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Maalim Seif Hamad eyes Z'bar presidency



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AfDB joins WTO to support trade finance



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TRCS calls for culture of volunteerism



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All security guards firms for new registration



JPM appoints new DC, DED

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed new District Commissioner (DC) for Mvomero in Morogoro Region and District Executive Director (DED) for Biharamulo in Kagera Region.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications at State House Chamwino said yesterday that Albinus Mgonya becomes Mvomero DC while Waziri Kombo comes in as DED for Biharamulo.

Mgonya was Assistant Regional Administrative Secretary for Rukwa, while the statement did not mention any new duties for Mohamed Utaly whom he replaces.

The directorate was also mum as to what Wendi Ng'ahala who was DED for Biharamulo, will be doing next. Kombo was until now municipal human resources officer for Morogoro.

The appointments were effective yesterday July 5, with the appointees expected at State House Chamwino today at 10am for the swearing in ceremony, it said.

These changes are part of the president's brushing up of regional administration in a sensitive moment of election campaigns.

On Friday last week, the Head of State appointed two regional commissioners, nine DCs and a Regional Administrative

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Govt replacing 33-year leases with longer ones



Alfred Shao (R), NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Wholesale Banking, briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who visited the bank's pavilion at the 44th edition of the annual Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair Grounds at the weekend. Looking on (2nd-R) is NMB chief of finance Benedicto Baragomwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

LEASED land occupants with 33-year titles should visit newly established regional lands offices to have their title deeds enhanced to 99 year leases.

The Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi, said this at the weekend when inaugurating the Mara regional Lands office, the 12th opened so far.

All those with land occupancy rights with approved, surveyed plots but whose title deeds reflect 33-year occupancy rights, should have the deeds amended to 99 year lease, he said.

More than 50,000 land owners in Mara Region have not followed up to collect their title deeds, which are basically of 33 years entitlement, the minister noted, urging them to seek the titles and have them altered to reflect 99 years. The change will make it possible for banks to issue bigger loans to beneficiaries, he said.

Noting that Mara Region is host to numerous land conflicts, he said the new land office will help to solve such conflicts instead of their being sent to the ministry.

In the past the ministry used to handle land occupancy conflicts, but with vast distances to make spot inspections of claims, regional land offices were being established as a solution to the logistic handicap, he stated.

Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima said his office receives varied complaints, with half of around 12

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.
Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.
Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.
For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Stay home when you are sick.
• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:
• Fever
• Cough
• Shortness of breath
Seek medical advice if you
• Develop symptoms
AND
• Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19



PM praises NMB Bank on development financing

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc's disbursement of 4trn/- to back the government in major development projects in the past five years has earned praise from Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Majaliwa who formally opened the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair on Friday said NMB has played a pivotal role in development efforts under President John Magufuli since November 2015.

He made the remarks when visiting the NMB pavilion, paying tribute to the bank's staff and management under Acting Managing Director Ruth Zaipuna for commitment to back national development.

"It is for all these reasons that your managing director is one of the six public and corporate entity leaders whose work and support the government recognizes

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Govt: Capital city needs several high-end hotels

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appealed to local and international investors to put up high-end hotels, hostels and various other accommodation facilities in the capital,

Dodoma. With last year's shift of top government officials and public agencies from Dar es Salaam, and the State House having partially shifted already, Dodoma needs facilities reflecting the stream of visitors it receives and activities it hosts.

There is an increased influx of people and mushrooming business activities but accommodation options are fairly limited, officials insist.

The capital falls short of four star hotels as the highest ranked facility is a three star outfit, they say.

Constantine Kanyasu, the deputy minister for Natural Resources and

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PM praises NMB Bank on development financing

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and appreciates," he said, describing the MD as a focused and visionary CEO.

Her stewardship of the country's most profitable bank has enabled it to finance mega development projects and heavily invest in other key sectors such as agriculture, the premier stated. "Go tell her that we know and see what she is doing, which is a great job appreciated by this government. Her good performance clearly shows that indigenous Tanzanians can also be good corporate leaders," he further asserted.

Banks like NMB have played an important role in enabling the country to graduate into lower middle income status as announced by World Bank ahead of the government's own schedule, he declared.

It is during the current MD's tenure at the helm of NMB Bank that the lender has posted unprecedented growth and profit, thus boosting national coffers through increased dividend payment and taxes, he stated.

Mid last week, the World Bank categorized Tanzania as a lower-middle income country following years of rapid growth and high capital investments under President Magufuli.

Focused investments in infrastructure and social services stemmed from combating corruption and embezzlement of public funds while protecting national resources

from looting and trafficking.

Briefing the premier, the bank's head of wholesale banking, Alfred Shao said in the last four years, the lender disbursed 4trn/- to finance key projects. The cumulative amount is close to a third of the 12.78trn/- earmarked for development expenditure in the 2020/21 fiscal plan.

"Our investments have also included loans to the private sector, receiving 2trn/- since 2016," he said, elaborating that industrial projects took a larger portion of the loaned funds.

Agriculture and its value chain received significant amounts, which the premier said are monumental advances given farming's crucial role in the economy and people's lives as a whole.

"NMB Bank has also played a key role in financing mega projects with over 1.2trn/- invested," the banker noted, citing the Nyerere hydropower project along Rufiji River and the standard gauge railway as targeted projects.



Our investments have also included loans to the private sector, receiving 2trn/- since 2016



Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) Secretary General Ado Shaibu (R) pictured at Vuga in Zanzibar yesterday presenting the opposition party's national Chairman, Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad with forms for nomination as a candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency in later this year's General Election. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Somalia evacuates over 140 nationals from Saudi Arabia

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA has evacuated dozens of its citizens stranded in Saudi Arabia on Thursday. The citizens, mostly women and children, arrived safely at Aden Adde International Airport.

The Horn of Africa nation has brought back 142 national who trapped in Riyadh and Jeddah due to coronavirus pandemic. Somalia has so far evacuated 1516 citizen from different countries around the world.

Somalia with a fragile health system has been struggling to contained Coronavirus virus since mid-march.

The horn of African country has so far recorded 2924 confirmed cases of the deadly respiratory disease with 90 patients succumbed to the disease

Somalia's historic one-person-one vote election, scheduled for late 2020, looks set to be postponed. Electoral commission chair Halima Ismail told the country's federal Parliament on 29

June that the much-anticipated polls could not be carried out in less than 13 months.

Somalia faces multiple threats from continued terrorist attacks, increased political polarisation, incomplete electoral laws, the COVID-19 pandemic, the worst desert locust invasion in decades, and floods. The result has been food insecurity for an estimated 1.3 million people and an increase in internally displaced persons.

Given this dire situation, the African Union's (AU) recent engagement in Somalia comes at a critical juncture. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) has discussed Somalia twice since the beginning of 2020. The meetings focused on the elections, the future of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the renewal of AMISOM's mandate for another nine months. The AU also held another high-level meeting with Somali stakeholders and key partners in April.

But to overcome the current political and security stalemate in the country, the AU's role in Somalia must evolve beyond the counter-terrorism operations currently led by AMISOM.

The AU should focus on conflict resolution to find a political solution to the crisis. This could include supporting outreach by the government, and community-level reconciliation, which would help counteract inter-clan conflicts as well as terrorist activities. The AU could also support efforts by Somali stakeholders to consider negotiations with al-Shabaab.

As it repositions its role in Somalia, the AU can directly contribute to bringing together the federal government and regional states for political dialogue. The contentious relationship between the federal government and regional states is complicated by clan rivalries, and divisions have deepened as Somalia prepares for elections.

Relations between the federal

government and the Puntland and Jubaland states especially have soured of late. At the centre of the dispute lies the federal system, which states claim has not led to a full devolution of power, including the administration of security forces, or the equitable sharing of resources.

Disagreements on key governance issues could further destabilise the country. These are the inclusiveness and transparency of the constitutional review process, the legislative process that led to the adoption of the new electoral law, and the universal suffrage voting system meant to replace the clan-based quota approach. The electoral process specifically could benefit from the AU's support. Somalia's National Independent Electoral Commission needs help to deliver inclusive, independent and credible polls. Unless properly managed, the election could foment divisions and lead to post-election violence.

Govt replacing 33-year leases with longer ones

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complaints received each day arising from land disputes.

A Musoma resident who received a title deed for her land, Ms Mara Sophia Lugera showed her pleasure for bringing land services closer to the people with the regional office. The resident was expecting to obtain a bank loan to strengthen her business.

The minister inspected the construction of Mara Regional Referral Hospital in Kwangwa area in Musoma urban centre, named after founding president Mwalimu Nyerere.

He directed that the hospital's

maternal wing be completed by the end of July to enable the hospital start providing the service to residents of Mara and neighbouring regions.

He said the project had taken too long to complete and wanted to see part of it completed by July 31st, insisting that on August 1 deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula will visit the project to see whether his instructions have been carried out.

The project's supervising engineer Renald Kazyoba said the hospital maternal wing (Wing C) will be completed as directed as much work had already been done.



Georgina Matagi (L, gesturing), police commanding officer for Pangani District in Tanga Region, shows Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro past drawings of the recently built Pangani Police Station at the weekend. The IGP visited the facility, partly built on self-help basis and with support from stakeholders who preferred anonymity. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Govt: Capital city needs several high-end hotels

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Tourism, made these observations here when commissioning three hotels given three-star rating level.

The three-star status facilities are Fantasy Village, Nashera Hotel and New Dodoma Hotel, while some participants were dismayed when a newcomer, Morena Hotel emerged with two-star ranking, together with St Gasper Hotel and Conference Centre, Loyal Village Hotel, African Dream and Mesuma Lodge.

Customers seeking one star level hotel may consult a ministerial brochure on classification of accommodation facilities in the country. They can choose between Four Points, Kitemba and Nala Centurium hotels.

Hotel ratings classify hotels according to quality, giving marks on food services, entertainment, view, room variations such as size and additional amenities, spas and fitness centers, plus ease of access and location, in setting up ranks.

Hotels are independently assessed in traditional systems on the facilities provided. Some critics say this is overly disadvantageous to smaller hotels whose quality of accommodation could fall into a good class but the lack of some other items prevent it from notching higher ranking.

However, hotel industry connoisseurs were also alert on grade classification, A and B, where the candidate facilities did not appear in ministerial ranking, like Dodoma Rock Hotel, Johanic Hotel and Munich Hotel.

Others are Domiya, Summit, Gold Coins, Nam, Dear Mama and Gift Land hotels.

Permanent Secretary Prof Adolph



Constantine Kanyasu

Mkenda said at the ceremony that a robust monitoring system was in the works to provide a database and grades for hotels countrywide.

"Through the system, customers easily access services in a predictable manner, and this is what we are looking forward to do," he declared.

A thorough assessment was carried out for hotels in the capital to reflect international standards, he added.



Through the system, customers easily access services in a predictable manner, and this is what we are looking forward to do

JPM appoints new DC, DED

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Secretary, with the retirement of previous office holders being a

pervading factor.

Those appointed include former Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force, Thobias Andengenyete

take over as Kigoma RC.

In January, Andengenyete was fired alongside others over a 1trn/- irregular fire-fighting equipment tender. He

was pardoned a week before his new appointment, where he replaced the retiring Brig Gen (rtd) Emmanuel Maganga.



Public Service Social Security Fund public relations official Abdul Njaidi (2nd-L) and senior compliance officer Donald Meeda attend to Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere (R) at the 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. The CAG was seeking to verify his membership contributions to the fund. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

PM orders resumption of services at DRC border as port works start

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed government agencies and departments to start providing services for visitors to and from the Democratic Republic of Congo at Ikola Ward in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region as construction of port in the area continues.

Entities that have been given 21 days to open shop are the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Immigration Department, Police Force and Ministry of Minerals.

The PM gave the directive at the weekend after laying foundation stone for the construction of Karema Port. He said the project aims at enhancing trade and economic opportunities with

neighbouring DRC as well improving transport services along the lake.

Majaliwa also appealed to Xiamen Ongoing Construction Group contracted to construct Karema Port costing 47bn/- to work day and night to finalize the project in time to boost trade between Tanzania and DRC.

The representative of TPA Director General DrBaraklaMdima said the project incorporates construction of a deep water berth for up to 150 metres long vessels that will shield high waves.

He said the work will also include the

construction of other infrastructures including passenger waiting room and restaurant, offices, fire brigade, ICT, containers yard and will also abide by Standard Gauge Rail (SGR).

"The project will take 24 months and its completion the new modern port will strengthen economic activities in Katavi Region including transport of passengers and cargo along the lake and neighboring countries of Congo DRC, Burundi and Zambia," he said.

The Prime Minister also instructed the Katavi Regional Commissioner

JumaHomera to continue the crack down on all people possessing firearms illegally.

Earlier the PM spoke on the availability of electricity in Tanganyika District, saying the Phase V Government intends to take power to all villages in the country, hence they should continue to be patient.

He said even though power connection cost has been lowered to 27,000/- the residents must not be charged for the power poles as that has been subsidized by the government

Maalim Seif Hamad running for he Isles presidency, again

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE ACT-Wazalendo national chairman, Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad yesterday picked nomination forms to vie for the Zanzibar presidency.

Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad, outlined five reasons for his decision to seek his party's approval to vie for the Zanzibar presidency.

Hamad who defected from the Civic United Front (CUF) in March 2019 becomes the only ACT-Wazalendo cadre vying for the post in Zanzibar.

Addressing a press conference shortly after he was presented with the forms at the party's office in Vuga, Unguja, he pledged to bring about development changes within the first 100 days.

Hamad, who was accompanied by several party members was given the forms by the party's Secretary General, Ado Shaibu.

"I have picked the presidential nomination forms to seek my party's consent to be the flag bearer in the coming general elections," Hamad noted. He added: "My priority would be to transform Zanzibar; I will ensure development changes within a short period."

According to Hamad, ACT-Wazalendo requires an experienced captain who can handle turbulence and problems in Zanzibar. I have seen that this is the

right time for me to take over as the president," he said.

He however called upon qualified party members to pick nomination forms to vie to different posts including parliamentary seats and councillorship.

ACT-Wazalendo Secretary General, Ado Shaibu said a good number of members have so far picked forms seeking nomination to vie for different positions in the October elections.

"We opened the doors for our members to pick nomination forms from July 1st, we are happy that many of them have showed interest to contest for parliamentary seats and councillorship in both, mainland and Zanzibar," asserted Shaibu.

Shaibu said the party will ensure democracy, transparency and fairness in selecting candidates for various posts. He warned candidates from engaging in bribery acts, insisting stern measures will be taken against them.

Hamad once served as the first vice president in the Government of National Unity (GNU) formed by Dr Ali Mohamed Shein after the 2010 general elections.

When Tanzania adopted a multiparty political system in 1992, Hamad along with other former CCM members formed CUF. He was CUF's candidate for the Presidency of Zanzibar when the first multiparty elections took place in 1995.

Retraction of piece on TMRC

One of the editorial pieces published in the Business Section of the June 29, 2020 issue of The Guardian was with respect to what were supposed to be routine working relations between the Tanzania Mortgage Refinancing Company and a number of commercial banks, while also mentioning the government and the Bank of Tanzania. There were noticeable flaws in the piece, including that it

relied on an anonymous source and that the relevant parties were not contacted for comment before the piece was written - and published. We acknowledge this as a major professional and ethical weakness and, accordingly, retract the piece in its entirety while sincerely apologising to all concerned for any inconveniences this will have caused.

- Editor.



CALL FOR CONSULTANTS

The COMESA Cross-Border Trade initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across Borders' (SSCBTI).

Position Title: Trade Facilitation and Human Mobility Training Programme Consultant – Consultancy to design and implement a comprehensive COMESA Trade Facilitation Training Programme

The COMESA Secretariat, with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), is implementing a multi-year small scale cross border trade programme, entitled, 'The COMESA Cross-Border Trade initiative: Facilitating Small-Scale Trade Across Borders' (SSCBTI). The SSCBTI is financed by the European Union under the 11th European Development Fund and seeks to increase formal small-scale cross-border trade flows in the COMESA region, leading to higher revenue for governments, as well as greater security and higher incomes for small-scale cross-border traders.

IOM and ITC, among others, are contributing to the development of a comprehensive COMESA Trade Facilitation Training Programme. The COMESA Trade Facilitation Training Programme will be used for capacity building of both the small-scale traders, as rights holders, and migration, trade and customs government authorities, as duty bearers. In line with its institutional mandate, IOM is supporting the development of modules for both small scale cross border traders and for government authorities responsible for immigration, customs and trade.

The Training Manual will be composed of specific modules. Each module will be laid out to provide structured training sessions covering both theoretical and practical elements. The modules should promote a highly participatory methodology which fosters teamwork and participants engagement in stimulating discussions and reflection. Each module should be divided into training sessions/lessons. The targeted audience for the training modules are government authorities responsible for Immigration, Customs and Trade at central and border control points and national trade facilitation committees. The training modules will focus on the following thematic areas: (i) Small Scale Cross Border Trade in Africa and in the COMESA Region (ii) The Migration and Cross-border Trade Nexus, (iii) Enhancing National, Regional and International Cooperation and Policy Coherence on Migration, human mobility, border management and Cross-border Trade, (iv) Regional Economic Integration, Mobility and Trade, (v) International health and Population Mobility module and (vi) Migration, Trade and Gender - Harassment, Corruption and Bribery

IOM is therefore seeking the services of an expert consultant(s) to design, develop and support pilot training of the comprehensive COMESA Trade Facilitation Training Programme as per the above outline. The training programme seeks to contribute to improved and sustainable reduction in trade restrictions, corruption, bribery, harassment and immigration challenges.

Submission of applications:

- Interested consultants may find the full terms of reference on the following link: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/vacancy/tor_-_development_of_a_trade_facilitation_and_human_mobility_training_programme_-_long_version.pdf
- Applications should contain:
 - Technical proposal including a letter of motivation, methodology, detailed curriculum vitae,
 - Financial proposal including all the professional fees, and any other cost elements,
 - Proof of previous related work such as a Training Program produced will be a distinct advantage,
 - Provide documentary proof of professional and academic qualification and testimonials.
 - The expression of interest should demonstrate how the consultant proposes to develop the training programme,
 - Qualified women, researchers/consultants from the COMESA region are strongly encouraged to apply,
 - All interested consultants are to submit electronic copies of their technical and financial proposals to IOM by close of business 10 July 2020 using the following email: iomluskarecruitment@iom.int

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted



RTI International is an independent organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. Please visit our website at www.rti.org/globalhealth for more information on our work in global health

Surveillance and M&E Specialist

RTI International is seeking a Surveillance and M&E Specialist for a USAID-funded malaria surveillance and monitoring activity in Mainland Tanzania, the Okoa Maisha Dhibiti Malaria (OMDM) Activity. The purpose of this Activity is to—in collaboration with National Malaria Control Program (NMCP), in-country stakeholders and the U.S. Presidents Malaria Initiative (PMI)—strengthen surveillance, monitoring and vector control efforts in Mainland Tanzania, in alignment with the Government of Tanzania's (GOT) national malaria strategic plans and USAID priorities. The Surveillance and M&E Specialist will report to the S&M Director/Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), and s/he will be responsible to support the NMCP to implement surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of malaria data and systems in Mainland Tanzania.

Location: Dodoma

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Surveillance and M&E Specialist will provide support to the malaria program in surveillance, monitoring and evaluation (S, M&E) systems in Mainland Tanzania, including supporting the development and managing the NMCP's relevant performance indicators, baselines, and annual targets.

She/he will provide support to the NMCP's SME Unit in the development of data collection tools to support routine monthly reporting and monitoring and evaluation activities, including support for DHIS2 and other systems used by the program. Assist in the design and implementation of NMCP activities to test new strategies and systems for malaria surveillance. She/he will support NMCP capacity building at central and peripheral levels through training and systems support in M&E and surveillance. She/he will support data management and analysis of routine and non-routine malaria data for programmatic use and dissemination. She/he will support preparation for and participation in relevant technical meetings, workshops, and technical working groups. She/he will provide regular update on implementation progress to OMDM's leadership team. She/he will support the NMCP in their preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports to USAID and perform duties as assigned by OMDM and NMCP management.

Qualifications and Experience:

- Master's Degree in public health, demography, sociology, epidemiology, statistics, psychology or a related field.
- Minimum of 9 years' experience in surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, surveillance, and research related to large-scale health development programs.
- Must have previous experience working in malaria programming in the field of surveillance and M&E in Tanzania.
- Excellent knowledge of data collection protocols for quality data collection and verification
- Exceptional ability to analyze and triangulate multiple sources of data to identify data trends and provide recommendations on project implementation
- Demonstrated experience and familiarity with public health surveillance, research methodologies, qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, survey sampling methods, and establishment of S, M&E systems in developing country contexts.
- Demonstrated experience leading and building the capacity of M&E staff in a decentralized setting
- Demonstrated track record in disseminating programmatic and research outcomes and findings at national and international conferences, as well as in the published literature
- Strong knowledge of USAID M&E reporting procedures
- Must have strong oral and written communication and presentation skills in English and Kiswahili
- Strong proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite applications, Statistical packages (e.g. STATA) and QGIS
- Experience and familiarity with DHIS 2
- Willingness and ability to travel frequently within Tanzania

Application process:

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae via omdmhr@gmail.com no later than **July 17, 2020 by 5.00 p.m.**

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

RTI International is an equal opportunity employer.

***No applicant will ever be asked for any payment either to secure a role with RTI International or as a follow-up to having been awarded a position with RTI International. If anyone ever approaches you asking for any such payment, please immediately email ethics@rti.org**



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (C, in specs) responds to queries, mostly in connection with land ownership and use, from Musoma municipality residents at the launch of the Mara regional Lands Office at the weekend. Photo courtesy of Lands ministry

Minister challenges women and youth to invest in sisal cultivation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwangi

ANGELLAH Kairuki, minister of State in the Prime Minister Office (Investment), has challenged women, youth and people with disabilities to wisely grab loan opportunities at district councils and use the monies to invest in sisal cultivation.

According to her, the crop which is among the top cash crops in the country is likely to boost their incomes due to its demand within and outside the country.

