



National Pg 3

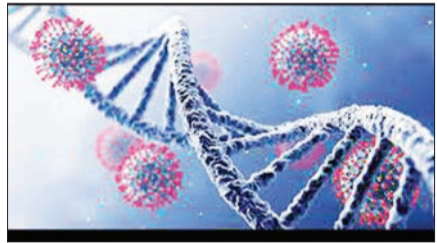
Z'bar investment in deep sea fishing

National Pg 4

'We need value for money in projects'

National Pg 6

'Fire killed 32 people last year'



France finds 'IHU' COVID-19 variant

By A Special Correspondent

FRENCH researchers have detected a new Covid variant, probably of Cameroonian origin, and have temporarily named it as 'IHU'.

The new variant from the lineage named B.1.640.2 is believed to have infected 12 people in France, according to preliminary findings of an official agency, saying it has 46 mutations and 37 deletions from the original Covid-19 virus type.

Philippe Colson of the IHU Mediterranee Infection study centre in Marseille said that 12 SARS-CoV-2-positive patients living in the same geographical area of southeastern France underwent qPCR testing that screens for variant-associated mutations, and showed an atypical combination.

He said all the same that it was too early to speculate on virological, epidemiological or clinical features of this IHU variant based on these 12 cases, elaborating that the index case (the first

“The emergence of the new variant warrants the increase of genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2

patient) was a vaccinated adult who had returned to France from a trip to Cameroon, in central Africa.

“Three days after returning he developed mild respiratory symptoms. His nasopharyngeal sample collected mid-November 2021, revealed an atypical combination that did not correspond to the pattern of the Delta variant involved in almost all SARS-CoV-2 infections at that time,” he said, noting similarly that it also contrasts with the Omicron variant.

Respiratory samples collected from seven other SARS-CoV-2-positive patients living in the same geographical area exhibited the same combination of mutations screened by qPCR. They were two adults and five children (below 15 years of age), he specified.

The respiratory samples from these eight patients were sent to university hospital institute Mediterranee Infection for SARS-CoV-2 genome sequencing as recommended by French public health authorities.

Further tests led to SARS-CoV-2 genotype identification, where the analysis revealed 46 mutations and 37 deletions resulting in 30 amino acid substitutions and 12 deletions, “with 14 amino acid substitutions, including N501Y and E484K plus nine deletions located in the spike protein.”

“This genotype pattern led to the

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Ten die as boat capsizes, while lightning kills five



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at the Zanzibar State House yesterday with UNDP's representative in Tanzania, Christine Musisi. The envoy was chiefly out to introduce herself. Photo: State House

'Envoys must take up economic diplomacy'

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President, Dr Hussein Mwinyi (pictured) has tasked recently appointed Tanzanian ambassadors to prioritise economic diplomacy so that Zanzibar and the Mainland can attract more investors for

economic advances.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks when he met with the country's envoys at the State House yesterday, ambassadors Perera Ame Silima (Comoros), Said Shaib Mussa (Kuwait), Fredrick Ibrahim Kibuta (Russia) Prof Adelardus Kilangi (Brazil), Alex Gabriel

Kalua (Israel) and Said Juma Mshana (DRC).

He used the occasion to explain how Zanzibar is determined to improve its economy through investments in the blue economy, focusing on continuing to advertise and promote Zanzibar.

“There are still many opportunities in the tourism industry that need to be explored... we also need to promote the blue economy concept. Tourism is the most highly regarded sector as it has been instrumental in GDP growth, therefore it remains a priority,” he specified.

He said the blue economy concept is

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By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has sent a message of condolences to the families of 10 people who died after a passenger boat capsized in South Pemba Region on Tuesday night. Five people, four of them children, meanwhile died after being struck by lightning at Kibuye village of Kibondo district in Kigoma region.

Zanzibar affirmed that rough seas and overloading seem to have caused the accident, President Mwinyi expressing grief on the loss of life, appealing to the bereaved families to exercise restraints during this difficult period.

He prayed for the quick recovery of 15 rescued people, being part of a group of travellers whose actual number is still unknown, as the boat did not carry a list of passengers.

Pemba South regional commissioner Matar Zahor Masoud said rescue operations were still going on as there are people who are still unaccounted for, but rescue work paused due to strong winds. “Our search team will do its best to make sure we find the others,” he said.

Mkoani district commissioner Khatib Juma Mjaja said nine bodies were taken out and one was found later, noting that the 15

“The bodies of the deceased were preserved at the Kibondo district hospital mortuary for further examination before being handed over to relatives for burial

rescued people were allowed to return to their homes as they were in good health.

The dead had already been handed over to their relatives for burial while searches continue for missing people whose number is imprecise, he affirmed.

Those with relatives thought to have boarded the boat and not seen so far need to report to the relevant authorities for a clearer view of what remains to be done in the rescue operation, he urged.

“The district authorities are with all those affected by the tragedy during this period of mourning,” he declared, while Pemba district medical officer, Mohammed Faki Saleh confirmed receiving bodies of ten people and 15 injured in the accident.

The dead are Omar Machano (50), Rashid Hamad (30), Suleiman Hamad (32), Mohamed Soud, Nassor Issa Omar (34), Salim Juma Said (55), and still others are Ali Makame Shehe, Shasha Khamis Abdalla, Hassan Mati Haji (22) and Idrisa Omar Aley.

The survivors are Hamad Omar Mselem, Bambi, Khamis Ali Khatir, Khalifa Mohamed Abdalla, Khamis Yusuf Mohamed, Haji Muhammad, Omar Jibrin, Ali Shehe Othman, Suleiman Jibrin, Bakari Salim Jibrin, Suleiman Juma Mohamed, Shaaban Ali Hamad, Suleiman Mohamed, Haji Mohamed Juma and Abdalla Kassim Mohamed.

Azan Msingiri, the commander of the Zanzibar anti-smuggling squad (KMKM) said they have sent 12 divers who are at sea to check out for bodies.

Kigoma regional police commander ACP James Manyama has meanwhile said the

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TANESCO overhauling urban connection fees

● Rural dwellers' 27,000/- fee remains, others stretched from 320,000/- to 1.6m/-

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) has reinstated service line charges ranging from hundreds of thousands to over one million for urban dwellers, advising those who had paid the 27,000/- to visit its offices for new invoices.

The parastatal agency said in a statement yesterday that the 27,000/- connection fee regardless of distance and level of electricity to be supplied will apply to phase-one customers in rural areas served by the Rural Energy Agency (REA).

“...it was overwhelmed by applications that it could not serve with the 27,000/- revenues for all connections, promulgated by the fifth phase government

Urban one-phase electrical connection at distance less than 30 meters to the nearest power pole will henceforth be charged 320,960/-, while those located within 70 meters will pay 515,618/- and those located within 120 metres from the pole will part with 696,670/-.

As for three-phase electricity, applicants located fewer than 30 meters from a pole will now pay 912,014/- while those within 70 meters will pay 1,249,385/- and customers within 120 metres 1,639,156/-.

The move comes just after President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Tuesday directed Energy minister January Makamba to review electricity connection costs to enable the parastatal to generate

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (2nd L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday consoling Chief Sheikh Abubakarbin Zubeirbin Ally, who is admitted to Muhimbili National Hospital. Photo: PMO

Ten die as boat capsizes, while lightning kills five

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lightning occurred happened on Tuesday evening during heavy rain as children played under a mango tree, naming the dead as Baska Japhet (10), Goma Jeremia (5), Rock Ramadhani (5), and Alam Pascari (9), while Annatorian Muhoza (50) died as he was going to work on his farm when lightning struck.

RPC Manyama called on parents and residents in general to take precautions during ongoing rains and prevent children from playing under trees during rains as trees attract lightning.

The bodies of the deceased were preserved at the Kibondo district hospital mortuary for further examination before being handed over to relatives for burial, he added.

TANESCO overhauling urban connection fees

FROM PAGE 1

substantial funds for distributing power and connecting more people, underlining that the 27,000/- fee applied to all customers hindered Tanesco from carrying out connections.

TANESCO had earlier complained that it was overwhelmed by applications that it could not serve with the 27,000/- revenues for all connections, promulgated by the fifth phase government.

Customers who had already deposited 27,000/- with TANESCO and were eagerly awaiting connections will now need more money, at least 300,000/- for the best located relative to the positioning of TANESCO facilities.

As a matter of fact, the new rates had already been approved by Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) two months ago followed by a notice in the Government Gazette number 1020 which appeared last month, EWURA added.



Customers who had already deposited 27,000/- with TANESCO and were eagerly awaiting connections will now need to have more money, at least 300,000/-, for the best located relative to the positioning of TANESCO facilities

Somalia signs US\$ 185 million pact with WFP

MOGADISHU

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abdiwahab Ugas Hussein Khalif, received in his office WFP Representative in Somalia, Elkhidir Daluum, and discussed in depth how to strengthen the ministry's partnership with WFP.

The meeting focused on expanding cooperation between the two sides, with the signing of a \$185 million co-operation agreement, which is part of the National Rehabilitation Support for Vulnerable People in Baxanao.

WFP is also playing a leading role in an emergency project to support locust-affected families, assisting the

government in responding to the drought.

"We underscore the commitment of the Somali Government and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to the implementation of the Government's first WFP Rehabilitation projects, a co-operation agreement we have signed," said Minister Abdiwahab. spoke to the media after the meeting.

"Efforts by the government to implement community-based projects are well underway, and the social registration system will be completed soon."

The WFP Representative in Somalia, Elkhidir Daluum, who also gave an

overview of the agency's community support projects this year, praised WFP's cooperation.

"I am honoured to once again have the opportunity to work in Somalia and serve the people of Somalia. At this time, we must reach the bottom of the food crisis and contribute to sustainable development and peace," he said.

"We also discussed with the minister to further strengthen our relationship, especially in the areas of development and implementation of the national plan."

The meeting was the first between the government's Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and the WFP Representative

appointed for the mission at the end of last year.

Meanwhile, Puntland electoral Commission chairman Guled Salah has announced his resignation from the post on Sunday just a week after the embattled chairman of the federal electoral implementation team was dismissed.

In a Facebook post, the Chairman of the Transitional Puntland Electoral Commission (TPEC) said he decided to step down due to undisclosed grounds.

"I had planned to be a part of the hard work of the Senior Members and Staff of the Committee for the Puntland community, but due to circumstances, I decided to vacate my post," Puntland electoral Commission chairman Guled Salah.

AGENCIES

'Envoys must take up economic diplomacy'

FROM PAGE 1

applicable in both sides of the Union, and hence the need for envoys to convince investors to embark on industrial projects in the country.

For Comoros, he urged the ambassador to work on current business challenges to revive business cooperation between the islands and Zanzibar.

Raising the issue of enhancing bilateral relationships with Brazil, he said the country has already made strides in technology development, highlighting the need to enhance cooperation with Egypt so that locally made products obtain a market there.

He cited Russia as among key stakeholders in the Zanzibar tourism industry, thus the envoy needs to work towards uplifting numbers of tourists from Russia coming to Tanzania, well as convincing them to invest in Zanzibar.

He said businessmen in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Tanzania business community have been working closely in facilitating trade between the two countries, while Zanzibar traders are exporting sardines to DRC.

He similarly remarked that Israel could be a good partner in setting up agricultural projects as the country is well ahead in agro-sector technology for many years, underscoring the importance of strengthening cooperation for peace and stability, chiefly with countries bordering Tanzania.

The president held talks with a team from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led by UNDP country representative Christine Musisi, where the UNDP has pledged to send experts to work together with Isles government officials to help clarify needed actions in various sectors in the development effort, notably on how to improve the blue economy.



He cited Russia as among key stakeholders in the Zanzibar tourism industry, thus the envoy needs to work towards uplifting numbers of tourists from Russia coming to Tanzania, well as convincing them to invest in Zanzibar



Mbeya Urban MP, Dr Tulia Ackson, who is also Deputy Speaker addresses Itende ward residents yesterday. The government has released 470m/- for the construction of secondary school buildings. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

France finds 'IHU' COVID-19 variant

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creation of a new Pangolin lineage named B.1.640.2, which is a phylogenetic sister group to the old B.1.640 lineage renamed B.1.640.1. Both lineages differ by 25 nucleotide substitutions and 33 deletions," the study elaborated.

"The mutation set and phylogenetic

position of the genomes obtained here indicate, based on our previous definition, a new variant we named 'IHU,'" he stated, affirming that the data is "another example of the unpredictability of the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants."

"Overall, these observations show

once again the unpredictability of the emergence of new SARS-CoV-2 variants and their introduction from abroad, and they exemplify the difficulty to control such introduction and subsequent spread," the researcher intoned.

"SARS-CoV-2 variants have become

a major virological, epidemiological and clinical concern, particularly with regard to the risk of escape from vaccine-induced immunity. The emergence of the new variant warrants the increase of genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2," he added.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities) Jenista Mhagama speaks with workers in the PM's Office in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Dr Kijaji launches tree planting campaign in her constituency

INFORMATION and Information Technology minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji has launched a tree planting campaign in her Kondo constituency as part of the national strategy to turn the country green.

The event was held on Tuesday this week at both Hondomairo secondary school and Misrey satellite primary school in Hondomairo Ward.

The event that saw Dr Kijaji lead the planting exercise of planting 2,500 trees around the schools was accompanied by various government and CCM officials including Kondo

district commissioner, Dr Hamisi Mkanachi.

Speaking at the event, the minister said the issue of environmental preservation is the responsibility of every citizen; hence, the agenda should be sustainable.

"We like to see our Kondo constituency green and that is why we say we should start year 2022 here at Misrey and we should all make the area green, as well as Kondo and the entire country, as

our environment is more important as you can see we are now getting erratic rains due to the destruction to our environment," she said.

She also stressed on the issue of parents to send their children to school as there are no more impediments in regard to infrastructure as Misrey satellite primary school has been completed with 10 classrooms and water well ready for use.

She also pledged to donate

3m/- from the Constituency Fund to complete the construction of teacher's house to enable the school receive early registration.

Misrey residents used the occasion to air their various complaints which received clarification from various officials and experts present.

Dr Kijaji appealed to her constituents to increase efforts for their own development by utilising economic opportunities provided, including cultivation of sunflower.

By Guardian Correspondent

Firm's designer fosters culture through traditional costumes

HIS love for Tanzanian culture pressed a 33-year-old university graduate to cultivate interest in designing traditional costumes using animal products ranging from animal skins and hides, bones, leaves to barks from different trees.

"To be precise, flora and fauna are my raw materials," said Jocktan Makeke, the chief executive officer of Makeke International, a firm that is designing traditional costumes, located at Tabata Shule on the outskirts of the commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

With the firm's slogan—Your culture, your identity—Makeke loosely translated into English as, "more than normal", is really designing traditional costumes that are more than ordinary.

"I came up with the idea of designing traditional costumes about six years ago after I had realized that most of the designs were Western-like suits and dresses," Makeke, who in 2012 graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Arts and Design at the University of Dodoma, told Xinhua.

"So I decided to introduce this kind of design and I was the first

person doing this traditional costume design in the country," he said.

According to the young designer, most of his designs are based on stories from Tanzania's 120 tribes and they are based on pure African culture that prevailed before the coming of Europeans and before colonialism.

"I am using natural products like those that our forefathers and mothers used. They used animal products, including skins, hides, bones, leaves and barks from trees for making their costumes," said Makeke.

He said before he starts designing, he travels upcountry to different regions where he conducts research through hearing traditional stories and asking questions, mostly from elder people, on the kinds of traditional costumes they used.

"The research is done in tandem with the collection of the animal products, leaves and barks," said Makeke, adding that doing research

on one traditional costume could take one year but it takes a day to make about six costumes.

"Traditional costumes have a direct impact on society, a very direct message to society because when you see this you can't understand what it is but when I tell you the story behind this collection, you will understand what I am talking about," he said.

At the beginning of his designing traditional costumes, the going was rough and tough, because many people did not understand what he was doing but today many people understand.

He said he has so many clients in Tanzania, Africa and Europe, adding that some of his clients are celebrities, including renowned musicians.

Makeke said although he has never been to China, he has admiration for Chinese love for their culture.

"Chinese value their culture. They protect their culture and they are so proud of their culture compared to Africans," he said.



Head of Special Anti-Smuggling Unit in Zanzibar Commodore Azan Hassan Msingiri (2nd L) together with his members show one of the fish caught from deep sea recently. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Minister underscores need for more Z'bar investment in Isles deep sea fishing

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

STATE minister in the Second Vice-President's Office (Policy, Coordination and House of Representatives), Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed has underscored the need for more investments in deep sea fishing, saying Zanzibar has all the potential for development of the blue economy.

Dr Mohamed made the statement yesterday when speaking at the launch of a deep sea fishing project under the Zanzibar anti-smuggling squad (KMKM) during a ceremony held at its headquarters at Kibweni in the outskirts of Zanzibar city.

He said that Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has been insisting on proper tapping of marine resources for a better future in the blue economy initiative.

The Commonwealth explains the blue economy or ocean-based economy as an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of ocean or 'blue' resources, highlighting close linkages between the ocean, climate change, and the wellbeing of the people as par Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 14—life below water.

According to him, proper utilization of marine resources, especially fishing, would enable the country to earn foreign currencies through fish exports.

He added that apart from fishing, there are other economic potentials such as oil and gas extractions which can significantly contribute to Zanzibar's Gross domestic product (GDP) as well as improving people's welfare.

Developing the blue economy is set out in the Zanzibar Vision 2020-2050, designed to tap into the use of sea resources for economic growth, by sustainable methods.

Upon taking office in 2020,

President Dr Hussein Mwinyi pledged to turn around Zanzibar by heavily investing in the blue economy, thus in pursuing this objective, he created the Blue Economy and Fisheries portfolio.

Blue or sea economy entails the fishing sector, fish farming, establishing fish processing factories, seaweed farming, oil and gas drilling and the utilization of various marine resources as well as seashore tourism.


Blue economy is increasingly being proposed by scholars and policy makers as a blueprint for promoting economic development aimed at GDP growth, poverty reduction (income and employment) and a concept for conserving the world's ocean and the inherent resources.

The concept of the blue economy was first highlighted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

Regarding UNCTAD, Blue Economy is defined as the economic and trade activities that focus on the ocean-based marine environment, associated biodiversity, ecosystems, species, and genetic resources whilst ensuring conservation.

In terms of Africa, the prospects of blue economy to influence Africa's economic growth was first highlighted in the AU Integrated Maritime Strategy (AIMS) of 2050 and advanced with the adoption of the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (or the Lomé Charter) by the African Union Assembly in 2016.

As set out by the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Blue Economy is perceived as the continent's future because its benefits extend beyond the shores of coastal states and create opportunities for adjacent landlocked communities and countries.



GOOD NEIGHBORS TANZANIA

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

Bid No. GNTZ/ZAO/003/2021

FOR

PURCHASES OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY OF STATIONARY FOR OFFICE AND SCHOOL STUDENTS (TEXTBOOKS)

1. Good Neighbors Tanzania-Zanzibar Area Office (GNTZ-ZAO) cooperate with Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar (MoEVT) for the project funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) during the financial year 2022, would like to announce a notice of tender for the contract in regard to Purchases of Electronic Equipment and Supply of stationary for office and school students (Textbooks).
2. A complete set of tendering document will be issued to interested bidders upon receipt of written application at Good Neighbors Tanzania-Zanzibar Area Office, from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM Monday to Friday, except on Public Holiday.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information at Good Neighbors Tanzania- Zanzibar Area Office located at ZSTC Investment Building, Kinazini Zanzibar First floor room No.3 or email [contact:gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz](mailto:gntzzanzibar@goodneighbors.or.tz) from 09:00am to 03:00pm, Monday to Friday, except on public Holidays.
4. Tenders should be delivered direct (hand delivery) to our office before deadline date **26th January 2022, 03:00PM**, Tenders shall be opened thereafter at the same address in the presence of the bidder who choose to attend.

Il Sun Jung
Country Director
Good Neighbors Tanzania

Good Change for the World

8,292 to join Form I in Moro Municipality following completion of classrooms project

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 8,292 students selected to join Form I at various secondary schools in Morogoro Municipality are all expected to start lessons on January 17 after the completion of classrooms including the building of six new schools from Covid-19 funds.

The remarks were made here early this week by Secondary Education Officer from Morogoro Municipal, Jaribu Malambughu when speaking on the construction of 86 classrooms including the six new schools.

He said during January they expect to receive the 8,292 Form I students who were requiring 163 classrooms while the existing classrooms numbered only 124, hence a shortfall of 40 classrooms.

He said the Municipality received 1.3bn/- for the construction of 86 classrooms.

He added that four new secondary schools out of six were also built from the funds and the work remaining thereof include roofing and painting of walls.

He mentioned the schools as including Tungi, Mkundi, Magadu/Mbuyuni, and Lukobe Secondary Schools.

He said the challenge regarding classrooms shortage in the Morogoro Municipality has now been solved.

He also called on schools' headmasters and building committees to make sure in the remaining days, they supervise

the contractors to finish the work 100 per cent to hand over the infrastructures before January 17.

Flora Ndinguru, the Headmistress of Mazoezi Lupanga Secondary school said her school received 120m/- for the construction of six classrooms, the work of which has been completed.

She said the completion of the classrooms was a great achievement professionally as the issue of classrooms shortage has now been solved, saying in the past the school had only 14 classrooms.

For his part, acting Headmistress of Kola Hill secondary School, Felister Shayo, said so far her school had 1,149 students and through the project it received 80m/- for the construction of four classrooms all of which have been completed.



...the completion of the classrooms was a great achievement professionally as the issue of classrooms shortage has now been solved, saying in the past the school had only 14 classrooms

'We need quality, value for money in projects'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government says it is keen to see that all development projects carried out by the Union in Zanzibar are not only fully implemented, but at agreed quality to get value for money.

For implementation of the project is one thing and quality—which is of paramount importance—is the other.

The statement was made in Zanzibar yesterday by the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo during an official visit to inspect the implementation of projects whose construction is underway.

Dr Jafo spoke after launching clean and safe water projects at Chumbuni and Amani Constituencies as well as the construction of classrooms at Sebleni Primary School in Kwahani Constituency.

All the projects are implemented through Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDCF).

Speaking at separate times during the visit, he said that through effective management, both union and Zanzibar governments will ensure that the projects are completed with the highest standards and efficiency.

The minister also commended the experts in charge of the projects, saying he was relieved to see that expenditure was in line with quality and standards.

"Today even if you say projects are not being implemented, I can confidently say no because I have come here and seen for myself that these projects are well underway and I would like to congratulate you very much for managing them well and implementing them on time," he said.

Minister Jafo added that the completion of the projects under the State Fund will provide opportunities and benefits to the people as well as change their lives in general.

