



### National Pg 4 Mwinyi returns forms



### National Pg 5 TANAPA drills guides as tourists flock in



### National Pg 6 Majaliwa for election campaigns in Siha



### National Pg 7 Grapes viewed as strategic crop



## JPM seeks to finish up infrastructure renewal in regions

By Henry Mwangonde, Nzega

CCM presidential candidate John Magufuli yesterday highlighted infrastructure projects his government implemented in Tabora Region in the past five years to woo voters to reelect him in next month's polls.

Addressing thousands who turned up at his rally in Nzega, Dr Magufuli took time to list down a number of infrastructure projects undertaken by his government which he said gobbled up about 600bn/- in the region alone.

He said that when he came into office in 2015, infrastructure was abysmal in the district, and that was the reason for disbursing funds to construct a bridge at Mbogwe which is now nearing completion.

"I have come here to request you to give me another five years so that we should finalize these few remaining projects which will take Nzega district and Tabora region to another level of development," he declared.

The president promised the thousands of voters that if they vote for him for another term, he will implement the remaining projects at a high speed.



**In 2015 we had only two wards with electricity but now all the wards and villages have electricity as a result of the leadership of President Magufuli**

He said that the standard gauge railway section from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma will cost about 70trn/- which he said will come from the government's own sources. His government wants to create a donor dependency-free Tanzania, he stated.

One among major intention is the Lake Victoria water project which is expected to benefit over 50,000 residents of Tabora region, the candidate emphasized.

Earlier, CCM Deputy Secretary General Rodrick Mvogolo told the gathered voters that the party's 2021/2025 manifesto aims at transforming the agriculture sector into a more productive one, among other issues.

The parliamentary aspirant for the constituency, Hussein Bashe said a lot has happened in his constituency in the past five years.

The district council used to collect 800m/- in revenue in 2015 but now it is collecting nearly 2bn/-

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Ten envoys hoping for, urge free polls

By Guardian Reporter



Tundu Lissu, the opposition Chadema's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency, addresses a campaign rally in Shinyanga yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Lissu: I will uplift peasants, herders

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA presidential candidate Tundu Lissu yesterday promised that if elected he will transform the agro-livestock sector so that farmers and pastoralists benefit immensely from their activities.

Addressing a public rally in Shinyanga, Lissu said that the majority of small scale farmers and pastoralists who make up over 75 per cent of Tanzanians live in poverty, a condition



**I want you to elect only leaders who you are going to address various challenges facing the country**

Chadema is going to address and reverse.

The candidate said that if elected, his government will address challenges facing artisanal miners to ensure that Tanzanians become major beneficiaries of their country's natural wealth.

He told the gathering: "This is in line with Chadema's election manifesto which prioritizes improving people's livelihoods. Farming and livestock keeping are major areas of earning livelihoods and both these need to be revamped."

"In my leadership I want to see pastoralists and farmers live better life contrary to the current situation where the two groups live miserable lives, with pastoralists having nowhere to feed their animals," he said.

"We will come up with a formula to enable pastoralists to send take animals into national

TURN TO PAGE 2

TEN foreign diplomatic missions in Tanzania yesterday released a joint statement expressing hope that the ongoing electioneering process will be transparent, leading to a free, fair and credible outcome.

Released by the heads of missions of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, the statement called for enhanced transparency through means like internal and external observation, broad, free and equitable media coverage, as well as clear and fair adjudication of disputes.

These conditions will strengthen the legitimacy of the whole electoral process among Tanzanian citizens, the diplomatic reminder underlined. "We call on all stakeholders to commit to ensuring a secure environment for all contestants, respect for the rule of law and full impartiality of the institutions and authorities in charge of managing the elections," it reads.

"As representatives of our countries we recall our longstanding interest in and support for development and democracy in Tanzania based on our long historic and close relationships," the envoys noted.

They expressed hope and anticipation that the process will see pledges for free and fair



**We hope that both men and women, the young and the elderly, will have equal opportunities to participate throughout the remaining part of the process**

elections come true, underlining their support for the democratic process and the functioning of democratic institutions in the country.

"We hope that both men and women, the young and the elderly, will have equal opportunities to participate throughout the remaining part of the process," it emphasized.

"Now that the 2020 electoral campaign has started, the Heads of Missions of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland in Tanzania extend our best wishes to all candidates contesting for the presidential, parliamentary and council positions," they said.

Tanzanians go to the polls on October 28 where the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament and the Zanzibar House of Representatives as well as ward councilors will be elected.

Leading presidential contenders kicked off their campaigns on Tuesday with candidates touring various regions in a marathon up to October 27, ahead of the voting day.

President John Magufuli is seeking reelection for his second and final term, with his serious challengers being Tundu Lissu of the main opposition party, Chadema and former Foreign Affairs minister Bernard Membe of ACT-Wazalendo. The incumbent who launched his campaign with rallies in Dodoma and Singida regions banks on various development projects he has initiated, especially infrastructure, to woo voters into giving him another five years.

On the other hand, Lissu and Membe who launched their bids in Mwanza and Lindi respectively, punch holes in President Magufuli's first five years, mainly faulting him on civil liberties and democratic space.

## Membe promises liberty for all state executive agencies

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilwa

ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate Bernard Membe yesterday said if elected he will focus on strengthening institutions of governance and cut powers of the presidency.

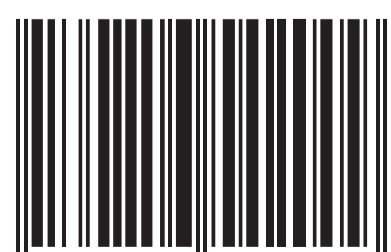
Speaking at Kilwa Masoko in Lindi Region, Membe said he will give more powers to state organs and other constitutional office holders below the top political office.

"For instance, appointing (city, district, town)

TURN TO PAGE 2



Bernard Membe, the Alliance for Change and Transparency's (ACT-Wazalendo) candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency, addresses a campaign rally at Kilwa Masoko in Lindi Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Enock Charles



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Dr John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election for the Tanzanian Presidency in the upcoming General Election as the ruling CCM's flag-bearer, is welcomed to Nzeza District in Tabora Region yesterday shortly before addressing a campaign rally. Photo: State House

## JPM seeks to finish up infrastructure renewal in regions

FROM PAGE 1

which has helped them to improve provision of social services in the area, he pointed out, elaborating that the district now has three secondary

schools constructed from own sources, including a high school.

"In 2015 we had only two wards with electricity but now all the wards and villages have electricity as a result of

the leadership of President Magufuli," the aspirant intoned.

Earlier, the CCM presidential flag bearer made stops at Igunga and Selui in the region and asked for votes, on his

way to Shinyanga.

The polls are slated for October 28 with President Magufuli seeking reelection for his second and final constitutional term in office.

## Membe promises liberty for all state executive agencies

FROM PAGE 1

executive directors should fall under the prime minister and not the president," the candidate said in illustration.

He asserted that the Head of State should focus on weighty issues of national interest and not matters such as appointment of local government officials.

The former Foreign Affairs minister also promised that if he becomes the tenant at I Barack Obama Road in Dar es Salaam and at Chamwino State House in Dodoma, he will not grossly interfere with the duties of his appointees.

"When the president holds the grip on power from national to regional levels, the danger there is that his appointees such as regional commissioner can disrespect the prime minister," he said.

As opposed to one presidential contender that he did not name who he said brands himself as the candidate of the poor, Membe said he will serve the interest of all: the wealthy and the downtrodden alike.

The former CCM cadre sought to lure voters by promising that once in office, he will fix road networks in the southern regions which he said were constantly in a bad shape.

Addressing a predominantly fishing community, the candidate promised to lift the restriction on fishing activities along the seashore which he said affected livelihoods of poor families.

Membe's running mate Prof Omar Faki said an ACT-Wazalendo government shall herald the end of complaints about the structure of the Union by putting in place a fair arrangement that will satisfy Mainlanders and Zanzibaris.

Suspended by the ruling party

early this year on accusations of gross indiscipline he joined the opposition outfit in July.

Speaking at a ceremony to welcome him at ACT-Wazalendo, Membe who held the foreign affairs docket for nine years during the fourth phase presidency asserted that he was expelled from CCM because of expressing his intention to run for the presidency.

He said he expressed the wish to challenge the incumbent President John Magufuli, which would derail him from seeking his second and final term in office.

Membe campaigned for nomination as the CCM flag bearer in the 2015 primaries but Dr Magufuli emerged the winner. He moved on to change many things in how the government is run, opening up new rifts of which the erstwhile rival became the chief trouble shooter in the social media, prior to his formal suspension from CCM.



**When the president holds the grip on power from national to regional levels, the danger there is that his appointees such as regional commissioner can disrespect the prime minister**

## IAA establishes entrepreneurial programme for creation of jobs

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) has established a new entrepreneurship programme to enable students employ themselves after completing their studies.

"We want our graduates to be job creators and not job seekers, we capacitate them to employ themselves instead of waiting for formal employment," said Prof Eliamini Sedoyeka, Rector of the institute when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Prof Sedoyeka was speaking at the ongoing 15th higher learning exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for University (TCU). More than ten universities and colleges from across the country are participating at the event.

He added that the review of the university curriculum is meant to enable students to have knowledge needed in the job market as well as being able to start their own projects.

"The institute has introduced the entrepreneurship college to groom enrolled students with needed skills for manufacturing of hand made products," Prof Sedoyeka said.

The rector said that during the Covid-19 outbreak, IAA trained students on how to make hand rubs, liquid soaps and personal protective equipment (PPE). He said the project helped a number of students to generate their own revenues.

"Many students and graduates are now joining the programme, we also connect them with the markets as well as enable them to participate in trade fairs where they showcase their hand made products," he said noting that students are now aware of the benefits of entrepreneurship.

Prof Sedoyeka further said that they have also introduced courses on business management and Chinese language classes to prepare students to be more competent in business and be able to interact with people from foreign countries including China.

"There are growing business opportunities in China; the number of Chinese tourists coming into the country is also increasing yearly. We want our graduates to be able to communicate with them and establish business networks," he noted.

IAA has also introduced a new course in banking and insurance where students get an opportunity to practice what they have learnt in classes.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, Executive Secretary of the Tanzania Commission for University (TCU) Prof Charles Kihampa said the commission has strengthened its curriculum monitoring system for issuance of accreditation to ensure provision of quality education at the higher learning institutions.

He said the commission has until June this year issued 291 accreditations to universities. He said that earlier the commission had planned to issue 200 university accreditations.



**There are growing business opportunities in China; the number of Chinese tourists coming into the country is also increasing yearly. We want our graduates to be able to communicate with them and establish business networks**



Zanzibar Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Khamis Mussa Omar (L) and Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar, Xie Xiaowu, press knobs yesterday to inaugurate the installation of road traffic lights at Kinazini Street in Zanzibar. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Lissu: I will uplift peasants, herders

FROM PAGE 1

parks especially when there is scarcity of feeds," he declared.

He said that cotton, which is an important cash crop for Lake Zone residents, will receive enough subsidies to boost its growing.

Lissu said that if elected, his government will ensure that farmers are paid right after selling their produce instead of waiting for several months to be paid.

"The majority of farmers end up encountering losses as they spend much time and inputs in their farms but during the selling season they

are forced to wait long to be paid," he said.

Experts say that agriculture is undoubtedly the largest and most important sector of the Tanzanian economy, with the country benefiting from a diverse production base that includes livestock, staple food crops and a variety of cash crops.

However, farmers and other sector stakeholders face considerable challenges in modernising the industry to increase yields, exports and value-added processing.

Current statistics show that in the livestock sector, Tanzania has the

third largest livestock population in Africa comprising 25m cattle, 98 percent of which are indigenous breeds, complemented by 16.7m goats, 8m sheep, 2.4 million pigs, and 36m chickens. Despite this wealth, the livestock sector is performing well below its potential, experts maintain.

The Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe urged Shinyanga residents to get prepared to exercise their right and make sure that they vote for the right leaders.

"Do not make any mistake in the forthcoming election. I want you to

elect only leaders who you are going to address various challenges facing the country," he said.

Earlier, Chadema secretary general John Mnyika urged party members and Tanzanians generally to putting election banners in streets because they have the right to do so.

Mnyika told the crowd that the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Ilala tax region of Dar es Salaam wrongly issued a directive demanding that those who put up banners should pay for them, meanwhile as the ruling party isn't paying for any of its numerous banners.



Aron Ngumma (R), a farmer at Ngaramtoni on the outskirts of Arusha city, gifts Agriculture ministry permanent secretary Gerald Kusaya (L) straight-from-the-farm maize seeds yesterday. Looking on is Beatus Malema, a crop development deputy director in the ministry. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

# DC discloses secrets behind recent Form VI examination pass marks in his district

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpwapwa

MPWAPWA district commissioner Jabir Shekimweri has disclosed 'secrets' behind good pass marks in Form VI Examinations by four schools in the district as including hard work by students, teachers and parents.

In the circumstances he said there should be no room for complacent and instead working harder for better results.

Shekimweri said the district has four schools with Form V and VI students and that in the Form VI examinations sat in June this year, 92 students scored Division I.

"The schools - Kibakwe, Berege, Mazae and Mpwapwa 175 students scored Division II, 102 scored Division III, four scored Division IV and only one student received Division O, these are excellent results," he said.

He congratulated Mpwapwa residents for recognising the importance of education, the district's Director of Secondary Education, teachers and students for their great

sacrifice to ensure the good results.

"In particular I convey special thanks to Berege Secondary School, this is a ward secondary school which President John Magufuli elevated its status (same with Mazae na Kibakwe schools) for them to receive Form V and VI students, but today one of its students, Harold Sanja has joined the group of 10 best students nationally in the Kiswahili subject, a very good accomplishment," DC Shekimweri said.

He said these achievements have been attained due to good investment by the government in strengthening the education sector in infrastructural development in the schools.

He said the government provided more than 2bn/- that was spent in the building of a hostel, dining room and library, including refurbishment of the aged Mpwapwa Secondary School.

*"The schools - Kibakwe, Berege, Mazae and Mpwapwa 175 students scored Division II, 102 scored Division III, four scored Division IV and only one student received Division O, these are excellent results,"*

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S CCM Presidential candidate Dr Hussein Mwinyi has appealed to the educated youth in the party to come up with policies that will push up development for economic growth to produce employment.

Dr Mwinyi was speaking at Tunguu, in Zanzibar South Region in a debate involving university youths.

Dr Mwinyi said the unemployment problem was big but the only solution thereof was investment in industries and deep sea fishing.

He said up to now the Union

# Mwinyi urges educated youths to conceive policies for job creation

Government has not well utilised its huge territorial waters which is home to huge ocean resources, adding that the only way to utilise these resources was to come up with appropriate policies and laws that would enable the citizens to fully reap the opportunities.

"We depend on you to come up with policies that would help in coming up with good laws in reaping the resources in the country...we are surrounded by the ocean on all sides but we have not fully utilized it," he added.

Senior lecturer from Mwalimu

Nyerere University Dr Razak Lukina called on the Zanzibar government to invest in deep sea fishing that has huge resources that have not been fully utilised for the country's benefit.

He said the economy from the sea grows by four percent per year hence

if 3tr/- is earned from fishing of various kinds of fish including tuna, whereas in Zanzibar earnings from fishing is at only two percent.

The Chairman of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) Dr Zakia Abubakar appealed to the youth to understand

the importance of voting in the coming elections, as it was their democratic right. She added: "We are approaching the general elections on October 28... .. we are required to make the correct decisions in electing qualified leaders to lead the country."

Deputy CCM Secretary General of CCM Youth Organisation (UVCCM) Mussa Haji Mussa said big expectation among the youths are in the party's presidential candidate, Dr Hussein Mwinyi who he said has shown to possess great capability in solving challenges faced by the youth.



## TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR FSDT TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania in July 2004. The FSDT's overall aim is to develop a deeper financial system that can provide greater access to finance for more Tanzanians. Among its other objectives are to:

- Provide funding to support the development of new financial products that address the needs of poor households and micro and small enterprises
- Support improvement in the policy, legislative and regulatory framework affecting delivery of services.

### 2. INTRODUCTION TO THE ASSIGNMENT

The FSDT seeks to commission a consultant to provide professional written English to Kiswahili translation services (and vice versa) to the FSDT. This includes written documentation, as well as audio and visual pieces.

### 3. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The goal of a translator is to have people read the translation as if it were the original. To do that, the translator must be able to write sentences that maintain or duplicate the structure and style of the original meaning while keeping the ideas and facts of the original meaning accurate.

### 4. SUBMISSION DETAILS

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1600 Tanzanian time on Friday, 18 September 2020. Submissions after this time will not be considered. Bids must be submitted electronically

For specific responsibilities and more details on application requirements visit: [www.fsd.tz/opportunities](http://www.fsd.tz/opportunities). We will only consider applications that adhere to proposal requirements.

215884101



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group  
Shirika la Kuhifadhi Misitu ya Asili Tanzania

## TANZANIA FOREST CONSERVATION GROUP

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2019

This publication of the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018 which requires Non-Government Organizations receiving funds exceeding TZS 20 Million to publish bi annually the funds received and its expenditure.

| DETAILS  | ACTUAL - TZS            |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>  |                         |
| Opening fund balance   | 1,638,493,842.00        |
| Disbursement from Donors                                       | 6,254,504,093.00        |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM DONORS</b>                              | <b>7,892,997,935.00</b> |
| <b>PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURE</b>                                  |                         |
| Research   | 70,768,370.00           |
| Environmental Education  | 340,821,360.00          |
| Community Development (Poverty reduction in rural communities) | 3,404,477,990.00        |
| Communication and Advocacy                                     | 7,631,015.00            |
| <b>OTHER PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE</b>                             |                         |
| Institution Development and Resources Mobilization             | 310,070,052.00          |
| Personnel  | 1,968,006,359.00        |
| <b>TOTAL PROGRAMMES EXPENDITURES</b>                           | <b>6,567,089,264.00</b> |
| <b>FUND BALANCE**</b>  | <b>1,325,908,671.00</b> |

\*\*Fund balance represents an obligation to conduct donor funded activities per contractual commitments made between donor/development partners and the organisation/recipient, where funds have not been transferred and such activities have not yet occurred.

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215883301

# Govt challenges universities to be creative, produce skilled graduates

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has challenged higher learning institutions in the country to be creative, invest in research and new curriculums so as to produce competent graduates who will be able to contribute more and bring changes in the country's economy.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilapo made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when officiating the 15th Exhibitions on Higher Education held at Mnazi Mmoja Grounds, Dar es Salaam.

He said that it is high time now for the universities to establish programmes that complement the country's development priorities, market demand and development of science and technology.

Dr Akwilapo said for the country to attain its development goals of becoming an industrial economy, there is a need for concerted efforts to prepare human resources that possess competencies required by the market.

"As you are aware that Tanzania was recently announced to enter middle income economy, it is our responsibility to ensure that we continue to embark on various strategies to strengthen economies. Universities have to ensure that they come up with new programmes which will see more experts being produced to serve in the essential sectors of gas, minerals and health," he said. He added: "Our aim is to have an educated human resource power which will be able to deliver well in various development projects. We also need to witness in the coming years, Tanzania having more quality hospitals to serve others across the globe instead of depending on other

foreign hospitals, this will be realised if so if we produce as more competent local experts."

He also said that in the past five years, the government has spent 1.03 trillion to fund free basic education.

"The move has seen an increase of enrolment of pupils from 8.3 million in 2015 to 10.9 pupils in 2019. But also increase of enrolment in form one students from 1.6 million to 2.2 million students in 2019," he said.

He added that enrolment in form five and six has increased from 126,000 in 2015 to 153,000 in 2019.

"We have also increased the number of primary schools from 16,899 to 17,804 this year. Secondary schools have increased from 4,078 to 5,402 this year; we have also increased classrooms and other infrastructures. At least 82 old schools have been refurbished and improved," Dr Akwilapo explained.

He further said that university enrolment has also increased from 65,063 in 2015 to 87,813 this year. This has been fuelled by the government's move to increase loans from 341bn/- in 2015 to 450bn/- for 2019/20.

For his part, TCU executive director Prof Charles Kihampa said that the six-day exhibition has brought together various higher learning institutions to showcase their services.

He also said that TCU has also succeeded to eliminate academic malpractices in various university institutions. "The commission has also strengthened its electronic systems which have resulted to the increase of work efficiency," he said.

Kihampa further reminded the institutions to ensure that they imbibe knowledge and skills to the candidates so as to prepare them to face current global challenges.



Arusha regional commissioner Idd Kimanta addresses residents of Olasiti ward after visiting an area set aside for the construction of a regional bus terminal. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwangi

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) in Northern Zone has called on small and middle entrepreneurs to be bold and look for business strategies to advance themselves economically to enter into big investors club.

The Zone's TIC Manager Daud Riganda gave the advice yesterday at a training seminar for the entrepreneurs and other business people in Mwanza District.

"Section 6(g) of Tanzania Investment Act of 1997 directs TIC to mobilise for investment by local entrepreneurs aimed at beefing up the number of

## TIC calls on SMEs to look for business strategies for economic advancement

investors," he said.

TIC Manager also called upon the entrepreneurs to come up in big numbers to grab opportunities offered by various government institutions.

Mwanza District Trade Officer Said Ally urged investors to utilize the opportunities fittingly to spur economic growth individual and nationally in general.

Opening the training seminar, Mwanza District Commissioner Thomas Apson urged the entrepreneurs to spurn the fear of accessing loans if they have viable projects.

"We have funds in our council for the youth, women and people with disabilities hence it is better for every entrepreneur to grab that opportunity to beef up their capitals to become full-

fledged investors," he said.

Joel Nathan, a small entrepreneur making school chalks said among others, the training will help them tackle various challenges on markets.

A Kilimanjaro Region TRA official Rashid Said called on small entrepreneurs to keep records of their businesses so as to be appropriately taxed.

## Mwinyi returns forms, promises clean campaign

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ONE of the 17 presidential aspirants in Zanzibar—Dr Hussein Mwinyi (CCM)—yesterday returned nomination forms at the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), promising to conduct clean campaigns.

Dr Mwinyi submitted the forms to ZEC Chairman, Retired Chief Justice (CJ) Hamid Mahmoud Hamid at around 9am. The chairman Judge declared that Dr Mwinyi's forms had been duly filled and had met all the requirements set by the electoral body.

Dr Mwinyi who is contesting for the top position in the state through Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) was the first presidential candidate to pick up the nomination forms on August 26th this year.

"I have the nomination forms from CCM presidential candidate; but he will have to wait until September 10th 2020 when we will approve and announce the names of confirmed candidates,"

said Retired Chief Justice Hamid.

Addressing journalists, Dr Mwinyi stated that CCM will conduct clean campaigns calling upon other political parties to also promote peace throughout the election process.

He urged Zanzibar residents to come up in big numbers on October 28th 2020 so that they practice their constitutional right by electing leaders. Meanwhile, two more presidential contenders have picked up nomination forms from ZEC making a total of 17. They are Said Issa Mohamed from CHADEMA and Mussa Haji Kombo from the Civic United Front (CUF).

Speaking after he collected the forms, Mohamed from CHADEMA said that if elected the president of Zanzibar he would improve social services provision such as health and education. He also promised jobs for young university graduates.

Mohamed stated that during his tenure, civil servants at all levels will have their monthly remunerations

increased as well as good working environment.

CUF presidential contender, Mussa Haji Kombo pledged to ensure improved living standards by ensuring better utilisation of the available natural resources.

The other Zanzibar presidential aspirants who have picked up nomination forms from ZEC are Said Soud (AAMP), Juma Ali Khatib (ADA TADEA), Hamad Rashid (ADC), Mfaume Khamis (NLD), Ali Juma (CHAUMA), Issa Muhammed Zonga (SAU), Ameri Said Ameri from Demokrasi Makini and Hamad Muhammed Ibrahim of UPDP.

Others are Shafiq Hassan Suleiman (Democratic Party), Khamis Faki Mgaun (NRA), Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad (ACT Wazalendo), Othman Rashid Khamis from CCK, Hussein Juma Salim from Tanzania Labour Party (TLP) and Mohamed Omar Baharia from the Union for Multiparty Democracy (UMD).