Kairuki was speaking here yesterday soon after she toured sisal plantations belonging to Mohamed Enterprises Tanzania Limited (METL) in Mwanza District, Kilimanjaro Region.

The minister, who was also informed on the shortage of sisal processing machines, urged that investing in sisal cultivation is among the best ways for citizens to generate a good income.

She advised them to form groups to easily access the loans which they may also use to purchase sisal processing machines. She also called upon local leaders to encourage more people to venture into sisal cultivation due to economic benefits.

"It is easier for you to access loans through groups; the monies you get can purchase the sisal processing machines. Farmers' cooperative unions can also invest in sisal processing, it is a good opportunity," she noted adding the crop's demand is still high globally.

Kairuki added: "The demand for sisal is high, local leaders should continue sensitizing people to establish sisal farms at all the suitable areas, door are also open for investors to establish sisal processing plants."

According to the minister there are 11 large and small scale factories that process sisal including the other 70 small factories located at different parts of the country.

Earlier, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Manager in the northern zone, Daudi Riganda challenged the investor-METL to continue establishing sisal plantations to reap more profits.

"Investors must make use of the abundant fertile land which is suitable for the crop. We still have an ample land which can be used to cultivate the crop," said Riganda noting the region's weather is perfectly suitable for growing sisal.

Mwanza District Commissioner, Thomas Apson said they are planning to conduct special programmes to educate the villagers on the importance of sisal farming. He said those already cultivating the crop have improved their welfare.

The DC promised to convene a meeting which will bring together business and agriculture officers to discuss on how to promote sisal farming. He said the district is ready to provide loans to farmers, but the challenge is that most of them do not repay the monies on time.

By Guardian Correspondent, Ileje

'Govt intent on setting up Veta colleges in all districts across Tanzania by 2025'

THE government plans to finalise the construction of Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) colleges in all regions and districts in the country by 2025 so as to churn out a big number of human resources with skills for sustainable industrial development.

This was announced at the weekend by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako when inaugurating the Ileje District VETA college build with cooperation of the Japanese Government.

She said to reach that goal the

government through her ministry continues to allocate funds for the construction of the colleges that are in various stages of construction, whilst in some regions they are already complete.

She said as of now the construction of regional VETA colleges continues in four regions - Rukwa Region at a cost of 10bn/-, Geita Region for 9.8bn/-

, Njombe for 10bn/- and Kagera the college is being built with sponsorship from the Chinese Government at a cost of 22.04bn/-.

"At district level V ETA colleges have been completed in 11 districts including this one in Ileje District, but construction work for the colleges still continue in Newala, Kasulu, Nyasa, Ruangwa and Kongwa districts," said

Prof. Ndalichako.

She said in the Fiscal Year 2019/20, the government set aside over 40bn/- for the construction of VETA colleges in 25 districts.

She called upon parents and guardians to take their youth to the colleges already built to acquire skills that will enable them get employment or in self-employment by establishing

small factories.

THE National VETA Board Chairman Peter Maduki said the board continues to improve training provided by the colleges by employing professional instructors as well as procuring modern teaching equipment.

"We plan to raise passes for our youth from the current 69 percent to 80 percent upwards, and so far VEA

has attained 70 percent of its targets it had set," said Maduki.

VETA Director General Pancras Bujulu said before Minister Ndalichako inaugurated the Ileje District VETA College, she had already inaugurated the Paramawe Veta College in Nkasi district in Rukwa Region as well as other colleges in Kigoma and Katavi Regions.

Songwe Regional Commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) Nicodemus Mwangela said VETA colleges help in providing solution to the unemployment challenge, adding that when the youth acquire various skills they can employ themselves.

AfDB joins WTO, multilateral banks to support trade finance amid crisis

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other multilateral development bank, is to reduce trade finance gaps that emerge as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a joint press release, the institutions said they would prioritise their support to areas in the world where such support is needed most, particularly the poorest countries.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, multilateral development banks have stepped up their trade finance programs to support essential imports and key exports, as international correspondent banks have cut lending in many countries. In addition to the ongoing shocks to supply and demand, international trade has been affected by a reduction in the supply of trade finance. Risk perceptions about non-payment in international trade are at the highest levels in a decade and banks are increasingly reluctant to take on payment risks in many countries where economic conditions are deteriorating.

Facilitating trade in medical supplies has been a significant part of these support packages.

With the approval of its \$10 billion Covid-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF) in April 2020, the African Development Bank is providing up to \$1 billion in trade finance liquidity and risk mitigation support to local banks in all 54 eligible African member countries.

More support will almost certainly be necessary in the weeks and months ahead, as the steep decline in the real economy starts to impact the financial system through loan

defaults and corporate bankruptcies. Many developing countries were experiencing significant trade finance shortages even before the Covid-19 crisis; now they face even tighter access to trade credit.

A further decline in trade finance supply would, in the short term, make it harder for imports of food and medical equipment to reach economies where they are urgently needed. In the medium-term, it would impede the ability of trade to help drive economic recovery.

Insufficient trade finance threatens to compromise otherwise viable trade transactions, disproportionately affecting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which account for the bulk of employment in Africa.

"We share the concerns being expressed in markets, and will work within our respective remits to make trade finance available through this difficult period, just as we did during the global financial crisis of 2008-10," the joint statement said.



We share the concerns being expressed in markets, and will work within our respective remits to make trade finance available through this difficult period, just as we did during the global financial crisis of 2008-10



Hai district commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya (R, in jacket) pictured at the weekend ordering police to arrest five village leaders at Isuki village in Masama Kati ward in connection with allegations of subjecting Elishi Ulomi (seated) to torture. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

WARD, Village and street officials in Shinyanga Municipality have been warned not to include public servants' households in the Tanzania Social Action Fund III (TASAF-III) Phase II programme in the ongoing identification exercise of poor households, and instead they should only include those targeted by the programme's funds.

This warning was given at the weekend by TASAF III Phase II Coordinator Octavina Kiwonde at a meeting with Ward, village and street officials, stressing that when

Village officials cautioned not to include public officials' households in TASAF II

the identification exercise begins, they should only include the targeted households.

She said the previous phase for the identification of poor households was not conducted professionally and trustfully, as many public servants' households were included, the situation she does not want repeated in the current exercise, and warned of stern measures on whoever goes

against the instructions. "Any village official who will violate the government instructions, or who will include non-existent households, I will not want to be held accountable and lose my job for the negligence, I will deal with you, go and conduct the exercise professionally and in trust, I think you very well know that the Phase V government is not the to be played with," said Octavina.

She mentioned the criteria for the

inclusion of poor household in the TASAF programme - the household that has no ability to afford three in a day, without ability to provide their children with schools' needs and those not able to access to health services.

On their part, the village officials, including Mathias Masalu from Shinyanga Municipality promised to conduct the exercise in the manner as directed.



Members of Ifakara's Saint Francis Hospital staff are supplied with face masks and other personal protective gear, donated at the weekend by Tanzania Breweries Ltd. Right is a representative of the company, David Mwamakula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt gets set to ban exportation of crude gold to protect factories

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Minerals, Prof Simon Msanjila, has said the government is working to ban exportation of raw gold immediately after the mineral refinery factories commence operations in the country.

Prof Msanjila made the remarks yesterday when he visited one of the gold refinery factories—Eyes of Africa Ltd to inspect construction progress.

“Once the gold refining industries begin to work, the government will officially ban the export of raw gold and instead all the minerals would be refined in the country before they are exported. This will enable the country to get revenues,” he said.

The PS said that the ‘Eyes of Africa Ltd’ is the first gold refining factory to be built in the country

He said the government issued gold

refinery licences to four companies including Eyes Of Africa Ltd based in Dodoma, Stamico-Mwanza, Geita Gold Refinery and African Ayes-Geita.

Prof Msanjila urged the Eye of Africa executive director, Ferenc Molnarm to write to the ministry a letter outlining all key things for the government to extend its support so as to achieve the company's intended goals.

He promised the company that the government will also support to ensure that it gets customers from various parts of the country especially artisanal miners once the company commences operations.

He further commended the company's organisation for hard work and supervision in the construction whereby almost all key machines had been installed at the factory.

However, Molnarm said that once it commences operations, the factory will be able to produce 40 kgs of gold per day.

By Correspondent Enock Charles

TRCS calls for culture of volunteerism

THE Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) has urged Tanzanians to embrace the culture of volunteerism to provide timely support people who are in need during disasters.

Speaking during the event to hand over equipment to the association's Regional Representatives in Dar es Salaam during the weekend, the TRCS President David Kihenzile said that there is a need for people to volunteer to help others.

This includes participating in blood donation which could help seriously injured victims and pregnant women.

The equipment which include generators, phones and routers worth 54m/- were provided to representatives from various regions including Dar es Salaam and Coast.

He said that the donated items

are meant to help in providing assistance to staff especially in remote areas.

Kihenzile also launched a special service number 0800750150 which people can call Red Cross Tanzania during times of trouble.

“Our call to stakeholders is to join this movement to help people in our country, there are many people out

there who really need our support,” Kihenzile said.

According to him, many Tanzanians lack the spirit of volunteerism, something which needs more awareness to change the situation.

“I encourage Tanzanians to demonstrate patriotism through actions as the country still needs more people who will be there to change the

lives of the vulnerable communities,” he said.

He further said: “As for example in the Morogoro fuel tanker accident last year if there would be only a quarter of the population who have been trained, the impacts would have been minimized.”

The Dar es Salaam TRCS chairman Rajab Senge said that the equipment

provided would help them to improve performance as well as facilitate citizens to access Red Cross services quickly.

The TRCS is a voluntary humanitarian organization established by parliamentary ACT no 71 of 1962. It is guided by the seven Fundamental principles of the red cross and Crescent Movement. The society is well established in all regions of Tanzania society mainland and Zanzibar and has a well-coordinated volunteer based network.

Work harder to make Tanzania attain upper-middle income status, says PM

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS have been urged to work hard to enable the country develop economically to attain upper middle status because it has already attained middle level income.

The call was made by the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa on Saturday when inaugurating Mpanda Plaza Business Complex built by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) at a cost of 2.8bn/-

“If you are a farmer cultivate hard, if you are a public servant do you work energetically, and those in factories do the same, food vendors increase your efforts to increase monetary circulation in

the country,” said Prime Minister Majaliwa.

He said when the Phase V Government came to power, the income of a Tanzanian was small but after five years it has increased to reach 2m/- per year.

He said the increase has enabled the country to attain middle income status even before the expectation of the country's Development Vision.

Tanzania's Development Vision targeted to take the country to middle level status through the industrial sector by 2025 but it has enabled to do that in 2020.

After inaugurating the building, the PM visited Kasekesese village in

Tanganyika District in Katavi Region where he launched this year's cotton selling season.

He said the aim of the government was to restore cooperatives to benefit farmers and called upon leaders of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) to assist their members.

In addition, the Prime Minister directed extension officers to educate AMCOS leaders on the better ways to run the societies.

He assured the people that the Government will continue assisting them by ensuring extension officers reach farmers in their areas to assist them on how to increase crops production.

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
THE EQUALS IN TECH AWARDS 2020

The EQUALS in Tech Awards 2020 is an annual award that recognises initiatives that work to bring together gender equality to the digital world. These awards are given every year to organizations and individuals working including small projects, to help girls and women gain equal internet access, digital skills and opportunities in the tech industry.

The EQUALS in Tech Awards have been presented since 2013 (they started out as the GEM – Tech Awards) making this the 7th annual celebration of ground breaking work in digital access, skills, leadership and research. It is known that it is more important than ever to help boost the successes and stories of programs and people around the world helping women and girls gain the full benefits of digital equality.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and EQUALS Global Partnership have opened nominations for the 2020 EQUALS in Tech Awards. The awards aim to give opportunity, to show their progress and perhaps move toward growth, scalability and the incredible results that the world so desperately needs. Individuals and organizations can nominate their own initiatives or others for an award in the following categories:

- 1. Access:** Initiatives related to improving women's and girls' digital technology access, connectivity and security
- 2. Skills:** Initiatives that support development of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills of women and girls
- 3. Leadership (in two subcategories):**
 - Initiatives focused on promoting women in decision-making roles within the ICT field
 - Initiatives promoting women's leadership in technology SMEs
- 4. Research:** Initiatives prioritizing research on gender digital divides and producing reliable evidence to tackle diversity issues within STEM and computing fields.

Important information:

- Deadline for nominations is 1st August, 2020.
- Link to EQUALS in Tech Award 2020 webpage: <https://www.equals.org/awards>
- Direct link to nomination form <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/equalsawards2020>

Please inform TCRA through the email: dg@tcra.go.tz once you submit your project.
 Be part of EQUALS in Tech Awards 2020!!!

Issued by:
DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Alliance for Democratic Change Secretary General Queen Cuthbert (C) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on her intention to stand as the opposition party's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in the General Election scheduled for later this year. She is flanked by deputy secretary general (Mainland) Zuwen Abdallah (R) and general commissioner Doni Mnyamani. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Soybeans farmers gain from 'Growing Learning' project

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

'Growing is Learning' project which is implemented in Iringa Rural District by CARE Tanzania has benefited a total of 2,321 soya bean farmers in 15 villages.

Apart from soya beans cultivation, farmers have also been provided with education on how to prevent themselves from contracting coronavirus as well as issues related to Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The project—'Kukua ni Kujifunza' brought together villagers from Mgama, Ibumila, Ihemi, Wenda, Lyamungwe, Tagamenda, Mlanda, Malagosi, Kikombwe, Sadani, Ikuvilo, Maguliliwa, Wangama, Igunda, and Kaning'ombe villages.

Iringa rural district community development officer (Mobilization and Gender) Eva Lugala said that Care Tanzania has started working to respond to a number of emergencies such as the Cpvid-19 pandemic and floods.

She said following the various effects caused by the pandemic, Care International embarked on efforts to support farmers and distribution of Covid-19 protective gears including face masks, hand washing facilities and sanitizers.

Lugala said that each of the farmers received 30,000/- and Covid-9 protective gears. She said the project aims to assist women in rural areas by ensuring food

security to households that solely depend on agriculture.

"The organization envisages vibrant, equitable and resilient rural communities where women are empowered to realize their social, political and economic rights. A community where natural resources are sustainably managed in the context of climate change," she said.

The project has been designed with Soya beans as the main value chain crop. However, the organization plans to diversify its interventions to include maize and poultry keeping as complementary crops to impact on both food and nutritional needs.

Care Tanzania promotes innovative approaches, research and evidence based advocacy, and capacity building to local civil societies towards poverty reduction.

Care Tanzania launched a transformative Kukua ni Kujifunza (Growing is Learning) project in the Iringa Rural District with the objective of increasing food and nutrition security, income and climate change resilience among vulnerable small-scale women farmers.

The project is also working with partners like Women and Poverty Alleviation in Tanzania (WOPATA) and Sundry Merchants Company Limited with funding from the government of Australia through Care Australia.



Agriculture Seeds Agency officer Grace Matima (standing, C) has an audience with rice growers from Kibondemzungu and Mtwango valleys in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter

THE Inspector General of the Police (IGP) Simon Sirro has instructed private security guards firms and the workers thereof to ensure they are registered in the Private Security Governance Portal (PSGP) system by December 31 2020.

Speaking to reporters after he met with owners of private security guards' firms in the country last week at Police Officers Mess in Dar es Salaam, IGP Sirro said the registration system of the firms and their workers into a data base is the only way to control challenges in

IGP: Private security companies must register in PSGP by Dec 31

the sector especially those involving unfaithful guards.

He said the system is a good one as it will improve the sector, but more education needs to be provided to the stakeholders.

"If today a guard commits a crime at

this company and then goes to another company and gets employed, without this system you cannot know whether he is a guard or a criminal," added IGP Sirro.

He pointed a finger at some security guards who join the sector with the aim

of finding out how to assist criminals but through the PSGP system they will have no chance in criminal activities.

IGP Sirro said he has directed stakeholders in the private security guards sector to meet again to make sure they iron out deficiencies in

regard to the system and they should unanimously agree to the system.

The Police Force had directed all private security guards' firms and the workers thereof to register in PSGP before 2021 and after December 2020 all those who will not have registered

themselves they will not be allowed to work in the sector.

PSGP is a brainchild of private associations and implemented by DataVision International under the supervision of the police force using technology in registration to database as it assists it to quickly retrieve details of the stakeholders including the history of the guard, his health, habits and other personal details.

More than 174 security guard firms and 14,000 workers have been registered to PSGP by last week and the exercise continues.



Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyaisa (L) leads his assistants in serving a visitor at the agency's pavilion at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) has called on Tanzanians and residents who run informal businesses to formalise their operations by registering the same for recognition.

With businesses registration certificate, operators are recognised by the government and can access other services and benefits that unlicensed entities can only dream of.

The appeal was made at the weekend by Brela Chief Executive Officer Godfrey Nyaisa when speaking at the agency's pavilion during the ongoing

Register businesses for recognition, Brela urges casual SabaSaba traders

44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere grounds.

Nyaisa said Brela has put up a system which enables each staff to be productive at every department, appealing to all those who wish to start or formalize a business to visit the

pavilion.

"Our existence depends on our customers so we have decided that we must work seriously to satisfy the needs of the Tanzanians. When we find out that any of our staff engage in malpractice such as soliciting bribe, we fire them immediately because we

don't entertain such behaviors," he said.

Either, Nyaisa said Brela has hired competent youth who collect queries raised by the public in different social media platforms and submit the same to the agency's management for action.

He added that the social media use

and online registration introduced recently have tremendously reduced congestion at Brela offices since people who need business registration services or those who needed information about the agency no longer have to appear physically. "We depend much on our customers; that's why we don't

entertain bureaucracy and corruption. We want people to get value for money in our services," he said.

The CEO went on to say that among the improvements they have recorded is to make sure that all activities are conducted and documented electronically to avoid wastage of time and resources by people to travel to and from Brela offices with some compelled to make long journeys from upcountry.

He said the digital system which enables Brela staff to attend to customers without physical contact has also automatically ended bureaucracy and the consequent corruption.

'Relaxing Covid-19 restrictions will depend on counties' preparations'

NAIROBI

President Uhuru Kenyatta was on Saturday evening facing one of his toughest moments as the clock ticked towards the moment when he is supposed to review Covid-19 restriction measures.

This is as the country registered the highest number of infections in a day since the coronavirus was first detected in the country, and with a health system that is almost stretched to its limits.

With the general public mood pushing for total reopening of the economy and removal of travel restrictions, the head of state has been pushed into a damned-if-you-damned-if-you-don't corner.

The current restrictions include a ban on social gatherings, cessation of movement in and out of Nairobi and Mombasa and a 9pm-to-5am curfew. Other restrictions include the closure of schools and banning of international travel. The restrictions, which have been in place since March, were extended on June 6 for a further 30 days, and so are due for review tomorrow.

If President Kenyatta fully opens up the economy by allowing free movement, he could prevent an economic recession but risk a surge of

Covid-19 infections, especially in rural areas as an urban-rural exodus looms.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue putting pressure on the health sector for the next six months, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said.

Speaking at a virtual press conference, WHO Country Representative Rudi Eggers said, "It's dangerous to let the disease run rampant because deaths will rise exponentially."

The news comes at a time when countries in sub-Saharan Africa like Kenya, which have widely been praised for early lockdowns, are now bucking the global trend and planning to reopen amid rising infections.

"We don't know when the peak will be but we are helping Kenya with risk analysis," said Dr Eggers while receiving a Sh270 million (2.3million Euros) grant from the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (Echo).

The grant, which is part of 30 million Euros the EU has given WHO in response to its global appeal for help to combat Covid-19 worldwide, will be used to train front-line health workers at the national and county levels and to strengthen rapid response and clinical teams in all counties.

AGENCIES



GF Trucks & Equipment Ltd managing director Imran Karmal (L) has a word with visitors at the company's pavilion at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UTT expands its wings in Arusha to empower Tanzanians to venture into funds' investments

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government owned, UTT Assets Management and Investor Services, which deals with collective investments schemes, is continuing with its new strategy to expand countrywide with the just established third branch in the heart of Arusha city, to complement the UTT AMIS Dar es Salaam headquarters and the recently introduced Dodoma offices.

"The mission here is empowering ordinary Tanzanians to move from usual banking into a more profitable investment of whatever cash they may have in their personal coffers of bank accounts," stated the UTT AMIS Director of Operations, Issa Wahichindena.

Speaking during the opening of the new UTT AMIS branch to be located at the Ngorongoro Conservation Center Complex, the Director of Operations lauded the efforts of the fifth phase government under President John Magufuli, in ensuring that ordinary Tanzanians' economies are improved.

"This is why our country has managed to climb one notch higher

from low into one of the Middle Income developing nations, after the World Bank observed that the country's Gross National Income per capita keeps improving, with stable investment ventures," he added.

On his part, the Head of Marketing and Public Relations, Daudi Mbagi, said while some financial institutions may offer interests from a number of specified bank accounts, ordinary Tanzanians stand to gain most from investing in a number of more profitable schemes under UTT AMIS; "We are speaking of 10 to 15 percent gains from investments," he pointed out.

"There are ample opportunities in 'investing' and letting your money work for you, instead of just keeping it stagnant through savings," added Mbagi.

On their part, both the CRDB Bank's supervisor in-charge of UTT accounts Mary Mponda and the Bank's TFA Branch Manager in Arusha, Ronald Paul, said with over 280 branches across the nation, the financial institution is in a better position to execute UTT activities.

Arusha City, with a population of more than 500,000 permanent residents, is the country's mining, tourism and agriculture hub, pivoting one of the largest regions in Tanzania and encompassing seven District Councils with nearly 2 million people between them.

Having started off as the Unit Trust of Tanzania (UTT), the Assets Management and Investor Services (AMIS), was established under the Trustee Incorporation Act, Cap 318 and now conducts several key activities including the development of collective investment schemes; acquiring and keeping in trust the shares of privatized enterprises and encouraging savings culture through wide participation in the ownership of distributed shares.