Speaking earlier at a meeting in the Banko area, Western District Commissioner Rashid Simai Msaraka promised that they would

continue to ensure that the funds provided by the government for the implementation of the projects are used as planned.

For his part, Member of Parliament for Amani Constituency, Mussa Hassan Mussa commended the government's efforts in bringing development to the people and urged them not to destroy it so that it can continue to benefit them.

The purpose of the Fund is to ensure that projects that are the priorities of the people in the respective areas that did not receive funding in the budget receive implementation funds.

Meanwhile, Minister Jafo paid a visit to one of the founders of the Union, Hassan Omar Mzee who is admitted to Kibweni Health Center in West District 'A' in Urban West Region.

Mzee who mixed soil during the Tanganyika-Zanzibar Union celebrations on April 26, 1964, has been admitted to the health facility for treatment.

While at the center, Dr Jafo thanked and congratulated the health professionals at the center for the services they provide to Elder Omar who is one of the key founders of the Union.

He said the experts have shown great patriotism by providing quality services to various people including the leaders and founders of the union.

He also urged them to continue to serve the people who come to receive treatment as the health center is important for the future of health.



The minister also commended the experts in charge of the projects, saying he was relieved to see that expenditure was in line with quality and standard



Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Disabled) Umy Nderiananga speaks after the launch of a water well at Mchanga Mdogo primary school in Pemba yesterday. Right is Kojani MP who is also deputy minister in the Vice President's Office Union and Environment Hamad Chande. Photo: Correspondent Nyamagory Omary

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister, Mashimba Ndaki has advised herders in the country to adopt commercial livestock keeping and do away with traditional herding whose benefits have been very minimal to both themselves and the nation.

The minister made the remarks on Tuesday this week during his visit to the modern Shaffer Ranch in Iringa Region.

At the ranch, Ndaki inspected various activities therein and advised herders to begin modern livestock keeping practices and

Govt urges herders to abandon traditional livestock keeping

abandon traditional herding that was now becoming outdated.

"We have not been seeing any tangible benefits from our livestock because herders stick to the traditional livestock keeping methods, it is time they switch to commercial livestock keeping," he said.

For his part, Iringa District Executive Director, Bashiru Muhoja said the ranch's investor is in great

need of animal fodder including soya and maize.

"Hon. Minister, the investor imports animal fodder from Zambia, hence this is an opportunity for our people, we have already started making efforts, and we have a list of farmers who are ready to cultivate the crops to sell to the investor," he said.

For his part, the Shaffer Ranch supervisor, Mahboob Malick

thanked the government for its great cooperation and that they were ready to work together with it to improve the country's livestock sector.

"We are ready to accept youth who want to learn about modern livestock keeping practices, we are ready to teach them so that they in turn teach others in order to improve our sector," he added.



Tunduru district commissioner in Ruvuma region Julius Mtatiro (C) cuts a ribbon to launch 133 classrooms built under COVID 19 stimulus package recently. Photo: Correspondent Stevie Chindiyu

Songwe farmers urged to consider cultivating drought tolerant crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

FARMERS in Momba and Songwe districts in Songwe region have been urged to plant crops such as beans and sorghum to combat drought that could lead to famine in their areas.

Assistant Administrative Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Vanscar Kulanga made the call recently when he spoke to the farmers in the districts as part of the reminder of the new agricultural

season.

He said among the crops that farmers should not neglect are beans and sorghum which are largely resilient to various climate change and help meet their daily needs.

He claimed that despite the monsoon rains began to fall in some areas, it was important to take precautionary measures in order to obtain a climate-tolerant crop such as sorghum and beans.

"Summer conditions can lead to

starvation in the community, apart from planting crops such as maize, and rice but crops such as sunflower, beans and sorghum that withstand any weather conditions are important to plant," said Kulanga.

He added that in ensuring that this agricultural season, farmers receive accurate information on crop production and proper use of inputs, he urged extension officers in every village to visit them to provide them with quality agricultural education.

Athuman Kalago one of the

farmers in Kilimampimbi village said the lack of reliable rainfall in the region has created fear in the community as to when they will start planting their crops.

He also urged his fellow farmers to continue monitoring the weather forecast to determine when it is time to plant their crops as well as to heed the advice of extension officers.

Recently, Songwe Regional Commissioner Omary Mgunba urged citizens not to sell all food due to the threat of drought.

TDCF rehabilitates water system, pumps fresh water from Lake Victoria to Bukumbi hospital

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

A CHARITABLE organisation, the Desk and Chair Foundation (TDCF) is rehabilitating water system and installing a new pump from Lake Victoria to Bukumbi hospital situated approximately four kilometres from the water body in Misungwi district, Mwanza region.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, country chairman of the NGO, Sibtain Meghjee said that rehabilitation of water system at the hospital owned by Catholic Church has been sponsored by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania.

Meghjee noted that project has not been completed according to

schedule owing to delay in arrival of the pump ordered by contractor from outside the country but is now at 80 percent of completion.

After installation of the pump availability of water at the hospital will return to normal and therefore improve delivery of services at the health facility located some few kilometres from Mwanza city centre, he said.

He said that currently foundation is digging shallow wells in Handeni in Tanga region and at Ngerengere Village in Morogoro and at Kemondo in Kagera for donation.

Also foundation is digging wells at Chato in Geita, Kibara in Mara as well as Misungwi in Mwanza regions with aim to solve water problem facing members of community and

therefore improve their standard of living, he noted.

He stated that they have received a lot of applications from community needing aid of wells but they are able to dig 10 of them only per day owing to capacity of machine they are using in the process.

He explained that water projects are among activities the foundation has been implementing in different areas in community to complement efforts of government to improve well-being of people. "We have been supporting community a lot of things we receive from different donors therefore beneficiaries should use them for purposes which they have been given and not otherwise to encourage the donors to continue supporting", he noted.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L) speaks during the Southern Africa Development Community ministerial meeting for politics, defence and security held through a video conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Defence and National Service ministering Dr. Stergomena Tax. Photo: MoHA

By Special Correspondent

SOUTH African parliament on Wednesday said firefighters will in the afternoon assess for a possible total withdrawal from its precinct on the day as the fire that gutted various parts of the parliament has been contained.

The fire, which initially broke out early Sunday, extensively destroyed the interior of the building of the lower house National Assembly, with the lower house chamber completely burned down, and partly destroyed the roof. It also caused extensive damage to the Old Assembly building built in the 1880s, which houses the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), the upper house.

The parliament in a statement reconfirmed the containment of the fire, which flared up again on Monday afternoon at the roof of the National Assembly building after the fire had been brought under control except for the smoldering fourth floor of the building, and said there has not been any further fire incident.

Firefighters to withdraw from South African parliament as fire contained

The fire service will hand over the National Assembly building to the South African police after ensuring its safety, read the statement.

There have been 300 firefighters working in shifts to contain the fire with over 60 fire engine vehicles since its outbreak, according to the parliament, adding that one fire engine remains at the scene currently, with five crew members working throughout all the floors, ensuring no flare-ups.

A reduced number of firefighters were closely monitoring and combing through the scene in the last 24 hours, it said. The lower house's chamber was used to host plenary sittings of the National Assembly and the joint sitting of the two houses before the fire.

The Mace, which signifies the authority and sitting of the National Assembly was retrieved from its safe storage without any damage.

The parliament museum including artworks and heritage objects was

unharmed as well as the 112 meter-long and 70 meter-high Keiskamma tapestry, a "powerful symbol of our people's Parliament", on the ground floor of the Old Assembly Building.

The tapestry made by women tells the South African story in beadwork, skins and embroidery from the perspective of ordinary people.

Before the re-emergence of fire, Chairperson of the NCOP Amos Maseko told a media briefing that other important sections like the NCOP Chamber and offices, the Parliament Library were also saved.

According to the parliament, the State of the Nation Address scheduled on Feb. 10, 2022, annual budget speech, and other parliament programs will proceed as planned.

The parliament leaders have reassured leaders of political parties and other stakeholders to get to the bottom of how the incident happened. It will conduct an internal investigation "on any lapse" that contributed to the incident.

OKLAHOMA CITY

THE Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden will host a 10-night conservation trip through the African nation Tanzania that will include safaris and guided excursions.

The voyage, scheduled for June 18-28, 2022, is designed to connect Oklahomans with wildlife in faraway places.

The OKC Zoo is partnering with Ujuzi African Travel for the 10-night tour through Tanzania, described in a zoo news release as a top safari destination in Africa.

"The mission of the Zoo is to connect Oklahomans with the world's vanishing wildlife and wild places," said Dr. Dwight Lawson, executive director/CEO for the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden. "By hosting this conservation trip to Africa - one of many annual trips we envision - we hope Oklahomans will see how successful conservation programs help both wildlife and people to thrive and will better understand

Oklahoma City Zoo organising conservation trip to Tanzania

the complex challenges wildlife face."

Participants will tour Tarangire National Park, the Ngorongoro Crater and the Central Serengeti, which zoo officials describe as "spectacular."

Guests will see the continent's most iconic wildlife, including zebra, lion, elephant, hippopotamus, giraffe, wildebeest and more, during guided excursions.

Lodging will be at five of Tanzania's best lodges, according to the news release.

"Interested guests have the option of extending their safari with three additional nights in neighboring Rwanda for an exclusive mountain gorilla trek in Volcanoes National Park," the news release states.

OKC Zoo expert staff members will explain the zoo's conservation efforts along the journey.

The Round-Up for Conservation

initiative helps fund OKC Zoo's conservation efforts.

Excursion participants have the opportunity to meet representatives from wildlife conservation organizations based in Africa, including the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, according to the news release.

The trip is limited to 16 guests, and families with younger children are welcome.

An informational meeting will be held at the OKC Zoo's Conservation Education Center from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19. Those who wish to attend are advised to park by and enter through the education center located at the east end of the zoo's parking lot. If you can't make the trip to Tanzania, OKC Zoo staff will bring the experience back to Oklahoma next spring by way of 'Expedited Africa', the zoo's largest habitat expansion in its 119-year history.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROVISION FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER BIO-DIGESTOR SYSTEMS TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring a service for provision for design and construction of wastewater bio-digester systems and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01371	PROVISION FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER BIO - DIGESTOR SYSTEMS

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01371)	
60%	
Approved Certificates from NEMC for carrying this service	5%
CV of 3 Key Technical Personnel's	10%
Two Sample Designs for Bio-Digester Systems including process flow sheet	35%
Bio-Digester Systems Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	25%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01371)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than **8.30AM 19TH January 2022** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Govt to take legal steps on firms failing to submit details of beneficial owners

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government says it will take legal steps against all companies that will fail to submit details of their beneficial owners within the time given.

It has also said it expects to provide results of the country's companies census by February this year.

The remarks were made by the Industry and Trade Minister, Prof Kitila Mkumbo as he addressed reporters here on Tuesday about the six-month extension for submission of the details.

He said earlier, the details were supposed to be submitted by December 31 last year, but due to requests from investors on time extension, the government extended the period by six months to provide the opportunity for them to submit their details.

He said by Monday, 14,026 companies submitted beneficiary owners' details, or 14 percent of the total number projected.

Prof Mkumbo explained that all companies in the country by the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) and are supposed to provide various details including their beneficial owners.

"In the past, it was not legally necessary to submit details of those behind the companies - i.e. beneficial owners as these are the ones with capital and running the companies, hence the World Bank (WB) and other international organisations have stressed for transparency over companies' ownership," he explained.

He said due to the importance of the details and by virtue of the powers legally conferred on him; he has extended the period for

submission of the details to June 30 this year.

"I, therefore, call upon all companies to do so in the given time and the law is clear in regard to steps against all those who will not do so," he added.

In regard to companies' census, Prof Mkumbo said it was being conducted by BRELA in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and it began December last year and by February the statistics on the companies will be provided.

For his part, BRELA's Acting Director in the Companies Department and Trade Names, Meinrad Rweyemamu said the company law has in place procedures whenever a person will delay submitting who will pay a penalty of 2,500/- each month.

"And in regard to who fail to submit details of beneficial owners or submitted false details, they could face a fine of between 5m/- to 10m/-," he added.



I, therefore, call upon all companies to do so in the given time and the law is clear in regard to steps against all those who will not do so



Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Dr Selemani Jafo talks to villagers after inspecting classrooms at Sebleni primary school in Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THIRTY-two people have died and 145 others injured from January to December last year due to fire accidents

According to the Fire Brigade spokesperson and Rescue, SACF Puyo Nzalayaimisi, the main cause of the accidents is due to negligence and power outages for people to connect to electricity arbitrarily.

Addressing the public in Dodoma, Nzalayaimisi said during that period the force has dealt with more than 1800 fire incidents.

He added that within that period, 10 children have been reported drowning in toilets by their mothers

He said of the incidents in which some mothers plunged into the

Fire kills 32,145 sustained injuries last year - brigade

toilets adding that last year such incidents have become more prevalent in the Lake zone Region and it appears to be leading in the country.

At the same time, he said the force was continuing its investigation into the incidents of fire accidents in the country's market areas, noting the source of the accidents.

He said the force had also caused 694 evacuations in which he said the incidents resulted in 388 deaths and 763 injuries while noting that the Army has identified many fire

disasters due to negligence, sabotage and electrical faults for people to connect arbitrarily.

He further clarified that the force continues to provide education in various areas and how to protect themselves in the event of disasters.

He also said that for the period January to December they have provided education in 2,474 areas and have benefited 197,183 people, who have been able to access the education directly.

In addition, the force has also

inspected 19,202 buildings while the government continues to facilitate the Fire and Rescue Service by providing state-of-the-art firefighting equipment as well as two state-of-the-art vehicles in the final stages of maintenance including boats.

However, the force has been given 250 employment permits and the interview procedures have been completed so they thank the government for caring for the force so that people need to provide co-operation so that the force can do well in their work.



Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania director John Chikomo (2nd R) talks to a mason working at a construction site at Burunge primary school in Manyara region recently. Photo: Correspondent: Aston Balaigwa

Rungwe DC calls on strengthening good relations with neighbouring countries achieve conservation

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RUNGWE District Commissioner, Vicent Anney has called on the Lake Nyasa Basin Water Board to strengthen good relations with neighbouring Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia to achieve conservation by conserving water resources.

Dr Anney made the statement yesterday when he launched the Integrated Water Resources Management and Development Plan for the Lake Nyasa Basin which

involved various stakeholders from Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe and Ruvuma regions.

He said the only way to tackle climate change was to work with neighboring countries to ensure that they provide education to the public on the effects of climate change.

"We need to put in place joint strategic plans by engaging these countries to address climate change that is causing environmental degradation," said Dr Anney.

Lake Nyasa Basin Water Board

Director Elice Englibeth said one of their responsibilities was to protect water sources from damage, noting that there are barriers to environmental degradation that are agricultural activities at water sources and that in order to control the situation they continue to set boundaries to avoid encroachment.

She said that they are still working on cooperation between Tanzania and other sub-Saharan Africa in line with international agreements

signed by the two countries.

The Lake Nyasa Basin Integrated Management and Development Plan for the Lake Nyasa Basin was developed in collaboration with various stakeholders, including farmers, pastoralists, fishermen and local government officials as well as non-governmental organizations.

LNBWB is among the 9 water basins of Tanzania, established purposely for the water resources protection and conservation.

Saa Nane Island National Park attract more visitors

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE number of local Tanzanians visiting Saa Nane Island National Park in Lake Victoria has increased considerably in recent days.

Saanane National Park's chef conservator Eva Mallya told the Guardian reporter about tourism at the park which is reachable for five minutes by boat situated at Capri-point area in the city.

Giving an example, she said that in three days from 25th to 27th December last year a total of indigenous people who visited the park were approximately 900.

"This situation shows that response among people with regard to domestic tourism is now high as compared to the past days", She said noting that is due to sensitisation by President Samia Suluhu Hassan urging people to visit national parks for enjoyment.

She noted that the view of the city popularly known as rock city; Lake Victoria and the wild nature of the park are unique attractions in the area.

Now the environment of the park has been improved as in the past pastures of animals were drying during dry conditions owing to nature of the island that has sandy soil but that challenge has been solved after improving irrigation system of pastures, she said.

She said that number of peacock and impala has increased and by March number of lions will also go up as one female is expected to reproduce in that period. However, she pointed out that they control a number of animals so that can match the size of the island to protect nature.

She elaborated that they have improved boat safaris to give more services also have camping areas where one can go with tents and

foodstuff for cooking and in the process they only charge entry and camping fees.

According to her, this year they expect to increase activities in the lake such as water sports to attract as many tourists as possible foreigners in particular.

Currently, tourist attractions found at the island include lizards, lagama, rock hyrax, over 70 different bird species, wildebeest, zebra, monkeys, crocodiles, as well as Nile perch and tilapia to mention just a few.

Photographing, tourism fishing and lake cruising are the activities conducted in the area. Also, special activities like meetings, family parties, weddings and birthday ceremonies can be accommodated in the park.

The Island is one of the two National Parks found in Lake Vitoria in Mwanza region, covering 2.18 square kilometres and is the smallest one in the country a situation that makes it to be peculiar as well.



This situation shows that response among people with regard to domestic tourism is now high as compared to the past days

Researchers consider benefits of conservation retreat: smaller reserves and focused funding

By Warren Cornwall

As conservationists press for a major expansion of protected habitat around the world, scientists with years of experience in central Africa say new evidence calls for just the opposite in the region.

With few exceptions, protected savannas in the central African countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo have witnessed a steep decline in large herbivores such as elephants and antelopes in recent decades. The new findings have led researchers studying the problem to a sobering conclusion: It's better to focus on saving smaller patches of the best habitat.

"It's a shame that we have to say, 'Look, you have to retreat and we can't conserve it all,'" said Paul Scholte, a Dutch ecologist who has worked for governments and nongovernmental agencies on conservation efforts in the region and helped lead the new research. "We would be the first who would love to conserve it all. But by experience, we know that that's no longer realistic."

The challenges of wildlife conservation in Africa have long been documented. Parts of the continent remain havens for charismatic wildlife such as elephants, rhinos, lions, gorillas, and antelope herds. Yet poaching, the encroachment of farming and deforestation has all led to worrying declines in wildlife.

The savannas of central Africa haven't been spared. But the scale of the losses and the primary forces behind the problem has proven elusive. Habitat in the region sprawls across a number of countries, some wracked with civil strife. Methods for counting animal populations have varied over time, making it hard to make exact comparisons.

To get a clearer picture of what is happening to wildlife and why, Scholte, who first studied wildlife in Chad and Cameroon in the 1990s, teamed up with scientists from Africa, Europe and the U.S. as well as

wildlife managers in several central African countries.

The team amassed 68 population surveys for large herbivores - both wild and domesticated - from the region's seven main national parks with savannas, dating back to 1960. Those nature reserves cover 245,000 square kilometers - a quarter of the region's northern savannas. To account for differences among species, the scientists estimated the total weight (biomass) of the overall herbivore populations. To understand how natural forces might affect population trends, they tracked rainfall over that same time. To gauge human activity they measured changes in revenue from tourism at each park and in the number of park rangers, who enforce wildlife protections.

The results were grim, for the most part. In six of the seven parks, populations of large wild herbivores have declined precipitously in recent decades while domesticated livestock has grown. At the same time, revenues from tourists that often come to watch, photograph or hunt the animals have plummeted, according to results published in the journal Conservation Biology.

At two parks in Cameroon and one in the Central African Republic, large herbivores have declined by more than 90%. In Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the news is nearly as bad, with a roughly 75% decline, while another Cameroonian park, Bouba Ndjida, has seen its herbivores cut in half. Only Zakouma National Park, in southern Chad, had wild herbivores increase.

"We all know that wildlife is declining in these national parks. What we didn't know was the degree of it," said Scholte.

While exact circumstances behind the decline varied from park to park, there appear to be common factors that create a "vicious circle," said Scholte. The clearest pattern was that wild herbivores went into decline on the heels of falling numbers of park rangers, something

that began in the 1990s in most parks, said Scholte. The loss of park guardians was compounded by outbreaks of violence in some countries that discouraged tourists, fueled poaching and drove refugees with domesticated animals into regions around parks. Tourism dollars dried up over the last decade. In north Cameroon, photography tourism virtually disappeared, while revenues from trophy hunting fell by half. Hunting revenues nearby in the Central African Republic vanished.

Meanwhile, domesticated animals' numbers have risen in many of the parks, the researchers found. It appears this happened after wild herbivores went into decline, said Scholte. But their presence in the parks now could make it hard for wild species to regain footholds there.

The one exception is Zakouma National Park in Chad. There, wild herbivore populations have more than doubled since the 1980s, while tourist numbers and revenues have soared over the last decade. The park is the only one where ranger numbers have increased steadily over time. It has benefited from sustained support from the European Union and the Chadian government over the past three decades, said Scholte. Unlike most other parks, fluctuations in wildlife numbers there follow rainfall patterns, a sign that natural forces are shaping population trends.

The message, Scholte and his fellow researchers' writings are that sustained and significant funding for park management appears to be a linchpin to maintaining wild animals in the parks. Rather than spread existing money and park staff thin, they argue a more productive strategy would be to acknowledge the inability to police such large parks with existing resources, and "retreat" to park sizes that are manageable. "You have to give up your naive dreams and you have to say, 'Okay, how can you save those places that still have potential?'" Scholte said.



Kinyali villagers in Migoli in Iringa District, Iringa region carrying cattle using a donkey cart yesterday after the cow fainted due to the ongoing drought in the village. Kinyali village is one of the six villages in Migoli ward that are part of the supporting community livelihood through promotion of donkey welfare project implemented by Inades Formation Tanzania in collaboration with Iringa District Council. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

U. State's Indiana teacher to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in fundraiser for medical clinic

By Rich Nye

A FOURTH grade teacher in Columbus will miss some class time at the start of the next semester. Mark Yeaton is going to Africa to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the continent.

Yeaton carries a 25-pound backpack while teaching at Columbus Southside Elementary School to train for his fundraising climb next month. The elevation is almost 20,000 feet. Yeaton is raising \$20,000 to build a medical clinic in a rural area near Kisumu, Kenya. Mt. Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania near the Kenyan border.

"It's just a really hard uphill walk," said Yeaton, who is also hiking, biking, and running long distances to prepare for the challenge. "And you have the elements, because one thing nature's always trying to do is kill you."

Bikes are all over his classroom:

a small model sitting on a ledge, on posters, in photos, even a full-size bike hanging from the ceiling. Mark has raised money for several charities with long-distance rides. This hike will take him from rain forest to desert, past glaciers to the frozen cap. The round trip is planned for three days up, three days down, with a temperature drop from 70 to 5 degrees.

Yeaton has taught in Columbus for 38 years. He tries to give his fourth graders an understanding and appreciation of the great big world, and that life in Columbus is much different halfway around the world.