# BARRICK

BULYANHULU

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**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work packages as part of the Restart Project at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following services.

| No. | Reference no. | Description of work/goods to be procured   | Minimum Pre-Qualification Criteria   |
|-----|---------------|--|--|
| 1   | BUL-20-07-315 | <b>Catering and Cleaning:</b><br>Catering and cleaning for onsite people and premises including laundry and garden services              | i. At least one current catering contract active for catering in excess of 200 people per meal per day<br>ii. Valid ISO certification and status<br>iii. Catering Experience - in excess of 3 years<br>iv. House Keeping Experience<br>v. Adequate Policies & Procedures   |
| 2   | BUL-20-07-316 | <b>Design, fabrication, shop test, delivery, and commissioning assistance:</b><br>Silos for binder storage (Min total storage 2000 tons) | i. Indicate completed prior turn-key design, fabrication, installation and commissioning of the size, scope of the project, within the mining industry including references<br>ii. Possess a qualified team of dry-powder, binder storage, handling, metering systems, specifically for BBIBFS<br>iii. Be able to provide certified 2D Isometric and 3D Model of all equipment supplied<br>iv. Provide a level 4 project schedule for the brownfield implementation of the turn-key system and detailed manufacturing data records with QA/QC documents<br>v. Comply with South African construction, civil and fabrications standards |
| 3   | BUL-20-07-317 | <b>Light Vehicle Transport:</b><br>Light Vehicle rental to the mine as and when the need arise.  | i. List of current or previous clients as reference<br>ii. Located or willing to establish within close proximity of the mine<br>iii. Meet the availability of required vehicles<br>iv. Compliance of employment and labour relations<br>v. Provide safety record<br>vi. Appropriate licenses<br>vii. Evidence to undertake and successfully render the required service   |
| 4   | BUL-20-07-318 | <b>Bus Transport:</b> Bus transport for daily commuting for mine employees   | i. List of current or previous clients as reference<br>ii. Located or willing to establish within close proximity of the mine<br>iii. Meet the availability of required vehicles<br>iv. Compliance of employment and labour relations<br>v. Provide safety record<br>vi. Appropriate licenses<br>vii. Evidence to undertake and successfully render the required service   |

The above services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced service providers will be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s);
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years
- A written statement that your company is able to comply with all the Barrick Codes of Ethics and the submission of the fully completed Barrick Supplier Questionnaire [to be provided by Barrick on request];
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian equity percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required i.e. CRB etc
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- List of policies & procedures
- Job, equipment and client reference for similar services rendered within the last 3 years
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by 16:00 on the 8th September 2020. Any responses received after this date and time shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED



Moshi district commissioner Rajab Kundya (L) receives medical equipment and supplies from NMB Bank Plc North Zone manager Aikansia Muro at Pasa health centre yesterday. Looking on are NMB Nelson Mandela branch manager Prygod Godwin (2nd-R) and Grace Mumangi a nursing officer with the health centre's nursing officer Grace Mumangi. The event saw the bank donate an assortment of medical equipment and supplies worth a total of 30m/- to Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

## TANAPA drills guides and porters as tourists stream in

THE Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Association of Tour Operators (KIATO) are providing specialised practical training to guides, porters and cooks as visitors begin flocking to the northern tourism circuit.

at ensuring safety and comfort to visitors climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking here on Tuesday during the flagging off ceremony for the 443 service providers at Marangu gate, Conservation Commissioner for

TANAPA in Northern zone Herman Batiho said the six-day work expedition will also involve clean-up doings on Mount Kilimanjaro.

He said the mountain field training is vital for the sustainability of good service, safety and comfort ability to tourists and other trekkers.

“More than 17 tourism companies participated in the special field expedition after being out of work since March this year due to the outbreak of Covid-19 and all 443 trekkers will be trained practically as part of preparedness for arrivals after the reopening of international skies,” Batiho said.

Speaking on behalf of other tour operators, the Managing Director of Barking Zebra Trails, Emmanuel Kitaly said that the course include mountain guiding skills and techniques particularly for mounts Kilimanjaro and Meru, customer care skills, the mountains’ geological features, wilderness endurance skills, mountain safety and rescue in modern practical ways and communication skills.

“Tourism is the leading economic sector in Tanzania currently accounting at 17.2 per cent of GDP which is 25 per cent of the total foreign exchange earnings and employs nearly two million people directly or indirectly.

Tour guides are key frontline players in the industry and play a big role in impacting memories and experiences of tourists visiting our country hence marketing our destinations, he said, adding that currently there are more than five thousand tour guides in the country in categories of safari, mountain, cultural, marine and city guides.

Speaking of challenges that prompted the drilling, he said that tour guides have been trained in various institutions both private and public which use different curricula as there is no standardized and harmonized curriculum for training of tour guides in the country.

“These guides are currently not registered and there is lack of professional ethics and standard operating procedures in the tour guiding profession in the country. This has resulted in inconsistent service delivery and sometimes complaints from tourists with regard to their

performance,” Kitaly said.

Moshi District Commissioner Mwami Kundiya who was the Chief Guest in the event said that the training for the service providers is vital for sustainable tourism.

He applauded all 17-tourism firms that participated in the exercise, adding that they complement government efforts through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism’s plan to implement a countrywide system of tour guides registration, certification and accreditation in compliance with the Tourism Act No. 11 of 2008, section 42 and Tourism (Tour Guides) Regulations, 2013 and guidelines on registration and licensing of tourism operators.

The event was also attended by the Chief Park Warden for Tourism at the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA), Angela Nyaki and other high-ranking officials from TANAPA.

Mount Kilimanjaro alone, which is a biosphere reserve and a world heritage site, generates nearly USD30 million annually and employs more than 300,000 people.



Tour guide John Maenda (L, partly hidden) counsels Tanzania Adventures Company mountain porters and cooks yesterday before setting out for a training journey in part involving taking part in environmental cleanliness at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Over 6,000 Kagera households off list of TASAF’s beneficiaries

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

A TOTAL of 6,174 households in Kagera Region have been struck off the list of Tanzania Action Social Fund (TASAF) Phase III beneficiaries for not meeting set criteria.

Speaking to The Guardian early this week, the region’s TASAF Coordinator Ephras Mukama said when the programme was launched there were 68,915 households and as for now 62,741 have remained.

Mukama said the main reason for the removal of the households from the list of beneficiaries include death to some of them, migration and illegal entries of

unqualified households.

He said they were now in the process of enlisting new households with dire needs for financial assistance but had not been in the original list.

“People should go to villages’ and ward offices to attend public meetings designed to identify poor households so that those meeting the criteria should be enlisted,” he said.

He said President John Magufuli launched a new TASAF Phase in February this year when he said the programme will cover all citizens living in poverty in all remaining villages in the country.

He mentioned the criteria for poor households as including those which cannot afford three meals a day, with many children without the ability to send them to school or access to health services.

One of the beneficiaries of the programme, Lydia Anthony, a resident of Buyekera in Bukoba Municipality said this year he was paid only once and asked the government to provide the money timely to alleviate their life hardships.

TASAF Coordinator Mukama said last year the government spent more than 2bn/- to pay TASAF beneficiaries in Kagera Region.



### VACANCIES- PEDIATRIC/ADOLESCENT/YOUTH MANAGER (1) AND PEDIATRIC/ADOLESCENT/YOUTH AND SRH PROGRAM OFFICER (2)

Baylor College of Medicine Children’s Foundation – Tanzania (Baylor Tanzania) is a local Non-Government Organization (NGO) registered in 2009 dedicated to supporting the provision of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment to HIV – exposed and infected children and adolescents in the Lake and Southern Highlands Zones of Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania is a member of Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Network which is headquartered at Texas Children’s Hospital, Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), working to support the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and President’s Office-Regional Administration Local Government to improve provision of services for children and adolescent infected and living with HIV in Southern Highland Zones.

Baylor Tanzania in partnership with Tanzania Health Promotion Services (THPS) have been awarded a five years USAID Cooperative Agreement number 72067120CA00004 - Uhuru TB & FP LON Activity, aimed at improving access and use of quality Tuberculosis (TB) and family planning (FP) services for better health outcomes for Tanzanian citizens. The Activity will be implemented in Katavi, Kigoma, Rukwa and Songwe regions.

Baylor Tanzania is now seeking competent, experienced, dynamic and qualified candidates to fill the positions existing in within this project.

- Position Title:** Pediatric/Adolescent/Youth Manager (1)  
**Reports to:** Deputy COP/Technical Director  
**Position Location:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Position Title:** Pediatric/Adolescent/Youth and SRH Program Officer (2)  
**Reports to:** Zonal Project Manager/ Pediatric/Adolescent/Youth Manager  
**Position Location:** Kigoma and Songwe

For more details and job description please visit <http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz>

Applications should be addressed to: -  
The Executive Director, Baylor College of Medicine Children’s Foundation - Tanzania  
P.O Box 5208 Mwanza

Or send to email:  
[hr@baylortanzania.or.tz](mailto:hr@baylortanzania.or.tz)

So as to reach Baylor – Tanzania not later than 25th September 2020

215884201



HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania

### INVITATION

#### FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF GOODS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2020/2021

The Walter Reed Program Tanzania (WRP-T) is a collaborative effort supporting PEPFAR-funded HIV prevention and treatment activities in the Southern Highlands and within the Tanzania People’s Defense Forces (TPDF), HJF Medical Research International, Inc Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is a local non-profit that has supported these efforts since 2004 for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). PEPFAR activities are conducted in close collaboration with the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and the President’s Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), through the Regional and Council Health Management Teams.

HJFMRI-T – Walter Reed Program Tanzania provides care and treatment to people affected by HIV/AIDS and has been actively involved in HIV and AIDS programming, providing resources, personnel, and services to the Southern Highlands Zone. The program has expanded from supporting the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital to becoming a hub for antiretroviral treatment in the Zone; to community support through decentralized services, with the overall objective of implementing research, clinical HIV, prevention, care, and treatment services. HJFMRI-T currently focuses specifically on four regions in the Southern Highlands Zone, namely Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, and Songwe, and supports TPDF to implement comprehensive HIV prevention care and treatment program in 21 sites throughout the country.

- HJFMRI-T intends to identify competent and reliable suppliers/service providers who will be invited to submit their bids as and when the need arises to carry out various services or supply of goods as indicated in the table below in Mbeya, Songwe, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Katavi and Dar es Salaam Regions. Suppliers from any part of Tanzania are eligible to participate in this suppliers identification exercise.
- HJFMRI-T now invites applications from interested, competent, and reliable suppliers and service providers to supply goods and provide service from one or more of the following categories.

| CATEGORY A: SUPPLY OF GOODS       |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| CATEGORY NUMBER                   | CATEGORY  |
| HJFMRI/G/001/2020                 | Supply and delivery of general office stationeries in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/002/2020                 | Fabrication and Supply of Local made (wooden & steel) furniture and plastic in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| HJFMRI/G/003/2020                 | Supply and delivery of desktop and laptop computers, UPS, photocopiers, printers, computer accessories, consumables, servers, software & printers in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.                          |
| HJFMRI/G/004/2020                 | Supply and delivery of mobile phones and accessories in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/005/2020                 | Supply and delivery of Laboratory reagents, test kits, laboratory equipment, and medical supplies in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| HJFMRI/G/006/2020                 | Supply and delivery of pharmaceuticals in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/007/2020                 | Supply and delivery of business cards, identity cards, letterheads, and office envelopes in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/008/2020                 | Supply and delivery of branded promotional materials, advertisement materials, and signage (t-shirts, caps, sports kits, etc.) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/009/2020                 | Supply and deliver printed materials (reports, brochures, booklets, newsletters, flyers, posters, banners, calendars, diaries, cards, magazines and registers/forms, etc.) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe. |
| HJFMRI/G/010/2020                 | Supply and delivery of motor vehicle tires, rims, tubes, and batteries in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/011/2020                 | Supply, installation, repair, and maintenance of office Air Conditioners, Generators, and electrical units in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/G/012/2020                 | Supply and delivery of office cleaning materials (i.e., soaps, brooms, detergent, toilet paper, etc.) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| HJFMRI/G/013/2020                 | Supply and delivery of Mineral Water and Biscuits in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| CATEGORY B: PROVISION OF SERVICES |   |
| CATEGORY NUMBER                   | CATEGORY  |
| HJFMRI/S/014/2020                 | Provision of car rental services (Land Cruisers, Hilux, and Minibuses, etc.) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/S/015/2020                 | Provision of goods transportation services (truck rental services) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/S/016/2020                 | Provision of translation, proof-reading services, and motivational speakers   |
| HJFMRI/S/017/2020                 | Provision of mobile Public Address system for roadshow (including suitable vehicles) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/S/018/2020                 | Provision of experiential media service (social marketing).   |
| HJFMRI/S/019/2020                 | Provision of general service and repair of motor vehicles (Toyota Land Cruiser Hardtop, Toyota Hilux, Toyota Prado, Fuso Truck and Nissan Patrol) in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.                          |
| HJFMRI/S/020/2020                 | Provision of general services of Fire extinguishers equipment in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| HJFMRI/S/021/2020                 | Provision of catering services in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.   |
| HJFMRI/S/022/2020                 | Provision of Courier Services in Mbeya, Dar Es Salaam, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.  |
| HJFMRI/S/023/2020                 | Provision of Customs clearance (Air and sea freight)  |

- A prospective applicant(s) having any question regarding this Identification of qualified vendors list shall send an email before the due date and time for submission of pre-qualification to the following addresses: [prequalification@wrp-t.org](mailto:prequalification@wrp-t.org).
- Interested eligible applicants may collect or request a complete set of Identification of qualified vendor’s documents at HJFMRI-T Mbeya from **Monday to Thursday from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM, and Friday from 8.00 AM to 12.00 PM** except on public holidays or request through the email address given above.
- Applications for Identification of qualified vendor’s in original plus three copies should be submitted in plain sealed envelopes, clearly marked “CATEGORY NO. .... FOR THE SUPPLY / PROVISION OF .....” NOT TO BE OPENED BEFORE 14:00 HOURS Thursday 17th September, 2020 should be addressed to the Executive Director, HJFMRI-T, Plot No. 14A, Block “O” Uhindini Street, P.O. Box 1176, Mbeya, Tanzania, to reach not later than **Thursday 17th September, 2020**.
- Telegraphic, Telex, Telefax, and non-telegraphic will not be accepted. Application for Identification of qualified vendors not received and received after the deadline shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- HJFMRI-T reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the bidders for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bids and HJFMRI-T is not obliged to invite any bidders or quotations from any or all candidates that have expressed their interest by responding to this invitation.

The Executive Director  
HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI)  
Plot No. 14A, Block “O” Uhindini Street,  
P.O. Box 1176, Mbeya, Tanzania.

## New information system ups revenue collection at Nzega District Hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

SOON after Nzega Town Council was handed the former District Hospital by the Nzega District Council, the medical facility's income shot up from an average of 200,000/- to over 1m/- per day.

This was disclosed yesterday the Nzega District Medical Officer (DMO) Dr Jabil Juma at a meeting that evaluated the council's performance for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year.

He said in regard to Saturday, Sundays and public holidays, they have also succeeded in increasing revenues from 100,000/- to over 700,000/- per day.

Dr Juma said when they received the hospital from Nzega District Council, revenue collection was not good because the system used had many loopholes for income loss.

He said they did away with the former revenue collection system and

introduced the government - Hospital Management Information System (GoT-HoMIS) that has improved revenue collection.

He said the aim of Nzega Town Council was to increase monthly revenues from an average of 30m/- to 60m/-.

He said among strategies put in place to increase revenue collection was the establishment of six VIP rooms, three for males and three for females, which were available to patients needing such treatment at rates set by the council.

He said they have also established a special ward for patients with health insurance cover as an attraction for people to have health insurance at the hospital.

*He said the aim of Nzega Town Council was to increase monthly revenues from an average of 30m/- to 60m/-*



Prof Richard Kangalawe from Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy looks on as students move to enrol on-line for 2020/2021 academic year studies at the Dar es Salaam-based institution of higher learning. This was at an exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities at the city's Mnazi Mmoja grounds yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Get registered, RMO advises herbalists

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Medical Officer Dr Salum Manyatta has called on herbalists and experts of alternative medicine to register themselves and obtain permits in accordance with the laws to avoid prosecution in case anything goes amiss while providing their services.

Dr Manyatta made the call earlier this week when speaking with the herbalists during the celebrations to mark African Traditional Medicines Day, saying statistics show that there are more than 3,000 unregistered traditional healers in the region.

Dr Manyatta said the government has put up a procedure to register these activities aimed to

recognise and formalise them to be used just like for other nations which have hospitals providing treatment using alternative medicines. "You are required to mobilise yourselves to register, and when you see your colleague providing services without being registered you should know he is spoiling your business, the registration process is open and very simple," he added.

He said the process starts at ward and village executive officers to the district level where permits are issued, adding that as for now the process is done electronically.

Dr Manyatta added that registered traditional healers will be visited by local council officials from time to time to inspect the quality of the services provided.

By Guardian Reporter, Siha

PRIME MINISTER Kassim Majaliwa is expected to officially launch elections campaigns for parliamentary and Councillorship seats in 17 wards of Siha constituency in Kilimanjaro Region on September 8 this year.

Majaliwa, who is also in the ruling party (CCM) Central Committee will be campaigning for the constituency's candidate, Dr Godwin Mollel who is contesting the seat for the second time.

A statement from the District's CCM Secretary Mwanaidi Mbisha said Majaliwa will unveil the campaigns at Matadi Secondary School grounds in Ndumeti Ward.

"This is a strong party, I call upon Siha residents to come out in big numbers at the

## Majaliwa to launch election campaign in Siha on Sept 8

rally that will start 8.00am in the morning to 1.00pm.

"Even though we have already begun internal campaigns calling for residents in the 17 wards to again vote for President John Magufuli, we also call on them to vote in large numbers for Dr Mollel and all CCM candidates for councillorship in the wards," Mbisha said in the statement.

Other parliamentary candidates for Siha constituency include Elvis Mossi (Chadema), Amedeus Kitali (ACT-Wazalendo) and Leslie

Kileo (NCCR-Mageuzi).

It would be recalled that in the parliamentary by-election for constituency in 2028 Dr Mollel won the seat with 25,511 votes, equivalent to 80 percent of the votes, followed by Chadema's Elvis Mosi with 5,905 votes.

*"This is a strong party, I call upon Siha residents to come out in big numbers at the rally that will start 8.00am in the morning to 1.00pm."*



### INVITATION TO BID FOR OFFICE UPGRADE

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under nongovernmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministries of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children (MoHCDEGEC) and Presidents Office - Regional Administration and Local Governments (PORALG) and Ministry of Health in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health systems for quality health services.

THPS therefore invites sealed bids from reputable vendors who are capable of undertaking the job for office upgrade, Dar es Salaam (head office) as mentioned on the table below.

| LOT No. | Requirement         | Description of required service                           | UOM | QTY |
|---------|---------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 1.      | THPS Office Upgrade | Office Partitioning - Strong Glass with White UPVC frame. | SQM | 335 |

- Further details of the above mentioned job are contained in the bidding document which will be sent to bidders based on their request. Interested bidders are required to send request for bidding documents through the following email address, [bmalanje@thps.or.tz](mailto:bmalanje@thps.or.tz) as from **04/09/2020**.
- The last date for issuance of bidding document will be on **09/09/2020**.
- Bidding documents should be dropped in the tender box kept at THPS reception area, 3rd floor, Coco Plaza Building in Masaki area. The office will be open from **Mondays to Thursdays from 8:00Am to 2:00Pm**.
- The last date for receipt of bidding documents will be on **10/09/2020 at 2:00Pm**.
- All bids with only wax seal or tender stickers should be addressed to the address below.

**The Executive Director,  
Tanzania Health Promotion Support  
P.O. Box 32605  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania.**

215684501



Construction of a sewage system well under way along a road in Dar es Salaam's Kitunda suburb yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt urges NACOPHA to nurture school's HIV/Aids Club in Mbozi

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

THE government has appealed to the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) Mbeya zone to nurture the HIV/Aids and Environment Club (UTU) of Itete Primary School in Mlowo Ward, Mbozi District, Songwe Region to ensure its sustainability.

The permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Investment) Dorothea Mwaluko gave the appeal during her visit to the club and other groups of people living with HIV in the region.

She said the club was among important groups in the war against HIV/Aids in the region due to the students' sensitization of the disease

to the community, hence it should be sustained.

She called on NACOPHA to work together with Itete Primary School's leadership by providing adequate education on HIV/Aids.

She also called on the children to ensure they live by what they sensitize the community, adding that for the war against the disease to succeed, parents and guardians should be courageous by talking to their children about HIV/Aids.

Earlier the Club's Chairperson, Lucy Nyale said the group was established in 2014 and was officially registered with Mbozi District Council in 2017 when its activities started to be recognised.

She said the club has 48 members

including 40 girls and claimed it was hard for boys to join fearing that when they do so they will be forced to be tested for HIV/Aids.

She said the club also owns a shop for school items whose big customers were students and teachers.

She said the club's other activity is sensitizing the community on environmental preservation and domestic tourism in Songwe Region.

She called on the government to assist the club with teaching tools on HIV/Aids education such as TV set and decoder to enable them follow various TV programmes including those on the disease.

Mbozi District Commissioner John Palingo said the club should be emulated by other schools.

## TALIRI, ILIRI partner in forage production project

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in partnership with International Livestock Research Institute (ILIRI) is implementing a special programme to advance production and accessibility of forage among livestock keepers in the country.

Dubbed 'Adaptation and Association Mapping Studies on Tanzania Brachiaria ecotypes, the timely initiatives is being implemented under the programs of Bio- sciences East and Central Africa (BeCA) Hub, and it involves collection of brachiaria of different ecotypes from at least 20 regions.

Interviewed by The Guardian, the programmes' Country Supervisor, Dr Jonas Kizima from TALIRI headquarters, said the programme was also focusing to help the government reduce high expenditures it uses in importing brachiaria varieties from abroad, especially in Brazil, as well as other countries, currently at 40 USD per 1 kilogramme.

"Home production of the forage varieties will be of useful as livestock keepers will be able to purchase the varieties at friendly and domestic prices, a move which will ultimately see major improvement of the sector," he expressed.

According to him, the vital programme targets to conduct on-station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes, in terms of their genetic characteristics and morphological assessments, with an eye to get the best varieties with high potential for livestock forage.

He named the regions in which the brachiaria of different ecotypes have been picked as Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Coastal, Tanga, Dodoma, Manyara, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Singida, Kagera, Mara, Mwanza, Kigoma, Geita, Rukwa, Tabora, Simiyu, Shinyanga and Katavi. "As the country is heading towards industrial economy a need for major improvement and modernization of the livestock sector becomes vital. We are implementing this programme in order to research and introduce best forage seed varieties, with much-needed nutrients for cattle," he expressed.

He said absence and poor use of reliable forages stand tall among chief factors weakening performance of the livestock sector in Tanzania, hence a need for major improvement.

Dr Kizima said as per the programme's schedule, the best

varieties to be picked from the selected brachiaria of different ecotypes from the said 20 regions will later on be forwarded to the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) for certification approval.

So far, he informed that TALIRI has picked its four centers to perform professional on-station evaluation of the collected brachiaria of different ecotypes. The center, according to him are TALIRI-Tanga, TALIRI-Mabuki, TALIRI-Mpwawa and TALIRI-Uyole Mbeya.

Dr Kizima expressed high optimism that the on-going programme will meet the targeted end-results and hence contribute highly to the advancement of the country's livestock sector.

Recently, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in its Hombolo based center launched the similar initiatives, called Advanced Yield Trials (AYT) and Farmer's Assessment Trials (FAT) projects on different forage sorghum and pile millet varieties.

In partnership with Advanta Seed International, the two-year project target to improve silage sector for livestock in Tanzania.

Among others, the initiative is also anticipated to help increase performance of the country's beef and dairy sectors, as well as boosting incomes among livestock keepers and farmers.

According to Senior Plant Breeder for TARI-Hombolo, Dr Lameck Nyaligwa the center was running AYT for at least six different sorghum seeds.

He named some seed varieties for forage sorghum and pile millet currently under the Advanced Yield Trials (AYT)'s plantations at the state-owned center in Hombolo, Dodoma region as Sugar-Grace, Mega-Sweet, BMR Rocket and Jumbo-Gold.

He said the varieties are very potential for livestock silages as they contain much needed nutrients for cattle, especially in increasing livestock health (market weight) and with at least 25 per cent capacity of increasing milk production.

According to him, among the necessary nutrients available in the forage seed varieties include high protein and biomass, good sugar content (between 16-18 Brix) and are also with potential energy for cattle.

He said the target is to enable livestock keepers in Tanzania to execute their activities more professional by feeding their cattle with researched forages with high impact to their livestock's health.



Hombolo Local Government Training Institute principal Dr Mnamila Madale (R) briefs Education, Science and Technology ministry permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo (L) at the institute's pavilion at an exhibition organised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 'Listing of grapes as strategic crop will stimulate investment in winery'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has said plans are underway to include grapes among strategic crops in order to stimulate more investments in winery industry in the country.

Speaking here on Tuesday, the minister said grapes stands among a few key economic crops which can play a crucial role in advancing the country's industrialised economy if given much attention and investments.

If the plan is passed, then it will receive attention the same as other strategic crops namely oil palm, sunflower, cashew nuts, coffee, cotton, sisal, tea, tobacco wheat and maize.

He made the remarks during his brief field visit to grapevine block farms at the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI)'s Makutupora center.

He said the parent ministry was implementing a major strategy of identifying and promoting all key economic crops in order to allow the country to curve new economic niches.

"To start with, we plan to earmark more chunks of lands with potential for the establishment of large grape plantations. This will open fresh doors for increased job opportunities among the youth in the country, but also play a key role in the production

of raw materials for wine processing industries in the country," he observed.

He tasked TARI to work round the clock in order to conduct more useful research for innovating and introducing improved grape seeds, for table and wine grapes.