Awarded the Best Fund Team in Tanzania by the Capital Finance International of UK in 2015, the UTT successfully launched unit trust schemes since six collective investment schemes, including Umoja, Wekeza, Watoto Fund, Jikimu and Bond Funds were launched attracting nearly 100,000 investors countrywide.

Over time UTT grew in size with total funds under management of over 120 billion/- as at 30 June 2013 and further diversified into other activities in Projects Management and Microfinance businesses. Based on advice of stakeholders and the Treasury Registrar and approval of the Minister of Finance, the Unit Trust of Tanzania (UTT) was restructured into three organizations.

The objective of the restructuring was to enable each of the key businesses to focus on their activities and services so as to contribute more to increasing government revenue and promote development of the country.

The three organizations that resulted from the restructuring exercise, registered under the companies Act, 2002, include UTT Asset Management and Investor Services (UTT AMIS), UTT Microfinance (UTT MFI) and UTT Projects and Infrastructure Development (UTT PID). UTT PID and UTT MFI became operational on 1st July 2013 while UTT AMIS was re-assigned with the management of collective investment schemes from 1st October 2013.

Tanzania testing newgreen charcoal production model

By Special Correspondent

OVER the past many years, known for its vast wilderness, but it has been losing 483,859 hectares of forests annually to charcoal production.

According to government data, the country with 48.1 million hectares of forests has the highest rate of deforestation in the world due to the increasing demand for charcoal, used as the main source of energy in kitchens in urban areas.

To stem further destruction of its forest resources, the government in association with voluntary groups is experimenting a unique model in several villages to produce environmentally friendly charcoal after several failed attempts to ban it.

Under the initiative, promoted by Tanzania Forest Conservation Department in collaboration with Mjumita -- a nonprofit group -- several villages in the Morogoro region have prepared land-use plans.

This includes dedicating village land for forest reserves, of which 10% of the area is designated for charcoal production, beekeeping, and timber harvesting.

The charcoal areas, divided into blocks, are harvested each year depending on the need and assessment of available biomass.

Through sustainable charcoal production, local villagers have earned a total of \$200,000 in just five years from its sale, said officials.

The village elders use the income to manage forest reserves and to oversee the sustainable charcoal model.

"We were taking charcoal and wood from various areas without regulation. This practice created several problems. But now we are operating sustainably, and we receive great benefits from our forest in this village" said Shabani Kingaire, a farmer at Ihombwe village in Morogoro.

Although Tanzania's charcoal industry, worth \$650 million a year, employs hundreds of thousands of people as producers, transporters and retailers, its contribution to the country's revenue is negligible.

According to the World Bank, Tanzania generates only 10% of the tax revenue from the charcoal business.

For people like Salima Mwigambo, charcoal is everything for them as income from its sale provides them a decent living.

Sitting under the shade of a mango tree, shielding herself from the blazing sun, with hands darkened due to charcoal dust, she says that charcoal gives her income to meet family expenses.

"I earn enough money to meet my family needs such as sending my children to school. I have also built a good house through this business," she said.

The 33-year-old mother of four spends several hours each day sifting through piles of dusty charcoal to a busy suburb in the outskirts of the commercial capital Dar es Salaam to earn a living.

"I earn more when I buy in bulk and then sell it in small quantities, she said. She roughly earns 25,000 Tanzanian shillings (\$10) every day by selling a 50-kilogram (110 pounds) bag of charcoal.

In the absence of an alternative source of living, hundreds of thousands of people like her do not understand the impact of charcoal production on the environment.

"These trees grow naturally. I do not think it is bad to make charcoal from them," she said.

The government is mulling a plan to limit charcoal use in Dar es Salaam and other urban centers. The port city consumes half of the total charcoal produced in the country.

Mussa Zungu, the minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment), said the government is trying to diversify cooking energy resources to limit charcoal use.

"We are considering different options, such as sustainably produced charcoal as well as increasing access to other sources of cooking energy such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)," Zungu said.

Further, he said a proposal to increase the tax on charcoal is awaiting parliamentary approval.

However, according to a World Bank report on consumption patterns, cultural preferences and past failures, charcoal will remain as one of the country's energy mix.

Due to unclear regulations and unregistered activities, the government is incurring an estimated revenue loss of \$100 million annually in charcoal production, according to the World Bank's statistics.

"I don't think the government is committed to banning charcoal, this talk has been going on for a year without implementation," said Kevin Hangu, an environmental analyst at the Mzumbe University.

Many analysts argue that introducing alternatives to charcoal as well as imposing a strict value-added tax on charcoal will reduce its usage. But others say to make this cheap energy source costlier for the poor will be counterproductive.

In January 2006, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism imposed a ban to discourage production and consumption of charcoal. But after the loud outcry from urban consumers, the ban was lifted.

Although Tanzania is endowed with many sources of energy such as natural gas and solar energy, the firewood and charcoal continue to account for 85% of total cooking energy consumption, according to the country's national energy report. Only around 17% of the rural population in Tanzania have access to electricity.

The Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) -- an agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism -- says the country's forest cover is already under enormous pressure due to the expansion of agricultural activities, livestock grazing, wildfires, and other human activity.

Women, people with disability missing out on critical eye care

By Rebecca Root, Barcelona

WOMEN and people living with disabilities have less access to eye care services in India, Pakistan, and Tanzania, according to a new report.

The research -- produced by Sightsavers and its partners -- recorded disability and socioeconomic status in five surveys of visual impairment across the three countries. Where disability was assessed, people with nonvisual disabilities experienced a higher likelihood of also being blind or severely visually impaired -- as much as 10 times higher in the case of Singida, central Tanzania.

Cataracts, which can be treated with surgery, were the leading cause of visual impairment and blindness across all the locations assessed.

In some places across both India and Tanzania, women were 30% more likely to be blind or severely visually impaired compared to men, while in Lahore, Pakistan, they were 2.7 times more likely to be.

Elena Schmidt, Sightsavers' director of research, said there are many reasons for reduced access

to eye care among different groups. For example, eye care services can be costly to access, and in some contexts, the health needs of men -- often the main earners -- are valued more than women's. Women may also experience obstacles to reaching treatment facilities -- because they cannot travel unaccompanied, for example, or are expected to spend their time in the home.

"Similarly to women, people with disabilities do not have access to financial resources and find it difficult to travel outside their communities. This is particularly the case in poor, rural, and remote locations with limited health care and transport infrastructure," Schmidt said, adding that social stigma toward people with disabilities can lead to an oversight of their health needs as well.

Many clinics are also not physically accessible to wheelchair users, sign language is not widely available during consultations, and information may not be available in different accessible formats, said Alessandra Aresu, inclusive health policy lead at Humanity & Inclusion.



Ikungu district CCM chairman Mika Likapakapa (3rd-R) pictured at the weekend presenting to Puma ward parents 71 desks worth 3.4m/- for use by Puma Primary School. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

The Guardian

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MONDAY 6 JULY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

With middle income status: Let's prepare for hard trade bargaining

EUPHORIA has lately gripped high government circles and portions of the media, upon the country's elevation to official middle income status even if it is at the lower end of it, ridding the country of the tiresome tag of a 'least developed' state. In cultural terms this sort of transition is like graduating to adulthood, where one starts being tasked with responsibilities that were earlier being conducted by parents or guardians. That means the shift isn't just a moment of chest thumping but also of foreboding.

Despite our constant wish for middle income status, there is no doubt that plenty in how we are used to conduct business with foreign countries has to do with our usual status of a least developed country. That means there were areas we took for granted that they will understand our position, for instance in the issue of trade reciprocation as different from shepherding countries to be lifted from abject poverty. When a country attains middle income status, economic relations with foreign countries shift from lifting it from poverty by using aid. It starts negotiating appropriate bilateral trade ties, based on rules of mutual benefit.

We have already seen a bit of this even before Tanzania was reclassified as a middle income country, in the manner in which the government changed its relationship with major mining companies. Earlier, bad habits of poor countries dominated where there are contracts with foreign companies but the weak state of an underdeveloped country can't enforce such contracts or agreements, as its officials don't cost much for foreign companies to get their bidding. When the country finally had a government that can stand up to such inadequacies,

this signaled that the weak state of the past and its tag of dependency was a past issue.

It can thus be said that the reclassification was in the air before statistical updates of various World Bank development preoccupations finally put the matter to the clear light of day. But this enhanced status also implied that there will be much less of the sort of indulgence that used to characterize our relations with foreign countries, and especially the major trade partners. It is as if in the past we used to be given various allowances to push forward the development process, and much of this will now be reconsidered. A state in abject poverty, without aid, is likely to continue slumbering, but a middle income opens its economy.

For instance there is a crisis gripping the East African Community in its lack of having prepared annual budget estimates, which has been linked to disturbed flows in foreign trade, tourism and project aid in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak. With this reclassification, the EAC budgeting issue may remain problematic but for a different reason, that aid-based programmes will find fewer takers. Development partners have to redo their budgetary arithmetic with huge resources being directed to fighting Covid-19. They could conceivably take relief in this reclassification to cut back on aid we hitherto took for granted.

More significantly, the terms are likely to change, for instance the World Bank alters a few terms in the sort of financing it extends to Tanzania. Instead of the International Development Association (IDA) window, we may be shifted a bit rapidly to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the main part of the World Bank. The difference lies in its far less concessional lending format.

Scientists notice new marker for insecticide resistance in malaria mosquitoes: So what?

MALARIA is fighting back against efforts to eliminate it and these should be hopeful days for those battling malaria. Deaths from the disease have fallen to around 435,000 a year, from perhaps five times that number a century ago. This year the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Algeria and Argentina malaria-free, bringing to 38 the number of countries now officially rid of the disease. Algeria will be regarded as a particular success because it is in Africa. The continent suffered 90 per cent of an estimated 219 million cases worldwide in 2017. But two big clouds darken the outlook. One is the stubborn persistence of malaria south of the Sahara. The other is the emergence of new strains of the disease resistant to the available treatments.

Fewer Africans are dying from malaria but the estimated number of cases has barely changed since 2011. Ten African countries and India account for 70 per cent of global cases. Numbers in India are falling, but not in the worst-afflicted African countries. Some places, such as Zambia are trying hard to tackle the disease. But malaria is proving resilient. One reason may be the declining share of families that use anti-mosquito sprays in their homes. Another may be resistance to the insecticides used in bed nets or sprays. And, though about three-quarters of the \$3.1bn the world spends to fight the disease each year goes to Africa, funding per person has fallen in recent years in the most malaria-prone countries. Perhaps most important, these countries also have shoddy public-health systems, especially in war zones such as northern Nigeria.

In the war to control malaria, disease-spreading mosquitoes are fighting back. In the past two decades, scientists have treated bed nets, a mainstay of malaria prevention across Africa, with insecticides to thwart the spread of malaria, which kills 400,000 people each year, including more than 200,000 in sub-Saharan Africa.

But a study released recently found that resistance to five mainstream insecticides increased dramatically between 2005 and 2017. The study, published in the open-access journal *PLoS ONE*, mapped the patterns of insecticide resistance in *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes across Africa in an effort to better control the mosquitoes that transmit malaria.

In recent years, field studies have suggested an increase in insecticide resistance among mosquitoes, leading to a decrease in the effectiveness of mosquito-control programme interventions, including bed nets.

Analyzing a published database of information on mosquitoes collected throughout mainland sub-Saharan Africa between 2005 and 2017, researchers mapped when and where insecticide resistance had arisen in populations of *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes. In East Africa, resistance to pyrethroids (pyrethroids are a group of man-made pesticides similar to the natural pesticide pyrethrum) increased to a lesser degree, expanding from 9 per cent to 45 per cent of the region. Similar increases were seen among populations of mosquitoes resistant to DDT, a chemical often used for indoor spraying to kill malaria-transmitting mosquitoes.

The rapid spread of resistance across large parts of the sub-Saharan Africa signals an urgent need to quantify the efficacy of different resistance management strategies, and to understand the impact of resistance on malaria transmission and control. Relationships between insecticide resistance and malaria prevalence are currently poorly understood, but there is evidence that resistance can reduce the efficacy of standard pyrethroid-treated (bed nets).

Such resistance has serious consequences for malaria prevention. Insecticide-treated nets have achieved substantial reductions in malaria prevalence in Africa, but the number of insecticides currently available for use in bed nets is very limited.

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By Debo Onifade and Temisan Amoye

THOUGH Mexico and Canada will continue to be the top two trading partners of the United States for many years, the rising US-China feud over trade and corona virus can certainly help grow jobs in Nigeria and other African countries if African politicians brace up to rival China.

US President Donald Trump ran for election on a promise to make trade fairer for the US, and China has been the hardest hit trade partner so far. China did many things right in the last couple of decades that attracted huge American investment especially to their manufacturing sector. While American conglomerates sought to earn greater profits by producing goods at cheaper rates in China, Chinese factories offered highly skilled and cheap labor, adequate infrastructure, as well as a very high work rate that was uncommon in other parts of the world.

Today, Chinese labour rates have gone up significantly and many other countries have built adequate infrastructure for manufacturing. In fact, a group of countries often referred to as "MITI-V" or "Mighty Five" have emerged in the last decade as direct competitors to China. They are Malaysia, India, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Each of these alternative manufacturing countries has their unique pluses and drawbacks. These are the countries Nigeria and other African countries need to learn from and compete with for outsourcing jobs from the United States.

Apart from manufacturing, American companies also outsource software development, customer service, medical billing, digital marketing, and other services to providers in Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. In the past, phone customer service in the United States was mostly outsourced to India. But many US companies today are outsourcing phone customer service to providers in the Philippines and the Caribbean perhaps because of their more neutral English accent and similar levels of education and skills as the Indians.

India however continues to be the number one source of software developers to the United States. According to Delon Jobs, the #1 provider of IT recruitment service in Nigeria, a few Nigerian companies are getting opportunities to hire software developers for US companies but the country needs to do a lot more to be more competitive in the software development outsourcing global industry.

Ironically, most small countries in Africa patronize expensive software development companies in Europe and Asia because of the dearth of local resources in their countries. For example, I spoke with a Malawian

How the US-China feud could help Nigeria and Africa grow



friend a few weeks ago and she told me virtually all major software development services in Malawi are provided by European and Asian companies. It should be the other way round.

Africans must develop adequate expertise to meet their local needs and export services to the West to earn good foreign exchange.

Talking about medical billing, local DME Billing service in Massachusetts and other states across the United States are competing with Indian offshore billing companies. New medical billing specialties like acupuncture billing are still largely serviced by local resources but most of the traditional specialties like primary care, dermatology, neurology, family care, radiology and others are commonly outsourced to India.

As the United States feud with China continues, US companies will be seeking alternate countries to outsource manufacturing and services to. And Africa must work hard to compete for those jobs. Many African residents in Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, and others speak English as a first language.

On the average, they speak more English than people in "MITI-V" and China. This is the biggest value Africans have to offer American companies seeking new partners outside China.

Unlike the manufacturing outsourcing industry that requires enormous physical infrastructure, software development, phone

customer support and medical billing mostly require excellent communication and technical skills. Given that Nigerians always rank among the smartest people in the world and communicate more primarily in English than the Indians, they should be competing very much for outsourcing deals from the United States.

Nigeria should take the leadership position and bring along other African countries to start earning good outsourcing income from the United States.

If the United States adopts a policy that favors Africa for some of their offshore outsourcing needs in place of China, they wouldn't have to worry about military or global rivalry, intellectual theft, trade imbalance, or cyber threats as they are currently experiencing with China.

Nigeria, and indeed the rest of Africa must recognize that negotiating with United States to seek outsourcing opportunities is not just good for foreign exchange earnings, it will greatly lower unemployment rates across the continent. There are many small companies in China that went from ten employees to two hundred employees only because of outsourcing opportunities from the United States. Same thing can happen in Africa. Outsourcing opportunities can generate millions of jobs across Africa and transform people's lives.

Based on recent employment number estimates on a top job portal in Lagos, Nigeria - Jobs.delon.ng, Nigeria's

unemployment and underemployment rate was certainly close to 50% as at the end of May 2020. A significant number of the underemployed people are very smart people that can become highly trained like typical Chinese workers. Software development companies in Nigeria should partner with state governments in Nigeria to provide apt training to software developers to help them become more attractive to foreign customers.

The Nigerian government should also improve their trade policies and engagement to promote the outsourcing industry. Imagine the amount of growth that Africa will enjoy if we develop coffee processing in Uganda, processed juice and textile in Morocco, remote customer service infrastructure in Ghana, and software development in Zambia.

Finally, Africa must fix its infrastructure and politics to make it easier to negotiate outsourcing with the United States government. China did not have to adopt western democracy to negotiate, but they gave enough assurance to the Americans that there will be stability in business policies despite any change in government.

China also did not have to guarantee 24-hr power supply across the entire country or the elimination of poverty. But they provided world-class infrastructure in several industrial cities that were adequate for manufacturing and transportation.

Africa can do the same, and Nigeria should lead the effort.

Is SA's IMF loan about economics or politics?

By Duma Gqubule and Anastasya Eliseeva

APPROACHING the international lender for a loan is questionable and dangerous considering its chequered past and insufficient resources to finance a Covid-19 stimulus and recovery.

Breaking from 26 years of reticence, South Africa has decided to apply for a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the mashonisa (lender) of international finance. The hook, an apparently innocuous loan that has an interest rate of 1% and few conditions, will result in the gradual loss of monetary sovereignty.

The loan will pave the way for South Africa to get into the clutches of an organisation that has a controversial track record of lending to developing countries over the past four decades. It will also provide political cover for South African elites to force through structural reforms in the face of the country's worst depression in a century and growing domestic and international resistance towards neoliberal economics.

According to Fadel Kaboub, a modern monetary theory economist, a monetary sovereign country is one that issues its own currency, taxes the people in its own currency, issues debt in its own currency and has a floating exchange rate that is not fixed against another currency. Technically, such a country cannot default on its debt. It can also pursue its economic development objectives without worrying too much about the reactions of international investors.

Modern monetary theory is an increasingly popular school of economic thought that has been embraced by many democratic socialists in the United States.

South Africa comes close to meeting all four conditions. It has the unique privilege among developing countries of having 90% of its sovereign debt denominated in rands. It also has deep capital markets that were worth R20.7 trillion - four times the size of its R5.1 trillion economy - at the end of December 2019, according to the Reserve Bank. The shares on the JSE stock exchange were worth R174 trillion. The government and corporate debt instruments that trade on the bond market were worth R3.3 trillion.

Origins of the IMF

The IMF was established in 1944 as Allied leaders drafted plans for a post-World War II economic order at the Bretton Woods Conference in the US. They set up a system of fixed exchange rates that were linked to the US dollar. The IMF, which supervised the system, had a mandate to promote international co-operation, support the expansion of trade and discourage policies that would harm prosperity.

The IMF began operations in March 1947 with 40 members, including three African countries: South Africa, Egypt and Ethiopia. It helped members who had problems with their balance of payments, a statement that records a country's financial transactions with the rest of the world.

The balance of payments has two components. The current account measures trade, unilateral transfers (remittances and donations) and other receipts and payments (interest, rent and profits).



The capital account measures loans, foreign direct investment, portfolio flows (the purchases of shares and bonds) and changes in foreign exchange reserves. Under fixed exchange rates, countries frequently depleted their foreign exchange reserves after selling them to buy national currencies and defend their values against the dollar.

During the Cold War, from the 1950s, communist countries withdrew from the IMF. But many newly independent African countries joined the fund. Although it had been established to assist developed countries, the IMF's focus changed from the 1960s as more lending went to developing countries.

The Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates collapsed in 1973. The IMF's mandate was reduced in the new era of floating exchange rates. Its original *raison d'être* was gone, says IMF historian James Vreeland. If a country's exchange rate depreciated, there would, in theory, be no need to sell foreign exchange reserves to buy the national currency and prop up its value. As it searched for a new purpose, the fund began to direct almost all its resources to developing countries, many of which continued to have fixed or managed exchange rates.

The first crisis

The first developing-country crisis happened in Mexico in 1982. Since then, every developing-country currency crisis - including Mexico (1994), East Asia (1997), Russia (1998), Brazil (1999), Argentina (2002 and 2018) and Turkey (2018) - has been because of a loss of monetary sovereignty following the accumulation of foreign currency loans. Ahead of each crisis, there was

an increase in portfolio inflows as countries liberalised their capital accounts, reducing restrictions on the flow of money into and out of their economies as the IMF had advised. Sudden stops of these volatile flows of "hot money" triggered numerous crises.

Each time, the IMF has been accused of pouring oil on the flames of a crisis, behaving like the collection committee of international creditors and bailing out the banks and not the people of the affected countries. It financed dictators such as Mobutu Sese Seko in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, Suharto in Indonesia and Augusto Pinochet in Chile, writes Mae Buenaventura, deputy director of the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development.

After Mexico defaulted on its debt in 1982 as a result of soaring interest rates in the US, the crisis spread to more than 40 developing countries in Latin America and Africa, which had also taken dollar-denominated loans, according to a paper by economists Jeffrey

Sachs and Harry Huizinga.

In exchange for loans, the IMF forced countries to implement structural adjustment programmes - free-market policies such as austerity, privatisation and liberalisation, which later became known as the Washington Consensus. These one-size-fits-all policies, which did not take into account local conditions, exacerbated the crisis and undermined democratic governance.

The IMF refused to support debt relief, which was eventually implemented by the US in 1989. In Latin America, the crisis resulted in a lost decade - La Década Perdida. José Antonio Ocampo, a Columbia University economist and former Colombian finance minister, says the crisis was "the most traumatic event in Latin American history".

Disastrous consequences

Stephen Lewis, a former United Nations envoy for HIV and Aids in Africa, said IMF loan conditions had contributed towards the spread of the epidemic on the continent. About Zambia, he said: "The ministry of health can hire no more staff, and fully 20% of municipal districts have no doctors and no nurses. The IMF has failed to grasp the demonic force of the human and economic carnage caused by HIV and Aids."

In Russia, the IMF was involved in developing disastrous "shock therapy" policies - a big-bang transition from communism to capitalism, which resulted in hyperinflation throughout 15 former Soviet Bloc countries and a 40% decline in Russia's gross domestic product (GDP), the value of all goods and services in the economy, between 1990 and 1998.