"They have more global awareness than I think a lot of other fourth graders," Yeaton said. "Fourth grade - traditionally Indiana. Well, let's kind of branch out and look at the whole world. See what else is out there."

Mark is raising money through FAME, a Christian medical evangelism organization with

a warehouse headquarters on Southeastern Avenue in Indianapolis. "What you see are donated medical supplies and equipment that come to us," said FAME executive director Bill Warren, giving a tour of the facility. "And then in return, we process them and ship them out to our partners around the world."

Some of the equipment may wind up in the clinic Yeaton is helping to build in Kenya. He previously rode his bike to raise money to build a well in Kenya. He likes projects that have a lasting impact and continue to help communities in need.

"We live in a country where we are so blessed," Yeaton said. "We have everything. Why not help others just a little? If everyone would help a little, that would help a lot."

Yeaton begins his climb Jan. 14. You can support him and learn how to donate medical supplies and equipment through FAME.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW TOYOTA LIGHT VEHICLES AND MINIBUS TO GEITA GOLD MINE LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of Procuring New Toyota Minibus and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible suppliers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of this service as detailed below.

NB: THE DOCUMENTS REQUESTED BELOW MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN EXPRESSING INTEREST ON THIS SERVICE/WORK. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES WILL BE SUBJECTED TO ANGLO GOLD ASHANTI VETTING PROCESS.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01380	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NEW TOYOTA LIGHT VEHICLES AND MINIBUS

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2019-2020)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	1.25%
Health and Safety Programme	1.25%
OTHER POLICIES	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labour	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01380)	
Rated ANCAP safety ratings 5 stars.	12%
Proof of ability to supply brand new vehicles and must be 36 months / 100,000 kms Warranty (whichever comes first).	12%
Vehicles must be supplied by Toyota dealer or OEM	12%
Brand New Toyota Landcruiser Single Cabin Pick up Two Doors; Model: HZJ 79R- TJMRS; Engine: 1HZ 4,200cc, Iron Man Bull bar, Fitted with four (4) plus one (1) spare tire brand new tires, size 235/85R16 BF GOODRICH MUD TERRAIN KO3, each on single piece rim.	12%
Brand New Toyota Hiace 16 Seaters; Model: KDH222R-LEMDY; Engine: 2GD 2400cc, Fitted with four (4) plus one (1) spare tires, size 195R15C Michelin Agilis 106/104R.	12%
Total	60%
	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01380) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 8.30AM 19th January 2022 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

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TRA record tax collection commended, but should translate into improvement of people's lives

LAST week, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) announced that in the first half of Fiscal Year 2021/22 (July to December 2021) it had collected 11.1trn/-, equivalent to 98 percent of 11.302trn/- trillion forecasts between July and December 2021.

The record collection is despite the country's economy being ravaged by Covid-19 pandemic, a no mean feat that shades light of a bright future.

A statement signed by TRA Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata said when compared to revenue collected during a similar period in 2020/21 there is a notable 20.2 percent increase.

It said the collection equals to an increment of 1.87trn/- compared to Sh9.24trn/- collected during the same period of FY 2020/21.

The TRA statement further said that despite surpassing the forecasts, the 109 percent collections sets the new monthly revenue collection records since the establishment of the Authority 25 years ago.

However, this news may perhaps not sink comfortably in the minds of many Tanzanians who - but not for the first time or even, were immersed in a huge debate on the subject of taxation that started grinding on them.

In the past few months the social media was flooded with the debate on government's decision to impose tax on mobile money transactions. Many people said the tax was

exorbitant as the transactions are mostly made by those in lower income groups, and mostly small traders whose breed the officialdom has often vowed to protect and facilitate.

But there is also another side to tax collection conundrum. Most arguments against taxation revolve around the degree and method of taxation and associated government spending, not taxation itself.

For the majority of the wananchi the government can cite all statistics it deems fit, but these will all remain statistics to them so long as they don't translate into meaningful measures in improving their lot.

And even though it's a mistake to believe that the government can give things to some people for free - that is without first taking them away from others - we all appreciate the idea behind its taxing people so long as it uses the money to fund activities that are beneficial to the majority of them in their development.

For example, if the government boasts of record tax collection, why does it have to pass a bowl around for money to fund the building of classes?

Well, the bowl passing might have stopped as for now due to the great infusion of IMF supplied Covid-19 funds for the purpose, but there is no guarantee of the resumption of the practice in future.

Granted, it can be argued that the bowl is merely for donations - as people are not coerced to pay up. It should better strictly remain so.



By Azu Ishiekwene

IT'S okay to debate the Electoral Bill, and we should. But like it happened in 2007, even after INEC Chairman, Maurice Iwu, dragged everyone, including ambassadors, all across the country, showing off his VSAT systems in the 774 local government areas, Nigeria still had its most shambolic elections ever because the process was left in crooked hands. That scenario will play itself out again.

No, it's not what you think. I have read Bisi Akande's feather-ruffler, entitled, "My Participations." Perhaps the only connection between the memoir and what you're about to read is a borrowed inspiration to re-purpose the title. So, relax.

I laughed my way through the book. If you knew Akande, you would probably guess why. He writes not only the way he talks; he writes just the way he is: Direct, ruthlessly guileless and almost without a sense of danger.

For the past two years, or so, I have taken on the hazardous job of popping my head around the incoming year and trying to make sense of what I suspect might happen down the road, based on information from valuable sources cultivated over the years, some desk research and gut feeling.

I have not always used a regular title for this exercise. But considering the interest generated by Akande's book, his gift to my yearly muse from now on might well be, "My Precipitations", which is a variant of his book's title.

On January 3, 2019, I published this yearly forecast under a different title: "2019: Facts, fiction, myths... and what matters." In the article, I forecasted, among other things, that Atiku Abubakar would lose, fintechs would get stronger, telcos would get super-agent/banking licenses, and Manchester City, despite falling hugely behind, would win the English Premier League. I was bang on the money.

2020 was a bad year for seers worldwide, with the wreckage of many a reputation buried in the mire of COVID-19. Perhaps to the last man, futurologists missed the single most significant event that shaped 2020, and also continues to dominate the headlines to this day.

Yet, whatever the blow one's reputation as a seer may have taken, my forecast for 2021, entitled, "Place where angels fear to tread," published on January 8, carries some redeeming, even prophetic, value.

I recall, among other things, saying in that article: "2021 will be under the shadow of 2020, well beyond the second quarter. COVID-19, that wrecking ball which evaded the world's telescope last year, will continue to dominate the

Electoral Bill and my precipitations

headlines... concerns will remain about the possibilities of mutations, the prospects of a third wave and the safety and viability of the new vaccines. The history of pandemics suggests that they don't die easily."

Ghanaian police have stolen the thunder from doomsday preachers. They have been warned to see no evil, hear no evil and say no evil. For safety, I forecast a boom in the adoption of sign language, sociolinguistics and neurobiology in that neighbouring country. As for Nigeria, my precipitations for 2022 begin, not where angels fear to tread, but where, in spite of the gathering storm, devils are building mansions: Politics.

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) appears resurgent. But it would face its own demons soon, as the Turks headed by Governors Nyesom Wike and Aminu Tambuwal, and even Senator Bukola Saraki, will, once again, confront the party's aging talisman, Atiku Abubakar.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) will be shaken to its foundations, but it will survive. The most problematic question for the party of course is who carries its presidential flag in the 2023 election, when President Muhammadu Buhari will step down.

Already the party is taking steps to ensure that it not only prevails, but that the APC would retain power at all costs, and for its own benefit. Some of these steps are already known. For example, delaying the party's convention for as long as possible and keeping an ad hoc executive on the pretext that the party is updating its register.

Some influential members of the party, especially from the North, have been looking for an emissary to go and tell the former Lagos State governor and national leader of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, not to run. Just like they did the last time, they are looking for someone to repeat the trope that a Muslim-Muslim ticket, compounded by old age, will not work.

Well, unless they find someone to deliver their message before the end of January, Tinubu will declare his intention and run. There will be other contenders, but former President Goodluck Jonathan will not be one of them. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, constrained by loyalty and a deep sense of approach-avoidance conflict, remains a very strong contender.

Insiders have also hinted at the possibility of a Kayode Fayemi-Babagana Zulum ticket. Yet, if Tinubu survives the ambush of the wolves in his party, the race is over.

The only reason why the ruling party has shifted its convention three times and refused to relinquish its temporary, ramshackle structure,

is because it is afraid that Tinubu, easily the most prepared and invested candidate, may seize the party and pave a much easier way to the ticket for himself. But for how long will they hold out?

Currently, there are three or four main blocks fighting for the soul of the APC: One is the remnant of the hardcore Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) wing of the party, comprising the acting Chairman and Governor of Yobe State, Mai Mala Buni; the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami; and the Personal Assistant and Private Secretary to the President, Sabiu 'Tunde' Yusuf. A few Southern quislings are milling about them, hoping in vain for an opening.

After the passing of Abba Kyari, the ascendant wing wrested power from such TBO originals as Sule Hamma, Buba Galadima, Sam Nda-Isaiah and co. Adamu Adamu is still in it, but his health and temperament have turned his attention elsewhere.

In spite of the fissures among the major factions - the Buni-Malami-Tunde group; the Tinubu-Ganduje group; the exiles from PDP, mostly former governors; and governors/political appointees who are serving out their term - the first group will fight tooth and nail to block Tinubu from emerging. If they have to, they will break up the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) camp by inciting alternative candidates against him.

Suggestions that the intra-party combat in the APC will lead to the emergence of a new party will fail. Some will leave, of course, as a result of bitter ticket-sharing disagreements, illusions of a so-called Third Force and the fallouts of the Electoral Amendment Bill. But in the end, the combatants know that it is their enlightened collective interest not to sink the boat, however violently they may be rocking it now.

Already the party is taking steps to ensure that it not only prevails, but that the APC would retain power at all costs, and for its own benefit. Some of these steps are already known. For example, delaying the party's convention for as long as possible and keeping an ad hoc executive on the pretext that the party is updating its register.

Or resisting public pressure to use electronic transmission of results on the excuse of poor nationwide network coverage, only to ambush the public again by inserting the provision in the current Electoral Amendment Bill, which we are now told President Muhammadu Buhari will not sign.

But the fate of the Electoral Bill will not be the joker. The real joker this year would be the ongoing effort by the political elite within the ruling party to hijack the Independent

National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In the Queen's Platinum Year, the 70th year of ascension to the throne, the New York Times is reporting that the U.K. could follow Germany's lead by returning some of the country's stolen artifacts, especially the Benin Bronzes. After three centuries, one of the world's longest running heists could be entering its final chapter in 2022.

The process, which started after the 2019 election, has shifted gears with a recruitment system that prioritises loyalty to the ruling party. Insiders told me, for example, that at least two national commissioners were denied tenure renewal - AVM Ahmed Muazu and Okechukwu Ibeano - on account of their sterling performances: the former for the outcome of the Bauchi elections; and the latter for the outcome of the just-concluded Anambra elections, which didn't go the way of the APC.

Advertisements By August when the tenure of the 27 resident electoral commissioners will be completed, INEC would be a largely inexperienced and beholden electoral management body, waiting to repay IOUs to politicians who nominated most of them for the job. RECs whose tenures have been outstanding and who could have been retained to strengthen the system will be flushed out. The ruling party will capture INEC this year and the courts will be very, very busy.

It's okay to debate the Electoral Bill, and we should. But like it happened in 2007, even after INEC Chairman, Maurice Iwu, dragged everyone, including ambassadors, all across the country, showing off his VSAT systems in the 774 local government areas, Nigeria still had its most shambolic elections ever because the process was left in crooked hands. That scenario will play itself out again.

There will be relief on the COVID-19 front after the winter period. With the availability of treatment at early stages, the impact of the virus on the world economy will abate, easing supply chain problems and bringing significant recovery to the global economy - and of course, to Nigeria.

The Presidency has said all terrorists in the North-East will be wiped out this year. That's a prayer, not a plan. If morning shows the day, a terrorist group that has advanced from slings to scrap weapons and then on to automatic weapons and rocket launchers does not look like Boy Scouts waiting for disbandment on presidential orders from Aso Rock. The terrorists have not only planted flags and seized territory in some parts of the North-East (and the North-West, too), they're collecting levies and taxes!

Traditionalism vying for attention with modernism

MOVING in the direction of modernisation is replete with psychological difficulties, not physical or material pains but loss of face, when a country, a people or a political party is compelled to abandon some of its cherished traditions. At times that abandonment is seen as a lapse back into inequality or oppression as the then retiring President Julius Nyerere kept lamenting as to IMF pressures for economic reforms. He led a worldwide awakening campaign and by the time he was abandoning the world stage in the mid-1990s, ten years after he left office, the fire was catching on. Deep reforms were renounced by the joint governing board of the IMF and the World Bank by 1999, at the height of the US 'Occupy' movement.

Operational dictates of how the Bretton Woods institutions work with developing countries were already preparing the ground for abandoning the IMF ethos in what was taking place, increasingly in favour of the World Bank. The core of this contention was laid bare in 1944 when Britain and the United States led the West, still not yet out of World War II, to create institutions that will ensure that countries will not go to war again over debts, or over development bottlenecks. Thus the IMF was created as a fallback institution to government spending in times of crisis, and the World Bank, to propel country development activities.

That the world has come a long way from the founding ethos is noticed in the way Tanzania obtained 1.3trn/- from the IMF in the

wake of after effects of lockdowns and travel restrictions for most of 2020, as the cash came in as concessional loan from the IMF. Ordinarily the IMF would have directed cash to the Treasury (via the central bank) to cover necessary government expenses like paying civil service salaries and servicing the foreign debt to avoid defaulting, as that carries dire consequences in international trade flows. Instead it is assisting government expenditure in social infrastructure, itself a bilateral aid sphere.

While those familiar with the founding ethos of the Bretton Woods institutions realise that a lot of ground has been covered to make them more sympathetic to developing country perspective than it was the case before - where the IMF overly emphasised on economic efficiency and the World Bank on development projects - there are complaints about taking a loan amounting to less than a twentieth of the national budget (which stands at 36trn/- and the IMF loan was 1.3trn/-). The reason is that any loan, and especially if the IMF is at issue, it evokes privatisation, and that is anathema to traditionalism, and not just in CCM.

That means we have just touched on the tenterhooks of the modernity and traditionalism debate, where the traditional viewpoint was strongly expressed in remarks by National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai, but, disturbed by the political fallout, decided to throw in the gauntlet. But the message was indeed sent, that we can definitely borrow, so long as we don't arrive at privatisation. That is an open ended question.

By Peter Fabricius

Africa ventures tentatively into 2022 with huge economic and political challenges

Africa enters 2022 tentatively, with the prospect of a slight economic recovery from the shocks of Covid-19, but also huge political challenges in trying to correct and repair serious setbacks to peace and democracy.

Arresting a continuing civil war in Ethiopia, battling to keep violent and determined Islamist extremists at bay in the Sahel, Somalia, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Mozambique; resuscitating a strangled democratic transition in Sudan; holding together a fragile peace in Libya; reversing coups in Guinea, Mali and Chad; and trying to introduce democracy to Eswatini are just some of the more pressing items on the continent's political to-do list next year.

The year will tell whether southern Africa can decisively eliminate the Islamic State-affiliated insurgency in Mozambique's northernmost Cabo Delgado province - or will get bogged down in an Afghanistan-like endless low-level conflict.

In July the Southern African Development Community (SADC) sent its standby military force to try to defeat and expel the jihadists who have terrorised the province since October 2017. South Africa has so far deployed only about 300 special forces in the SADC Mission in Mozambique (Samim), which seems to have left most of the fighting to the 2,500 Rwandan troops Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi also invited into the country in July.

The Rwandan troops expelled the insurgents from their main base in Mocimboa da Praia and they and Samim have won a few other battles. But the insurgents may well have just melted into the bush to fight another day.

South Africa seems to be poised to send in larger numbers of infantry to try to consolidate Samim and Rwanda's gains.

Early in the year President Ramaphosa - wearing his hat as chairperson of the security organ of the SADC - will attempt to start the long-deferred national political dialogue in Eswatini to avert further violent clashes between pro-democracy protesters and security



President Cyril Ramaphosa said on 2 November 2021 after a meeting that he and King Mswati III had agreed that SADC's Secretariat would work closely with the Eswatini government to draft the terms of reference for a national dialogue forum. (Photo: Elmond Jiyane / GCIS)

forces like those of this year. Transforming King Mswati III from an absolute to a constitutional monarch is clearly the answer to the crisis, but whether he and an entrenched and prosperous royal establishment can be persuaded to surrender political power and economic privilege is uncertain.

Ramaphosa may see another one of his nearby personal responsibilities blowing up in his face as the perennial political rumbling in Lesotho could erupt again. The country has appeared relatively stable since Moeketsi Majoro succeeded the controversial Tom Thabane as

prime minister in May last year. But Thabane's determination to retain leadership of the All Basotho Convention (ABC) the leading party in the fragile governing coalition, is threatening to rip Majoro's government apart - even before elections set for about September. Ramaphosa has been SADC's special envoy there since an aborted coup in August 2014 and political and military assassinations rocked the tiny mountain kingdom.

In Angola President Joao Lourenço and the ruling MPLA face re-election this year. The president started well, after replacing long-time President Jose Eduardo

dos Santos in 2017, by prosecuting corruption and expanding political space. But falling oil prices and an opposition political coalition may make for a tough electoral contest.

Further afield, in Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta must step down after two terms as president and the main electoral contest in August is expected to be between vice-president William Ruto and the perennial challenger Raila Odinga. Many observers are concerned about candidates mobilising support on the basis of ethnicity, as in the past, possibly stoking inter-communal violence.

In Sudan, democrats will battle - and many will probably die on the streets - in 2022 to try to save their once-promising but now imperilled transition to civilian democratic rule, which began after long-time dictator Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019.

Military leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan jeopardised the transition by ousting Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and suspending the transitional government in an October coup. Burhan insists he is still committed to the transition, and Hamdok has controversially agreed to remain prime minister in a new, military-dominated tran-

sitional government. But the prospect of genuine civilian democracy now looks elusive.

Tunisian democrats will also fight to try to rescue the only surviving democracy of the 2011 Arab Spring, after elected President Kais Saied suspended the government in July and began to rule by decree. Saied - ironically, a professor of constitutional law - has also made a dubious promise to return Tunisia to constitutional rule.

Libya is due to hold presidential elections on 24 December and legislative elections in January, as the culmination of protracted political negotiations to try to end a

civil war that has raged on and off since longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi was toppled and killed in 2011 by a popular revolt, greatly assisted by NATO-led air attacks.

The election, though, remains uncertain and its benefits for Libya's future welfare very dubious. It seems to have been hijacked by acquisitive interests, with the presidential candidates including the likes of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of the deposed Brother Leader.

Economically, Africa is slowly recovering from the 2020 shock and the sharp contraction caused by global and local lockdowns imposed to try to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast sub-Saharan Africa's economy will expand by 3.7% in 2021 and 3.8% in 2022.

And it predicts North Africa's economies will grow by an average of 4.1%.

It said the rebound was primarily the result of better harvests and a favourable external environment, including a sharp improvement in trade and commodity prices. "Yet, the outlook remains highly uncertain as the recovery depends on the progress in the fight against Covid-19 and is vulnerable to disruptions in global activity and financial markets," the IMF said in its latest Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa.

This story first appeared in our weekly Daily Maverick 168 newspaper which is available for R25 at Pick n Pay, Exclusive Books and airport bookstores. For your nearest stockist, please click here.

Discriminatory sexual violence laws in Latin America stigmatize adolescent victims of abuse

WASHINGTON

Across Latin America and the Caribbean there is a culture of impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence. Crimes against women and girls often go unpunished and under-reported due to societal misconceptions about victimhood and the nature of sex crimes.

The stigmatization of survivors and the permissive attitude toward abusers is reinforced by discriminatory laws that perpetuate harmful gender stereotypes.

Equality Now recently undertook an analysis of rape laws across the Americas region and what we found were woefully insufficient laws that failed to adequately prevent sexual violence and ensure justice for women and girls who have been violated. One of the most common yet insidious forms of legal loopholes that we found in Latin America specifically were so-called "estupro provisions."

Estupro provisions, which provide for a lesser penalty for adults who rape adolescents above the legal age of consent than for children or adult women, are based on the idea that adolescents seduce and tempt older men into assaulting them or that older men seduce impressionable and naive teenagers into sexual acts.

This interpretation suggests a notion of a hierarchy of rape where some perpetrators are deemed less guilty than others for effectively the same crime and some victims are implied to be less harmed by the experience and so less deserving of justice.

These laws are rooted in outdated perceptions about chastity,



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morality, and female sexuality and enable prosecutors to argue that adolescent victims manipulated their aggressor into abusing them. Estupro laws and provisions perpetuate the idea that a victim is, at least partially, responsible for the crimes committed against her.

Estupro is often wrongly defined on the internet as "statutory rape," but these two charges are not the same. Statutory rape, used commonly in penal codes of the United States of America, refers to what would otherwise be considered consensual sex, except that it involves a minor whose young age means that the law deems her or him incapable of being able to consent.

The penalty for statutory rape is often higher than for other categories of rape, whereas for estupro there is a lesser penalty.

For our report on rape laws in the Americas, Failure to Protect: How Discriminatory Sexual Violence Laws and Practices are Hurting Women, Girls and Adolescents in the Americas, we interviewed Doña Petita, a wom-

an whose daughter Paola was raped by a school vice principal in Ecuador.

Paola tragically killed herself after she became pregnant and was pressured by her abuser to have an abortion. Her femicide followed sustained abuse and grooming by an adult man who manipulated his position of power and her trust in him.

Doña Petita was unable to get support following the tragic death of her adolescent daughter. Not from the school, not from law enforcement, and not from the courts. Paola's rapist was a very powerful man in the community who had access to lawyers, resources, and political connections that Doña Petita did not.

Additionally, Paola's community did not perceive her as the victim that she was, but as an equally culpable actor in the abuse that she suffered. As Doña Petita told us: "Paola was a girl and he was a man in his 60s but people blamed my daughter, saying that she must have seduced him. They didn't

understand that he was an old man manipulating her and not the other way around. She was the victim."

Estupro laws reinforce the concept of victim-blaming, thus it is not surprising that Ecuador is one of the 17 jurisdictions found in our report to have such provisions. In practice, estupro provisions are often used to circumvent application of the rape offense, thus minimizing the crime and implying that the sex act was not an act of violence.

By applying estupro provisions, prosecutors and judges perpetuate the myth that it is adolescent girls who are treacherously seductive and manipulative, preying on helpless adult men. As demonstrated by the case of Paola, these harmful myths and gender stereotypes have far-reaching impacts.