Briefing the minister, Director General for TARI, Dr Geoffrey Mkamililo spoke over challenges in getting deserved funds for developing cultivation of the crop in Tanzania. "We're trying hard to seek for enough financial support to advance grapes farming but most donors are seemingly shunning away to dish out support as the case is for other crops," he observed.

However, apart from expressing importance of the government to see over the possibility to assist the side, he assured that the institute was continuing working out diverse efforts and strategies to up-lift performance of the vital sub-sector.

For his part, Head of the centre, Dr Cornel Masawe, briefed minister Hasunga that Tanzania is the only country in the world with friendly weather which supports grapes to grow in two seasons within a year, an advantage which if used profitably will play a great role in fetching the country good profits.

Moreover, he said even scientific research has so far proved that grapes

grown in Tanzania (Dodoma) are more wine-worthy, in terms of good taste and aroma, than all other grown in the rest part of the world hence a need for the government to inject the sector with enough funds.

As part of the center's efforts to spur performance of the sector, he said, TARI is in process to introduce into the country at least 13 new wine grape varieties from South Africa.

He named the varieties to be imported, which is a mixture of red and white grafted scions, as well as root stocks as Pinotage, Cabinet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, Durif and Carignan, Chardonnay, Chenin Black, Semillon, Ramsey, R99, R110 and SO4.

In further efforts to boost the wine sector, Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has injected TARI-Makutupora Center with at least 297,906m/- for general renovation of the Centre's laboratory.

Upon its completion, Dr Masawe said, the laboratory will play a paramount role in empowering local wine producers to bottle more high-quality wine varieties.

"The other programme we plan in the near future is conduction of a series of theoretical and practical training to impart grapes farmers and extension officers with key knowledge on how to grow the prestigious cash crops," he unveiled.

To start with, he said the state-owned centre has already disseminated knowledge on recommended agronomic practices among grapes farmers and extension officers in Bunda, Geita and Same district.

Though placed second after South Africa for brewing best wines within the continent, there are only two wine grape varieties grown in Tanzania, Makutupora Red and Chenin White, a situation which limits the country's ability to produce wider varieties of wines.

Being the country's grapes and wine hub, Dodoma region is currently with at least three major wine factories- Aliko Vintage Co. Ltd, Central Tanganyika Wine Company (CETAWICO), and Dane Holding Company (DHC), and five other small scale plants scattered at different locations under ownership of farmers associations.

Globally, Tanzania's wines are currently competing highly in the world market against famous brands from Italy, French, Germany, Britain, America, China and South Africa.

For years, it was common known that in Tanzania grapes flourish only on Dodoma, but recent researches had established that the prestigious cash crop can grow well in Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Babati, Karatu, Tabora, Bunda, and Peramiho, which is another advantage to Tanzania.



Dr Asteria Mpoto (L), Sickle Cell coordinator at the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, Gender and Children ministry, speaks at the launch of a public awareness on the disease in Dodoma city yesterday. With her is blood disease specialist Dr Stella Mlangaha. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Flying doctors to raise \$1bn to invest in African healthcare

By Special Correspondent

FLYING Doctors Healthcare Investment Company, an African healthcare and wellness investment firm based in Lagos, is set to raise a \$1 billion fund for the purpose of Healthcare investments across Africa.

This was disclosed by the Chief

Executive Officer, Dr Ola Brown, while highlighting the Flying Doctors IC as a healthcare investment company that they have been building for the past 2 years.

She said: "Investing \$1bn across Africa in health is just a start"

According to her, the fund would be raised in 3 tranches within the next

four years, with the first \$200 million to be raised by end of Q1 2021 and "then \$300 million and \$500 million."

She added that the African investments would be added to the company's Nigerian portfolio, as the company is open to more investors so as to enable investments in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company has investments in healthcare valued at over \$70 million, and was founded with the goal of bringing together the investment and operational activities that Dr Brown and her team had been conducting within the health and wellness space over the past decade.

## Project extends assistance to PwDs to participating in planning, implementation of development projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

NEARLY 100 people with disabilities in Dodoma, Morogoro and Iringa regions have benefited from Social Accountability through Youth (SAY) project, operated by Raleigh Tanzania—a sustainable development organisation challenging young volunteers to drive change in vulnerable environments and poor rural communities.

Peter Lazaro, project campaign and communications officer said the organisation works to enable vulnerable women especially those with disabilities to participate in development activities at their localities. He said they also empower local communities to make follow-up on various development projects implemented in their areas as well as knowing the challenges towards its completion.

He said the campaign which has been christened 'Nawajibika' brings together community members through working groups which includes experts in various fields. "Youth are important for the country's development; they should be included in planning and implementation of projects. Involving youth in decision making and project planning would ensure leaders accountability," said Lazaro.

He appealed to other organisations implementing different projects in the region to apply the SAY model to successfully complete the projects as well as making them sustainable.

He said through Raleigh Tanzania, they have prepared guidelines which will be used to train citizens on how to follow up various projects and find solutions by engaging special groups specifically women, youth and people with disabilities.

When at Miganga village in Chamwino District, Mussa Mlowa, who is visually impaired claimed to have not been involved in any decision making meetings or preparation of development plans.

He however said that after the campaign, he was trained on how to participate in development activities despite having some physical body challenges. Mlowa said he is now supervising implementation of a European Union (EU) funded water project at Miganga village.

"I am happy after being appointed to supervise a water project, I am the head of other ten leaders in our group; I feel honoured to be part of the village development," he said adding that he can now represent other PWs in various meetings.

He commended Raleigh Tanzania for equipping them with the skills noting that PWs have for a long period been sidelined when it comes to implementation of development projects as well as decision making.

The organisation targets to meet 538 people by 2022. They will be trained on Community Integrity Building through sessions to be conducted with the support of their partner—Integrity Action from the United Kingdom.

## Widening the reach of village land forest reserves is an excellent idea

ACTIVISTS in various rural development and forest conservation spheres are working together in a campaign aiming at establishing village land forest reserves (VLFs) covering unreserved forests on village lands.

The main idea is that this measure will help local authorities reduce dependence on government support, broaden rural development projects, improve livelihoods and control the effects of climate change. One reason is that the unreserved forest ecosystems will be better protected from random harvesters pillaging those forests.

Among the main actors in this quest is the Tanzania Forest Conservation Groups (TFCG), known to have an intricate relationship with the community forest conservation network, popular by its Kiswahili acronym - MJUMITA.

The groups are making efforts to have forest reserves in all villages, urging that these lands need to be mapped out in a zonal framework.

Activists say the southern highlands zone, the northern zone and the southern zone are the most targeted areas, with the project expected to take two years under the banner 'Forest Justice in Tanzania,' supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DfID).

In a way, this proposal isn't just what NGOs or CSOs think about forest resources but it is an integral aspect of government policy of enabling the citizenry benefit from the resources the country is blessed with.

This general principle has specific levels of expression, where the move to take control of the minerals sector and stop the anarchy and make the sector truly helpful, even more of a contributor to development, is an illustration.

The forest aspect is a localised dimension of resources, with adventurers getting some papers stamped and reaping as they wish from local forest areas falling within village land while the villages carry the burden.

The nefarious results of wanton deforestation are fairly well known even at the village level, while in the past this was an academic concern, raised in public for the first time in 1982 at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Pioneer French agronomist Prof Rene Dumont, known around the world chiefly for his 1972 book 'False Start in Africa', raised the alarm on deforestation and environmental degradation on account of villagers shifting from isolated ecosystems to large villages. Their dependence on fuelwood was ruinous to nature.

At that time, measures could have been taken to propagate the use of coal bricks along with less combustible materials in prices that are affordable to users.

Sadly, that never happened apparently as the threat of environmental degradation looked rather far-off in most regions. Even now charcoal is still the most important fuel in homes although, as its prices continually rises, gas is making its way at a fast pace countrywide.

Forest reserves ought to be placed under communities to enhance their protection, and those seeking trees need have better uses rather than prolong fuelwood use.

A media training seminar held recently was told that the groups initiated this campaign after discovering that 176 million hectares of unreserved forests, or about 80 per cent of around 22 million hectares of forest cover located in village lands in all regions, are neither reserved nor formalised. This results in uncontrolled harvesting of trees and deforestation.

According to research conducted by the National Resource Monitoring and Assessment in Tanzania, more than 460,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared annually. That isn't just a significant source of gas emissions that contribute to climate change and ruin water sources even more rapidly. We need to act faster and more vigorously to counter the trend.

## Uplifting strategic crops with better seeds can boost exports

THE government has declared that plans are under way to vastly boost the production of improved and certified seeds for a number of strategic crops, notably oil palm, sunflower, sisal, wheat and maize.

The Agriculture ministry is working with the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) and various other stakeholders to ensure that the task is taken up intensely, building on efforts already discussed over the past few years and even earlier.

This was demonstrated at an occasion where Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga made an appeal for increased investment in the sub-sector lately.

The minister's appeal relates to current efforts to enhance the production of certified improved seeds to support wider cultivation of strategic crops countrywide. In his remarks at that event, where agro-investment procured machinery was being flagged off for use by the research institute, the minister expressed concern that strategic crop production was crippled by insufficient supply of certified and improved seeds.

The event was informed of TARI's plans to increase the rate of seed production from 1,000 tonnes currently to at least 10,000 tonnes by 2025. Multiplying current levels by ten won't be easy.

Most of current efforts to enhance the production of seeds are informed by the reality that the country imports much of its seed demand - from abroad and from better prepared neighbouring countries.

This situation appears to reflect a sub-optimal use of research capacity in the country, given that local institutions from universities to specialised institutions have a fairly long track record in crop research, where seed improvement is a major preoccupation.

Yet there are huge stumbling blocks like the nearly unlimited capacity of viruses to adapt to new varieties.

There are both opportunities and risks in the current strategic research outlook by the specific institution and in ministerial policy as a whole, seeking to improve seed varieties especially from the gene stock available locally.

This is also a major preoccupation in livestock seeds research, as well as fairly non-strategic crops during the past decade at most, including traditional export crops like coffee and cotton.

A portion of global research has for decades adopted genetic modification but the debate has never ended in that sphere, and such produce is often closed out of certain markets, etc.

In that sense, the focus that the ministry and specialised institutions have taken is plausible in the sense that many export markets want organic crops which are from natural seeds and their blended varieties rather than laboratory issues via genetic modification.

Still, those markets require fairly high standards of organic wholeness like elevated sanitary and phytosanitary standards, which means a considerable capacity to keep out both pests and insecticides. It comes to a tall order for most local producers.

It thus effectively means that our best chance at the moment is to take up wider portions of the domestic market, with exports essentially relating to regional markets where applicable standards are similar. That is also why it isn't out of place to think of policy innovations like leasing out land to agro-investors for 99 years so as to ensure the land lease is secure, paying only rent to the government at competitive rates with free economic zones elsewhere.

It is such kind of investors who could meet the sort of standards that markets need both in the US African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) facility and in the European market. Such issues definitely ought to constitute a policy parameter, definitely.

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## Indigenous women defeat discrimination to lead community COVID-19 responses

By Special Correspondent

THE Maasai, a well-known indigenous ethnic group in east Africa, are located in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They are world-renowned for their distinct traditions, attire and proximity to several national parks and wildlife reserves in the region.

While the Maasai men herd cattle, patrol as warriors and act as principal decision-makers, the women are usually married off at an early age and put in charge of running households.

When Covid-19 hit, the Maasai communities in Kenya were scared and confused.

"Where did this virus come from? I have been told that everyone is at risk of contracting the dreadful virus - men, women, children and the elderly. No one is spared," says Diana Noormishuki Chesengei.

She is a Maasai woman who works as a community climate change ambassador for Women's Climate Centres International (WCCI), which is piloting a network of climate centres across Uganda and Kenya that provide localised peer to peer training in climate resilient agriculture, water, health and sustainability.

The coronavirus pandemic and the consequent lockdown had resulted in a temporary cessation of women-run small businesses, as the government has banned all public gatherings.

"Our main income was through selling Maasai beads to tourists, who are however not coming here anymore. We have the beads, but there are no customers," Chesengei shares.

In her community, health facilities are inadequate - they are obsolete and dysfunctional. Stocks of medicines are insufficient and the overall health infrastructure is in a despicable condition.

Thus, the community members quickly realised that they have to take their own initiatives to protect themselves from the virus. Recognising that Covid-19 treatment facilities are sparse, they have focused on educating each other on hygiene measures to stop the spread of the virus and keep everyone healthy.

"We cannot rely on the government because it is yet to respond to the pandemic. In addition, government interventions take ages to reach the ground. The solution is with us and within us," adds Chesengei, whose community has faced numerous hardships from the beginning of the

year.

The Covid-19 crisis is augmenting stresses that the communities have suffered since earlier in the year: in March, they lost crops, animals and nurseries in which they had invested their scarce resources, as a result of severe floods.

"My house was submerged in water and my neighbour's daughter drowned in the River Mara. Never had I experienced such back-to-back crises before in 35 years of my life!" said Chesengei.

"I was vulnerable as I was internally displaced with my children. Many referred to me as a refugee in my own community. And then Covid-19 struck. This was a big blow that left us completely disoriented socially, politically and economically," she added.

Realising the severity of the situation for her household and her community, she says she took it upon herself to sensitise other community members about the virus.

As a community change agent and an ambassador for peace and development, Chesengei has been working with Participatory Integrated Community Development (PICD) and Community Conversation Approach (CCA) strategies that apply community inclusion in development projects, by representing local interests and needs in regional planning.

Learning from the PICD and CCA strategies, Chesengei has been able to communicate the importance of a collaborative indigenous response to Covid-19 to community stakeholders.

"At first, it was difficult to sensitise my community because I did not know how to translate the Covid-19 phenomenon into the local language. It took time for me to convince everyone that the virus exists and can be fatal," she said.

The Maasai cultural system is based on strong social interactions and reciprocity that encourage people to move freely from one household to another.

Utilising this culture and her experience of mediation with others, Chesengei has developed a community-led Covid-19 information strategy that involves collaborating with - and mobilising - women's groups, local churches, community health workers, government officials and village elders. These groups would lead awareness campaigns within the communities.

Women-led groups also organise communication events to educate community members about the

virus and its preventive measures, by maintaining social distance and the wearing of masks.

The women, led by Chesengei, are challenging the cultural beliefs and practices that are preventing their community from responding to the pandemic effectively.

"It is considered a taboo for a woman to challenge cultural beliefs, traditions and norms, but we don't have an option right now. We have to defend our lives and, as women, we are strongly opposing archaic practices that threaten the lives of our loved ones," she says with determination.

Furthermore, the Maasai women are using their sewing skills to make face masks for the community members and liquid soap for hand washing purposes. These skills were acquired in the past and have become their means of survival during the current crisis.

Thousands of kilometres from Chesengei's community is Evelin Namalwa, who lives in Mount Elgon, Bungoma County, in western Kenya.

Here, local community beliefs are a challenge when seeking to persuade people to take public health measures that are scientifically proven to combat the virus. Evelin, also a WCCI community climate change ambassador, has a different story but a similar approach towards Covid-19 prevention in her community.

Evelin's community holds strong beliefs in witchcraft and feels that Covid-19 is an ancestral spell that has been cast on its members. The elders believe that their ancestors' wrath has engulfed them in the form of the coronavirus, and they are performing sacrifices to appease their spirits.

Traditional beliefs are difficult to challenge in indigenous communities. Despite the gruelling circumstances, Evelin along with a group of women are working as health volunteers for the home-based care approach introduced by the government. This is an initiative that engages community health volunteers acting as a communication link between healthcare workers and community households.

Anyone suspected of having Covid-19 symptoms is monitored and treated by the volunteers, who are provided with a standard protocol to follow. They also educate the patients and the family on safe hygiene practices and other safety measures.

In addition, Evelin maintains a list of the most vulnerable households and she visits these on a weekly basis, discussing with them the importance of social distancing, wearing masks and

washing hands during the pandemic.

Evelin's efforts are often challenged by community members, who refuse to adhere to these instructions if they are not provided with food as an incentive. "I'm just a community health volunteer. I don't have the resources to provide food to these families. I wish the government would recognise our efforts and provide further support for these interventions," Evelin says.

Both Chesengei and Evelin have acted as agents of change within their respective communities during a crisis. However, their initiatives have not been without obstacles.

In indigenous communities in Kenya, women are considered inferior to men and have to abide by the directives given by their husbands. In the past, Evelin had even been abducted and almost killed because of her work on women's empowerment.

Currently, she coordinates a group of 50 women who are working to create pandemic-related awareness. A majority of these women are victims of physical abuse and rape.

Women like Diana Noormishuki Chesengei and Evelin Namalwa are confronting gender discrimination and risking their own lives for the betterment of their communities.

"Every passing day I arm myself with a face mask and take all hygienic precautions to visit community households and share information and knowledge about the virus. I am now known as 'Mama Corona' and I am very proud of this title, because it recognises my work during a global pandemic," shares Evelin.

The compounded economic shocks of the flooding in Maasai and community violence in Mount Elgon, followed by Covid-19 and its associated economic impacts, are adversely affecting women because they earn less than men and save little.

Consequently, with children out of schools, women are facing increased pressure of household and care-giving responsibilities. In addition, they face compromised reproductive health services owing to the reallocation of resources for Covid-19.

Given restricted movement and social isolation, communities such as the Maasai are facing the highest levels of gender-based violence. In Chesengei's community, a young woman has recently been battered by her husband, who cut off her hands following family disagreements.



MUMBAI

# A pandemic cannot justify child labour

For the past five months, our screens have been flooded with distressing imagery of one catastrophe after another: From the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable communities, to cyclones in West Bengal, Odisha, and Maharashtra.

From locust attacks in the central and northwestern plains, to the floods in Assam and Bihar. All of these have had disastrous effects on the Indian economy—millions in the country lost their jobs or were forced to take pay cuts, economic activity in rural India came to a halt, and migrants were forced to walk hundreds of kilometres back home.

Amidst these 'visible' problems, there are other issues that have remained 'invisible'. One such issue is the effect of the pandemic on children, specifically, an increased risk of child labour.

COVID-19 has made children more vulnerable to child labour

The numbers related to child labour in India were bleak even before the pandemic. Census 2011 data suggests that the total number of child labourers in India between 5-14 years of age is 4.35 million (main workers) and 5.76 million (marginal workers)—a total of 10.11 million. Further, the total number of adolescent labourers in India is 22.87 million, bringing the total (in the age group of 5-18 years) to around 33 million.

The ongoing pandemic has augmented the existing causes of child labour, as well as added new ones.

First, children are forced to work because family incomes are not enough to survive on. With many people losing their jobs due to COVID-19, the financial crises being faced by families has increased manifold. These families will need extra pairs of hands to earn to provide two meals a day, leading to more children entering the economy or working on family-owned enterprises and farms.

The pressure on children staying at home, especially girls, will be to contribute to household chores and



A child cleans the floor instead of going to school. File photo

sibling care. More and more girls will be pulled further away from education and into managing the household

Second, children are considered cheap labour, and with businesses and enterprises facing massive financial losses, the demand for cheap labour is going to increase. Due to reverse migration from urban centres, there is also going to be a shortage of adult labour. Children, especially adolescents, will be increasingly in demand to fill this gap.

Third, the pressure on children staying at home, especially girls, will be to contribute to household chores and sibling care. More and more girls will be pulled further away from education and into managing the household.

Fourth, with every livelihood crisis, the risk of traf-

ficking increases. In India, a large number of children are already trafficked for labour. Due to reverse migration caused by the pandemic, a large number of children have returned to their villages.

And given the livelihoods crisis already underway in rural areas, the children who are not tracked will become more vulnerable to trafficking. Children in overcrowded relief camps, quarantine centres, and those returning home with their parents are also at increased risk of being trafficked.

Fifth, the closure of schools will lead to a gradual detachment from education, especially for those children who cannot access online education. This detachment will eventually lead to dropouts among children, which in

turn will lead to them entering the workforce.

To add to these, the recent changes in labour laws in the country will further weaken law enforcement when it comes to child labour. With a view to boost the economy, states such as Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Assam have amended the Factories Act, 1948 through an ordinance, to allow companies to extend a factory worker's daily shift from eight to 12 hours per day.

Most of these states also have a high burden of child and adolescent labourers. Though the recent changes do not affect child labour legislation per se, they may fuel an increase in demand for adolescent workers who are likely to be paid lower wages in hazardous and exploitative work conditions, due to their vulnerability and poorer bargaining power as compared to adults.

It is time for civil society to act

Now, more than ever, is the time to be proactive about making child labour a visible issue, to initiate dialogues around it, to bring plausible solutions to the table, and to start working towards them. While there are gaps that need to be plugged by the government, there is also a lot that civil society can do.

### 1. Strengthen government efforts

With presence on the ground and familiarity with communities, nonprofits are

well-placed to support and strengthen government efforts, especially when it comes to identifying vulnerable children. They can conduct rescue operations in line with the Ministry of Labour and Employment's protocols.

They can also help the government build awareness about the issue, the legal provisions available, and children's entitlements; as well as act as channels to amplify children's voices. Additionally, they can assist vulnerable families and their children access social protection measures.

### 2. Report cases of child labour

Compared to the actual number of child labour cases, the number of complaints made and FIRs filed remain quite low in India (only 464 cases were registered in 2018). Nonprofits and other civil society organisations can take up the mantle of making as many complaints about child labour as possible.

Complaints related to child labour can be made directly to authorities such as the district collector, via Childline by calling at 1098, on the government portal PENCIL, or through statutory bodies such as the National or State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights or Child Welfare Committees (CWC).

A larger number of complaints will also allow nonprofits to make stronger appeals to the administration to strengthen rescue processes and better implement compensation and rehabilitation schemes related to child labour.

### 3. Build evidence

Nonprofits also have an important role to play when it comes to building evidence around child labour. They can do this by conducting research and surveys in their intervention areas, as well as analysing available secondary data in an in-depth manner to examine issues related to

child labour. This will strengthen and inform government policies and programmes and help address the issue holistically.

4. Engage children in education  
A proven way to prevent child labour is to ensure that no children are left out in accessing education. There are many ways that civil society organisations can enable this. Recently, a headmaster in Jharkhand installed loudspeakers at various spots in the village so that children could attend classes from different locations.

As another example, we, at CRY, have partnered with Mobile Vaani and are using interactive voice response (IVR) technology to drive awareness campaigns about health and nutrition issues in remote areas of Odisha and Bihar. Nonprofits can track the academic progress of children in schools and ensure that they are not pushed out of education systems.

5. Provide rehabilitation post rescue  
Nonprofits can play a critical role in the rehabilitation process for children rescued from child labour. They can provide psycho-social support to children during court proceedings or run compensation programmes for them. They can also take efforts to 'mainstream' children who are rescued from child labour, for example, by getting them enrolled in schools.

Child labour does not only lead to lost childhoods. Since most of these children work in difficult, often exploitative, environments, their overall health and nutrition also suffers, leaving them vulnerable to various illnesses.

Perhaps the first step in curbing the rise of child labour is to acknowledge that it is a problem. We need to accept that no pandemic, no economic crisis, and no extraordinary circumstances can ever justify children being exploited. Only then can sustainable change happen.

Agencies

BY CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SEMBERYA

# Do you know importance of flowing water to hospitals and schools?

The Tanzanian government has been working tirelessly to ensure it fulfills its Vision 2025 ambitious target of reaching universal water access for urban population by 2025 and 90% access for rural population.

These targets are in line with the targets set by Sustainable development (SDG) goal 6 which aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all.

However, speaking in an exclusive interview last week with paper Assistant Chairperson of Makokane Knowledge Centre, Kalimawe Ward, Same District, Amina Juma said scarcity of clean and safe water in their ward has been a major challenge.

She has said that of recent two organisations namely ONGAWA and JNC have given hope to them by accepting to make maintenance to their water points.

Juma has commended TGNP for the awareness they have been offering to their knowledge centres on different issues, which in turn have been used to educate other members in their communities.

"We are currently fetching water from the lake, which is not safe and clean," she said.

She further urged the government and other stakeholders to provide them with clean and safe water, since water is an essential need for human beings.

Another assistant chairperson of Lugulu knowledge Centre, Same District, Monica Sempoli said that after their long cry over water scarcity, the government has planned to bring water to their ward.

She has therefore commended the government for that initiative of ensuring they have water.

However, she has called upon the government and other key stakeholders to make sure they supply water to health centres and schools first.

For her part, Senior Programme Officer Movement Building with TGNP, Anna Sangai has also commended the government for its efforts of ensuring it fulfills its ambitious target of reaching universal water access to its people.

Sangai said that access flowing water in health centres and hospitals



The proximity of water sources to household has an impact on time spent for fetching water which in turn reduces workload for women. File photo

was very essential to all patients, but particularly to women who give births.

"Because of scarcity of water in other health centres women who are about to deliver are required to go with water," she said.

She further said that in schools flowing water was also very crucial for all students, but for girls in particular.

"We insist on presence of flowing water because safe and clean water protects girl students from contamination that lead them to acquire diseases like UTI, fungus and other communicable diseases."

Meanwhile, Sangai has called upon the government and other key stakeholders to educate the citizens on how they can harvest rain water for future use, be it for hospitals, schools, family or the entire community.