Let's start to reimagine and repurpose our institutions of higher learning

By Bonang Mohale

WHEN fishermen and fishermen cannot go out to sea, they repair their nets. Covid-19 has given us an amazing opportunity to repair our nets as institutions of higher learning. We must grab this opportunity to both reimagine and repurpose institutions of higher learning.

"The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth." - Old African adage.

The Freedom Charter, the statement of core principles of the South African Congress Alliance, which consisted of the African National Congress and its allies, the South African Indian Congress, the South African Congress of Democrats and the Coloured People's Congress, is characterised by the preamble: "We, the People of South Africa, declare for all our country and the world to know that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white..." It's opening demand states: "The People Shall Govern!"

The eighth, of 10 demands, declares: "The doors of learning and of culture shall be opened!" And, it is further accentuated thus: "The government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life; all the cultural treasures of mankind shall be open to all, by free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands; the aim of education shall be to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace; education shall be free, compulsory, universal and equal for all children; higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded on the basis of merit; adult illiteracy shall be ended by a mass state education plan; teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens and the colour bar in cultural life, in sport and in education shall be abolished."

The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Section 29(1) states: "Everyone has the right to basic education, including adult basic education and to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible."

It was Martin Luther King Jr who



reminds us that protest is the language of the unheard. An old African proverb rings true that until and unless lions have their own storytellers, stories about hunting will always glorify the hunter. History is up to the temporary occupants of the corridors of power. South African history, as taught in most institutions, still starts in the year 1652 with the Drommedaris, Reiger and De Goedehoop.

Too many people are still poor, marginalised, unable to reach their potential and on the periphery. And yet, we have come to know and understand that no people can be helped by, nor benefit from, institutions that are not a direct result of their own character.

To have a full appreciation of poverty, racism, sexism, men perpetrating gender-based violence, men committing violence against children, men raping women and babies, toxic masculinity and patriarchy, one must understand power dynamics. To understand power dynamics, one needs to listen and believe the stories of the survivors and the powerless!

The misogynist is a person who dislikes, despises or is strongly prejudiced against women. Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioural traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.

A racist is defined as one who inherently believes that one is superior, has the power and uses that power to exclude. I and many black people are products of that exclusion when, not long ago, 1981, we needed a "Special Ministerial Consent" to study at The University of the Witwa-

tersrand. We were carted every morning and every afternoon, to and from Glyn Thomas House, inside the then Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto and Braamfontein because of the Group Areas Act.

The country's greatest resource is its youth. We must treat South Africa's children as our very own! We need to own the strength in our name.

What Covid-19 has done, is to expose these deep, systemic and systematic structural inequalities. It has merely removed the gloss and veneer to reveal that we have successfully transitioned into a new political epoch, but have not yet fundamentally transformed both the economy and society. In terms of just the three inequalities of income, wealth and opportunities, we are very far from being broadly reflective of the demographics. Our institutions are simply a microcosm of these broader socioeconomic fissures and fault lines.

Therefore, we are called upon, not to maintain the status quo nor be assimilated, but to be social justice activists, systemic change agents and defenders of democracy.

The law without an analysis of power is tyranny! The law is not a moral compass. The people who hid Bantu Steve Biko and Anne Frank were breaking the law. The people who killed them both were following it (at least 73 political activists are thought to have died in South African police detention between 1963 and 1990 - eight of them during or as a result of their detention on the 10th floor, of the then John Vorster Square).

Our whole history is not only peppered, but shaped by a very painful and hurtful past of exclusion, subjugation and oppression. Twenty-six years into democracy, we have not, collectively succeed-

ed in eradicating the legacy of apartheid.

The country's greatest resource is its youth. We must treat South Africa's children as our very own! We need to own the strength in our name. The problem today is not people being uneducated. The problem is that they are educated just enough to believe what they have been taught and not educated enough to question what they have been taught. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn accentuates this notion: "It's a universal law, intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility."

We would have succeeded when we, collectively, can imbue these institutions of higher learning and, by definition, the next crop of leaders with a higher purpose, palpable ethical leadership, a demonstrable set of values and thereby create an unambiguous cohesive culture. A culture in which they feel needed and wanted. In which they feel free to speak their mind without any fear of retribution or reprisals. Imagine if we changed our paradigm and could all be successful in unleashing this potential in all our students as, not the future, but present leaders. Not as rebellious, operating mostly on the periphery of our institutions, but positing them firmly centre stage. We need the creativity of free young people to run the heart of a productive knowledge-based and digital economy. Giving them space to have crucial, critical, but nonetheless, courageous conversations because woman's/man's greatest accomplishments is through talking and woman's/man's greatest failures is through not talking. Giving them our support and resources to not only conduct rigorous research in management knowledge,

champion business education and to be a leading influence on management thinking and best practice, but to describe, define and shape their own new world that is co-crafted and co-created in their own image and brand.

A brand of multiculturalism with no one dominant culture and no prevalent dogma. Developing their own leadership intuition. Mindfully taking a resolutely unorthodox approach that views the current unrelenting and periodic unpredictability and uncertainty as a prime opportunity to press the reset button. Every step toward the goal of social justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle, the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals. Not everybody can be famous, but everyone can be great. Greatness is as a result of serving. We are simultaneously the most evolved species on the planet and wholly unprepared for the demands of modern life.

Even against this disturbed backdrop, to be the integrator of the best minds and a catalyst to creating innovative and challenging ideas. Challenging preconceived conceptions, breaking down mental barriers, bringing depth and substance to empirical attempts at organisation and sharing across cultures. Demonstrating respect and openness to other views in addressing today's strategic challenges, building a shared vision and a common language - the language of change, creating value through action and accelerating innovation. Accessing an extraordinary and unique experience to clean up themselves from anxious setbacks in order to discover new unlimited perspectives on their own leadership capabilities. Informed by interdisciplinary learning for thinking strategically, complemented with practical tools and frameworks to aspire to a different and better kind than we have today.

#FeesMustFall and #Decolonisation were amazing acts of demonstrable leadership worthy of the respect of the quadruple helix of academia, business, government and civil society. Surely the expectation is not that these young leaders will simply be the next rung in the ladder, but a different rung? A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because its trust is not on the branch, but its wings.

We have to start by extending trust to these young leaders that they are intellectually capable; that they have to survive Covid-19; that they must retain focus; that they get it; that they are the ones on whom stuff is going to land; that they must walk the very delicate tightrope between being radical and respectful as well as internally assertive and externally loyal; that they have to understand self more deeply; that they must be themselves and authentic. Be you, do you, for you; that there is beauty in identity, grace in legacy and courage in resilience; fall in love with your roots; learn more, share your stories, speak your language, own your truth.

Covid-19: Health scientists caught between a rock and a hard place as govt abandons the poor majority

By Leonard Gentle

HEALTH scientists in South Africa, particularly those advising government, have had a difficult time of late. On the one hand, they have been lauded in the media for being the best. On the other, they face a government committed to the markets and hell-bent on keeping big business - South African and foreign - happy.

Government's ideological framework is neoliberalism and its brief is being the best it can in service to South Africa's super-rich - those behemoths who have raked in assets in South Africa but who transcribe these into profits via the dollar-euro circuits of global financial markets. This means high-interest rates and bond yields for the rich and the banks while ignoring the need to fix the healthcare system on whom the poor rely.

Covid-19 was a difficult moment for the government. Alongside so many countries in the West, they dithered while the news came out of China and the WHO that a new coronavirus was on the way. Our 2020 budget still had as its centrepiece cuts in the health budget, despite the fact that the virus was on its way.

But to its credit government did respond in March with a lockdown and social distancing response. Lockdown meant that the government was going to harm huge swathes of business alongside the millions of ordinary South Africans who would lose livelihoods and be further impoverished. There was a huge risk of popular non-compliance and dissatisfaction but the lockdown was a re-

sponse that was simply politically impossible not to proceed with.

As part of managing the lockdowns the public was encouraged to go along with the measures by regular health warnings, mass programmes of education as to the nature and dangers of the virus. The government introduced the MAC - an advisory group of health scientists who were given space on TV to talk the public through the strategy.

Over the last five years, the government has unveiled its commitment to universal healthcare via the NHI, set up systems of evaluating public hospitals, passed an NHI Bill in 2019 and appointed a special Competition Commission enquiry into high costs in the private health care system. Successive budgets even spoke explicitly that the government might have to take unpopular measures - like increasing VAT - to fund the NHI.

This put health scientists in a unique position - a position normally reserved for economists - that government would be "following the science". Of course, this was not unique to South Africa but was the strategy all over the world. The strategy was about prevention - hygiene, handwashing and masks, social distancing - and mitigation. And what was made abundantly clear was that the lockdown was to flatten the infection rate curve so that the healthcare system could be prepared and therefore not swamped when the infection rates peak.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic there had been a consensus amongst both the health science community and



government that South Africa's healthcare system was not fit for purpose. It was a dual system whereby 80% of the people rely on the public sector while the 20%, the wealthy, the middle classes and those in full employment - who have one or other medical aid - relied on the private sector. This skewing is replicated across all spheres in the healthcare sector - from health specialists, to ICU beds and staff.

This system has become so pernicious that South Africa's private hospital monopolies - Netcare, Mediclinic, Life Healthcare and the like are now major players in private healthcare in Britain, Switzerland and the UAE, while the poor risked

their lives in the overburdened and underfunded public system. And the biggest Medical Aids business, Discovery, moved on to launch its own bank.

Over the last five years, the government has unveiled its commitment to universal healthcare via the NHI, set up systems of evaluating public hospitals, passed an NHI Bill in 2019 and appointed a special Competition Commission enquiry into high costs in the private health care system. Successive budgets even spoke explicitly that the government might have to take unpopular measures - like increasing VAT - to fund the NHI.

The health scientists have been researching the state of the public health system for years as they sought to provide the government with the most up to date information as to what would be needed to fix the healthcare system.

In the meantime, the SAMRC warned that South Africa faced four epidemics in which its profile is amongst the worst in the world - HIV/AIDs and TB, Infant and Maternal Mortality, Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and strokes, and Violence

- all of which require both behavioural changes and better healthcare ...

And then came Covid-19, and then came the lockdowns and the health scientists took centre stage ...

And, then surprise, surprise, government's commitment to the necessary healthcare reforms to make universal healthcare possible, simply dissipated. And when the government implemented the lockdown and it was clear that starvation loomed for the poor majority in South Africa? The government announced a package of budget adjustments and underwriting private bank loans - with much uncritical media fanfare as if it were a R500-billion stimulus package ... and then it all quietly died down as people read the small print. Reality was stood on its head ...

The NHI? Gone the way of the dodo... The test site reports on the readiness of hospitals? On the back burner... Filling the some 40% staff shortages in public hospitals? Treasury long-ago vetoed this... Implementing the Competition Commis-

sion's recommendations on pricing in the private sector? Filed in some bottom drawer...

Then, unlike in Ireland and Spain where governments temporarily took over the private healthcare resources, the SA government announced a deal to procure ICU beds in the private sector. This after the public had been told that the fiscus has no resources.

Doctors and other health workers, unlike the scientists, who work at the increasingly over-burdened coalface have had to deal with moral choices as to who should be allowed to live and who can die.

In some ways, this response of government could have been predicted by its commitment to austerity and satisfying the markets. Recently a group of heterodox economists penned their critique in Business Day and took up the challenge. It's the challenge to neoliberal fundamentalism that social justice activists have been waging for some 30 years.

But, in the glare of the public eye, and with this immovable object of government's prioritising neoliberal orthodoxy over all else... where were the health scientists to go?

What we have seen is that the health science community sets its bar lower and takes government intransigence as simply an immovable rock in a river, a fact of nature. For decades the science community has complained that the government does not take the scientific research seriously. Now, what does it do? It also goes quiet about the state of public healthcare, about the social determinants of health, about the need for universal healthcare, about the NHI.

Why accelerating implementation of AfCFTA must remain a top priority

By Ahunna Eziakonwa

1 July 2020 was supposed to be the official date to start trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It was a much-anticipated follow up to the 2019 African Union Summit, that launched the operational phase of the AfCFTA in a colorful ceremony in Niamey - Niger.

The world was watching as Africa purposely marched on in its drive for integration.

We had grown accustomed to the projections - that intra-African trade - standing at about 18 per cent (in 2019) - will double by 2040.

We knew the projections were an understatement - for their focus on trade in goods alone - amidst a highly informal African marketplace, of thriving but un-captured trade at borderlands, and a vibrant services sector.

And so, we started to look at bringing the promise to life. At UNDP, based on consultations with key stakeholders, thanks to our presence on the ground in 54 African countries, we focused on enabling environments and productive capacities for women and youth as a central piece of our Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa - shaping a signature initiative on women and youth in the AfCFTA.

We, like others, were exuberant about Africa's promise that was expected to be leapfrogged by the machinery of boosted intra-African trade.

Covid 19 has set this back - not the promise, but the start of trading. This, for many reasons, not least the unfinished negotiation business on rules of origin and the still-to-be-exchanged offers for preferential treatment that will be the basis for new trading arrangements.

We have seen demand for Africa's commodity exports plummet, and their prices tumble. We have seen global and regional supply chains break - causing fear for food insecurity and critically needed medical supplies.

But it is precisely COVID 19 that must impress on us the sense of urgency to accelerate implementation of the AfCFTA. Africa's place in global value chains requires critical upgrade - from the export of raw materials and low-processed goods, to higher value-added products.



COVID 19 has shown that production value chains structured around extraction must now give way to approaches that privilege diversified industrialization on the continent, to promote structural transformation in Africa.

And this is not just economic orthodoxy. It is central to development policy - that Africa's resources (that are the raw materials for many of the world's most prosperous industries) can and must form the basis for an industrial drive within Africa, crowding in Africans: women and youth - into decent jobs, thereby promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa.

No nation has broken the poverty trap without creating jobs in productive sectors. Africa's productive sectors - agriculture, industry, services, and the digital economy, should be supported to create products for local, regional, and global markets.

So, what has changed?

COVID 19 has demonstrated Africa's ingenuity and surfaced the footprints of the productive capacity we long sought. Necessity has birthed innovation - from Ghana's hand sanitizers, to Rwanda's facemasks - and similar production all across Africa, to ventilators in Kenya, to testing kits in Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire.

These inventions were literally unimaginable in the pre-COVID 19 environment.

The power of a mindset and a narrative can change a reality. COVID 19 allows us to embrace the reality that ingenuity is distributed in equal measure. If there is a silver lining out of COVID 19's stormy clouds, it is that Africa can - industrialize.

There is an important role for trade policy in ensuring that such mindset shifts take place, and that new stories of jobs for women and youth in trade, gain momentum.

For the development professional, the challenge is how to nurture this footprint - to ensure that it was not just a passing phase. The goal must be to support scaling up of what is evidence of a proven concept (which has a ready market in the new-normal COVID 19 economy). This can be done in at least six ways:

- Creating capacity to meet regulatory safety and technical standards, to ensure that products can access local, regional, and global markets.
- Investments in renewable energy to power Africa's industrial base.
- Availing financing to oil the machinery of production in Africa.
- Adopting incentivizing tax structures, includ-

ing holidays, that provide room for SMEs and non-formal economy players to grow.

- Establishing centres of learning and excellence where skills can be honed to produce at high standards.

- Using government procurement to provide markets to the products of women and youth.

The overarching architecture of enabling environments is the business of governments. Investing in measures to facilitate trade within and at borders will need to become a top priority of Africa's strategies to resuscitate economies from the development reversal occasioned by COVID 19.

Speaking to innovators and producers about the support they need to get ahead, is essential in zoning in on how their footprint can be scaled, so that models used for capacity building respond to those specific needs, even where it calls for getting off the beaten track.

Investing in agriculture, services and the digital economy is inescapable, as the pandemic has laid bare the risks of not doing so.

Amidst broken global supply chains and export bans, Africa has been forced to fill the gap. Scientists, research institutions, women entrepreneurs and young people have stepped up to the plate to provide homegrown solutions that are working

well in context.

And while questions remain as to whether these are firmly rooted green shoots of recovery, the answer lies in what African governments do in responding to this footprint.

Investing in the new wave of African entrepreneurs scores on the twin objective of resuscitating incomes and livelihoods, while preparing the body of products that would find markets in the AfCFTA.

We must read and write about these innovations. Even more, we must recognize and lift them up - targeting them for programme support - and ensuring that they become part of Africa's development 2.0 model.

While COVID 19 has led to a postponement of the start of trading under the AfCFTA, we must continue to advocate for an early commencement of stronger intra-African trade. For therein lies an important part of attaining Africa's development promise.

Ahunna Eziakonwa is Assistant Secretary General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa - where she oversees development programmes across 46 countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

Increased illegal hunting in parts of Asia and Africa

By John Russell

IN parts of the developing world, coronavirus safety measures have fueled concerns about an increase in illegal hunting of wild animals.

Some people say the hunting is a result of food shortages and an easing of law enforcement in some wildlife protection areas. Yet at the same time, border closures and travel restrictions have slowed illegal trade of some high-value animal species.

Economic problems and food shortages have created situations in which more people have been attacking rare or endangered species.

This kind of poaching is a big concern in parts of Asia and Africa.

On May 9, a greater one-horned rhinoceros was killed in India's Kaziranga National Park - the first such case in over a year. Three people were arrested on June 1. They are suspected of being part of an international group of poachers. The three had automatic rifles and ammunition at the time of their arrest, said Uttam Saikia, a wildlife warden.

As in other areas, poachers in Kaziranga pay needy people small amounts of money to help them. With families losing work during the coronavirus lockdown, the poachers "will definitely take advantage" of the situation, warned Saikia.

The case of the rhino is not the only one in India.

Since India's government announced the lockdown, poachers have killed at least four tigers and six leopards, the Wildlife Protection Society of India said recently. But poachers also killed many other animals, including gazelles, squirrels, boars, and birds.

"It is risky to poach," said Mayukh Chatterjee, a wildlife biologist, "but if pushed to the brink, some could think those risks are worth taking."

Chatterjee works for the Wildlife Trust of India, a not-for-profit group.

India is not the only country to see an increase in poaching.

In Nepal, more forest-related crimes were reported in the first month of lockdown than at any time over the past



This undated photo provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society in June 2020 shows a giant ibis in Cambodia. In April 2020, the WCS documented the poisoning of three critically endangered giant ibises for the wading bird's meat.

11 months. That information comes from a study by Nepal's government and the World Wildlife Fund.

In Southeast Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society confirmed the killing of three critically endangered giant ibises for the bird's meat. In late March, more than 100 painted stork chicks were also poached in Cambodia.

"Suddenly rural people have little to turn to but natural resources and we're already seeing a spike in poaching," said Colin Poole, the society's director for the Greater Mekong.

In Africa, organized poaching has not increased much, partly because many parks and wildlife reserves have continued ranger patrols.

Ray Jansen is the chairman of the African Pangolin Working Group. He said bushmeat poaching had increased, especially in parts of southern Africa. "Rural people are struggling to feed themselves and their families," he added.

At the same time, border closures and travel restrictions have slowed international trade in pangolins and other animals. But the illegal trade continues within Africa, noted Jansen. He added that he expected a "flood of trade" once shipping opens up again.

Concerned about a possible link between the bushmeat trade and the coronavirus, several wildlife groups are calling for governments to enact measures to avoid future pandemics. Among them is a ban on the sale of wild birds and animals for food.

Others are calling for changes to the international treaty known as CITES, which restricts the trade in endangered plants and animals. They say CITES should be expanded to include public health concerns. They note that some commonly traded animals often carry viruses but are currently not subject to trade restrictions under the treaty.

African govts urged to provide room for refugees to working

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN governments have been urged to give refugees right to work and run businesses in order to help the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The African Entrepreneur Collective (AEC) Executive Director, Julianne Oyler, said: "It is impor-

tant that everyone is given an opportunity to work in these trying times."

"Our experience in the last recession has shown that for an economy to recover, it has to start from the community level. The small and micro businesses stimulate economy from the bottom and that is the way to go.

"Not all countries in Africa allow refugees to work. But it will help a lot if the refugees are allowed to work and form business linkages with the local communities. These linkages will form supply chains that at the end will help the economy," she said.

Through its affiliate in Rwanda, Inkomoko, AEC has given 1,000

grants to entrepreneurs who live in and around the refugee camps in Rwanda to help them recover after the COVID-19.

The grants will cover small business such as vegetable sellers, small shop owners and other small businesses whose livelihoods depends on the revenue from their fragile economic activi-

ties. Oyler said that they have received funding from the MasterCard Foundation to the tune of US\$2.3million to help these small businesses to recover after the pandemic that has affected a lot of them.

She mentioned that Kenya and Rwanda have a lot of refugees in

their countries and if there is one thing that we can all learn is how the refugees have been instrumental in starting and operating businesses that have helped the local communities.

On the operations of the grants, she said the Inkomoko and other projects that will be established along the same lines will consider

the issue of gender where at least 50 percent of the grantees will be women; with refugees and businesses from local communities also into the equation.

Currently, AEC operates in Kenya and Rwanda but it has plans to roll out its project in the bigger Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions in the future.

UN economists: Helping youth enterprise take off will bring much more sustainable returns

By Halligan Agade

UN economists have encouraged governments to help young entrepreneurs who want their work to have a positive impact on their communities and resist the COVID-19-fuelled economic downturn.

In the face of worsening global employment prospects owing to the pandemic, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) maintained in a new report that unlocking business opportunities for young adults "could lower unemployment and bring social benefits".

It said that socially-minded enterprises benefited 871 million people in just nine countries in Europe and Central Asia in 2016, providing services and products worth around \$6.7 billion and creating employment, particularly among marginalised groups.

Young entrepreneurs who have already made a difference include Zaid Souqi, from Jordan, who created The Orenda Tribe: Art for Hope, in 2014.

His art and art therapy initiative empowers Syrian and Jordanian children in vulnerable situations.

In Malawi, business trainer Ellen Chilemba started Tiwale when she was 18; now 30, she now has trained more than 150 women as entrepreneurs.