Justice was elusive for Doña Petita in her home country of Ecuador. She pursued three different courses of legal action, but in each instance her case was dismissed. Her daughter's abuser fled the country and was

never held accountable for his crimes.

Thanks to Doña Petita's ceaseless determination and the efforts of the non-profit organizations Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de la Mujer (CEPAM-Guayaquil) and the Center for Reproductive Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights held Ecuador responsible for failing to protect Paola and violating her rights to life, personal integrity, private life and dignity; her right to enjoy special protection from the State as a child; her right to equality and non-discrimination; her right to education; and her right to live free from gender violence.

The Court's ruling is a victory not just for Paola and Doña Petita, but for girls throughout the region. However, Doña Petita should not have had to wait 18 years for justice - she should have been able to rely on national laws to protect her daughter and hold her daughter's abuser to account, so that

If that had happened, Paola

would have been recognized for the exploitation she suffered and offered support services and she might still be alive today. But sexual violence laws across the region, like the ones that Paola encountered, are failing women, girls, and adolescents resulting in tragic outcomes.

Discriminatory laws, like estupro provisions, not only deny victims justice but they legitimize the practice of victim-blaming by suggesting that an adult perpetrator could be seduced or tricked into having sex with a minor. Latin American governments must act now to repeal any existing estupro provisions.

This reform must be complemented by a complete overhaul of sexual violence laws, including adopting consent-based definitions of rape, to ensure that adolescent girls and all survivors are protected from sexual violence in all circumstances.

Reforming sexual violence laws will both allow survivors of sexual violence access to dignified justice but will play a critical role in shaping the way that society understands sexual and gender-based violence.

Barbara Jimenez-Santiago is Latin American Regional Representative for Equality Now

Truth as war causality? The case of Ethiopia

STOCKHOLM

A brutal drama is unfolding in Ethiopia and it is difficult to find straightforward accounts of what is happening there. However, this does not prevent people from taking a unilateral stand for either of the factions involved in the disaster.

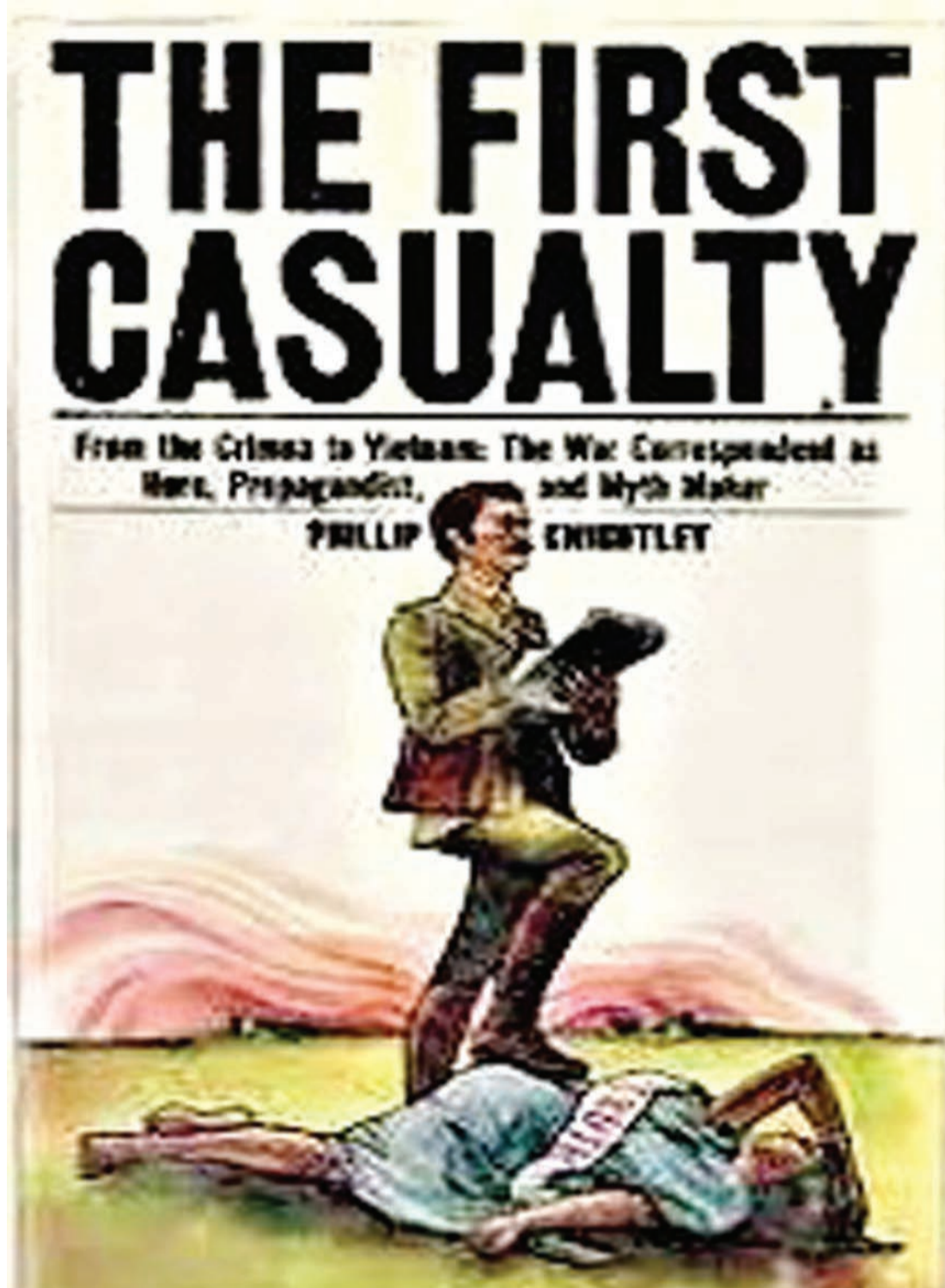
Since November 2020, a ruthless civil war has caused immense misery, especially in the northern parts of the country. Tens of thousands have been killed, about 2 million persons are left homeless, while famine affects 9 million. It has been extremely difficult for journalists to enter the affected areas and the outside world has to rely on information from the warring parties. As is the case of any armed conflict - propaganda, dubious reporting and outright lies are prevalent.

During World War I, the US Senator Hiram Johnson stated that "The first casualty when war comes, is truth" and any armed conflict seems to prove this fact with recent examples from the Gulf War, the conflict between NATO and Serbia over Kosovo, as well as the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and Iraq. Government manipulation is supported by media complicity, as evidenced by the embedding of reporters in military units and an uncritical, openly patriotic coverage of conflicts.

In his history of war journalism, *The First Casualty*, the Australian author Phillip Knightley stated that "the age of the war correspondent as hero, appears to be over." Even if global networks are becoming ever more efficient, making their presence felt all over the world, it is nevertheless extremely difficult to discern what is true or false. Too many vested interests are at stake, though no one can deny that every war is a disaster.

While ingesting scanty news from Ethiopia I am reminded of an interview I in 1997 did with Guatemala's Archbishop Juan José Gerardi Condera. He was an open-minded and jocular man in charge of a project called Recovering Historic Memory, REHMI, which documented violence against civilians during Guatemala's 36 years of civil war, in particular the ruthless killing of members of the country's indigenous population.

One year after our meeting, Bishop Gerardi presented a report entitled *Nunca Más, Never Again*, which was notably damning to the Guatemalan military. Two days after the release of the report, Gerardi was found bludgeoned to death in the garage of his villa. His skull and face were crushed and it was



only through his episcopal ring that he could be identified.

During our talk Bishop Gerardi had told me:

I do not know if we were right or wrong when we began preaching a gospel highlighting human rights. We intended to preach not only through words, but through deeds as well. With the support of the local, rural population we organized development committees which constructed schools, clinics and community centres. I assure you that as soon as you try to improve the physical and psychological well-being of your neighbour, especially our most poor, vulnerable and humble sisters and brothers, you become defenselessly entangled in the nets of politics and are thus destined to make powerful enemies. We started a wildfire. Soon our catechists were being murdered. No respect and mercy whatsoever were shown to the clergy. They called us Communists and several of us were executed. The severed head of one of my priests was found on the steps to his church. If someone takes up arms ... violence and injustice cannot be avoided.

It does not matter whether murderous measures are considered to be fair or not. The result is always the same - death and misery for all involved, and especially for the wretched ones who happen to be innocent.

On 2 April 2018, Abiy Ahmed was by the Ethiopian parliament sworn in as Prime Minister of Ethiopia. His accession was greeted with cheers and a sense of relief. After three years of massive protests, the ruling political constellation EPRDF, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, had begun to crack. The head of government resigned and the old guard sought a replacement whom they assumed they could be able control. However, Abiy Ahmed surprised everyone when he signalled resolute action and initiated sweeping reforms. During his first months in power, Abiy's popularity was tremendous, especially in the capital Addis Ababa. His inspirational speeches were applauded, while his picture could be seen almost everywhere; in shop windows, on restaurant walls, and taped to cars and lorries. Large crowds marched along the main streets, chanting his name, declaring that Ethiopia now had been redeemed after

decades of oppression.

Abiy Ahmed appointed a new government with 50 percent women ministers. Thousands of political prisoners were released. The country's anti-terrorism law, widely perceived as a tool of political repression, was amended. Opposition groups, including those who had fled the country, were welcomed to discuss Ethiopia's future. A female president was appointed, while democratic elections and a new constitution were promised. The border between Ethiopia and Eritrea was opened and air services between the capitals were resumed.

However, by the beginning of 2020, the cheers had subsided. Pictures of the Prime Minister had been torn down and replaced by others that depicted ancient rulers; like the mythical hero emperor Tewodros, the last emperor Haile Selassie and, strangely enough, the blood-stained dictator Mengistu. What had happened?

During his acceptance speech, Abiy had promised political reforms and an active promotion of unity among the peoples of Ethiopia. He soon reached out to the Eritrean government to resolve the ongoing Eritrean-Ethiopian border conflict, a protracted strife that frequently had exploded in fierce warfare. A free press became permitted, while State monopolies in the telecommunications, aviation, electricity, and logistics sectors were being dismantled and industries were opened up to private sector competition.

Abiy's attempts at comprehensive reforms was a risky balancing act. Ethiopia is not really a nation-state, it is more of a conglomerate of ethnic entities. Among the country's 115 million inhabitants, 80 million consider themselves to belong to different ethnic groups. Members of the Amharic population group have, along with the closely related Tigrayans, since the establishment of the medieval kingdom of Abyssinia been state leaders. Ethiopia's largest ethnic group - the Oromos - was incorporated into Abyssinia in the 16th century.

Abiy Ahmed bridged ethnicities and religions. His father is Oromo and Muslim, his mother Amhara and Orthodox Christian, while he himself is member of The Ethiopian Full Gospel Believers' Church, a Pentecostal Movement. He has a Master in Business Administration and a PhD in Peace and Security Studies.

Abiy was initially focused on dialogue between different ethnicities and political factions, but in step with his reform attempts difficulties arose almost everywhere. Worst has been the situation in the Tigray region, situated along the border with Eritrea. Leaders from that area had for almost 30 years through a superior military power, authoritarian rule, censorship and a tight political system, which nevertheless allowed for a certain ethnic/linguistic autonomy, succeeded in stimulating economic growth and an expanding infrastructure. However after the death of Prime Minister Meles Zenaw in 2012, corruption increased and opposition grew stronger.

Abiy's economic reforms, the release of political prisoners and limitations to censorship worried many of his Tigrayan colleagues and some of them were directly affected by a crackdown on corruption. Realizing that Abiy could not be controlled, some Tigrayan politicians began moving north to their home region, instead of awaiting trial in Addis Ababa. The Tigrayan suspicion of Abiy increased and the region's leading party Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) refused to join Abiy's Prosperity Coalition, accusing him of discriminating against Tigrayans and claiming that the agreement with Eritrea was a "largely unimplemented" scam. When elections scheduled for August 2020 were postponed with reference to a menacing COVID situation, TPLF organized a regional election in Tigray, where they won a landslide victory.

On the night of November 4, 2020, TPLF forces broke into several military bases in Tigray urging soldiers and officers to join TPLF. Those who refused were overpowered,

or killed. Weapon stockpiles were looted, among them long-range missiles. The federal government declared that TPLF had committed high treason and ordered the army to go on the offensive. Since then Ethiopia has been devoured by a cruel civil war.

Due to restrictions and censorship, evidence-based information barely seeps out, while a rich flora of rumors is dominating social media and the international press. It has become difficult to distinguish between factual information and abundant exaggerations and distortions. Nevertheless, it is evident that war crimes have been committed by both warring factions.

The Ethiopian government has lost the information war. Communication to the international media has been scarce, with an emphasis on military success, while civilian abuses are blamed on the TPLF and Eritrean intervention is denied. This while TPLF during its years in government was able to build up a wide network of sympathizers around the world, which has been mobilized during the war, influencing foreign politicians and international media.

TPLF forces were close to reaching Addis Ababa, but in mid-December last year, the Government gained the upper hand, after deploying heavy weapons, including drones, provided by China, Russia and Turkey. On December 19, the TPLF declared itself ready to withdraw its forces to Tigray, hopes for peace negotiations are growing, together with wishes that the suffering of the Ethiopian people finally will come to an end.

I assume my summarized description of Abiy's reform attempts and the war they resulted in is as flawed as most reporting coming out of Ethiopia, based as it is on media, my own perceptions and especially writings and reports by a friend whose knowledge and insights I esteem. Let us hope that peace is achieved and that the thorny issues that internally harass Ethiopia, as well as this nation's relations with other countries might find a nonviolent solution.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

The Science granting council initiative: A catalyst for more research projects

By Correspondent Deodatus

Mfugale

THE Science Granting Council Initiative is now in its second phase and drawing from experience from seven years. Science Granting Councils and their partners have not only learned a lot from implementing various projects but are now better placed to venture into more research that would further the use of science, technology and innovation. This would improve lives and help countries make significant strides in reaching Sustainable Development Goals.

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), the country's Science Granting Council, has been working with institutions in implementing research projects in various fields. These activities have all focused on designing and producing machines that employ simple technology that can be easily accessible to small producers. Such technology is efficient, reliable and affordable so that it can contribute to the value addition of local products and enable these producers to raise their incomes.

Over the years, COSTECH has partnered with institutions of higher learning such as the University of Dar es Salaam, University of Dodoma, Sokoine University of Agriculture and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences. Non-educational institutions that implement SGCI projects include the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organisation, Mngolole Agro processing Company and Arusha Oil Processing Company.

"In the course of implementing the SGCI projects, we have learned that cooperation, coordination and collaboration pro-



Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology on a visit to COSTECH. One of COSTECH's partners, Uhuru Labs, took the opportunity to showcase some of their products. Photo: Correspondent Frederick Mbuya.

vide new avenues for capacity building. It is also true that over the years, we have improved research project design and management as well as a research methodology. These should be promoted as we expand the scope of research projects," explains Neema Tindamanyire, Coordinator of SGCI in Tanzania.

"We have also learned that well-accomplished research creates new opportunity to access funding from partners because successful projects build trust and confidence among partners," she adds.

The Coordinator reveals that the institution has several projects in the pipeline. "But these new ideas will be promoted according to availability of funds. Sometimes it is not good to propose a project that you know it may not attract funding," she adds.

Dr Sigisbert Mmasi is the Principal Investigator of Development and Commercialization of a Suitable Avocado Oil Mini-Extraction Plant to Enhance Productivity and Quality of Avocado Oil in Tanzania project. The project is yet to be accom-

plished but he acknowledges that there are a number of lessons learned in due course. "Working in the field has exposed us to new experience and knowledge. For example, there is quite a big market for crude avocado edible oil both locally and abroad, that has yet to be tapped and that cannot be accessed by small farmers. The bulk of the oil is bought by foreigners who refine it and export it," he notes.

The big demand for avocado oil is an opportunity for small scale farmers to fully participate in the value chain but they can only make good use of this chance if they are provided with simple technology to refine the oil and sell it locally. "They will earn more money than what they get from selling avocado fruits," notes Dr Mmasi.

Another lesson is that there is a need to build the capacity of small producers to participate fully and benefit from every stage of the avocado value chain. Besides providing them with simple technology, it is important to educate them in appropriate agricultural technologies and appro-

priate use of various farm inputs so that they can get a good crop from which they can extract a large amount of crude oil that they can refine.

"We have also learned that in conducting research it is important to engage all stakeholders in order to get good results. In this project, small-scale farmers, large-scale farmers, buyers, exporters, consumers and farm input dealers all have been engaged and this collaboration will help in accomplishing the project," explains Dr Mmasi.

Speaking about future projects, he explains that this greatly depends on the availability of funds. "We would like to go beyond extraction of crude oil from avocado fruits so as to reduce loss of the crop and make avocado farming more profitable to small farmers. We would also like to come up with technology to refine the oil. This would also contribute to Tanzania's efforts to meet the demand for edible oil. Should funds be available, we would also like to do a project to develop sim-

ple machines to process avocado kernel and skin to produce other products. An initial survey has revealed that the kernel can be processed into food supplements. It is also possible to extract oil from the avocado skin but it all depends on the availability of funds," he says.

TEMDO is implementing various projects with funding from SGCI. According to Eng. Honest Lyaru who is the Principal Investigator of the research to use simple technology to refine sunflower oil, small producers yearn for an appropriate, simple and affordable technology to produce and refine oil so as to add value to their products. This will increase their market share and raise their incomes.

"But we have also learned that there is also low production of edible oil seeds, including sunflower seeds. There is a need to encourage farmers to increase the production of seeds by giving them incentives such as low-price agricultural inputs, regular and appropriate extension services as well as education. Most importantly, they should be able to access simple and efficient technology that would enable them to add value to their products so as to fetch good prices in the market," he says.

In the future, Eng. Lyaru thinks that TEMDO should venture into designing and producing simple, efficient and affordable machines for processing and refining palm oil. "Currently there is no reliable, simple and affordable technology that small producers can use and most of the farmers and small producers of palm oil still use traditional methods that enable them to produce only crude palm oil. This denies them an opportunity to earn more and lift themselves out of poverty," he says.

Deforestation increases risk of flash flooding in fast-growing West African coastal cities

By Special Correspondent

THE frequency of thunderstorms in some fast-growing African coastal cities has doubled over the past 30 years, with much of this increase linked to the impact of deforestation on the local climate, a study has found.

It is widely known that removal of vegetation increases rainwater runoff and the risk of mudslides, which happened in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, in August 2017 when 1,100 people died. But research led by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) has now revealed that more frequent storm activity in coastal areas is a second, previously unrecognized, way in which deforestation can increase flooding.

The study analyzed three decades of satellite data in southern West Africa to establish how weather patterns had been altered as a result of deforestation, through changes in heating and moistening of the atmosphere.

The researchers found the removal of large areas of woodland had greatly exacerbated the effects of global warming in coastal areas of the region, which includes Guinea, Sierra



Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria. In deforested areas, the frequency of storms has doubled since 1991, while the increase in forested areas has been around 40 per cent.

The deforested land had been turned over to use for agriculture and fuel for cooking to support nearby growing populations but the storms and resulting rainfall affect urban as well as rural areas.

Professor Chris Taylor of UKCEH, who led the study, published in the journal PNAS, says: "The extent of increase in coastal storm activity is likely to vary in different regions, depending on the local climate, but we would expect deforestation to have a similar effect in other coastal deforested areas.

"Around 40 per cent of the world's population lives within 100km of the coast", so increases in flash flooding causes disruption to millions of people's lives. Our findings therefore provide a warning to fast-growing coastal cities across

the world."

Large numbers of people live close to the sea because of the food and economic benefits that it provides.

In Africa and South-East Asia, large areas of coastal tropical forest are being destroyed, global climate change is already having an impact on communities, and drainage and other infrastructure are often ill-equipped to cope with major flooding. In Freetown in particular, the residents are already suffering from multiple, damaging effects of climate change, including extreme temperatures and flash flooding from storms.

Professor Taylor says: "Deforestation is exacerbating the impacts of climate change in some of the least resilient cities on Earth, making it much harder for these communities to cope with extreme weather events."

Previous research has linked deforestation with reduced regional rainfall in Amazonia. However,

the ocean strongly influences local weather patterns, and the new study is the first investigation into the impact of deforestation on storm activity in coastal areas.

"Local weather patterns are dominated by sea breezes and deforestation strengthens these winds that carry moisture inland, triggering more afternoon downpours," explains Dr Cornelia Klein of UKCEH, a co-author of the study.

The study was part of ongoing research by UKCEH and partners into past, current and projected future climate change in West Africa, where flash flooding is increasingly common during the rainy season. A study in 2017, also led by Professor Taylor, showed global warming was responsible for a tripling in the frequency of extreme Sahel storms in just 35 years.

The research was funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), part of UK Research and Innovation.

ITUC-Africa stresses need to rebuild, urges workers, Africans to take covid-19 vaccine

By Special Correspondent

THE African regional organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), has stressed the urgent need to rebuild Africa's economic growth to save people from falling into abject poverty and sufferings occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic.

The union also called on workers and African citizens to take COVID-19 vaccine as part of the first step to build back the economy of the black continent.

In a statement, ITUC-Africa General Secretary, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah said that COVID-19 brutally exposed and exacerbated the fault lines between those who have access to social protection and those who do not, therefore the need to rebuild Africa as many other countries of the world strive to do.

"Undoubtedly, 2021 has been a very tough one with the COVID-19 virus that continues to mutate and cause the endless spread of infection, worsening hospitalisation and death.

"Specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic has brutally exposed and exacerbated the fault lines between those who have access to social protection and those who do not. Hundreds of millions of workers who have lost their jobs and livelihoods have been disproportionately excluded from social support. Women, migrants and those operating in the informal economy are the worst hit by the socio-economic assaults of the pandemic.

"Inequalities in access to the COVID-19 vaccine have been at the centre of debates in recent months. Seventy per cent of the vaccine doses produced in 2021

have been preempted by high-income countries. This has caused severe supply problems for low- and moderate-income countries, leading to large differences in immunisation coverage. Across the African continent, only 10 in 100 people have received at least one dose, and only four in 100 are fully immunised.

"More than ever, human rights observances including economic and social rights, civil and political rights, are needed in responding to this health crisis. ITUC-Africa, therefore, calls on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as a matter of global emergency, to relax the application of Intellectual Property Rights. This will allow developing countries with production capacities to produce and disseminate COVID-19 vaccines. We ask that organised businesses put people before profits. It is also critical that vaccine doses promised to poor and developing economies are delivered.

"Also, ITUC-Africa calls on workers and Africans to go take the vaccines. We urge everyone to refuse to be demobilised by the endless misinformation and disinformation materials being spread through social media and other sources. We ask that everyone trust the WHO that has certified the vaccines as safe and effective to contribute to the defeat of the virus.