Household Budget Survey (HBS) data (URT2012) indicate that overall access to clean safe water increased from 52% in

2007 to 61% in 2011/12.

Access to clean and safe water for rural population increased by 12% during the said period, that is from 40% to 52% while for urban population it decreased from 81% to 77%.

Data from Population Housing Census however reported an overall decline in access from 61% reported by HBS to 57% in 2012.

The decline is attributed to two factors, drying of water sources and poor maintenance of water points (Kessy F & Mahali R 2017).

Access to clean and safe water remains a gender issue and the declining trends observed threatens the gains achieved so far if the situation is not reversed.

The proximity of water source to household has an impact on time spent for fetching water which in turn reduces workload for women who are responsible for household water supply.

Another indicator which

measure access is the distance from water source to households. Making reference to various data sources, HDHR Background Paper no II (2017) revealed significant progress made in time used by household in fetching water for domestic use.

The urban population with access to water within 30 minutes increased from 68% in 2007 to 73% in 2010. For the rural population it increased from 28% in 2007 to 47% in 2010. The study further noted that for the entire population access to water within 30 minutes increase from 39% in 2007 to 52%.

The HBS data for 2011/12 revealed that 47% of households fetched water from sources away from their houses 500m during rain season but this proportion declined to 45% during dry season.

The proportion of population fetching water between 2km and 5km doubled for rural areas from 5.7 in the rain season to

11.5% during dry period.

All in all, around 28% of population live within a distance of 1 km from water source (URT 2012). Again, this is not an encouraging situation from women's point of view.

Improving access and reducing distances from water resources largely depends on budgetary increases in this sector. Access to water supply is also determined by location particularly rural vs urban areas.

The urban population have greater access to water supply than rural. This implied rural woman is more overburdened by the task of supplying water for domestic use than their urban counterparts.

Universal Access to safe drinking water by 2025 through involving private sector, empowering local communities and promoting broad based grassroots participation in mobilising knowledge and expenses.

Universal access will release women from the burden of sup-

plying domestic water for household use.

National Water Policy 2002):

The policy recognizes the burden which women carry in supply of domestic water and commits fair representation of women in village water user institutions, water programmes to be determined by both men and women's needs while involving them in management of water programmes.

It also provides for a need to empower women so as to enable them to effectively participate in decision making processes of the sector.

The Water Resource Management Act, 2009:

Spells out water as a human right, spells out promotion of equitable access to water as overriding principle, as well as provision of public participation in development policies, plans and programmes.

This principle is however undermined by the shift from making water a common good into an economic right whose cost has to be shouldered by users.

Economically disadvantaged users will not be able to bear this cost and hence women in poor households will likely continue to shoulder the burden of walking distances to meet the needs of their households.

The National Water Sector Development Strategy (2006):

Although gender equality is not directly mentioned, one of priority focus area to determine investment is to ensure disparities of access to water supply. This might impact the workload which women carry in supplying water for domestic use.

Water Supply and Sanitation Act No 12 (2009):

Although the Act delegated management function to the lowest level, as well as ownership of water schemes to the local level entities, which allows women to participate in village water schemes, the cost implication might disadvantage women and poorer communities.

Water and Utility Act 2005: Gender blind: Participation, access and benefiting from water resources

The Institutional Framework for managing and supplying water allows some level of participation if the mechanism is based on bottom up approach.

By Guardian Correspondent

THE hills come alive in the beautiful plains of the Iringa and Njombe regions in the southern highlands of Tanzania. In these plains, there is usually crisp and refreshing.

The cool weather has such a positive effect on the farmers who even work harder, tending to the many acres of land being used for both subsistence and commercial agriculture.

In Tanzania, agriculture plays a crucial role in ensuring food security, nutrition and creation of livelihoods. Across the country, women are the face of the sector, making up 52 per cent of the agricultural labor force.

In Njombe alone, an estimated 53 percent of the 85,000 farmers constitute women working as farm laborers and as unpaid workers for domestic food production.

The rich soils of the region present a lot of opportunities within the agriculture value chain for women, if only barriers standing against the advancement of women in this sector are removed. For example, women still face limited access to land, financing, markets, new techniques that promote climate resilient agriculture and technologies that support mechanized agriculture for commercial enterprises.

However, young women farmers such as Hadija Jabiri, have managed to overcome some of these challenges.

The Chief Executive Officer of GBRI Solutions, Hadija is also a steering committee member of the African Women Leaders' Network (AWLN) supported by the UN Women and the African Union.

A few years ago, she saw the potential to make it as a farmer and decided to relocate and establish her business in Iringa and Njombe. Today, GBRI produces green beans, snow peas and baby corn for both local and export markets and employs 80 employees.

She also established another company, AGRIEDO Ltd., which provides technological solutions to the agriculture sector, including training and the provision of agricultural consultation services.

This has provided her the opportunity to work with a strong network of out growers consisting of smallholder

# AWLN underlines farming as key sector for women's empowerment



GBRI staff package green beans for export

farmers, many of whom are women.

In an interview, Hadija said of the many challenges that women farmers face in the country, the issue of time poverty is yet to receive the attention it deserves.

"Women smallholder farmers have weathered many challenges. They wear many hats, assume several roles as businesswomen, mothers, wives and daughters, and also participate in various activities in their communities. The reality is that, if you are a woman, you will have to manage a lot more responsibilities as compared to men, and that is quite a heavy burden," she said.

In many societies, particularly where the patriarchal system is a cultural foundation, the burden of unpaid domestic and care

work lies heavily on women and girls, where the Integrated Labour Force Survey of 2014 indicates that women are spending 10.6 per cent more of their time in domestic services compared to men.

A study conducted in 2019 by UN Women, UNDP, UNEP, and PEI identified time poverty as one of the major bottlenecks for women's agricultural productivity in Tanzania. This study explains the far-reaching consequences on the participation of women in agriculture as activities demand a lot of time, particularly in rain-fed and non-mechanized subsistence production.

Hadija also explained the multiple challenges that disadvantage and limit women in the agri-

culture sector, despite the need to increase diversity in a sector which is the backbone of many African economies.

"Some of the challenges women face includes limited access to land, which they can use as collateral to get funding from financial institutions, and limited access to more rewarding markets. In the agriculture value chain, women are mainly producers and they start to slowly disappear as we move up the chain," said Hadija.

According to Hadija, these challenges were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year, where the closure of borders affected interregional trade, and foreign-linked sectors such as horticulture were impacted by delayed exports.

"These impacts go beyond af-

fecting trade, and we have seen the trickle-down effect first-hand, down to the impact to the livelihoods of the out growers we work with who rely on exports to sell their crops," she said.

As a steering committee member of AWLN, Hadija expressed the importance of mobilizing all women operating at different levels of the agricultural sector to ensure their voices are heard and that their concerns are addressed.

She emphasized the critical need to champion women's empowerment in the agriculture sector as a way of supporting the country's industrialization trajectory, stating that this is a key priority area to the network which has a specific pillar on Women Living in Rural Areas.

"As women leaders, our role is to highlight these issues to ensure that various partners, including the government and civil society channel more resources and capacity development and support to women farmers for increased productivity and participation," she said.

One such development partner is UN Women, which has supported the government to create an enabling environment for women in the agriculture sector by addressing the gender concerns in the Agricultural and Marketing Policy.

The Representative of UN Women in Tanzania, Hodan Addou said given the fact that women account for nearly half of the world's smallholder farmers in developing countries, there is urgent need for gender-responsive development support to close the 16% gender gap in the sector, which is at risk of widening further due to supply and demand

shocks brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"UN Women is therefore supporting women in agribusiness to build back better, through our COVID-19 recovery programs that are providing gender-specific interventions to build more equal farming communities that are resilient to future shocks. Looking at women in the agriculture sector, we have started empowering women in pastoral households and would also want to support them to establish kitchen gardens to enhance food security and nutrition," said Addou.

The UN Women Representative further explained that in order for transformational change to happen in the sector additional effort is required, including putting in place measures that support land ownership by women, and for agriculture to promote better production and establishment of businesses around what they produce.

"That is why we are supporting the implementation of the Village Land Act to support efforts working to ensure that women have access to and control over productive assets such as land," she said.

In partnership with the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) in Arusha, more than 1,000 women obtained their own land titles supported through business skills development initiatives, which allowed more than 10,000 women farmers to start their own land-based businesses such as livestock production.

UN Women's support for rural women in Arusha and Kigoma regions also goes beyond land ownership and capacity development, employing a multifaceted approach that focuses on economically empowering women and female youth farmers.

Stating that as agriculture is likely to remain as the mainstay of a large share of the country's rural population Addou further emphasized the need for increased investments from stakeholders.

"Investing in agriculture is crucial to sustaining economic growth. We must therefore ensure that our collective efforts succeed in re-energizing the sector, to lift large numbers of agricultural households out of poverty and ultimately better the lives of women across the country."

NEW YORK

EIGHT years ago, and at the age of 11, Fuzia co-founder Riya Sinha decided to start the online platform for girls and women. Her story and Fuzia's DNA are intrinsically wrapped around each other - and highlight how even in the age of feminism where women's voices tend to be drowned out, a platform for them can become a global success.

Sinha in an exclusive interview with Inter Press Service explains that Fuzia, with 4-million majority-female followership, was started after she published a book.

"We wanted to give girls a voice. I had written my first book: Runaway Twins when I was 11 and sold it over Amazon and through the local Palo Alto bookstore, Books Inc. in the United States," she said. "This got me into thinking that every girl, in each corner of the world, needs to be given a place to express and engage. Each has a story, and what better thing can there be other than providing them with a platform? This is why we launched Fuzia."

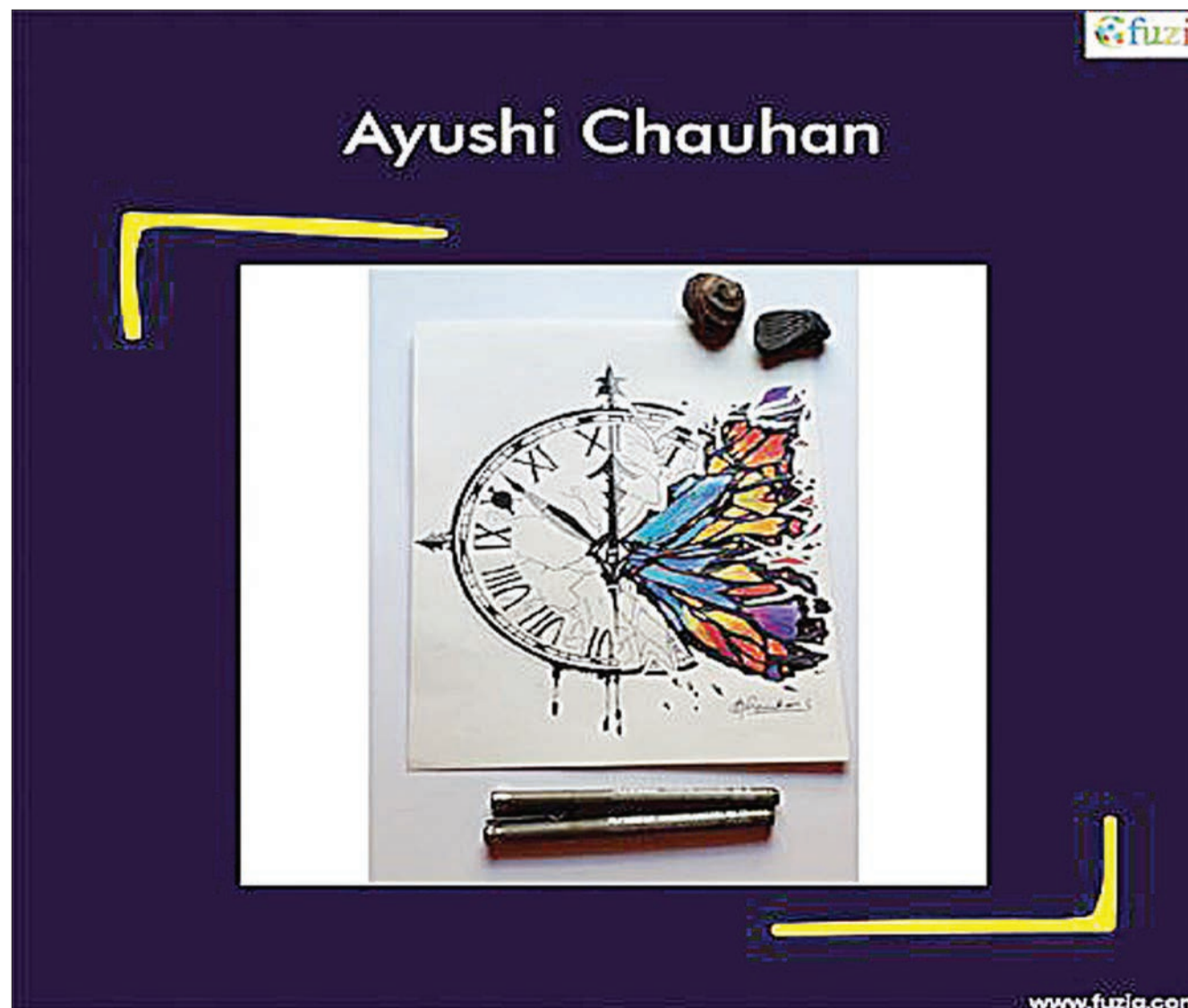
The website, which started primarily as a writers' club, has broken barriers in an age of so-called women empowerment but where men still outweigh women in their impact in the publishing world.

More than 80% of the 100 most popular novels were written by men, according to an interactive infographic by Wordery published in 2019. A year earlier, a study found that three leading literary publications devoted less than 40% of their coverage to women authors.

Other factors set boundaries for female writers. Women, in developing countries, but their hobbies and creative talents at the backseat focusing on building a family first, then a career, and lastly express her creative side. A piece, if published, is then scrutinized by society and family. The scene is a bit different in countries like the United States and Canada - but there, creativity is overshadowed by the prohibitive costs of publishing.

Like many institutions, the publishing industry stands accused of gender bias. Every year, Women in Literary Arts (VIDA) Count goes through literary journalism outlets and tallies the gen-

## Technology meets creativity on women's platform for empowering girls and women



Artist Ayushi Chauhan's painting on the Fuzia website. File photo

ders of the writers whose works are featured and reviewed in those outlets.

According to their most recent study, in 2015 books by women made up less than 20% of books reviewed in the New York Review of Books, 30% in Harper's Magazine, 29% in the Atlantic, and 22% in the London Review of Books.

Fuzia, however, is breaking these barriers for women and has rapidly become one of the topmost 'liked' communities on Facebook.

Sinha says she is proud to bring together hundreds of thousands of women from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, the U.S., and other places. Fuzia followers across the globe drive women empowerment and creativity through their fusion of cultures and ideas.

Central to Fuzia's philosophy is to give women a voice. Women play a crucial role as daughter, sister, mother, and wife, supporter of the community as a friend and caregiver - but often, her voice

is numbed. If her voice is given a platform, and she is encouraged to make her point come across and delivered to a greater audience, then, this will help solve a lot of underlying issues. Critical topics like domestic violence, domestic abuse, when, why, and how, methods of coping, strategies for help, the root cause of bullying, gender differences, treatment of sexual orientation, and many other disparities will surface, and with accurate reporting could provide solutions and support.

During this critical time, when the world is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Fuzia adapted its programs to support women.

"We prioritized by looking at what is most needed in the world today. For example, in the time of lockdown, we began developing Fuzia Wellness more rapidly, as people may need more access to mental health help when isolated at home," Sinha said.

The platform, having just celebrated its 8th anniversary, has been recognized globally with the team awarded by the World Economic Forum "Young Leaders Creating a Better World for All" in 2018. Sinha has been invited to the TEDx stage, where she talks passionately about the role youth have in changing the world.

Sinha says Fuzia plans to continue to stay relevant.

"Our goals for the future are to be self-sustaining and generate revenue, expand the brand of Fuzia to become like another social media platform in its influence," she says.

"We already link up talents, groom them, and offer career training. Many girls, from all over the world, have been using our platform, and they have become entrepreneurs, they have become small business owners, tech start-up founders, and more."

The website and its underlying philosophy could also encourage female authors by supporting them and giving them the means to sustain this career choice. Fuzia supports its users with engagements of many, where anyone can publish, get noticed, and get constructive reviews. They also hold period writing contests and the winners are presented with acclamations, financial benefits, a pre-start to career, and mostly an audience of millions.

College student and Fuzia top user Ayushi Chauhan (22) said her experience on the platform had been positive.

"I believe that everyone has a unique talent, and Fuzia is a great platform to have your talent and skills showcased. It is free to express and share the platform, and I share my ideas on various topics here. I also get to meet many more talented women who inspire me and appreciate my artwork. I appreciate all the Fuziates for their love and support."

With women empowerment platforms, like Fuzia, where technology meets creativity, it is hoped that more women can devote their time to writing and creating undampened by social boundaries. The supportive nature of the website means that barriers to creativity - where a woman may find herself scrutinized by family and society are broken down.

The Artists of Fuzia, Writers of Fuzia, Photographers of Fuzia identify talents and showcase them in front of a broad audience.

"I'm currently in my 2nd year of graduation in commerce. I began my craft four years back and still find myself sketching, painting, making some craft, or just doodling. I have kept my zeal to polish my skills intact, and I believe in taking inspiration from my flaws," Chauhan said. "It is because of my passion that I challenge myself every day to learn new skills and Fuzia has been the best platform to help me do this. I showcase my artworks and creativity at Fuzia, and I grow better each day."

With challenges like user visibility, retention, and coping with an ever-changing face of the digital media and publishing scene, any company wishing to make an impact needs grit.

Fuzia aims to hold on to their vision of empowering creative women through the fusion of cultures and ideas and have the open company culture of accepting and embracing change so that everyone can have a voice and make it heard without any barriers, said Sinha.

"Overall, what we give them is a playground where they can express, speak, and thrive. And that too, without any judgment. We give them a voice," Sinha said.

Agencies

# Building post-COVID-19 resilience for Africa's coffee sector

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE Inter African Coffee Organisation (IACO) has joined forces with the International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), to design an emergency intervention program to alleviate the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's coffee sector.

The initiative estimated to cost €12 million (about US\$14.3 million) aims to alleviate market disruptions, food, nutrition, and income security challenges facing millions of smallholder coffee farmers across 11 countries for an initial three-year period.

The risk posed by COVID-19 on Africa's agricultural sector remains critical, given the sector accounts for 23 per cent of the continent's Gross Domestic Product, with food and agricultural exports averaging US\$35 billion to US\$40 billion annually.

Out of this, agricultural products, including coffee and food, worth US\$8 billion

flow through intra-regional trade every year, according to a McKinsey's report calling for the need to safeguard Africa's food systems against the pandemic.

The IACO says COVID-19 has revealed the critical weakness of the agricultural systems in Africa, and particularly the growing concern of its coffee value chain. The ICO projects a loss of exports valued between US\$100 million and US\$200 million, potentially affecting 6.6 million jobs in the coffee sector, particularly in the East Africa region.

"This pandemic has dealt a major blow to the coffee economy. World prices were already bad for producers at the beginning of the year before COVID-19. Unfortunately, the outbreak worsened the downward trend in coffee price to the disadvantage of vulnerable smallholder producers. This is why we are working towards building resilience that will protect our producers," says Dr Fred Kawuma, Secretary General of the IACO.

Activities along the entire value chains across the continent have been disrupted,



leading to stockpiling of coffee at farm levels, reduced price to growers, reduced domestic consumption due to closures of coffee roasting units, cessation of movements and meetings, and closure of distribution outlets.

This joint venture by IACO,

ICO, and CABI aims to address these challenges and add to ongoing efforts under Africa Coffee Facility (ACF) set up to promote domestic coffee consumption in the continent. The program adds to support systems and agricultural practices which will ensure sustainable in-

tensification of smallholder coffee farming systems in a manner that ensures income security devoid of the price shocks in the international markets, guarantee food and nutrition security of the smallholder coffee systems, and promote the creation of entrepreneurial

jobs beyond farming, both in the rural and urban areas.

"In the immediate term, the programme will focus on building a system where coffee smallholders are enabled to earn living incomes by systematically incorporating high-value nutritious

crops that provide income during coffee off-seasons. It will consequently ensure that producing countries remain food secure amid reduced food imports due to COVID-19 and mitigate any future disruptions," says Dr. Denis Seudieu, Chief Economist of the ICO.

In the medium and long term, the resilience created will make operators eligible for loan financing requests and the ability to consolidate their investments, thus creating business for the banks.

"In addition to ensuring income, food and nutrition security, the proposed complementary crops will form the basis for developing rural-based Small and Medium Enterprises in aggregation, grading, packaging and distribution of coffee and produce from the associated crops," says Dr. Morris Akiri, CABI's Regional Director.

Projected costs of this initiative estimated at €9.6 million (about US\$11.4 million), will be met through grants from Development Partners with an additional €2.4 million (about US\$2.9 million) drawn from counterpart contribution of the recipient countries.

The program proposal supported by the African Union Commission has been submitted to the European Commission for consideration. It has also been submitted to the International Coffee Council for endorsement during its forthcoming session in September 2020.

## Adesina: We must help Africa build back boldly, but smartly

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, ABIDJAN

**P**RESIDENT of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Dr Akinwumi Adesina has unveiled a sweeping vision to consolidate the institution's successes of the last five years, hone the Bank's operations and exploit opportunities and urgency created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything globally. It has thrown Africa's growth back," Dr Adesina said. "Now, we must help Africa build back boldly, but smartly, paying greater attention to quality growth: especially in the areas of health, climate and the environment."

He outlined four strategic pillars: 'Institution', 'People', 'Delivery, and 'Sustainability, that will drive five top-level goals that include deepening quality and impact; and maintaining financial sustainability.

The President stressed the new framework would enhance and complement the Bank's High-5 priorities, which have guided its mission since 2015, and which align with other continental and global development framework.

"UNDP has shown that achieving the High-5s would lead to achievement of 90% of the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union."

"We will build on the great successes we have had in agriculture, by scaling up technologies to reach tens of millions of farmers and supporting Africa to build competitive agricultural value chains. We will add value to what we produce in Africa, and provide creative and high-tech opportunities for massive youth engagement in agriculture and agribusiness."

A significant element of the program will entail strengthening the Bank, a development that is partly responsive to the challenges spurred by the ongoing pandemic but also an element of the institution's longer-term efforts to meet Africa's development needs.

"The future beckons the Bank to be more agile and more selective; to scale up what's working already and reinforce its own institutional and human capacity. Our Bank must ensure its own long-term financial sustainability to drive Africa's growth further, deeper and faster in the years to come."

The Bank responded swiftly to the COVID-19 pandemic and its twin health and economic crises, setting up a response facility of up to \$10 billion to extend flexible and targeted support to its member countries. The pandemic has also pointed up the need for a greater strategic focus on Africa's health care systems. The Bank, Adesina stated, "will pay increased attention to supporting Africa with quality health care infrastructure, and building on its comparative advantage in infrastructure."

Adesina unveiled the High 5 priorities in his inaugural speech in 2015. They are: Light up and power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the People of Africa. Under the High-5s, 18 million Africans have gained access to electricity, 60 million enjoy new access to water, and 141 million people have benefited from improved agricultural technologies for food production.

"When you first elected me five years ago, I had a vision. Five years later, I have yet a vision to build on our collective achievements over the next five years. A vision to build a much stronger and resilient African Development Bank Group with the leadership and capacity to deliver greater quality impacts for the people of Africa, while remaining financially strong and sustainable," Adesina said.

## Africa CDC launches web-based tool to better manage public health emergency workforce deployments

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, ADDIS ABABA

**T**HE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), in partnership with the International Health Regulations (IHR) Strengthening Project of Public Health England (PHE), has launched a new web-based tool, AVoHC Net, to facilitate rapid deployment and better administration of a standby workforce

for public health emergencies across Africa.

AVoHC Net will particularly facilitate easy and rapid access to updated profiles of members of the African Volunteer Health Corps (AVoHC); exchange of relevant information with partners for public health emergency deployments; training of experts on disaster preparedness, management and response; and access to country-specific health pro-

files for risk mapping and vulnerability assessment.

"With this tool, which enables us to maintain a current repository of potential deployable workforce, Africa CDC will be able to quickly deploy urgently needed personnel to any part of the continent with minimum delay. We are very pleased to support this work," said Dr Ebere Okereke, IHR Team Lead for PHE.

Following the Ebola virus

disease outbreak in parts of West Africa in 2014, the African Union Heads of State and Government by Decision No. Assembly/AU/Dec.570 (XXV) of June 2015 authorized the creation of AVoHC as a multidisciplinary standby workforce to support response to public health emergencies in any part of Africa.

Since its creation, membership of AVoHC has grown to over 800 experts in epi-

demiology, laboratory, logistics, communication, social science, environmental health, animal health, and incident management. Some of these experts were deployed by the African Union to support response to Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

In fulfilment of its mandate and as part of implementation of its operational framework, Africa CDC took over management of

AVoHC in 2017 to enhance its ability to provide surge capacity support to African Union Member States during public health emergencies. Since then Africa CDC has deployed members of the AVoHC team to support response to Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and currently to support response to COVID-19 pandemic in some African countries. Given the importance of AVoHC for Africa and the diversity of its membership, AVoHC Net will allow systematic expansion and capacity building for the AVoHC team, thus contributing to the achievement of the public health workforce development agenda of Africa CDC.

