After the athletes are selected and the government comes in the final stages, leaders of sports association start siding with the government, accusing TOC of selecting few athletes, we know why this happens," he said.

Aguero's legacy is so much more than one iconic goal

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SERGIO Aguero scored the most memorable goal in Premier League history, an iconic moment, three minutes and 20 seconds into stoppage time against Queens Park Rangers in 2012. It sealed Manchester City's first title in 44 years and ensured that his name will always be associated with the ultimate drama and excitement that football can bring.

But as the sporting world reflects on Aguero's career following his decision to retire -- at the age of just 33 -- due to a heart-related health issue detected while playing for Barcelona in October, has his defining goal denied the Argentina international the status his overall achievements would ordinarily guarantee?

Aguero, who left City for the Camp Nou at the end of last season after 10 years at the Etihad, is unquestionably one of the greatest players to have performed in the Premier League. He was tough, with a deadly ability to score inside or outside the penalty area, and boasting a right-footed shot of brutal power and accuracy. He overtook Thierry Henry to become the highest-scoring non-English player in Premier League history, ending on 184 goals compared to the former Arsenal forward's 175. Aguero also eclipsed Alan Shearer, the all-time leading scorer in the Premier League, by netting 12 hat-tricks to overtake the former Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United striker's tally of 11.

There are more records, too. Aguero has the best minutes-per-goal ratio of any player who has scored more than 10 Premier League goals, with a goal every 108 minutes on average; Henry is second with a goal every 122 minutes.

The Argentine is one of just five players to have scored five goals in a Premier League game -- he managed it in a 66-minute appearance against Newcastle in Oct. 2015 -- and he dislodged Wayne Rooney from the top spot by scoring more goals for one Premier League club than any other player.

Aguero managed 184 for City -- one more than Rooney scored for Manchester United. Aguero also shares the record with Henry of having scored 20 or more goals in five consecutive Premier League seasons. But despite all of the above -- and five Premier League titles, six EFL Cups and an FA Cup -- Aguero still lacks the acclaim and recognition that the likes of Henry, Eric Cantona, Cristiano Ronaldo and Mohamed Salah have all earned during the Premier League era.

Perhaps it is because Aguero was happy to live under the radar at City, choosing not to pursue the wider appeal that comes with the commercial branding that Henry, Cantona and Ronaldo were all more than happy to embrace.

And maybe he did not develop the mystique Salah has nurtured at Liverpool by selectively choosing when he speaks and to whom. Salah knows his commercial value and exploits it expertly with glossy interviews in Vanity Fair and Time, guaranteeing himself exposure to a much wider audience than the sporting world.

Henry, Cantona, Ronaldo and Salah have also benefited from spending their Premier League days in red shirts. Despite the successes of City and Chelsea over the past decade-and-a-half, United, Arsenal and Liverpool remain the biggest clubs with the broadest fan bases in English football, and players who shine for those teams automatically find themselves propelled into a different level of celebrity than any other.

City have given us some of the most important players of the Premier League era -- Aguero, David Silva, Vincent Kompany and Yaya Toure -- but they are not in the same league as Henry, Cantona, Ronaldo and Salah, or Rooney, Steven Gerrard, Patrick Vieira and Roy Keane when it comes to enduring appeal and recognition.

That is perhaps one reason behind Aguero's status beneath the absolute elite, even when his records and incredible consistency prove he deserves to be alongside all of those names in the pantheon of greats.

Until signing for Barcelona this summer, Aguero had not played for one of football's historic super clubs. He signed for City after bursting on to the world stage at Atletico Madrid, where he won the Golden Boy award given to the most exciting young talent in the game, before spending the next decade at the Etihad.

Aguero also spent 15 years playing for Argentina during a fallow period for one of world's great football nations and at a time when Lionel Messi claimed all of the spotlight, for good and bad.

When Argentina finally ended their 28-year wait for international success by winning the Copa America earlier this year, Aguero had become a bit-part player who played just one minute during the team's knockout campaign and spent the semifinal and final on the substitutes bench.

His summer move to Barcelona was supposed to offer Aguero the fairytale end to his career, playing alongside his close friend Messi and just maybe winning the Champions League title that always eluded him at City.