To prevent fragile states from falling further into economic and social crises, we urge the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and creditors' economies to consider debt forgiveness for loans taken to counter the health, social and economic effects of COVID-19.

UN's Overall development agenda at risk as the coronavirus pandemic escalates

NEW YORK

The Corona-19 pandemic has had an unparalleled and relentless toll on the world in areas beyond health alone. The World Bank's latest report on global poverty raises concerns as to the severity of the impact of the pandemic on efforts to fight poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2).

We also have evidence that other facets of development in addition to poverty and hunger are (and will continue to be) negatively impacted by the pandemic which is surging once again in populations around the world, definitely putting the overall development agenda at risk.

In 2015, the United Nations ambitiously adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030 which cover a range of areas of development in which a global, concerted push to ensure progress was seen as imperative.

We have witnessed some of these areas getting more attention since the SDGs were established but even before the goals were set, the world was slowly but surely moving in the right direction in some areas like poverty.

The World Bank reports show that global, extreme poverty had fallen by 1 percent per year between 1990 and 2015 but the decline slowed down after 2015. The



Twelve-year-old boy in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, sorts through hazardous plastic waste without any protection, working to support his family amidst the lockdown. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last year that the pandemic has "laid bare" challenges - such as structural inequalities, inadequate healthcare, and the lack of universal social protection - and the heavy price societies are paying as a result. Ending poverty sits at the heart of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite this, poverty and hunger, the UN chief reminded delegates, are on the rise, following decades of progress. Credit: UNICEF/Parvez Ahmad

World Bank attributes some of the slowing down to the increase in violent conflict in the Middle East and North Africa after 2015 and climate change but with the advent of the pandemic in 2020, the evidence points to this progress not just being slowed down and eroded but wiped out in some instances.

Extreme poverty between 2019-

2020 is now larger than the entire period when the World Bank began to track poverty consistently, and new challenges are emerging which require concerted efforts and shifts in policies and programmes.

Data indicate that the poorest are most impacted by Covid which might not come as a surprise, but what is new is the finding that popu-

lations relatively spared from poverty earlier, are suffering disproportionately post-Covid.

The WB report shows that "the new poor" are often more urban and educated and more likely to be engaged in informal services and manufacturing and less in agriculture. In addition, Covid-19 is impacting middle income and conflict-ridden countries disproportionately. These developments add to the complexities of addressing the pandemic and threaten progress in attainment of the SDG goals as a whole.

The areas of coverage by the SDGs were always recognized as extensive and ambitious but imperative. Their wide-reaching scope meant that a global push on key areas affecting development could in fact create synergy and momentum for progress.

This of course suggests that a downturn in the progress towards any of these goals could also impact the other goals negatively. Since the pandemic, resources have been diverted from some of the SDGs more than others and goals suffering previously due to limited allocation of resources are now facing further erosion of resources and attention.

Clearly the range of SDGs that are going to

be impacted adversely will go beyond Poverty SDG1, Health SDG3, and Hunger SDG2. Emerging data already indicate the negative impact of the pandemic on education (SDG 4), reduction of inequalities (SDG 10) and gender inequality (SDG 5) in particular.

With the end of the pandemic nowhere in sight, our actions to counter the trend need to acknowledge that all the SDG goals, and sustainable development as a whole, are at risk.

The WB report argues that global coordination and cooperation in terms of solutions to the challenges posed by the pandemic are imperative but equally important is the development of action plans that pay heed to the gamut of the areas of development and their inter-linkages.

The response to the pandemic needs to take into consideration the linkages between the different elements of development, epitomized in the comprehensive SDG agenda, and how they impact each other, and needs to ensure continued and requisite investment and attention to these elements, if we are to address the fall-out of the pandemic effectively.

Dr. Purnima Mane is an internationally recognized expert on gender, population and development, and public health who has devoted her career to advocating for population and development issues and working on sexual and reproductive health. Most recently, Dr. Mane was President and CEO of Pathfinder International, prior to which she was Deputy Executive Director (Program) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Assistant-Secretary-General (ASG). She has served in senior level positions in several international organizations such as UNAIDS, World Health Organization, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Population Council.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 198 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: CCM, USE, ANT
 4 LETTERS: SIPE, LAOS, ISLE, PROA, ACME, AVOW, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: FLOAT, SCORE, EMEND, MINES, WINDS (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: NUANCE, FRANCE, CAREEN, ADDICT TSE TSE (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: SALVAGE
 8 LETTERS: UGANDANS
 10 LETTERS: SALVATIONS

WORD-FIT

B	A	R	B	A	R	I	A	N	S
A	O	O	N	I					
B	O	O	M	S	K	U	L	L	
A	O	M	A	L	A	Y	G		
P	I	L	S	A	Y				
G	A	N	D	H	I				
S	V	L							
A	C	I	D	A	S	I	D	E	
H	R	M	I	D					
M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A	G	
A	L	U	M	S	L	E			
Y	D	A	N	G	E	R			

CROSSWORD

S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R
O	A	L	A	O	N				
M	A	S	S	A	T	O	L	L	
E	T	H	E	M	E	I			
S	M	O	O	U	S	E			
S	E	R	E	N	E	T			
A	S	I	A	B	A	S	I	D	E
G	L	I	A	A	S	I	D	E	
I	N	U	X						
M	E	A	N	D	E	R	S	I	
A	S	I	A	G					
P	D	L	A	Y	E	R	O		

CLUES: Across

- made dirty or imperfect by being displayed in a shop
- among
- ulema
- people descended from a common ancestor
- live in a complex social colony
- a person who have access to the World of good and evil spirits
- a student's fraternity
- extending below
- assumed artificially
- not certain
- an Internet service consisting of thousands of newsgroups

Down:

- can be seen in the sky at night
- an obituary
- avoiding work, lazy
- a stoat
- a cylindrical metal container
- an open source of software
- an elected officer in a county, responsible for keeping peace
- a son of a king or Queen
- a playing card with three spots
- a daughter of one's brother
- afflict in mind
- Feed Force Unit in Tanzania

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.03 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS DJ SHOW 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALUYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA RISWAHLI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MTA YA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWS PAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01.00 - 05.00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	



BoT says lending rates falling at sluggish rate

By The Banker Reporter

LENDING rates by financial institutions continue to fall albeit at a sluggish rate from an average of 16.65 percent in October to 16.40 percent in November last year.

Bank of Tanzania said in its December 2021 monthly report that the overall lending rates averaged at 16.40 percent, decreasing from 16.65 percent and 16.61 percent recorded in the preceding month and November 2020, respectively.

"However, the negotiated lending rates charged to prime customers remained unchanged at around 14 percent," the report said while noting that banks' interest rates on deposits increased slightly during the period under review, with an overall deposit interest rate averaging at 6.80 percent compared

with 6.64 percent and 6.74 percent recorded in October 2021 and November 2020, respectively.

"Meanwhile, the negotiated deposits rate for prime customers remained unchanged, averaging 9.78 percent in November 2021," the report stated adding that due to accommodative monetary policy driven by the need to continue boosting credit flows to support recovery of the economy from the adverse effects of the coronavirus, extended broad money supply (M3) grew by 14.9 percent compared with 5.2 percent in November 2020.

"Similarly, broad money supply (M2) registered an annual growth of 17.2 percent, up from 8.7 percent. Domestic credit by the banking system, extended to the private sector and central government, grew at an annual



Bank of Tanzania governor, Professor Florence Luoga.

rate of 13.5 percent in November 2021, compared with 12.5 percent in November 2020," the central bank's report for December 2021 noted.

Credit extended to the private sector continued to

recover, growing by 7.8 percent compared to a growth of 5.6 percent in the preceding month and 5.2 percent in the corresponding period of 2020, the BoT report said.

The central bank further

stated that sustained recovery of growth of credit to the private sector was also largely attributed to accommodative monetary conditions as well as ongoing initiatives by the government to improve the

business environment.

"Growth of credit to the private sector is expected to continue to maintain an upward trend towards the target of 10.6 percent set for 2021/22, supported by the implementation of policy measures recently rolled out by the Bank of Tanzania to foster credit growth and lower of lending rates," the report added.

"The growth of credit to the private sector was more prominent in personal activities, largely small and medium enterprises, followed by trade and manufacturing," the December 2021 monthly economic review report explained while noting that personal activities continued to hold the largest share of the outstanding credit followed by trade, manufacturing and agriculture.

Money market sustained adequate liquidity levels in November 2021, supported by accommodative monetary policy condition. Consequently, money market interest rates and yields on government securities remained low and stable, the central bank pointed out in its report.

South Africa consumer food price inflation moderated further in November

JOHANNESBURG

After peaking to 7.4% year-on-year in August 2021, South Africa's consumer food price inflation has continued to moderate and softened to 6.0% in November from 6.7% in October.

The food products prices underpinning this deceleration in inflation are bread and cereals, meat, fruit, and vegetables. For the first eleven months, consumer food price inflation averaged 6.5% (compared with 4.6% year-on-year in 2020). The high grains, vegetable oils and meat for much of the past few months were the primary drivers of the consumer food price inflation.

As we set out in the previous note, while we expect consumer food price inflation to continue to slow into 2022, we no longer think this will be significant. Meat, which decelerated somewhat in November, along with oils and fats, will likely remain at fairly higher levels for some time, thus countering the potential decline in various products such as 'bread and cereals' and 'vegetables'.

For example, the cattle slaughtering activity remain at relatively lower levels compared to 2020, and this could provide mild upward pressures for meat price inflation in the near term. In September 2021, cattle slaughtering activity was down 3% year-on-year, with 212750 head slaughtered. The livestock industry is still in the herd-rebuilding process that we have been in since the drought of 2015-16. Moreover, the excellent performance in crops production in the 2020/21 season may have helped provide some financial breathing room for some diversified farmers to rebuild herds rather than sell more meat to the domestic market.

Additionally, the potential uptick in meat demand during the festive season might also add to the upward price pressures in meat. In addition, South Africa is a net importer of vegetable oils and fats, and these product prices have remained elevated in the global market.

Equity takes Sh18bn IFC loan days after buy-in

NAIROBI

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is set to lend the Kenyan banking subsidiary of Equity Group \$165 million (Sh18.6 billion), marking one of the largest single credit facilities to a local lender.

The proposed investment disclosure comes as the global financier also moves to acquire a 6.7 percent stake in the Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm for Sh13.9 billion, underlining the growing commercial ties between the parties.

"The proposed investment consists of a seven-year Tier 2, Basel II-compliant subordinated

loan of up to \$165 million (Sh18.6 billion) to Equity Bank Kenya Limited," IFC said in the disclosure dated December 22. "The investment will enhance the bank's regulatory capital and support its lending operations to climate-smart projects and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Kenya."

IFC will provide \$50 million (Sh5.6 billion) of its own money while the balance of \$115 million (Sh13 billion) will come from its partners. Institutions investing alongside IFC enjoy the strong creditor protections that companies and countries typically accord to the global financier.

Besides being Equity's



Equity Group CEO, James Mwangi.

top creditor, IFC is also set to become the bank's second-largest shareholder after signing an agreement to purchase insurance firm Britam's stake in the lender. The institutional investor will buy 253.1 million shares of the bank from Britam at Sh55 each based on negotiations with the insurer.

IFC will acquire 164.5 million shares of the lender directly and another 88.5 million shares through its IFC Financial Institutions Growth Fund LP. Arise BV, backed by institutional investors Norfund, FMO and Rabobank, is the top shareholder with an 11.99 per-

cent stake in the Kenyan banking multinational.

The private transaction price represented a premium of more than 10 percent on the bank's prevailing share price in the days before the deal was made public. The announcement of the transaction has seen Equity's share price rise towards Britam's exit price.

For IFC, the proposed investment marks a closer relationship with Equity to which it is the single largest creditor. The global financier had already lent the bank Sh21.8 billion as of December 2020, leading a list of development finance in-

stitutions that have backed the lender's aggressive regional expansion.

It was not immediately clear whether the new loan represents a restructuring of the existing credit facilities or will add to the bank's borrowings. The transactions signal IFC's confidence in Equity's future growth prospects.

"Equity Bank Kenya is the second-largest bank in Kenya, with total assets of \$72 billion (Sh815 billion) as of September 30, 2021. The bank has a substantial nationwide presence in Kenya through its network of 190 branches, over 380

ATMs, and over 42,000 banking agents. Across the country, the bank serves over 10.7 million customers," said the IFC.

"The bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Equity Group Holdings ... a key partner for IFC in East Africa with a significant footprint across the region and subsidiaries in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)." Besides shoring up the bank's capital base, the new loan will also be lent to customers fitting IFC's impact investing criteria.

The global financier defines SMEs using various measures including firms having between 10 and 300 employees or annual sales of \$100,000 (Sh11.3 million) to \$15 million (Sh1.7 billion). The loan size per borrower usually ranges from \$10,000 (Sh1.1 million) to \$2 million (Sh226 million).

The IFC also encourages the banks it funds to lend to women-owned enterprises and climate-related ventures such as renewable energy projects. The proposed loan to the lender is the latest for the IFC, which has been funding scores of Kenyan banks, including KCB and Co-op Bank with billions of shillings in medium-term dollar-denominated facilities.

Dubai Islamic Bank launches Rabbit 'FunTech' app aimed at tech-savvy customers

DUBAI

Dubai Islamic Bank, the UAE's biggest Sharia-compliant lender, launched Rabbit, a "fun" digital offering that seeks to attract more technology-savvy millennials and help the unbanked in the UAE and other heavily populated markets to get access to the formal financial system.

"The idea of Rabbit is [to go] beyond the UAE ... the idea is to take to different markets we are operating in. That has been the core of our strategy," Adnan Chilwan, group chief executive of DIB, told a media briefing in Dubai on Tuesday.

"Some of the markets we are operating in are huge in terms of population - Indonesia, Pakistan and Kenya. If you look at these markets, they require a proposition [like Rabbit]." The UAE market will serve as a prototype and the bank at a later stage will

work with regulators in other markets to introduce Rabbit. "This for us is just the start of a journey," Mr Chilwan said.

The new app, which the DIB chief described as "FunTech" rather than FinTech, is available on Apple and Android mobile app stores. It is initially launched with a current account, globally accepted debit card, and payments and money transfer transfers. The bank will later introduce credit card and other features to the app that also offers discounts to customers. There are too many financial apps and digital offerings available in the market, however, "we saw a void in the market, as the fun element was missing in FinTech", Mr Chilwan said.

"Rabbit is the new bunny in town" that offers fun-filled interaction, while fulfilling the everyday financial needs for the new generation and millennials, he added. Banks and financial institutions globally

are investing heavily in strengthening their digital offering to capture technology-savvy customer base. The Covid-19 pandemic, which led to lockdowns and social distancing around the world, has increased the adoption of digital services as consumers switched to cashless payments and online shopping.

There are several digital-only banks operating in the UAE. In the first half of 2017, Emirates NBD launched Liv. bank, which is aimed millennials. Mashreq, Dubai's oldest lender, also unveiled Mashreq Neo in the same year. Mr Chilwan said Rabbit is not a digital-only bank. It is a digital proposition through a stand-alone entity, which will have its own "organic journey going forward" as it evolves according to customer needs.

The launch of Rabbit and continued improvement of DIB's digital banking and

mobile banking offerings are not a precursor to DIB reducing its brick-and-mortar branch network. The lender, which currently operates about 68 branches across the UAE, over the years has rationalised its network by selecting the right locations to serve its growing customers base, he said.

"We are at the optimum size right now," Mr Chilwan said. "We will always have brick-and-mortar [branches], and you will never see us without [them]." Rabbit is a proposition that is different from DIB's digital and mobile banking app. The bank plans to continue spending "as much as needed" on enhancing its digital capabilities, he said, without giving a number.

"We have some really serious digital ambitions and DIB [acronym] should resonate as Digitally Intelligent Bank," he said. "Rabbit is a step in that direction." Rabbit, which currently caters to the retail custom-

ers only, will offer services for small and medium-sized enterprises as it "evolves" in the future.



Dubai Islamic Bank's CEO, Adnan Chilwan.

EADB's debt to equity ratio outsmart AfDB, W.Africa Bank

By The Banker Reporter

IN a rare feat, East African Development Bank has outclassed African Development Bank and West African Development Bank in debt to equity ratio in 2021.

The regional bank's latest annual report indicated that EADB's debt as a percentage of usable equity remains very low. "It was 42 percent in 2017, which is low both in absolute terms and compared with its rated multilateral development bank peers. "In comparison, AfDB's debt to equity ratio stood at 313 percent in 2016, while that of the West African Development Bank (BOAD) was 293 percent in 2017," the regional bank's report said.

The Kampala based lender which has been bogged down in management crisis for many years said that its asset coverage ratio (usable equity/ (gross loans plus equity plus expected loss on liquid assets)), at 122 percent during the period, also remained very high.

"The ratio is one of the highest among the MDBs and signals the bank's usable equity is larger than its gross portfolio. In other words, EADB's cash on hand is greater than the value of its entire loan portfolio," the 2020 annual report stated.

The report further noted that EADB's return on average assets increased to 2.6 percent in 2017 from 2.0 percent in the previous two years, while its return on average equity rose to 4.0 percent from 2.9 percent in 2015. Moody's



EADB's director general, Vivienne Yeda.

expects EADB to remain profitable, supported by the expansion in its investment activities, the report noted.

"EADB has strong liquidity, reinforced by low levels of borrowing relative to liquid assets, moderate funding costs and a relatively long-dated debt maturity structure. Its debt service coverage ratio is one of the strongest among the MDBs," the report added noting that the ratio

was 8.9 percent during the period.

As the maturity of most additional borrowing was medium term and long term, the bank's ratio of liquid assets to short Te4rm debt has also improved in recent years. "EADB is a major contributor to development financing in East Africa: It enjoys a high level of commitment from its member states, which view it as an important vehicle for delivering key development objectives across the

East Africa region," the Kampala based lender noted.

A recent Moody's report stated that, the bank's credit strengths include strong liquidity and capital buffers that are among the strongest of the multilateral development banks. In July 2018, Moody's Investors Service maintained EADB's long-term issuer rating at Baa3 with a stable outlook.

BANKING & FINANCE

Letshego targets one million active LetsGo Digital Mall customers

GABORONE

Pan-African financial services company Letshego says the Group is on course to achieve its target of one million enterprise active customers (EAC) on the company's LetsGo Digital Mall by 2023. LetsGo Digital Mall has been launched across ten markets.

Letshego CEO Andrew Okai said: "The Group is on track to deliver its ten minute loan solution in at least three markets by the end of Q1 2022. Digitalisation is a key enabler for exponential growth in customer acquisition, which leads to enhanced franchise value." He said the EAC on the LetsGo Mall is currently approaching 100,000, with new registrations currently exceeding 10,000 per week.

"A key strategic objective within the Group's five year strategy is to build a digital-first company, delivering Return on Equity (ROE) in excess of 20%," he said. Currently the company's ROE for 2021 is expected to settle just below the mid-teen range, ahead of the HI result.

Okai emphasised that the Group is on track to meet this aspiration by 2025, underpinned by platformification of the LetsGo Digital Mall, expanded customer access and product proposition, as well as enhanced operational efficiencies as the business drives towards near a 40% cost-to-income ratio. Platformification allows for conventional banks to be responsible for core financial transactions, while permitting customers to access banking and other services through a Fintech platform.

Meanwhile Letshego is working on strategic partnerships that offer personal and household insurance have launched in three markets, with digital and online access enabled in Kenya. "The insurance sales offering will transition to the LetsGo Mall by end Q1 2022," said Okai.

The Group has also launched a crowdfunding capability enabling family and friends to support and save together on the LetsGo Digital Mall. "The first digital savings pilot will commence in Namibia and Ghana, with other markets to follow, subject to regulatory permissions," said Okai.

FNB sees 83pc increase in eWallet Pro usage among businesses



Daniel Kaan, CEO Transact Pillar at FNB Commercial.

JOHANNESBURG

Since the end of cheques last year and the continued shift away from cash as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, FNB's eWallet Pro has seen an 83% increase in payment volumes between June 2020 and June 2021. eWallet Pro is a safe and convenient electronic payment solution that reduces the risk and cost of handling cash for a business.

The bank has further seen a 50% increase in recipients, a 27% increase in businesses using the solution, and a 44% increase in the value of payments. eWallet Pro continues to show strong growth in the construction, healthcare, insurance, education, and agriculture sectors.

Daniel Kaan, CEO Transact Pillar at FNB Commercial says: "We are delighted to see many businesses adopting eWallet Pro, our

instant and affordable money transfer solution, to pay clients and employees electronically through their mobile phones. This solution further helps businesses to minimise the risks and costs associated with handling cash."

"The bank is witnessing a similar trend across its diverse payments ecosystem as businesses migrate to safer, faster, and more cost-effective payment mechanisms such as Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), mobile payments, online banking and card payments. There's also been significant growth in the acceptance of contactless card payments as more consumers adopt convenient and safer payment alternatives when shopping. Similarly, eWallet Pro is also enabled for contactless card payments through an optional eWallet Pro Visa debit or gift card," adds Kaan.

Wandile Mnguni, FNB Commercial Transact Pillar, product head, says, "during the holiday season, we are likely to see a further increase in small businesses taking advantage of eWallet Pro to pay temporary staff during the busy holiday period. Transacting digitally is important in the current environment, especially considering the safety of people during the holiday season given the increased risks associated with the physical handling of cash."

FNB empowers SMEs in the digital media industry by extending relations with digital agency, Sprout Performance Partners. eWallet Pro will help SMEs by reducing the time and costs associated with administration, payroll, handling of cash and direct deposits (EFT) to pay temporary workers during the holiday season.

"This will add significant value

considering the challenges faced by small businesses due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The ability to instantly pay single or multiple staff on their cellphones or prepaid cards will also help enhance security by ensuring that there's minimal cash handling on business premises. Similarly, staff will avoid risks associated with carrying cash as some of them will be paid daily or weekly," explains Mnguni.

Funds transferred via eWallet Pro can be withdrawn at any ATM immediately or at the recipients' convenience and can also be used to purchase goods and services using the pre-paid card. SMEs that do not have a huge staff complement can also save in the long term by using eWallet Pro to pay permanent employees, travel allowances, bonuses, incentives, and gifts.

Dar turns tables on Kenya as trade deficit hits Sh9bn

NAIROBI

Kenya's imports from Tanzania exceeded exports by nearly a third in nine months through September 2021, fresh official statistics show, signalling thawing trade ties following regime change in Dar es Salaam.

Nairobi posted a goods trade deficit of Sh9.15 billion, or 29.97 percent, with Dar es Salaam – the first over the review period going by publicly available data – after traders doubled orders from the south-neighbouring country.

Imports from Tanzania jumped to Sh39.68 billion in January-September 2021 period from Sh19.67 billion a year earlier, provisional data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics show. Kenyan traders and factories largely source cereals, wood, edible vegetables, animal fodder, paper and paperboard from Tanzania.

The 101.76 percent surge in value of goods bought from Tanzania dwarfed 34.81 percent growth in exports to Sh30.53 billion, leading to the hitherto rare deficit in merchandise trade in the review period. Kenya's exports to its East African Community partner include pharmaceutical products,

plastics, iron and steel.

"There are a lot of positive vibes within EAC that are developing and we want to ride on that as way of bringing back EAC that used to be. For example, relationship between Kenya and Tanzania is now significantly better," Adan Mohamed, Cabinet secretary for EAC Affairs, told the Business Daily in an interview last September.

"Ultimately, as government, we try and make sure that the environment is suitable for the private sector to do business." The bump in trade flows between the two countries happened on the back of a pledge between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his counterpart Samia Suluhu early May to end on-and-off trade tiffs between EAC's two largest economies.

Ms Suluhu made Nairobi her first stop as she sought to strengthen trade ties with EAC partners. During her visit she made it clear that it was her priority to put an end to unresolved strained trade relations between the two countries, which have hindered smooth flow of goods and services over the years.

The KNBS data shows the gap between imports and exports has

been widening since the beginning of the year in favour of Tanzania. The deficit in merchandise trade stood at Sh1.24 billion in first quarter, Sh1.84 billion in the second and nearly Sh6.07 billion between July and September.

Tanzania is the only country in the six-nation EAC trading bloc that ran a surplus with Kenya in the review period, according to the provisional data. Kenya had a trade surplus of Sh35.81 billion and Sh16.57 billion with Uganda and Rwanda, respectively.

A persistently widening trade deficit will mean Nairobi will be exporting jobs to Dar es Salaam. The meeting in Nairobi touched off a series of joint trade meetings aimed at flattening barriers to flow of goods.

Trade minister Betty Maina and her Tanzanian counterpart Prof Kitila Mkumbo led delegations to a four-day meeting in Arusha – the headquarters of the EAC secretariat – weeks after the two presidents met in Nairobi to address unresolved trade disputes.

This was followed by a three-day investment forum of manufacturers from both countries in Dar es Salaam from July 7 where the Kenya

Association of Manufacturers and Confederation of Tanzania Industries resolved to jointly lobby authorities to end crippling non-tariff barriers.

"Kenya and Tanzania have the capability and capacity to add value to the wide array of resources that both countries have for export markets," KAM chairperson Mucai Kunyihya told the forum in Dar es Salaam.

"However, achieving this is hindered every time the business community encounters impediments to trade, consequently impacting on the benefits of trade to the entire [EAC] region." Kenyan manufacturers had in recent years protested "discriminative" duties and non-tariff barriers such double inspection of goods for standards by Dar es Salaam which had made supplies such as meat, milk and their products to Tanzania uncompetitive.

The protectionist fees on animal and animal products, among other trade barriers, Kenyan factories had argued, was against EAC Common Market Protocol which requires member states to open up borders to facilitate free movement of goods, labour, services as well as capital.



Adan Mohamed, Kenya's Cabinet secretary for EAC Affairs.

Get your finances in shape for 2022

By **Desideria Mwegelo**

2021 was an unprecedented year. It proved to the world that nothing is guaranteed. The coronavirus outbreak continued to shake the world like never before. The pandemic drew both positive and negative learnings for businesses, economies as well as individuals.

What was clear is that we need to begin to plan for an uncertain future. One key area that people began to plan was their finances. People became more cautious about spending and things that

were considered leisure spending had to stop since financial priorities for many people were to cater for basic needs in their homes.

As the New Year begins, perhaps you are resolving to keep up that focus in a new and more positive way. We at Stanbic Bank are committed to helping customers realise their dreams by providing simple solutions that can help you plan your finances better. Here are six power tips to get your finances in shape for 2022.

Set up a detailed budget

Knowing where your money goes every month is essential to getting on track financially. And to that end, you'll need a budget. Your budget doesn't have to be anything fancy – a basic spreadsheet will do. List each recurring monthly expense, as well as any expenses that don't pop up monthly, but you need to pay for nonetheless.

Of course, to account for all of your expenses, you need to comb through your bank account and credit/debit card statements from the past year. But once

you have your expenses mapped out, you can see where you're overspending and find ways to cut back.

Enroll in an automatic savings plan

If you have a financial resolution to save more money this year, using automated savings will help you to follow through. Through automated saving, cash is drawn directly from your current/main

account and deposited into your savings account. With Stanbic Bank, you can now open an account remotely without the need to visit a branch. You can also schedule payments on our application from the comfort of your home.

Have a clear, concise financial goal for the year

Set up clear goals about what you want to accomplish with your finances, example purchasing

a house, a car or your dream vacation. Be mindful of how you spend your money and how it's impacting those financial goals. I usually set aside a separate spending account that can be built into my budget and does not affect those goals.

Begin investing

Investing allows you to grow your money at a much quicker rate. Many people invest money successfully on their own,

but if you are just starting out, you may consider visiting your bank where a financial expert will advise you on how you can achieve your investment goals.

Also, the financial expert will enable you to understand the current market conditions and the risks and benefits of investing. This process will help you find investments that match your current comfort level when it comes to risks.

Resolve to understand your debt in 2022

Whether it's a student loan, personal loan or a car loan, take the time to understand the terms of the debt. Example: Who do you owe money to?; How much total debt do you have?; How long do you have to pay it back?; What is the interest rate for each piece of

debt?; and Are you being charged additional fees? Once you understand your debt it is much easier to plan and start to become debt-free.

Improve your financial literacy

"Education is an investment in yourself." Everyone should take a little time to educate themselves on financial literacy because being smart with your money will make all aspects of your life easier. Stanbic website has some great resources to get you started.

At the end of 2022, you should be able to look back at your finances and be proud of yourself for staying on track. The secret is simple; begin with a plan, have clear goals and keep track of your spending.

Desideria Mwegelo,

Head of Marketing at Stanbic Bank Tanzania



Apple's market cap briefly tops \$3 trillion

NEW YORK

Apple Inc.'s stock-market value briefly rose above \$3 trillion on Monday, shattering yet another record and underscoring how the pandemic has turbocharged Big Tech's decades-long rise.

The shares rose as much as 3% to trade at \$182.88 in afternoon trading in New York before paring some of its gains. It last traded at \$182.16, a gain of 2.6% that represents a market cap of about \$2.99 trillion. The advance came on a broadly positive session for stocks in the first trading day of 2022, where outperformance in both Apple and Amazon.com Inc. contributed to a gain of more than 1% for the Nasdaq 100 Index.

The iPhone maker's share price has climbed steadily for years, leaving it up more than 200% since Covid first sent the world into lockdown in early 2020 and underlined the centrality of technology for work, education, entertainment, and keeping connected. Apple's rally has come alongside revenue growth and bets that key products, along with new offerings such as virtual reality headsets and autonomous electric vehicles, have a strong long-term outlook.

"I never thought I'd see a \$3 trillion market cap, but it really speaks to Apple's prospects over the next five to 10 years," said Patrick Burton, co-portfolio manager of the MainStay Winslow Large Cap Growth Fund, which holds about 2.75 million Apple shares. "We feel very good about the outlook, and continue to see meaningful opportunities ahead, with a stable iPhone franchise and growth drivers from both services and new products."

The stock first reached \$1 trillion in value in mid-2018, and achieved a \$2 trillion valuation in August 2020. While it was the first U.S. company to surpass that level, Saudi Aramco was the first \$2 trillion company overall. Apple's size means it has a pronounced influence on the overall equity market; its weight within the S&P 500 Index is 7%.

Ever since it first became the world's most valuable stock in 2011 – when its market cap was under \$340 billion and it comprised about 3.3% of the S&P 500 – Apple has rarely been far from the title. It briefly fell behind Microsoft Corp. in October, after warning about the impact supply-chain issues would have on its holiday quarter, though that second-place status was short-lived. Over the past month, the stock has risen almost 13%, compared with a 3.4% rise in Microsoft, which now has a valuation above \$2.5 trillion.

High premium

Despite the optimistic outlook, there are risks to Apple's forward march. The company is facing the toughest regulatory atmosphere in its history, with governments bearing down in the U.S. and India over its App Store practices and dealings with third-party developers. Any laws impacting Apple's practices could limit its income from Services, now one of the company's most important segments.

From a product perspective, Apple is also hitting snags and contending with new rivals. The company's upcoming virtual and augmented reality headsets will vie with gear from Meta Platforms Inc., formerly Facebook. Its long-in-development car project has also hit roadblocks with ever-changing goals and key departures.



Apple's bullish graph.



Head of the Green group at the European Parliament, Philippe Lamberts.

European Commission considers classifying natural gas as 'green'

MAPUTO

The European Commission has opened consultations on whether natural gas and nuclear power projects should be considered as "green" investments, in a move that could have major implications for the development of Mozambique's hydrocarbon industry.

The Commission has drawn up a draft text of a "Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act" covering certain gas and nuclear activities, which, if adopted later this month, will guide and mobilise public and private investment in projects to promote climate neutrality over the next thirty years.

The proposed taxonomy will classify projects as being green, if they help Europe to move away from the use of coal and other high carbon-emitting energy sources. According to a statement from the European Commission on 1 January, it considers that there is "a role for natural gas and nuclear as a means to facilitate the transition towards a predominantly renewable-based future."

Under the proposal, the classification would be under very specific conditions. For example, the gas must come from renewable sources or have low emissions by 2035. The Commission has asked two expert groups to give their opinion on the draft by 12 January and, if the opinion is favourable, the proposals will be agreed to later this month. After that, the European Parliament and the European Council will have four months to scrutinise and decide whether the proposal will come into force.

The move was criticised by the head of the Green group in the European Parliament, Philippe Lamberts, who argued that by including gas and nuclear power in the draft regulation, "the Commission risks jeopardising the credibility of the EU's role as a leading marketplace for sustainable finance." He added

that "by calling gas investments green until 2030, Europe sends the wrong signal to our partners in the world and endangers to lock us in fossils much longer beyond 2030".

According to figures from the European Commission, in 2019 just under 20 per cent of energy consumed in the European Union was generated from renewable sources. In addition, by their very nature, solar and wind power are not always available and the grid-scale battery storage industry is still in its infancy.

As a result, relying on scaling up renewables is unlikely to fully meet Europe's energy needs in the short to medium term. In another complication, on 31 December Germany shut down three of its six nuclear power stations with the remaining power plants due to close this year. Another factor is that over a third of Europe's natural gas comes from Russia and in 2021 the state-owned Russian company Gazprom refused to supply any gas additional to that contractually required. Tensions between Europe and Russia are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Under these conditions, other supplies of natural gas will likely be required and Mozambique could meet much of this. Enormous quantities of natural gas have been found off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado and projects are currently being developed for its use domestically and for export.

One project, Coral South, where the Italian company ENI is the operator, is due to begin production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) on its floating platform later this year. The Coral South gas field is estimated to contain about 16 trillion cubic feet (TCFs) of gas and the entire production of 3.4 million metric tonnes of LNG per year has already been secured by British Petroleum (BP).

The other major venture currently underway is the Mozambique LNG Project using gas from Rovu-

ma Basin Offshore Area One. The French oil and gas company, Total, is the operator with its partners coming from Japan, India, Thailand, and Mozambique. When operational, the project will produce 12.88 million tonnes of LNG per year for domestic consumption and export.

A third development, the Rovuma LNG Project, will use gas from offshore Area Four to produce 15 million tonnes of LNG a year. However, the operator, ExxonMobil, has not yet taken its final investment decision. The projects have the gas reserves required to expand the output of LNG at a later date should the market conditions be favourable.

These sources of natural gas could play a vital role in stabilising global prices and securing supplies in Europe and other markets. In addition, they will create the conditions for the development of Mozambique's economy and enable the country to mitigate the effects of climate change caused by carbon emissions during the 20th and 21st Centuries which took place predominantly outside of Africa.

However, bringing the projects to fruition and later expanding them requires enormous private and public investments and financial institutions require certainty that investments will be recouped. The European Union's draft Delegated Act is a move in this direction. According to the African Energy Chamber, a South African based group linked to the energy industry, "this new proposal will pave the way for new European investments in natural gas in Africa and will therefore allow Europe to unlock billions of euros in finance and sustainable energy funds to support gas as a transitional energy source."

It added, "Africa's call for a just and inclusive energy transition has been answered through the European Union's landmark proposal to label natural gas as a "green" energy source. Historically,

Africrypt investors push charges despite mystery payouts

DURBAN

A group of Bitcoin investors are pushing for criminal charges against individuals who run a cryptocurrency platform in South Africa suspected to have been fraudulent, in a case that might prove challenging to prosecute.

The investors are seeking the arrest of brothers Raees and Ameer Cajee, aged 21 and 18, who operated the company, but haven't been seen publicly since the scandal broke. That's even after a mystery benefactor emerged to repay some of the lost cash.

A final decision to go forward with any prosecution hasn't been made. If authorities decided to go ahead with plans to prosecute, an arrest warrant could be issued early this year, according to Sean Peirce of Durban-based Coast to Coast Special Investigations, which is representing some of those who lost money and wants the matter to be resolved as soon as possible. Private prosecution could also be pursued, he said.

"We are pushing for the brothers to be charged for fraud, theft, possibly money laundering," said Peirce in an interview. "They can get 10 to 15 years for a first time offense." Africrypt's lawyer, however, said prosecution may run into headwinds because several of the investors signed agreements to transfer their claims to a Dubai-based firm identified as Pennythorn Project Management LLC, which offered some payouts to investors. They no longer hold the right to any interest and therefore can't push for civil or criminal proceedings, Rashaad Moosa said.

The brothers disappeared in April just after \$3.6 billion of Bitcoin vanished from the Africrypt platform, although the lawyer who represented them at the time later disputed the amount reported missing. They had earlier informed clients that the company was the victim of a hack, while urging them not to report the incident to authorities.

"They stated that they were hacked and we have proof that they were not," said Peirce, who represents about 35 traders.

BANKING & FINANCE

WORLD

WHO sees more evidence that Omicron causes milder symptoms

GENEVA

MORE evidence is emerging that the Omicron coronavirus variant is affecting the upper respiratory tract, causing milder symptoms than previous variants and resulting in a "decoupling" in some places between soaring case numbers and low death rates, a World Health Organization official said on Tuesday.

"We are seeing more and more studies pointing out that Omicron is infecting the upper part of the body. Unlike other ones, the lungs who would be causing severe pneumonia," WHO Incident Manager Abdi Mahamud told Geneva-based journalists.

"It can be a good news, but we really require more studies to prove that."

Since the heavily mutated variant was first

detected in November, WHO data shows it has spread quickly and emerged in at least 128 countries, presenting dilemmas for many nations and people seeking to reboot their economies and lives after nearly two years of COVID-related disruptions.

However, while case numbers have surged to all-time records, the hospitalization and death rates are often lower than at other phases in the pandemic.

"What we are seeing now is...the decoupling between the cases and the deaths," he said.

His remarks on the reduced risks of severe disease chime with other data, including a study from South Africa, which was one of the first countries where Omicron was detected.

However, Mahamud also sounded a note



People take a COVID-19 test at an outdoor testing site in Los Angeles, on Tuesday as California is starting to feel the full wrath of the Omicron variant with hospitalizations jumping nearly 50 percent since Christmas. AP

of caution, calling South Africa an "outlier" since it has a young population, among other factors.

And he warned that Omicron's high transmissibility meant it would become dominant within weeks in many places, posing a threat to medical systems in countries where a high proportion of the population remains unvaccinated.

VACCINATION, NOT VACCINES, ARE THE CHALLENGE

While Omicron seemed to be slipping past antibodies, evidence was emerging that

COVID-19 vaccines still provided some protection, by eliciting a second pillar of the immune response from T-cells, Mahamud said.

"Our prediction is protection against severe hospitalization and death (from Omicron) will be maintained," he said, saying this also applied to vaccines developed by Sinopharm and Sinovac that are used in China, where Omicron cases remain very low.

"The challenge has not been the vaccine but the vaccination and reaching those vulnerable populations." *Agencies*

Ugandan president gets COVID-19 booster dose

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday received a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as the country grapples with a surge in the number of cases.

Museveni (pictured), according to a State House statement, received the booster dose while at his home in Kiruhura district, western Uganda.

Museveni, aged 77 years, urged the public especially those above 50 years to go for a booster dose to protect themselves against adverse effects of COVID-19.

"We said that this group should get a booster dose. But also, the ones below 50 (years) but with problems like diabetes, blood pressure, cancers, etc., those ones should get a booster dose," the president said shortly after his vaccination.

Museveni, quoting his doctors, said for the booster to work well, one can get a different type of vaccine from the initial two jabs they got.

As the country grapples with the Omicron variant, Museveni urged the public to go for vaccination, noting that people who have been vaccinated two times quickly overcome it.

Museveni on Dec. 31 fully reopened the country's economy in a staggered way, with schools starting on Jan. 10 and other sectors like entertainment which have been closed for about two years will reopen on Jan. 24.

Ministry of Health figures show the country has been registering over 1,000 new COVID-19 cases daily. Results of COVID-19 tests done on Jan. 1 confirm 1,423 new cases. The cumulative confirmed cases are 145,963 since the first case was registered in March 2020. *Xinhua*



5 countries assume responsibilities as elected members of UN Security Council

UNITED NATIONS,

ALBANIA, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday began to assume responsibilities as non-permanent members of the Security Council.

Their two-year term officially started on Jan. 1. But Tuesday is the first working day of the council for 2022 after the Christmas and New Year break.

A flag installation ceremony was held to mark the start of their responsibilities.

Kazakh UN ambassador Magzhan Ilyassov, who presided over the ceremony, congratulated the five new council members and wished them success in realizing their priorities in their two-year term.

The flag installation ceremony for new Security Council members was initiated by Kazakhstan.

"We believe that 2022 is a year of hope for all of us and for our world organization," said Ilyassov. "Global peace, security and further sustainable development

will largely depend on the decisions of the Security Council, the UN system and our other close partners."

Norwegian UN ambassador Mona Juul, in her capacity as president of the Security Council for the month of January, welcomed the new members.

"The (COVID-19) pandemic is not the only challenge facing us. We find ourselves, at the beginning of 2022, at a volatile moment of increasing violence and geopolitical tension worldwide," she said. "The international community is confronted with numerous conflicts - both new and protracted, which demand our robust council response - one based on a renewed commitment to multilateralism, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and respect for human rights, as stipulated by the UN Charter."

She said the Security Council must be measured by its actions. "It is my hope that the council, with aid and support of the new members, will act decisively this year to deliver on its mandate to



Photo taken on Jan. 4, 2022 shows a flag installation ceremony to mark the start of the responsibilities of the five countries as non-permanent members of the Security Council at the UN headquarters in New York. Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday began to assume responsibilities as non-permanent members of the Security Council. *Xinhua*

uphold international peace and security," she said.

The permanent representatives of the five new council members made short speeches before they installed their respective national flags outside the Security Council Chamber.

The five countries replaced Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam. The 15-member Security Council has five permanent members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and 10 non-permanent

members elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly. Five non-permanent members are replaced every year.

India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway are in the middle of their two-year term as non-permanent members. *Xinhua*

Biden to speak 'truth' on Jan 6 anniversary, Trump cancels event

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden will mark the one-year anniversary of the deadly Jan 6 assault on the US Capitol by Donald Trump's followers with a speech on Thursday warning of the threats to democracy, while Trump abandoned plans for a news conference that day as he reprised his attacks on Democrats and the media.

The White House said Biden would push back against Trump's false claims, adopted by many of his followers, that his election defeat was the result of widespread fraud, as well as attempts to downplay the violence of the worst assault

on the Capitol since the War of 1812.

"The president is going to speak to the truth of what happened, not the lies that some have spread since, and the peril it has posed to the rule of law and our system of democratic governance," White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters on Tuesday, in the first preview of Biden's remarks.

Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris will speak Thursday morning at the US Capitol, one year after thousands of Trump supporters raided the complex in a failed attempt to stop the counting of Electoral College votes by lawmakers that officially delivered the Democratic



president's election victory.

Trump on Tuesday canceled a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida that had been scheduled for Jan 6, saying he would address many of the same topics at a rally in Arizona on Jan 15 instead.

It was not clear why Trump canceled the news conference,

which had originally been announced on Dec 21. In a statement, Trump blamed what he called the "bias and dishonesty" of the House of Representatives probe of Jan 6, as well as the news media, a favorite target.

The Jan 6 anniversary comes as Trump continues to fight to block the release of White House records sought by the House committee investigating the attack.

Trump, some fellow Republicans and right-wing media personalities have pushed false accounts to downplay the Jan 6 attack, calling it a non-violent protest or blaming left-wing activists.

Four people died on the day

of the riot, and one Capitol police officer died the day after defending Congress. Dozens of police were injured during the multi-hour onslaught by Trump supporters, and four officers have since taken their own lives.

Psaki was asked what the president's message will be to the many Republicans who believe Biden stole the election from Trump, despite overwhelming contrary evidence.

"What he's going to continue to do is speak to everyone in the country. Those who didn't vote for him, those who may not believe he is the legitimate president, about what he wants to do to make their lives better," she said.

Second version of Beijing 2022 Playbooks published

A second edition of the Beijing 2022 Playbooks was recently published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (Beijing 2022), which sets principles of COVID-19 prevention for all parties joining the sports event.

Han Zirong, vice president and secretary general of the Beijing 2022 and other relevant officials briefed the media on the latest pandemic control policy at a recent press conference held by the State Council Information Office.

Han noted that the global spread of COVID-19, especially the Omicron and other variants of the virus, has brought huge uncertainties to the world. It will be very possible that COVID-19 cases may appear during the 2022 Olympic

and Paralympic Winter Games as a large amount of personnel flock to China from different countries and regions, she warned.

The playbooks are designed to ensure normal operation of the games, and conform to the COVID-19 control principles of China, Han said.

According to relevant principles in the playbooks, except a few athletes and officials that are granted medical exemptions, it will be mandatory for the others to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to departure for China, in order to be allowed in the closed-loop management without quarantine.

Han encouraged all participants to get a booster shot given the current complexity of the pandemic around the world. Besides, nucleic acid test is required on a daily basis for participants under closed-loop management and

Chinese service staff directly facing foreigners.

All participants will reside in the Olympic and Paralympic Villages, or Beijing 2022-contracted hotels. They will be allowed to move only between places in the closed loop using dedicated vehicles. Any contact with the general public or anyone outside of the closed loop is prohibited.

Huang Chun, deputy director general of the Pandemic Prevention and Control Office of the Beijing 2022, introduced that the organization has set up sampling sites for COVID-19 screening tests at the Olympic and Paralympic Villages, Beijing 2022-contracted hotels, as well as other accommodations and some of the venues. All sample collection sites will operate from 6:00 to 23:00.

According to him, asymptomatic

infectors will be asked to stay in an isolation facility, while symptomatic ones must be sent to designated hospitals for treatment. They will be discharged from isolation in accordance with the discharge guidelines.

Li Ang, deputy head and spokesperson of the Beijing Municipal Health Commission, said injured participants will be divided into five categories: confirmed and suspicious COVID-19 cases, fever cases within the closed loop, other injuries within the closed loop, fever cases outside of the closed loop, and other injuries outside of the closed loop. They will be received by 18 designated hospitals to avoid cross infection.

Comprehensive clinics have been built in the Olympic and Paralympic Villages in Beijing and Yanqing, which include emergency, rehabilitation, image, traditional Chinese medicine, dental and other 13 departments. After the

games start, the emergency department of the two clinics will be running 24 hours each day, and the other departments 16 hours.

Han said all preparation work for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games has been completed, and the Beijing 2022 will keep following the pandemic situation, respect experts' opinions, maintain close communication with the IOC and the IPC, and keep the control measures flexible.

"It is hoped that participants can understand the importance of the control measures in the playbooks and strictly obey the rules. We have the confidence and resolution to make the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games simple, safe and wonderful under the strong support of the Chinese people and the international society," Han noted.

People's Daily



Six global issues to resolve in 2022

BEIJING

THE YEAR 2021, marked by the rampant COVID-19 pandemic with several kinds of variants, leaves behind a number of unresolved global problems.

In 2021, the recovery of the global economy encountered serious challenges including inflation, deteriorating relations between Russia and the West, and deadlocked Iran nuclear talks. Yet looking ahead to 2022, solutions remain in sight for these seemingly intractable problems.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC & GLOBAL ECONOMY

According to data from the World Health Organization, the cumulative numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths worldwide have exceeded 280 million and 5.41 million respectively, and the Omicron strain has spread to more than 110 countries and regions around the world.

Speeding up vaccination globally is key to ending the pandemic. The distribution group of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Implementation Plan recently called for a 70-percent vaccination coverage rate in all countries around the world by mid-2022. So far, China has provided nearly 2 billion doses of vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organizations, accounting for one third of total global vaccine use outside of China.

While China provides the most vaccines to the outside world, developed countries, including the United States, over-stocked vaccines, posing serious challenges to the equitable distribution of vaccines globally. The immunity gap is currently the biggest obstacle to overcoming the pandemic, with only 5 percent of the population in low-income countries fully vaccinated.

In 2022, whether the international community can unite and cooperate in the pandemic fight and whether the United States and other countries can shoulder

their due responsibilities will to a large extent determine if humankind can overcome the pandemic as soon as possible. The Center for Economics and Business Research, one of Britain's leading economics consultancies, predicts that the world economy will exceed 100 trillion U.S. dollars for the first time in 2022, two years ahead of its previous forecast. However, challenges such as resurging pandemics, supply chain bottlenecks, rising inflation, and recovery differentiation are expected to continue to affect the world economy in 2022. The spillover effect of tightening monetary policies in the United States and other advanced economies may also bring more risks to the world economy.

Due to high inflation, the Fed has further reduced asset purchases and is expected to end bond purchases in March 2022. Furthermore, the Fed will probably raise interest rates three times in 2022, which is expected to have a significant impact on global cross-border capital flows, asset prices, and exchange rate stability. Some emerging markets and developing countries may hence face risks such as capital outflows and currency depreciation that can drag down economic recovery. What's encouraging is that the Chinese economy has maintained steady progress amid uncertainties and continues to inject confidence and momentum into global recovery.

FUTURE OF RUSSIA-WEST TIES & FRENCH-GERMAN "ENGINE"

Servicemen march during the military parade marking the 76th anniversary of the Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War, Russia's term for World War II, on Red Square in Moscow, Russia, May 9, 2021. (Xinhua/Evgeny Sinitsyn) Relations between Russia and Western countries entered the "ice age" in 2021 as they engaged in fierce confrontation over Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently said that Russia had no room to



retreat in a standoff with the United States over Ukraine and would be forced into a tough response unless the West dropped its "aggressive line." The United States has recently hyped the risk of war between Russia and Ukraine, intending to further undermine Russia-Europe relations and strengthen U.S. influence in Europe.

Consequently, Russia-Europe ties have become more complicated. If the European Union (EU) cooperates with the United States in the future and imposes sanctions on the Russian-German Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline project or on the Russian financial system, the EU's own energy security and financial stability are sure to be affected.

Recently, the frequent actions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea have incited strong objection from Russia. If NATO keeps testing Russia's "bottom line," it may cause serious consequences that can affect global strategic stability. While Russia and the United States plan to hold a security dialogue in January 2022, it remains to be seen whether the dialogue can stop the deterioration of bilateral ties since there has long been a lack of mutual trust between the two sides and structural contradictions at the geopolitical level.

A new German government was sworn in at the end of 2021. France is to hold a general election in 2022. Germany and France, regarded as the "twin engines" of the EU, are going through a transitional period.

Battered by the resurgence of the pandemic, the EU has been undergoing a tough economic recovery, with low-carbon strategy and digital economy plans being affected to varying degrees. In the meantime, disputes remain between Britain and France in fisheries and refugees, and divisions between old and new European countries after Brexit will keep expanding.

In the face of these risks and challenges, whether the two "engines" of the EU can work closely with each other will affect the direction and pace of the EU's progress. Europe has started to take more initiative and cut reliance on the United States, finding the latter unreliable following a number of incidents such as eavesdropping on its European allies, a haphazard withdrawal from Afghanistan, and ending France's submarine export deal to Australia.

According to French President Emmanuel Macron, France, which will assume the EU rotating presidency starting from January 2022, aims "to move towards a Europe that is powerful in the world, fully sovereign, free

in its choices and in charge of its own destiny." However, the EU's path to strategic autonomy remains plagued with uncertainties due to internal differences and its dependence on the United States for security.

FUTURE OF IRANIAN ISSUE & U.S. RISKS

Seven prior rounds of indirect talks, conducted via European mediators last year, failed to break the impasse between the United States and Iran. Iran wants all sanctions imposed by the United States and EU to be lifted in a verifiable process. The United States demands that Iran stick to implementing the provisions of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and restrict or freeze related nuclear activities, while threatening to adopt "other options" including military force.

The United States expressed its willingness to return to the Iran nuclear agreement yet continued to impose additional sanctions on Iran at the same time. Such arbitrariness puts both sides in a rigid position that doesn't bode well for the negotiations in 2022. Many analysts believe that the United States remains the main source of uncertainty as the world enters a new year.

As the U.S. midterm elections approach, partisanship is bound to exacerbate, which is sure to intensify racial conflicts and anti-immigrant sentiments. To maintain its hegemony, the United States is likely to continue to carry out "small cliques" diplomacy, interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, and impose more sanctions that can further hinder world peace and development.

The Eurasia Group, the world's leading global political risk research and consulting firm, ranked a divided United States as the top of "The Top Risks for the world in 2021." Looking ahead to 2022, the risks to the world posed by the United States could intensify.

Intense work to restore Iranian nuclear deal under way in Vienna, says Russian envoy

VIENNA

INTENSIVE informal consultations are under way in Vienna within the framework of talks to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program, said Russia's Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov, who heads the Russian delegation at the talks.

"The eighth round of Vienna talks continues. Intensive informal consultations in various formats are under way. The work to lift [US] sanctions [on Iran], on nuclear issues and sequence of steps to restore JCPOA continues," he said.

When asked whether any progress has been made, the head of the Russian delegation replied that it is already visible. "The main stumbling blocks are becoming clearer," he added.

On January 4, the Russian diplomat held three separate working meetings in Vienna. He met with Iran's chief negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani to discuss the main issues that are yet to be settled in the course of the negotiations. Ulyanov also discussed the current situation and possible further steps with European Union coordinator Enrique Mora and US Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley. The eighth round of talks kicked off in Vienna on December 27. The negotiations seek to restore the JCPOA in its original form and bring the US back into the agreement. Following a JCPOA Joint Commission meeting between Iran and the five world powers (Russia, the UK, Germany, China and France) on December 27, 2021, the parties agreed to accelerate the process of drafting the agreement in the working groups.

Agencies

China's first greenhouse gas observation network basically established

CHINA Meteorological Administration (CMA) recently released its first national greenhouse gas observation network directory, which means that after nearly 40 years of construction China's first greenhouse gas observation network has been basically established.

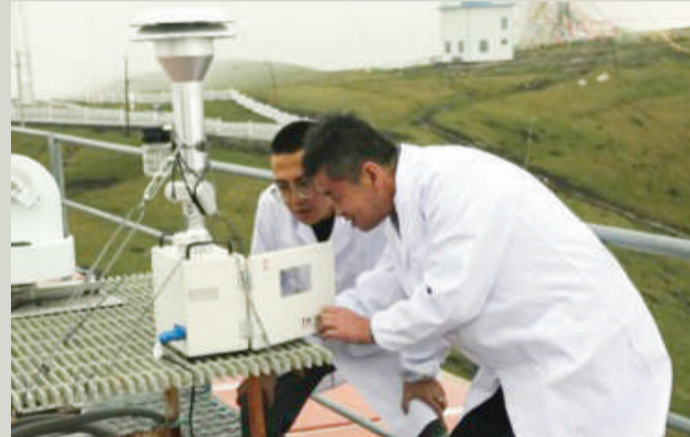
The network is expected to improve China's capacity for observation and assessment of climate change and continuously provide data support for the country's efforts to peak carbon dioxide emissions and achieve carbon neutrality.

The national greenhouse gas observation network directory includes 60 stations focusing on high-precision observation and covering major critical climate areas in the country.

The network is comprised of organizations including the country's national atmospheric baseline observatory, national climate observatory, as well as national and provincial applied meteorological (greenhouse gas) observation stations.

Seven types of greenhouse gases specified in the Kyoto Protocol, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbon, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride, are observed under the network.

China is one of the first countries in the world to carry out background observation



Huang Jianqing (right) and Ren Lei, observers with China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory at Mount Waliguan in north-west China's Qinghai province, carefully repair equipment. File photo

of greenhouse gases. In 1982, the country's first regional atmospheric background monitoring station was put into operation in Beijing.

In 1994, China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory on Mount Waliguan, Hainan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Qinghai province, was established at an altitude of 3,816 meters on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Its monitoring data have enjoyed a great reputation in the world, making China rank high among countries in the world in terms of greenhouse gas observation.

The China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory is one of the 31 global atmospheric baseline stations in the international atmosphere watch network coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

as well as the only continental global atmospheric baseline observatory in the hinterland of Eurasia.

The observatory can measure the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere after adequate mixing. Its data are quite regionally representative.

The observational results of the observatory can represent the concentrations and changes of atmospheric greenhouse gases in the inland regions in the middle latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere.

"The greenhouse gas data from China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory at Mount Waliguan are supporting data of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)," said Zhai Panmao, Co-Chair of the Working Group I that participated in the pro-

duction of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations and chief scientist of the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences (CAMS).

When China started practical exploration of background atmospheric observation and established its first regional atmospheric background monitoring station in Beijing in 1981, the trend of rising carbon dioxide concentrations across the globe became increasingly prominent and global atmospheric baseline observatories were set up in many regions including the North Pole and the South Pole. The hinterland of the Eurasian continent was an exception, which meant that the data provided by existing observation stations then couldn't represent the changes of Earth.

In 1994, China Global Atmosphere Watch Baseline Observatory at Mount Waliguan was put into service, and the WMO officially awarded the station identification number WLG236N10.

Over the past few decades, the atmospheric monitoring stations in the country have evolved into a three-dimensional integrated greenhouse gas monitoring system integrating ground, air, and space observations, further improving China's capacity for observing and responding to climate change. **People's Daily**

Political crisis casts shadow on Sudan's already fragile economy

KHARTOUM

THE impact of the resignation of Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok will spill over from politics to the country's already fragile economic situation, Sudanese analysts said on Tuesday.

In an obvious sign, after months of recovery and stability, the exchange rates of the Sudanese pound started to decline again against major foreign currencies, especially the U.S. dollar, two days after the resignation.

Dealers in the foreign exchange market said the exchange rate of one U.S. dollar registered 457 Sudanese pounds in the parallel market on Tuesday compared to 450 pounds during the past days.

Also, the exchange rate of one Saudi Riyal registered 121 Sudanese pounds, while one UAE Dirham registered 122 pounds and one Euro 516 pounds, the dealers added.

On Tuesday, the Central Bank of Sudan set the exchange price of the U.S. dollar at 439.55 Sudanese pounds for the sale against 436.27 pounds for purchase.

Abdul-Khalik Mahjoub, a Sudanese economic analyst, told Xinhua that "with the continued political crisis, the local currency is expected to continue declining in the coming period of time."

"For over two months, there has been no executive government running the country, and it is natural for the economy and the national currency to decline," he said.

The Sudanese authorities have not yet been able to approve the 2022 budget, and as a result of the scarcity of resources, the authorities are moving towards lifting subsidies from vital sectors, including gases and bread, and also decided to implement a new increase in electricity prices by more than 600 percent.

Recently, Sudan's finance minister Jibril Ibrahim reportedly said, "We have aban-

doned our 2022 growth plans and are building a worst-case scenario via depending on limited resources."

Sudanese economic analyst Ashraf Zain Al-Abidin, speaking to Xinhua, urged the authorities to search for resources that would not burden the citizens.

"The authorities should search for other resources and diversify the sources of revenue. It cannot be at the expense of the average citizens," said Al-Abidin.

"After Hamdok's exit, we do not expect the major countries and international financial institutions to help Sudan," he said, adding that the United States and international agencies suspended aid with hundreds of millions of dollars to Sudan, while Sudan's debt relief process under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative of the International Monetary Fund halted.

Sudan has been undergoing an economic crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, due to which Sudan lost 75 percent of its oil revenues. In 2012, Sudan approved five packages to remove bread and fuel subsidies, which sparked a series of protests.

In December 2018, worsening economic conditions sparked popular protests across Sudan, leading to the ouster of former President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The transitional government, which was formed in 2019 and headed by Hamdok, began implementing a structural reform, monitored by the International Monetary Fund, in a bid to get exemption from foreign debts.

On Jan. 2, Hamdok announced his resignation in the wake of a political crisis in the country.

Xinhua

Tokyo stocks close sharply higher on 1st trading day of year as weaker

TOKYO

JAPAN'S benchmark Nikkei stock index closed sharply higher Tuesday, the first trading day of 2022, as U.S. shares rising overnight and a weak yen boosted risk appetite and saw exporters advance.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 510.08 points, or 1.77 percent, from Thursday to close the day at 29,301.79, marking its highest closing level since Nov. 25.

The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, meanwhile, added 37.89 points, or 1.90 percent, to finish at 2,030.22. Traders here said

that along with exporters gaining on the yen's soft tone versus the U.S. dollar, technology-oriented issues found favor following Wall Street's solid overnight showing.

"The U.S. market's strong finish lifted investor sentiment in Japan. Investors tend to buy heavyweights when the sentiment is strong.

That explains why chip-related shares led the gains," Kentaro Hayashi, a senior strategist at Daiwa Securities, was quoted as saying.

Local brokers pointed out that the U.S. dollar hitting its highest level since January 2017 in the upper 115 yen zone, on hopes the U.S. Federal Re-

serve will hike its interest rate at an early juncture, saw risk appetite improve and stocks widely exposed to overseas markets snapped up.

Export-related issues tend to find favor when the yen hit its weak versus its major counterparts as overseas profits are augmented when repatriated and overall competitiveness enhanced, dealers here also said.

"(The U.S. dollar) was also pushed up on increased risk appetite, with investors motivated to buy the U.S. dollar in tandem with a surge in Tokyo stocks," Yuji Saito, head of the foreign exchange department at Credit Agricole Corporate



& Investment Bank, was quoted as saying.

Official figures showing Monday that 782 new COVID-19 cases were reported

nationwide, with Tokyo's tally on the same day topping the 100-mark for the first time in about three months, failed to dampen the market mood,

traders said, as the highly transmissible Omicron variant is reportedly less likely to cause carriers to be hospitalized.

By the close of play, issues that rose outpaced those that fell by 1,625 to 494 on the First Section, while 64 ended the day unchanged, with marine transportation, transportation equipment and insurance issues gaining the most. Among exporters rising on the yen's weakness, Suzuki Motor gained 2.1 percent, while Mazda Motor climbed 5.8 percent. Nissan Motor, meanwhile, ended the day accelerating 6.2 percent.

Heavily weighted chip issues advanced, with Advantest and Shin-Etsu Chemical both closing around 3.7 percent higher, while Tokyo Electron added 3.2 percent by the close.

Nikkei heavyweight Softbank Group weighed on the market, however, ending the day 0.9 percent lower. On the main section on Tuesday, 1,109.93 million shares changed hands, rising from Thursday's volume of 729.84 million shares.

The turnover on the first trading day of the year came to 2,759.86 billion yen (23.84 billion U.S. dollars).

Xinhua



Vijana basketball team's players take part in training at JMK Youth Park courts in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Mapinduzi Cup tournament a regular derby event, now

By Correspondent John Kimbute

FANS of the city archivals, Simba SC and Yanga, and others countrywide are now used to expecting the two sides to meet for the ultimate stages of the Mapinduzi Cup tournament, which used to be a little off the mark in the past but has steadily gained strength.

The reason is a partial eclipse of the regional club challenge cup, otherwise known as the Kagame Cup, as it doesn't have the aura it used to have earlier.

Even with Mapinduzi Cup, its regional representation has declined over the past year or so, to an entirely Mainland-Isles tournament.

Still one has to scan a bit further to figure out why the city giants no longer take turns to feature in the tournament, where one side left the other to play, depending on which side needed backup honours for that year or at that moment.

At a time that the league title was changing hands more frequently or perhaps more predictably, the seemingly weaker side would make a point of featuring in the Isles tournament with chances of lifting the cup, adding to its local prestige.

In earlier decades the pivotal post-league tourney was the East African club championship, which was broadened and started losing its competitive sparkle.

That is part of the explanation for the newfound interest in Mapinduzi Cup, that it is now more local than it used to be earlier, or put differently, the more localized the competition, the more it appears that winning it becomes an interesting issue.

The reason is that the likely winners as either of the city giants or their next of kin, Azam FC, who has in the past won the Premier League but hasn't shown the consistency it



Yanga's players and technical bench members celebrate with a trophy once the side won last year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament with a victory over Simba SC in the final, which took place in Zanzibar.

requires to remain at the top.

If any other club wins the tourney it would come close to a miracle, surely.

So the Mapinduzi Cup tournament is adding up to events where the city derby is assured, namely two such events in the premier league, a possible encounter in the FA Cup where both to reach the top, or the semifinals, each apart from the Charity Shield.

In large measure, the Zanzibar event is replacing the regional event as a marginally outward bound tournament, though there is still some interrogation to make as to why regional sides left the tournament, and last year plus this year it is localized.

One reason could be participation awards, where there is a tendency for minimal compensation for players at the club and national levels, such that clubs find it without interest to use the time to travel and obtain paltry sums thereof.

In that case, poor compensations of teams participating in the Isles tourney have the paradoxical effect of making it necessary for the city rivals to go there, implying that they see

the lack of foreign competition somewhat favourably.

There is no visible prestige in winning over Gor Mahia, Sofapaka, or Big Bullets except if it is in a rewarding tournament.

Now strictly speaking the Mapinduzi Cup is not that rewarding for players of the two city sides or their managements for that matter, but it becomes part of an outreach event to their Isles fans and an extra delicacy for their city fans as well as upcountry, resetting narratives.

Note on the apparent decline of regional club championship as arising from its lack of standing in any of the participating countries and internationally, as the European circuit is now part of local reflexes, whether it is in following up those matches on television or in regular betting.

While nearly all soccer-loving youths know players of leading English Premier League sides by name, scarcely anyone knows one or two players at Big Bullets or Sofapaka, in which case entrances are also paltry (as there are no annual tickets valid all the season) and the soccer authorities tend

to put the bar rather high for entrance fees.

But the issue is that without seasonal tickets no one is bound to a sitting spot at the stadium, no sense of gathering or community is created in any competition, save collective feelings in an exciting city derby, and little else.

It is similarly possible that fans in the neighbouring countries were not even watching their teams participate in the Zanzibar event, in which case there was little outreach effect even if say Gor Mahia or Kampala City Council FC wins the cup.

Soccer is an extrovert's game, an event of showmanship where praise and disputation are central to the motivation of players, otherwise, they would need to be beefed up with substantial amounts of cash to spend a week in the sun for little or no sporting reason.

In that case, the Isles soccer authorities could perhaps look for auxiliary sponsorship from afar, as Gulf merchants might not be in a position to throw money into a tournament devoted to reliving the 1964 events on the Sultan.

Yanga signs MoU with firm for producing digital cards

By Guardian Reporter

YANGA has today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an internet service provider, Kilinet, and National Internet Data Centre (NIDC), for producing digital cards for the outfit's members.

The digital cards, the club said, will be a gateway to a new system of operations at the outfit.

Yanga's spokesperson, Haji Manara, said yesterday the new system has been approved by the government, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), and other institutions.

Manara noted the changes will be completed within six months.

The official said: "We have started the process of making changes in Yanga's mode of operations. The process is independent and not clouded by either slander or compromise. The government, its institutions, and TFF have given consent to this process."

"Yanga is now officially in a membership system, with members owning 51 percent cent of the club's shares, whereas the investors will own 49 percent."

"We however have been given six months to complete this process, the changes in leadership and operations, as well as evaluating Yanga's assets," he added.

Yanga's Registration Committee's vice-chairman, Hersi Ally Said, said: "It is a state-of-the-art digital card that will bear the name of the member and his photograph. We are now officiating the start of this project."

He added: "As for the team's fans, let us now go and add value to our team. No one is allowed to spark a dialogue in Yanga's chat group unless they have made the transaction and showed us that they have paid for the membership card, which costs 29,000/-."

"We do not want members who cannot contribute to the team," he said.

MultiChoice Tanzania launches new campaign for customers

By Guardian Correspondent

MULTICHOICE Tanzania has launched a new campaign, dubbed 'Panda Tukupandishe' (Step Up), for the firm's customers.

The company's Head of Customer Value Management, Hilda Nakajumo, said during the campaign's launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday it centers on an upgrade to more world-class entertainment on DStv at no extra cost.

"This is what DStv Poa, Bomba, Shangwe and Compact packages' subscribers can look forward to when they upgrade from today (yesterday) for a limited period," Hilda noted.