"Africa CDC is deploying community workers and community healthcare workers in different countries to help fight COVID-19 pandemic, but we need to be able to do this more rapidly and in a more coordinated manner. We also need to know the training needs of the experts being deployed and be able to provide training appropriately. With AVoHC Net, Africa CDC will be in a better position to provide targeted workforce development support for public health emergencies as an integral part of the health systems strengthening agenda for Africa," said Dr John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC



## Brazilian investors eye Zanzibar's aviation sector

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Consul of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Zanzibar, Abdulsamad Abdulrahim, has said that investors from the South American nation who toured the Isles last week have shown interest in the aviation sector.

Speaking to The Guardian in an interview at the weekend, Abdulrahim

said the delegation was impressed by opportunities in cargo and as well as passenger air transport between Zanzibar and Brazil.

The move, according to him, came shortly after he held a meeting with the investors to discuss possibilities of facilitating passenger and cargo flight to ply between the two countries.

Abdulrahim who is also the chairman of the Association of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOGS) told The Guardian in an interview that the investors' delegation came to Zanzibar early last week to explore more on the market.

According to Abdulrahim, the meeting comes after a successful trade mission to Brazil last year aimed

to boost trade, lure investors to Zanzibar and promote export, tourism, infrastructure, cargo, fishing and commodities.

He praised the investors for showing genuine interest in exploring investing in Zanzibar in the airline and cargo business and said that this venture will help movement of trade, people, goods and services as well as export of commodities to

South American countries. "The investors have brought its team to conduct feasibility study before commencing its flights. I hope that by next year the flights will be launched ready to benefit thousands of traders who will be able to ship their produce to Brazil," he said.

According to him, after the launch of the flights, several traders, especially those selling horticulture products

will be able to expand their business by transporting the products to Brazil and other countries smoothly.

"This is good news for traders, and we are calling for them to stay tuned. Traders will be able to ship various products like fish, fruits, cotton, spices and other products. So local entrepreneurs should get prepared to start reaping big from the flights," he added.

BY JEFF RUDIN

In a society as troubled and divided as ours, unanimity about anything is unlikely. Yet, corruption has managed the almost unthinkable: we stand united in both agreeing that corruption is now unconscionable and in holding the ANC mainly accountable for this condition. President Cyril Ramaphosa publicly acknowledged this accountability on 21 August: "Today, the ANC and its leaders stand accused of corruption. ... The ANC may not stand alone in the dock, but it does stand as Accused No 1."

This public confession has been a long time coming. Just contrast it with the hero's send-off the ANC's leadership gave to Tony Yengeni 14 years ago, almost to the day: 25 August 2006. That is when ANC ministers and other leaders gathered to cheer Yengeni as he entered prison to serve his four-year sentence for fraud. His being released four months later, and almost immediately being re-elected in 21st place to the ANC's 80-member body, the National Executive Committee (NEC), is a reminder of the then-broad acceptability of corruption.

Today's unanimity about its unacceptability fragments immediately when it comes to what to do about corruption. Remedial debates are already in plentiful supply. Daily Maverick has been prominent in publishing many of them, including my own contributions. Some of the offered remedies have focused on individual miscreants, others on questions of morality, still others on corruption without criminal consequences. History has been invoked, while others have pointed to the need for systemic change. Yet, none have been adequate to providing an understanding of the many varied and always deep roots of the malaise. Corruption survives despite many announcements of its death. The roots can be severed but only after first having been identified.

It is with the hope of contributing to that aspiration that this further attempt is offered. The ambition is to provide an overarching analysis that connects the dots in all their dozens, from across the spectrum of South Africa 2020. The times warrant the risk of my analysis not being well-received, even by my friends.

(Given the profusion of the dots and the limited space of an op-ed, some of what follows must, unavoidably, be presented in a highly summarised form, occasionally shorn of nuances. The difference between black/Black and white/White is that the former of each is descriptive while the latter is a politically infused self-identity.)

White Supremacy and Whiteness return to non-racial South Africa

The ANC has a proud history of opposing the replacement of white racism with black racism. In the late 1950s it faced this challenge head-on. A vociferous group within its ranks objected mainly to the external influence of white communists. In 1958, these nationalists broke away from the ANC to form their own racist-flirting party, the Pan-Africanist Congress. In 1969, the ANC opened its ranks to all colours. The ANC was also the prime mover behind the non-racism with which South Africa's new Constitution begins. The prominence of white members of Nelson Mandela's first government therefore occasioned no surprise. The disproportionately large number of white MPs among the ANC's contingent was similarly unremarkable.

Things took a dramatic turn in 2015. The student protests against the statue of Cecil John Rhodes led to some two years of frequently violent confrontations. This was when White Supremacy, Whiteness and White Monopoly Capital entered the public arena in a big way - and by assertion only.

It has now become commonplace to speak of "Whites" as an entirely homogeneous group and, hence, applicable to each person who looks white. There is no escape. Having some prejudice-free whites threatens the easy label of Whiteness and accordingly has little practical relevance, notwithstanding the occasional acknowledgements of some white people being the exceptions to the rule. With monolith Whiteness intact, every "white" person is, by extension, an automatic beneficiary and protector of White Supremacy.

What needs emphasising is that this (effectively) new and largely unchallenged Black consensus about there being no exceptions to "Whiteness" - if you look white you are White - is

# The upside-down world of racial capitalism and relevance to Black Lives Matter - Part I



Local residents demonstrate during a protest against the killing of 16-year-old Nathaniel Julius at Eldorado Park Police Station on 30 August 2020. While white people are the target of the ANC's Racial Capitalism, the majority of black people are Racial Capitalism's hapless victims, says the writer. File photo

without precedent in the history of South Africa. The Left contribution to this normalisation is dealt with later.

Resurrection of a now-forgotten incident highlights the desperation to find a white racist, who, implicitly representing all whites, gives credence to Whiteness. It came in early 2016 in the shape of a certain André Slade, a self-proclaimed and entirely unapologetic racist owner of a guest house. There were not many people in 2016 who readily gave national media interviews to say that black people are inferior to whites, and to attribute their inferiority to God's divine plan. There are similarly few guest house owners who openly proclaim their defiance of anti-discriminatory laws by not opening their doors to blacks. Seeing Slade as an unbalanced eccentric was not why there was a viral response to him. His appeal was, indeed, his very bigotry, his rabid racism.

This is why the now-racialised ANC chose to add to the national outrage caused by a single, hitherto completely

unknown guest house owner; an individual whose mental health can be inferred from his greeting black journalists: "I am your King. I am the King on earth." Led by an ANC provincial minister, 3,000 angry protesters somehow made their long way to his remote guest house to protest their outrage. Having served his purpose, André Slade disappeared into obscurity. (Unlike others - Penny Sparrow, being the first - he faced no legal sanction.)

Colonialism joined White Supremacy and Whiteness as the new enemy. Along with other political parties, the ANC began talking about the need for decolonisation. To some extent, this was an appeasement of the students. Behind the student revolts was an economy no longer able to provide an almost assured path to joining the "black bourgeoisie", the black capitalists then publicly pledged to help create, sustain and develop as a government priority, in 1999. The students blamed colonial Whiteness for what for them

was the failure of transformation. They also blamed the ANC, even accusing Mandela of having "sold out" to the Whites.

With few of the leaders of the ANC seeing any link between capitalism, the ANC's neoliberal policies, and the trinity of "poverty, unemployment and inequality", the demand for decolonisation conveniently put the ANC on the same side as the students. Joining the students in demonising White Supremacy - and, thus, in part, to deny their own very privileged positions - was an easy next step.

There were, additionally, other, more explicitly opportunistic reasons for joining this demonisation of Whites. The ANC feared the former president of its Youth League, Julius Malema. It saw the new, Malema-led Economic Freedom Fighters as its main left-wing opponent. As Malema became more and more virulent in his anti-White racism, so did the ANC. Facilitating the speed and explicitness of the ANC's attacks on Whiteness was Jacob Zuma. He was

fighting for his political life, as well as keeping himself out of prison for what could be the remainder of his life. Keeping pace with the mounting evidence of his corruption and increasing and vocal calls for him to step down, he sought refuge in blaming Whites.

This performative gallop through the tangled web and complexities of the period should suffice as an outline of why and how the ANC has used racism as an explanation for the crises of capitalism to which it is firmly wedded. In doing so the ANC has turned Racial Capitalism on its head, that is, from originally being a racism allowing white beneficiaries to be comfortable with their privilege to a racism serving the same purpose but this time for elite black beneficiaries. (I hope to return to the original Racial Capitalism in a separate article.)

While white people are the target of the ANC's Racial Capitalism, the majority of black people are Racial Capitalism's hapless victims. Unlike the creation of White Supremacy, this is not a delib-

erate - or even convenient - outcome. Regardless of intentions, however, black people do pay an enormously heavy price for the privileges of a few who vaunt being Black.

The collateral damage of 'transformation': The black lives that do matter

Black lives - African lives - do matter to the ANC. This is the reality reflected in the standard, everyday language of the ANC: an exclusionary "our people"; the Africans in whose name the ANC speaks, most often. "Black people in general and Africans in particular" is the formulation with a long history. "Our people" comes from pre-1994 days and does still often embody genuine desires to be the liberation movement that led to the fall of apartheid. Allowing that desire to co-exist with a very different current reality is a contradiction that doesn't negate the genuine wish held by many within the ANC. It is rather a case, pithily expressed by Slavoy Zizek, of: "I know, but I don't want to know what I know, so I don't know" (Zizek, S. (2008). Violence: Six sideways reflections. New York: Picador, p.53).

Responding to the worldwide revulsion at the racism behind a white US policeman's murder of a black man, President Cyril Ramaphosa used the occasion to attack White Supremacy in South Africa:

"This sense of the natural order of things encourages white South Africans to racist outbursts, where they think they have the licence to call black people 'monkeys', to caricature black people in our own country... to have black academics overlooked for promotions. ... [All this] needs to be challenged and broken. We need to acknowledge that racism is not only to be found in the behaviour of individuals, that it permeates within institutions, communities and societies and is manifested in many ways. ... Poverty and inequality wears a black face."

The global Black Lives Matter upsurge inspired the ANC to launch its own anti-racism campaign, in early June. For the ANC, the death of 11 black South Africans by black South African police enforcing the law during the first few days of lockdown didn't disturb the coherence of the campaign.

It simply wasn't allowed to. Not even the immensely larger contradictions that long-precended George Floyd's murder could dent the ANC's single-minded pursuit of advancing the Black Lives of an elite. And of doing so in the name of "our people" and racial justice.

Black lives that don't matter  
The enormous price most Africans pay for the advancement of a few Africans is a matter of daily report, even though seldom expressed in these explicit terms. Indeed, there is no need for a litany of what is already all too well known. However, a tipping point seems to have been reached when emergency monies, for meeting the unprecedented crises caused by the coronavirus, were turned into a lucrative business opportunity for looting by senior members of the ANC or those with connections to such people.

While the corruption itself wasn't new, the public outrage was different. Notwithstanding the numbness of a public exposed over the previous decades to never-ending scandals, these latest ones succeeded in reawakening the sense of moral collapse. This is best conveyed by a Daily Maverick editorial. Under the headline of "Stealing from your own people is a crime; stealing during the pandemic is a crime against humanity", it began: "There should be a place in jail for everyone who steals from their own people. But there should be a place in Hell for those who find the fortitude within them to steal from the people during a pandemic." It ended: "The elite are immune to everything, including shame... They will be rich and literally everyone around them will be poor. How long do they think that can last?"

This rhetorical question speaks to the desperation pouring from a perspective on the moral turpitude of our current leaders. However, the Left prides itself in having a deep systemic understanding of corruption and class morality. It is apposite, therefore, to turn ever so briefly to why South Africa's Left (which is where I place myself) have added to the confusion rather than the expected clarification.





**MARKET TRENDS**  
Anxiety among small businesses as NCBA Bank targets SME go-getters

- page 15

Thursday 3 September 2020

## Treasury chief congratulates Airtel on record 18.9 billion/- dividend payment

By The Banker Reporter, Dodoma

**M**OBILE phone services company, Airtel Tanzania Plc has been commended for paying a record 32.1bn/- as dividend and 14bn/- in support of services offered by the government.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Dotto James said in Dodoma this week after receiving the payment that Airtel's performance has impressed the government which has a stake in the telecommunications company.

"Airtel has today paid the highest amount ever to be paid as a dividend to the government in institutions where Treasury stake since the beginning of the year," James said while commending the telco's board, management and staff for a job well done.

He paid tribute to Airtel Board Chairman, Gabriel Malata and Managing Director, George Mathen for steering the telco to new heights since taking over last year noting that their leadership has achieved remarkable milestones.

James underscored that dividend payment is one of the most reliable sources of revenue for the government which is then invested in delivery of social services and financing of development projects.

The Treasury's highest civil servant further noted that last year, the government restructured Airtel after



Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Doto James (C) receives from Airtel Tanzania Managing Director George Marten (L) in Dodoma yesterday a dummy cheque for 18.9bn/- as dividend to the government. Others are Airtel Tanzania company board chairman, Gabriel Malata (2nd L), Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent secretary Dr Zainab Chaula (2nd R) and Treasury registrar Athumani Mbutuka. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

agreement with Indian based holding company, Bharti Airtel to form a new Airtel Tanzania Plc that is growing and registering positive results for the benefit of both shareholders.

"Airtel Tanzania Plc has fulfilled 90 percent of the agreed benchmarks in the agreements in just a short period of time. Airtel Tanzania is a good example of public private partnership," he added while lauding the role that Airtel Money and Government electronic Payment Gateway in providing instant over the phone payment solutions to clients.

Briefing the Treasury PS on last

year's performance, Airtel's Mathen said commended the government for putting in place a lot of efforts for investors to do business. He said such a conducive environment and political stability, the telco is assured of better performance.

"In addition, the country's improved economy has made us achieve positive successful profits hence we now have an opportunity to pay the government 32.9bn/- which I am sure will be directed to development projects," Mathen said.

He added that for the year ending December 2019, Airtel's payments of

taxes and other fees increased by 27 percent compared to what was paid in December 2018. "This also implies that Airtel is growing very fast and I must thank the support we are getting from the government and public," the Airtel chief noted.

In remarks at the same event, Airtel's Board Chair, Malata said because of good infrastructure, the company's customers base has increased from 11.4 million in March 2019 to 13.3 million by March 2020 accounting for 27 percent market share.

He added that the telco currently

employs over 500 people of which only seven are foreigners which demonstrates how the company is implementing local content requirements. "In addition, over 350,000 Tanzanians are indirectly employed through provision of various Airtel services and products," he added.

In supporting various government initiatives like education and health, the telco contributed 2.3bn/- to support construction of Dodoma hospital. The company also partnered with Vocation Education and Training Authority to launch an online vocational training platform VSOMO which has registered over 500 students to date with 15 different courses on offer.

Treasury Register, Athumani Mbutuka also commended Airtel's board, management and staff for the good performance saying the dividend payment is testimony.

"This is the first time that Airtel Tanzania Plc is paying dividend to the government since the takeover. However, it comes as a surprise as it has surpassed all other institutions and set a record as the highest ever," Mbutuka said while pledging Treasury backing of the telco's activities.



ECB chief economist Philip Lane.

## Euro-area inflation turns negative in worrying sign for the ECB

FRANKFURT

Consumer prices in the 19-nation euro area are falling for the first time in four years, highlighting that a recent rebound in economic activity hasn't managed to offset the pandemic's profound impact on demand.

The inflation rate came in at -0.2%, missing economists' median estimate for a reading of +0.2%. Core inflation hit a record low, in part dragged lower by discounting during summer sales. The European Central Bank had warned that inflation would weaken, but the negative reading will still sound the alarm for policy makers who have tried to soften the shock unleashed by the coronavirus.

"This is a serious issue for the ECB," said Nick Kounis, an economist at ABN Amro Bank NV. "We're clearly seeing pretty aggressive disinflation, and there's plenty more to come. Unemployment is on the way up, wage growth is coming down, and there's going to be a lot of spare capacity in the economy for a long time to come."

The risk for the ECB is that the price picture doesn't improve. In a warning sign for what lies ahead, a separate release from IHS Markit showed that European factories lowered prices for a 14th straight month amid sluggish demand. They also cut jobs, and reduced inventories of raw materials and semi-manufactured stocks instead of ordering supplies.

While consumption and industrial activity have improved in the euro area since lockdowns were relaxed, weak inflation pressures and the threat of unemployment provide a gloomy backdrop for the ECB's policy meeting next week. Another likely source of concern is the euro, which has risen more than 7% over the last six months. The currency gained on Tuesday, and was up 0.3% at \$1.1974 at 12:04 p.m. Frankfurt time.

What Bloomberg's Economists Say... "The summer sales effect should reverse in September, lifting the inflation rate a touch. Still, price pressures are due to remain subdued, adding to concerns at the European Central Bank that a lingering weakness in demand will create downside risks to inflation."

ECB officials have already pledged more than 1 trillion euros (\$1.2 trillion) worth of bond purchases through June next year in order to keep borrowing costs low. Whether or not more is in the cards is yet to be seen.

ECB chief economist Philip Lane said last week that the next step after fighting the shock is to stimulate inflation, and that policy makers stand ready to do more if needed. Executive Board member Isabel Schnabel said in an interview published Monday that incoming data don't suggest a need for further action now.

## BK Group registers Rwf16.1bn profit in first half of 2020

KIGALI

BK Group has registered an after-tax profit of Rwf16.1 billion in the first half of 2020 an increase of 10.6 per cent growth compared to Rwf14.6 billion in the same period last year.

The growth was despite the turbulence currently being experienced in the local, regional and global economy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This, according to the Group's Chief Executive, Diane Karusisi, is proof that even in crisis, there are new opportunities to pursue.

The group has four subsidiaries: Bank, BK General Insurance, BK TechHouse, and BK Capital. The bank generated the largest share of profit raking in Rwf14.5 billion after-tax (a growth from about Rwf12.5 billion in the same period last year).

To achieve the feat, the bank served over 352,000 retail customers and over 36,600 corporate clients and at the same time expanded its agency banking network to 1,951 agents as at end June 2020. The network processed over 1.7 million transactions worth Rwf158.8 billion.

Operating income rose by 8.5 per cent to Rwf64.6 billion compared to the same period last year. This was due to potential impact of Covid-19 and significant increase in credit risk which largely affected the loan loss provisions. Non-performing loans increased to Rwf52.8 billion, while the

Non-Performing Loans ratio remained at 5.6 per cent while the cost of risk increased to 4.6 per cent from 2.7 per cent at the end of 2019. With the reduced business volumes and increased financial distress, the bank granted grace period between 3 to 10 months to clients who sought moratorium. With the restructuring of loans restructured facilities related to Covid-19 reached 37 per cent of gross loans and advances.

BK Insurance registered a profit of Rwf1.4 billion in the second quarter of 2020 compared to Rwf1.14 billion registered in the same period last year



BK Group's Chief Executive, Diane Karusisi.

representing a 22 per cent growth in profitability (Year on year).

The insurance arm profit was among other things driven by an increase in gross premium from Rwf2.4 billion in 2019 to Rwf2.7 billion in second quarter of 2020 this is a growth of 12 per cent. At BK TechHouse, there was a growth in net sales by 6 per cent year on year to Rwf515 million. Net Profit before tax

stood at Rwf99 million.

The group's 'youngest' subsidiary BK Capital saw assets under management grow to Rwf9.2 billion as at the end of June 2020 from Rwf2.9 billion at the same time last year. Karusisi said that the second quarter was a turbulent period due to the effect of the pandemic on the economy.

"The second quarter was probably the most tumultuous period in a

long time as the pandemic hurt economic activity across all sectors. We continued to deliver for our clients, employees, our communities and shareholders beyond just business continuity. The growth registered in net loans and customer deposits shows that even in times of crisis, it is possible to pursue new opportunities," she said. She expressed optimism for improved performance

in coming months as the economy steadily picks up.

"As the Rwandan economy steadily picks up for the rest of the year, we remain hopeful to close this year with a much better performance than anticipated at the beginning of the pandemic," she said. The group in 2019 recorded an after-tax profit of Rwf37.3 billion which was a 36 per cent growth from the previous year.

# Telco and UmojaSwitch in joint effort to provide HaloPesa ATM cash-out service

By The Banker Reporter

**I**n a bid to ease transactions among its customers, Halotel Tanzania Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding with UmojaSwitch to allow HaloPesa subscribers cash-out from ATMs of the banking network countrywide.

Halotel's Head of haloPesa Business, Magesa Wandwi said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week after the MoU signing that in line with both the growth in technology and the economy at large, the telecommunications company's strategy is to provide customers with quality and digitalized financial services.

Wandwi said the telco's goal is to extend its services through various touch points and provide to its customers more convenient and quality products hence the UmojaSwitch partnership is meant to deliver such an arrangement.

"It's our objective and motive to ensure that we utilize every available opportunity and relevant technology infrastructure in partnership with various stakeholders in the financial services industry to continue providing to customers quality and convenient HaloPesa services," he noted.

He said there is no extra fees imposed for customers to withdraw cash at UmojaSwitch ATMs but existing charges remain in place with respect to the market's fees when making cash



The Head of Halopesa business, Magesa Wandwi (R), exchanges documents with UmojaSwitch CEO Danford Mbilinyi in Dar es Salaam yesterday after signing a memorandum of understanding that allows HaloPesa subscribers to withdraw money from the banking network's outlets countrywide. Photo: Guardian Photographer

withdraws at HaloPesa agents.

"We are excited and delighted today in partnership with UmojaSwitch to launch the ATM cash-out service that allows our customers to make withdrawals at any of the over 250 Umoja ATMs across the country very conveniently with assurance to get cash any time," Wandwi added.

With this new service along with over 50,000 HaloPesa Agents who are well distributed across the country, the telco will continue to serve over two million customers based both in rural and urban areas.

In remarks at the event, UmojaSwitch's CEO, Danford Mbilinyi said that the partnership will further enhance financial

inclusion among majority of people based in remote areas of the country. "our partnership with HaloPesa bonds the financial services integration and enhances the cash-out service availability anytime to customers through our UmojaSwitch ATMs which are widely distributed across the country," Mbilinyi noted.

# SA operators crack down on mobile fraud amid crisis due to coronavirus

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's mobile network operators are moving to fight mobile fraud on their networks, which has increased during lockdown, with local customers being at higher risk of falling victim to a new wave of airtime theft through rogue wireless application service provider (WASP) services.

New research conducted by Paris-based anti-fraud firm Evina found South African mobile phone users are very often subscribed to mobile services without their consent. It found that in the month of July, one out of every three WASP subscription attempts in SA was fraudulent, as local mobile operators fall behind in their mobile security measures.

After Kenya, SA is the African country most affected by this type of mobile crime, also known as mobile clickjacking - when criminals illegally subscribe customers to a wide range of content through their smartphones for a daily or weekly fee.

Evina says it conducted an analysis of hundreds of thousands of mobile billing transactions from customers of SA's telcos and concluded that an estimated 31% of WASP subscriptions were fraudulent attempts at illegally billing customers.

"As Africa's most advanced economy, it is particularly tragic that South African mobile users are falling victim to subscription frauds that are well-managed in many other countries," says David Lotfi, CEO of Evina.

"This is at a time when we are all under significant financial pressure following the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic." In the report, Evina is adamant that fraud is not treated seriously enough by the various mobile payment actors and that the solution is not simply to block mobile value-added subscriptions by default - an option offered by telcos - but rather to manage the problem with better cyber crime-fighting tools and expertise.

"South African mobile users are also targets of a whole range of nefarious attacks, commonly available for app store download, and these include everything from flashlight to wallpaper, pedometer, file manager and video maker apps," notes the report.

Lockdown attacks

Responding to ITWeb's questions about fraud trends on its network, Vodacom says since the onset of lockdown, it has seen a rise in mobile cyber attacks, as consumers continue with remote working. Among the popular trends, according to the telco, are phishing, mobile clickjacking, malicious Web sites, fake internal HR or IT communication.

"There are several scams that customers should be aware of right now. Cyber criminals are well aware that people are spending more time online and have been targeting them with innovative scams suited to the current environment," says a Vodacom spokesperson.

In terms of measures taken to fight the escalation in cyber fraud, Vodacom says it is constantly improving and upgrading its systems to detect and prevent SIM swap fraud, unauthorised porting and all other fraudulent activities.

"In terms of illegal content subscription, we are in the process of implementing a number of measures, including enhanced double opt-in journeys and processes for all Vodacom-owned and -branded services, as well as all third-party content subscription services, resulting in even clearer billing. Vodacom will now require third-party providers of content subscription services to become members of WASPA [Wireless Application Service Providers' Association]," adds the spokesperson.