And Pezana Rexha, a young architect from Albania, set up Pana Design: Storytelling Furniture, making furniture from reclaimed wood with people who normally face difficulties finding employment, such as older workers and those with disabilities.

Chief among DESA's recommendations is the removal of obstacles to start-up funds for youngsters.

This is a common failing in "many" countries, where regulatory systems often prevent them from accessing the financial products and services they need to start a business.

In addition, lack of access to training, technical support, networks and markets, all combine to discourage the growth of such social enterprises, said DESA, which defines social



An informal business woman wears one of David Ochieng's face masks in Kibera, Nairobi.

entrepreneurship as "businesses that generate profits while seeking to generate social impacts".

According to the agency's 2020 World Youth Report, unemployment among the world's 1.2 billion young people (aged 15-24) is far higher than for adults.

The Covid-19 crisis has worsened their job prospects, the DESA report continues, although before the new coronavirus emerged in China late last December, before turning into a pandemic, labour experts estimated that 600 million jobs would be needed in the next 15 years to meet youth employment needs, the report noted.

Highlighting the multiple benefits that could come if Governments did more for their aspiring youngsters, the UN agency explained that new measures could also contribute to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 objectives to tackle everything from poverty to inequality. "Creating pathways for youth social entrepreneurship can generate positive outcomes for everyone," said Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. "When supported by enabling policies and programmes, social entrepreneurship can represent a great way for young people to earn a living and improve the world around them."

By Special Correspondent

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Fund (ADF) have approved grants totaling US\$9.52 million to strengthen responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Africa and the Horn, and in the Comoros.

The grant is part of the US\$10 billion COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF) approved by the Board of Directors in April 2020 and complements the Bank's direct support to regional member countries across the continent.

Tanzania to benefit from AfDB Covid-19 aid

The beneficiaries are Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Funding will also go toward the procurement of essential medical supplies, including testing kits and to train health workers.

The overall objective of the operation is to reduce the incidence and mortality in the Eastern African region due to COVID-19 pandemic and other

disease outbreaks.

The funds will be used to bolster health systems and disease surveillance, enhance infection prevention and control, and improve regional coordination

by the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to contain cross-border transmissions.

"The overall objective of the operation is to reduce the incidence and mortality in the

Eastern African region due to COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks," Martha Phiri, Director for Human and Social Development said.

The EAC Secretariat will receive US\$8.79 million in tranches of US\$8.16 million and US\$629,582 while US\$729,581 will go to IGAD. The World Health Organization will be the implementing agency for the emergency response activities in the EAC and IGAD mem-

ber states, and the Comoros, while the RECs will be directly responsible for executing the cross-border interventions.

Countries in Eastern and the Horn of Africa are enforcing stringent border measures to mitigate the cross-border transmissions that have led to disruptions in the movement of people, trade flows and access to essential goods.

The project will, therefore, tackle these challenges by im-

proving testing and case detection capacity at border crossings and improving regional coordination.

The Project will also support EAC and IGAD to roll out regional COVID-19 digital tracking systems to facilitate cross-border surveillance. This will make the regional bodies better prepared to counter cross-border transmissions during future pandemics.

The grants align with the

Bank's High 5 priority commitments, specifically to improving the quality of life for the people of Africa, and to advancing regional integration.

The financing also strongly aligns with the Eastern Africa Regional Strategy Paper, which calls for enhanced cooperation in managing regional public goods.

As of 28 June, total confirmed cases in the 11 mainland countries of the region stood at 42,000, while the island nation of Comoros reported 265 cases out of a population of 800,000.

The cost of reopening schools in the pandemic

By Asawo Ibifuro

ALTHOUGH this discussion is focused on Nigeria and Africa, it has a global appeal as the pandemic and its effect is global. Looking at China, South Korea and Israel who tried to reopen their schools, amidst tight resumption protocols, it was observed that these countries went into another wave of increase in infection which has forced them to close schools.

As we all know, one of the major goals for education administrators is to improve access to quality education but this is to be done without risking the lives of the children. Access to quality education now transcends brick and mortar schools; the virtual learning environment is at present considered globally as a major way to access quality education, especially in the pandemic.

Here in Nigeria, from the feedback so far, it has been observed that many Nigerians including government officials have also come to realise the true cost of re-opening our schools in the pandemic.

Hence, the consideration to use virtual learning as a veritable medium of learning in the pandemic and as a complement to our existing traditional learning post-pandemic.

The following are some key areas to consider in order to ensure a successful implementation of a virtual learning plan adapted to Nigeria during the pandemic and post-pandemic

Government Policies

Policies in education established by the Nigerian government at all levels going forward should include and encourage the use of virtual learning environments as a complement or alternative to the existing physical learning environments, depending on the state of things in the country per time.

To ensure this policy is effective, the government must provide adequate power supply to its citizenry.

The government should also make policies that ensure public and private schools are guided on how to implement virtual learning for school-aged children in both urban and rural areas.

Developing a Framework

Once the government puts forth policies for schools to have virtual learn-



ing environments to complement or be an alternative to physical learning environments, the next major task will be to adopt the use of virtual learning during the pandemic and a blend post-pandemic.

Subsequently, all stakeholders should develop frameworks on how the virtual learning will work within their localities.

The following questions can serve as a guide for a good framework: How can a cost-effective and quality learning experience be provided for the learners? What cost should each stakeholder bear? Can all the learning objectives be achieved through the virtual learning environment or are there some that can be achieved only through the physical learning environment? What kind of content will be effective for virtual teaching – considering the various class categories?

How can the content be created at a cost-effective rate? What distribution channel is most available? How can the content be distributed to the learners? What are the possible challenges that are likely to be faced? What are the peculiarities in the various geographical zones and how can

we adapt the virtual learning environment to them?

Further considerations to be made for this framework include the age and presence of disabilities in the students. These considerations give the direction to all stakeholders on the kind of content that needs to be developed, the kind of delivery/distribution medium to be adopted, the infrastructure that needs to be in place, the partnerships to be leveraged, the areas of limitations, etc.

Overtime, all these and more will be used to draw up key performance indicators for effective monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement.

Content curation

In education, the quality of content matters a great deal; in fact, in virtual education and digital business, content is king.

Nigeria runs the 6-3-3-4 system of education where a total of nine years is used for compulsory basic education. Children between ages five and 13 (about 30 million Nigerians) fall within this class category.

This is the formative stage of our children and needs our best input. At this level of education, the children require content that will get their attention; they

also require lots of audio-visuals with illustrations to drive home the learning objectives.

The way and manner their content will be curated for virtual learning will be different from that of the older children in the senior secondary schools and those for the undergraduates. It is therefore important for the government and school administrators to work out generally-accepted content curation guides that will appeal to and be easily understood by the various segments of learners.

Furthermore, content curation should be based on the language of the target audience. For example, it will be foolhardy to use advanced English language to teach out-of-school children in the rural areas of the North, South, East or West of Nigeria; for children with hearing impairment, the use of sign languages is a necessity.

One fast way to jump-start this phase is to partner with existing content developers, ensuring that the content curated is based on the national curriculum and can be delivered in the appropriate format (e.g. audio, video, text, animation, graphics, games, assessment, etc.) via

multi-platforms to accommodate the diverse segments of users in our 6-3-3-4 system of education.

Once this is well determined, only then can we look at how these contents can be delivered or distributed to the various target audience.

Delivery/distribution platforms

The platform or environment through which the content is delivered by the teacher or consumed by the student gives the distinction between the Physical Learning Environment and the Virtual Learning Environment. While in our Physical Learning Environment, we all assemble in classrooms; in the Virtual Learning Environment, we meet virtually in what could be termed as a virtual classroom and this could be live or pre-recorded as audio lessons, video lessons, etc.

Virtual Learning Environments or platforms can be delivered through the Internet, online apps, TVs, radios, online(web).

Terrestrial television/radio broadcast, satellite television/radio broadcast, desktop and mobile software applications, DVDs and CDs.

For the virtual classes to be transmitted through any of the above-listed channels or media by the schools, teachers or government, the students are expected to have the requisite devices to receive the transmission.

Internet/online

Most often, virtual learning has been mistaken for online learning. The internet is just one of the platforms through which virtual learning can take place; virtual classes can also be accessed via terrestrial television, radio broadcast, DVDs, etc.

Via the internet, classes can be broadcast using applications, portals, online, television and radio, social media applications, etc.; these classes can be live or pre-recorded just as in the case of both terrestrial and satellite television or radio broadcasts.

The internet remains the most flexible and interactive of the platforms for virtual learning. However, according to Statista, the internet demographics show that in 2018 there were only 92 million internet users with 50 million of the users accessing the internet only through smartphones.

According to the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, as at May

2019, Nigeria has 122,000,000. Although Statista predicts that over 30 million subscribers will be added in 2020, we can safely assume that most of the new subscribers will also be accessing the internet via their smartphones.

Looking at these statistics, we see that the percentage of internet users is quite small compared to our total population as a country. This leaves us with some questions: if the entire internet users are only 10% of families, what will happen to the remaining families with school-aged children? How many of the 10% can support the increased and recurring personal cost of data subscription? How easily will the primary school-aged children cope with learning using a mobile device that is limited by size?

The internet is the most expensive and perhaps the least reliable due to the current state of broadband infrastructure in the country. Given that only about 10% of the internet users can afford the use of the internet for learning purposes at the moment, the remaining 90% will have to make do with other platforms that may not be as effective as the internet, until the broadband infrastructure becomes accessible at an affordable cost.

This is a wake-up call to the government at all levels to invest in broadband internet access as critical infrastructure in order to encourage virtual learning, work and life-style in the 21st Century.

Terrestrial television/radio broadcast

To transmit through terrestrial television or radio broadcast, students will need televisions or radios, respectively. The upside to this medium is that over 70% of households in Nigeria have access to these media (i.e. television and radio). To use this, however, they will require constant power supply. Satellite television/radio broadcast

For satellite television and radio broadcast, students will not only need televisions and radios, they will also require an antenna and decoder that will enable their television or radio to receive the satellite broadcast. This will be at a cost.

They will probably also require the payment of a monthly subscription fee. It is however possible for the government to make this an unscrambled service (free-to-air), thereby eliminating the monthly/prescribed recurrent cost.

Building a beloved community: A call for justice and transformation

By Samuel B. Reeves

THE Historic Providence Baptist Church's response to the protest against injustice and police brutality against blacks and people of color in the United States of America

About two hundred years ago (1821), two Baptist preachers embarked on a journey and sailed to Liberia from Virginia in the United States. They left for a place they knew little about; a place that had not been secured. They believed and set bound for an unknown land accompanied by the assurance of a God who had promised his presence at all times. They were determined to be His witness and to show to the rest of the world that they were free and capable of founding and leading a nation of their own in what was known then as the dark continent of Africa. They set out to birth, Christianize and showcased to the world in general and to their former masters in the United States in particular that they were capable of managing their own affairs and running a state of their own with God being their helper.

About two hundred years later, (June 2020) on behalf of a people and their ancestors, who had transplanted a church from Virginia in the southern United States to Liberia in Western Africa a church, like no other, that gave birth to a nation and dignity to a race, your brothers and sisters both in Liberia and other parts of West Africa. Thus, we say in the words of Zora Neal Hurston, that if you are silent about your pain, they will kill you and say you enjoy it. Consequently, as you must not be silent neither will we be silent about your pain but will respond to the inhumane acts of racial injustice being meted out against you in the United States.

The historic Providence Baptist Church, founded in 1821 as the cornerstone of the Nation, and the people of



Liberia will not be silent. Rather, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the United States and condemn all acts of injustice against them and especially a system infested with racist indignities. We support your calls for freedom, social justice, equality and dignity. Remember, your cause is an awesome advocacy for racial justice not just to breathe but to live up to the greatest ideals that are within you in a society that traffics in hate and uses the currency of despair because you are black. We stand with you as followers of a Savior whose faith demand that righteousness reign supreme and justice flows like a mighty river. We stand with you in your struggle and desire to challenge this great evil. We are motivated by the fact that we are our brother's and sister's keeper. Therefore, your pain is our pain, and your suffering has always been ours. We stand with you

also as Africans who share the many troubles and legacy of discrimination that you continue to experience both at home and around the world.

We say to the system that continues to oppress you that hatred is taught out of ignorance that there are many races which leads to the false claim that there must be a superior race and inferior races. We say that God created only one race on this planet earth, the human race and we all belong to it. We were all created by a just God. According to Genesis chapter 1 "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (NIV), God did not create an inferior and superior race. God created the human race in God's likeness. No one is born a racist, there is no gene for racism, bigotry, gynophobia, sexism, tribalism, or nationalism. You have to learn to be racist. Therefore, anything you learn

you can unlearn. We say to our brothers and sisters in North America, Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa the time has come for all of us to unlearn these ignorant, unwholesome, ungodly and inhumane behaviors. We are not inferior to nor are we superior to anyone because of the grade of pigmentation or tone of our skin color.

Central to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's understanding and analysis of his liberation motif, is the person, work, and message of Jesus Christ. He regarded Christ as a co-sufferer with and a liberator of the poor and oppressed. He merged the themes of liberation and reconciliation, because Christ embodied both. For King, they were inseparably related, because his goal was in both theory and practice, liberation as well as redemption and reconciliation. This liberation idea grounded in the sacred scriptures of holy rite and the basic tendencies of human rights guarantees everyone the freedom of assembly, the freedom of speech, the freedom of press, and the freedom to protest when one's basic rights are deny.

As a Christian theologian with powerful ethical implications, King used the black experience as a point of departure for his reflection on morality and ethics. As a black theologian, much of his attention was focused on the following questions: 1. What is the correct analysis of the contemporary black condition in America and other parts of the world, and of the human situation as whole? 2. What are the best strategies and or means for achieving the basic human freedom, peace and the beloved community? 3. What is the goal of one's civil rights? These questions led him to set forth that we can learn from as we face this time.

Dr. King's analysis of social and or systemic and collective evil undergirded his

quest for the ethical ideal of the beloved community. For him the beloved community was the goal of one's civil rights and of the human struggle as a whole. His greatest contribution as an ethicist was his application of the concept of love, power, and justice to the social and racial problems of America. In a real sense, Dr. King's moral analysis of the church, society and nations these institutions, coupled with his efforts to translate moral vision into pragmatic reality, was to bring Americans of all stripes, colors and creeds, and all of God's peoples closer to the beloved community. In this post-civil war era in Liberia, the church as an institution must interpret its ethical ambition into everyday lifestyles in order to transform our nation and its people across tribes, social and economic barriers and political camps and religious denominations into a caring community where our love for one another and for mama Liberia is the common denominator.

In our challenge to build the beloved community today, we must draw on Dr. King's belief and understanding that at the center of the Christian faith is the affirmation that there is a God in the universe who is the ground and essence of all reality, a being of infinite love and boundless power who is the Creator, Sustainer and Conservator of values. When we understand God, not just theoretically, but on a personal level as well, we can relate to God and each other as God relates to us in love and grace. This is the inner strength and courage we need to carry on as church and community called to make a difference in this indifferent society and world. The church should always do battle against societal ills on behalf of God's people. It is the church's religious and moral obligation, because whatever and wherever these ills are, they are threats to God's people everywhere.

MILESTONE

IATA approves start of four aviation courses at transport college in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR aviation courses which have been endorsed by International Air Transport Association will start being taught at National Institute of Transport in Dar es Salaam.

The four courses which have been approved by IATA being offered at NIT include: Airline Marketing, Airline Customer Service, Airport Operations Fundamentals as well as global distribution systems fares and ticketing-Amadeus.

NIT Rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that his institution has received IATA accreditation to offer the course after meeting set standards globally. "We signed a memorandum of understanding to that effect with IATA in March this year, we are now in final touches to launch these courses," Prof Mganilwa said.

He added, "Offering IATA courses at NIT will provide an opportunity

for Tanzanians seeking to study these courses at an affordable cost." The NIT Rector further noted that the move is an opportunity for locals to secure employment in any leading global airline after graduating from such courses.

Prof Mganilwa invited qualified locals seeking to train in the four disciplines to visit NIT or its website for more information. "The institute is also inviting airlines to bring their employees and managers to come and attend these IATA endorsed courses," he noted.

The NIT Rector explained that the institute's objective is to add more IATA approved courses to meet the growing needs of the country's rapidly growing aviation industry. "We are also in final stages of a process to accomplish all the requirements and procedures to start pilots training courses in 2020/21 academic year," Prof Mganilwa stated. The Dar es Salaam based transport training

institute is waiting for planes as part of fulfilling conditions to start pilots training.

The NIT has already received US\$21.25 million (almost 50bn/-) from the government as World Bank loan to support its transformation into a world class aviation training university.

On his part, NIT's School of Aviation

Technology's Principal, Denis Mwangeni said that the institute started offering Aircraft Maintenance Engineering courses in 2015/16 academic year with 40 students having graduated in aircraft maintenance engineering of which 32 got bachelor's degrees while eight got diplomas.

Mwangeni said 40 students also graduated in cabin crew programme since

2018 when the course started.

He said all the graduates are currently in the market ready to serve the aviation industry.

"Apart from that, we are also planning to start offering Bachelor's Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (Avionics) as well as Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (Avionics) together with

short course this year," he added.

Established in 1975, NIT has been training human capital for the transport sector in the country.

With the government's heavy investments in aviation, railway and water body vessels, NIT is now poised to diversify its portfolio to meet modern transport manpower needs.



Cabin crew courses participants pose during their graduation ceremony at National Institute of Transport recently in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

ULTIMATUM

Bashe hints at repossession of 'idle' horticultural farms by state

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government plans to repossess eight premium commercial horticulture estates in Arusha region which have turned into 'white elephants,' Deputy Agriculture Minister, Hussein Bashe has hinted.

The farms which have been idle because some local and foreign investors have pulled out of business over the past decade, were once pioneer flower and vegetable producing hotbeds located at Usa-river in Arumeru district.

The eight farms were owned by Kiliflora (under receivership), Kombe Roses, Shira flowers, Allua Flowers, Zanziflora, as well as high value vegetable farms, Finlays, Flamingo and Arusha Blooms Limited.

The visiting Deputy Minister, said the government will repossess the farms and give them to potential investors to resuscitate them. "The repossession move will see all farms reallocated to serious investors in the prospect of a resurgence,"

Bashe explained, adding: "Some of the former investors had borrowed billion of shillings from the former Tanzania Investment Bank through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT)'s Credit Guarantee Scheme to expand their business, but apparently they misused the funds."

Details of the loot are unavailable since most of investors have fled the country while few like KiliFlora farm which is under receivership, owes Treasury 19.8bn/- . The other abandoned farms' debt also stand at 24bn/- bringing a total to 43.8bn/-. The loans were issued between 2005 and 2007.

"Horticulture is one of the priority sub-sectors for exports and key in diversification of the agricultural sector from overdependence on traditional cash crops," the Deputy Minister added noting that horticulture has potential to be a major source of foreign earnings.

Arumeru District Commissioner, Jerry Muro said the closure of the farms, initially run into a joint venture between

local and foreign investors, has rendered 30,000 people jobless. Muro said the government plan is to exploit the vast potential of horticulture in a bid to make it grow and earn the nation US\$3 billion in the next five years.

On his twitter account, Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Jeroen Verheul said the majority of key investors and innovators in the industry are from his country, expressing appreciation to Tanzania Horticultural Association for supporting them. "The better the business climate for existing entrepreneurs, the more investors will come to Tanzania," Ambassador Verheul wrote.

Taha Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi commended the government for fast tracking its move to revive the idle farms so that horticulture production continues to grow. Dr Mkindi said that the US\$779 million export value that the industry earns the country per annum is equivalent to US\$800 million earned by Kenya's flower ex-



Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (c) accompanied by Taha Group CEO Dr Jacqueline Mkindi (R), Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (2nd-L) and World Vegetable key officer, Dr Ralph Roothaert on a field visit in Arumeru at the weekend.

porters only.

"Our horticulture industry is, in fact, a sleeping economic giant with massive poten-

tial," she hinted adding that the industry can generate US\$3 billion in the next five years.

With an annual growth rate of 11 percent,

the horticultural industry has turned into the growth driver of the entire agriculture sector in the country.

RELIEF

Karume promises fireworks after taking over as chief at NCBA Bank

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY appointed Managing Director of NCBA Bank, Margaret Karume has promised to steer the NIC Bank and Commercial Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited merger into a banking force to reckon with in the local market.

Karume who until her latest appointment was NIC Bank Tanzania Limited's Managing Director said in Dar es Salaam on Friday that her 27 years of experience in the banking industry and a highly qualified and experienced team that she leads will deliver.

"This is a new chapter for the two banks. I am looking forward to work with like-minded teams to create a strong financial institution in Tanzania," Karume said who holds a global executive Master's of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science.

"The new institution will reflect both banks' values and

mission, borrowing from the best of both and building a bigger and better new organisation to deliver more value for our customers and stakeholders," she promised.

Previously, Karume worked at NIC Bank Group in Kenya as Executive Director of Credit Risk. Confirming the appointment, NCBA Board Chairperson designate, Sharmapal Aggarwal said, "We recognise her extensive banking experience and applaud her renewed commitment to the bank."

Aggarwal added, "We firmly believe that she is the right person to steer the NCBA Bank team in ushering in a fresh new era of sustainable growth and greatness for all our stakeholders in Tanzania and across the African continent."

He also revealed that Gift Shoko, who was CEO of CBA Bank (T) will sit on the NCBA Bank Tanzania board as an

Executive Director. Shoko takes up the role of Executive Director of Retail, Corporate and Digital Business-designate, in the new organisation. "Bringing both banks together allows us to grow into being a bigger player in the digital space. As technology advances, we are seeing technology playing a greater role in driving financial inclusion in Tanzania, East Africa and the continent as a whole," Shoko said upon accepting his new role.



This is a new chapter for the two banks. I am looking forward to work with like-minded teams to create a strong financial institution in Tanzania."



New Managing Director of NCBA Bank, Margaret Karume.