She stated that DStv customers can still Choose Joy and wipe away the January blues in the New Year with the exciting 'Step Up' offer.

According to her, customers, who either upgrade or reconnect to the next highest package, will get a further boost to a higher package at no additional cost.

Hilda noted: "This means a step up to more channels and more entertainment."

She disclosed: "We understand that this time of year can be demanding on pockets, what with school fees and recovering from the festive season."

"We see this offer as an opportunity to lighten the burden and add value as it is our mission to enrich our customers' lives with entertainment," Hilda stated.

She pointed out DStv customers on the 'Poa', 'Bomba', 'Shangwe' and 'Compact' bouquets



MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Customer Value Management, Hilda Nakajumo, speaks at the launch of the firm's new campaign, dubbed 'Panda Tukupandishe' (Step Up), at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

need to either upgrade or pay for the package above their current package to experience what is on offer in the package that is higher than the one they have.

The next few months, she stated, have something for everyone on DStv.

Upgraded customers will be able to enjoy world-class sporting action together with original quality local content, interna-

tional movies, series, telenovelas, music shows, news, and kids' entertainment on the 'Step Up' offer.

Hilda said 'Compact' customers who upgrade to Compact Plus will be upgraded to Premium, where they can experience the best of the best entertainment.

She noted: "They should watch a brand-new spooky sitcom, Ghosts on M-Net about a young

couple who inherit a beautiful country house, only to find it inhabited by many of the previous residents."

"The second season of the procedural favourite, Law & Order: Organised Crime, starts on M-Net in January."

Hilda disclosed that young viewers should tune in for a kid's movie, which is also shown on M-Net.

The official stated thrill-seekers, who upgrade from the 'Shangwe' package to 'Compact', will have access to 'Compact Plus' and be able to catch the Discovery Channel's new documentary series, Push the Line.

"The series will explore some of the world's top tight-rope walkers, who push one another to take on the craziest places to break records."

"On iMagic, viewers have a chance to catch Women of the Movement, a series that chronicles the American civil rights movement as told by the women behind it."

"The 'Bomba' customers who upgrade to 'Shangwe' will be able to sample the world of 'Compact', which will allow them to enjoy the English Premier League."

"Movie lovers will catch all drama of the religious (and entertaining) households of Pastors Wives, which returns for a second season with three new cast members on 'Honey'."



FILE - Tiger Woods fist bumps his son Charlie Woods on the 16th green during the second round of the PNC Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, in Orlando, Fla. Speculation for 2022 starts with where Woods will show up next on the PGA Tour. (AP Photo)

New Year starts with a familiar question about Tiger Woods

KAPALUA, Hawaii

THE largest winners-only field ever assembled at Kapalua can make it seem as though getting to paradise isn't as difficult as it used to be.

Try telling that to Dustin Johnson, who will not be starting a new year on Maui for only the second time since he joined the PGA Tour in 2008. The locals have grown accustomed to Johnson sauntering into the Honolua Store at dawn to order his egg whites and brown rice.

Winning is hard, even for the best.

Equally difficult is predicting how a new year will unfold.

Strange as it would have seemed a year ago that Johnson would not

be part of the 39-man field at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, consider who is here. Phil Mickelson, who 14 times over the last two decades turned down his invitation to the winners-only event, at age 51 found 8 million reasons to play.

By winning the Player Impact Program and its \$8 million bonus, Lefty was required to add a new tournament to his schedule. So he decided to play golf on Maui.

Where will it lead? Here are five topics to ponder for the new year, which starts with a question that seems to repeat itself each year: What next for Tiger Woods?

TIGER SIGHTING
The Daily Mail published photos of Woods

this week at Los Angeles International Airport wearing a hoodie that most appropriately read, "Straight Outta Ice Bath."

The road to recovery from multiple injuries to his right leg in a Feb. 23 car crash remains long. All it took was three days playing with his son in the PNC Championship, where they finished second, to get the golf world buzzing about his next comeback.

The only certainty is that Woods won't be playing a full schedule. The swing hasn't left him. But he was allowed to ride in a cart at the PNC Championship, and the format was a scramble. That's a long way from anything remotely resembling serious competition.

Eriksen targets '22 WC return, mulls club future

COPENHAGEN

DENMARK international Christian Eriksen said on Tuesday that his goal was to play in this year's World Cup in Qatar, with reports in England suggesting he could also make a return to the Premier League amid interest from several teams.

Eriksen, 29, hasn't played since suffering a cardiac arrest against Finland in last year's European Championship in Copenhagen, when he received life-saving treatment on the pitch.

The former Internazionale, Tottenham Hotspur and Ajax playmaker said he intended to return to football to play for Denmark at the World Cup, but his interview with a Danish broadcaster posed many questions, with his future still up in the air.

The Dane recently had his contract terminated by Inter after having a heart-starter device implanted following his dramatic collapse. Such devices are not permitted in Italy and his career there was effectively ended.

"My goal is to play in the World Cup in Qatar, that's been my mindset all along. Whether I'll be picked is another thing, but it's my dream to come back. So until then I'm just going to play and prove that I'm back at the same level," he said.

Eriksen said that his heart was "not an obstacle," adding that the event at Copenhagen's Parken Stadium was unlikely to be repeated.

"My dream is to rejoin the national team and play at Parken again and prove that it was a one-timer. Again, it's up to the manager to assess my level," he said.

The interview could be seen as a come-and-get-me plea from the soft-spoken 29-year-old, but his options for a return remain uncertain.

His former teammate Daley Blind had a similar device fitted and is playing at Ajax, the Dutch club where the mercurial Eriksen broke through before joining Premier League side Tottenham, and a number of clubs are likely to be in the market for a player of Eriksen's ability.

He is exactly the kind of creative spark needed at Premier League strugglers Newcastle United, who are awash with money after a recent takeover by a Saudi consortium.

Eriksen knows, however, he will have to convince any prospective employer that he is fit enough to play.

(Agencies)

Data weighs heavily as football transfer window opens

LONDON

GOALS do wonders for a striker's value, but in the January transfer window it may be the hard-running, tireless midfielder that is all the rage, due to data becoming an increasingly decisive factor in buying players.

Liverpool are renowned for relying on data when delving into the transfer market as they operate on a tighter budget than their Premier League title rivals Manchester City and Chelsea.

It is not just clubs but players too who benefit from consulting data, as was the case when Kevin de Bruyne signed a new contract with Manchester City last year.

Using data, the Belgian midfielder demonstrated to City he was not only worth re-signing as the statistics showed he was their most influential player, he also secured a salary increase.

The field of companies vying to supply data to clubs all over the world is becoming a highly competitive sector.

Statsbomb 360 signed a contract last March to become Liverpool's official supplier, while Italian data company Soccerment are another fast-growing player.

Aldo Comi, Soccerment's co-founder -- who is bound by confidentiality as to his clients' activities -- told AFP he saw a gap in the market that could be exploited.

"I could see that the main assets in football, the players, were mispriced," said Comi, who co-founded Soccerment in 2019.

"Just as you use data to make better decisions in any other sector, we saw an opportunity at Soccerment to use data analytics to help clubs exploit the inefficiencies that are inherent in the football market."

The former City financier says some clubs have proved adept at "outsourcing" the market.

"We've seen clubs do this extremely well, Brentford are a prime example of a club who have made data the foundation of their recruitment," he said.

"The challenge for the rest of Europe is to catch up."

"Clubs in Serie A and Spain are still lagging behind and denying themselves a significant competitive advantage."

- 'Little bit different' -

The data, supplied by OptaStats and fed into Soccerment's algorithms, is staggering both in its depth and in its reach as it covers lower leagues across Europe.

Comi says the advantage to clubs of having in-depth data is the considerable savings they can make by not having to hire a bevy of scouts to unearth the bargains or "hidden gems" in the lower leagues.

"Using data, the whole process becomes smarter, faster and cheaper," he said.

AFP

Egypt will lean on Salah at African showpiece

CAIRO

MOHAMED Salah, in prolific form for Liverpool this season, will lead Egypt against bogey team Nigeria in a blockbuster Group D opener at the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

Salah leads all scorers in the Premier League this season with 16 goals, including one in the 2-2 draw with Chelsea on Sunday, his last match before leaving for west Africa.

Although Egypt have won a record seven Cup of Nations titles, they have triumphed only twice in seven clashes with three-time champions Nigeria in the competition ahead of the January 11 showdown.

Here, AFP Sport puts the spotlight on the four Group D contenders. The group winners and runners-up are assured of last-16 places while the best four third-placed teams from the six groups also qualify.

***Egypt**
The Pharaohs' Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz has backed Aston Villa forward Mah-



Mohamed Salah

moud "Trezeguet" Hassan to shine at the Cup of Nations although he has not played a full senior match since mid-April due to injury.

The 27-year-old was an unused substitute in three Premier League matches during December before coming off the bench for a cameo appearance against Brentford.

"Trezeguet is an expe-

rienced and good player," former Real Madrid manager and twice Manchester United assistant manager Queiroz said. "I am sure he will be a key figure for us."

Unlike most Cameroon-bound teams, Egypt will rely heavily on home-based stars, choosing 19 and only six abroad, including Salah and Arsenal mid-

fielder Mohamed Elneny.

***Nigeria**

A chaotic build-up for Nigeria has included a change of coaches, the loss of a star forward because they requested his release too late, and the withdrawal of several key players due to Covid and injuries.

German Gernot Rohr was sacked after the Super Eagles scraped into the final round of 2022 World Cup qualifying

and Augustine Eguavoen, who played for Nigeria at the 1994 World Cup, has been placed in temporary charge.

He will have to do without in-form Emmanuel Dennis because Premier League club Watford say Nigeria did not alert them in time that they were selecting him, and coronavirus has ruled out another regular scorer, Victor Osimhen of Italian club Napoli.

But Nigeria are never more dangerous than when all seems lost. They possess a squad capable of winning the Cup of Nations, or making a humiliating last-16 exit.

***Guinea-Bissau**

The Djurtus (wild dogs), for decades an African football lightweight, have reached the finals a third consecutive time under coach Baciro Cande. Gritty fighters in qualifiers, the west Africans have struggled at the higher level of the finals, securing just one point from each previous appearance.

But a team skipped by goalkeeper Jonas Mendes will be hopeful of a first win when they start against Sudan, a nation they hammered 4-2

in a World Cup qualifier in Omdurman last September.

Mendes and forwards Piqueti and Frederic Mendy were part of the 2017 and 2019 campaigns and Porto full-back Nanu and midfielder Moreto Cassama, from French Ligue 1 club Reims, are potential stars.

***Sudan**

One-time champions Sudan are back after a 10-year absence having used aerial power to upset South Africa in a key qualifier.

The Jediane Falcons reached the 2012 quarter-finals, but it is difficult to imagine them repeating that feat under new coach Burhan Tia.

He succeeded Frenchman Hubert Velud, who paid the price for winless World Cup and Arab Cup group campaigns.

Salah-less Egypt hammered Sudan 5-0 in the Arab Cup while the chances of repeating a 4-0 whipping of Nigeria in 1963 are wafer thin. That leaves Guinea-Bissau as the only realistic hope of a victory.

AFP predicts: 1. Egypt, 2. Nigeria, 3. Guinea-Bissau, 4. Sudan

AFP

Doubts grow over Rangnick as Man United struggle for an identity

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE are two ways that a manager can impress the players when he walks into a new dressing room for the first time, but Ralf Rangnick is failing on both fronts as he grapples with the challenges as interim boss at Manchester United.

Rangnick either has to walk in as a proven winner, somebody whose reputation goes before him, or make his mark on the training ground and with his tactical acumen. Six games into Rangnick's spell in charge, there has been precious little sign of the so-called "new manager bounce."

Three wins, two draws and most recently a 1-0 defeat against Wolves at Old Trafford on Monday are the unimpressive statistics, but there has also been a worrying inability to motivate a group of highly talented players into a functioning unit.

Add in the candid comments of United defender Luke Shaw, who spoke of a lack of togetherness within the squad before adding, "maybe the manager can bring some more ideas of what he wants on the pitch." It's clear that Rangnick is already under pressure to raise his game as much as he is to raise performances from the players.

The players, of course, will bear the brunt of criticism, and United's have underperformed for so long now that it is inevitable they will continue to be scrutinised. But the players need to be inspired and motivated, so all eyes are now on Rangnick to react.

Footballers, no matter which level they play at, don't take long to make up their minds about a new boss. One former player, a multiple title winner, told ESPN that the first 15 seconds of a



Ralf Rangnick

new manager's introductory message is enough for most players to decide whether he is the real deal or "just another salesman who talks a better game than he delivers."

Fifteen seconds is perhaps pushing it to extremes, but footballers largely want their manager to improve them, keep them focused and, most important of all, make them win, so any doubt over their boss' credentials can only damage the prospects of success.

If a manager doesn't have trophy-winning credentials on his CV, he has to make a difference with his tactical approach, which enables him to quickly make the team better and improve players on an individual basis. But after just six weeks in charge at United, Rangnick is struggling with the latter hav-

ing been unable to win over the doubters with his reputation.

One source close to a prominent member of United's first-team squad told ESPN that the player "had to Google" Rangnick when his appointment was confirmed at the end of November. That's not necessarily an

indictment of the player because, while many fans or bloggers might know Rangnick's career path in intimate detail, footballers are largely only focused on the day-to-day of training and playing and not so inclined to study the movers and shakers in the game beyond their own

sphere.

Had United appointed Antonio Conte, Zinedine Zidane, Mauricio Pochettino or Brendan Rodgers -- all of whom were discussed by the United board around the time of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's departure -- none of the players would have had to Google the new man.

Having researched Rangnick's background, the United players would soon have found a coach who has done well developing teams and players at the midrange level of the game in Germany with clubs such as Schalke 04, TSG Hoffenheim and RB Leipzig, but hasn't coached a top club or won a major trophy. On that basis, Rangnick had to make a swift impression with his tactical nous, but after six games in charge -- a run disrupted by a COVID-19 outbreak at United -- it has been anything but convincing.

Tactically, United have tried to press high up the pitch in some games and noticeably failed to do it in others. Against Newcastle and Wolves, they started with a 4-2-2-2 formation which led to two woeful first-half performances before changes were made at half-time. Against Wolves on Monday, United were over-run in midfield before switching from 4-2-2-2 to 3-5-2, which only margin-

ally stemmed the tide before Bruno Lage's team sealed victory with a late Joao Moutinho goal.

When a manager's tactical plan fails to work, it leads to doubt and confusion among the players. The manager is supposed to bring clarity, but Rangnick has fallen short in that area so far.

After Solskjaer was criticised for leaving the players under-coached by a backroom team largely populated with former United players or staff who had worked with him at Cardiff City and Molde, Rangnick has gambled on his credibility by hiring two coaches -- Chris Armas and Ewan Sharp -- whose previous experience was limited to spells in MLS with New York Red Bulls and Toronto FC.

A source told ESPN that some players have been overwhelmed by Rangnick's early impact, on the pitch and with his recruitment, but that he also needs time to overcome a disrupted December in order to assert himself in the job.

Yet the early momentum that all new coaches want -- and need -- has pretty much gone before it even arrived for Rangnick. From this point on, he is battling for results and credibility. That is never a good place for a manager to be in.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Egypt will lean on Salah at African showpiece

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Dodoma Jiji FC's head coach, Mbwana Makata.

Dodoma Jiji FC coach sheds light on his longevity in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MBWANA Makata may be the only coach who has spent the longest time at a club than any other coach in Tanzania since his side was promoted to the Premier League last season.

So far the Dodoma Jiji FC head coach has led the outfit for three seasons. It is an outfit he started serving in the Championship (formerly First Division League (FDL)).

Dodoma Jiji FC ended as the FDL Group A winners and thereafter won the league's final against Mwanza's Gwambina FC.

Both sides won a promotion to Mainland Premier League. They were joined by Ihefu SC of Mbeya in the domestic top-flight.

Gwambina FC and Ihefu SC are, this season, featuring in the Championship.

However, no team in the Premier League has been with a coach since last season.

Famous domestic outfits, Simba SC and Yanga, are regularly changing coaches.

Since last season, Yanga has changed three coaches, Zlatko Krmpotic, Cedric Kaze, and later Nasreddine Nabi.

Simba SC has had four tacticians, Sven Vanderbroek, followed by Didier Gomes that was succeeded by Hiti-mana Thiery who later paved way for Pablo Franco.

Apart from the football giants in the country prolonging the tendency, the coaches who helped Gwambina FC and Ihefu SC win promotion to top-flight have seen many changes in their outfits' benches while failing to withstand the Premier League's pressure.

Gwambina FC has been coached by three tacticians, starting with Fulgence Novatus who assisted Athuman Bilali 'Billo', and then Mohamed Badru that was succeeded by Mellis Medo.

Ihefu SC went through the Championship playoffs under Maka Mwalwisi's tutelage, the side later parted ways with him and brought in Zubeir Katwila who is still with the club in the Championship.

Makata opened up on reasons for staying at the club and his record of helping several clubs secure promotion to the Premier League.

He stated the cooperation he has on and off the field, his patience, his harmony with the players, and the trust of his leaders are the reasons that have kept him at the club.

He noted there is a lot of success he has had, with the most notable being his ability to help the side maintain its place in the Premier League, as well as showcasing determination.

The coach disclosed despite missing out on the top three positions last season, the team did not give up and it keeps on seeking to move to a better position.

"I have been successful because I helped various clubs win promotion, now a good number of them are not there as they were relegated, we have continued to exist and show resoluteness," Makata said.

The coach who has helped five clubs secure promotion to Premier League, including Mji Mpwawa FC, Twiga Sports, Alliance FC, Polisi Tanzania, and Dodoma Jiji FC, stated the biggest secret is to fight regardless of the difficulty of the league.

He noted the record and honour are part of his joys in his football career and that the war is still raging as he promises a lot for Dodoma Jiji FC this season.

Dodoma Jiji FC now has posted 16 points from 11 games, winning four ties, posting draws in four games, and conceding four defeats.

Simba SC midfielder delighted by collectiveness in squad



Sadio Kanoute

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Malian midfielder, Sadio Kanoute, has expressed his ambitions for this season's Mapinduzi Cup, which is taking place in Zanzibar, noting he will give his all to see to it his team excels in the tournament.

He stated: "If we play collectively, everyone in the team will be eager to score at least one goal to ensure our side collects three points, move to semi-finals, and later make it to the final."

"While playing in central defensive midfield, I have to work with defenders to

make sure we do not concede goals," Kanoute added.

The midfielder opened his goal account for Simba SC in a 2-1 win over Azam FC in an NBC Premier League tie that took place in Dar es Salaam last week.

Kanoute scored his first goal of the season with a header in the 68th minute to make his way into the list of foreign professionals who have scored in this season's Premier League.

The league has been temporarily

suspended because of the Mapinduzi Cup tournament.

Kanoute said good coordination with his teammates is the secret of the quality he showed in the game against Azam FC.

The footballer pointed out: "I have started the year well by scoring, I was very happy to be among the players who fought for the team to get the first and memorable victory for the New Year."

He noted: "I was able to open a scoring record in the New Year. This is a blessing and I hope to have a good continuation in the league and other tournaments ahead of us, there is nothing better for a player than scoring a goal."

The towering midfielder said apart from the victory they got in the game, he was impressed with the way each of his club's players made sure they did well in last week's game even though they failed to take advantage of many opportunities which went their way.

Kanoute has had showcased solid performance in the NBC Premier League. He has been playing well since he started donning Simba SC kits.

He has been calm in the midfield, working well with the fellow midfielder, Jonas Mkude, to protect their club's defense.

Kanoute made his professional debut with the Mali national team in a 0-0 draw with Mauritania in African Nations Championship's qualifiers on September 21, 2019.

LeBron, Monk lead Lakers' late rally past Kings, 122-114

LOS ANGELES

LeBRON James scored 14 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter, Malik Monk added 11 of his 24 in the final seven minutes, and the Los Angeles Lakers held off the Sacramento Kings 122-114 on Tuesday night for their fourth win in five games.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored 19 points for the Lakers, who rallied from a late seven-point deficit with one big basket after another from Monk and James.

Monk hit six 3-pointers in yet another impressive offensive game, and Russell Westbrook added 19 points and drew a key late charge as the Lakers climbed back above .500.

Westbrook played 34 minutes in his first turnover-free game since March 14, 2016. The Lakers committed only five total turnovers, allowing them to take 16 more shots than Sacramento.

"That's the reason we won the game," James said. "We did not turn the ball over tonight. When we get shots at the goal, we can be very dangerous. We weren't shooting the ball well at all, (but) because we didn't turn the ball over, we caught on fire."

De'Aaron Fox scored 30 points and Buddy Hield added 26 with seven 3-pointers for the Kings, who scored 11 consecutive points early in the fourth quarter before wilting down the stretch.

Harrison Barnes had 14 points for Sacramento, which had won three straight over the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Tyrese Haliburton's jumper put the Kings up with three minutes to play, but Monk's 3-pointer and James' layup put the Lakers back ahead 114-110. Westbrook and James added layups as LA held on by scor-



Sacramento Kings guard Buddy Hield (24) shoots next to Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) during the first half of an NBA League's game on Tuesday in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

ing on nine consecutive possessions down the stretch.

"You've got to give (James) credit," Barnes said. "He made some shots, but as a collective we could have done a better job making him work for some of those shots. In this league, it's hard to guard one-on-one, especially great players."

Dwight Howard had a season-high 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Lakers, who beat a Pacific Division opponent at home for the first time in six tries this season.

Despite an unimpressive start, James extended a torrid stretch that began before the holidays and included seven consecutive 30-point games before he only produced 26 Sunday

against Minnesota.

LA also got another boost from Monk, who has scored at least 15 points in six straight games.

"I always think that I can do that for any team I'm on, and I'm ready for whatever happens," Monk said.

"We're short a couple of people, but even when they come back, I'm still going to be ready and still going to produce."

Meanwhile, in Cleveland, Ja Morant scored six of his 26 points in the final 30 seconds, including the go-ahead basket, allowing the Memphis Grizzlies to extend their winning streak to six with a 110-106 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

Morant gave Memphis a 106-104

lead with a double-pump short jumper, then stripped the ball from Brandon Goodwin and scored on Cleveland's subsequent possession with 22 seconds remaining.

After Lauri Markkanen's layup pulled the Cavaliers within 108-106, Morant made a pair of free throws to lock up Memphis' 10th road victory in its last 11 games. The Grizzlies won 118-104 at Brooklyn one night earlier.

Darius Garland had 27 points and 10 assists in his return to Cleveland's lineup after missing four games in the NBA's health and safety protocols, while Jarrett Allen had 22 points and 12 rebounds. The Cavaliers have dropped four of five.

AP

Flexibles by David Chikoko