But Messi left for Paris Saint-Germain before a ball had been kicked and Barca began to spiral into a meltdown, on and off the pitch, which has seen them sack manager Ronald Koeman and fail to reach the Champions League knockout phase for the first time since 2003-04.

Aguero's move was already going badly before he asked to be substituted, four minutes before half-time, during the 1-1 draw against Alaves in October because of chest pains which turned out to be the heart condition that has forced him into retirement.

English Premier League's COVID crisis: Explaining protocols, postponements

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE Premier League is about to embark on its busiest period of the season, with 40 games -- plus all four Carabao Cup quarterfinals -- due to be played in the space of 17 days starting this Saturday. But a resurgence of COVID-19 is threatening to wreak havoc on the fixture list.

Early on Thursday, Manchester United's home game with Brighton this weekend was the fifth Premier League fixture to be postponed in the space of six days because of a COVID-19 outbreak that had ripped through the squad of one of the competing teams, with Leicester vs. Tottenham (Thursday), Burnley vs. Watford (Wednesday), Brighton vs. Tottenham (Sunday) and Brentford vs. Manchester United (Tuesday) also being forced to be called off because of several positive test results.

Speaking at a news conference on Thursday, Brentford head coach Thomas Frank -- who confirmed his club has recorded 13 positive cases in the latest round of testing -- urged the Premier League to postpone this weekend's round of fixtures, saying "COVID-19 cases are going through the roof at all Premier League clubs, everyone is dealing with it and having problems."

Sources told ESPN that a number of clubs are even pushing for a shutdown until the new year given the increasing number of cases. In the hours prior to Thursday night's planned kick-off, the Premier League announced four additional postponements of games scheduled for the coming weekend, with Southampton vs. Brentford, Watford vs. Crystal Palace, West Ham vs. Norwich and Everton vs. Leicester all adding to the growing list of games in need of new dates. Of games that did still take place, Liverpool announced three absences from their Thursday game vs. Newcastle due to suspected positive tests.

Football's coronavirus problems in the United Kingdom are a reflection of society, with the country recording 78,610 positive cases on Wednesday -- the highest national figure since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

This week, the Premier League introduced emergency measures in an attempt to reduce the risk of outbreaks within clubs and ensure that fixtures can go ahead without disruption. But the game faces a turbulent period in the weeks ahead; how will the Premier League navigate a safe path through the latest COVID-19 outbreak?

"What is the situation right now?"

The Premier League reported 42 positive COVID-19 cases among players and staff at its 20 clubs between Dec 6-12 -- the highest weekly total since comprehen-



Thomas Frank

sive testing began in May 2020. Following the outbreaks at Tottenham, Manchester United, Watford and Brentford this week, the record number of positive tests is expected to hit a record high when the Premier League releases the numbers at the end of this round of testing.

The postponement of Tottenham's Europa Conference League tie against Rennes on Dec. 9 due to 13 positive tests was swiftly followed by their league game against Brighton on Dec. 12 being called off. The domino effect is evident, with Brentford-United and Burnley-Watford also falling victim to COVID-19.

However, Tottenham's Premier League trip to Leicester on Thursday was postponed hours before kickoff after Leicester reported nine positive cases on Wednesday, with Tottenham still dealing with the after-effects of their own outbreak, which returned 15 positives among players and staff.

Premier League rules stipulate that games must be played if at least 14 players are fit and available, although that rule is open to interpretation depending on the age and experience of those players deemed fit to play.

"Will there be a temporary shutdown of games?"

This is a fast-moving situation, with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson warning that the country faces a "tidal wave" of infections because of the omicron variant, and sources have told ESPN that the Premier League will ultimately be guided by government advice and instruction. But as of today, the Premier League is not planning to halt the fixture list, opting instead to judge each game on a case-by-case basis.

The view within the Premier League is that there remains enough

space in the calendar for games to be rescheduled, and it is their desire for postponed games to be played as quickly as the fixture list allows. Although sources at the Premier League have said that May 22 is a "hard stop" in terms of the league season, the absence of a major tournament next summer because of the World Cup in Qatar being moved to the winter (Nov. 21 to Dec. 18) does give scope for an extension to the season if absolutely necessary.