NATIONALISATION

Nairobi bourse suspends KQ shares as State takeover nears

NAIROBI

KENYA Airways #ticker:KQ shares have been suspended from trading on the Nairobi bourse for three months as the process of State takeover enters a crucial stage.

Nairobi Securities Exchange said in a Friday morning statement that KQ had applied for the suspension. This will also see the airline's share register closed until the resolution of its future is determined.

"The company's operational and corporate restructure and Government buy-out is now imminent following the publication of the National Management Aviation Bill, 2020, on 18th June 2020," said NSE.

"Consequently, the company has applied for suspension of trading in its shares and closure of its register until the resolution of its future is determined." The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has approved the suspension, which will see KQ shareholders unable to buy or sell their shares during the period.

The suspension sets in immediately and will remain in force up to October 3 and comes at a time KQ share has been witnessing a rally, defying the generally bearish bourse since Covid-19 struck in mid-March. KQ share has gained by 173.57 percent in the last three months - the highest on the bourse - to close Thursday trading at Sh3.83.

The return of KQ to the NSE now lies in the hands of Parliament given that the passage of the National Aviation Management Bill 2020 will see government take back full control of the national carrier by October and delist it. The loss-making airline, which is 48.9 percent government-owned and 7.8 percent held by Air France-KLM, was privatised 24 years ago but sank into debt and losses in 2014.

PARTNERSHIP

Bank sponsors DITF for third straight year

By Francis Kajubi

THE National Bank of Commerce Limited has for a third year in a row this year become a major sponsor of small and medium size enterprises at this year Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair currently going on at Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds in Dar es Salaam.

NBC's Managing Director, Theobald Sabi, said on Friday during the official opening of the 44th edition of the fair that the main purpose of the bank's sponsorship to banks and other finan-

cial institutions is to enable the majority small and medium size entrepreneurs get easy access to both local and foreign markets.

"We have a business proposition model at NBC that works specifically on enabling SMEs in getting access to markets for their products, conducting training on production, processing and packaging of their products," said Sabi.

He added that NBC invited five SMEs amongst those it had been working with to showcase their products at the trade fair while promising the public to visit and get various financial services that

at the bank's pavilion.

NBC's Director of Business Banking, Elvis Ndunguru backed his boss by stating that among SMEs backed by the bank is Miku Investment Company Limited which produces and supplies cosmetics and Borah Lemmy Rothblets which sells honey and sunflower cooking oil.

Ndunguru named other SME as Chelsea Tyre Tube dealers of car accessories, Dagen Traders dealers of African fabric 'Kitege' dresses, Takecharge International Limited and Azienda Group Limited who are furniture manu-

facturers and machines suppliers respectively.

"We have invited some of them to take part at this fair to showcase their products and services which NBC is proud of because it has played a greater role in their growth as their financial partner," Ndunguru noted.

He asserted that apart from lending the SMEs, the bank has been sponsoring their training and exposure to foreign markets such as China and European Union so that they can produce high quality products capable of competing in such markets.

Officiating the opening of the trade fair, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa commended banks for playing a critical role in contributing to the country's ascent to become a lower middle-income status before the target date of 2025.

"Banks are key players in facilitating the growth of individuals and the economy through their purchasing power as individuals hence collectively contributing to rapid GDP growth," Majaliwa said after World Bank officially named Tanzania as having risen to lower middle income economy.

One of NBC's clients, Dagen

Traders Limited's Managing Director, Damian Ndatatiny backed the PM's observation saying banks like NBC have played a key role in enabling the country top graduate into the new World Bank status.

"I have seen my business grow through loans received from NBC since 2014 when I joined NBC business club window," Ndatatiny said. As one of the country's top five banks, NBC has a network of more than 3,000 agents with 49 physical branches country-wide.

COLLABORATION

Tigo is official communications sponsor of DITF for another year

By Guardian Reporter

MOBILE phone service provider, Tigo Tanzania has for the fifth year in a row been named as main communications sponsor of the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair organized by Tanzania Trade Development Authority annually.

In a statement, the telecommunications company said at this year's DITF, commonly referred to as 'Saba Saba,' and running under the theme 'Industrial economy for employment and sustainable trade,' it will showcase products and services that spearhead a massive support in demonstrating that a digital lifestyle is key to achieving an industrial economy.

The telco's Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael said Tigo the partnership with TanTrade is part of its commitment to support government efforts to enhance trade and the growth of local industries for the nation's economic prosperity.

"Our partnership with TanTrade is a significant step towards facilitating economic growth and movement towards industrialization," Shisael said on Friday at the ongoing DITF when the partnership was officially announced. In remarks during the media briefing, TanTrade's Head of Public Affairs and Communications, Theresa Chilambo commended Tigo for the sponsorship saying the trade promotion state company is lucky to have the telco as a trusted partner in the communications sector.



BancABC head of Treasury Barton Mwasamengo (L) listens to his peers, Advera Ruhieye and Mariam Haji (R), at their pavilion at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair at the weekend. The bank is showcasing affordable loans targeting small and medium size enterprises.

"We are eagerly looking forward to work with Tigo at this year's Saba Saba trade fair," Chilambo noted.

Tigo which has a pavilion at the fairgrounds has also partnered with four device manufacturers to offer exclusive internet and smartphone promotions to thousands

of visitors at the 44th DITF being held at Mwalimu Nyerere Trade Fair grounds

"As we enter yet another exciting season of Saba Saba, we have prepared very attractive internet and smartphone offers for our customers. We have partnered with Nokia, Samsung, TECNO Mobile, and KaiOS, to offer

customers not only diversified options but the best data and smartphone solutions for their needs," Shisael added.

Among other exciting things, the telco has set up a Tigo business to business (B2B) desk, an entertainment zone for kids with space to accommodate 500 visitors per day.

LOBBYING

RedGold chief pleads with state to waive duty on packaging materials

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

A LEADING manufacturer of fruits and vegetable products has pleaded with the government to consider waiving import duty imposed on key raw and packaging materials so that local products can compete at global markets.

Darsh Industries Limited's Managing Director, Bhadrash Pandit requested visiting Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investment, Angella Kairuki help manufacturers by asking Treasury to scrap 25 percent import duty imposed on printed tin cans, glass bottles and caps, drums and aseptic bags because they are not produced locally.

Pandit also requested the government to waive 10 percent import duty on food additives and stabilizers so that local manufacturers can reduce production costs hence compete globally.

"We are begging our government to waive import duties imposed on crucial raw and packaging materials not readily available in the country. The move will help our local products to be competitive in the East African region and beyond," he pleaded.

Reacting to the request, Minister Kairuki challenged the investor to take advantage of lack of local manufacturer for such products and establish a factory that will supply the domestic market with no competition.

"This is an opportunity for you and I would like to see you as an investor to establish a factory to produce such raw and packaging materials for the



An official with Darsh Industries presents a bouquet to Minister of State (Investment) Angella Kairuki (L) when she visited the Arusha-based company on Friday. Photo courtesy of Darsh.

local market. I promise that we in the government will support you to realize this," Kairuki assured Pandit.

She showered a praises on the investor not only for creating reliable market for tomato and fruits farmers but also for flying the country's flag high in international markets with the com-

pany's quality products.

Established in 1999, Darsh Industries is the country's key manufacturer of fruits and vegetable products under the renowned trademark of RedGold.

With two plants in Arusha and Iringa regions, the company produces tomato sauce, ketchup, paste, chill sauces, fruit

jams, peanut butter, honey, food spices such as pickles, vinegars, custard powder, mayonnaise, corn flour among others. Darsh is currently the biggest tomato processor in the market.

The company has capacity to produce 15,000 metric tonnes of vegetable and fruits products per annum with

its 13bn/- state-of-the-art Iringa factory doing 200 metric tonnes per day. Darsh directly employs 400 people of which 70 percent are women.

It also has employed indirectly 3,000 people such as farmers, transporters, porters, suppliers and dealers. Last year, the company paid 2.4bn/- in taxes.

ABNORMAL

South Africa now has its first online, unaccredited 'dagga varsity'

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa now has its first online dagga academy, with localised versions of the training offered by US-based education platform Medical Marijuana 411.

Cheeba Cannabis Academy was launched in June by Cheeba Africa, which sells various cannabis products including an 8-pack of dagga-derived suppositories for R1,795, and dog treats for R595. Its online short courses focus on basic and medical training about the dagga plant, including its various properties and effects on the human body, as well as looking at the legal aspects of its use.

According to consulting company Prohibition Partner, the marijuana industry in South Africa alone is expected to be worth R27 billion a year by 2030. "Without educated personnel to service and support the industry we will struggle to get out of the starting gate," said CEO and co-founder of the academy Trenton Birch.

Students can get a certificate in less than a year, depending on which course is chosen, but those are not yet locally recognised. At the moment, "Cheeba is busy with a few South African accreditations, which we will announce once they are confirmed," said Birch.

The material "has been adapted for the South African landscape and within the legal parameters," he says. Some of Medical Marijuana 411's courses, which are adapted for Cheeba, are registered in some American states, including Washington, Utah, Alaska, and Ohio.

The courses on offer range from R1,100 to R3,900 and include programmes such as the Medical Professional Course, Medical Professional Bundle Course, Cannabis 101, and Cannabis Fundamentals. They are designed for those starting out in the industry, or for professionals looking to add dagga skills to an existing role.

The Medical Professionals course, for example, caters for professionals, while Cannabis 101 is suited for those interested in the basic sciences of how the marijuana plant works on the human body, different ways to medicate without smoking a "blunt", and the difference between derivatives such as CBD and THC.

While Cheeba is the first online academy that deals with cannabis specifically, it is not the one institution to plan dagga training in South Africa. The department of rural development and agrarian reform in the Eastern Cape approved the development of a cannabis college earlier this year to help farmers in the growing and distributing of dagga.

OBSERVATION

Analyst says Tesla's stock price high 'on power of narrative'

NEW YORK

TESLA'S cars may run on batteries, but its stock price is fuelled by "the power of the narrative," according to an analyst with a sell rating on the shares.

In a report Thursday, Joe Spak of RBC Capital Markets marvelled at how the electric-car maker has managed to add about \$48 billion of market capitalisation by ginning up excitement about its quarterly vehicle deliveries.

On June 24, Tesla's investor-relations team shared a collection of delivery estimates that found analysts on average were expecting the company to hand over about 70,300 vehicles to customers.

The market recognised this as a low bar, triggering gains that were further supported by two bullish emails chief executive Elon Musk sent to employees that leaked to several media outlets.

WORLD

Trump delivers divisive message amid spike of coronavirus cases on Independence Day

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump made an Independence Day speech from the White House on Saturday evening, praising his government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many parts of the country canceled celebrations amid a ballooning caseload.

In his speech on the South Lawn, Trump also slammed "radical left" and U.S. news media over removal of controversial monuments following the killing of black man George Floyd by police - an incident that has invoked a national outcry against racial injustice and police brutality in the country.

"We are now in the process of defeating the radical left, the Marxists, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters, and people who in many instances have absolutely no clue what they are doing," the president said.

"We will never allow an angry mob to tear down our statues, erase our history, indoctrinate our children or trample on our freedoms," he said, referring to protesters who target colonial and

Confederate statues and perceive them as symbols of racial oppression.

Meanwhile, Trump lambasted U.S. media outlets, saying that they "falsely and consistently label their opponents as racists."

"You not only slander me, you not only slander American people, but you slander generations of heroes who gave their lives for America," Trump said.

"For nation's birthday, Trump slams his enemies within," a report by the Associated Press commented. Tackling the divisive issue by a divisive speech, the president was trying to rev up his conservative base four months before the general elections, some local analysts have said.

The president kicked off the holiday weekend by visiting Mount Rushmore in South Dakota state on Friday with the same focus - accusing "angry mobs" of waging "a merciless campaign" to wipe out U.S. history while pledging to establish a "National Garden of American Heroes" that will feature statues of "the greatest Americans to ever live."

As Trump centered himself on rail-



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump watch as South Dakota Army National Guard Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters fly over during an event at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in Keystone, South Dakota, US, on Friday. (PHOTO: BLOOMBERG)

ing at "radical left" and U.S. media in his Fourth of July message, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden put his focus on calling for racial justice. "There has always been a push and a pull between our founding ideals and the forces of inequality," said Biden in an online video, adding that "we have a chance to rip the roots of systemic racism out of this country."

A series of polls show Trump was slipping farther behind his Democratic challenger currently as the president has been under pressure to "reset" his re-election campaign.

The United States marked its 244th birthday against the backdrop of a hike of pandemic, a downturn of economy and a nationwide outcry for racial justice.

Trump's speech was part of the 2020 "Salute to America" event, which also included multiple flyovers by military aircraft and a 35-minute fireworks display over the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Saturday night.

However, much of the country cancelled or scaled back traditional celebrations and events for the weekend as health experts warned Americans to avoid large crowds at a time when the country is already experiencing significant surges of infections.

Under attacks for a shaky response to the pandemic, Trump insisted that the spike in cases is a result of expanded testing, a claim rejected by the White House's own public health experts.

"We've made a lot of progress, our strategy is moving along well," Trump said of the pandemic in his Fourth of July speech.

Nonetheless, Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-diseases expert, said earlier this week that the United States is "not in total control" of the pandemic, warning the situation "could get very bad" if the nation fails to get the surge of cases under control.

On Saturday, nearly 45,000 new daily cases were reported in the country, according to a New York Times database, with at least three states setting daily records.

Xinhua

Chinese, Ghanaian leaders mark 60 years of relations

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages yesterday with his Ghanaian counterpart, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on the 60th anniversary of the establishment of China-Ghana diplomatic relations.

In his message, Xi noted that since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties 60 years ago, the traditional friendship between China and Ghana has grown stronger with practical cooperation yielding fruitful results.

China-Ghana relations have shown a sound momentum for all-round development in recent years, bringing tangible benefits

to both peoples, Xi said.

Since the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, Xi said, China and African countries, including Ghana, have stood by each other in a joint fight against the disease, which demonstrates the brotherly friendship between China and Africa who share weal and woe.

Stressing that he attaches great importance to the development of bilateral ties, Xi said he stands ready to work with Akufo-Addo to take the 60th anniversary as an opportunity to carry forward traditional friendship, deepen cooperation in various fields under the joint construction of the Belt and Road and within the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Co-



Chinese President Xi Jinping holds a welcome ceremony for Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo before their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Sept 1, 2018. (File photo)

operation, so as to benefit the two

countries and their peoples, and contribute to the building of a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

For his part, Akufo-Addo noted that the older generation of leaders from both sides, including late Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah, late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai, jointly initiated and nurtured the friendly relations between Ghana and China.

Over the past 60 years, the two countries have maintained close high-level exchanges, achieved remarkable results in cooperation in various fields and worked together to build a peaceful, just and equitable international or-

der, he said.

Noting that Xi has shown extraordinary leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Akufo-Addo said that China has won worldwide acclaim for its assistance and support to countries around the world, including Ghana, in the anti-virus fight. Ghana, he added, firmly supports the efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic through international solidarity and cooperation.

Akufo-Addo also expressed his readiness to work with Xi to consolidate the traditional friendship, strengthen strategic coordination and deepen bilateral cooperation.

Xinhua

Constitutional amendments will enable Russia to avoid Soviet Union's mistakes - Putin

MOSCOW



THE right of the republics to withdraw from the Soviet Union was a time bomb and Russia should avoid such mistakes, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with Moscow. Kremlin. Putin on Rossiya-1 TV channel yesterday.

According to Putin (pictured), the Soviet Constitution included a thesis of Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin that the republics should be given the right to pull out from the USSR.

"This is a time bomb laid back in 1922 when the Soviet Union was established," Putin said, stressing that this right was included in other Soviet Constitutions of 1924, 1936 and 1977. "Certainly, we should avoid these things," Putin said.

"I am absolutely convinced that we are doing the right thing when passing amendments to the current Constitution. They will strengthen our statehood and create conditions for consistent development of our country for dozens of years to come," the Russian leader said.

The procedure of the republics' withdrawal from the Soviet Union was not regulated, Putin stressed. "The question arises: [what to do] if a republic joined the Soviet Union, but amassed into its 'baggage' a huge number of Russian lands, traditional Russian historic territories and then suddenly decided to leave the Union," the Russian leader said.

"Then, it should leave like when it came rather than drag 'gifts' from the Russian people. Nothing of this was written down," Putin said.

On Friday, the Central Election Commission confirmed the outcome of the nationwide vote on amending the Russian Constitution. According to the document, 77.92% of voters backed the amendments to Russia's key law, while 21.27% opposed them. One of the amendments includes a ban on the alienation of Russian territories. **Agencies**

Charity bodies to leave Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA

A NUMBER of humanitarian and relief organizations working in Ethiopia are looking to evacuate their foreign employees from various Ethiopian cities due to the development of the political and field situation in the north-eastern African nation.

This development comes in light of the frequent reports of the cessation of flights to Addis Ababa and the closure of the Ethiopian airspace after the deterioration of the security situation and the steady violence by the security services, which killed more than 200 citizens.

In addition, recent frictions heightened between the federal government and Tigray region over the electoral calendar, and the killing of a popular ethnic Oromo musician sparked deadly unrest in the capital Addis Ababa and the Oromia region. **Agencies**

Almost a third of COVID-19 samples show mutation - WHO

GENEVA

ALMOST 30 percent of genome sequencing data from samples of the COVID-19 virus collected by the World Health Organization (WHO) have shown signs of mutation, but there is no evidence this has led to more severe disease, a top

WHO official said on Friday.

"I think it's quite widespread," Soumya Swaminathan, WHO chief scientist, told Reuters on the sidelines of a briefing held by the UN journalists' association ACANU in Geneva.

The UN agency has so far collected 60,000 samples of the disease, she said.

Scientists at Scripps Research this month found that by April the mutated virus accounted for some 65 percent of cases submitted from around the world to a major database.

The genetic mutation in the new coronavirus, designated D614G, significantly increases its ability to infect cells and may explain why outbreaks in northern Italy and New York were larger than ones seen earlier in the pandemic, they found in a study.

Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead on the COVID-19 pandemic at the WHO, said at Friday's briefing the mutated strain had been identified as early as February and had been circulating in Europe and the Americas.

"So far, there is no evidence it leads to more severe disease," she said.

COVID drug trial results 'within 2 weeks'

The WHO should soon get results from clinical trials it is conducting of drugs that might be effective in treating COVID-19 patients, its Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday. **Agencies**

WHO halts hydroxychloroquine, HIV drugs trial for COVID-19

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Saturday that it was discontinuing hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir arms for its Solidarity Trial, citing little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalized COVID-19 patients.

The WHO said the decision was in light of the evidence from the Solidarity Trial interim results.

"These interim trial results show that hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir produce little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalized COVID-19 patients when compared to standard of care. Solidarity trial investigators will interrupt the trials with immediate effect," the WHO said in a press release.

But the organization said this decision applies only to hospital-



ized patients and does not affect the possible evaluation in other studies of hydroxychloroquine or lopinavir/ritonavir in non-hospitalized patients or as pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19.

The Solidarity Trial was established by the WHO in March to find an effective COVID-19 treatment for hospitalized patients.

It was originally designed to have five trial arms, including standard or usual care provided to COVID-19 patients, remdesivir, lopinavir/ritonavir combined, lopinavir/ritonavir combined with interferon beta, and hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine.

By enrolling patients in multiple countries, the Solidarity Trial aims to rapidly discover whether any of the drugs slow disease progression or improve survival.

Xinhua

Newly passed national security law a seawall safeguarding long-term prosperity, stability of Hong Kong

THE Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) adopted on June 30 by the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, has established a seawall safeguarding the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Listed by the NPC Standing Committee in Annex III to the HKSAR Basic Law, the national security legislation is expected to terminate the region's long-standing "unguarded" condition in national security after being applied in the HKSAR.

Since the disturbance related to the now-withdrawn ordinance amendments concerning the transfer of fugitives in the HKSAR in June 2019, "Hong Kong independence" forces, radical separatist forces, and the opposition in the region have grossly trampled on the rule of law and social stability of Hong Kong, inflicted heavy losses on its economy, damaged its business environment and international image, and undermined foreign investors' confidence in the HKSAR.

With international agencies constantly downgrading Hong Kong's credit rating because of its social unrest, the region

lost its title as the world's freest economy, which it had maintained for 25 consecutive years. Besides, the city's ranking among global financial centers has also dropped to the sixth.

The region logged an 8.9-percent year-on-year slump in its GDP in the first quarter of the year, representing the sharpest quarterly decline on record.

In addition, the HKSAR's unemployment rate rocketed to 5.9 percent in the period from March to May, a record high in 15 years. It is the reality Hong Kong faces. Safeguarding national security is the foundation and a prerequisite for Hong

Kong's prosperity and stability.

The rapidly evolving situation in the region during the past more than a year has fully demonstrated that prosperity and stability is totally out of the question without the guarantee of national security.

It must be understood clearly that legal loopholes regarding national security have cost Hong Kong society dear.

Because of the lack of national security legislation, Hong Kong has witnessed in pain how the "Hong Kong independence" forces, black-clad rioters, and home-grown terrorists who threatened "mutual destruction" have kept escalating their

violent activities at various locations, and secessionist, subversive, collusive, and disruptive practices have been conducted so unrestrainedly.

The efforts of China's central government to plug the loopholes in safeguarding national security in Hong Kong, stop violence and curb disorder with effective measures, and restore the region's sound legal and business environment are not only in line with the common interests of all sectors of Hong Kong society as well as foreign investors in the region, but also important guarantee of Hong Kong's status as a global financial, trade, and ship-

ping center. Only with a solid foundation for national security and overall social stability can a country create better environment and greater room to address deep-seated problems and issues troubling economy and people's livelihood.

When Hong Kong was confronted with severe challenges in safeguarding national security and was unable to complete relevant legislation on its own, the central government took decisive measures to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong from the state level. **People's Daily**



Staff members clean and check Fuxing and Hexie bullet trains running on the Shanghai-Suzhou-Nantong railway. The Nantong bullet train depot in Xingfu neighborhood, Gangzha district, Nantong, east China's Jiangsu province is officially put into service on June 30, and two Fuxing bullet trains entered the depot for the first time on the same day. Photo People's Daily Online

China's economic recovery continues to gain momentum

CHINA'S manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for June stood at 50.9 percent, up 0.3 percentage points from May, according to data jointly released on June 30 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP).