MTN says two years ago, it implemented fraud detection and blocking software called Secure-D, and new methods of breaches are constantly reviewed and blocked on the network to ensure customer protection from malware, malicious bots and apps. In 2019, MTN says it saw mobile fraud blocking reduced by 92%, which has since decreased to 46% in 2020.

# Ecobank wins Innovation in Financial Services award from African Banker

By The Banker Reporter

A leading pan-African banking group, Ecobank has won an award for Innovation in Financial Services at the 2020 edition of African Banker magazine Awards.

The Awards, which reward banking excellence in Africa, were announced during a virtual ceremony held last week.

In a statement, the Lome based lender said the African Banker's judging process sought to recognise African banks that have demonstrated original and practical uses of technology to provide customer convenience, improved and more affordable services and greater access to the financial services sector in Africa.

"It provides public recognition of our pioneering role in harnessing technology to complement our pan-African presence and partnerships, to deliver accessible, convenient, affordable and innovative banking products which are making a difference to millions of lives and businesses across sub-Saharan Africa," said Group CEO, Ade Ayeyemi.

Ayeyemi explained that five years ago, the banking group commenced

a digital transformation journey to change all products and services hence the award attests to the success of the journey with significant investment in technology made.

"Our one bank model, powered by our robust pan-African banking digital platform provides diverse products and services to governments and corporate clients using digital platforms including Ecobank Omni Plus amongst others, Ecobank Omni Lite for SMEs and commercial bank clients as well as our Ecobank Mobile App and Ecobank Online for consumer clients," he added.

The Ecobank chief further noted that platforms above are in addition to the highly effective cash management, transaction banking solutions and the cross-border Rapid transfer remittance solution, among many other innovations.

Other African banking awards won by Ecobank so far in 2020 include amongst others, Most Innovative Bank in Africa, Best Bank for Payments and Collections, Best Integrated Corporate Banking Site in Africa (Global Finance) and the Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility (Euromoney Awards for Excellence).



Ecobank Group CEO Ade Ayeyemi.

# Nigeria sets capital rules for mobile money licences

LAGOS

Nigeria's central bank said it will grant more licences for payment service banks but set a minimum capital base of US\$13-million, which could deter telecommunications firms and some other potential entrants to the digital financial services sector.

The central bank said in a circular on Monday that telcoms firms, banking agents, retail chains and postal services could apply for licences to become payment banks. To do so they must set up a

separate company for it with a minimum capital of five billion naira (\$13-million) and run it as an independent entity from their existing operations. The bank has granted three licences so far to 9PSB, a unit of local telecom firm, 9mobile, and two others.

Nigeria wants to open up its digital financial services sector, which will help millions of Nigerians who do not have bank accounts. But regulation has been caught up with intense lobbying from lenders seeking to protect their turf in the wake of intense competition and weakening asset quality.

MTN, Nigeria's biggest telcoms firm, which is yet to receive approval, last year launched a mobile money transfer service, targeting those without bank accounts in a bid to secure the central bank's approval for a payments licence. More than half of Nigeria's population of 180 million do not have a bank account.

Next growth area

The success of mobile money in East Africa has convinced investors and the industry that financial services are the next growth area for the telcoms sector, where prices

for basic services are falling.

But the licensing requirement in Nigeria risks putting off telcoms companies. When the central bank issued preliminary guidelines for payment banks in 2018 for discussion, the companies argued that they are not banks and do not need a capital base.

The central bank said in its circular that it could ask payment banks to recapitalise for specific risks. Payment banks should operate mostly in rural areas and unbanked locations, accepting deposits from individuals and small businesses, the central bank

# French finance minister asks banks to keep interest rates low

PARIS

The French finance minister is counting on banks to help the state salvage the economy by supporting companies hit by fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

Following months of strict lockdown to contain Covid-19, a wave

of bankruptcies is looming. For companies that received state-sponsored loans, the fear is that the relief will prove short-lived, and interest rates could climb next year, increasing the cost of repaying the aid.

"Hundreds of thousands of companies have taken out state-

guaranteed loans in March and April - and it saved them," Bruno Le Maire said Saturday on France Inter radio. "With a great deal of solemnity, I'm asking banks to continue supporting companies." Mr Le Maire said interest rates on loans that get extended will be capped at 3 per cent.

A national lockdown that began in March stifled the virus but also sent the economy into its worst tailspin on record. The government now expects that output may contract less than the 11 per cent initially forecast this year, but with infections climbing in France and around

Europe, uncertainty remains high. Many small and medium-sized companies are concerned they would not be able to repay their emergency loans with the virus spreading and the economic outlook grim.

Earlier this week, the government began dropping

hints about the contents of its €100 billion (\$119bn) plan to boost the economy. The plan will be announced on September 3 and will focus on the supply side of the economy, including tax cuts for companies and increased investment.

On Friday, Mr Le Maire insisted

all actors in the economy must show "solidarity" in the next few months. He suggested the companies that benefit from state aid as part of the recovery plan should make commitments to maintain jobs in France and be accountable for their environmental impact.

# Anxiety among small businesses as NCBA Bank targets SME go-getters

By The Banker Reporter

**R**EPORTS that new NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited's management under Managing Director, Margaret Karume is targeting to invest in micro small and medium size enterprises has brought anxiety among small business owners.

"If this new bank is going to focus on SMEs then it's a big relief to many of us who are struggling to get capital to grow our businesses," said Swalehe Juma, an electronic gadgets shop owner at Mwenge.

Juma who was one of the many small business owners who attended NCBA Bank's official launch in Dar es Salaam recently, said banks have long ignored small businesses for obvious reasons including high risk associated with them.

"As small businesses we have challenges indeed such as poor book keeping and lack of business plans showing growth targets but NCBA's management should work with us to address these shortcomings," Juma said.

The seasonal businessman said his

ambition is to expand his electronics shops to Tegeta and Goba which are new growth suburbs of Dar es Salaam. He only hopes that the NCBA Bank with capital of over 500bn/- will make good its promise to target SMEs.

Juma and thousands of small business owners have their future at NCBA Bank as Deputy Minister for Finance, Dr Ashatu Kijaji dared NCBA Bank's leadership to exploit the huge potential which SMEs have in order to ensure growth and economic empowerment of the majority.

"Indeed we are all aware that the development of SMEs is a central component of economic growth because they not only provide employment opportunities to the masses but also are a key contributor to gross domestic product growth and increased tax revenue," she stated.

Dr Kijaji who officiated at the NCBA Bank's launch in Dar es Salaam pointed out that, "To facilitate this, we need a strong financial services sector that can drive financial inclusion across the country and provide key products and services that increase access to credit and loans with affordable interest rates to accelerate growth."



Dr Ashatu Kijaji (C), Deputy minister for Finance and Planning, cuts a ribbon to launch NCBA Bank Tanzania in Dar es Salaam recently. Looking on (R) is the bank's CEO and managing director, Margaret Karume. File photo.

The Deputy Minister further added that "Tanzania Development Vision 2025" highlights small and medium-sized enterprises as an important contributor to the country's long-term development goals "It is estimated that

Tanzania's SME sector consists of more than three million enterprises which contribute over 27 percent of overall gross domestic product," the Deputy Minister noted.

Dr Kijaji praised NCBA Bank for

its steadfast commitment to support government efforts to create a robust financial sector. "I am deeply encouraged by NCBA Bank for taking action, especially with the M-Pawa product that provides digital access to savings and quick loans via mobile phone hence fostering financial inclusion, the growth of SMEs and empowering majority Tanzanians," she pointed out.

Seconding Dr Kijaji's observations, an official from Bank of Tanzania's Directorate of Financial Sector Supervision, Nassor Omar applauded NCBA Bank for its vigour in spearheading digital financial inclusion to ensure everyone has access to financial services.

"I want to re-iterate, a robust banking system is a cornerstone to building a resilient economy. NCBA Bank's arrival is, therefore, a great addition to strengthening Tanzania's position as a middle-income country, which in tandem with the goals of the government," Omar noted.

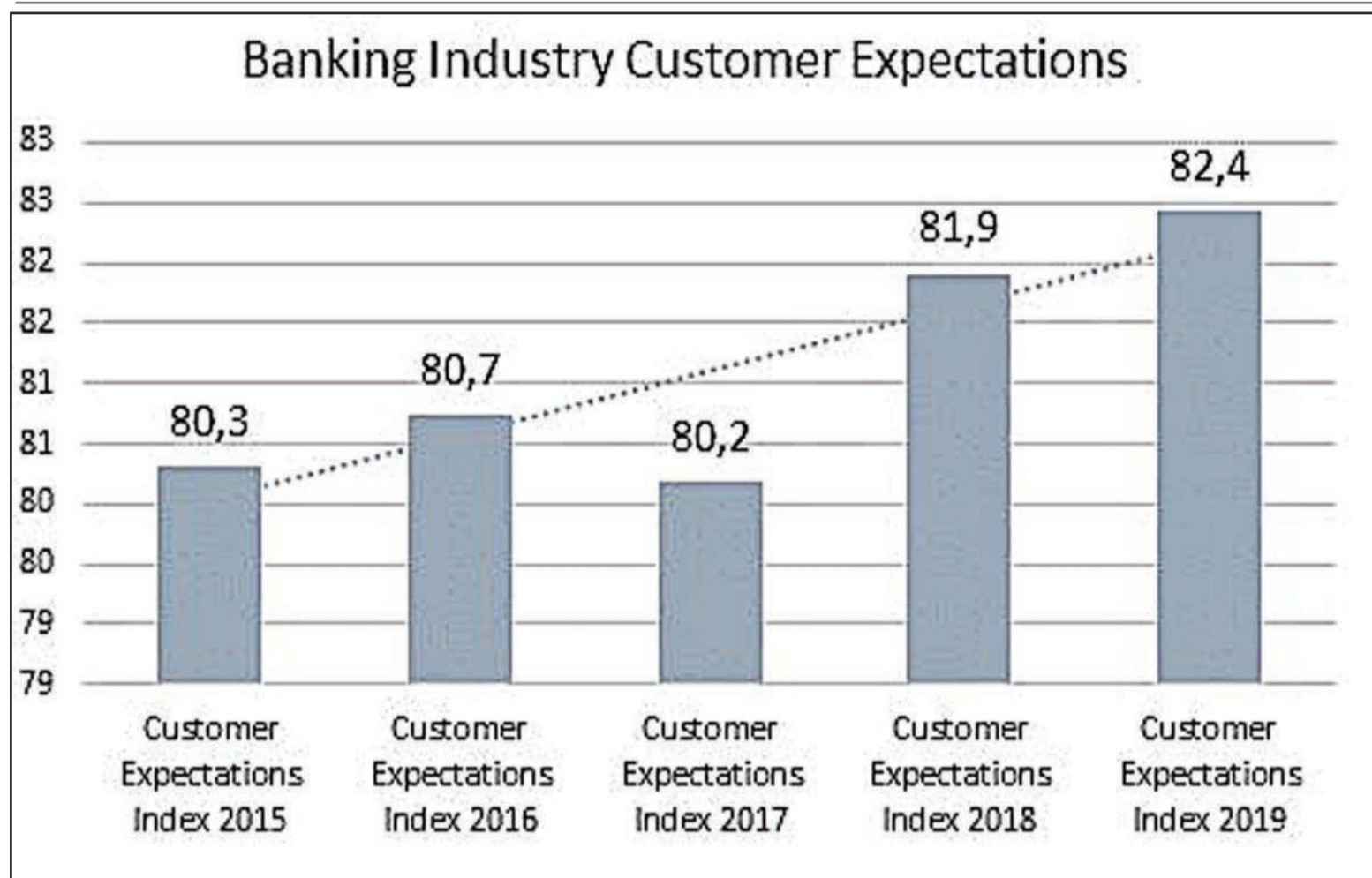
In remarks at the same ceremony, NCBA Bank Tanzania's CEO and Managing Director, Margaret Karume said SMEs involve the majority of

people hence their growth will propel the country to rapid economic growth.

"Through our customer-centred innovation and investment in tailor-made digital banking products, we are ready to facilitate the growth and development of critical sectors of the economy, such as Small and Medium Enterprises, large infrastructure projects and the agricultural sector," she noted.

The NCBA chief promised the government that the bank will back efforts by the Fifth Phase Government to build an industrial-based economy. "I emphasize that through our digital-first approach, we will continue to innovate and share the best in class technological advances and customer service as we provide exceptional financial services - and products that exceed customer expectations, with internationally accepted standards," the NCBA Bank CEO promised.

NIC Bank and Commercial Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited merged into NCBA Bank in July this year following agreements made by their holding companies in Nairobi, Kenya earlier this year.



South African Customer Satisfaction Index (SA-csi) for Banks.

## Will digital integration kill traditional banks?

JOHANNESBURG

From online shopping to financial transactions to e-learning - just about all aspects of life are feeling the march of technology advances. Well-established brands that were built on their physical and market presence are forced to adjust to potential disruption.

It is a concept that has become more obvious and concerning to South Africa's banking sector, where an increasing proportion of transactions done by customers occur online, in the cloud, and in a seamless and almost invisible manner.

The need to visit a branch has become near obsolete in recent years, more so now in our current pandemic reality than ever before. The big question on the minds of banks is how to remain relevant and 'present' in the lives of customers when so much of what happens in their transactional lives becomes increasingly invisible, behind the scenes and requiring a minimum, if any, conscious intervention?

The banks that will win this race will need to strike the balance between being visible and present when customers need them the most, and invisible and providing seamless transactional capability when customers simply want to get on with their day-to-day transactions. The path to achieving this balance however is tremendously complex.

South Africa has one of the most sophisticated financial

services sectors in the world, and our banks, by world standards, are top class when it comes to customer satisfaction and meeting customer expectations. Each year, the South African Customer Satisfaction Index (SA-csi) for Banks undertakes a study of the customer satisfaction levels of South Africa's leading banks. And each year, this industry sector is the top performer of all industries and economic sectors measured, clearly holding itself to exceptionally high standards when it comes to the experience of customers.

This is evident if one considers the four-year trend of the index - customer satisfaction levels with their banks has consistently increased year-on-year, and this is despite the fact that at the same time, customer expectations have also increased.

In essence this means that maintaining high levels of customer satisfaction has become increasingly more difficult as customers expect much more from their transactional banks - and this is off an already high standard. Despite this, South African banks have consistently risen to the challenge and consistently outperform their global counterparts.

The major driver of customer experience for banks is a continual struggle to remove any kind of friction between the customer, the bank and any third parties that the customer needs to transact with in terms of payments and receipts.

Friction means disruption to customers' daily lives, and this in turn translates to dissatisfaction with their bank. This is what banks have sought to avoid as far as possible.

The logical conclusion of this drive for increasingly frictionless banking leads to the inevitable outcome of what is referred to as 'invisible banking'. Invisible banking occurs where consumers continue their daily lives, interact, transact, buy and sell and utilise banking services without being aware of the complex financial transactions, facilitation, security and compliance taking place in the background. Think about buying on Amazon, listening to Apple music or taking an Uber ride - there are no deliberate banking processes that take place - it all happens in the background and integrates seamlessly into the life of the consumer.

The reality is that in creating this seamless, frictionless transactional environment for customers, banks and the sophisticated systems and platforms behind all this transactional super-efficiency have now become increasingly commoditised to consumers - this efficiency is expected by consumers and is no longer perceived as a differentiator.

Benefits of invisible banking The benefits of 'invisible banking' for customers are myriad from a time, convenience and location perspective. Lives and banking transactions continue with very little conscious

intervention required.

And herein lies the rub. This is a balancing act that banks will have to navigate. The greatest challenge facing banks is that as customers go about their lives, with banks mostly invisible and requiring little conscious engagement with any particular brand or provider, how will banks compete for the minds and hearts of their customers? If the end goal is to become increasingly invisible as far as banking transactions go, how will banks make themselves visible and attractive to consumers and engender brand loyalty?

The importance of being the main transactional bank of consumers has never been more pressing. Once banking becomes invisible and so fully integrated into people's lives, it will become increasingly difficult to attract customers from competing banks. The race to capture new customers and on-boarding them as young as possible now becomes more urgent, coupled with providing a differentiated and value-adding product journey that meets all their life stage needs with their chosen banking partner.

As the march of technology and digitisation becomes increasingly omnipresent, banks will need to find innovative ways of remaining relevant and visibly present in the lives of their customers, at a time when they want increasingly invisible, seamless and fully integrated brand engagements with zero hassle factor.

## Minting dozens of coins a day, speculators tap into raging crypto craze

NEW YORK

Risk is running rampant in financial markets. Stocks trade at dot-com-era valuations, the IPO pipeline is full, SPACs are back, Bitcoin's headed toward a record. And right on cue, here come the crypto opportunists.

Fueled by a spike in speculative appetite, cryptocurrency entrepreneurs are offering new digital coins at a torrid pace reminiscent of the Bitcoin boom three years ago. Among the freshly listed: Porkchop, Davecoin, Spaghetti, Newtonium and Whale.

Many have no obvious utility, but investors have poured billions into them up in hopes of riding one to an easy profit. The world of crypto has always attracted peddlers of get-rich-quick products when fans of rewiring the global financial system start buying into a new idea. In 2017, it was Bitcoin and the end of fiat currency.

This time, buzz is growing over decentralised finance applications that seek to cut out institutions from things like lending. Back then, tax cuts had juiced the global stock market. Now, central banks are plowing trillions into the system, depressing bond yields and sparking a rush into alternative assets.

"I lived through and profited through the 2017 crypto bubble and this feels somewhat reminiscent to it," Michael Novogratz, founder and chief executive officer of Galaxy Investment Partners, said in an interview on BNN Bloomberg Television. "It was the ICOs back then. A new ICO every day and the herd would swim to that ICO and jam the price up and there'd be a frenzy of liquidity and price and then it would collapse and they'd move on to the next thing. And it feels a little bit like that."

More than 500 coins have been listed in the past month, according to CoinMarketCap.com. While exact figures for comparison are hard to come by, the boom hearkens back to when the blockchain frenzy saw iced

tea makers, office-product resellers and even Kodak among those issuing thousands of coins with the promise of decentralised wealth. Those took in billions before a crackdown by regulators revealed almost all were nothing more than marketing proposals. There's little reason to expect that investors will fare better this time.

Perhaps memories are short in the world of crypto, or maybe it's a new generation of coin fans driving the latest surge in demand. Either way, it's of a piece with the explosion of account openings at retail brokerages, where newbie traders piled into bankrupt companies and chased rallies in little-known stocks that barely have revenue. The same forces are at work in the world of speculative asset companies, where investors buy into a publicly traded shell that aims to find a private gem to acquire.

As is often the case, crypto proponents are promising this time is different. Many of the new coins are related to projects that have actually launched and are structured in a manner to avoid some of the regulatory hurdles that tripped up a lot of ICOs. And some apps for decentralized finance - known as DeFi to the crypto crowd - have shown some promise.

But coins like Porkchop and Davecoin don't feel different from 2018. They have none of the DeFi veneer, essentially providing investors a way to gamble. Porkchop calls itself a game, in which total coin supply is reduced with each coin purchased, thus encouraging investors "it'll pay to stay."

Supporters of Davecoin, dubbed "a crypto awareness project," get coins for certain tweets promoting it, with the promise of a windfall if the president or famous crypto investors such as the Winklevoss brothers retweet them. It recently jumped 50% in 24 hours when stock trader Dave Portnoy, who inspired but isn't affiliated with the coin, jumped into crypto before falling when he sold his holdings.



Cryptocurrencies are on the run in maximising returns.

## WORLD

# President Trump visits Kenosha, not to urge racial healing but to back police

KENOSHA, WIS.

PRESIDENT Donald Trump defied requests to stay away and visited Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, not to urge racial healing after a white officer shot a Black man in the back but to express support for law enforcement in a city rocked by civil unrest.

With the United States polarized over issues of racial injustice and police use of force, Trump is appealing to his base of white supporters with a "law and order" message as opinion polls show him cutting into the lead of his Democratic rival, former vice president Joe Biden.

Meanwhile Trump has largely overlooked the racial wounds caused by police use of force and played down the more than 180,000 U.S. deaths

from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican president also threatened to send more federal officers into cities governed by Democratic mayors even if local officials objected, saying, "At some point ... we'll just have to do it ourselves."

Trump did not visit Jacob Blake, who was paralyzed from the waist down after a white police officer fired at his back seven times on Aug. 23. He did not meet Blake's family either, but did meet with his mother's pastors.

He promised instead to rebuild Kenosha and provide more federal spending to Wisconsin, a political battleground state that Trump won narrowly in 2016 and badly needs to keep in his column as he seeks reelection on Nov. 3.

His election opponent, Biden, has



U.S. President Donald Trump talks to reporters as he stands with Kenosha police and business people while examining property damage to a business while visiting the city in the aftermath of recent protests against police brutality and racial injustice and ensuing violence after the shooting of Jacob Blake by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, US on Tuesday. REUTERS

accused Trump of stoking violence with his rhetoric. Biden's campaign on Tuesday seized on Trump's trip to Kenosha as it accused his administration of seeing "violence as a winning electoral strategy."

The president visited a burned-out furniture store that was destroyed in the upheaval and then a makeshift command center to praise National Guard troops who were called in to reinforce local police after several nights of peaceful protests gave way to looting, arson and gunfire.

"These are not acts of peaceful protest, but really domestic terrorism," Trump told local business leaders in a high school gym.

Peaceful demonstrators have complained that violent agitators, often white, have hijacked their protests with property damage. But many have also sharply criticized the police, saying the United States needs to completely rethink its law enforcement practices.

"To stop the political violence, we must also confront the radical ideology. ... We have to condemn the dangerous anti-police rhetoric," Trump said, adding that without his help Kenosha would have "burned to the ground."

The visit was not completely without empathy. While Trump dodged questions about systemic racism and problems in policing, he did say that he felt "terribly for anybody who goes through that," referring to the police shooting, and that he was honored to meet with the co-pastors of Blake's mother, the only two Black people at Trump's roundtable.

Agencies

# Japan's Suga says to run for leader of ruling party

TOKYO

JAPAN'S Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga declared yesterday he will run for the leadership of the ruling party, a race he is heavily favoured to win, which would likely ensure the veteran politician will become the next prime minister.

Suga (pictured), a longtime aide to outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, said he was entering the race to avoid a political vacuum during the pandemic. Should he win, Suga is widely expected to continue Abe's policies of fiscal and monetary stimulus.

"I decided to run in the LDP leadership race after some deep thought on what I can do as a politician and a member of Abe's administration," Suga said at a briefing.

"In this time of national crisis, we cannot permit a political vacuum," Suga said he would "maintain and push forward" the "Abenomics" stimulus policies pursued by Abe and work to help struggling regions if he were to become the next premier.

He also said he would maintain the kind of relationship the government has had with the Bank of Japan under Abe's administration.



He voiced his readiness to have the central bank take additional

monetary easing steps to protect jobs. He also said there were "too many regional banks" in Japan, suggesting that he would prod them to consolidate if he were to be elected.

"We'll look at developments and if it's necessary to protect jobs, I'd like to promote further monetary policy (steps) because the economy is at a critical juncture," Suga said.

The party's leader will almost certainly become premier because of its majority in the lower house of parliament.

Abe announced his decision to resign last week, citing poor

health.

Suga's main competitors for the top job are former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba and ex-foreign minister Fumio Kishida, but Suga's position looks strong.

So far, Suga has secured the backing of five of the LDP's seven factions, public broadcaster NHK and others reported.

The party decided on Tuesday to hold a slimmed-down election with just MPs and three votes from each of the 47 prefectures - an advantage for Suga.

The election will be on Sept 14, the party decided yesterday.

Agencies

# Diplomat blasts US sanctions for targeting Russian scientists working on COVID-19 vaccine

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON has slapped sanctions squarely against those Russian researchers and specialists who are working on the development of a vaccine to fight the coronavirus, said Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"We find it outrageous that three Russian scientific research institutes have been included on the American blacklist.

A particularly disturbing fact is that these sanctions precisely affect those scientists and specialists who for the past couple of months have been tirelessly laboring on the development of a Russian vaccine against COVID-19. It is not clear how the American government is going to explain to its citizens this attempt to punish the people who are working successfully on a remedy against the disease, which

has already taken the lives of over 180,000 US citizens," she noted.

The diplomat stated that these US sanctions may be an instrument of unfair competition. "We don't believe that this is a step in the right direction in cooperating to fight the pandemic, the importance of which, we think, Washington cannot even deny.

Once again one gets the impression that the run-of-the-mill use of sanctions is a tool of pressure to thrust forward one's own companies' interests - right now pharmaceutical ones - which mirrors the continued push of its own natural gas into the European market," she stressed.

The spokeswoman pointed out that Washington has attributed its actions to the fact that the scientific research institutions affected by the sanctions were allegedly involved in chemical and biological weapons programs, but these



accusations are not backed by any evidence. She also mentioned that the entire Russian chemical arsenal had been eliminated back in 2017. "This is confirmed by the authorized international structure, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which includes 193 countries, among them the US. Russia continues to conscientiously carry out all

of its responsibilities under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)," the diplomat added.

## Circumvention of international documents

According to the spokeswoman, this decision by the American authorities casts doubt on the effectiveness and professionalism of the OPCW. "Let us reiterate that the CWC clearly indicates the mechanisms used to resolve contentious issues.

Unfortunately, Washington for a while now prefers to act not within the framework of international agreements, but at its own discretion," the diplomat specified.

She pointed out that today the US remains the only member country of the CWC preserving its chemical weapons arsenal. "Moreover, various inventions are being patented in

the US related to the use of full-fledged combat toxic substances, including nerve agents," she pointed out.

The spokeswoman added that US activity in the biomedical sphere both domestically and abroad is also highly questionable.

"There are no grounds to assert that the activity of American biological labs fully complies with the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)," she continued. As examples when US laboratories were engulfed in major international scandals, the spokeswoman shed light on the investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks in the US, where a Fort Detrick researcher was involved, as well as the activity of the Richard G. Lugar Center for Public Health Research in Georgia.

Agencies

# China slams US university's alleged expulsion of Chinese students

BEIJING,

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Tuesday slammed the decision by the University of North Texas (UNT) to expel Chinese students, calling the move, if confirmed true, another example of the U.S. sabotage of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

According to media reports, the UNT recently announced it will terminate its relationship with the China Scholarship Council, demanding revoking visas of students who have been granted allowances by the council and asking them to leave the United States within one month.

Spokesperson Hua Chunying told a daily press briefing that China-U.S. humanities exchanges, including those of overseas students, have played a significant role in promoting the steady development of bilateral ties since the establishment of China-U.S. diplomatic relations 41 years ago.

The number of Chinese students in the United States accounts for about one-third of the total, contributing more than 15 billion U.S. dollars to the country annually.

Unfortunately, for some time, certain extreme anti-China forces in the United States have stigmatized and demonized Chinese students with a myriad of lies out of personal political interests and the strategic demand to suppress and contain China's development. They even used judicial power to maliciously suppress Chinese students on trumped-up charges, said Hua.

"Under such circumstances, I wonder how many Chinese parents are still willing to send their children to study in the United States," she said.

"The United States was founded on openness, inclusiveness, and pluralism, while the country we see today is full of insularity, hatred, and exclusion," she said.

The spokesperson urged the United States to view China-U.S. ties and people-to-people and cultural exchanges in an objective way, and contribute more to the two peoples' mutual understanding, correct recognition towards each other, and friendly cooperation between the two sides.

"If the U.S. insists on obstinately going its own way, it will ultimately damage the interests of the U.S. itself," Hua added.

Xinhua

# New Tunisian government wins confidence vote in parliament

TUNIS

THE Assembly of People's Representatives, or parliament, granted on Tuesday its confidence to the new government led by Prime Minister-designate Hichem Mechichi, according to state TV channel.

Composed of 28 members, with 25 ministers and three secretaries of state, the new Tunisian government received 134 favourable votes and 67 rejections.

This cabinet is, for the most part, made up of independent national powers, including general managers, experts and academics as well as senior executives from the administration and the private sector.

According to Mechichi, who made a speech at a plenary session of the parliament devoted to the vote of confidence for his government on Tuesday, the new government will be "a government of action, achievement, efficiency and change that will seek innovative solutions."

He added that the government would work to end the "haemorrhaging" of public finances, preserve the achievements of the public sector, and boost investments and purchasing power.

According to the Tunisian constitution, the new cabinet needs at least the votes of 109 out of 217 deputies.

Mechichi's cabinet should take an oath in front of President Kais Saied this week.

It is noteworthy that this new government will be the third Tunisia has seen since October.

On Jan 10, the government of Habib Jemli failed to win the confidence vote, giving way to Elyes Fakhfakh who obtained parliamentary confidence before submitting his resignation to President Saied in mid-July.

Xinhua



Tunisian designated Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi delivers his speech at the parliament before a confidence vote in Tunis, on Tuesday. AP

# Local tourism helps villagers in NW China's Gansu shake off poverty

HERDS of yaks are grazing serenely on a green mountain, while crystal-clear water is brushing the banks of a river. That is a scene in Shanglha village of Kamanga township, Hezuo, Gannan Tibetan autonomous prefecture in northwest China's Gansu province.

Since July last year, the 52-year-old Ganden Tsering started working as a doorkeeper and a part-time warehouseman for a "flower sea" scenic area in Shanglha village.

"I make 3,000 yuan every month from what I do," said Ganden Tsering, who led a hard life in the past and finally embraced a light of hope in the recent years. The local man who was born and raised in the village is quite satisfied with his current jobs.

"The people here made a living on

yak husbandry, but we barely made any money out of it," said Ganden Tsering, explaining that he failed to keep his yak business as he was not able to afford leasing an extra meadow, and had to sell his yaks in the end. During the darkest times, he had to borrow money from his relatives.

Fortunately, under the matchmaking by local government, husbandry technology company Lvfynguan in the city of Hezuo started offering paired assistance for Shanglha village since early 2018.

Later that year, Ganden Tsering contracted all his 12 mu (0.8 hectare) of land to the company and started working for it together with his wife Tendrutso. Apart from their salary, the couple can also get a bonus of 650 yuan each year for each mu of their

contracted land. Their life finally got better.

Lvfynguan is a company focusing on the planting and processing of forage grass, as well as grass breed improvement. Besides, it is also involved in tourism businesses. According to Shi Lei, general manager of the company, the land contracted in the beginning was still for grass planting, but a piece of land that covers 40 mu was later planted with zinnia, which attracted a large number of tourists when flowers blossomed.

The success of zinnia planting inspired Shi Lei, and they are now promoting it as the flower sea scenic area.

Tendrutso is 53 years old this year, and she used to farm at home. In April 2019, she started working for a nursery garden of the flower sea scenic area

where she was taught seedling, growing and fertilization by technicians. She makes 110 yuan there every day. "I work near my home, so I can both take care of my children and earn an income. I feel great to be working around the flowers," she told People's Daily.

Gannan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, located on plateau, has long and severe winters, so the villagers can normally work only five months between May and September each year. However, Tendrutso is able to work 3 extra months in the flower sea. Apart from a gardener, she is also a part-time sanitation worker in the scenic area.

Ganden Tsering's house is around 200 meters away from where he works. "Our stove was once made from clay, and the fire was made from cow dung. After renovation, it is now fueled by

coal or wood, so the stove never smells again," the man said. According to him, the renovation project of his house was covered by his earnings and his son's, plus the 30,000 yuan he lent.

The man transformed his house into a Tibetan-style B&B. He and his family live on the first floor, and the second is left for customers. "I want to present the visitors authentic Tibetan lifestyles," he said.

Ganden Tsering's B&B is the first batch of Tibetan-style B&B facilities piloted in his group of Shanglha village. It is subsidized by the government.

"We prepared two guest rooms that are able to accommodate eight customers at most," said Ganden Tsering. His wife will be the chef of the facility, and daughter-in-law a waitress. The B&B is expected to open soon.

The flower sea scenic area attracted over 50,000 visitors even before it officially started operation last year, with 19 touring buses in the best day. The area has been further expanded by 400 mu this year, and a larger variety of flowers will surely attract more visitors. "I can earn as much as 400 yuan if all the beds in my B&B are booked," Ganden Tsering said.

"Ganden Tsering is smart, and his son is also very supportive," Shi told People's Daily. Shi's company has signed agreements with the tourism association and agritainment association of Gansu's capital Lanzhou, as well as three travel agencies in the city. "We do the marketing and the piloting B&B facilities will do their businesses, and we want win-win results," Shi said.

People's Daily





The attendants of a bullet train debuting on the Anshun-Liupanshui high-speed rail, Guiyang, capital of Guizhou on July 3. File photo

## What will China's railway network be like in 2035?

BY 2035, the total length of China's railway tracks will reach about 200,000 km, including 7 km of high-speed railway, according to a recent outline on China's railway development in the new era released by China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. (China Railway).

The document depicts a blueprint for the construction of railway network by the year of 2035, saying China will become a country with a strong and higher-level modern railway network by 2050.

As of the end of July, 2020, China's operational railway length reached 141,400 km, ranking second in the world, while the high-speed rail network topped the world with a total length of 36,000 km.

"China's high-speed railway network ranks first in the world in terms of operational mileage, scale of railways under construction, number of trains in service, and operational speed," said Liang Dong, deputy director of the planning division of China Railway Economic and Planning Research Institute.

"Besides, China has the most complete technology system as well as the most operational scenarios and the most experience in the management of high-speed railways in the world," Liang added.

In 2019, China's railway network had covered 98 percent of the cities with a population of more than 200,000, up from 94 percent in 2012. The figure rose from 28 percent in 2012 to 86 percent last year for cities with a population of 500,000. All provincial capitals in the country except for Lhasa have connected to the high-speed railway network.

The average number of passengers taking China's high-speed trains each day had risen from around 1.07 million person-times in 2012 to 6.38 million person-times in 2019, representing an average annual growth of 29.1 percent.

In addition, high-speed railway passengers had accounted for over half of the country's total railway passengers for four consecutive years.

By 2035, all the Chinese cities with more than 200,000 people will be covered by railway network, and all cities with a population of more than 500,000 will be connected to high-speed rails, according to the outline. It suggests that the total length of operational high-speed railways in China will be nearly twice that of today by 2035.

China's bullet train technologies has embraced rapid development since the country launched high-speed railway services over a decade ago.

The country now has more than 3,600 pairs of bullet trains, including 690 pairs of Fuxing bullet trains. Its number of high-speed trains is more than that in the rest of the world combined. Today, China's high-speed railway sector is marching towards higher goals for innovation. "Faster speed, better performance in energy conservation and environmental protection, more comfortable train ride, smarter equipment and facilities, and lower life cycle costs are shared goals of railway operators and

manufacturers of all countries.

The new outline also suggests enhancing research, development, and application of new types of vehicles," said Wu Guodong, deputy director of the locomotive and car department of China Railway.

According to the outline, China will master relevant core technologies and establish complete systems for key technologies including technical standards for high-speed railways that can reach speeds of 400 km per hour and faster through independent innovation.

China Railway is also making overall planning for research and development of new-generation CRH trains on the basis of the existing high-speed rails.

China will make efforts to independently research on and develop a new type of smart train control system, says the outline.

The new type of smart train control system will be an integrated control system that combines cutting-edge scientific and technological achievements such as the Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) and 5G network, according to Mo Zhong, head of the communication and signaling office of the department of track, communication and signaling and power supply of China Railway.

The new system can shorten the train tracking interval from the current minimum of three minutes to around two minutes and increase the transportation capacity of railways by over 30 percent, Mo disclosed. "The new type of smart train control system will also gradually realize the transformation from the stage when trains need human drivers to the scenarios where they can run with an automated driving system and then a smart driving system," Mo said.

Based on the current achievements in autonomous driving, China Railway is making efforts to push forward with progress in smart technologies including those that help improve train's autonomous perception of environment and assessment of security situation, so as to reduce manual control and improve people's travel experience, Mo added.

China's high-speed trains will feature lower energy consumption and be more environmentally friendly in the future, according to Mo.

The bullet trains need the most power during acceleration. When they slow down, these trains do not consume electricity but generate power, Mo explained.

At present, research teams of China Railway are focusing efforts on coordinated and joint control of train groups, Mo said.

It can theoretically help reduce the per capita energy consumption per km by about 30 percent, according to Mo, who gave an example to illustrate the point, saying that new-generation high-speed trains can save about 9,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity during a round trip between Beijing and Shanghai.

People's Daily

## Putin's video address at UN General Assembly is being prepared – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE video address of Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN is being prepared, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

"Indeed, the presiding side put forward an initiative that, considering the epidemiological situation, state leaders should participate using the recordings of their speeches. The same invitation was received by the



Russian side. This address is now being worked on and prepared," the spokesman said.

He added that the address is planned for the second half of September and

that there's still time. "Of course, an address at the General Assembly is always a serious presentation which requires time to prepare," the Kremlin representative pointed out.

According to the preliminary program of the UN General Debate published on Tuesday, Putin may participate in the session of the UN General Assembly on September 22.

The preliminary program lists the Russian leader as the seventh speaker after the leaders of Brazil, the US, Turkey, China, Chile and Cuba.

Agencies

## China, EU can work for better ties through 6 areas -Wang Yi

BERLIN

CHINA and the European Union (EU) are facing an important opportunity to develop better bilateral relations and the two sides need to strive for progress in six areas, said visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday.

Wang made the statements at a joint press conference with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, when answering a reporter's question over his expectations of the development of China-EU ties and cooperation.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the EU, and the first year of the new EU institutions. It is also an important year for Germany to assume its Presidency of the Council of the EU once again, said Wang.

Under the current circumstances, he said, China-EU relations face an important opportunity for further development.

First, the two sides need to make preparations for China-EU high-level exchanges in the next stage, to chart the course for bilateral cooperation.

Second, China and the EU should conclude within this year negotiations on the China-EU Comprehensive Investment Agreement, which have entered the final stage. Both sides need to step up their efforts and make political decisions when necessary so as to find a solution to the outstanding issues, he said.

Third, both sides should sign the China-EU 2025 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation as soon as possible, to provide blueprints and frameworks for dialogues and cooperation.

Fourth, China and the EU should unswervingly advance international cooperation on climate change and take new actions to this end, Wang said, adding that China has already fulfilled its 2020 emissions reduction commitment two years ahead of schedule and is actively working on medium- to long-term targets.

Fifth, China and the EU should also strengthen cooperation in the digital economy. Both sides have their own advantages and common concerns in developing the digital economy. "We should continue to open our markets to each other, strengthen cooperation in the technology industry and work for the formulation of standards, rules and regulations in the global digital field," he urged.

Finally, the two sides should also strengthen support for multilateral institutions, backing the central role of the United Nations, the Security Council in particular, in maintaining world peace and security, speeding up the



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) bumps elbows with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas as the two met in Berlin, Germany on Tuesday as part of Wang's Europe visit.

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Wang added.

The Chinese foreign minister also said the two parties should uphold the core values and basic principles of the World Trade Organization, support the leadership and coordination role of the World Health Organization in helping countries overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Three major tasks for Sino-German ties

The foreign minister also noted that today's world is faced with three crucial choices -- between multilateralism and unilateralism, between openness and seclusion, and between cooperation and confrontation.

The first major task for China and Germany, Wang said, is to promote global unity against the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate world economic recovery.

To this end, both countries should continue supporting the work of the World Health Organization (WHO), and say no to erroneous words and deeds that are harmful to global cooperation against COVID-19, he said.

The second major task for China and Germany, Wang said, is to jointly make China-EU relations more stable and mature and lift bilateral ties to an even higher level.

Wang said China has high expectations for the development of China-EU relations during Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of this year.

Thirdly, the two countries should work together to practice multilateralism and oppose the waging of a "new Cold War," Wang said, adding that both countries are opposed to the instiga-

tion of confrontation and will strengthen cooperation among multilateral institutions, as well as support the United Nations, the WHO and multilateralism.

China-Germany and China-Europe share far more common interests than differences, and are partners rather than rivals, said the Chinese minister, adding China and Europe have different social systems and ideologies, but China is always opposed to the export of ideologies, let alone competition of social systems.

### Non-interference in internal affairs

The minister cited concrete numbers and facts to show why the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is justified, as well as the positive outcome of the de-radicalization measures in Xinjiang, adding that these policy measures are widely supported by the Chinese people.

Wang said that during his current visit to Europe, some of his local colleagues inquired about Hong Kong and Xinjiang affairs, but they all first stressed their respect for China's sovereignty and that they had no intention to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The principles of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs are not only basic principles of international relations, but also the fundamental rules of the Charter of the United Nations, and thus should be strictly followed, he noted.

Based on such a premise, China is willing to exchange views on issues of mutual concern with countries that are interested in the issues mentioned above, with the aim of enhancing mutual understanding, Wang added.

Xinhua

## Trial of suspected Charlie Hebdo attack accomplices begins

PARIS

FOURTEEN alleged accomplices to the Islamist gunmen who attacked the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo went on trial yesterday, as the country recalled, five years on, a dark episode that marked the onset of a wave of militant terrorism.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex wrote in a tweet the simple words: "Always Charlie".

On Jan 7, 2015, Said and Cherif Kouachi, armed with automatic weapons, went on the rampage in the offices of Charlie Hebdo, whose satire on race, religion and politics tested the limits of what society would accept in the name of free speech.

They killed 12 in an attack claimed by al Qaeda.

The following day, Amedy Coulibaly, an acquaintance of Cherif Kouachi, shot dead a female police officer. On Jan 9, he killed four Jewish men at a kosher supermarket. In a video, he said he acted in the name of Islamic State.

The three were killed by police in different stand-offs.

In the courtroom on Wednesday, security officers wearing balaclavas and bullet-proof vests took up positions, before defendants were brought in to the room.

The 14 suspected accomplices, three of whom will be tried in absentia and may be dead, face charges including financing terrorism, membership in a terrorist organisation and supplying weapons to the attackers.

The defendants not in the courtroom include Hayat Boumedienne, Coulibaly's partner at the time of the attacks, and brothers Mohamed and Mehdi Belhoucine. All three travelled to areas of Syria under Islamic State's control days before the attacks and may be dead.

More than 250 people have been killed in France in Islamist violence since the attacks, which laid bare France's struggle to counter the threat of homegrown militants and foreign jihadists.

Charlie Hebdo republished on Wednesday a series of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad, including one of him in a bomb-shaped turban, that stirred outrage in the Muslim world when they were first published nearly a decade before the attacks.

At the time, al Qaeda's Yemen branch placed Charlie Hebdo's then-director on its "wanted list".

"We will never lie down. We will never give up," editor Laurent "Riss" Sourisseau wrote, explaining the decision to re-publish the cartoons.



**The defendants not in the courtroom include Hayat Boumedienne, Coulibaly's partner at the time of the attacks, and brothers Mohamed and Mehdi Belhoucine. All three travelled to areas of Syria under Islamic State's control days before the attacks and may be dead**

## US steps up COVID-19 vaccine development as another vaccine candidate starts final phase trial

WASHINGTON

RESEARCHERS across the United States are stepping up efforts to work out an effective COVID-19 vaccine as another vaccine candidate has started phase 3 clinical trial on Monday.

The multi-site clinical trial evaluating an investigational COVID-19 vaccine, known as AZD1222, will enroll approximately 30,000 adult volunteers at 80 sites in the United States to evaluate if the candidate vaccine can prevent COVID-19, said the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Participants will be randomly assigned to the investigational vaccine group or the placebo group, and neither the investigators nor the participants will know who is assigned to which group.

After an initial screening, participants will receive two injections of either the investigational vaccine or a saline placebo approximately four weeks apart.

One person will receive a placebo injection for every two people who receive AZD1222, which will result in approximately 20,000 people receiving the investigational vaccine and 10,000 people receiving a placebo.

The trial primarily is designed to determine if AZD1222 can prevent symptomatic COVID-19 after two doses.

The trial also will evaluate if the vaccine candidate can prevent SARS-CoV-2 infection regardless of symptoms and if it can prevent severe COVID-19. It also will assess if the experimental vaccine can reduce the incidence of emergency department visits due to COVID-19, according



Costumed characters wait for customers on Times Square in New York, the United States, Aug. 31, 2020. Xinhua

to the NIH.

The United Kingdom-based global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca is leading the trial as regulatory sponsor. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the NIH, and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority are providing funding support for the trial.

The vaccine candidate uses a non-replicating chimpanzee adenovirus to deliver a SARS-CoV-2 spike protein to induce an immune response, said the NIH.

"Safe and effective vaccines will be essential to meet the global need for widespread protection against COVID-19," said NIAID Director Anthony Fauci.

"Positive results from preclinical research led by NIH scientists supported the rapid development of this vaccine candidate,

which has also showed promise in early-stage clinical trials," he said.

The United States has been stepping up research on vaccines, drugs and therapies for COVID-19 as confirmed cases hit over 6,062,000 and fatalities surpassed 184,200 as of Tuesday afternoon, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Last month, the NIH announced the start of a randomized, controlled clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of a treatment regimen consisting of the antiviral remdesivir plus the immunomodulator interferon beta-1a in COVID-19 patients.

The trial was anticipated to enroll more than 1,000 hospitalized adults with COVID-19 at as many as 100 sites in the United States and abroad. Xinhua



Houston Rockets, from left to right, Tyson Chandler, Ben McLemore, James Harden and Russell Westbrook kneel during the national anthem before an NBA basketball first round playoff game against the Oklahoma City Thunder Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

## Players try to stay busy, ready sitting on the bubble bench

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

TYSON Chandler figured sitting on the bench was better than sitting on the couch.

He waited almost until the last minute before deciding he would join his Houston Rockets teammates for the restart. He was bored at home and wasn't going to feel any better if his team won a championship and he was watching it on TV.

Then he came to Disney and got so sick he thought he had contracted the coronavirus he had spent all spring at home to avoid.

"The first 48 hours, I was going like, 'What the ... did you do?'" Chandler said. "I was like, 'Come on, man.'"

His health got better and eventually so did the experience. He's glad he came.

But for players like Chandler, guys at the end of the bench, being inside the bubble is challenging on several levels. While stars like James Harden and LeBron James deal with the same mental fatigue being at Disney presents, they know when the game starts and the lights come on what time it is. Chandler has no idea if his number will even be called, so he has to constantly be in a state of readiness.

Tacko Fall can relate.

The Boston Celtics rookie throws himself into the extra postseason basketball opportunities that are unusual for an undrafted player on a two-way contract. He gets in work with Celtics assistant Jay Larranaga. Fall believes his game is getting better and he has also picked up a swimming tip or two along the way.

"Just got to try to stay positive and make the most out of it," Fall said. "I've been very fortunate to be on a great team where our teammates are very close with each other."

All of the players who get limited – and often no – playing time understand that they can't lose sight of why they're here.

Frank Mason III had played in just four games at Disney for the Milwaukee Bucks, but then in the first quarter of Game 1 of their second-round series against the Miami Heat, it was his time.

Fall has made only two brief game appearances in the bubble, but there's plenty of basketball left in his career. Time is running out for Chandler.

At 37 and in his 19th season, he's been the starting center on a team that won an NBA championship and an Olympic gold medal. He certainly doesn't need the bubble, especially knowing how little he would play. The Rockets went all-in on playing small ball months ago, so the only action the 7-footer had gotten since mid-January was a 1-second stint to defend an inbound pass.

He's played in one game in the bubble – and actually got even less playing time. When P.J. Tucker was ejected after getting fouled by Dennis Schroder in Game 5, Oklahoma City coach Billy Donovan got to pick

a Rockets player to shoot the free throws. He chose Chandler, who missed the two shots and went right back to the bench.

He considered his limited role when talking to his family, agent and the organization before deciding that he wanted to come anyway. His wife and kids were safe and his teammates might need him.

It's part of the range of emotions Chandler and Fall have experienced over nearly two months with nobody to spend time around but their teammates, and that was before some players' family members and friends have been allowed inside the bubble.

"I won't say it's easy because I'd be lying, just the bubble and not being able to see family or friends," Fall said. "And especially me, I spent seven years in Orlando. I know a lot of people here."

And, like many who learn an acquaintance is in town, they want to hang out. The native of Senegal played in the area first at Liberty Christian Prep and then UCF. 4 Rivers Smokehouse, one of his favorite restaurants, is nearby, and 7-foot-5, 310-pound giants like to eat.

"It's one of the best barbecue places in the whole state I would think, because I've been to a lot of barbecue places and 4 Rivers is definitely one of them," Fall said. "And my host family is not far from here, my coaches from UCF. I have a few friends here and there that I know. They would love to come and see me but just, they can't right now."

The Celtics rookie has smiled his way through the restart, on and off the court or in the pool with teammates Jaylen Brown and Enes Kanter, who gave him a swimming lesson Kanter shared on social media.

But despite those jovial moments, there was no way for Chandler to predict how hard the bubble could be, especially when his first day of it was spent in the bathroom with what turned out to be food poisoning.

"I thought I had got the virus," Chandler said. "I'm like, I went through dodging this virus, doing my quarantine thing and doing all that. I get here, I'm not even here eight hours and I already got the damn virus?"

"So the first week I was like, worst decision of my life. And then once I started getting past it, third week I was like, worst decision of my life."

He started drawing again to pass the down time, which would end this week if the Rockets lose Game 7 to the Thunder on Wednesday night.

"Now I'm happy that I came because we're in the playoffs. Things are a little more normal and consistent and now it's like, all right we're close," Chandler said. "We're either going to win a championship, we're going to get to the championship, or we're going to be going home. Either way." Such is life in the bubble.

AP

## Caravans cricketers demolish GP Pak Stars A side in 2020 Kazim Nasser tourney

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

CARAVANS Club's cricketers put solid batting to show and breezed past GP Pak Stars A team with a comprehensive 78-run victory in a 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A match, which took place in Dar es Salaam early this week.

The eventual winners' top order batsmen, Ivan Ismail and Jitin Singh, as well as middle order batsmen, Mohamed Omary and skipper Sreejith Kumar, showcased their resoluteness as the team went on to dominate their innings before successfully foiling GP Pak Stars A side's chase.

After winning the toss and choosing to bat first, Caravans Club registered 258 runs all out with three balls remaining, with Ismail, Singh, Omar and Kumar displaying solid showing.

They managed to shake off a rather shaky start to their innings, which had opening batsman, Kheel Suchak, experiencing early dismissal with six runs to his name, given the other opening batsman Ismail showed no mercy for GP Pak Stars A team.

The youthful all rounder had the best innings in his squad, as he recorded 63 runs which included seven boundaries and two sixes.

The experienced Singh equally stepped up, notching 50 runs, which included three fours and a sixer, as Caravans kept on boosting hopes of posting an imposing total.

There was yet another blow for Caravans Club, in which top order batsman Gokul Das was dismissed by GP Pak Stars A team's Humayun Taj for duck.

The dismissal, nevertheless, did not frustrate Caravans Club's resolve, as youthful Omary unleashed his resilience and recorded 31 runs which included four fours and a sixer.

After an early exit of Manoj Kumar that had managed six runs, skipper Sreejith summoned his experience, ending two runs short of a half century and blasting four fours and a sixer.

Much as dependable all rounders, Kassim Nassoro and Jayaraj Malayil, did not have quite a good



Caravans Club's batsman, Jitin Singh, in action against Surat Stars squad in the last year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

game at the crease, they chipped in with double digit figures for Caravans Club.

Nassoro posted 16 runs, which consisted of a four, Malayil

scored 10 runs.

Taj, Nisar Ahmed and skipper Muzamil Hussain were the players with meaningful contribution with the ball in GP Pak Stars

A team.

Taj, in the end, emerged as the bowler with most wickets, taking three in 10 overs.

Hussain and Ahmed also had good bowling spells, ending with two wickets apiece.

Hussain leaked 30 runs in 3.3 overs, posting an economy rate of 8.57 and Ahmed leaked 30 runs in 10 overs.

Needing 259 runs to come out victorious, the GP Pak Stars A team had a promising start to their innings, thanks to resilienced showcased by their top order batsmen.

Opener Hussain recorded 20 runs which included four boundaries and Sheraz Khan, who opened the innings with the former, scored 19 runs which included three fours.

Solid knocks showcased by all rounder Zafar Khan and promising performer, Salmini Yusuph, gave GP Pak Stars A side more hope.

Khan ended with 22 runs, which included four fours, Yusuph recorded 33 runs which included three fours.

The chase was dealt a blow a few overs later, given Abdullah Jabiri and Taj experienced quick dismissals.

Zahid Abbas, Ayaz Mustafa and Goodluck Andrew somewhat kept hopes of successful chase alive with good knocks.

Abbas and Mustafa ended with 12 runs apiece, Andrew chipped in with 10 runs, which included a sixer.

The GP Pak Stars A squad's hopes were all but over when low order batsman, Wahid Hussain, was bowled by Caravans Club's Suchak, leaving the squad settling for 180 runs all out with 20 balls remaining.

Malayil put his skilful displays with the ball to dampen GP Pak Stars A team's hopes, taking four wickets and leaking 39 runs in 10 overs.

Caravans Club has, in the process, prolonged GP Pak Stars A team's losing streak in the 2020 KNML top tier.

The GP Pak Stars A side are currently the only team in the Division A with no win in four outings.

## Yanga brace for tricky start to 2020/21 VPL

BY CORRESPONDENT  
MICHAEL MWEBE

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) will begin the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League season against Tanzania Prisons as the former's newly appointed Serbian coach, Zlatko Krmpotic, looks to have a solid start.

The Green and Yellow endured a tumultuous campaign last season, with three coaches in charge of the club.

Despite overhauling the entire squad at the beginning of the season and three coaches, they ended the campaign 14 points behind age old rivals, Simba, to endure another trophyless season.

The club's ambition and desire to end the trophyless run is reflected in how busy they were in the transfer market. Thirteen players have been signed. A whole new team and one sub.

The new men ahead of the new season include Congolese Tuisila Kisinda and Mukoko Tonombe from AS Vita Club, joining Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, Yasin Mustafa from Polisi Tanzania, Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar and Abdallah Shaibu from USA's LA



Yanga

Galaxy II. Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, Kibwana Shomari from Mtibwa Sugar, Burkinabe Yacouba Sogne from Asante Kotoko, Farid Mussa from CD Tenerife in Spain, and Carlos Carlinho from Interclubes Angola are as well in the list.

Expectations are high. Mammoth crowds have been seen and beamed all over Africa during arrivals of the foreign players.

Yanga will open up the campaign with back-

to-back home games against Tanzania Prisons and Mbeya City FC. Two winnable home games but not so open.

A trip to Bukoba for the third game of the season against Kagera Sugar is bound to be fascinating.

Early this year, Kagera Sugar handed Yanga their biggest home defeat in eight years with a 3-0 drubbing of the latter in coach Luc Eymael's first game in charge.

A testing trip to Morogoro to take on Mtibwa Sugar

is also on the September fixtures menu immediately after facing Kagera Sugar.

Yanga and Mtibwa Sugar met as recently as July 22, in the penultimate match of the last campaign, and played out a 1-1 draw at Jamhuri Stadium.

October delivers two back-to-back home games against a plucky Coastal Union side and a well organized Polisi Tanzania but home comfort should count in Yanga's favour.

There will be no time to waste as the all-important

Dar es Salaam derby with bitter rivals Simba comes on October 18.

Everyone at Yanga agrees they need to strive to turn draws into wins to challenge for the title this season.

They registered 14 draws last season, their worst record in the last 10 seasons.

Interestingly for Yanga, half of the 14 draws last season came against opponents that they will face in their opening seven matches of the new campaign.

## Spotlight on Sane, Sule as Germany battle Spain in Nations League

BERLIN

GERMANY host Spain in their opening Nations League match on Thursday with Bayern Munich duo Leroy Sane and Niklas Sule looking to rediscover top form after long-term knee injuries.

Germany face Spain in Stuttgart before playing Switzerland three days later in Basel. Both matches will go ahead behind closed doors.

It gives coach Joachim Loew the chance to assess the fitness of former Manchester City winger Sane and centre-back Sule in a weakened Germany squad missing rested fellow Bayern players Manuel Neuer, Serge Gnabry, Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka.

"I think I'm at 80 percent", Sane told the German FA website.

"Of course, the games and the rhythm are missing," added Sane, who has played just a handful of minutes since tearing knee ligaments last August.

Bayern defender Sule, who suffered a similar injury last October, made his return in the knockout stages of the Champions League in Lisbon.

The 24-year-old shone after replacing Jerome Boateng early in the Lisbon final in Bayern's 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain.

"I have missed doing what I love," Sule said in Tuesday's press conference, clearly just glad to be back on Germany duty in "a really cool team".

"Spain is still a great world football power with incredible individual players."

Fresh from lifting the Champi-

ons League trophy, Sule hopes Bayern's European success inspires the national team ahead of the postponed Euro 2020 finals next year.

"We have achieved something great with Bayern Munich. That must be an incentive for further titles," said Sule.

"And we have to use the Nations League to prepare as well as possible for the European Championships next summer.

"This is about titles again."

The Spain clash will be Germany's first international for nearly 10 months due to the coronavirus pandemic. The squad was tested for Covid-19 on arriving at the team hotel on Monday.

"It's more intense here, but that's a good thing. In the pandemic, Germany has shown that it is more organised," said Chelsea defender Antonio Ruediger.

Other hygiene measures include avoiding all contact, other than in training, and keeping a distance of five metres from anyone not involved with the squad.

"Everything is really well planned and coordinated, in training too," added Sule.

Germany's new Chelsea striker Timo Werner said he will miss the home support in front of empty stands in Stuttgart.

"It's not just difficult for the fans. It's also more fun for us to play in front of supporters," said Werner.

"We had a friendly with Chelsea in front of 2,500 people and it was a completely different atmosphere."

(Agencies)

# International football returns at last as Nations League starts

BY ANDY SCOTT

AFTER the postponement of Euro 2020 by a year, international football comes out of a long hibernation this week in Europe with the start of the latest UEFA Nations League, which is being crammed into the autumn despite the ongoing coronavirus concerns and will see Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal defend their title.

In normal times, the continent's leading international teams would have been returning to action less than eight weeks after the final of the European Championship, but instead they will be playing for the first time since completing Euro qualifying last November, a hiatus of 10 months.

"We are delighted to have our team back out on the pitch, and to be able to play international matches again," said Germany coach Joachim Loew. "The past few months have been difficult for everybody."

While such a long break is unheard of in the modern era, this is also confirmation of how crammed the calendar will be in the year ahead, with almost all nations playing back-to-back fixtures this month just before Europe's major leagues start the 2020/21 season.

"I think across the board there's got to be a look at the football calendar, and that's everyone's responsibility," warned England manager Gareth Southgate last week.



Cristiano Ronaldo with the trophy after Portugal beat the Netherlands in the final of the inaugural UEFA Nations League last year. (Agencies)

"Everybody is trying to put their competitions in and the calendar is growing and the spaces are getting smaller."

The demands on the players will be enormous. Six rounds of Nations League matches will take place in total between September and November, with the top four nations coming together for the finals.

Initially planned for June 2021, these are now set to go ahead later in the year, once the European Cham-

pionship has finally been completed.

In the meantime, this Nations League will start with all games behind closed doors, a sad new reality for football in a pandemic and which already applied to the latter stages of the Champions League and Europa League last month.

Another reality of the health crisis is that coaches must be prepared for the possibility of losing players to positive Covid-19 tests, and so France have lost midfield duo Paul Pog-

ba and Houssem Aouar for their matches against Sweden and Croatia.

Similarly, Spain have seen Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal withdraw from their squad to face Germany and Ukraine.

With no fans allowed in, that latter fixture will be played at the Alfredo Di Stefano stadium in Real Madrid's training complex.

- World Cup incentive -

Aside from the complications caused by the pandemic, there is another major difference to the last, inaugural Nations League.

Whereas it offered four qualifying berths for Euro 2020 -- in delayed play-offs which are now due to go ahead in October and November -- there is no such incentive this time.

Nevertheless, ahead of 2022 World Cup qualifying starting early next year, the two best Nations League group winners who do not qualify for the finals in Qatar via that route will be parachuted into the 12-team play-offs for a second chance at securing a place.

It all sounds complicated, but in simpler times the tournament was a breath

of fresh air, replacing as it did the monotony of truly meaningless international friendlies.

Portugal beat the Netherlands 1-0 in the inaugural final in Porto, with England and Switzerland also having reached the finals.

And there are plenty of enticing fixtures to look forward to among the first batch of games this time, including Germany hosting a new-look Spain, featuring 17-year-old Ansu Fati, in Stuttgart on Thursday.

That will be Luis Enrique's first game of his second spell as Spain coach, despite him being re-appointed more than nine months ago.

Gareth Southgate's England play away in Iceland and Denmark, while there will be a repeat of the 2018 World Cup final when France host Croatia at an empty Stade de France.

It will be strange, but at least it is further confirmation that football is very much back in Europe, while FIFA cancelled all internationals on other continents that were previously planned for this month.

AFP

## Barcelona wants face-to-face meeting to change Messi's mind

BARCELONA

BARCELONA is banking on a face-to-face meeting with Lionel Messi to try to convince him to stay.

Talks with Messi's father, who is also his agent, are expected this week in Barcelona, but the club also hopes to sit down with the player himself.

Messi has been offered a two-year contract extension, a club official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person is not authorized to speak publicly about the issue.

The contract would run through the 2022-23 season. Both sides had already pre-agreed on most of the terms a few months ago, according to the club official.

Barcelona and Messi have yet to talk directly since the Argentine said last week that he wanted to leave the club. He made his announcement 11 days after the season ended in an 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

The humiliating defeat on Aug. 14 capped a complicated season for Barcelona, the first without a title since 2007-08.

Messi then invoked a clause that would allow him to leave for free at the end of the season, but Barcelona said the clause expired in June. Messi's staff is expected to claim that the end of the season was pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Neither side has yet to concede, with Messi not showing up for training along with the rest of the squad this week and Barcelona saying it will not facilitate his departure.

Barcelona reiterated its stance that it wants Messi to remain with the club and that it is not planning to negotiate his transfer. His contract ends in June 2021 and has a buyout clause of 700 million euros (\$838 million).

Club president Josep Bartomeu first talked to Messi's father over the phone after the loss to Bayern and was told that Messi was frustrated and disappointed. They talked again a few times after Messi announced his decision to leave,

but the first personal meeting between the two was expected to happen in the coming days.

The club hopes, though, that it can solve the problem by meeting with Messi in person and convincing him that the best decision for him is to stay.

Messi, who has often said in the past that he wanted to finish his career with Barcelona, has not publicly expressed his reasons for wanting to leave. He never directly named Bartomeu in his criticism of the club, but the president said last week he was willing to resign if Messi cited him as the problem.

Barcelona said it was not talking to any clubs about a possible transfer but it was open to negotiating for the players who incoming coach Ronald Koeman said were not included in his plans, including Luis Suarez, Arturo Vidal and Samuel Umtiti.

Ivan Rakitic, who also was in that list, was signed by Sevilla on Tuesday.

The three others have been training with the rest of the squad for now, including Suarez, a longtime teammate and friend of Messi. The club said there was no agreement reached yet for his transfer.

Barcelona will start the new season against Villarreal in the Spanish league at the end of September.

AP



BY TOR-KRISTIAN KARLSEN

Editor's note: Tor-Kristian Karlsen is a Norwegian football scout and executive and is the former chief executive and sporting director at AS Monaco. He will write regularly for ESPN on the business of soccer and the process of scouting. In his latest column, he looks at Gabriel, the Lille defender who has completed a move to Arsenal.

On Tuesday, Arsenal confirmed the signing of Brazilian centre-back Gabriel Magalhaes from Lille for around €30 million in a five-year deal. The tall, imposing, left-sided defender was also on the wish list at Manchester United, Napoli and Everton, among others, yet the combination of fellow Brazilian Edu, Arsenal's sporting director, and coach Mikel Arteta convinced the promising youngster that his immediate future lies in North London.

Gabriel's career path has not been the most traditional, especially for a defender: He joined a top Ligue 1 side at just 19 after one lone season in the Brazilian second league, and he's now heading for the Premier League after barely a year as an established first-teamer in France. But he impressed enough in his debut campaign with Avai, in Brazil's Serie B, to earn caps for Brazil at the South American U20 championship, where he acquitted himself well. Subsequently, he was snapped up by Lille in January 2017 for an estimated 3 million euros.

With the exception of a single nine-minute substitute appearance in Ligue 1, he spent his first half-season at the French club mainly with the second team. In the summer of 2017 he was loaned out to Ligue 1 rival Troyes, but when he only started one league match, Lille saw little gain in keeping him on loan at a club that didn't play him. In January 2018, they sent him instead to Dinamo Zagreb, but again the young defender managed just the one first-team appearance for the Croatian side before heading back to the North of France at the end of the 2018-19 season.

The two disappointing loan spells didn't seem to cause Gabriel too much harm. During the second half of the 2018-19 season, the Brazilian finally claimed a regular spot as one of the two Lille centre-backs who eventually led the club to a second-place finish in Ligue 1 and the best defensive record (only 33 goals conceded). Then in the following season -- the one that ended abruptly



Gabriel Magalhaes

due to COVID-19 -- Gabriel kept his regular spot in the heart of the Lille defence, most commonly alongside the ex-Crystal Palace, Southampton and West Ham defender Jose Fonte.

Although Gabriel's French was rapidly improving, playing next to the experienced Portuguese captain, with whom he shares a native language, must have been of

great help to the relatively inexperienced Brazilian. He also benefitted from having a coach, Christophe Galtier, who likes to keep the defence line tidy, structured and disciplined.

While Gabriel was prone to committing errors in his early matches for Lille, like losing possession in his own half and giving away fouls due to excessive physical play, he has been

developing on a monthly basis to the point where it's now hard to identify any obvious shortcomings in his game. Perhaps you can find more elegant, "ball playing" centre-backs or those with a more useful weaker foot, but that's still of no particular detriment to Gabriel.

On the contrary, Gabriel is developing into a fairly complete central defender and, judging by his last 25-30 matches for Lille, he should be capable of adapting well to the Premier League. In addition to his aerial dominance and pace -- he usually keeps up with most of the counterattacking forwards in France, of which there are many with a lot of pace! -- he's also a focused defender who has a clear idea of how to win the ball when he enters a duel, whether through anticipating the opponent's next move, muscling him off the ball or through an old-fashioned tackle. He also scores high on bravery and already appears to be coping well with an intensity in Ligue 1 that isn't dissimilar to what he'll find at the Premier League level.

That said, don't expect him to be a playmaker for Arsenal. While the 22-year-old is comfortable on the ball and calm under pressure, he's not excessively creative in his passing game. At Lille, though, he did like to hit a long "over

the top" ball when it was on, with the pacy Victor Osimhen (now at Napoli) often proving a natural target.

Questions also remain as to how Mikel Arteta intends to use the defender. If the Arsenal head coach opts for a back four, Gabriel could slot in next to David Luiz, a combination that would make sense as the new arrival would probably feel an extra comfort in having a compatriot alongside him during his debut season in the Premier League. Despite Luiz's tendency to cause some "hairy" moments for the Gunners, he's certainly capable of taking up a mentor role as Fonte did at Lille, talking and directing at the back. Equally, Gabriel certainly has the pace to make amends for Luiz's potential errors. Perhaps even more appealing would be having Gabriel playing on the left side of Luiz with another new arrival, right-footed William Saliba, on the right, in a back three.

The good news for Arsenal fans is that, whether their back line is made up of three or four defenders, the pace, tactical awareness and athleticism of both their new Ligue 1 recruits should render it much more reliable and solid than has been the case recently.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Simba SC denies Kagere, coach training bust-up

## SPORT

International football returns at last as Nations League starts

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

### TAVA seeks to host 2020 CAVB Electoral Congress

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Volleyball Association (TAVA) is interested in hosting this year's African Volleyball Confederation (CAVB) Electoral Congress scheduled for October.

Retired Major, Patrick Mlowezi, TAVA Chairman, said they have written to the government through the National Sports Council (NSC), seeking the latter's backing in the bid, and they are waiting for the directive.

The CAVB through president, Amr Elwani, last month sent invitations to the interested national federations to host the CAVB Electoral Congress scheduled for October 22-26, 2020.

South Africa were the initial hosts of the congress, but they withdrew as sporting activities are prohibited in the country up to next year due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Giving the above development it is imperative upon us to search for an alternative host for our congress. As indicated in the above cited communication, the selection and appointment of the new host shall be held in conformity with our constitution and all other statutes in an atmosphere of equality and transparency," said part of a letter from CAVB.

Mlowezi said Tanzania's ability to host the congress will depend on the government approval, as the latter will also be required to make some financial, material and manpower contribution.

"The CAVB wrote to all of its member associations requesting them to host the congress in October this year, so, we are interested but we have written the government for their approval," he said.

Some of the conditions which CAVB issued to the nations interested in hosting the congress are that the particular countries should be safe from COVID-19 pandemic.

They should moreover provide a written guarantee from their governments authorising the hosting of the Electoral Congress and a commitment by the governments that they will allow all delegates to enter their countries under their COVID-19 health regulations.

"Interested countries in collaboration with their health authorities must also submit a comprehensive health protocol for hosting the Congress. This protocol shall be co-signed by the National Federation and their national health authorities," the CAVB said in the statement.

"Such protocol shall be approved by the CAVB. Finally the countries have to present a bid document highlighting their ability to host the Congress including other aspects like hotels, transport, security, conferencing and administration."

"The COVID-19 situation in their countries must be safe enough not to pose unnecessary risk to Congress delegates," the CAVB said in the statement.

An official from NSC who opted for anonymity confirmed receiving TAVA's request for hosting the CAVB Electoral Congress, but said it is tricky to affirm government's commitment to the event.

He refused to issue more details, saying NSC Acting Secretary General Neema Msitha is better placed to comment on the matter.

Neema yesterday could not pick her phone when we sought for details from her.

"We received their request letter but I cannot comment on it as I'm not the spokesperson of the NSC, you better talk to Neema," the source said.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC leaders have dismissed claims that head coach, Sven Vandebroek, and striker, Meddie Kagere, had a training ground bust-up in Mbeya on Tuesday.

There were online reports of a confrontation



Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandebroek (R), poses for picture with the outfit's forward, Meddie Kagere, at a recent training, which took place in Mbeya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS SC

between Vandebroek and Kagere in the region where Simba will begin their title defence with an away game against promoted Ihefu FC on Sunday.

It is understood that the two are not on good terms, hence the Rwandan striker has seen limited

game time of late.

With his contract coming to an end in June next year, Kagere looks set to be on his way out from Simba unless there is a big u-turn in the technical department.

However despite the reportedly rocky relationship between Kagere and Vandebroek, Simba's information officer, Haji Manara, rubbished the confrontation reports as fake news and propaganda spread by their opponents.

Through a voice note that he issued to various Simba's affiliated WhatsApp groups, Manara insists the team did not have training sessions on Tuesday as it is alleged in the online reports.

"It is all happiness here at Simba, when people want to make us feel sad they come up with cooked stories. Nothing like that happened, at no time did Kagere and Sven fight or confront each other," he disclosed.

"These are all big lies being peddled to divert the attention that Simba won a trophy on Sunday, they just want to spoil our party and, at the same time, imply that there are problems in Simba."

"We don't have any problems,

we are a happy family, they want to provoke us and we are not ready to be provoked,"

"You know the reports are lies, we did not have a training session on Tuesday. They are claiming the fight happened on Tuesday, so where did it happen?"

"All players were given a day off to rest and no training session happened on Tuesday."

Manara added that he understands where the propaganda comes from though he did not mention specific names.

"The coach requested that all players have a rest, they were all resting and none went to training, so I am wondering when did it happen and where? We know them, they are back again with lies but we will not fall for that."

On Sunday, Simba won the Community Shield for the fourth consecutive time following a 2-0 victory over Namungo FC in the season opener, which took place in Arusha.

They then travelled to Mbeya on Tuesday via Mwanza ahead of a Mainland Premier League showdown with newly promoted Ihefu FC.

### Mtibwa Sugar's newly recruited players need to prove their worth, says coach

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MOROGORO'S Mtibwa Sugar have completed players' registration and have insisted on the need for the newly recruited players to prove their worth.

The side's head coach Zubeir Katwila was adamant the recruitment that his club embarked on zeroed in on the particular players' competence, as well as the gaps the outfit needed to fill.

"We did not recruit players for the sake of it. We had recruited players when the top flight was in progress, therefore, we had opportunity to assess the players when matches were played," he disclosed.

"We were aware that the players we were seeking to rope in will quickly fit in our club's game tactics, therefore, we have trust in them and we feel proud of them."

Katwila stated once he had watched the players, he recommended them to Mtibwa Sugar management that ultimately sealed the players' move to the outfit.

The coach noted his club is looking forward to having the players showcasing the performance they had

shown in their former teams.

"Everything is in place and we are looking forward to the league, save for the new players having difficulty to adjust to our club's environment," he noted.

Mtibwa Sugar that managed to escape relegation to the First Division League (FDL) by a whisker look to have opted to make successful turn around in the domestic top flight.

The squad had to dig deep and cruise to 2-1 win over Ruvu Shooting in one of the previous season's Premier League duels, which wound up the tournament, to eventually make certain of its participation in the top flight.

Mtibwa Sugar have recruited several competent players for the coming Premier League, which kicks off this weekend.

The Morogoro side's youthful player, Abdul Haule, taken from the outfit's U-20 team, is one of new players for the first choice team.

Geoffrey Luseke, Ibrahim Hamad, Aboubakar Ame, Kassim Khamis and Hassan Kessy are as well a section of new players roped in by the outfit.



Mtibwa Sugar head coach, Zubeir Katwila

### Simba SC allays injury fears in squad

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciano

SIMBA SC Manager, Patrick Rweyemamu, has maintained there is no other player in the squad, who is currently nursing injury, other than newly recruited fullback David Kameta.

The official disclosed that the club's remaining players are in great shape and ready to battle it out in the Premier League, which is set to kick off this weekend.

Simba will take on newly promoted outfit, Mbarali District-based Ihefu FC, in one of the opening matches, slated for Sunday in Mbeya.

Rweyemamu pointed out Simba's players did not take part in training on Tuesday, given they had arrived from Arusha.

The official noted the squad went for two training sessions yesterday.

"Our squad is in good shape, we today morning held our first training session since we arrived here and we will again train in the evening," he noted.

"Every player is in good shape with the exception of Kameta."

He further disclosed the outfit was dismayed by reports in some of social media sites, which alleged there was a training ground bust-up involving forward, Meddie Kagere, and the club's head coach, Sven Vandebroek.

"People say the quarrel came about in the training, we asked ourselves when did the training take place, given we, since we arrived, had not gone for training," he disclosed.

"This information has been cooked up, it not valid at all."

He moreover pointed out Simba's players and technical bench are focusing on the top flight game against Ihefu FC, to be played at Sokoine Stadium.

"Everyone in our camp here has his mind focused on the clash, we want to start impressively," he noted.



Uhuru Mchanganyiko Primary School's pupils play volleyball at the Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