Clubs have asked the league for a full shutdown, and while that request is considered, it's clear that some are already facing fixture problems. Spurs must reschedule the Brighton and Leicester games as well as their clash with Burnley, which was called off last month because of snow. They're also still attempting to find a date to play Rennes in the UEFA Europa Conference League, a situation that has become more challenging with France announcing it will close its border with the UK on Saturday because of COVID-19.

"What's being done by the Premier League and its clubs to prevent outbreaks?"

The Premier League announced on Dec. 13 that it was implement-

ing its emergency measures in an effort to reduce transmission within clubs. This means that players and staff must undergo daily testing in the form of a lateral flow device (LFD) and two PCR tests a week. Any positive results on an LFD must be followed up by a PCR.

Additionally, one PCR test must be taken on the day of the game, which sources have said will be an increasing factor in terms of games being called off late, such as Burnley vs. Watford.

Within training grounds and stadiums, face coverings must be worn while indoors, social distancing measures are being reintroduced and treatment time is also limited. "Red zones" -- areas within training ground and stadiums restricted to players and staff -- have been reinstated, and clubs have also been told to resume remote media conferences having only recently allowed journalist back into training grounds.

With society not being told to observe a lockdown by the government, the Premier League are not insisting that clubs impose secure bubbles for players and staff, but clubs have been urged to promote the benefits of booster jabs to all staff as the best defence against CO-

VID-19.

"Are players being urged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?"

The vaccination status of players is not fully known, and no figures have been released since the Premier League revealed in October that 68% of players were fully vaccinated and 81% had had their first dose. Sources have told ESPN that a concerted push within the game since October to urge vaccination resulted in an uptick in players being jabbed, but some continue to play and train without being vaccinated.

Leading managers such as Manchester City's Pep Guardiola and Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp have urged players to be vaccinated, but the Premier League is not imposing a vaccine mandate, opting instead to point to government advice and messaging.

"What is the procedure for games to be postponed, and why are they being called off so close to kick-off?"

Norwich manager Dean Smith claimed earlier this week that clubs needed "guidance" as to the rules and regulations surrounding COVID-related postponements, but sources at the Premier League have told ESPN that all clubs voted on the protocols, which are in Article 17 of the PL Handbook, so there should be no confusion.

Yet it is a vague procedure. Theoretically, games must be played if clubs have 14 fit players, but if some of those are untried teenagers from the club's Academy, it becomes a grey area.

A club must contact the Premier League and various factors are taken into account, including the standard of the available players, whether the training ground has been closed and if the outbreak is controllable or not. The safety of players and staff -- from both teams -- is the primary factor in deciding on a postponement. The views of broadcasters is not a consideration, as highlighted by the postponement of games due to be televised this week.

However, there has been criticism of the timing of the call-offs at Brentford and Burnley this week. The postponement of Brentford's home game against United on Tuesday was announced close to midnight on Monday, while Burnley's clash against Watford was called off at less than three hours before the game was scheduled to kick-off.

Sources have told ESPN that games are called off as soon as positive test results are confirmed and that, as the public has discovered during the pandemic, those results can be delivered at any time of the day.

"What about fans? Are we heading for games behind closed doors again in England?"

In terms of games being played behind closed doors, that will be an issue for the government, and there are no plans for stadiums to be closed at this stage. As such, the Premier League is adhering to the government's Plan B of restrictions, which means that all venues with capacities of more than 10,000 people -- which includes every Premier League stadium -- must adopt a system of checking spectators for COVID-19 vaccination status or proof of a negative LFD test within 48 hours of entry.

Sources have said that it is impractical for clubs to check the status of every supporter, so the Premier League is tasking clubs to do spot-checks of at least 20% of spectators. This is because of bottlenecks caused by large amounts of fans entering grounds 10-15 minutes before kick-off and the inability of stewards to check each of them without delaying the kick-off or causing congestion at the turnstiles.

Face coverings are not required to be worn by fans in the stadium.

"So what happens now? Will the Premier League ride out this storm without disruption?"

That's the question that nobody can answer right now. The medical and scientific advisers working for the UK government have warned of as many as 200,000 COVID-19 infections a day in the week leading up to Christmas, with Dr. Jenny Harries, the CEO of the UK Health Security Agency, saying on Wednesday that the numbers in the coming days will be "staggering." That is the landscape within which football is operating right now, so it would be naive to expect the Premier League to be immune to the problems facing society.

There are likely to be more postponements and in the days ahead -- the question is whether it is a manageable number or if it becomes a problem that requires more stringent measures.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

English Premier League's
COVID crisis: Explaining
protocols, postponements

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Simba SC aims to scale to NBC Premier League summit



Simba SC. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC can go top of the 2021/22 NBC Premier League for the first time this season when they face Kagera Sugar today afternoon at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera.

Unbeaten so far, Simba SC has 18 points and is positioned second in the table.

The Msimbazi Street club knows victory will see the squad leapfrog rivals, Yanga, into the top spot.

They also cannot afford to drop points against the Sugar millers as that will open a five-point gap and probably leave the four-time back-to-back champions' title hopes tilted early in the season.

The defending champions' head coach, Pablo Martin, could, on the one hand, have Chris Mugalu back to pair with either John Bocco or Meddie Kagere in the attack along with on form Dennis Kibu.

On the other hand, after finding some momentum Kagera Sugar has just hit a bit of a rocky patch and has now gone three Premier League matches without a win.

They will be mindful of the fact that several teams below them in the table are within touching distance.

They could find themselves in the relegation zone in the standings by the time Sunday's encounter rolls around if they fail to stop Simba SC from inflicting damage.

Kagera Sugar's head coach, Francis Baraza, says they have to acknowledge they are facing a big team not only in Tanzania but also in Africa

and that should reflect in their preparation on and off the pitch.

The gaffer said: "We are ready, we fully appreciate the fact that Simba SC is a big team in Africa. They have done well in promoting Tanzanian football and we have to give them due respect."

In head-to-head stats, Kagera Sugar and Simba SC have clashed in 22 top-flight league matches since the 2010/11 season.

The Msimbazi Street squad has claimed 11 wins compared to six for Kagera Sugar, while five games have been drawn.

Kagera Sugar's line-up from their

0-0 draw with Azam FC on December 12: Said Kipao, Eric Kyaruzi (Abdallah Mfuko 20'), Dickson Mhulu, David Luhende, Stephen Duah, Abdallah Seseme, Ally Nassoro, Hassan Mwa-terema, Yusuph Lwenge, Eric Mwijage (Meshack Mwamita 87'), Abeid Athuman (Nassoro Kapama 61').

Simba SC's line-up from their goalless draw with Yanga on December 11: Aishi Manula, Shomari Kapombe, Mohamed Hussein, Henock Inonga, Joash Onyango, Sadio Kanoute, Jonas Mkude, Meddie Kagere (John Bocco 79'), Dennis Kibu (Rally Bwalya 63'), Bernard Morrison (Yusuph Mhulu 80').



Mtibwa Sugar's assistant coach, Awadh Issa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

Mtibwa Sugar targets successive wins

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MTIBWA Sugar will be looking for just its second win of the 2021/22 NBC Premier League campaign when the outfit hosts KMC FC at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro on Saturday afternoon.

Mtibwa Sugar has struggled this season and will be desperately looking for a win to lift themselves from where they are perched on the league table.

They currently lie 15th on the table with five points.

Both teams come into the game on the back of wins with Mtibwa Sugar beating Biashara United 2-0 to register their first victory of the season while KMC FC emerged with a 2-0 victory over league debutants, Geita Gold, FC 2-0.

Habib Kondo's KMC FC has seemingly turned the corner after a rough start to the league campaign, collecting seven points from a possible nine in the squad's last three league fixtures, which included beating Azam FC.

That impressive run of form has seen KMC FC claw its way up the league ladder raising its tally for the season to nine points.

Former Simba SC forwards, Charles Ilamfya and Miraji Athuman, will be key for the visitors while the hosts will look to Ugandan import, Boban Zirintusa, for goals.