The figure has been kept above 50 percent for four consecutive months, indicating that the country's economic recovery continued to gain momentum with constantly enhanced stability of industrial chains.

Among the 13 sub-indices, those for production, new orders, new export orders, existing orders, purchase quantity, import, purchase price, producer price, and raw materials inventory rose 0.3 to 7.3 percentage points from the previous month in June, while the sub-index for supplier delivery time remained unchanged over the previous month.

Besides, sub-indices for finished goods inventory, employee, and production and business activities expectation dropped 0.3 to 0.5 percentage points from May.

The slight rise in the PMI in June above the 50-point mark which indicates economic expansion showed that China has accelerated its economic recovery, according to Zhang Liqun, a researcher with the Development Research Center of the State Council.

A series of policies have been implemented after the annual sessions of China's top legislature and political advisory body in May to keep employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign and domestic investments, and expectations stable and ensure security in job, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy security, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments, Zhang noted.

Together with the previous policies rolled out to promote work and production resumption, these macro policies delivered more visible results, Zhang added.

Fiscal and monetary policies' role in expanding domestic demand should be strengthened to further sustain the positive momentum of economic recovery.

China saw a recovery of market demand in general and growing driving forces for economic development. The country's economy continued to recover with stable growth in consumer last month.

Sub-index for new orders stood at 51.4 percent, up 0.5 percentage points from May, while that for new export orders grew 7.3 percentage points from the previous month to 42.6 percent, with the decline in export significantly narrowing.

The recovery of market demand will

further drive economic growth and business operation.

Production activities of enterprise rebounded, leading to an increase in raw material purchases. In June, sub-index for production was 53.9 percent, up 0.7 percentage points from the previous month and maintained above 53 percent for four months in a row.

More production activities drove enterprises' demand for upstream products in the industrial chain. As a result, the purchase of raw materials increased accordingly, and the sub-index for purchase quantity rose 1 percentage point from May to 51.8 percent.

Meanwhile, prices in the whole sector picked up in a more coordinated way. Last month, driven by the rapid growth of enterprises' purchase quantity, prices of basic upstream raw materials continued to rise on the basis of the previous month. The sub-index for purchase price grew 5.2 percentage points from May to 56.8 percent, while that for producer price rose 3.7 percentage points from the previous month to 52.4 percent, exceeding the 50-point mark for the first time this year.

The PMI indicated that the Chinese economy recovered gradually from March after some fluctuations early this year due to the COVID-19 epidemic, said Wen Tao, an analyst with the China Logistics Information Center.

In Q2, both the production and market demand saw a rapid recovery. The average sub-indices for production and new orders were 53.6 percent and 50.8 percent, respectively, which were above the 50-point mark and higher than that of Q1 and the same period last year.

Besides, purchasing activities and employment recovered significantly in Q2, with index readings higher than that of Q1 and the same period last year.

By the end of the first half of this year, China's economic recovery continued to gain momentum with continuously enhanced stability of industrial chains, laying the foundation for a stable start in the second half of the year.

The non-manufacturing PMI, also released by the NBS and CFLP on June 30, edged up 0.8 percentage points from May to 55.4 percent in June. Except for non-manufacturing PMI sub-indices for supplier delivery time and for production and business activities expectation, which were down 0.8 percentage points and 3.6 percentage points, respectively, other sub-indices all grew 0.1 to 2.0 percentage points from May.

Cai Jin, CFLP vice president, said China's non-manufacturing PMI has been picking up on a month-on-month basis since Q2, indicating a good recovery momentum of the non-manufacturing sector.

People's Daily

Russia to reopen embassy in Libya, Ixat cites foreign minister

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has decided to reopen its embassy in Libya although its head will temporarily be based in neighbouring Tunisia, Interfax news agency cited Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Friday.

Libya has been split since 2014, with the internationally recognised government based in the capital, Tripoli, and the northwest while military leader Khalifa Haftar in the country's second city Benghazi rules the east.

Russia evacuated its diplomats from Libya in October 2013 after an armed faction attacked its embassy



in Tripoli.

Lavrov, speaking at a meeting with the speaker of Libya's pro-Haftar eastern parliament Aguila Saleh, reiterated Russia's desire for a cessation of hostilities in Libya and the beginning

of political dialogue.

"We took a decision to reopen the Russian embassy in Libya, which will at this stage be headed by Charge d'Affaires Jamshe Boltayev," he said. "He will temporarily be based in Tunisia, but I want to emphasise that his functions include representing Russia across all Libya's territory."

Lavrov also said a ceasefire in the Libyan conflict, proposed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi alongside Haftar in Cairo on June 6, could work alongside decisions taken at an international conference in Berlin regarding the situation in the North African country.

Agencies

Health minister hails responsible behaviour after English pubs reopen



Britain's health minister Matt Hancock

LONDON

PEOPLE in England appear to have broadly behaved themselves as pubs reopened this weekend, Britain's health minister Matt Hancock said on Sunday after the latest step towards a return to normality from the coronavirus lockdown.

Thousands of people flocked to pubs, restaurants and bars around England on Saturday as large parts of the hospitality sector reopened for the first time since March.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged people to "enjoy summer safely" as he bids to tread a narrow path of restoring consumer spending to help battered businesses recover, while avoiding a second wave of COVID-19 infections.

"From what I've seen, although there's some pictures to the contrary, very very largely people have acted responsibly," health minister Matt Hancock told Sky News.

"Overall, I'm pleased with what hap-

pened yesterday. It was really good to see people out and about, and largely socially distancing."

Britain has been the European country worst hit by the coronavirus and has an official death toll of 44,198.

Johnson and Prince Charles each paid treatment to Britain's National Health Service, 72 years after it was founded, for its sacrifices in tackling the pandemic.

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, thanked the public for their support, as well as their restraint on Saturday night.

"Pleasingly, we did not see last night the kind of scenes people feared (there might be) he told BBC's Andrew Marr Show.

"The foolish few, but the sensible majority, I think is the story across the country, and long may that continue."

Police Federation National Chair John Apter however said it was "crystal clear" that drunk people were unable to practice social distancing.

The rule changes apply only to England as the devolved nations in the United Kingdom have been setting their own timetables for easing restrictions, with Wales and Scotland easing restrictions more slowly.

The government has said that it is aiming for local lockdowns rather than national restrictions if needed, such as the one introduced in the city of Leicester last week.

Hancock said he was worried about factory conditions in the city. Boohoo (BOOHL) last week defended its supply chain practices after criticism from a garment workers' rights group.

"There are some quite significant concerns about some of the employment practices in some of the clothing factories in Leicester," he said, adding there was significant enforcement powers available including shutting down businesses.

"We're not just asking nicely, we're very clear to businesses that these are their responsibilities."

Rwanda marks Liberation Day with inauguration of development projects

KIGALI,

RWANDA on Saturday celebrated the 26th anniversary of liberation by inaugurating several development projects on the northern border with Uganda, where the liberation struggle was launched on Oct. 1, 1990.

The central African country marks the Liberation Day, known as Kwibohora locally, every year on July 4, when the Rwandan Patriotic Army, the armed wing of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) during the liberation struggle, ended the 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi that claimed over 1 million lives.

The projects constructed by the

government and inaugurated by Rwandan President Paul Kagame in Nyagatare district included a model village that hosts 64 selected vulnerable families, an early childhood development center to accommodate 100 pupils, a school with smart classrooms and a health center.

Kagame was accompanied by senior government officials and local leaders during the inauguration. Unlike in the past, the government didn't organize the mass rally on this year's liberation day to respect health guidelines on the COVID-19. In a video message televised after inaugurating the projects, Kagame called on the people to strive for the common good instead of

individual interests, which is among the values that characterized the liberation, and that public servants to serve all the Rwandan people and be accountable for them.

The president, who led the liberation struggle in 1990s as the commander of RPF forces, said this year's anniversary is celebrated at difficult times when the country is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is a test for the country and the way Rwanda addresses it shows its level of preparedness against anything that attempts to disrupt Rwandan people's lives and the country's progress, he said.

Xinhua



Canada's Trudeau faces probe over US\$664m charity contract

By Bloomberg

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is facing a probe over his government's decision to award a contract worth more than C\$900 million (US\$664 million) to an organization that he and his family have ties to.

The Canada Student Service Grant was awarded to the WE Charity to set up a program that would pay students to earn funds for tuition and expenses during the pandemic as employment options dried up. The plan was to pay students a one-time grant between C\$1,000 to C\$5,000 to take part in service activities.

The Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner received requests from two lawmakers this week asking that the federal watchdog examine Trudeau's conduct. An investigation is underway, it said, adding that the premier has been informed.

The prime minister and his mother have appeared at a number of WE Day events, while his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, hosts a podcast for the group called "WE Well-being," the Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported.

WE Charity and the federal government announced Friday they were ending their partnership. WE Charity, which operates in 130 school districts and agencies, had agreed to help run the program after being approached by officials in late April, and said it had successfully launched the program. It decided to withdraw amid the growing controversy, it said, adding that it would waive all costs associated with setting up the program and plans to return all funds earmarked for it.

"We will collaborate with the Ethics Commissioner's investigation and will answer all questions he may have," Ann-Clara Vaillancourt, a spokesperson for Trudeau, said in an email.

The prime minister has already been reprimanded twice by the country's ethics watchdog: for a secret vacation in 2016 at the private island of the Aga Khan, a spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims, and for breaking conflict of interest laws by pressuring his former attorney general to help SNC-Lavalin Group Inc. settle corruption charges out of court.

Conservative politician Michael Barrett said that Trudeau's ties to the charity and his wife's involvement with the organization has contravened his obligations under the Conflict of Interest Act.

"I have considered your request and am of the view that it satisfies the requirements set out in subsection 22(2) of the act," Mario Dion, commissioner of the watchdog, said in a statement.

Another Member of Parliament, Charlie Angus, also requested a review into Trudeau's conduct on Friday.

Agencies

Chinese ambassador shares '1 to 9' facts on national security law for Hong Kong

WASHINGTON

CHINESE Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai on Friday shared basic facts and his viewpoints on the newly enacted national security law for Hong Kong through a video message by using the numbers "1 to 9."

He said that "1 and 2" means "one country, two systems."

This will remain the basic guideline for the governance of Hong Kong. The adoption of the law is a milestone in the practice of "one country, two systems" and will provide a strong institutional guarantee for its long-

term implementation, the Chinese ambassador said.

"With 3, I mean 3 million here. A signature campaign to endorse the law was initiated in Hong Kong late May. Within eight days, almost 3 million Hong Kong residents signed online or at street stands to show their support. The law is what the people really want," he said.

The number 4 refers to the four offences and their corresponding penalties prescribed in the law, namely secession, subversion, terrorist activities, collusion with foreign countries or external elements to endanger national security, he said.



Cui Tiankai, the Chinese ambassador to the United States

The number 5 stands for five decades. According to the Basic Law of Hong Kong, its capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years, Cui said.

"With 6, I mean the six chapters and 66 articles of the law. I would advise you to read the whole law thoroughly and carefully, so as to avoid any misunderstanding or the influence of biases," he said.

The numbers 7 and 8 stand for the over 7 million Hong Kong residents and over 80,000 American citizens living in Hong Kong. The national security law will help ensure the restoration

of social order in the city, and this is absolutely good news for all of them, the ambassador said.

In the Chinese culture, 9 often means "long-lasting," Cui said, adding he has full confidence that the national security law will ensure the long-term stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

As Hong Kong belongs to China, Hong Kong affairs are definitely China's domestic affairs. The Chinese government and people are fully determined to safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests, and to oppose external interference in Hong Kong affairs, Cui said.

Xinhua



Tiafoe after his Friday win in Florida (AFP Photo)

Tiafoe joins list of tennis stars testing positive for coronavirus

PARIS

FRANCES Tiafoe on Saturday joined the list of tennis players to contract coronavirus, pulling out of an exhibition in Atlanta organised by former top 10 player John Isner who had controversially dismissed critics of the tournament as "coronabros".

Ranked 81st in the ATP rankings, Tiafoe said he had tested negative in Florida last week before travelling to Georgia where around 450 spectators have been watching the eight-man event each day.

"Unfortunately, I tested positive late Friday for COVID-19 and have to withdraw from the All-American Team Cup special event this weekend," the 22-year-old posted on Twitter.

"Over the past two months, I have been training in Florida and tested negative there as recently as a week ago."

On the eve of the tournament, Isner had lashed out at sceptics who claimed it could not be held safely.

"You coronabros can stay in your basement all you want. I choose to live my life and play/promote the sport I love in a safe manner," he said.

Fellow US player Sachia Vickery responded Saturday: "Now would be a great time to RIP this tweet for good..."

Tiafoe's announcement follows the slew of players who contracted COVID-19 after appearing at Novak Djokovic's exhibition event in the Balkans last month.

World number one Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive at an Adria Tour where social distancing was at a minimum, raising serious questions for professional tennis' return from lockdown in August.

Alexander Zverev, who tested negative in

the Balkans, was then blasted as selfish for partying despite promising to self-isolate.

Organisers of the event in Florida reacted to Tiafoe's news on social media, saying that he and all the other players were tested on their arrival in Atlanta and subjected to daily temperature tests.

"Tiafoe has left the event site and will not participate in the remainder of the event. We will continue to diligently enforce all guidelines from local health officials."

The statement added: "Following his match (a win against Sam Querrey), he was showing symptoms and was retested and tested positive."

"Upon learning this information, we immediately began deep cleaning and sanitizing the event site, and enacted protocols in place for contact tracing and alerting individuals who may have been exposed."

The ATP Tour returns after its five month coronavirus hiatus with the behind closed doors Washington Open on August 14, with the US Open at the end of the month.

Also, Franco Davin, the former coach of Juan Martin del Potro and Gaston Gaudio, has tested positive for coronavirus. Davin is based out of Miami where he teaches tennis.

Former Indian doubles player Mahesh Bhupathi voiced his dismay at the rising number of positive tests.

"When both common sense and logic go out the window, someone with some influence and authority needs to step up and say what's going on just needs to stop," he tweeted Saturday.

"Sure everyone wants a pay day but this is poor leadership all round. 'safety first' RIGHT!!!"

AFP

Rapper Kanye West announces US presidential bid on Twitter

WASHINGTON

AMERICAN rapper Kanye West, a vocal supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump, announced on Saturday that he would run for president in 2020 in an apparent challenge to Trump and his presumptive Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

"We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States," West wrote in a Twitter post, adding an American flag emoji and the hashtag "#2020VISION".

It was not immediately clear if West was serious about vying for the presidency four months before the Nov. 3 election or if he had filed any official paperwork to appear on state election

ballots.

The deadline to add independent candidates to the ballot has not yet passed in many states.

West and his equally famous wife Kim Kardashian West have visited Trump in the White House.

At one meeting in October 2018, West delivered a rambling, profanity-laden speech in which he discussed alternative universes and his diagnosis of bipolar disorder, which he said was actually sleep deprivation.

Elon Musk, the chief executive of electric-car maker Tesla and another celebrity known for eccentric outbursts, endorsed West's Twitter post: "You have my full support!" he wrote.

REUTERS

Sports development a good vantage point to grapple with middle income status

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

TANZANIAN media and academic circles have a restaurant topic to batter, even between mouthfuls of 'nyama choma,' after the country was elevated to lower middle income status at midweek by the World Bank. The posture datum came at an opportune moment as the ruling party candidate was returning his nomination forms for presidency in the inland capital of Dodoma, pulling the rug from the feet of all opposite chatter, for good or for worse. Sports analysts were also at the topic, somewhat nonchalantly.

As it is usually the case in such matters, as if it was political entertainment, the first stop is comparison with Kenya - where it stands on this and that aspect, and where Tanzania thus stands. Without winning a few statistical contests with our neighbours, few will be convinced that we are already a middle income state, or rather that we are breathing down the neck of our neighbours, in part. The World Bank had some mouth watering data that counts for a great deal among sports pundits, like who leads in numbers of millionaires, as only in this quarter are sports entrepreneurs to be found, here we sort of won the match.

One comfortable result was that Tanzania is the only country in the region to have produced a single individual controlling a net wealth of \$1 billion or more, though this datum wasn't in the latest country economic status report. It came earlier in a dispatch on the Wealth Report 2020 apparently also linked with UN agencies, dated March 14, 2020. By rules of what statisticians know as 'random distribution,' nothing occurs in a vacuum, so the presence of key or major figure among dollar billionaires in Africa or the world says something about billionaires here.

Even without having to put any individuals on the map as to vast amounts of wealth they hold, it is sufficient that such a person could



Dar es Salaam youths play soccer at Mabibo ground in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

be found in Tanzania. In logical terms it means that despite Tanzania having a much smaller number of rich people compared to Kenya, it may have conditions for creating millionaires that Kenya or for that Uganda would be lacking. That is felt in sports development, as Tanzanian clubs attract some of the best talent in the region, dwarfing the competition from premier league clubs of our neighbours, save definitely for DRC, far west.

When it comes to media and entertainment, there is a way in which Tanzania has produced giants not just in East Africa but even across southern Africa. At one point, way back in 2004 to be precise, erstwhile Zimbabwean Minister for Information Prof Jonathan Moyo was on a brief visit to Dar es Salaam, and as a veteran freedom fighter, took time to converse with students and staff at the University of Dar es Salaam. It was annual holiday period so Arts Lecture Theatre B had a rather sparse audience for that occasion but for a person in the media, it was memorable.

The minister remarked that when he

goes back home he would make an effort to arrange a visit by journalists from Zimbabwe and South Africa to visit IPP Media, 'to see for themselves that Africans can also do it.' Comparing with our neighbours, there is a major newspaper group in Nairobi but it is foreign owned, the point the minister was hitting at, and to this day various Tanzanian media groups, musical formations and entertainers of all sorts have made a name for themselves in the region. Azam Sports has scarce equivalent in the region while it has for years sponsored the Rwanda Premier League, but locally that is a role for foreign companies.

The balancing between local and foreign companies in sponsorship is continuing each passing day, with SportPesa as a major league sponsor in the region, but seemingly having more problems with Kenya sports administrators (or governing bodies) than in Tanzania. Still, while among the leading premier league sides the more successful one so far is sponsored or otherwise attracted investment of a key billionaire their next street archivals

have netted a foreign firm to come to their rescue. Earlier there was a local billionaire but his trades apparently crossed the path of policies being followed in the past half decade, and could no longer sustain his position.

The situation next door where billionaires sponsor major CAF Champions League sides like TP Mazembe isn't just symptomatic of football prowess that Congo Kinshasa and then Zaire was noted for in the mid-1960s but also an economic datum. Countries with big mining interests are likely to produce billionaires faster than those which depend on agriculture or industry, while there is also an aspect of raw accumulation like elephant poaching 'on an industrial scale' for nearly two decades which must have contributed to these rather daunting achievements. That's it.

Bucks, Lakers look to shed rust, be healthy for playoffs

MILWAUKEE

THE Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers have all but guaranteed themselves the top two playoff seeds and face a balancing act when the NBA returns to action.

While other teams will be fighting for a postseason berth or playoff seedings when they play the final eight regular season games in Florida, the Lakers and Bucks will be looking to shake off the rust after a 4+ month hiatus while also staying healthy.

"At least from a player's aspect, you can expect us to go out there and play as best as we can and as hard as we can during this situation," Bucks forward Kris Middleton said. "That's the only thing we can control, really."

With the league playing the remainder of the regular season and the entire playoffs at Walt Disney World as a safety precaution amid the coronavirus pandemic, owning a No. 1 seed may not matter as much as usual. But the Bucks and Lakers are virtually assured of having the top seeds in their respective conferences regardless.

Milwaukee owned the NBA's best record at 53-12 and the Lakers were next at 49-14 when the pandemic caused a suspension of play in mid-March.

The Lakers will arrive at Disney World with a magic number of three in the race for the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. That number could get trimmed to one on re-opening night if they beat the Los Angeles Clippers in the second game of the July 30 doubleheader.

Milwaukee's magic number for the East's No. 1 seed is two. The Bucks can't drop below the No. 2 spot in the East, no matter what happens, and they could lock up the top spot on their half of the bracket as early as Aug. 2.

The race for the NBA's best overall record still could be in doubt at that point. But with no home-court advantage to play for in these playoffs, the only thing left to decide would be which team is assured of



In this Jan. 15, 2020, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, shoots as Orlando Magic center Nikola Vucevic defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, in Los Angeles. The Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers already have just about guaranteed themselves the top two playoff seeds and face a delicate balancing act when the NBA returns to action. They must try to shake off the rust after a 4-month hiatus while also staying as healthy as possible for the postseason. (AP Photo)

wearing white uniforms for Game 1 of the NBA Finals if the title series is a Bucks-Lakers matchup.

"Like we always would if this were the regular season or if these were the last eight games of the regular season, we would compete to win," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "That's how your habits are built the best. Every time we take the floor, we're going to go out there and try to win a game."

When teams are locked into a particular playoff seed, they often spend the final few games of the regular season resting key players to avoid the risk of injury. That won't necessarily be the case this season after such a long hiatus.

Middleton said Friday he was "probably not able to touch a basketball for maybe two or three months" during the pandemic. Bucks guard Donte DiVincenzo said his inability to use the Bucks' training facility for much of the hiatus caused him to focus on conditioning and said that "it kind of took me back to being a little kid again, dribbling the ball inside, doing those little moves on the sidewalk and stuff like that."

That means even the teams without much at stake may need to spend these last eight regular-season games trying to regain the momentum that was lost these last few months.

"I don't expect the first game or second game or third game, guys are going to be at 100%," Bucks forward and reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo said. "Guys are going to be rusty. We'll see a lot of balls, people throwing the ball through the stands, turnovers. You're going to see that. But I think as we move forward and guys get more comfortable, the level of basketball is going to get better each game."