In head-to-head stats, Mtibwa Sugar and KMC FC have met in six league matches since 2017/18.

The Kinondoni Municipal Council-owned outfit has claimed three wins compared to one for the Turiani millers, while two matches have ended in a draw.

Mtibwa Sugar has won just once in 12 home matches in the rivalry, suffering four defeats in the process.

The most recent meetings took place on June 21, 2021, in which the two sides settled for a 1-1 draw at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam, and before that on December 11, 2020, Mtibwa Sugar beat KMC FC 1-0 at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Mtibwa Sugar's line-up from their 2-0 win over Biashara United on December 12: Abdultwalib Mshery, Dickson Daud, Abdi Makanga, Abdi Banda, George Makang'a (Joseph Mkele 59'), Salum Kanoni, Steve Nzigamasabo, Riphath Khamis (Ally Makarani 78'), Omary Sultan, Juma Nyangi (Baraka Majogoro 40'), Said Khamis, Salum Kihimbwa,

KMC's line-up from their 2-0 win over Geita Gold FC on December 5: Faroukh Shikalo, Ally Ramadhan, Andrew Vincent, Kelvin Kijiri, Abdulrazack Hamza, Masoud Abdallah, Charles Ilamfia (Hassan Kabunda 57'), Emmanuel Mvuyekure (Martin Kiggi 81'), Awesu Ally (Mohamed Samatta 57'), Matheo Anthony (Ismail Gambo 71').

Azam FC out to end Mbeya City FC's unbeaten run

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

HOSTS Azam FC will be out to end Mbeya City FC's unbeaten run in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League season when the two sides meet today at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Azam FC, the 2013/14 Mainland Premier League champions, are nine points adrift of this season's league leaders, Yanga, after eight games, and dropping more points will see the former fall out of title contention before even the halfway mark.

After last weekend's frustrating 0-0 draw with Kagera Sugar, Azam FC parted ways with head coach George Lwandamina and has appointed Mohamed Badru on an interim basis as the outfit is hunting for a permanent replacement.

All eyes will be on Badru, who was in charge of Gwambina FC and Mtibwa Sugar last season, to see what changes the tactician is going to implement in his first league game in charge following a 4-0 triumph over second-tier outfit, Green Warriors FC, in a Federation Cup match played at the same venue on Wednesday.

In Mbeya City FC, Azam FC faces a hungry side that wants to prove a point against one of the big boys having gone eight games without defeat.

The Mbeya-based outfit is one of only three sides that are still unbeaten this season.



Azam Football Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Iddy Selemani 'Nado' and Ayoub Lyanga are ruled out of the game through injury, leaving Azam FC looking to the returning Zimbabwean striker, Prince Dube, and Idris Mbombo to do damage in the final third.

Mbeya City FC will look to Juma Luizio, Paul Nonga, and Richardson Ngondya for goals if they are to leave Azam Complex unscathed.

In head-to-head encounters, Azam FC and Mbeya City FC have met 16 times in the league since the 2013/14 season when the latter earned top-flight promotion.

Azam FC has won 10 of those encounters with five draws and only one loss.

The most recent meetings took place on February 18, 2021, in which Azam FC won 2-0 thanks to goals netted by Nado and Prince Dube while David Mwasa notched Mbeya City FC's consolation, and before that on September 20, 2020, Azam FC beat Mbeya City FC 1-0.

Azam FC's line-up from their goalless draw with Kagera Sugar on December 12: Ahmed Salula, Bruce Kangwa, Nico Wadada, Daniel Amoah, Abdallah Kheri, Paul Katema, Charles Zulu, Kenneth Muguna (Khleffin Hamdoun 82'), Tepsi Evance (Ismail Aziz 64'), Idris Mbombo, Prince Dube (Frank Domayo 76').

Mbeya City FC's line-up from their 2-0 win over Dodoma Jiji FC on December 6: Ibrahim Isihaka, Juma Shemvuni, Kenneth Kunambi, Mpoki Mwakinyuke, Samson Madeleke, Paul Nonga, Aziz Mwambalasa, Eliud Ambokile (Frank Ikobela 69'), Richardson Ngondya, Juma Luizio.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