An early top-seed clinching also could see Lakers forward LeBron James breaking his routine. Typically, once James' team is locked into a playoff seed, he shuts it down and begins preparing for the postseason. But because of the layoff, it could be argued that James might want to get a bit more game action even after the Lakers clinch the No. 1 spot.

"Does that mean you want to play certain guys 47 minutes? Obviously, no," Vogel said. "We'll be intelligent with the whole process."

AP

Ronaldo and Buffon set records as Juve roll again

MILAN

CRISTIANO Ronaldo finally scored from a free kick for Juventus and goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon made a record 648th Serie A appearance as the league leaders beat neighbours Torino 4-1 on Saturday.

The goal was Ronaldo's 55th from a free kick during his illustrious career and also made him the first player in the Premier League era to score 25 or more goals in a season in England, Spain and Italy.

Buffon, 42, overtook Paolo Maldini's Serie A appearance record when he was picked for his first league game this year.

Paulo Dybala put Juventus ahead with a trademark goal as the Argentine skipped past two defenders and clipped a deflected shot past Salvatore Sirigu in the third minute.

Torino responded well and forced a flurry of corners only to be caught out on the counter in the 29th minute when Ronaldo burst forward and slipped the ball to Juan Cuadrado. The Colombian outfoxed his marker and scored with a low shot into the far corner.

The visitors replied with a penalty given for handball against Matthijs De Ligt after a long VAR review in first-half stoppage time and Andrea Belotti beat Buffon to score for the fourth-successive game.

Torino were threatening an equaliser until Ronaldo, who became the first

player to score 25 goals in a season for Juve since 1961, curled his shot over the wall and into the corner. It was his first goal in 43 free kick attempts during just under two seasons with Juventus.

"We took the lead right away and then scored again. Maybe we thought it was going to be easy but the penalty got us nervous and made us lose control of the game," said Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri.

"We had a confusing phase at the start of the second half and then, when the two teams were tired, our quality came out."

Torino had a goal ruled out for offside after the restart and Simone Verdi tested Buffon with a long-range shot but Torino's hopes of a fightback were ended by Ronaldo's 25th league goal of the season.

Hapless Torino substitute Koffi Djidji turned a Douglas Costa cross into his own net under no pressure to complete Torino's misery only two minutes after coming on.

After the match, Ronaldo said: "We knew it wasn't going to be easy, but we deserved to win, we played well."

"My goal? I was waiting to score on a free kick. I'm happy, but it's important to win regardless of who scores. We are improving as a team, that's what matters."

The win left Juventus with 75 points from 30 games atop the Serie A table.

(Agencies)

Guardiola confident Man City will avoid Champions League ban

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola has "a lot of confidence" his club will avoid a two-season ban from European competitions when the verdict of their appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) is revealed later this month.

City were banned from UEFA competitions for two years by the European governing body in February after being found guilty of overstating sponsorship income to avoid breaches of Financial Fair Play regulations.

Their case was heard by CAS last month and the club have always been bullish about the potential outcome.

"We are ready. I have a lot of confidence and trust with the people that we will be allowed to play the Champions League, because we want to be on the field during these years," said Guardiola.

"On July 13 we will know the resolution, hopefully, for the club - all the workers, players and everyone here, staff - to try to continue growing up as a club in the next years."

Amid the off-field issues, City remain one of the favourites to win this season's Champions League, which is now due to resume in August.

City hold a 2-1 lead over Real Madrid after the first leg of their last-16 tie.

There is still uncertainty over where the return match will be played with the rest of the competition from the quarter-finals to be played at neutral venues in Lisbon.

City may have surrendered their Premier League title to Liverpool but a 4-0 thrashing of the newly-crowned English champions on Thursday showed why Guardiola's men are still among the most feared sides in Europe.

"Every game is different but I cannot deny beating Liverpool the way we did (was good)," said Guardiola, whose side travel to Southampton in the Premier League on Sunday. "Football is about feelings, moments. Sometimes your mood is up, sometimes it is down when you face these games, but we can say we beat maybe the best team in the world right now. So we can do it."

"Every game is different, (FA Cup semi-final opponents) Arsenal play different, Madrid play different. Each game you have to adjust the qualities."

"What I want is to arrive in the best conditions possible to these games and after put mentality on the pitch."

"These games are not won with tactics or ideas, it is desire. We want to do it. When one team wants to do it - OK they can be beaten - but it will not be easy for the opponent."

AFP

Neuer says Bayern 'hungry' for treble after Cup triumph

BERLIN

MANUEL Neuer said Bayern Munich are still "hungry" for the treble this season after completing a "special" league and Cup double for the 13th time in their history on Saturday.

Bayern, who had already sealed an eighth straight Bundesliga title, saw off Bayer Leverkusen 4-2 in the German Cup final and have won 11 successive games since the season resumed in mid-May after a two-month hiatus due to the coronavirus.

The Bavarian giants are one of the favourites for the Champions League, to be completed in Lisbon next month, which would secure a repeat of the treble they won in 2013.

"We'll have a short break now and then we'll make sure we are in top form and try to win the treble," said Bayern captain Neuer.

"We have all seen in the last few weeks how motivated and hungry Bayern Munich are. What we have

achieved is something special."

Robert Lewandowski reached 51 goals for the season thanks to a double in the final, with David Alaba and Serge Gnabry also on the scoresheet.

Head coach Hansi Flick was hoisted into the air by his players following the final whistle.

"We're very proud of what we have achieved," said Flick. "What the team has managed in the last few weeks is nothing short of sensational."

Bayern now have a month before resuming their treble bid with the Champions League last-16 second leg against Chelsea.

"The break could do us good, I'd like to think of it as an advantage and the chance to recharge," added Flick.

The final, like the final weeks of the Bundesliga season, was played in an eerie atmosphere behind closed doors at Berlin's Olympic Stadium.

"It's a bit of a sad moment," admitted Thomas Mueller after winning the German Cup for the sixth time.

Chelsea win holds off rampant Man Utd in race for Premier League top four

LONDON

CHELSEA held on to their place in the Premier League's top four by bouncing back to beat Watford 3-0 on Saturday after Manchester United briefly powered past with a 5-2 rout of struggling Bournemouth.

Third-placed Leicester also got back on track with Jamie Vardy reaching 100 top-flight goals in a comfortable 3-0 win against Crystal Palace, while Arsenal dealt a blow to Wolves' Champions League chase by winning 2-0 at Molineux on Saturday.

United's fearsome front four of Marcus Rashford, Anthony Martial, Bruno Fernandes and Mason Greenwood, who netted twice, were all on the scoresheet as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men hit five goals in a home Premier League game for the first time since 2011.

"Confidence is sky high. You get energy and confidence by performances and results and we are getting that at the minute," said Solskjaer, who is feeling the benefits of a 16-match unbeaten run.

"I have enjoyed the last few games to be honest and it is healthy. You don't age as quickly!" Bournemouth are moving fast in the other direction as they remain second bottom and the Cherries' defensive problems were quickly exposed after they took a shock 16th-minute lead through Junior Stanislas.

Greenwood got the comeback started as he smashed home from Fernandes's pass before Rashford, from the penalty spot and Martial, with a stunning shot into the top corner, scored their 20th goals of the season.

"Mason is one of the best if not the best finisher I have worked with and seen," added Solskjaer. "He is so calm. He knows where to finish if it is on the training ground, here or in his garden at home."

Bournemouth were given hope when Josh King scored from the spot after Eric Bailly handled inside his own box just four minutes after coming on as a half-time substitute.

But there was no stopping Solskjaer's men going forward and Greenwood restored their two-goal cushion with another powerful drive, this time on his weaker right foot, before Fernandes then capped another influential display with a fine free-kick.

- Chelsea bounce back -

Chelsea shrugged off a shock 3-2 defeat at West Ham in midweek with a routine win at Stamford Bridge.

Olivier Giroud was recalled up front and repaid Frank Lampard with a smart finish to break the deadlock before Willian's penalty made it 2-0



Olivier Giroud (second right) celebrates opening the scoring for Chelsea (AFP Photo)

before half-time.

Ross Barkley added the third in stoppage time to move Chelsea back two points ahead of fifth-placed United.

"We needed a result after the last game," said Chelsea winger Christian Pulisic. "I think there was an extra bit of energy because of that loss, we wanted to prove a point."

A third defeat in four games since the restart leaves Watford still just one point above Bournemouth and Aston Villa in the battle to beat the drop.

Arsenal kept their hopes of European football next season alive moved by ending Wolves' eight-game unbeaten run in impressive fashion to move up to seventh.

Bukayo Saka celebrated signing a new long-term deal this week by hooking in the opener just before half-time and

Alexandre Lacazette came off the bench to seal all three points for Mikel Arteta's men four minutes from time.

"Every game you have no margin for error, we know that we try to win every game," said Arteta of Arsenal's top-four chances.

Defeat leaves Wolves five points behind Chelsea.

-100 up for Vardy -

Arsenal face Leicester next on Tuesday, but the Foxes go into that game with a much-needed confidence boost after a first win in five games.

Leicester have struggled to score goals of late, but were helped back to winning ways by some calamitous Palace defending for Kelechi Iheanacho to open the scoring and Vardy to tap into an empty net for his Premier League century.

Vardy struck again in characteristic fashion in stoppage time, sprinting in behind before dinking the ball over the advancing Vicente Guaita.

"To get the two goals and the three points is all you can ask for," said Vardy. "We know it's down to us. We are in this position on merit and we have to keep going. If we play like that between now and the end of the season, we will pick up a quite a few points."

Norwich manager Daniel Farke conceded his side are heading for relegation after a 1-0 home defeat to Brighton left the Canaries still seven points.

"It was more or less our last chance to get back in the mix," said Farke.

"After a few losses, we don't have the right to make any fighting messages or to make any unrealistic claims."

Aubameyang vital for Saka and Arsenal's other youngsters

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE was a tantalising glimpse into Arsenal's future when Bukayo Saka scored the 43rd-minute goal that set up the Gunners' crucial 2-0 Premier League victory at Wolves. The teenager's first league goal not only dented the home side's hopes of Champions League qualification, but also boosted Arsenal's previously flickering prospects.

It has been a memorable week for Saka, 18, who days earlier ended uncertainty over his future by signing a long-term contract. At Molineux, he put the finishing touch on a move started by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, whose clever pass on the edge of the Wolves penalty area enabled Kieran Tierney to cross for Saka to open the scoring.

Aubameyang's contribution was vital and reflective of his overall display, which set a fine example as Arsenal's captain. If the club's future is to be a successful one with the likes of Saka, Eddie Nketiah and Joe Willock to the fore, the 31-year-old skipper must be the next player to extend his stay at the Emirates Stadium.

With the former Borussia Dortmund forward in the team, manager Mikel Arteta can plan the next stage of his rebuilding job with confidence. If Aubameyang does not agree a contract to replace the one that expires next summer, though, all of the promise and progress of recent games risks being shunted into reverse.

Promise and progress was seen on Saturday. Arsenal had to ride out heavy Wolves pressure in the second half, showing the kind of resolve so often absent from the red-and-white shirts, before sealing the three points four minutes from time when substitute Alexandre Lacazette doubled the lead with his first away goal in the league since February 2019.

Incredibly, this was the first time Arsenal had earned an away win against a team placed higher in the table since winning at Leicester in September 2015. Having looked to be out of the race for Champions League qualification after losing at Brighton two weeks ago, they have hope.

"Every game now, we have no margin for error, we know that," Arteta said. "We try to go again and start thinking about Leicester [Arsenal's next opponents, on Tuesday] tomorrow, but I am in the race to try and win against Leicester and we will see what happens, but it [Champions League] looks possible."

Sealing a place in club football's biggest competition would hand Arteta a fast-track pass to resolving the problems in his in-tray, starting with Aubameyang. Sources have told ESPN that the Gabon international is open to staying, but age dictates that his next deal offers a final chance to land a big rise.

He will not be short of offers. Since arriving in England for £56 million (\$79m) in January 2018, Aubameyang



Bukayo Saka and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang are at different stages of their careers, but both are vital to Arsenal. (Agencies)

ang has scored 63 times in 102 games overall; in midweek, he netted against Norwich to hit the 50-goal mark in the league in his 79th appearance, four games quicker than Arsenal's all-time record scorer, Thierry

Henry.

Aubameyang is second only to Leicester's Jamie Vardy in the race for the Premier League Golden Boot - Vardy leads 21-19 - and it is safe to say that Arsenal would be

linguishing in mid-table without the goals of their talismanic forward. But his performance at Wolves, where Arsenal ended the 100% winning run of Nuno Espirito Santo's side since the restart, showed there is much more to Aubameyang's game.

His awareness in the buildup to Saka's goal highlighted his ability outside the penalty area, while he showed leadership and desire by helping out defensively as Wolves chased an equaliser. At times, he was almost doubling up at left-back with Tierney.

Arteta has made it clear that he wants only players with the right attitude - a mantra alluded to more than once when asked to justify the ongoing absence of Mesut Ozil and Matteo Guendouzi, neither of whom featured on Saturday - and in Aubameyang, he has the perfect embodiment of what he expects.

When the captain and star striker leads by example, it is easier for the manager to ensure that others follow. Saka and his fellow youngsters look up to Aubameyang and follow his lead, hence the reason it is so important for Arsenal to keep him. If he does depart, there is little veteran leadership elsewhere.

Arsenal are at least a year behind Chelsea and Manchester United in terms of squad evolution and this summer will see the manager clear out players who do not fit his requirements. Aubameyang should not be one of those; the club's path back to where it expects to be will be shorter with him on the journey.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



First Division Netball League tips off in Tanga

SPORT

Chelsea win holds off rampant Man Utd in race for Premier League top four

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Dar swimmer trains at US swimming club

By Guardian Correspondent

UP-and-coming Tanzanian swimmer, Natalia Ladha, has joined the United States' club, Swimfast, for the intensive training after the resumption of the sport.

Natalia who is also a member of a prominent swimming club in Tanzania, Bluefins, joined Swimfast a few days ago after the Florida-based club had started training.

Currently sports activities in the US have resumed as many athletes are now in training amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Natalia said the club has started training to make sure the swimmers train hard during the summer holidays and put them in the best shape by September this year.

The swimmer said she was not able to train for the last three months when the government announced school closure on March 17 this year.

The promising swimmer noted this is the longest spell she has spent without training since she was first time introduced to competitive swimming at the age of five.

Apart from the coronavirus outbreak-enforced three-month break, Natalia also missed training for the same period at the end of last year due to unavoidable reasons.

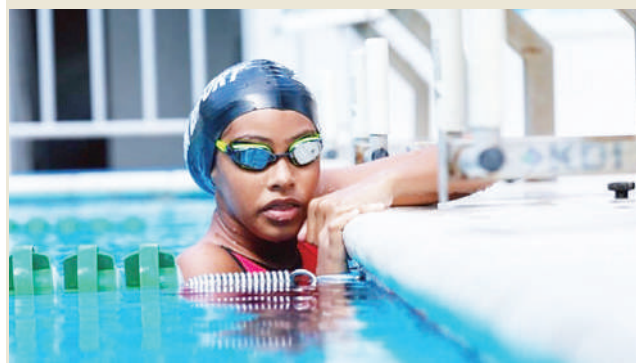
She said she is very happy to get the opportunity to train with the US club, maintaining she is ready to work hard to attain high standards and be in her best shape when the competitions start.

Natalia is still a holder of five national records. She is the 2019 Swimfast's 200m Backstroke record holder, a gold medalist in 2018 South Africa Aquatics Level three regional's championship and 2017 Bronze medalist in Florida Gold Coast Junior Olympics.

The swimmer also did well in her education, according to Dar es Salaam International Academy (DIA) live assembly broadcasted by the Director of the school Gulvinder Jaswant.

She has managed to achieve five top scores in Mathematics, Performing Arts (PA), Digital Design (DD), Individuals and Societies (I and S) and Physical and Health Education (PHE). The school also awarded Natalia an Open Minded Award.

Natalia also is a member of Bluefins Club who are this season's champions after winning two titles of Morogoro International School's invitational and Mwanza's Isamilo International School's invitational.



Natalia Ladha takes part in swimming drills at the United States' Swimfast Club's swimming pool recently.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE First Division Netball League tipped off in Tanga yesterday, with the tournament expected to run for two weeks.

The tournament, according to Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) top officials, has attracted a total of 16 netball teams from various regions in the country.

Initially 17 teams were enlisted for the showdown but one dropped off in the last minute.

The national netball governing body's Secretary General, Judith Ilunda, had earlier confirmed that the Railways team of Morogoro is the one which has pulled out of the ongoing league.



National Service (JKT) women netball team's players attend training at National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam earlier this year to shape up for this year's edition of the East Africa Championship, held in Uganda. PHOTO, CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

But, according to Ilunda, the other teams are sailing on and that the top three winners from the National Netball League are expected to take part in the forthcoming East Africa Netball Championships.

The Arusha Queens left the city last Saturday heading to Tanga for the league.

The netball team, which has been waiting for its three players and coach to arrive from Kampala, seems to have given up hope of reuniting with them and decided to leave for Tanga short-handed.

But it was not all a loss, the delay made the team which left Arusha on Saturday, to be able to gather some boost from local firms here.

The firms include the Northern Zone

branch of telecoms company, Vodacom Tanzania, which has outfitted the squad with sporting kits, while mattress makers, Tanfoam Limited, has cashed the squad with 500,000/-.

The Double Diamond Holdings Limited of Njiro, on the other hand, has also kitted the regional netball team with a set of sporting gear as well as providing them with cash money 600,000/-, making the total monetary boost to reach 1.1m/-.

Arusha Regional Sports Officer, Benson Maneno, said the regional team is well prepared, despite the absence of the squads' three foreign players that are stuck in Uganda.

Uganda has currently imposed a lockdown in a bid to contain the Covid-19 outbreak.

"We are still hopeful that the three players together with their coach in Uganda can make it later," Maneno stated.

He said that the netball team has set out with 14 players and a coach.

Stuck in Kampala are three players, Stella Nyadoi, Sarah Nakiyunga and Dorothy Vega Slando, that together with coach, Nourdene Hassan Kato.

The four may now have to travel direct to Tanga if

permitted to leave Uganda in the course of the league duration.

Speaking from Kampala, Kato said the three players stuck in Uganda were not idle, continuing with their practising sessions there, so it does not matter when they will be allowed to travel to Arusha.

"We are always ready and well equipped for the Tanga league," the coach assured.

Burhani cricketers lift Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 Division B tournament silverware

By Guardian Reporter

ANNADIL Burhani cricketers have clinched the Paul Manyanda Memorial Pro 10 Competition's Division B trophy, cruising to eight-wicket drubbing of Union Sports Club in a pulsating final, which took place at the former's venue in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) has organized the 10-over formatted tournament in honour of Paul Manyanda, a respected cricket coach and official who passed away in the city early this year.

The Division B top honours turns out to be the first piece of silverware that Annadil Burhani, which was among feared clubs in top local cricket tournaments in the past few years, have lifted this year.

In the yesterday final, Union SC

scored 83 runs for seven wickets in 10 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Opener Athuman Kakonzi and Danish Unia, who were instrumental in the club's impressive displays throughout the event's group and knockout stages, were to a great extent not at their best at the crease on Sunday.

They nevertheless were in the list of batsmen that had meaningful contribution in the innings, with Unia scoring 19 runs which consisted of a boundary and a six.

Kakonzi's spell at the crease ended with 12 runs to his name, cracking a six.

Shiraz Shokat, all in all, was Union SC batsman with the most notable showing, scoring 31 runs not out which consisted of three fours and a six.

Annadil Burhani's Mustafa Suleman-

ji mercilessly tormented Union SC batsmen and ended with an impressive haul of four wickets, conceding 15 runs in two overs.

His bowling showing was by far instrumental in his outfit's ability to prevent Union SC from recording an imposing total.

In response, Annadil Burhani chased Union SC's total with ease, dropping two wickets in 8.1 overs.

Opener Alaqmar Shakir was the outfit's hero, nailing 58 runs not out which included six boundaries and three sixes, and steering his team to the successful chase.

Fellow opener Abbas Adamjee chipped in with 16 runs which consisted of a six.

An early dismissal of Quresh Karimjee, who recorded four runs which included a boundary, hardly frustrated the chase given Abdulkadir Dossajee made certain of the outfit's chase with five runs not out, which consisted of a boundary.

Union SC cricketers had to toil for progression to the final, as they were bundled out of the Division B semi-finals by Annadil Burhani.

Annadil Burhani cricketers made short work of Union in the first semi-final, commanding a seven-wicket win over the latter.

Union SC got a second chance to get a shot at making it to the final, as they took part in the second semi-final against Dar Cricket Club (DCC), which had won the Eliminator against Estim.

In the second semi-final, Union SC made the most of the opportunity, trouncing DCC by 36 runs.



Annadil Burhani cricketers feature in training at the club's venue in Dar es Salaam recently to stay in great shape ahead of regional tournaments.

Simba SC players salute SportPesa

By Guardian Reporter

SIMBA SC players have heaped praises on sports betting firm, SportPesa, for the firm's financial support which has helped the outfit lift this season's Vodacom Premier League.

The side's players visited the firm's offices in Dar es Salaam recently.

Aishi Manula, Simba keeper, stated; "The 2019/20 season has truly been tough as a result of several challenges but it has as well been quite competitive, we thank SportPesa for their contribution to our club."

"We have expectations our participation in the remaining two seasons of the firm's sponsorship agreement with the outfit will be a success, if the firm will keep on working closely with the side."

Simba's skipper John Bocco, on behalf the remaining players, disclosed: "I thank SportPesa given we have seen a lot of changes in our club from the time the outfit signed contract with the firm in 2017, we have won the top flight trophy in all three seasons."

"I must say it is a tremendous contribution and the firm has motivated our club to reach its targets."

"Players will give their all for the club and see to it we reach the targets we have set every season."

SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, said; "SportPesa is for three years in a row, proud to be Simba's main sponsors and witness success either part has enjoyed."

"Simba have enjoyed much success and we are proud of the success we are enjoying via the outfit."



Simba SC keeper Aishi Manula,

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planei Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM