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World Bank touts farms of nutrient solutions, skips soils

By Guardian Reporter

INSECT and hydroponic crop farming, by growing plants in nutrient solutions without the use of soil has the potential to cover human food and animal feeds, increasing access to nutritious food while creating millions of jobs, a new report has ascertained. Juergen Voegele, the World Bank vice president for sustainable development, says that growing insects and crops via nutrient solutions would improve climate adaptation and the environment thus

“That is enough protein meal to meet up to 14 percent of the crude protein needed to rear all the pigs, goats, fish, and poultry in Africa,”

strengthening national economies. Unveiling the new World Bank report titled 'Insect and Hydroponic Farming in Africa: The New Circular Food Economy,' he said that the world's natural resources cannot sustain the current footprint of agriculture, especially when it comes to animal feed. To reverse current trends, we need a heavily disruptive and resilient food production model. The report makes a persuasive case for insect and hydroponic farming to complement conventional farming," he said. "Together with other investments in climate-smart agriculture, these technologies are part of a promising menu

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Germany avails 2bn/- aid for COVID-19 precautions



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba presents a special message from President Samia Suluhu Hassan to the Abu Dhabi Deputy Prime Minister (and Minister for Abu Dhabi Presidential Affairs) Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Photo: Ben Mwaipaja of Treasury

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AID disbursement of about 2.3bn/- in Covid-19 medical equipment has been released by the government of Germany to support Tanzania's efforts to control effects of new variants of the pandemic especially during the Christmas and New Year festive period.

Regine Hess, the resident German ambassador, said the donation was part of the health programme of the German agency for development cooperation, GIZ, to enhance the country's pandemic preparedness and response.

Equipment donated include 55 portable ventilators and 5000 pulse oximeters that cost \$1m (2.3bn/-) to be

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I would like to thank the German government for the support to Tanzania to help strengthen the covid-19 pandemic response,

Samia hinting at Health ministry restructuring

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has said she plans to make major changes in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to make it more effective and optimally deliver expected services to the public.

Launching the national advisory committee on the implementation of the country's pledges at the Generation Equality Forum organised by UN Women, the president said that the ministry incorporates too many things, so it was unable to implement some of its activi-

“Despite the ministry's many plans, policies, guidelines and strategies, still we have failed to make tangible achievements because it incorporates many issues in a single ministry

ties with the required pace. "When you say 'health' the term carries many issues and in the modern

world the issue of health has so many things, hence I plan to streamline the ministry," she told the gathering.

"Despite the ministry's many plans, policies, guidelines and strategies, still we have failed to make tangible achievements because it incorporates many issues in a single ministry," she said, indicating that Health be run on its own, and expects that the President of Zanzibar will accept to do the same so that the two governments go in tandem.

Splitting the ministry will enhance its

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Extension officers gear for motorcycles, smart phones

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government has ordered the first batch of over 2,000 motorcycles to be given to extension officers across the country to enable them reach farmers and push up farm productivity.

Clemence Shio, an economist with the policy and planning department of the Ministry of Agriculture, said here yesterday that increasing the mobility of available extension officers will help

“the ministry will also supply smart phones to extension officers and launching portals to ensure that farmers obtain prompt assistance wherever ...

them reach out to farmers on time.

He said the ministry still faces an acute shortage of extension officers as the country needs 20,000 such technicians but just 6,704 such personnel are employed at present, implying a shortage of two thirds of optimal availability of such officers.

He was participating at an African Seed Access Index (TASAD) meeting, a

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DERM group

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

Derm Group wishes to inform its esteemed clients and business partners that our offices will be closed during the festive season with effective from **Friday 17th December 2021**.

The business will resume on **Monday 03rd January 2022**.

This closure will not effect our site operations in Bagamoyo, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Tanga, Songwe, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, and Zanzibar.

Any inconveniences caused are highly regretted.

We would like to thank all our clients and business partners in general for their continued patronage of our services throughout the year 2021.

Derm Elevators **DTsmart**



World Bank touts farms of nutrient solutions, skips soils

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of solutions that can help countries move their agriculture systems toward greater sustainability and reduced emissions," he stated.

Experts say the consumption of insects is not new, with an estimated two billion people globally consuming insects that are collected in the wild. What's new is farming insects specifically for human and animal consumption to provide a year-round supply, increase insect quality and meet growing demand for animal protein, the report asserts.

Combining hydroponic crops that also use very little water and require no arable land, with insect farming is also novel and provides benefits ranging from improved nutrition to climate resilient production synergies, it elaborates. Together, these technologies improve food and nutrition security while reducing waste, taking pressure off land and water resources, and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They can also save farmers money and governments hard currency reserves by decreasing food, feed and fertilizer imports and purchases, it asserted.

Small-scale operations can be established at low cost, opening opportunities for climate resilient jobs, including for women, youth, and refugees who often live in locations with limited resources.

Both technologies fit within a circular economic model that can supplement conventional farming as insects can be fed organic waste from conventional agriculture, while in hydroponics, leftover food or even from breweries quickly produce nutritious and protein-rich foods for humans, fish, and livestock, it affirmed.

Waste from insects can then be fed back into the system as organic fertiliser, it specified, insisting that the world needs a food production system that can feed everyone, everywhere, every day with nutritious

food while providing economic benefits and protecting the environment. Dorte Verner, the World Bank lead agriculture economist and lead author of the report, said that this method can be applied in countries with few resources, thus a food economy cycle with insect and hydroponic farming capable of delivering on the global food sustainability promise.

The report asserts that acute food insecurity is on the rise in Sub-Saharan Africa, where about one in five people are undernourished. African countries face economic fragility, conflict and violence (FCV), where 29 percent of people do not have access to enough food.

The report team collected the first insect farming data on the continent at the national and farm level in 13 African countries, including in FCV settings, the lead author noted, asserting that the number of new entrants and markets for insects around the world is increasing. It is estimated that the global market for insects as food and animal feed will reach \$8bn by 2030, at a 24 percent annual growth rate over the next decade, he affirmed, indicating that to expand insect and hydroponic farming, agro-sector agencies need to establish and pilot these technologies.

They would then scale them up to bring down costs and enhance their competitiveness, he said, noting further that the World Bank is starting pilots in selected African countries with various partners. Africa already has hydroponic farms and more than 850 insect farms that produce food and feed, he stated. African insect farming using agriculture waste as feed could annually generate crude protein worth up to \$2.6bn and biofertilisers worth up to \$19.4bn. "That is enough protein meal to meet up to 14 percent of the crude protein needed to rear all the pigs, goats, fish, and poultry in Africa," the report affirms.

Samia hinting at Health ministry restructuring

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achievements in carrying out its duties, she said, reminding participants that in order to elevate women economically there so many issues that have to be worked out.

"Members of this committee hail from various sectors," she said, expressing solidarity with their objectives for gender equality especially in regard to economic uplift of women, noting that Tanzania has been picked by UN Women as role model in that sphere, to report on its progress in the next UN Women global conference.

Women make about 50 per cent of the country's workforce but carry more burdens in political and economic drawbacks, she said, elaborating that women are indispensable in the implementation of global

goals, but their economic, social and political development is not clearly defined in various development plans.

"Despite the fact that half of world's population is women, in many areas of the world, women are not accorded the right opportunities to appropriately use the work force. If that workforce is suitably put into use, as it would contribute greatly to the global economy," she stated, emphasising that the committee needs to supervise ministerial work to make sure pledges to elevate economic rights for women are implemented.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa assured President Samia that the PMO will closely coordinate the exercise in order to attain the various goals for the realisation of gender equality in the country.



Cardiac specialists of Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute undertake complex percutaneous coronary intervention - PCI to unblock blood vessels which were blocked for 99 per cent through telemedicine done by Virginia doctors in the United States and JKCI in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Courtesy of JKCI

Extension officers gear for motorcycles, smart phones

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seed dissemination workshop held here in association with the Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA).

Samson Poneja, a senior agriculture officer from the crop

development department said that motorcycles will be distributed to extension officers in the first quarter of 2022.

In addition, the ministry will also supply smart phones to extension officers and launching portals to ensure that farmers obtain prompt

assistance wherever they are and virtually at any moment, he stated.

The ministry has allocated 1.5bn/- for extension services in the 2021/2022 fiscal year, more than double the figure for the previous year, when 603m/- was allocated.

The African Seed Access Index

(TASAI) is a seed industry research program intended to monitor the development and competitiveness of national seed activities in Africa, creating, promoting and maintaining formal seed systems serving smallholder farmers, a brochure indicates.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (R) listens to East African crude oil pipeline leaders when the NEMC officials visited Chongoleani in Tanga region to inspect environment protection during the implementation of the project. Photo: Correspondent Adam Sayi

Germany avails 2bn/- aid for COVID-19 precautions

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distributed in health facilities all over the country.

A pulse oximeter measures the oxygen level (oxygen saturation) in the blood while portable ventilators deliver room air or oxygen-enriched gas into the breathing circuit. It can be humidified by a heated humidifier or a heat and moisture exchanger before delivery to the patient, he said.

"Christmas and New Year festivals bring more people together and therefore pose greater risk of transmission. We hope oximeters will help medics to test the level of oxygen in the blood and therefore alert when a person needs further tests for the virus," she said.

Germany is providing close to \$2.5bn during 2020 and 2021 for

generating and fairly distributing Covid-19 vaccines plus diagnosis and therapies, she said, noting that this includes \$ 1.1bn for the Covax facility that provides access to vaccines to many developing countries, including Tanzania.

Tanzania has also benefited from Germany-EAC cooperation on pandemic preparedness, providing airport, port and border post training on covid-19 prevention. The project similarly implements sensitization campaigns in high risk areas, with Germany providing training and two mobile labs used for Covid-19 antibodies testing.

"German bilateral development cooperation with Tanzania through its health programme is supporting the country's efforts in responding to the pandemic by allocating special Covid-19 funds," the envoy not-

ed, with funds directed to training of health workers, border personnel and printing of guidelines.

Other funded areas are improvement of medical oxygen availability, provision of equipment for managing critically ill patients and perusal of protective equipment, she stated, elaborating that GIZ will organize training for biomedical engineers to enable them to perform maintenance of the equipment so as to ensure they last long.

Ambassador Hess said following an urgent request from the ministry, GIZ will also continue to support the government in establishing a Covid-19 detection center at Tanga regional referral hospital.

The support will encompass renovation of suitable buildings, procurement of necessary laboratory equipment such as a PCR-machine and

training of health care workers to conduct Covid-19 molecular testing, she explained.

"Information we have is that this equipment will be distributed to health facilities in all 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland," she specified, with chief pharmacist Daudi Msasi noting that the Medical Stores Department (MSD) will distribute the donated equipment to health facilities countrywide.

He said the equipment will help to detect early symptoms in contaminated persons, as once a person is tested using oximeters and obtains an oxygen level below 90; another Covid-19 test is needed to clear doubts on his or her health status.

"I would like to thank the German government for the support to Tanzania to help strengthen the covid-19 pandemic response," he added.

4 Dar schools get 157 desks

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM-based primary schools - Zanaki, Upanga, Maktaba and Lumumba have received a total of 157 desks valued at 18m/- provided by Tanzania Tamil Sangam.

The assistance was provided early this week while education stakeholders have been asked by the government to assist in solving various challenges facing public schools to improve the sector and increase students passes in examinations.

Speaking on behalf of teachers of the schools, the Head-teacher of Zanaki Primary School, Adolf Rwegoshora said education stakeholders have been a good example to be emulated due to their great contributions.

"It would be better for the education stakeholders to support government efforts to solve challenges facing public schools, like this firm that has come up to improve the environment of our school," Rwegoshora said.

He said he personally persuaded the sponsors to provide desks to nearby Upanga, Maktaba and Lumumba Primary schools.

"This firm has supported government efforts to improve education, it has provided 37 desks to Upanga Primary School, 30 to Lumumba Primary and 30 to Maktaba primary School while my school received 60 desks, all totaling 157 desks," he said.

He added that apart from his efforts to convince the sponsors, I still ask other stakeholders in education to emerge and assist the government to solve various education challenges facing various schools.

The Chairman of Tanzania Tamil Sangam, Balasubramanian Venkadachalam said it is still expanding its activities and as opportunities allows it will continue solving challenges facing primary schools in the City of Dar es Salaam.

He said his firm has also been providing various items to primary and secondary schools including Gogoni School aimed at improving the country's education sector.



Chairman of Tamil Sangam society living in Tanzania Balasubramanian Venkadachalam (R) presents a special document to Zanaki secondary school head master Adolf Rwegoshora (L) after receiving 60 desks among 157 worth 18m/- donated by the Tamil society to four Dar es Salaam schools namely Zanaki, Upanga, Maktaba and Lumumba. The event took place recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

16bn/- new technical training college to be built in Dodoma

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government is investing over 16bn/- towards the construction of a new and relatively larger technical training college at the capital city of Dodoma.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Technical Studies, Dr Leonard Akwilapo said here

yesterday that the new institution will be able to enroll more students in order to create field ready graduates to boost the apprenticeship sector as well as solve various problems in the country.

"We are transforming the technical training in the country into a science and technological approach in order to prepare the youth in the country to face the chang-

ing world with confidence," explained Akwilapo.

The Permanent Secretary was speaking during the Arusha Technical College's 13th Graduation Ceremony held at the institution campus here, where 952 students graduated under various programs and honors, among them 763 male and 189 female scholars.

"The National Council for Technical Education (NACTE)

is also working to come up with curricula that go in sync with job market requirements," said Akwilapo and used the occasion to laud the technical college for expanding the training portfolio which covers almost every field in technical studies.

Regarding the Arusha Technical College, Akwilapo said the government will ensure that the ongoing works

for the proposed Clinical Medicine Facility, being constructed at the ATC and which is going to serve students, teachers and surrounding communities is completed in time.

Meanwhile, nearly 430 girls will now be accommodated in the newly constructed in-campus hostel soon to be inaugurated at the Arusha Technical College.

The facility will solve the long-existing problem of female students at the technical institution living off campus and being susceptible to various vices and dangers facing them during their daily commute to and from the college.

The Chairperson for the Arusha Technical College (ATC)'s Board of Management, Prof Siza Tumbo said

here the new boarding facility is expected to be completed and go into operation by June next year 2022.

"Constructed at the cost of 1 billion/- by funds from the college itself, the facility will increase the female students' intake at the ATC and encourage attendance," stated Prof Tumbo during the Technical College's 13th Graduation Ceremony.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW IN RESPECT OF PREPARATION AND MAINTAINING THE VALUE ADDED TAX ACCOUNT

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) wishes to remind all Value Added Tax (VAT) Registered Traders in Tanzania Mainland of the requirement to maintain Value Added Tax Accounts as provided for under Section 89 of the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148. The VAT Account maintained should clearly indicate the following information as required by the law:

- All the output tax payable in the period,
- All the input tax credit the person is allowed for the period
- All increasing and decreasing adjustments that the person is required or entitled to make in the period.

Besides VAT Account, taxpayers are required to keep all other records and information in respect of VAT affairs as provided for under Section 89 of the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 148. TRA shall make a close follow-up to ensure that, all traders comply with this requirement of the law.

All VAT registered traders are required to comply without fail so as to avoid unnecessary consequences of non-compliance with the VAT law that includes, impossible penalty and/or interest that increases the cost of doing businesses/office operations.

For more information, please visit your nearest TRA office or TRA website (www.tra.go.tz) or contact us through the following:

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WORLD BANK GROUP

Part Time Consultancy E-governance for Land Administration (P176685) Land Administration Management Specialist

Tanzania is planning substantial investments to accelerate the digital transformation of land administration services, and to scale-up land tenure regularization. During the coming years, two projects are expected to be channeled in the land administration sector by the World Bank and the Korea Export-Import Bank (KEXIM). Prior to these projects getting underway, and during the early stages of their implementation, a Technical Assistance (TA) program is being implemented until December 31, 2022. The TA is financed by the Korea-World Bank Partnership Facility (KWPF) and will be implemented by the World Bank in close collaboration with the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlement Development (MLHSD). The objective is to support the MLHSD in its effort to scale up investments in the land administration sector through the production and dissemination of knowledge on how to implement a digitally enabled spatial data infrastructure and modern land administration system in Tanzania.

The TA will finance components that concern national spatial data infrastructure, geodetic networks, mapping, field data collection, and land information system development. The focus of the consultancy being advertised is to provide technical assistance on the collection of field data and the management of a major program to issue certificates of rights of occupancy, certificates of customary rights of occupancy and residential licenses on a mass scale.

The consultant is expected to provide impartial and honest advice on all aspects of the TA that have to be implemented taking into account the Tanzanian context. A major part of the work will require strategic thinking and practical arrangements for the management and delivery of the major program for issuing certificates and registering property rights in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The full terms of reference can be supplied by contacting Camille Bourguignon-Roger, Senior Land Administration Specialist, at cbourguignon@worldbank.org. Applications must be submitted to Mr. Bourguignon-Roger via email address by January 10, 2022.

Qualifications

The Land Administration Specialist will:

1. Have a basic degree (and preferably post graduate qualifications) in land survey, geospatial sciences or a similar specialization that demonstrates an understanding of mapping, town planning, cadasters, land registration or Geographic Information Systems.
2. Have at least ten years post graduate experience in a selection of the above subjects.
3. Have been in a managerial position in government service, a public body, the private sector or on major projects implementing geospatial services.
4. Have worked in Tanzania on a continuous basis for at least ten years.
5. Be fluent in English and Swahili.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (R) looks at pads at the exhibition held at Jitegemeo ground in Muheza district recently. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Verdict on JUMAZA case against ZLB now set for January 17, 2022

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE fate of the civil case filed by the Board of Trustees of the Zanzibar Council of Imams (JUMAZA) against the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board and the Attorney General for violating the stipulations of the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control Act (No 9 of 2020) will be known on January 17 next year after the Presiding Zanzibar High Court Judge judgement Abdurakim Ameir Issa failed to do so yesterday.

In the case, JUMAZA seeks to show that the Zanzibar Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board violated Section 33(1) of the Zanzibar Alcohol Drinks Control Act by its decision to issue permits for the importation of alcoholic drinks to eight firms instead of three as provided for under the Act.

JUMAZA also claimed that the Zanzibar Liquor Board failed to respect Section 28(k) of the same Act that had set a condition for bars to be more than 1,000 metres away from areas with basic social services including schools, health centres, mosques, churches, madrassas, markets or bus stations.

State Attorneys from the Office of the attorney General filed an objection claiming the case was filed in violation of the law without giving 60 days' notice to sue the government as well as the sworn affidavit not bearing the date of its execution, also against the law they claimed.

"Today, the judgment was supposed to be issued but the Presiding Judge had a family emergency and instead the judgment will be issued January 17 next year," said JUMAZA Advocate Omary Shehe.

Omary said their original petition still stands despite the decision by the Zanzibar President's Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi to dissolve the earlier Board that had been involved in the violation of the laws while implementing its duties.

For his part, the Secretary of JUMAZA Ethics Committee Sheikh Abdallah Mnubi said the Court is supposed to speed up the case as it touches on the people's interests.

He said Section 33(1) of the Zanzibar Alcohol Drinks Control Act stresses liquor importers should be Zanzibaris, tax payer and should have a warehouse for the liquor storage as well as vehicle for distribution; instead Europeans were now importing alcoholic drinks in Zanzibar.

He said even some tourist hotels were now importing alcoholic drinks without paying taxes instead of buying the drinks from the local licensed dealers, thereby causing loss of revenue to the government.

He said the Act was passed deliberated and passed by the Zanzibar House of Representatives after having been discussed by the cabinet and signed by the President, but the Alcoholic Drinks Advisory Board has failed to oversee the Act.

'All new secondary schools must have computer labs'

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

ALL newly-built public secondary schools must have computer laboratories to enable teaching of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), it has been announced.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Ummu Mwalimu

said this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday while opening a three-day head teachers meeting organised by Global Education Link (GEL) and Tanzania head of secondary schools association (TAHOSSA).

She said in three years to come (2022-2025), the government will ensure that 1,500 secondary schools are equipped with computer labs and all needed facilities to promote ICT teaching and learning.

"To start with, we plan to install 50 computers in each newly constructed school with all ICT facilities, but the government's long plan is to do the same even in the old schools," she said.

The minister noted that due to technological changes in the World, ICT has also taken a centre stage in service provision and several other sectors including ed-

ucation that's why the government decided to invest heavily in the sector.

In another move, Mwalimu warned secondary school teachers to stop charging parents unnecessary contributions as the government pays all the expenses.

"The late President John Magufuli declared free education and our current government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has

also continued to facilitate free education but some of you are still charging parents, which is contrary to our directives," she insisted. She wanted the ministry's permanent secretary to prepare directives on the matter so as to identify all the necessary contributions which parents are needed to pay, especially when children report to school (form one).

Mwalimu also said she will

not tolerate any teacher who will engage in love affairs with students or be involved in any act that violates their rights while at school.

She insisted that teachers are supposed to be good guardians and advisors of students in schools and not be part of people who destroy their future by engaging in love affairs.

On tuition studies, the minister said any teacher who wishes to provide ad-

ditional studies to students during leave should seek permission from the Regional Education Officer and explain why it is necessary to do so.

"What we need is for you to adhere to the government's directives. We need our children to have time to rest because they are not machines. Do it only when it is necessary, especially when they missed some studies," she insisted.



Tigo sales manager in Arusha region Salim Shangweli (R) talks with Arusha district commissioner Said Mtanda (2nd R) at Tigo's pavilion during the Arusha Trade Fair held at Sheikh Amri Abeid ground on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UAE pledges to assist Tanzania's social and economic development

By Guardian Reporter, Abu Dhabi

THE United Arab Emirates (UAE) government has pledged to continue its relationship with Tanzania is economic and social issues to bring development to its people.

The pledge was given here by the Deputy Prime Minister, who also a Minister dealing with Presidential Affairs, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan. After receiving a special Tanzania delegation from President Samia Suluhu Hassan led by the minister for finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba at the Abu Dhabi State House. Speaking after their private talks, Dr Nchemba said Sheikh Mansour pledged to send a special delegation to Tanzania to see various strategic projects under implementation as well as new ones for financing.

Dr Nchemba named the projects submitted to the UAE government as including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Julius Nyerere Hydro Power project (JNHPP) construction of road infrastructures airports, agriculture, fishing and education.

"In the education and health sectors we have built many classrooms, many health centres some in rural areas, but we have not built quarters for the services providers in those areas," he said.

He said they have discussed with Sheikh Mansour on investment opportunities in the country due to Tanzania being a business gateway on landlocked countries.

"Many areas on which we discussed was on how to involve the private sector in the implementation of various development projects in joint venture basis between the public and private sectors (PPP) to bring benefits to both sides in general," he added.

For his part, the Zanzibar Minister in the President Office (Finance and Government Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali said their meeting with the UAE Prime minister also looked into the issues strategic development projects and several projects that needed financing were submitted.

Agric stakeholders call for creation of the national organic agriculture policy

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

AGRICULTURE stakeholders have called for the establishment of the national organic agriculture policy that will help in regulating and harnessing the comparative advantage offered by organic farming.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, the Tanzania organic agriculture movement (TOAM) Chief Executive Office Bakari Monyo said the lack of coherent food policy cutting across all sectors undermines agricultural production in the country.

"The food we eat and the food systems we enjoy are shaped by a variety of distinct policy frameworks like agriculture,

land, health, environment protection among others. In case of poor productivity, none can be held accountable," he said.

Bakari said the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and other partners in 24 African countries including Tanzania undertook a collaborative process of research to identify tools required to deliver sustainable food systems in Africa.

Bakari noted that the study revealed a number of social, economic and ecological shocks to food systems that require conducive and resilient policy environment.

He noted that the shocks include climate change, which affects crops, fish-

ing and livestock production in multiple ways and environmental degradation.

"There were also effects of Covid-19 on food systems and food security, income and purchasing power of all the actors," he said.

In Tanzania, the study looked at food systems, legal and policy frameworks. The study revealed that there are potential synergies that can be taken advantage of to improve the food system.

Bakari noted that both the National Agricultural Policy 2013 and National Livestock Policy have areas of organic farming and advocate for minimal or non-use of industrial chemicals such as fertilisers, pesticides and drugs.

"There are a number of policy areas

where unity exists but in some cases disunity in policies was also observed. For instance, the issue of seasonal movement of livestock herds and cattle keepers goes contrary to the National Land Policy where nomadism is to be prohibited but stock movements allowed through regulation probably on their way to markets," he noted.

For his part, the Tanzania Alliance for Biodiversity (TABIO) coordinator Abdallah Mkindi said the country has a National Food and Nutrition Policy but it doesn't fully address organic agriculture.

"We need a comprehensive and conclusive organic agriculture policy that will not only ensure food security, but food security as well," he said.

The TABIO advocacy officer Paul Chil-ewa however said that in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, no one should be left behind when it comes to food safety and security.

"It is quite unfortunate that our policies to a great extent support bulk production without necessarily taking into account the adverse effects of pesticides, fertilizer and other inputs," he said.

He noted that based on the available weather conditions, Tanzania has got a comparative advantage in Organic agriculture solely relying on alternative farming methods such as crop rotation, mechanical cultivation; use of animal and green manure.sm



Endiamtu ward councillor in Simanjiro district, Manyara region Lucas Zacharia speaks at the education stakeholders meeting at Mire-rani over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Government calls upon all health officers across the country to revive health measures against COVID-19

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has called upon all health officers across the country to revive health measures used against COVID-19 in effort to help contain any cases of omicron variant.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the Omicron variant is reaching more countries in Africa and weekly COVID-19 cases in the continent surged by 93percent.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Grace Magembe made the call here yesterday, stating that the public should be aware of the fourth phase of COVID-19 and follow preventive measures.

She argued that such measures like having flowing hand washing water, soap and sanitizer at public places as was experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer available and people seems to have forgotten.

The deputy PS said the government acknowledges the good work of health officers in the country and their ability to contain virus outbreaks like Zika, Ebola and Covid-19, among others.

"It is through your tireless efforts that made the country manage COVID-19 within a short period of time and you are still capable in employing similar tactics against the new wave of virus" she said.

Dr Magembe, who was officiating at the opening of Annual Environmental Health and Sanitation Conference 2021, also underscored the need to improve sanitation and hygiene saying this can help reduce communicable diseases.

She said the officers are complementing President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts in

environmental conservation, adding that the head of states always urges the public to work hard in improving the environment.

On a different note, the deputy PS strongly condemned the fact that some households in the country, calling on the health officers to do everything to ensure all households in the country have latrines.

She also called on the health officers to do their work diligently as stipulated in the law and avoid unnecessary use of force and harassment. Earlier, Dr Khalid Massa from the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said the aim of the meeting was to help share experiences amongst health officers from different parts of the country.

He added that the meeting was to help conduct assessment of the national campaign against open defecation. He said households with latrines have increased from 42 percent in 2017 to 70 percent in 2021 while those without have reduced from 9.9 to 1.3 during the same period. At the same time, Dr Massa noted that households with hand washing equipment have increased from 5.2 percent in 2017 to 41.7 percent in 2021.

However, he decried the shortage of health works in the country, saying the deficit is 71 percent. "There is need for more health officers, especially at these trying moments when COVID-19 is shaking the word" he said, adding that health officers in the country are on the frontline in fighting the pandemic.

Speaking on behalf of development partners, Olivier Germain from SNV said water and sanitation hygiene development partners remain committed to support initiatives in improving the sector.

By Correspondent

51m/- of CDF builds community development projects in Muheza

Cheji Bakari, Muheza

AT least 51m/- of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) have been injected into construction of community development projects infrastructure in 37 wards of the Muheza District, Tanga Region.

The funds facilitated construction of infrastructures of health, education, village government offices and residential houses of civil servants.

According to a statement from Muheza Constituency Parliamentary Office, the funds have also been used for procurement of construction materials for unfinished and constructing of new classrooms, dispensaries, incinerator, and electricity installations and purchasing of water tanks.

Immediately after elected as the Muheza Member of

Parliament, Hamisi Mwinjuma popular as MwanaFA, went to thank the wananchi for electing him and held various public meetings whereas among the challenges risen including classrooms shortage, dispensaries, civil servants into health and education sectors and electricity connection into 24 villages out of 125 Muheza registered villages.

"The procurement of such

construction materials was according to Parliamentary Constituency Fund Committee meeting agreements held between February 27 and June 3 whereby among the agreed priorities were to purchase building materials for community development projects sectors," the statement noted.

According to the meeting agreement, the procured items include bags of

cements, corrugated iron sheets, crow bars, gravels, ceiling boards, and water tanks.

The purchasing items were directed into construction of early childhood classrooms into Kilulu, Kwezitu, construction of classrooms for Misozwe, Tongwe, Chief Mang'anya four classes, Kwabada, Kwemingoji, Songa, Mtindiro Furaha secondary schools and finishing of

laboratory room at Mtindiro secondary school and teachers' house at Misozwe secondary school.

Other activities are the construction of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) building at Zirai village, construction of village office at Mamboleo, Mikwamba, Muheza Estate, Mgambo, Extension Officer's house at Nkumba village, construction of dispensaries at

Kwamdimu and Pangamlima villages respective and construction of incinerator at Miti village.

On primary education sector, the items were directed to the construction classrooms at Magila, Mlingoti, Jibandeni, Kilulu, Ngomeni, Kigombe, Jamhuri, Matombo, Makole, Mto wa Mbuji, Gare, Masuguru, Kwemsala, Kizerui, Mtindiro, Muheza Estate, Mgambo, Sakale, Misalai, Msowelo, Mpayu and Kwemsala primary schools.

Publish or perish, Mwinyi tells lecturers

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has called on scholars in the country to conduct research and publish papers not only for their career development, but for prosperity of the country.

Mwinyi who is Chancellor of Kampala International University in Tanzania (KIUT) threw the challenge during the institution's 4th graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"Some of our scholars seem to have forgotten the concept of publish or perish," he said in a speech read on is behalf by Prof Abillah Harriid Omari, Tanzanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

"Lecturers who do not conduct research and publish papers are a burden to their institutions."

The former president extended the appeal to all educationists from primary to university to produce quality manpower for development of the country, saying that higher learning institutions cannot produce quality graduates if lower levels produce half-backed students.

"Higher institutions are at the tail end of the chain; they do not and cannot control quality of education at primary and secondary levels," he said.

"If there are problems at lower levels, universities will definitely admit students with low capacity."

He called on institutions tasked with providing education to Tanzanians to ensure that there is no compromising when it comes to quality so that graduates do not only serve the country but are also competitive in the international labour market.

KIUT Vice Chancellor Prof Jamidu Katima said the institution has resolved all the issues raised by the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) three years ago and has since been allowed to admit students in all courses.

"The main challenges were issues with regard to administration of the university, but after adhering to TCU directives, we are now free to admit students in all courses," he said in a speech read on his behalf by Prof Angwara Kiwara, KIUT Deputy Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration.



GF-Vehicle Assembly Ltd general manager Ezra Mereng (2nd L) leads his fellow workers to donate blood at Tumbi Hospital in Kibaha district, Coast region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prioritise training needs when engaging development partners, institutes urged

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Judicial Education Committee (EAJEC) has urged National Judicial Training Institutes in EAC Partner States to prioritise their training needs when seeking support from Development Partners.

EAJEC observed that National Judicial Training Institutes know their training needs and should be allowed to implement them to fill the existing human resource gaps in national judiciaries.

EAJEC emphasised the need for the Judicial Training Institutes to set up a standing fund that can be utilized where donor funds fall short.

EAJEC further recommended that the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat engages development partners to support the training of Judges and Judicial Officers from EAC Partner States.

The EAJEC that met in Mombasa, Kenya at the one-day meeting was attended by the Heads of Judicial

Training Institutes, Judges of the Courts of Judicature of the Partner States and staff from the EAC Secretariat. The EAJEC meeting that was chaired by Justice Smokin Wanjala of the Supreme Court of Kenya and Director of the Kenya Judiciary Academy.

The committee noted that support by development partners was critical because National Judicial Training Institutes continues to experience financial limitations that have hindered their activities.

It further observed that it was important for Partner States to prioritize activities of the National Judicial Training Institutes.

The meeting noted that the budget of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), which is drawn from Partner States' contributions, is currently insufficient for the operations of the regional court.

The Judges and Judicial Officers hailed the National Judicial Training Institutes for adopting the use of technology to conduct their

trainings in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that National Courts and the EACJ have similarly adopted the use of technology to conduct court hearings. Justice Wanjala noted that in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC (EAC Treaty), one of the key Principles on which the Community is anchored is Respect for the Rule of Law.

"To this end, the EAC Partner States have committed to ensure the enact-

ment of just laws and just interpretation and application of those laws," said Justice Wanjala.

"Consequently, the courts and the justice systems are an integral part of the Community's regional accountability systems. EACJ, being the judicial body of the Community, continually strives to ensure adherence to the rule of law through its interpretation and application of the Principles of the EAC Treaty," he added.

Justice Wanjala further

said that in accordance with Article 126 of the EAC Treaty, national judiciaries were expected to cooperate with a view to harmonizing the region's judicial and legal systems.

"In so doing, the courts play a crucial role in the promotion of respect for the rule of law, and the deepening of regional cooperation in the administration of justice. This calls for the continuous training of, consultations, and dialogue between the region's judges, magistrates and other judicial officers," he said.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER



**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**PROJECT NAME: TANZANIA SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT (WSSP-II)
Loan/Credit/Grant No. IDA 59490**

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: Consultancy Services for Project Preparation and Detailed Design for Water Transfer Scheme from Mtera Reservoir to Dodoma City

REFERENCE NO.: ME-011/WB-WSSP-P150361/262954/2021/22/C/17

- This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for the project that appeared in the United Nations Development Business; Issue No. WB5803 – 12/16 of December 21, 2016.
- The Government of Tanzania has obtained an IDA Credit (US\$225 Million) for the Second water Sector Support Project (SWSSP) and part of the proceed would be used for proposed consulting services for the design of an optimal water transfer scheme from Mtera Reservoir (located about 140Km) to Dodoma city. The Project would be implemented by the Ministry of Water (MoW).
- The consulting services ("the Services") would be likely to include, but not limited to:
 - Carry out water and hydrological assessment, update water requirements for Dodoma city in short, medium and long run; assess water availability at Mtera reservoir for transfer via pipeline to Dodoma city;
 - Define an optimal scheme of water transfer from Mtera Reservoir to Dodoma city any phasing required, covering all aspects of water quality, alternative routes and alignment, treatment of water, etc. and carry out engineering, technical and social and environmental studies for optimal/selected Water Transfer Scheme; Also carry out safety assessment of Mtera dam and identify high priority mitigation measures, if any, that may be required in immediate terms;
 - Design of system for augmentation and upgrading of water distribution in Dodoma and improving management of water of Dodoma Water and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA)
 - Prepare cost estimates of the selected scheme covering all costs, construction, engineering, supervision, social and environment, based on life cycle for the selected Water Transfer Scheme and augmentation and upgrading of the DUWASA System;
 - Prepare optimal procurement packaging of various works, define types of contracts and procurement method for construction of the water transfer system and prepare overall procurement plan and timeline for each contract;
 - Prepare detail Design and Bill of Quantities and the draft bidding documents for the proposed/agreed solution and pre-qualification documents.
- The MoW now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:
 - Core business and years in business.
At least fifteen years of experience in development, design, and construction supervision of water projects as a core business, should have expertise in Water, Environment management, health and safety and site management of large water transfer schemes;
 - Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:
Should have designed and implemented at least three bulk water transfer schemes for major cities with cumulative pipeline length of about 300 KMs in last 10 years;
 - Technical and Managerial capability of the firm. (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff. Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
 - Should have management capacity to do this assignment with expertise in development design and construction supervision of bulk water transfer systems, water treatment system domestic water supply; and in environment and social assessments and plans as well in development and implementation of Occupational Health and Safety Plans (OHS).
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9, 1.10 of the World Bank's Procurement Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage. Firm intending to submit expression of interest should not have conflict of interest and unfair competitive advantage as per Bank's Procurement Guidelines.
- Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. For firms participating in JV, each member of JV should independently meet the requirement of EoI criteria. For firms participating as Association of lead and subconsultant, only the experience and qualification of lead firm will be assessed as per EoI criteria.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultant by World Bank" dated January, 2011 revised July, 2014.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:00 to 15:30 hours, Monday to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays.
- Expression of Interest marked "CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PROJECT PREPARATION AND DETAILED DESIGN FOR WATER TRANSFER SCHEME FROM MTERA RESERVOIR TO DODOMA CITY" should be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by courier, or by e-mail) by 17th January, 2022 on or before 14:00 hour's local time.

Physical Address is:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Kolon Building adjacent to DUWASA Head office, PMU Offices,
Chimwaga Road,
40473 Dodoma, Tanzania

Attention:
Dr. Christopher Nditi
Director of Procurement Management Unit
Telephone: +255 716 308 473
E-mail: pmu@maji.go.tz

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Water.

SUA students challenged to apply participatory research

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

SOKOINE University of Agriculture (SUA) students have been challenged to apply participatory research to help farmers and pastoralists address pests and diseases that hinder productivity.

Senior lecturers at SUA threw the challenge when speaking here during the 8th participatory research design workshop organised by the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) last week.

The workshop brought on board over 100 pastoralists and farmers from Morogoro and Mtwara regions.

SUA principal of agricultural college, Prof Bernard Chove said participatory research is useful to meet farmers, pastoralists and agricultural experts then easy to overcome diseases affecting crops and animals. Prof Chove commended SAT for conducting the participatory method of solving problems, the situation in the 6th workshop helped our student come out with a solution of root-knot nematodes (RKN), a causative of yellowish to plant's leaf and spot purple.

A tomato crop and soil fertility researcher Zaituni Mziray said participatory research helped her to discover organic treatment of root-knot nematodes (RKN) which hindered Uponda village farmers to get good harvest while spending a lot of capital on the ground.

She said: "Through a participatory method that included tomatoes growers I found RKN, which cause spot purple at plant's leaf and yellowish, fortunately from

organic treatment method, that diseases were killed by wild marijuana technically namely as marigolds lantana camara, Sudan grass, and currently study shows Tithonia diversifolia sometimes namely wild sunflower which are available in farmers' environment."

"I call upon my friend researchers to apply participatory methods and not waste time in the laboratory finding solutions without visiting the field to get an overview of the problems," she said.

Theresia Mpunga, a Masasi's resident in Mtwara Region thanked SAT as their experts have managed to apply the participatory method in solving nut diseases, a situation that has helped increase harvests compared to previous time.

"We have realised organic treatments are around our environment and useful for soil protection and are cost less, thanks SUA and SAT for this support," she said.

Rajabu Awami, a student at SUA said SAT's participatory research design is a saviour for various challenges facing farmers and pastoralists as solutions.

"We have managed to discover cows and goats diseases scientifically, namely as albizia which is taken by mouth for anxiety, cancer, and sleep problems. My study in Mvomero district has helped to eradicate the challenge completely," he said.

He hailed SAT for running 35 participatory research designs that involved 78 SUA students who managed to run 18 projects which brought positive impacts towards farmers and pastoralists problems in 10 regions in Tanzania.



Tanzanite businessman Saniniu Laizer (L) speaks after receiving a candle as a gift for his contribution in education presented to him by O'Brien primary school Dr Wia Mae (C). Right is O'Brien school's head mistress Nimlia Mbangi. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Decentralise power of agricultural planning and decision making

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government should transfer powers of planning agricultural needs into the hands of smallholder farmers working at the grassroots level to transform agricultural development.

The concern was raised in Morogoro recently by women smallholder farmers saying they are the ones who know better what should be considered in the agricultural budget than any other groups.

The women from Mbozi and Kilosa district who are implementing agro ecology project were speaking at a reflection meeting of the project.

Smallholder farmer, Torat Mathias from Kilosa district in Morogoro region said women smallholder farmers constitute bigger section of production group in Tanzania but lack access to extension advisory services, agricultural inputs, credits facilities and markets for their produce but most of their needs are never included as the budget and decisions on how it should be used are made from the top.

She said it will be difficult for the smallholder farmers to graduate from subsistence to commercial farming because most of the decisions are imposed on them from the central government.

"We understand that in terms of budget agriculture is undervalued as compared to other sectors like education and health. When it comes to implementation of education, health and agriculture, the district government would be forced to remove some money from the agricultural budget and take it to education or health," she said. She said decisions made from the central government have set back development of agriculture in the country.

Zawadi Michael from Mbozi district said agro-ecology has benefited many farmers because it is a farming practice that use local seeds which are of low cost, but many challenges remain especially lack of agricultural inputs. "Women farmers have been capacitated by the project in many ways. If the government could recognize and support this type of agriculture, would enhanced production of more food in a sustainable way," she said.

Songea Municipality to get new modern market

By Correspondent Gideon

Mwakanosya, Songea

SONGEA Municipal Council in Ruvuma Region is mobilising to construct a modern market at Manze. A by July 2022.

This was revealed here recently by the Assistant Coordinator of the World Bank Project Coordination Unit in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Rashid Mtamila during the training for the implementation of infrastructure development improvement project dubbed TACTIC to various officials and experts of the Songea Municipal Council.

Mtamila said the aim of the project is to improve the local councils to enable them provide better services to the people by improving their infrastructures whereby more than 1.5trn/- has been provided by the World Bank that would be distributed to 45 urban councils countrywide.

He added that the distribution of the funds will be in three phases whereby in the first phase the money will be provided to 12 urban councils including

Songea Municipal Council towards the improvement of markets, roads to tarmac level, construction of bridges and dumps.

He said Urban councils that would benefit from the project during the First Phase include Ilemela Municipal Council, Mwanza City Council, Geita town Council, Kahama Municipal Council, Tabora Municipal Council, Kigoma-Ujiji Municipal Council, Arusha City Council, and Dodoma City Council.

Others are Morogoro Municipal Council, Sumbawanga Municipal Council, Mbeya City Council and Songea Municipal Council.

He said the TACTIC Project aims to reduce challenges on quality infrastructures in urban areas that stems from the increasing population.

For his part, the Director of Sustainability Associate Ltd Kayonko Juma Kayonko called on Songea Municipal Council experts to ensure they work together with various stakeholders including business people and residents of the area for their views before the project's implementation to remove any conflicts or complaints that could arise.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Mary Masanja (C) listens to Ethiopian pavilion manager Haimanot Kasave (L) explaining on food stuff available at her kiosk during the Expo 2020 in Dubai yesterday. Others are economy diplomacy director ambassador Edwin Rutageruka (2nd R) and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority senior marketing officer Michael Makombe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Global NGO awarded \$2m to bring transformational weather intelligence for resilient agriculture to Africa

By Mustapha Iderawumi

TOMORROWNOW.org, a global non-profit helping vulnerable communities adapt to climate change has announced that it was awarded a US\$ 2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop innovative weather intelligence for smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The 18-month project will build the foundation for boosting crop resilience and improving food security globally.

Drought, floods, wildfires, storms, pests, and animal diseases cause nearly USD 10 billion per year in crop and livestock losses in less developed countries, where most farmers do not have crop insurance. In addition, the lack of weather data and reliable forecasts in much of the developing world prevents farmers from adequately preparing for extreme weather and climate conditions, often re-

sulting in devastating crop losses.

TomorrowNow.org will collaborate with partners such as CGIAR and Tomorrow.io to develop tools for seed breeders, crop modelers and on-farm managers to close the weather data gap and turn forecasts into action. Also, the project will connect advanced weather solutions, including high-resolution weather models and satellite data, with climate innovators to build sustainable pathways for global access to decision support technologies.

"Climate change is the biggest threat to food security, and billions of lives are at stake around the world," said Georgina Campbell Flatter, Executive Director for TomorrowNow.org.

"Innovative weather technologies and strong partnerships are integral to improving the lives of smallholder farmers and making crops more resilient to extreme weather such as drought and

flooding."

However, this partnership is not just about managing weather risk. It is also about the opportunity to empower resilient solutions across the farming lifecycle. Furthermore, the development of new seed varieties, for example, is essential to meeting growing food demand and increasing the tolerance of crops to weather extremes.

Although, seed breeding is currently impeded by weather data that is too coarse or inaccurate, and identifying optimal seed varieties for a given location is complicated by shifting climate zones.

Therefore, the weather intelligence solutions developed will support the recently announced Niche project, which will bring together partners including Regrow, NASA Harvest, Global Yield Gap Atlas and One Acre Fund to help seed developers in Sub-Saharan Africa to establish more climate-adaptive crops.

Study says uneven partnerships could stifle attainment of SDGs

By Guardian Reporter

THE partnerships of organisations charged with implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may perpetuate the imbalance in resources between high- and low-income countries, a study says.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development puts equal emphasis on developed and developing countries and demands coherent collaboration across all countries.

But the study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, found that 60 per cent of the 195 countries involved in SDG partnerships were high- or upper-middle-income countries, with 24 per cent in lower-middle-income and low-income countries having a paltry 16 per cent.

"Partners from low-income countries participated in fewer partnerships, as compared to partners in all other income categories," says Malgorzata Blicharska, the study's lead co-author and an associate professor at Uppsala University in Sweden.

"This does not reflect the idea, promoted by Agenda 2030, of global partnerships addressing global challenges. It also suggests that low-income countries may not have resources and capacity to get involved in partnerships and, thus, to implement SDGs," Blicharska explains.

Researchers analysed data on 2,876 partnerships gathered by 18th August 2019 involving organisations from 195 countries worldwide including all the countries of

Sub-Saharan Africa that report the implementation of the SDGs on the UN's SDG Partnerships Platform.

Partners from low-income countries focused more on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 (on poverty, hunger, health, gender equality and energy respectively) than those involving partners from higher income countries, Blicharska says.

The research, she explains, was motivated by the existence of a North-South divide in access to data and scientific capabilities, with particularly low-income countries having less investment in research and development.

"This has consequences for how policies of global importance are being set and implemented. We wanted to explore if partnerships to implement the SDGs have been helpful in bridging the North-South divide," Blicharska adds.

She emphasises that low-income countries often have no capacity to drive relevant research and to implement action on the ground, leading to situations where northern countries design and drive implementation of policies that may not be best adjusted to southern countries' needs.

"For example, in relation to climate change, northern countries that are responsible for 80 per cent of global emissions insist on all countries contributing to emissions reductions and motivate southern countries through directing funding predominantly to mitigation, while what southern countries need most is to focus on adapting to the changing climate," she explains.



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION Scissor Lift SL3

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Scissor Lift SL3

Base Unit:

Carrier	MEM-977 carrier c/w 4WD articulated frame, stick steering, passenger seat, ROPS/FOPS canopy
Engine	Mercedes 904 @ 147 HP (110 kW) + Mesabi radiator + HTI Exhaust Insulation F i r w i n MK-III exhaust blankets on pipes and purifier/muffler Transmission Dana model 32000, 3 speed power-shift
Engine End Axle	Dana model 113, limited slip differential, oscillation
Rear Axle	Dana model 113, limited slip differential
Service Brakes	Independent front and rear hydraulically applied service brakes Secondary Brakes SAHR - Spring applied hydraulic released emergency/park brakes Tires Pneumatic 12.00 x 20 tires - 20 ply
Deck	8 ft x 12 ft (2.44 m x 3.66 m) - 42" (1.06 m) solid handrails Auxiliary Controls Dual controls on deck and drivers comp't, deck engine start/stop Articulation Joint Tapered roller bearings, dual steer cylinders, central grease manifold Jacks 4 jacks - 16" (0.41 m) stroke
Scissor	Solid plate construction - 88" (2.24 m) lift - 8,000 lbs (3,630 kg) capacity
Lights	8 x LED drive lights and 4 x LED work lights
Lights	Strobe light, white - machine on
Paint	Standard yellow, red on service points, green on 3-point contacts

Unit Options:

	Quantity
Brake/Stabilizer Interlock	1
Deck controls/jack interlock (on engine end)	1
Jack upgrade, 54" (1.37 m) front - 34" (0.86 m) telescopic rear	1
Deck side shift with +/- 24" (0.61 m) each direction	1
Remote Drive System - Creeper	1
Ansul Fire Suppression - 6 nozzle	1
20 lbs (9 kg) rechargeable fire extinguisher, with bracket	2
Upgrade fire suppression to LVS (liquid)	1
12 volt supply for CB radio	1
Spare tire - Pneumatic (12.00x20)	1
Lincoln autolube - carrier	1
Wiggins fast fill - Diesel	1
Oil sampling ports - hyd, engine, trans	1
Back-up camera & monitor - for cab or canopy - dual camera	1
Cat boosting receptacle	1
Export packaging (container shipment, no teardown)	1
Auxiliary 24v connection for 3rd party prox detection system	1

Special Requirements:

- Neutral Brake Interlock with Timer
- No Grid Heater
- Brake Light Option
- Auto Reverse Lights
- Strobe Light Amber
- Starter Isolator
- Locking Rad Cap Pressure Relief Type
- Braided SS Fuel Hose
- Metal Fuel Bowl
- Elevated Axle Breathers
- Additional E-Stop
- Forward & Reverse Camera

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to nm.proposal@barrick.com. The reference "Scissor Lift SL3" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement.

Qualification of any company submitting a "Quotation" shall be at the sole discretion of NMGM

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes 24/12/2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



WAKULIMA TEA COMPANY LTD

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: Senior Accountant (1 Post),
Reporting to: Group Financial Manager
Term of the Contract: Permanent

Wakulima Tea Company Ltd; the Largest Smallholder Tea Company in Tanzania; supporting over 12,000 Smallholder farmers and with 2 factories one in Tukuyu-Rungwe, and the second one is in Mwakaleli-Busokelo District, wishes to recruit well qualified, high caliber, Senior Accountant.

Successful applicants will be required to manage all duties and responsibilities, which will be invested on them, major ones will be as follows: -

Responsibilities:

1. Prepare and maintain Cash flows
2. Manage Annual budgets including Preparation
3. Prepare Year-end Financial statements, manage and assist End of the year audit
4. Supervise Financial Assistant and other employees in the facilitation of the day to day operations including management of the financial data
5. Ensure that, all the company's financial practices are in line with the statutory regulations and legislation
6. Recommend cost reducing solutions
7. Prepare monthly accruals and Revenue Accounting
8. Reconcile monthly bank accounts and General ledgers
9. Liaising with auditors, banks, tax authorities and other external parties depending on the requirement.
10. Managing of the Company Assets including handling of Insurance of the same
11. Any other duties and when assigned by the Senior Management from time to Time.

Education and Qualification

Minimum qualification: CPA (T)

Degree: Bachelor in Corporate Finance/Accounting/Business Administration and any other related field

Experience Level: Management Level

Experience Length: Minimum 3 years as an External Auditor, preferably in agriculture Sector Clients

APPLICATION AND DEADLINE.

The closing date for applications is **31st December 2021**. Only shortlisted will receive the calls from the company.

Application including a covering letter, curriculum vitae, relevant testimonials, e-mails, cellular contacts and two references should be sent with confidence through email or postal address as shown below

fawatco@gmail.com OR
Operations Director,
Wakulima Tea Company Ltd
P.O. Box 700
Tukuyu.

Proper industrialisation shall enable EAC trade structures to be respected

A FLURRY of trade restrictions and cross border bans of specific commodities is in the news again between Kenya and Uganda, as political pressures moved Kenya to ban a list of imports from Uganda citing this or that regulation. Uganda followed suit with a banning list of its own, which puts in a difficult situation the coordination of EAC activities as a whole, as EAC zone is supposed to be a single trading bloc since 2010. That was the time the East African Customs Union Protocol became more fully engaged with regular cabinet sittings to coordinate tax initiatives during budget, after the protocol took off 2005.

Looking into problems of regulatory barriers to EAC trade one finds that there is much supply and low demand for so many of the commodities being traded, and thus pressures come up for each country to protect its industrial or agri-sector enterprises.

It implies that the real task before EAC leaders isn't to perfect trade regulations and expect that national authorities shall observe the rules to the letter, but seek how to make the EAC market work for everyone.

Free trade enhances efficiency, but it can also crush a section of the participants if there is no equalised movement of capital between them, a unified market.

That is part of the reason those who thought up EAC structures were not satisfied with the presence of a Customs Union protocol as the bigger prize is the common market. Yet this step isn't easy to attain as it clashes with national

prerogatives for instance when it comes to ability to purchase business entities by traders from across the border, or obtain residential status that compares in law with that of citizens. People cannot sink large amounts of money in projects unless they are protected against seizure, etc.

So industrial potential in East Africa continues to be dwarfed by such considerations, that many rich local people will not start industries because they have little fallback to pursue in case of differences with state agencies. EAC cannot thus reach its aims without being part of a wider entity, for instance the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) earlier being discussed with European Union member states from 2007 and now all but forgotten. It has been replaced by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is an extension of the EAC, SADC frameworks. It isn't a common market with a citizenship component.

So that each country attains its industrial potential, we need to open up citizenship to those who reside outside, and foreign citizenship to those who reside inside, so that our governments will be sensitive to reciprocal agreements with foreign countries on treatment of their citizens.

This will ensure respect for international standards and greater flows of capital to Tanzania and other countries, as well as greater insertion of capital by local industrialists into projects. Otherwise we continually scramble for parts of the limited markets we have.

Ministerial guidelines will not disrupt land agency businesses

FORMALISATION is in the air for the land agency sub-sector, after Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi issued what amounts to a 'digital' aspect to conduct of the business. The terms laid out require identification of the person and premises from where he or she will be conducting business, and need to be recognised by the ministry by actual certification.

It looks like these conditions will be operating in a similar manner as the small traders identification cards of the past, now put aside so that trading is conducted in a more formalised atmosphere, not in wooden kiosks, etc.

Those handling renting and sales of housing or portions of rental space will now be registered and be known as to where they operate, and pay a 20,000/- fee to the government.

It also appears that agents will have to take frame spaces and have at least one table (or roundtable) and chairs, which can thus be identified as business premises, unlike at present where many of them operate from tree shades, etc. In that case a level of constraint is added in terms of conduct, if at least one's offices or partners are known.

The terms of conducting real estate agency - as opposed to real estate business as such, as that is a different matter - were not as radical as it was earlier anticipated.

There were worries that agency per se would be proscribed or house owners be directed to consult lawyers, etc

to do the paperwork for whoever will come wishing to take up rental space, whether it is a room, a house or even a piece of land to farm, etc.

That would have brought up some problems for lawyers have no time to go around to hear of who needs a tenant and who wishes for renting space and on what terms, what sort of surroundings or owners.

Nor was it apparent that the ministry seeks to change the terms of business conduct or symbiosis between those who need clients and those who bring them for signing a rental contract, that it is the client (renting applicant) who pays the agent.

There was a time the ministry was intimating that it should be the owner who pays the agent, which is excessively sympathetic with the rental space customer, and for no apparent reason. The regulations or guidelines as set out by the minister didn't have any such disruptive initiative..

It can thus be said that the terms of conducting rental agency business (rather than real estate business as such) are user friendly, as demanding that rental space agents or go-betweens that link house owners and those who need to rent have offices or have formal identity cards, pay some tax, isn't too much.

They will now rent frame space and conduct work from there like other traders, and pay a little tax, while being assured of their retainer fees (to remain in the trade) as is the case at present. Nobody needs to complain.

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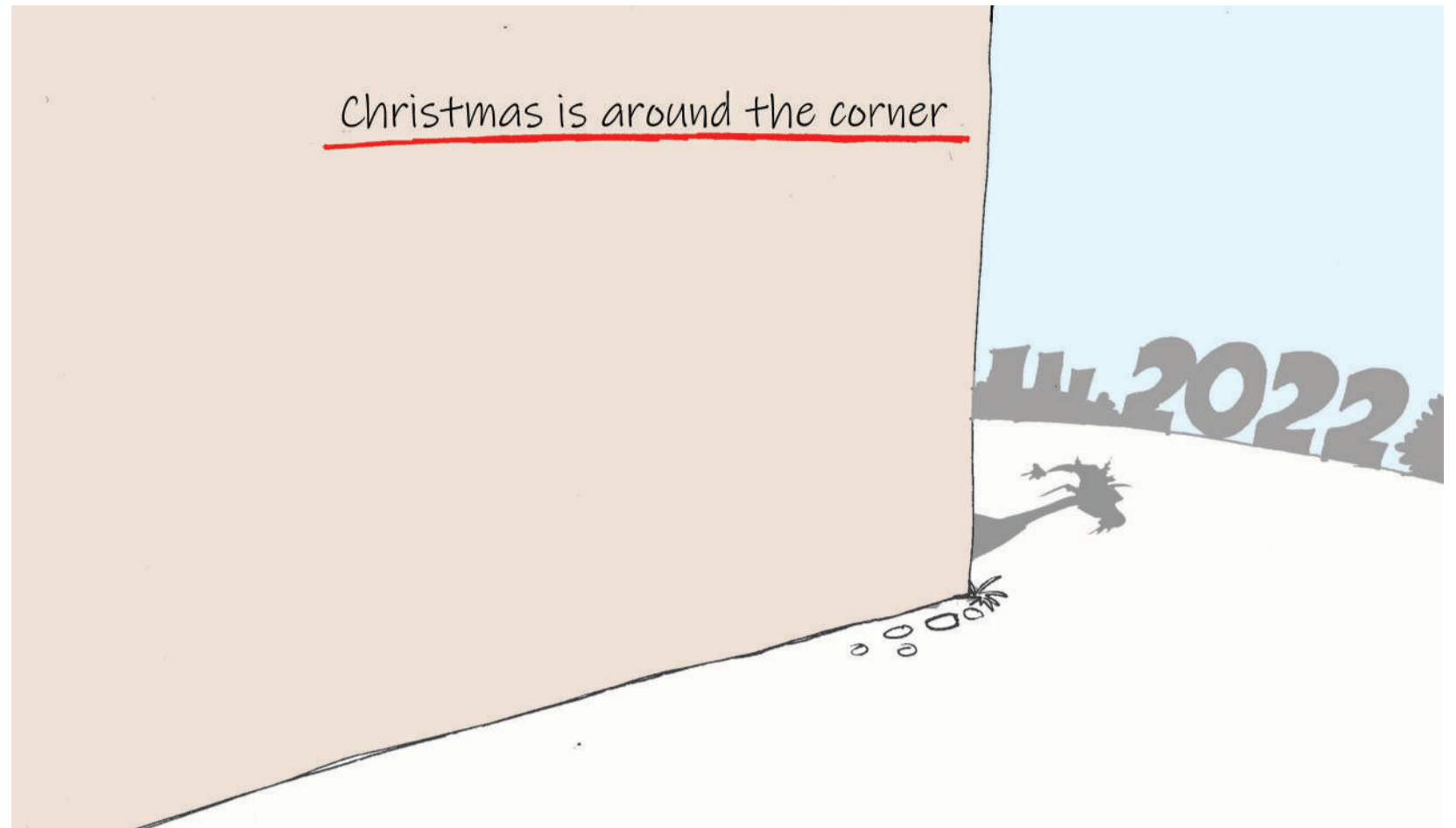
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Attitude to work by Ghanaian workers at the present time: A critical appraisal

By Michael Akenoo

THAT attitude to work by many Ghanaian workers; particularly, those in the public sector is highly questionable, and leaves very much to be desired cannot be disputed by many observant Ghanaians, who are concerned with Ghana's present efforts to achieve optimum economic growth, development and prosperity.

It is highly disheartening to observe that at the present time in Ghana's Beyond Aid Agenda vision, a lot of Ghanaian workers; both of high and low profiles in the public sector of the economy are exhibiting a *laissez-faire* attitude towards work, which is detrimental to the interest of the country.

These category of Ghanaian workers see and regard the ongoing Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda as a mere slogan, political gimmick and far-fetched to bring any positive results to benefit the country; hence their negative attitude to work.

This is most unfortunate on the part of these unpatriotic and anti-nationalistic Ghanaian workers. They need a change of heart now in the interests of the country.

Once upon a time, there was a revolution in Ghana led by a dare-daring individual in the person of Ft. Lt. Jerry John Rawlings who declared a revolution in Ghana with the intention of conscientising and transforming Ghanaians to work very hard and to eschew all vices, immoralities and corruptible practices, so that Ghana can move forward in development and prosperity.

During Jerry John Rawlings three consecutive turns in the rule of the country, one can say that, Ghanaian working masses were aroused considerably to become more responsible and nationalistic enough in their working attitude in the interests of the country.

One can go on and say that Ghanaian workers were inspired to work very hard in the spirit of the revolution which they understood to be in their interest in the developmental process of the country.

Workers at this point in time in Ghana's history as a nation realized that they had to work very hard for the survival of the country for economic growth development and prosperity. They supported the revolution because they thought it was to bring a change for the better in their living conditions.

There was evidence of change in attitude to work by the working masses in the country.

Empowered by the overwhelming charisma of Jerry John Rawlings and his sterling leadership they responded positively to the clarion call of hard work and sacrifice in the interests of the country.

The mobilization of Ghanaian workers in the formation of Workers Defence Councils (WDCS) during the revolutionary days of rule of Jerry John Rawlings injected and gingered Ghanaians work-

ers to work hard and to sacrifice because they realized they were part of the decision making process in the affairs of the country, which had been denied them previously

The foregoing is a recapitulation for the benefits of Ghanaian working masses; and the often clarion call for hard work by leadership of the nation to move the country forward in development and prosperity.

The working masses of every country in the world today constitute a formidable force to effect economic growth, development and prosperity. They are therefore indispensable for the achievements of developmental targets set by governments.

Development and prosperity of a country will be slow if her working masses are not active and hard working to support development programmes that are set by government.

Ghana at the present time is regarded as a fast developing country in the world today; and her working masses cannot be toyed with and slighted to assume a lack-histre role in her developmental visions such as the present on going one, Ghana Beyond Aid.

Ghana Trade Union Congress (T.U.C) which is the vanguard of Ghana's working force must do more conscientization of Ghanaian workers to become proactive and seriously identify themselves with the developmental goals of the country by working very hard and sacrificing to benefit the country.

To this end, Ghanaian workers must shun all forms of apathy, indolence and corruptible practices.

President Nkrumah's era of the governance of the country saw the establishments of the Trade Union Congress (T.U.C), the Workers Brigade for effective mobilization of Ghanaian workers in Ghana's developmental programmes of the country.

The annual celebration of 1st May, as workers day in the world including Ghana, is a strong indication of the importance of workers in every country, whose sweat and work contribute greatly to effect economic growth, development and prosperity for their countries.

It is in light of the indispensable role that workers play in the survival, economic growth, development and prosperity of countries that one becomes dismayed and anguished at the *laissez-faire* attitude being displayed by many Ghanaian workers at the present time.

Ghanaian workers at the present time cannot expect Ghana's progress and development when they are showing apathetic attitude to their work or office they are holding either in the public sector or the private sector of the economy.

For instance, if one pays a visit to the Ministries in Accra, the capital city of Ghana; such as the Ministry of Finance And Economic Planning, Ministry of Food And Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education etc, one is shocked to observe the kind of unpalatable attitude being displayed by workers over there - lateness, irregularity, lack of commitment or sacrifice to work hard, leaving work places and offices for home before the stipulated time of closing, spending a lot of time during working hours outside the premises of work and engaging in idle talks and gossips of high profile government appointees and officials, lotto discussions etc.

If this is the kind of attitude that is being displayed by many workers in the public sector in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, one can imagine what takes place in the other regional capitals, urban and rural areas of the country. One's guess will be as good as mine!

This negative attitude to work by many Ghanaian workers at the present time is the cause for low productivity and the hitherto low booming and less buoyant economy of Ghana, and the consequent negative effect for the low-paced developmental process of the country at the present time.

Government after government of Ghana had denounced and condemned this negative attitude by many Ghanaian workers; and even followed it up with sanctions, actions to curb this unpalatable attitude; but it appears many Ghanaian workers had been adamant and had not heeded the clarion call to change their negative attitude for the better in the interests of the country.

A critical analysis and evaluation of this hitherto challenging negative attitude on the part of many Ghanaian workers today points to its addressing and solution by frequent intensive country wide education to conscientize Ghanaian workers on why they have to work very hard and to sacrifice to enhance productivity to boost Ghana's economic growth, development and prosperity.

In my opinion, it appears, this negative attitude to work by many Ghanaian workers is mainly stemming out of ignorance of the consequences of their unpatriotic and un-nationalistic attitude. However, this is subjective.

In order to solve this nagging persistent problem in the Ghanaian situation which had been militating against the development and prosperity of the country every government that comes to power must try to prioritize the interests, needs and welfare of workers as effective way of boosting their morale to work very hard and to sacrifice.

To this end, workers conditions

of service in terms of wages, salaries and fringe benefits, must be constantly reviewed and improved to suit the economic conditions and challenges that prevails at a time. This should be mainly directed at the public sector of the economy since, this sector is notorious and wanting in output for the growth of the economy.

Government in power must at all times respond positively to the outcry and agitations of workers for better conditions of service. The government must do this with magnanimity and generosity to really help workers in order to boost their morale to work very hard.

This will definitely go a long way to enhance productivity and to boost the economy.

"Work And Happiness" was a musical composition composed by the erstwhile Ramblers Dance Band of Ghana during Nkrumah's era of rule which tremendously inspired Ghanaian working masses to work very hard and to sacrifice for the benefit of the country. And workers did work hard and were happy! This era can be revisited at the present time to make Ghanaian workers to work hard and become happy if the suggestions that had been made in the foregoing of this article are favourably considered and addressed.

In conclusion, I believe in the great potential of present day Ghanaian workers to work very hard, and to sacrifice for the benefit of the country. However, this will solely depend on cordial relationship between government and workers since the two parties must develop mutual respect and love for each other in the developmental process of the country.



Ghana at the present time is regarded as a fast developing country in the world today; and her working masses cannot be toyed with and slighted to assume a lack-histre role in her developmental visions such as the present on going one, Ghana Beyond Aid

How to navigate your first year on campus

WHEN you hear people talk about college, they might tell you about the night at the club they escaped from a cop but they won't bring up sitting alone in the hostel room on a Saturday night, a first year student without a friend in sight.

Though a little embarrassing, everyone faces hard lessons learned throughout their college journey. College has just picked up and it's almost towards the end of the first semester and as a first year student, you must have already been familiar with the culture, people, values and everything at college.

What of lecturers who clearly know it's Christmas around the corner and all the festive season comes with but can't resist to make your festive season a pain in the butt by scheduling an exam just after New Year?

College can be hell but most so if lectures can't give you a space to breathe. To cut the long story short, as a first year student, you should still have a glimpse of the following:

You should 'Do You' and just be yourself, if you think you're the only one who feels left out because you attend the library more than you hit the club, like everyone in your hostel block, you're wrong.

Listen to yourself, not the people pressuring you. If you want to go for a run at the beach or hit the library to tackle your first assignment, then that's exactly what you should do. You'll be happier doing your own thing and you might even make a friend in the process.

Stay true to yourself and you'll find yourself much happier in the long run. I still remember the first time I joined college, my mother was parking my suitcase as she sang along that I should also pack myself too. She sung this to my eardrums so much such that it became a bore but I later understood what she had meant all that time.

Don't forget yourself behind as you

go to college. Be yourself and rock your own world.

Don't 'Put Out' and later on be that lady or gentleman who drinks herself or himself silly and passes out like an idiot. There's that lady at the bar or at the club wearing a push up bra, skin-tight leather leggings and wedges with her hair curled to perfection. Yeah, we all know the lady I'm talking about. She's the lady with her entourage of clones surrounded by a swarm of frat guys. I want you to know one thing about that lady, the buzz of boys around her don't see anything valuable past what's right in front of them and they wouldn't take her further than their bedrooms. Hey don't be that lady. Be you.

Men will respect you and see you in a different light than the home girl over at the bar slamming back shots and trying to act smooth. In a few hours, she has passed out making a fool of herself all over the place and before she even realizes it, the boys have taken her and you can't imagine what they always do with her.

Be boring sometimes and just because everyone else is cruising over to college on Tuesday night to get hammered doesn't mean you need to abandon your plans and follow the crowd. If you're tired, stay in. If you have a test, stay in. If you have to get up early for class, stay in. If all arrows point toward staying in, but there's still someone sitting on your shoulder whispering in your ear that you must go out, here's some advice for you: just sit back and imagine if you will be pleasing yourself or your roommate next door.

Something else, bring back that self of yours just as I said.

Work your stress away, hitting the gym several times a week hurts nobody. College is stressful. That's just a fact. There's pressure everywhere—to go out, not to go out, to spend too much money, to get good grades. Take a step back and go for a run to let yourself feel free and re-



laxed. If that doesn't work for you, go to the library.

Don't panic if you haven't found your match-up bestie. In high school, you have so many close friends because you saw the same people every day. In college, you might see a peer once a week on your way to economics or pass them in the dining hall, but chances are you won't stumble across their path again for weeks.

How are you supposed to make friends this way? Everyone's on a different time schedule and lives in different places. If it

helps, check in with your best friend from home and see how she or he's doing.

Channel your independence because by the time you get to college, you don't need your mom to make you lunch or wake you up for school. However, when your car battery dies on you ten minutes before you have to be in class, your newfound independence is tested. Students make these simple tasks seem hard because they're so foreign. You never asked how or when or why or where, but getting your oil changed always seems impossible to get done. When you start do-

ing these tasks yourself, you realize that they're not so bad. Taking on adult tasks actually feels good to do on your own. Independence breeds adulthood. Learn to do things on your own.

Know your drinking limits, seriously! It's a shame how one can narrate her or his drinking experience over and over again as if they clearly remember all the details of the night. "Last night was sooooo fun!" you send in a WhatsApp group chat. How many of us remember all the "fun?" Let's be honest: Three out of the 13 people only have a foggy memory (at best) of your fabulous night out on the town. The most fun nights you are the one far from blacked out, not the nights where your friend holds your hair while you make friends with the toilet.

Don't take six pulls of alcohol in a row because you're 'feeling yourself' because by the end of the night, you won't be able to feel yourself at all; you will just end up passing out and the next thing you will wake up to God knows where, feeling ashamed of yourself.

Appreciate your parents because you will have no other. Your first year of college will actually teach you that home is one of your favorite places in this world and there's a reason your roommate goes home every other weekend.

Your parents went through college and even the terrifying part after college when you don't get to live off anyone's paycheck.

They know much more about life than you do. Your parents pick you up, dust you off and smack you over the head with a reality check when you need it. They'll stay by your side no matter how old you get. And they pay for your tuition—that deserves respect.



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China achieves notable results in mangrove forest protection and restoration

By Liu Shiyao

RARE Chinese egrets have been once again seen at Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve in south China's Hainan province since the local mangrove forests were revitalized, said residents living near the nature reserve.

Located in Yanfeng township, Meilan district, Haikou city, capital of Hainan province, Dongzhaigang National Nature Reserve is the first of its kind in China that focuses on mangrove forest protection.

With continuous efforts and progress being made in the protection and restoration of local mangrove forests, the species and populations of wildlife in the nature reserve have been expanding. The number of bird species recorded in the nature reserve has increased from about 180 to more than 200.

As one of the marine ecosystems with the richest biodiversity in coastal zones of tropical and subtropical regions, mangrove forest plays an irreplaceable role in maintaining the ecological security of coastal zones.

China's mangrove forests are mainly distributed in areas including Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan provinces, and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region.

The country regards strengthening mangrove forest protection and restoration as a vital part of its efforts to build marine ecological civilization and protect and restore the ecology of its territorial space.

In recent years, by establishing nature reserves and taking a series of measures, including strengthening regulation and control over the use of woodland, returning aquaculture ponds to forests, maintaining mangrove trees, cultivating seedlings, carrying out patrols and inspections, and ensuring the fulfillment of responsibilities, China has steadily pushed forward with mangrove forest protection and restoration and made remarkable achievements in this regard, becoming one of the few countries in



Nearly 100 middle school students and volunteers take part in a wetland protection-themed educational activity at an area of a project launched to return aquaculture ponds to forests in Yanfeng township, Meilan district, Haikou city, capital of south China's Hainan province, planting trees for the local mangrove wetland, March 11, 2021. File photo

the world with a net increase in the mangrove area.

China's third national land survey shows that the country now has 406,000 mu (about 27,067 hectares) of mangrove forests.

China plans to build and restore 18,800 hectares of mangrove forests by 2025, said an action plan jointly issued by the country's Ministry of Natural Re-

sources and National Forestry and Grassland Administration last year.

According to the action plan for mangrove forest protection and restoration from 2020 to 2025, local governments and departments in China are required to give priority to the protection of mangrove forests, draw ecological protection red lines

for mangrove forests and areas suitable for the growth of mangroves, and ensure strict protection for relevant areas.

Meanwhile, according to the natural law of ecological succession, efforts should be made to restore mangrove forests, said the action plan.

Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve in Zhanjiang city,

Guangdong province, the largest mangrove nature reserve in China, has made breakthroughs in exploring paths to realizing the value of ecological products.

On June 8, 2021, the management bureau of Zhanjiang Mangrove National Nature Reserve, the Third Institute of Oceanography under China's Ministry of Natural Resources, and Beijing

Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation signed an agreement on the transfer of carbon emissions allowance regarding 5,880 tons of carbon emissions, marking the completion of China's first blue carbon trading project.

Beijing Entrepreneur Environmental Protection Foundation purchased the allowance to offset the carbon emissions caused by its activities. The profits from the project have been used for the management and protection of mangrove forests, the involvement of communities in the protection of mangroves, as well as other efforts to ensure continuous maintenance of the results in the ecological restoration of mangrove forests.

The project has given full play to the role of a market-based trading mechanism and realized the goal of seeking ecological, social, and economic benefits of mangrove resources.

Mangrove forests in Guangdong Zhuhai Q'ao-Dangan Island Provincial Level Nature Reserve in Xiangzhou district, Zhuhai city of Guangdong province, attract a steady stream of visitors every year.

Residents have changed their way of utilizing mangroves as tourism resources, from beachcombing, digging seashells, and other practices that are harmful to natural resources to ecological education and entertainment.

The transformation can not only avoid the destruction of mangrove resources, but extend tourism season, improve tourists' experience, and increase local people's income from tourism.

Many regions in China are exploring the possibility of combining ecological remediation and culture and the proliferation of fishery resources.

By turning abandoned shrimp culture ponds into the mangrove forest, making good use of the natural productivity and baits to proliferate understory economic organisms, and implementing sustainable exploitation of resources, people can realize continuous improvement in ecosystems and continuous production of economic organisms, said Zhao Peng, associate professor at Hainan University.

According to experts, People can turn ecological advantages into economic advantages and reap economic benefits from mangrove forests as long as they can well protect and restore mangroves and bring into full play their ecosystem functions.

People's Daily

Why a close China-Russia partnership is good for global stability

BEIJING

FACING a torrent of global challenges such as a pandemic of epic proportions and resurgent protectionism and hegemonism, China and Russia, two of the world's major countries, are holding hands even tighter to boost their strategic partnership, and jointly help anchor a chaotic world in this turbulent era.

As the world is undergoing profound changes rarely seen in a century, a mature, stable and solid China-Russia relationship that has emerged from all kinds of tests with new vigor is needed and hard won. Strategic guidance by the heads of state of the two countries has all along played a crucial role in deepening high-level political mutual trust and long-term friendship between the two sides.

Since 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, have met 37 times on various occasions. In their latest meeting on Wednesday, their second virtual meeting this year, the two leaders hailed their "model" China-Russia relations, and are working toward stronger relations next year.

Under the auspices of the two presidents, the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era has already established itself as an important diplomatic and strategic asset shared by both sides. It has also brought both countries closer together as they wrestle with all sorts of external challenges.

This year marks 20th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. In their first meeting via video earlier this year, Xi and Putin issued a joint statement, officially extending the treaty.

With the pact, China and Russia over the years have respected each other's development paths and firmly supported each other on issues concerning their core interests.

Today, with bilateral ties growing even stronger, the China-Russia relationship has become one based on the highest level of mutual trust, coordination and strategic value, which has laid a rock-solid political foundation for fruitful bilateral cooperation.

Despite the still raging pandemic, all-round practical cooperation between China and Russia has continued to flourish. Bilateral trade in the first three quarters of 2021 exceeded 100 billion U.S. dollars for the first time, and the year-round volume is expected to hit a new record.

In March, China and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding on jointly establishing an international scientific research station on the moon. And during the China-Russia Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation, which concluded last month, the two sides held more than 1,000 events to promote scientific innovation and cooperation.



Constructors work at the construction site of the China-Russia Tongjiang-Nizhneleninskoye cross-border railway bridge, Aug. 17, 2021. (Xinhua/Zhang Tao)

Major projects have also played a key role in energizing the overall cooperation of the two countries. In May, the No. 7 and No. 8 units of the Tianwan nuclear power plant and the No. 3 and No. 4 units of the Xudapu nuclear power plant started construction. It is the biggest China-Russia joint project in the field of nuclear energy so far.

The global community is witnessing in consternation how some countries have relapsed into a Cold War mentality and attempted to divide the world into hostile camps while they dictate the global rules of the road.

To safeguard global peace and security, justice and fairness, China and Russia have become key stabilizing forces for the world by adhering to the principle of non-alliance, non-confrontation and the non-targeting of any third party.

They firmly oppose any interference in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of "democracy" and "human rights," and resist unilateral coercive sanctions. Take the smearing campaign against the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games by some Western countries. The Russian side has expressed unambiguously its opposition against politicizing sports. President Putin is set to attend the opening of the games in a show of support.

The two countries are also strong supporters of true multilateralism. Both have pledged to safeguard the international system with the United Nations as its core and an international order based on international law. They have also vowed to deepen coordination on hot-button issues within multilateral frameworks like the UN Security Council, the

Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS mechanism.

Officials and experts have hailed the current state of China-Russia relations as the best in history, with no limit to bilateral strategic cooperation.

Looking into the future, China and Russia, with their steady commitment to their comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, the best days of bilateral ties are still to come. This immensely troubled world will stand to benefit.

Xinhua

Middle East women bear social brunt of sanctions exacerbated by conflicts

BY JAN YUMUL IN HONG KONG

UNILATERAL sanctions imposed on some countries in the Middle East have inadvertently placed women in greater harm, ultimately derailing the region's progress in upholding women's rights and welfare, experts say.

On Dec 8, the United Nations appealed anew to governments and countries that are imposing sanctions to reconsider their stand, saying it is "harming women, children and the vulnerable groups" despite existing exemptions.

"We need to take into account that women become very vulnerable when we speak about everything, which (includes) family planning, (the) delivery of babies, and the raising of babies," said Alena Douhan, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights.

These entail situations "when social planning programs like the provision of contraceptives, the availability of tests and medical assistance, disappear in the country", Douhan said.

She added the impact of the unilateral sanctions prevents governments from guaranteeing the basic needs

of their respective populations and "make the people dependent on national or foreign humanitarian aid", as well as force states to beg for such aid "all the time".

The sanctions often include fuel embargoes, which affect crucial trade and in turn, deprive targeted countries from maintaining basic necessities including food, water, medicine, medical care and electricity supply.

On Dec 7, the US Department of Treasury updated its sanctions list on Syria, Iran and Uganda, designating "15 actors across three countries in connection with serious human rights abuse and repressive acts". Iran, for example, has billions of assets frozen in other countries like Japan and South Korea.

Dina Yulianti Sulaeman, director of the Indonesia Center for Middle East Studies, said women in the Middle East have the same rights and capacities for advancement in education and careers "as any woman in the world".

"Unfortunately, several countries in the Middle East have been hit by war and sanctions so that these rights and capacities cannot be exercised. Conflicts or embargoes will keep women trapped in the difficulties of meeting basic needs instead of thinking about progress for them-



An Afghan woman wearing a burka exits a small shop in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec 5, 2021. AP

selves," Sulaeman said.

Abdulghani Al-Iryani, a Yemen expert who previously worked with the UN in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, said that women in the country are at a disadvantage when getting their share of humanitarian assistance as they are considered "less influential" than men.

"The end result of sanctions is that

it weakens the negotiating position of women vis-a-vis people who control humanitarian assistance who happen to be men. Therefore, it makes them more vulnerable to various types of abuses," said Al-Iryani, who was also with the UN Development Programme mission in Hodeidah in Yemen.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, since civil war in Yemen broke out

in 2015, there have been more than 20,000 civilian deaths and injuries while more than four million people have been forced to flee. Three-quarters of internally displaced Yemenis are women and children, while one-in-four displaced families are headed by women.

Asked whether the sanctions could be considered a form of gender-based violence for inflicting economic suffering on women, UN Special Rapporteur Douhan said the sanctions should not be interpreted as something that is exclusively gender-based or gender-focused.

"In reality, the unilateral sanctions are very diverse. And different types (of sanctions) have different status and different problems from the perspective of the international law," Douhan said, noting the different circumstances between sectorial sanctions, sanctions on former officials and targeted sanctions against companies.

But Sulaeman of ICMES said women and children are always "the most prominent victims" in such situations and that they have suffered greatly from these sanctions.

Amina Khan, director of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in Pakistan, said that wherever there is conflict, a humani-

tarian crisis follows automatically. The first victims of conflict or sanctions are "always the women of the house", the children and the elderly.

She added that there is a disparity when it comes to the Muslim world, particularly in the Middle East, when it comes to women's rights and empowerment.

"On one hand, you see countries that really do honor and respect women's rights ... and give them their due share and place in the society," said Khan. "But there are other areas in the region that totally discard the role of women."

In Palestine, for example, basic needs for survival are not being provided to women, not only because of the sanctions, Khan said, but also because of the ongoing territorial dispute and geopolitical issues.

UNICEF is appealing for \$39.5 million in 2022 to provide, among other urgent needs, access to primary healthcare in UNICEF-supported facilities for 108,000 children and women in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where around 2.1 million people need humanitarian assistance.

"Women empowerment does not necessarily mean giving them a voice. It actually means giving them their basic rights, their basic needs," said Khan. **Agencies**

RADIO

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

NBC offers tractor prize to its 'Shambani' campaign winner

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has presented various prizes including bicycles, motorcycles and a tractor to winners of the Sixth 'Vuna Zaidi na NBC Shambani' campaign hailing from Mtwara and Lindi Regions saying the prizes will spur production rate of cashew nuts and other crops in the regions.

Speaking in Mtwara mid this week during a brief prize presenting event to winners, that included a tractor to the Mtwara-Masasi Co-operative Union (MAMCU), the Region's Administrative Secretary, Abdallah Mohamed Malela, said the prizes have come at the right time as the region was implementing its strategies to increase cashew nuts production from the current 280,000 tonnes to 700,000 tonnes by 2025.

"I would also like to specially congratulate MAMCU for the tractor prize as just recently the region issued a basic resolution that beginning coming farming season, every major cooperative union should have a 1,500-acre demonstration farm in order to meet cashew nuts and other strategic crops production targets. With these prizes it is evident NBC has your support and should also support the Bank," he said.

Malela also stressed on farmers in the region to make sure they save their money in the bank as well as maintaining financial discipline, including investing it back in farming equipment for modern farming practices in order to im-

prove their own economic wellbeing.

For his part, Mtwara District Commissioner Dastan Kyobya pledged to provide 1,500-acre land plot to MAMCU to be used for farming purposes, as a sign in support of the Bank's good intentions in assisting farmers.

"As NBC have begun awarding you with farming equipment, including a tractor, we in the government will provide 1,500 acres of land to cultivate various crops... Congratulations," Kyobya said and called on the Bank to continue opening branches in the region as well as looking into the possibility to use prominent farmers to open agency activities in areas where the Bank has no branches.

Earlier, speaking at the event, NBC Director of Finance Waziri Barnabas said since the beginning of the campaign, a total of 138 winners received various prizes including bicycle, motor cycles, chemical sprayers for cashew nuts trees and many other prizes, including khangas, school bags and exercise books all valued at 200m/-

For his part, NBC's Small and Medium Enterprises Manager, Raymond Urassa said through the draw the bank presented 26 various types of prizes, including a tractor, seven motorcycles, nine bicycles, eight chemical sprayers and others to individual farmers, AMCOs and regional cooperative unions in both Mtwara and Lindi regions.

"I am still mobilising farmers to continue routing their money



MAMCU members and union officials in happy mood after being presented with a tractor provided by NBC after MAMCU emerged winner of the sixth 'Vuna Zaidi Shambani' draw – MAMCU during a brief prize presenting ceremony in Mtwara mid this week.

through their 'NBC Shambani' accounts to get the opportunity to win numerous prizes," Urassa said.

For their part, winners of the draw thanked NBC for organising the campaign as it has turned out to be of great assistance to them.

"The tractor prize has come at the right time as we have already started implementing the reso-

lution to cultivate 1,500 acres of cashew nuts and other crops.

"We very much thank NBC for the tractor as it will greatly assist in attaining that target. We

also pledge to route our money through the 'NBC Shambani' accounts to win more prizes," said Ms Biadia Matipa, MAMCU's Acting General Manager.

By Guardian Reporter

AU urged to develop common food policy

ALLIANCE for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), a network of 36 civil society actors, representing smallholder farmers and pastoralists, has urged the African Union to endorse the initiative to develop an Africa Food Policy that guarantees the urgent and pressing need for Africa to feed itself.

According to the AFSA members, Africa is currently importing foods at exorbitant costs yet it can be produced cheaply locally because the existing Food Policy was not sensitive to the needs of the small scale producers who majorly feed the continent.

Speaking during the launch of the African Food Policy Initiative at a Nairobi Hotel, AFSA Board Chairperson, Chris Macoloo, was however optimistic that at least 50 out of the 55 countries in Africa, had enlisted with the initiative to turn around the sorry state of affairs.

He said already 23 countries had developed a lab and

dialogue among the Communities were open to collect and collate views on how best to propel the food agenda, to ensure that the continent was well fed.

Macoloo noted that with global crises some caused by the unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change, it was critical to formulate a Policy that would be able make a great difference in address food situation in the Continent.

"Production levels in Africa are down, thereby necessitating food imports. The industrialized food production is not resilient to the effects of climate change and it contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, which result in global warming hence reducing productivity," he said.

Policies that are currently being implemented in various countries, Macoloo explained, is foreign and has been top-down, but now with the beginning process of a common

policy, where there will be participation from down to up, a lot will be addressed. The need to have an African Food Policy that has the support of African Union, he noted, is timely since the new home grown policy will be emphasizing on promotion of agro ecology farming systems, that heal the earth and revitalizes soil health, hence result in increased food production.

Macoloo explained that during the meeting that was attended by representatives from 23 countries, they realized that there has been a lot of inconsistencies, especially with different policies that affect different aspects of food and yet they are not coherent but discordant in the policy formulation.

"The implementation of these policies is also wanting, they are good documents on paper but are not actualized at the base where they are supposed to make a difference," he added.

He gave an example of Kenya, whose Constitutions stipulates that People have a right to food, wondering whether people know they have a right to food and not just food but adequate and healthy food.

Macoloo noted that these are issues the government is grappling with and is keen on addressing the challenge, to bring to the attention of small-scale producers who include, farmers, fisher folks, pastoralists, indigenous people and civil society organization at grassroots to be able to formulate policies relevant to our situation.

Macoloo said that as AFSA who are network organizations that work in more than one country and can be able to influence policies at country level, they want to empower members of each country to monitor implementation of the policies they are championing, especially in going the Agro ecology way as opposed to convention industrial based

agriculture that is killing the soil because of toxic material being used in farming systems.

"The notion that industrial agriculture is the only one that can feed the country is wrong, since some people argue consider agro-ecology as a backward farming using 'jembes' and yet it is a science, a movement and practiced and it mimics the functioning of natural ecosystem.

The dialogue that has begun, Macoloo, said will be involving communities, government departments and relevant stakeholders in a participatory manner.

Overall, the Board Chair said the new Policy will shorten the food value chain by encouraging the utilization of local territorial markets for the distribution of food.

This lesson, Macoloo emphasized, was learnt during the Covid-19 pandemic when importation and distribution of food was interrupted, saying AFSA through its member net-

works will build the capacity of farmers in applying agro ecological principles of food production which is an important strategy for climate change adaptation.

AFSA Coordinator Million Belay said the drive of coming up with a common policy for Africa is because since most of the food related experiences that Europe, USA and, Asia have is also experienced in Africa and since European have a common policy, Africa also needs a common one.

"Most Africa's Policy space is already occupied by external actors and interests but now with the consultants working at African Union level and other key government non-government institutions, willing to work with the 23 countries, they can now actually write the Policy of Africa based on the wish of the people," Belay said.

Monica Yator, a founder member of indigenous women and girl's initiative based in Baringo County, said they have

built community resilience by practicing Agro-Ecology which they have introduced to pastoralists communities.

"Baringo has of late been identified with Disaster, Floods and even conflicts brought about by Climate change and as rural Women we want our voices to be heard at both County and National level by calling on them to ensure that County Climate Bills that are already enacted but awaiting public participation have a component of Agro-Ecology which most pastoralists are involved in," Yator said.

The new Policy according to the experts will promote food sovereignty through agro ecology and what sovereignty means is it ensures that the farmer is in charge of the key processes along the food value chain. The Policy will further ensure the production of healthy and culturally appropriate food crops, minimize the consumption of processed foods which are unhealthy, non-nutritious and result in non-communicable diseases.

600 youth drilled on gender equality and agro-ecology

By Getrude Mbagu

MSICHANA Initiative in collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) and Practical Permaculture Institute of Zanzibar (PPIZ) are executing a two-year project dubbed: 'girls empowerment through agro-ecology and permaculture (GAPE)', which is aimed at promoting young women's empowerment through organic agriculture and thus help address gender-based violence (GBV).

Funded by the French Embassy, the project worth over 1.6bn/- (\$720,000) is being implemented in Dodoma, Tabora and Zanzibar.

Msichana Initiative executive director Rebeca Gyumi said that upon completion the project will benefit 2,000 selected individuals in the three regions with 90 percent of them expected to be women.

She said that as part of the implementation of the project, the organisation recently brought

together about 600 young girls and boys from Tabora and Dodoma regions to impart them with knowledge on gender norms and approaches and enhance their knowledge on gender equality.

For Tabora, Gyumi said that the training was conducted between October 7 and November 8, this year, and brought on board 300 youth—262 females and 38 males.

According to her, the one-month training was aimed to enable young women and men to speak about gender and GBV in their localities.

In Dodoma, the training was conducted between October 7 and November 5, this year, and 280 youth benefited whereby 256 were females and 24 were males.

Gyumi said the training was to capacitate the beneficiaries on gender equality and agro ecology, so that they can design and implement micro and small agribusiness project

"The one-month training aimed to enable young women and men



to speak about gender and gender violence in their local communities; To increase awareness on permaculture and agro-ecology as well as strengthen participant's capacity in the areas of environmental conservation and eco-preneurship," she said.

According to her, with the training, participants will be able to bring change in their localities as well as influence shifts in attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate social exclusion and injustices in their communities.

She said the project will support girls in a vulnerable situation through a holistic approach that includes both personal and social emancipation and economic empowerment.

"On one hand the project aims at building the confidence of girls and their ability to stand up for their rights and on the other hand provide them with vocational training and support them in the creation of micro/small businesses around agro-ecology." It will improve preservation of biodiversity and support small-holder farmers towards

an ecological transition.

She said: "During training we noticed that most of the participants were not aware on the issues of gender based violence and they confessed that most of them they have already experience gender based violence in their environment due to insufficient knowledge, these observed due to the pre-test given before proceed with training session."

She said most of the participants cited poverty as among the major contributing factors to gender based violence.

Early marriage and child pregnancy was also mentioned by participants that these cases happen several times in their areas as it affects girls' progress.

Majority of the participants said that fear of reporting gender based violence incidents was another challenge for them that they are not confident enough to report GBV incidents fearing it might cause disputes with the neighbours or the community hence they remain silent without reporting it to the respective authorities.

Gyumi noted that many studies in recent years agree that the fight against gender violence, to be effective, must be accompanied by the economic empowerment of women, without which women face processes of "revictimizations".

She noted that gender based violence, systemic social exclusion and injustices are some of the factors contributing to women's poverty in the country.

"So, by capacitating them with essential skills on ecological agriculture, help them to identify potentials available in farming as well as entrepreneurship and thus establish their own economic projects to raise income fight poverty and thus contribute to the country's sustainable development," Gyumi asserted.

She noted that organic farming helps to maintain environmental health by reducing the level of pollution. It reduces the cost of agricultural production and also improves soil health. In most cases it maintains and improves fertility, soil structure and biodiversity, and reduces erosion.

"Training young women to adopt the farming will enable them to use low cost to farm but get more yields and thus become economically independent, this is done by experts in the agriculture sector," she added.

In Tanzania, more than 14 million people (26 percent of the population) live below the poverty line and 60 percent of the female population lives in extreme poverty. In addition, subsistence agriculture alone accounts for 80 percent of women's jobs. In fact, while agriculture still provides nearly 77 percent of jobs in the country, the sector supplies only 25 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). The feminization of poverty is thus a real challenge in Tanzania and is particularly concentrated in the agricultural sector.

High yield seeds could address food shortages and place Africa on track to zero hunger – experts

NAIROBI

RAHAB Munene's shoe selling business crumbled at the height of COVID-19 in 2020. She traded the enterprise for a mobile grocery along the Thika Superhighway, Kiambu County.

"My son and I buy fruits, vegetables and cereals directly from farmers. This worked very well in the beginning because people did not want to leave their homes for fear of coronavirus. Today, food prices are very high, and many households are buying directly from farmers because it is cheaper," she tells IPS.

"A 90 kg bag of maize is now going for at least \$27 - up from \$23 a month ago. Our business is no longer breaking even."

In October 2021, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics indicated that the cost of food in Kenya showed an unprecedented increase of 10.6 percent compared with the same month in 2020.

UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) indicates a similarly unprecedented increase, by over 60 percent, of acute food insecurity in Africa over the past year.

In Africa, there is a need to overhaul the food systems to include nutritious crops and diets that are climate and severe weather resilient.

"Global food systems present a complex and multi-faceted set of challenges from farm to fork," the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition (BCFN) says. Using science and best practice, BCFN has developed a system of placing the Health and

Climate Pyramids side-by-side. The Double Pyramid directly illustrates a balanced, healthy, and sustainable diet.

Faced with food insecurity exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, BCFN has called for sustainable food solutions.

One of these solutions, says Desmond Kipkorir, a Kenyan-based seed systems analyst in East and Southern Africa, ensures that farmers have high-yielding seeds to match the myriad of challenges facing the African farmer.

The 2019 Access to Seeds Index notes that "less than 10 percent of the world's smallholder farmers have access to improved and quality seeds that can halt and tolerate climate change impacts."

Kipkorir tells IPS the most recent data shows despite a growing private seed sector to augment public seed sectors and extensive rural agro-dealers, farmers are still unable to access the high-quality seeds they need and on time.

"Seeds systems involve a lot more than the production of seeds. They include all the factors that lead to the timely delivery of produced seeds to farmers at an affordable price. As recent as 2016, up to 90 percent of farmers in Africa relied on informal seed systems," he says.

He says that uncertified seeds cannot counter the threats posed by climate change and extreme weather, land degradation and reducing farmlands, water and energy constraints, and an ever-growing demand for food in tandem with a growing population.

"Informal seeds systems are outside the control of government



Maize is a critical food security crop in sub-Saharan Africa with more than 40 million hectares of farmlands dedicated to maize farming in at least 32 countries.

agencies. The quality of unregulated and uncertified seeds is too poor to address today's challenges. Seeds saved from previous harvests, borrowed from neighbours

and those bought from local markets are lacking in many aspects," Chelangat Ochieng from the Ministry of Agriculture tells IPS.

"Uncertified seeds are often

available, accessible and affordable to farmers. But they are not adaptable. They lack germination vigour and disease resistance."

Experts such as Kipkorir warn that the existing yield gap will only widen and, with it, a rise in food prices.

Ochieng says the Agricultural Commodity Price Index stabilized in the third quarter of 2021. All the same, the price index is 14 percent higher than it was in January 2021.

"Maize and wheat prices are 44 percent and 38 percent higher, respectively, than their pre-pandemic, January 2020, levels," the index indicates.

Confirming challenges facing Munene's mobile grocer, the index shows high retail prices. Similarly, other indices confirm high food price inflation at the retail level globally.

FAO's Food Price Index, a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities, released in November 2021, showed the fourth consecutive monthly rise in the value of the food price index.

Prices for cereals and dairy rose significantly, followed by sugar and that the November 2021 index was at its highest level since June 2011.

"Climate change is here with us, and population growth is placing a lot of pressure on available farmland. Governments and the private sector need to strengthen three pillars of food security, quality of seeds, input and good agricultural practices," Kipkorir tells IPS.

Against this backdrop, the African Seed Access Index, a seed industry research initiative, indicates that national seed systems on the

continent are at varying stages of development.

Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia have established mechanisms for seed inspection and that Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, Nigeria, and Tanzania are on track.

Kipkorir says this is a step in the right direction but decries the generally high cost of certified seeds. He urges governments to subsidize seed prices to ensure that farmers plant seeds that can withstand climate, weather risks and crop diseases.

He calls for maize seed subsidies in the region. He warns that even more severe food insecurity looms if farmers do not access quality, high yielding maize seeds.

According to the FAO, maize is a staple and a critical food security crop in sub-Saharan Africa, with more than 40 million hectares of farmlands dedicated to maize farming in at least 32 countries in the region.

The African Seed Access Index shows that Western and Central Africa lag behind other regions of Africa in seed company presence and investments in local seed business activities, including seed breeding, production, and processing.

Overall, the Index notes significant progress in Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Other countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Madagascar, are notably lagging because they are characterized by "under-funded government seed agencies, poorly implemented seed regulations and a variety of weak private sector."

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 182 00--

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

3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE
 4 letters LOU, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP
 5 letters GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU
 6 letters STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
 7 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
 8 letters ALLOTTED
 9 letters TUG OF LOVE

CLUES: Across
 1 recent times
 6 used to express good wishes in meeting
 7 Qatar's Capital
 8 famous for majorelle Garden
 9 manage a living with difficulty
 10 lacking interest
 11 the longest continental mountain range in the World
 12 letters and parcels sent by post in addition
 14 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye
 19 loanian
 21 length of a time a person existed
 23 confess openly
 24 pass 26. argon (symbol)
 27 mouse 28.a diazo copying

Down:
 1 largest Port in Kenya
 2 defied
 3 bring or recall to the conscious mind
 4 a small space setback in a wall
 5 monetary unit of Tanzania
 7 Tanzania's Capital
 13 to or at a distance
 15 process digestive products
 16 urge / goad into doing something
 17 ahead
 20 hereditary classes of Hindu society
 22 escape, avoid
 25 give money due for work

By Magezi : 0755429240 telkumagezi@gmail.com

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 -05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One [Instagram] [Facebook] [Twitter] **Radio One**

TIPER PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT TANK FARM AT TANGA PORT TO EXPLOIT EACOP

By Property Watch Reporter

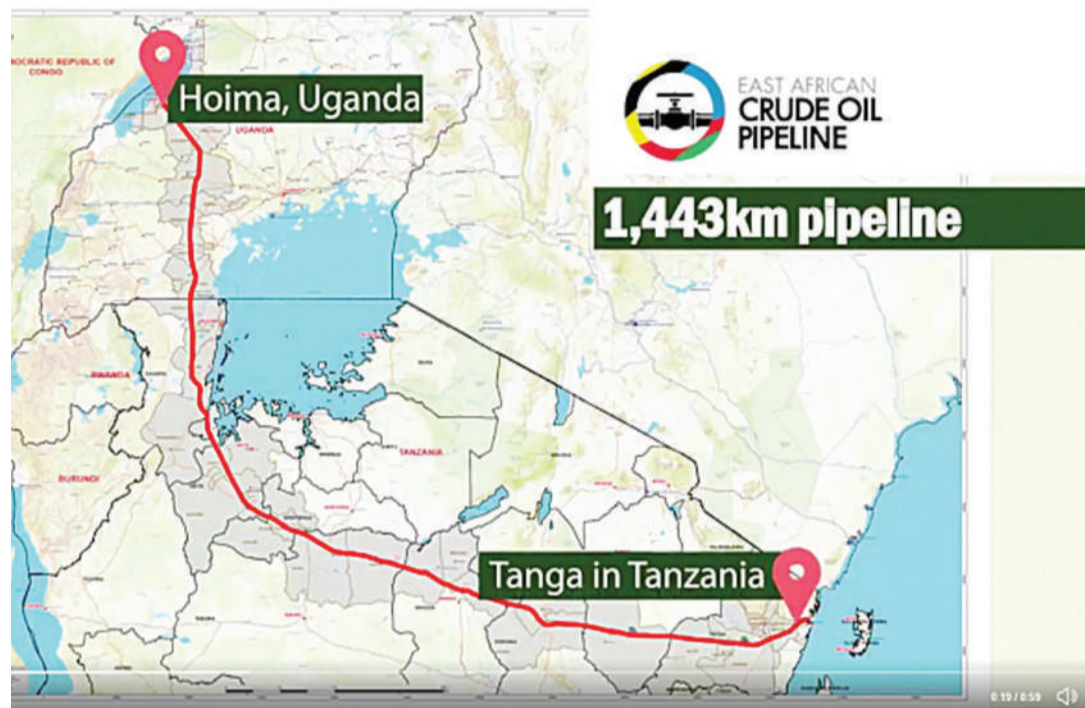
In a bid to exploit opportunities presented by East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline project, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserve Limited is planning to construct a tank farm at Chongoleani in Tanga.

TIPER's Deputy Managing Director, Martin Moshia said in Dar es Salaam last week that plans for the petroleum depot that will serve Tanga port are at advanced level following the board of directors approval.

"We are already positioned to benefit from the East African Crude Oil Pipeline project because the board of directors has already approved management's plans to construct a facility at Chongoleani in Tanga," Moshia said.

He pointed out that TIPER which has the country's largest petroleum products storage facility in Dar es Salaam will construct a facility that will be the largest at Tanga port to serve the EACOP project but also other clients in the northern regions.

The petroleum products storage



A map showing the path of East African Crude Oil Pipeline project.

company which is jointly owned by Treasury and Audax Oryx of Geneva, is also planning to request Tanzania Revenue Author-

ity restore its license to operate like a bonded warehouse. "50 percent of the petroleum products that we handle here are

for transit while a similar amount goes into the domestic market," the TIPER Deputy Managing Director added saying with capac-

ity of 254 million litres of petroleum products, the Kigamboni depot needs to also operate as a bonded warehouse.

The former Tanzania Italian Petroleum Refinery which changed its function in 1999, has since become a complete storage facility, increased its capacity from 140 million in 1999 when the Italian government through Agip Oil sold its 50 percent shares to Audax Oryx Geneva. The Kigamboni TIPER tank farm stands on a 50 hectares piece of land with direct connections to Kurasini Oil Jetty and Dar es Salaam Port's SPM. TIPER commands over 20 percent of the petroleum products storage market.

Construction work of the over 1,400 kilometres EACOP project that will at Hoima in Uganda to Tanga port and cost some US\$3.5 billion is expected to start early next year. Over 80 percent of the pipeline will be hosted by the country covering eight regions hence creating a number of opportunities for Tanzanians and local companies.

Experts estimate that the mega project will create employment for more than 10,000 people during the construction phase and 1,500 after oil transportation starts to flow along the facility within the next three years.

Construction industry more positive about year ahead - survey

JOHANNESBURG

According to the results of the 2022 Construction Industry Outlook survey conducted by RIB CCS in Africa and the Middle East, the construction sector is more positive about the year ahead. This has increased government-led infrastructure spend and greater private sector spend is on the cards for 2022.

Andrew Skudder, RIB CCS CEO, says this is good news for an industry that has experienced extreme pressure over the past few years. "In South Africa alone, the total value of plans passed for building construction fell by 37% year-on-year in the first eleven months of 2020, preceded by annual declines of 1.1% and 11.8% and in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

"The picture has been similarly bleak for the industry in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which has been in decline since the fall in oil prices in 2014, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020."

Looking to 2022, 68% of survey respondents (listed and unlisted companies) expect an increase in project revenue, with 17% of these expecting an increase of 15% or more. Only 10% of the respondents expected a decrease in revenues in the year ahead.

Skudder says 51% of respondents expect project margins to be relatively healthy, with 17% expecting them to be 10% or higher. "Margin pressure was a theme in 2021 and these results clearly point to better prospects for 2022."

Key strategic initiatives for 2022 The top four key strategic initiatives that survey respondents will be focusing on in 2022 include digital transformation (24%), implementation of LEAN construction principles (23%), expansion of business offerings (18%) and expansion of geographic reach (14%).

Skudder says these initiatives give a clear picture of how respondents aim to enhance their businesses' productivity and efficiency. "We also asked them what their areas of innovation are for 2022 are - 25% of respondents said they would be focusing on digital innovation, 19% on organisational innovation and 17% on process innovation.

"These measures are also all about driving efficiency in the industry and improving the way construction companies operate. It is also interesting to note the focus on organisational innovation, which is not just about processes and technology, but about organisational models that need to evolve to deal with the challenges the industry is facing at the moment."

Cement factory 10-year delay hits West Pokot's economic growth hope

NAIROBI

Dinah Chesister, 34, a mother of four, spends the better part of her day crushing stones in a small quarry on Makutano-Lodwar highway at Sebit in West Pokot County, occasionally joining other women as they sort and display the ballast on the roadside for sale to potential buyers.

This is a common activity for many women in Sebit and Ortum along the highway, forced by tough economic conditions to abandon their traditional household care duties and venture into the backbreaking trade. The men shun the tough stone crushing trade and instead concentrate on grazing livestock - their main source of income - and protecting the community from aggressors in the banditry prone area.

"We buy the stones in blocks of Sh1,300 or more from the landowners or diggers then use hammers to break them down into gravel ready for sale. A 20-litre bucket goes for Sh150 or less, depending on market demand," says Ms Chesister.

Sometimes the women go for weeks without making a single sale, despite spending many hours in the gruelling stone-crushing works. Sebit and Ortum are rich in limestone, the basic raw material for cement processing.

The community had anticipated hundreds of jobs on the promise of the construction of a cement factory in the area a decade ago, but this hope has turned to despair, forcing women like Margaret Jairo to the roadside to crush ballast.

"It is like living close to a river but washing hands using spittle. These areas are limestone-rich but no investor has set up a factory to help transform our economy. We, therefore, have no option but to break down the valuable resource into ballast to earn a living," said Ms Jairo, who trades limestone in Kapng'arng'ar along the highway to Lodwar.

Limestone deposits stretch on both sides of the Kapenguria-Lodwar highway from Chepareria to Ortum, a distance of 30 kilometres. Feasibility studies by the government identified large deposits of limestone in the Ortum-Sebit area in Pokot Central, enough to sustain production of 300,000 metric tonnes of cement annually.

The news of the potential construction of a cement factory a decade ago was received with high hope by the residents who hoped to gain economically and



Women crush limestone rocks in Sebit, West Pokot County, to eke out a living on December 08, 2021.

socially, through business and jobs, among other things. The factory was to be put up by Cemtech Ltd, a subsidiary of Sanghi Group of India, which had already received all the required documents from relevant departments of the Kenyan government.

The group was to put up an ultra-modern, environmentally friendly cement factory, along with staff houses, schools, medical centre, staff training facility and other amenities on 650 acres of freehold land, which the firm had purchased from the locals.

As part of the project plan, the group was also to put up a 64-megawatt power plant, where 14 megawatts were for use in the plant and 50 megawatts for sale to the national grid. The factory was expected to directly employ 1,200 people once fully done and benefit another 40,000 residents of the arid region indirectly.

Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga launched the construction of the factory at Sebit centre in July 2010. No work has taken place to date. The only activity on the land is levelling of the ground in preparation for the construction of the plant.

However, there has been some positive movement on the long-awaited project in

recent days. This is after Simba Cement, which Kenyan businessman Narendra Raval owns, bought out Cemtech and is now in the advanced stages of reviving the cement factory project.

For business people who have camped in the area since 2010 to cash in on the building of the factory, it has been a painful lesson. Many came in immediately after the commissioning and put up business premises and rental houses targeting factory workers.

"The entrepreneurs expected their businesses to improve and the entire economy of the area to grow, only for things to go south. People have lost hope," said Thomas Lireng, a businessman at Sebit trading centre.

They now hope that the acquisition by Simba Cement, which has had a good track record of implementing similar projects in previously untapped locations such as Nakuru, will soon revive the long-awaited project. Simba Cement acquired 100 percent of Cemtech business and assets and expected to commence the construction works of the cement factory last year.

The company has had to carry out public participation and consultative forums with the local leaders after it received a licence to construct the

cement factory. The areas where the firm has been given rights to operate include Puseli, Chepkol, Sebiit, Ortum, Lyon and Marich in the Ortum belt.

When Mining and Petroleum Cabinet secretary John Munyes toured Sebit to unveil plans to put up the cement factory in 2019, he said the construction process would take 18 months once all licences were granted and the public participation process was completed.

For residents, examples elsewhere point to the impact that such a plant can have on the local economy. For instance, Simba Cement's Sh6 billion, 750,000-tonne capacity Nakuru plant in Salgaa on the Nakuru-Eldoret highway has created at least 1,000 direct jobs.

Such a plant also generates hundreds of additional indirect jobs as the workers have to be housed, fed and entertained. Transporters also benefit from contracts to move the cement and bring supplies to the employees.

Athi River town, which has grown into a bustling urban centre, thrives on the back of the several cement factories operating in the area, with nearby satellite towns such as Kitengela and Mlolongo also benefiting hugely from the resources of cement factory workers.



A construction site in Johannesburg.

TANGOLD UPBEAT FOR PRODUCTIVE 2022 AT BUCKREEF GOLD PROJECT IN GEITA



The gold processing plant at Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita.

By Property Watch Reporter

PRODUCTION of gold at Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita will increase to between 750 and 800 ounces month at an average cash cost of between US\$725 and US\$825.

In its fourth quarter report for 2021, Tanzania Gold Corporation said operating cash flow from the larger 360 tpd processing plant is anticipated to mitigate the negative operating cash flow at Buckreef Gold from the testing period of the 120 tpd test processing plant.

The report noted that anticipated cashflow generated from the larger plant will be reinvested in Buckreef Gold with a focus on: exploration and drilling; additional capital programs focused on growth and efficiencies; and enhanced corporate social responsibility programs.

Tanzania Gold Corporation's CEO, Stephen Mullenwey said in the report that Buckreef Gold will advance and construct a more than 1,000 tpd operation while simultaneously operating the 360 tpd operation.

Project capital expenditures for an expanded 1,000+ tpd processing plant are estimated to be approximately US\$4.0 million with a targeted completion during the second or third quarter of 2022. Buckreef Gold has procured two additional 360 tpd ball mills (from the same manufacturer).

The two additional ball mills have been shipped and scheduled to arrive in Tanzania before the end of this year. The 1,000+ tpd operation is expected to be capable of producing 15,000 - 20,000 ounces of gold per year based on the initial mine plan and grade profile, the report stated.

The anticipated increase in cash flow from the 1,000+ processing plant will fund value enhancing activities at Buckreef Gold, which are similar to those mentioned above for the 360 tpd processing plant, including but

not limited to further expansion of the exploration program in the Buckreef Main Zone, Buckreef West and the newly discovered Anfield Zone, which if successful, may expand mineral reserves and mineral resources.

"We closed 2021 on a strong note. Buckreef Gold has been repositioned to have significant exploration potential with an increasing production profile. We are enthusiastic about continually developing our 'high return - low cost' projects and are very excited about the drilling prospects at Anfield and Buckreef West," said Mullenwey.

He further pointed out that the 1,000+ tpd mine plan only represents approximately 10 percent of existing measured and indicated resources. "Consequently, we have considerable expansion potential, particularly in the Buckreef Main Zone 'sulphides,' which accounts for approximately 90 percent of our current measured and indicated mineral resources," the TanGold CEO added.

Mullenwey explained that TanGold has a safety-first, high-performance culture in which it invests in the well-being of employees and the community in which the company operates. "Along with our rejuvenated, results oriented, experienced and energetic new team, I am extremely excited for 2022," Mullenwey noted.

During October 2021, the company completed construction of a 360 tpd processing plant expansion. Buckreef Gold also continued to operate the 120 tpd processing plant subsequent to concluding the test period, which achieved a 90 percent gold recovery rate as reported in September 2021.

The existing 120 tpd processing plant has been integrated into the new processing plant circuit as a 'regrind mill'. The new processing plant construction was completed in line with the scheduled completion date of late September/October 2021 at a capital cost of US\$1.6 million, also within guidance, the report stated.

Shelter Afrique to open regional hub in Harare

NAIROBI

Nairobi-based pan-African housing development financier Shelter Afrique plans to open a regional office in Harare, Zimbabwe to serve the southern African region. The office will be its third hub after Abuja in Nigeria serving Anglophone West Africa, and Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire, which serves Francophone West, central and northern Africa.

"This is an important step we need to take to develop our ability to support our southern Africa member states, which we currently serve from our headquarters in Nairobi," said Shelter Afrique CEO Andrew Chimphondah. He said the company had increased its activities in Zimbabwe and the region, thus the need for physical presence.

"Shelter Afrique is set to build 10,000 housing units in partnership with the government of Zimbabwe as part of our core mandate of delivering low-cost housing to Africans. Of these units, 3,000 are targeted for delivery during the first phase of the project," Mr Chimphondah said.

The Harare office will also serve Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles and Zambia. Zimbabwe Housing minister Daniel Garwe said the country has a housing deficit of 1.2 million houses.

"We can only clear that backlog if we adopt new technologies which ensure that we provide housing in the shortest possible time at very affordable levels in terms of the cost. I'm pleased to note that Shelter Afrique has also offered to establish a housing factory in Zimbabwe for the production of building materials that would be used deploying new technologies so that houses can be built at a much faster pace," he said

Kia partners with Autochek to offer flexible car loan to customers

LAGOS

Kia Motors Nigeria has entered into a unique partnership with Autochek that will enable people to buy any Kia car of their choice with low equity and up to 60 months repayment period.

In a bid to make new vehicle ownership easy and accessible, the leading auto company in Nigeria, Kia Nigeria has partnered with Autochek to offer customers an auto finance scheme for intending car buyers.

Following the launch of a dedicated brand-new cars section on the Autochek website and mobile app, Kia customers can now access digital financing solutions for brand new models with repayment tenures of up to 60 months and the lowest interest rates in the market from financial partners

including Ecobank and NCBA with a 0% equity loan product. Access Bank and Stanbic KE with unique financing solutions tailored specially for brand new vehicles with up to 90% financing.

Speaking at the launching of the auto finance acquisition scheme, Olu Tikolo, Vice President, Kia Nigeria said "our core competitive edge in the auto industry is the offering of best-in-class vehicles at an affordable price and we are delighted to partner with Autochek to make owning the Kia range of vehicles easily accessible via their website or mobile applications and equally affordable with flexible payment options".

Autochek Africa's COO, Timi Tope Ologunoye said, "We are excited to partner with financiers and KIA to provide a brand new car loan facility. It is in re-

sponse to customer feedback to democratize the purchase of brand new cars through great and affordable financing options. It is complemented by Autochek Africa's residual value analysis tool that can guide financial partners on the condition of the vehicle over time.

"This partnership represents another step forward in our strategy to ensure our customers have consistently available, transparent, and competitive financing. Kia's vehicles offer modern design and reliability at an affordable cost. And with our special auto finance scheme with Autochek, it's never been easier to take home your very own brand new Kia by only visiting the Autochek platform website or their mobile application." said, Olawale Jimoh, Marketing Manager, Kia Nigeria.



Kia Motors Nigeria's Lagos showroom.

The Autochek auto loan services platform offers a variety of financing options from over 70 banks, with attractive terms that include a 15% interest rate and are repayable for a period of between four and five years. The loans are also processed within 24 hours. Timi added that financing for new cars, like Kia, is part of the company's vision to

unlock a new frontier of automotive fintech and cement its position as the most innovative auto loan platform in the region. Whereas customers are assured of a good deal for brand new cars and attractive interest rates, distributors also get pre-approved prospective buyers.

Kia Nigeria has continuously

promoted a customer-driven corporate culture by providing the best quality and exceptional service with all values centered on the customers. For over two decades it has embraced every opportunity to exceed customers' expectations with steadfast passion and creative thinking like this partnership with Autochek.

Cassava Tech joins forces with Mitsui to build datacentres



The recently completed 10MW JHB1 Africa Data Centres facility in Midrand.

CAPE TOWN

Cassava Technologies has penned an agreement with Japanese firm Mitsui, to develop digital infrastructure across Africa, with a particular focus on datacentres.

Cassava, which owns Africa Data Centres, has been on an expansion drive and has since secured an investment of almost R4 billion. It operates Africa's largest network of interconnected, carrier- and cloud-neutral datacentre facilities.

The company, which was recently created by Pan-African telecoms group Econet, houses the group's fibre broadband networks, datacentres, cyber security, Fintech and digital. The new tech firm, headquartered in London, aims to empower individuals and businesses in Africa through digital inclusion to drive a digitally-connected future.

Yesterday, Cassava announced it had entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mitsui. It says the partnership will bring together the technology, expertise

and networks of both organisations to accelerate digital transformation on the continent.

In a statement, Cassava says, in terms of the MOU, Mitsui will assist it by providing access to Mitsui's global network, "advanced technologies and helping to identify potential sources of financing" to support future growth and investment. The Japanese firm has global experience in developing, investing in and operating businesses in the digital, infrastructure and energy sectors.

"This MOU accelerates

our shared objectives to foster digital transformation across the African continent. The partnership with Mitsui allows Cassava Technologies to access Mitsui's deep global experience in developing digital infrastructure," says Hardy Pemhiwa, president and CEO of Cassava Technologies.

"With Mitsui's global network and experience, paired with our local market knowledge across Africa, we will work together to accelerate innovation and expand access to digital services for enterprises and consumers."

CONSTRUCTION

SAUDI ARABIA'S DAR AL ARKAN PLANS INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION WITH NEW PROJECTS

RIYADH

Saudi Arabian property developer Dar Al Arkan is planning to expand globally with new projects in Europe, China and GCC countries to boost growth, according to the vice-chairman of the company.

The company this week unveiled a Dh800 million (\$217.83 million) residential project, the DaVinci Tower in Dubai, after the launch of its first project with the same value in October. The Tadawul-listed company, with assets worth 25 billion Saudi riyals (\$6.8 billion), plans to start another project in Dubai next year as the emirate's property market continues to recover from the coronavirus pandemic-induced slowdown.

"We are embracing the 2030 vision of Saudi Arabia to spread successful brands outside Saudi where we will be able to demonstrate what a Saudi brand can deliver ... and will be a reflection of what we have in Saudi Arabia," Ziad El Chaar, vice-chairman of Dar Al Arkan, told The National.

Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, is focused to diversify its economy away from oil as part of its Vision 2030 programme. The company is currently building several new projects in Saudi Arabia.

As part of the expansion plans, Dar Al Arkan will be launching a



Dar Al Arkan is based in Riyadh, pictured.

new residential development in Doha in partnership with Katara Hospitality as well as a new six billion riyal mixed-use project in Muscat in a joint venture with Oman Investment Authority.

The company is looking at other countries including the UK, Spain and China as part of its global expansion plans, Mr El Chaar said. It is also building a new project in Bosnia. "We are evaluating many areas [for expansion] but these two areas in Europe have an attention and a focus to us."

The company opened an office in Beijing last week and

is planning to develop new projects in the world's second-largest economy in partnership with other companies, he said. "It's the best time to enter the [Chinese] market now because the valuations are very attractive and the Chinese government in many cities are giving a lot of incentives for international developers to enter the market."

China's economy is projected to grow 8 per cent this year and 5.6 per cent next year, according to the International Monetary Fund. Starting the project in China "depends on how quickly we can forge an alliance with a

Chinese company", Mr El Chaar said.

"We don't have the expertise of China and we will rely on a Chinese developer to help us in finding the land and work with us on the permit, the design and development and construction. We will assist with our big expertise in sales, marketing, value engineering and financing." The company is bullish about the property market in Dubai as it aims to start a new development next year.

"The resilience of the city is really impeccable. Despite the very tough conditions of Covid,

Expo 2020 has been open and a lot of people wanted to be here because they saw it as a place which is like a haven and to escape during the lockdowns of the whole world."

Residential property prices in Dubai jumped 21 per cent in the first 10 months of the year to Dh1,235 per square foot in October, from Dh1,021 per square foot in January, according to a recent Knight Frank study. With the start of the Covid, "we have seen the evolution of the super-luxury market and this is what motivated us to launch DaVinci project in partnership with

Italian car manufacturer Pagani."

The average size of the unit at the tower will be 3,000 square feet and the project is expected to complete in 2023. The company is currently building new developments in Saudi Arabia including in Riyadh, Madinah, Jeddah, Makkah and Taif.

"The demand is very high in Riyadh because there is a growing population and there is a young population," he said. Many expatriates moving to the capital with their families are pushing rents and prices higher, he said.

Apartment prices in Riyadh jumped 17 per cent annually in the third quarter while villa prices increased about 10 per cent, fuelled by a growing population, according to a new report from Knight Frank. "We are all hoping that the government will allow non-Saudi Muslims to buy on a 99 years lease in Makkah and Madinah, which will give a very big boost to the market."

Saudi Arabia has set an ambitious target of raising home ownership rates among Saudis in the kingdom to 70 per cent by 2030 under the Sakani programme - a joint initiative between the Ministry of Housing and the Real Estate Development Fund. About 88,000 households were beneficiaries of the programme in the first half of the year, Knight Frank said. The company will finance new projects through a mix of debt, equity and proceeds from off-plan sales, according to Mr El Chaar.

World Bank's IDA provides \$93bn to boost recovery of world's poorest member countries

Sliding lira leads to foreigners buying Turkey homes at record pace

ISTANBUL

The global health crisis plunged the world economy last year into its deepest recession since the 1930s. While developed economies have recovered faster and have more upside because of their accelerated vaccine and booster programmes, poorer and developing economies have not rebounded at the same pace, with some struggling.

The pandemic has led to rising public and household debt, falling government revenues, and increased risks to fragility, conflict, and instability; and declining literacy rates. About a third of IDA countries are facing a looming food crisis.

"With the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is facing one of the biggest crises of our time ... at the same time, the effects of climate change present additional challenges across countries," Mr Malpass said. "IDA countries are lagging in Covid-19 vaccinations and economic recovery. We have seen that the recovery has been dramatically uneven, with per capita income in advanced economies growing at 5 per cent compared to only 0.5 per cent in low-income countries. Two thirds of the world's poor - almost 510 million people - live in countries served by IDA."

The IDA20 programme focuses on governance and institutions, debt sustainability, and digital infrastructure that can help foster economic and social inclusion. The additional funding will enhance the IDA's capacity to address health challenges faced by 400 million. Its social safety nets programme is also expected to reach as many as 375 million people.

Funding will also address climate change and help countries build back greener, be better prepared for future pandemics, financial shocks and natural hazards. IDA has provided \$458bn to 114 countries since 1960. Annual commitments have averaged about \$29bn over the past three years, with about 70 per cent going to Africa. The IDA20 programme will cover the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2025. The World Bank Group has provided more than \$157bn in financing to countries since the start of the pandemic.

Turkish house sales to foreigners jumped about 50 per cent to a record level in November, data showed on Tuesday, bringing in billions of dollars in foreign exchange as a lira slump made purchases significantly cheaper for those buying with hard currency.

Against a background of more than 20 per cent annual inflation, the property market was generally buoyant in November, with overall sales surging 59 per cent annually to 178,814 properties, the Turkish Statistical Institute figures showed.

"People seeing housing as a means of defence against inflation was instrumental in the sharp sales rise in November" and lower state bank loan rates had an impact, said Makkbule Maya, general manager of TSKB Real Estate Appraisal.

The lira slumped to a record low of 14.99 against the dollar on Monday, representing a halving in value this year. At its current level of 14.2 it is more than 40 per cent weaker than at the start of September.

Altan Elmas, chairman of the Konutder housing developers and investors association, said foreign currency inflows due to house sales in the 11 months to November amounted to about \$8.5 billion, exceeding its forecast. "We can reach \$10bn by the end of the year. The biggest support for the new economic programme in the period ahead will come from property sales to foreigners," he said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has backed aggressive interest rate cuts to support his new programme that stresses exports and credit - despite soaring inflation and widespread criticism of the policy from economists and opposition politicians.

The 7,363 homes sold to foreigners in November represented the highest monthly level since the data series began in 2013. By far the highest number of foreign buyers were Iranian citizens, followed by Iraqis and Russians.

Property sales to foreigners have been strong throughout the year, rising 39.4 per cent in the first 11 months, while total house sales actually fell 9.2 per cent in the 11-month period, compared to a year earlier. The most popular place for house sales to foreigners was Istanbul, with 2,922 sales, followed by the southern resort of Antalya and the capital Ankara.

The data also showed November mortgage sales climbed 61 per cent from a year earlier to 39,366, accounting for 22 per cent of the total in the period. Last year, sales surged due to pandemic-era cheap loans from state banks, prompting property developers to launch campaigns for buyers.



World Bank headquarters in Washington.

WASHINGTON

The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) is providing \$93 billion in fresh funding to help low-income countries respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The financing package is the largest mobilised in IDA's 61-year history and the funds will be delivered to the world's 74 poorest countries, where the pandemic has increased

poverty, undermined growth and development, the Washington-based lender said. The IDA is providing the funds under its 20th replenishment (IDA20) programme.

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

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

WORLD

Floyd's murderer Chauvin pleads guilty to charges in federal civil case

WASHINGTON

DEREK Chauvin, former police officer in US city of Minneapolis, appeared for a change of plea hearing in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Wednesday at which he pleaded guilty to federal charges of violating George Floyd's civil rights.

The federal charges accused Chauvin, a white man, of depriving black man Floyd's right to be free from "unreasonable seizure, which includes the right to be free from the use of unreasonable force by a police officer."

"Guilty, your honor," Chauvin, dressed in orange short-sleeve prison shirt, said in the court to confirm his pleas. He pleaded not guilty to those charges in

September.

The federal civil case was on top of a state criminal case where Chauvin was convicted in April of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for the killing of Floyd.

He was sentenced to 22 and a half years in prison in the state murder case, but may serve only two-thirds of the jail term, or 15 years, and be eligible for supervised release for the remaining seven and a half years, according to Minnesota sentencing guidance.

Sentencing for the federal case will be announced on another date, which has not been set by Judge Paul Magnuson of the US District Court in St. Paul,



Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin addresses the court as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill presides over Chauvin's sentencing at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis, June 25, 2021. FILE PHOTO

where Wednesday's hearing was held. Federal prosecutors have recommended 300 months, or 25 years, in prison to be served concurrently with Chauvin's sentence on state murder charges.

The former police officer at the hearing also admitted guilt in another case in which he was accused of assaulting a then 14-year-old boy during an arrest in 2017.

Video footage captured by bystanders showed Chauvin put his knee on Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds on May 25, 2020, while the black man was pinned to the ground, gasping for air and

saying "I can't breathe."

Three other former officers involved in Floyd's death - Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao - were also indicted on federal charges. Their trial on those charges is scheduled for January, with a state trial on aiding and abetting counts set for March.

The brutal killing of Floyd sparked protests across the United States against police brutality and racial injustice.

Agencies

Malaysia bans large-scale New Year celebrations amid virus

KUALA LUMPUR / SYDNEY

LARGE scale New Year celebrations in Malaysia have been banned over concerns that the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 could spread in the country, the Health Ministry said yesterday.

The decision was made following the confirmation of a second Omicron case in the country and at least 18 more suspected cases, Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin told a press conference.

The Health Ministry has introduced new rules against travellers from Britain to prevent the highly transmissible Omicron variant.

Starting on Dec 17, travellers from Britain would need to do daily self-tests during their quarantine period and all results need to be reported on the government's COVID-19 management app.

In addition, the list of countries that were classified as "high-risk" have increased to nine. Travellers from Britain, the United States, Australia, France, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Nigeria and India, where the Omicron variant has been spreading in the community, are required to be fitted with wrist digital trackers upon arrival and during their



People queue for the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine during the first mega vaccination at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur on May 31, 2021. AFP

quarantine.

Travellers from Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Malawi are still not allowed to enter Malaysia for the time being.

Australia

Australian state leaders must not "panic and overreact" to predicted outbreaks of the Omicron variant of the

coronavirus, Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said on Thursday, as some states ease curbs despite rising cases.

IAEA, Iran to install surveillance cameras at nuclear site New South Wales and Victoria, home to more than half of Australia's near 26 million people, on Wednesday rolled back most tough restrictions, including for the unvaccinated, as double-dose vaccination levels in people above 16 topped 90 percent.

Agencies

Policy support expected to tap potential of Thailand's digital economy

Hong Kong

THAILAND'S digital economy, seen key to the country's post-pandemic recovery, needs more government support and policy stability to grow, experts say.

The World Bank said in a report released on Dec 14 that the adoption of digital technologies has the potential to support Thailand's recovery from COVID-19 and ensure a more competitive economy over the longer term.

Digital-led development can help offset the scarring impact of the pandemic and ensure that growth is inclusive and equitable, said Birgit Hansl, the World Bank's country manager for Thailand.

Since the pandemic took hold in Thailand in March last year, new digital service consumers have comprised 30 percent of the country's total, and consumption among in-



Commercial property and residential condo buildings are pictured in Bangkok on March 10, 2020. (ALEX OGLE / AFP)

ternet users has reached 90 percent, the second-highest in the region after Singapore, the report said.

The pandemic has accelerated digitalization in businesses, government and individu-

als' behaviors, said Arthur Gogatz, associate professor at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang in Bangkok.

Yet Gogatz, also the director of consultancy World In-

novation Team, told China Daily it will still be "a tough call" to diversify the tourism-dependent economy through digitalization, mainly due to a lack of specific planning and policy uncertainties.

"Digitalization here is on a fast track but ... the track is not organized," said Gogatz, adding a digitalization gap between different social classes presents another challenge.

Pawee Jenweeranon, lecturer in law at Thammasat University in Thailand, said there are several key legal and regulatory gaps in the country's digital ecosystem, including conditions in Thai laws that make digital companies hesitant to invest, along with policy uncertainty and lack of standards around data handling and security.

Pawee said that while Thailand enacted the Personal Data Protection Act in May 2019 as its first consolidated law to govern data protection, a delay in selecting committee members and rolling out subordinate legislations has made the situation uncertain and created challenges for businesses. **Agencies**

US fatalities in tornadoes top 90 as scientists clarify their formation

NEW YORK

U.S. state of Kentucky is awaiting President Joe Biden who is scheduled to survey tornado damage, meet with victims and deliver remarks there on Wednesday, manifesting that the federal government has attached much attention to the disaster that has claimed at least 90 lives across six states in the central parts of the country.

The president's trip will include a stop in Fort Campbell for a storm briefing, and stops in Mayfield and Dawson Springs to survey storm damage. Compared with Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee, Kentucky was the hardest hit with more than 80 deaths aged from 2 months to 98 years, and over 100 unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, in Edwardsville, Illinois, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the deadly collapse at an Amazon warehouse, which was caused by a tornado on Friday that devastated the area and killed six Amazon workers.

Most workers who died there were not sheltering in the "designated location," the company said. More alarmingly, CBS reported on Tuesday that the cluster of deadly storms occurring on Dec. 10 to 11 is the latest sign that "tornado activity has waned in the Great Plains - historically known as 'Tornado Alley' - while picking up in the southeastern U.S., a manufacturing-rich region increasingly critical to the nation's supply chain."

TORNADO FORMATION

Amid the catastrophe, the early signaling systems placed throughout the middle of the country mostly worked as promised, reported The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday.

People received text alerts and radio alerts from local officials and forecasters, which would have given them enough time to shelter in place, as they have done for years during tornadoes.

However, the power, speed and duration of the tornado caught residents, businesses and cities by surprise and overwhelmed many of their safety procedures.

The tornado's estimated wind speeds of over 200 miles an hour would make it an EF5, the highest level on the Enhanced Fujita scale rating system, according to the report. While meteorologists continued to analyze data on the tornado, its length was likely record-setting.

"It sent debris 30,000 feet into the air, the cruising altitude of many passenger jets, and scattered prom photos, handmade quilts and wrapped Christmas gifts scores of miles away from the tornado's path," said the report.

The twister rivaled the 1925 Tri-State tornado that killed 695 people as it traveled 219 miles across Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

Bill Bunting, chief of forecast operations at the National Weather Service's (NWS) Storm Prediction Center, was quoted as saying that a rare confluence of weather conditions created the tornado.

Uganda to reopen schools next month after two years of closure

KAMPALA

THE Ugandan government announced on Wednesday that schools will reopen early next month after about two years of closure due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Janet Kataha Museveni, minister of education and sports said pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools shall re-open on January 10, 2022.

Museveni urged schools against arbitrary increase of school charges, noting that school administrators need to know that the learners are coming from families that have also been facing a tough time.

She said while the pandemic has impacted the education sector in many challenging ways, the government has ensured continuity of learning through the provision of home-study materials and through radio and television.

As the year comes to an end, the minister said many learners were able to complete their studies amidst the pandemic. Ministry of education figures show 1.1 million learners completed Primary Seven, Senior Four, and Senior Six levels.

Many learners at universities and tertiary institutions have graduated. Uganda closed schools after some learners tested positive for COVID-19. The government argued that keeping schools open would expose the caretakers of the learners to the deadly virus.

After closure of the schools, the government embarked on the vaccination of teachers. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni recently announced that the country would fully reopen the economy next month whether the targeted 5 million people are vaccinated or not.

Ministry of Health figures as of Dec. 13 show that over 7.8 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been administered since the exercise started in March.

Xinhua

ON Dec. 3 local time, a senior U.S. government official called Taiwan a "country" when talking about Taiwan-related issues, groundlessly accused China of "trying to change the status quo" across the Taiwan Strait in recent years, and stressed that Washington is "committed to making sure Taiwan has the means to defend itself."

Such remarks, which run counter to facts as well as the basic norms governing international relations, have posed a blatant challenge to the one-China principle, grossly interfered in China's internal affairs, and sent wrong signals to the "Taiwan independence" forces.

At present, a new wave of tensions across the Taiwan Strait is mounting

Challenging one-China principle is the gravest threat to peace in Taiwan Strait

due to the instigation of U.S. politicians and the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority in Taiwan.

By blatantly calling Taiwan a "country", the above-mentioned U.S. politician has grossly violated the one-China principle as well as the political commitments made by the U.S. in the three China-U.S. joint communiqués. The U.S. side must stop such abominable remarks and acts.

The DPP authority in Taiwan has been unceasingly inciting cross-strait confrontation and provoking the Chinese mainland by seeking support from the U.S. for "Taiwan independence". The erroneous re-

marks and acts of the U.S. politician would only connive in the "Taiwan independence" forces and escalate the tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

The U.S. politician, in total disregard of facts, claimed that China has been "trying to change the status quo" across the Taiwan Strait in recent years. As a matter of fact, the true status quo of the Taiwan question is there is but one China in the world and Taiwan is part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the sole legal government representing China.

In the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the PRC and the U.S. signed in December 1978, the U.S. acknowledges the Chinese position that there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China.

In the August 17 Communiqué, the U.S. reiterated that "it has no intention of infringing on Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, or interfering in China's internal affairs."

China's position has been consistent and actions resolute with regard to the Taiwan question. Striving for peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity, China never tolerates any

attempt of "Taiwan independence" forces to split China.

In response to the constant provocations of the Taiwan DPP authority that attempts to seek independence by relying on the U.S. and the frequent political manipulation by the U.S. to contain China by using Taiwan, China will certainly make necessary and legitimate actions to safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Clearly, it's the collusion between the U.S. and Taiwan that has been damaging the "status quo" across the Taiwan Strait. Shockingly, certain U.S. politician maliciously

played up China's legitimate efforts to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and described them as changing the "status quo" across the Taiwan Strait, which was totally distorting the truth and confusing the public.

While falsely accusing China of changing the "status quo" across the Taiwan Strait, the U.S. deliberately elevated the status of the so-called Taiwan Relations Act and the "Six Assurances" to Taiwan, trying to find an excuse for its rhetoric of "making sure Taiwan has the means to defend itself."

Such political manipulation of the U.S. side is completely against the basic norms governing international relations. **People's Daily**

Germany politicizing Berlin murder case, says Russian diplomat

MOSCOW



THE murder case of Zelimkhan Khangoshvili a Georgian citizen of Chechen ethnicity, in 2019, in Berlin has been politicized, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Soloviev Live YouTube channel on Thursday, commenting on the German Foreign Ministry's decision to expel two Russian diplomats over the case.

"Berlin announced yesterday that it was expelling two Russian diplomats over a court ruling in the case. As we all understand, the case is politicized, to put it mildly, and has nothing to do with any notion of law and justice. I think that rereading the statement of the [convicted] Russian national's lawyer is enough to understand a lot," she pointed out.

Earlier, a Berlin court handed a life sentence to a Russian citizen charged in the murder of Georgian national Zelimkhan Khangoshvili two and a half years ago.

The court accepted the prosecution's argument that the murder had been ordered by Russian state agencies. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said following the verdict that Berlin viewed the murder as "a violation of law and sovereignty" and announced the expulsion of two Russian embassy employees. Zakharova later said that Moscow would not let that move go unanswered.

Calling Iranian nuclear deal outdated is dangerous – Russian diplomat

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA views as dangerous and irresponsible attempts to portray the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme as outdated, Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky told the UN Security Council.

"Allegations that the JCPOA might have become outdated and might need any updates, extensions, etc. are perilous and irresponsible.

The deal features a carefully-calibrated balance of interests. It must be implemented in the form, in which it was adopted back in 2015, without extracting or adding anything," the Russian diplomat said.

"Nor can we agree that the JCPOA was allegedly losing its relevance due to the Vienna process not being 'rapid enough.' As of now, there is no alternative to the JCPOA," he added.

'Strategic restraint'

Russia calls upon its UN Security Council partners and other participants in the talks on restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program to show 'strategic restraint,' Polyansky said.

"The negotiation process in Vienna now stands in the spotlight of international attention. Our colleagues now have a very challenging task to bring the implementation of the JCPOA back in the initially agreed framework. We need to help them," the Russian diplomat said.

"And we can only do this if we demonstrate strategic restraint and avoid 'heating up the atmosphere.' This applies to all JCPOA members, as well as the Security Council and Iran's neighbors in the region," he added.

Russia urges all countries to refrain from putting any pressure on the process of talks to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program, the Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN continued.

"What's most important is that normal diplomatic process is underway," the Russian diplomat said. "We should not try to rush this process or leverage its participants from the outside. I am convinced that if they assume a pragmatic and constructive approach, aimed at finding a balance of interests, acceptable-to-all-solutions will be found."

The seventh round of talks on the Iranian nuclear deal and the lifting of the US anti-Iranian sanctions kicked off on November 29 to be suspended on December 3 when European participants returned to their countries for extra consultations. Another round was held in Vienna last Thursday.

Tehran presented a draft agreement on the restoration of the nuclear deal in the format of two documents, one on the lifting of the US sanctions and the other one on its nuclear program.

The US delegation is not taking part in direct talks with Iran and the Joint Commission meetings but participates in separate consultations with other signatories to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme.

Somalis urged to back stabilisation efforts amid challenges

MOGADISHU

THE outgoing commander of the Burundi contingent of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has called on Somalis to support stabilization efforts in the country amid several challenges.

"It was a good opportunity as an African military officer to contribute to the stability of Somalia, the region, Africa, and global stability because terrorism haunts the entire world," Telesphore Barandereka, the outgoing commander of the AMISOM Burundi contingent said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, Wednesday, while urging Somalis to support ongoing efforts by the government and international partners to restore peace and stability in the country.

The commander, who has completed his year-long tour of duty under AMISOM, attributed his contingent's victories over al-Shabab to the existing cordial relations with Somali security forces and residents of Hirshabelle State in south-central Somalia. **Xinhua**

Xi, Putin pledge more coordination

BY XU WEI IN BEIJING AND REN QI IN MOSCOW

BEIJING and Moscow pledged on Wednesday to bolster cooperation on international affairs, undertake more joint actions to protect their security interests and oppose hegemony and a Cold War mentality.

In their second virtual meeting this year, President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged joint action to thwart any attempts to interfere in the domestic affairs and legitimate interests of both nations and to uphold international justice and fairness.

Xi criticized certain forces in the international community for arbitrarily interfering in the domestic affairs of China and Russia in the name of "democracy" or "human rights", saying that such actions constitute a gross violation of international laws and universally recognized norms of international relations.

The two nations should more loudly voice their positions on global governance and come up with concrete and pragmatic plans on global issues, including the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, he said.

Putin said Russia resolutely opposes attempts to interfere in both countries' domestic affairs or contain the legitimate development interests of both nations. The Russian president added that his nation will work to safeguard international fairness and justice and to protect global strategic stability and security.

In his opening remarks, Xi referred to Putin as "my old friend" before commending him for supporting China in upholding its core interests and opposing attempts to sow divisions between the two nations.

He recounted the remarkable progress in pragmatic bilateral cooperation this year, which he said showcased strengths in both politics and opportunities.

In the first 11 months of this year, Sino-Russian trade reached a historic high of 843.41 billion yuan (\$132.5 billion), a 24 percent year-on-year increase, and surpassed the level of 2020, according to the General Administration of Customs.

The virtual meeting, the 37th meeting between the two presidents since 2013, marked the culmination of intensive diplomatic interactions this year. In May, the two leaders jointly attended a launching ceremony of bilateral nuclear energy cooperation projects. In June, a virtual summit was held to extend a key treaty on good neighborliness and friendly cooperation, and the two leaders had a phone discussion in August.

Putin has accepted Xi's invitation to come to China for the Beijing Winter Olympics, a move that will continue the tradition of the two nations celebrating major events together.

Xi said he has been looking forward to a face-to-face meeting with Putin, scheduled for the opening of the Win-



President Xi Jinping talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a virtual meeting on Wednesday. China and Russia pledged to bolster cooperation on international affairs and cooperate to effectively protect their security interests. XINHUA

ter Olympics in February, which he said would be an active show of support for China's hosting of the event.

With China and Russia set to host the Year of Sports Exchanges in 2022 and 2023, Xi said the two sides should use the events as opportunities to build bridges and bonds, which will enable the people of both countries to enhance their mutual understanding and friendship.

Xi expounded on the people-centered development philosophy of the Communist Party of China, saying that the goal of the Party is both grand and well-grounded, that is, to enable all Chinese people to live a better life.

Beijing will, as always, support Moscow in its efforts to maintain the nation's long-term stability, Xi said. He added he is willing to conduct candid exchanges with Putin on experience in governance, jointly guide the way for the high-level growth of bilateral ties and lead the two nations to attain national rejuvenation.

As for fighting the pandemic, Xi called on both sides to meet each other halfway to come up with more concrete measures to tackle the challenges, while preventing cross-border transmission of the pandemic.

China stands ready to scale up bilateral cooperation in testing as well as the research and development of vaccines and pharmaceuticals, he said. The two sides must also consolidate cooperation in traditional energy sectors and further cooperation in the new energy and nuclear sectors, he said.

Xi also expounded on bilateral cooperation within the frameworks of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the BRICS bloc and the United Nations Security Council.

As for democracy, Xi reiterated that it is only up to the people of a nation to decide whether it is a democracy and how to better achieve democracy.

He urged both sides to enhance dialogue and coordination to guide the international community to form a rightful view on democracy and protect the legitimate democratic rights of various nations. Putin said Russia-China relations are at an unprecedented historic best.

The two nations, with a high level of strategic mutual trust, have set an example in achieving win-win cooperation on the basis of non-interference in their respective domestic affairs and respecting each other's interests, making their rela-

tions a model for international relations in the 21st century, he said.

He said Russia has always opposed attempts to politicize sports, and the nation is willing to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade, economics, oil, gas, finance, aerospace and major strategic programs.

Le Yucheng, vice-minister of foreign affairs, said at a briefing after the meeting that China-Russia relations have stood out among those between major countries as having the highest level of mutual trust, coordination and strategic value.

The ties were widely supported by people from both nations as cooperation has benefited the general public, he said. Natural gas from Russia has played an important role in ensuring China's energy supply and imported products from Russia are immensely popular in the Chinese market. **Xinhua**

European countries start to vaccinate children aged 5-11 against COVID-19

BUDAPEST

VACCINATION programmes for children aged between 5 and 11 kicked off in some European countries on Wednesday in a bid to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Hungary, Spain, Lithuania, Greece, Slovenia and Germany were among those started their COVID-19 vaccination campaigns for kids, whereas Latvia is to start its own program for kids in the second part of the week.

In Hungary, the first delivery of 138,000 vaccine doses for children arrived on Tuesday, and will be administered in a total of 77 hospitals across the country.

So far, 38,000 people in Hungary have registered for their children to be immunized, according to the official government website. Minors are only given the Pfizer vaccine.

"The vaccine, specifically developed for children, is safe and effective," Aniko Nagy, chief physician at the Pal Heim National Institute of Pediatrics told the Hungarian public radio MRI.

"Vaccination reactions are relatively rare, and administration to children is very important as we have more and more reports about children getting sick with coronavirus," Nagy added.

The vaccine for children was a 10-microgram dose, a new vaccine developed by Pfizer that has been tested and approved by both the U.S. and European drug agencies, she explained.

The vaccination of children is also to protect others. In the shadow of rising COVID-19 infections, coupled with the uncertainty of the new Omicron variant, European experts are betting on the vaccination of children to change the odds.

"It is vital to inoculate children, because even if most of them get through the infections with mild symptoms, they remain very contagious, threatening others," Istvan Gyorgy, the leader of the Hungarian national vaccination team said on Wednesday.

Spain also began its campaign to vaccinate around 3.3 million children aged between 5 and 11 on Wednesday. The age group currently has the highest 14-day incidence of COVID-19 in Spain, with 646.64 cases per 100,000 reported by the Spanish Ministry of Health on Tuesday.

The first shipment of 1.3 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, specially-adapted for children, arrived in Spain on Monday.



Each Spanish region has the freedom to decide its own vaccination program, but most have opted to begin vaccinating children aged 10 and 11, before the younger age groups.

Just as in Hungary, children will receive two doses of the vaccine, with the second dose administered eight weeks after the first.

In Lithuania, the vaccination of children aged 5-11 started on Wednesday. Around 2,000 children have already been registered for vaccination, and will receive two shots three weeks apart - as recommended by the European Medicines Agency.

Latvia has received its first batch of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines for children aged 5 to 11, with the vaccination campaign due to start later this week. Vaccination of both children and adults remains optional in the country.

Vaccination of children aged 5-11 with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine also started on Wednesday in Greece. Maria Theodoridou, chairperson of Greece's National Vaccination Committee, said on Monday that the vaccination of children would "reduce the spread of the virus in the community, by indirectly protecting vulnerable groups close to children."

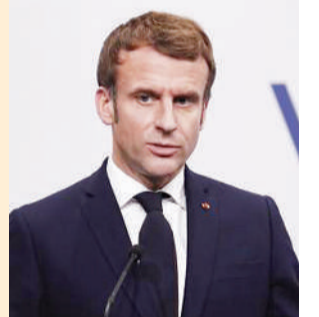
Since Oct. 10, parents in Greece have been able to register for vaccination of children 5-11. So far, 29,000 children have been registered.

In Germany and Slovenia, the

Macron humbled by his mistakes as he readies re-election bid

PARIS

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron, whose hopes of winning a second term face a growing challenge from the opposition, said he has been humbled by the pandemic and his mistakes - and learned a lot from both.



His sharp tongue, combined with a very top-down approach to power, have upset many voters and cost Macron popularity. This could be a key obstacle to his re-election.

"I have learned (from the pandemic), and I am more sensitive to some things than I was before," Macron said in an interview broadcast on Wednesday by TF1 and LCI TV channels, adding that it was clear French hospitals, for instance, needed help.

While opinion polls had long shown Macron easily winning a second mandate, that now seems less clear. He went out of his way on Wednesday to say he had learned from his errors, for instance when he abruptly told a young unemployed man he would find a job if he just crossed the street and asked.

"I have sometimes been very harsh," Macron said. "I have realized that we can't change things without an infinite respect for each and every one."

He added: "Have I made mistakes? Yes, a lot." While he has not yet officially said he will run for a second term in April, and he again dodged the question, Macron has de facto started campaigning. He said in the interview he was as determined as ever to continue reforming France.

"Credibility" Macron, who had been a minister under Socialist President Francois Holland, ran in the last election as a political outsider who was neither of the left nor the right.

But during a presidency hit by social unrest over his pro-business economic reform, his policymaking has drifted to the right, alienating some center-left supporters.

To gain re-election, he needs to win some of them back but also fend off a challenge from conservative rival Valerie Pécresse, who recent polls show has a shot at reaching the second round and beating Macron.

To convince the center-right or conservative voters, he insisted he will continue with reforms - even if, he said, his pension reform may not be as drastic as initially planned.

But to reassure those more left of center, he rejected the "president of the rich" label some gave him when he cut a wealth tax at the start of his term.

"Why were we able to protect (the vulnerable) during this (COVID-19) crisis? Because we had done the job, because we had a credibility, a solidity, linked to the reforms of the labor market," he said, referring to one of his most unpopular initiatives. **Xinhua**



Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) president, Gulam Rashid.

TOC: Former athletes ought to help Tanzania excel in major events

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu, Dodoma

RETIRED Tanzanian athletes, who have participated in the Olympic Games, have been asked to help the country do well in various international sports competitions.

Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) president, Gulam Rashid, issued the plea yesterday while opening the first General Assembly of the Tanzania Athletes Commission (Kawata) here.

Rashid said if the former athletes are fully involved in developing sports, they will help sports associations eliminate the challenges facing the associations, as far as sending competent athletes to international competitions is concerned.

He said former athletes, who participated in the Olympics, should issue advice on how sports should be run to achieve the goals of holding sway in the competitions.

He said despite various challenges that exist, there must be a dialogue between former athletes and sports bodies' officials, to eliminate those challenges.

According to Rashid, such setbacks frustrate plans to develop sports because the goal is to make sure the games enjoy the progress.

The meeting was followed by training on Olympic Solidarity (OS) and other issues conducted by TOC Vice-Chairman, Henry Tandau.

The training covered, among others, the structure of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as well as OS's activities.

TOC Secretary-General, Filbert Bayi, said that sports federations and associations should make sure they have their respective players' commissions to help eliminate challenges in their sports disciplines.

Tandau had, apart from explaining the IOC structure, explained the structure of the TOC and the way the committee will operate in the future.

According to the TOC official, some positions like treasurer that had previously witnessed people elected for it will in the future have the ones holding it operate as employees.

Participants in the Kawata General Assembly were also briefed on the ethics of the Olympics.

Tanzania's women's soccer rolling under Serengeti Lite's sponsorship



JKT Queens' players celebrate after the club's attacker scored against Simba Queens in a recent Mainland Tanzania's Women's Premier League clash in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Correspondent

MAINLAND Tanzania Women's Premier League is growing from strength to strength, rising from an eight-team tournament in 2018 to the current competition that has brought together 12 competitive squads, thanks to Serengeti Premium Lite beer's sponsorship.

The women's topflight league is one of the handfuls of women's soccer leagues on the continent with a committed sponsor, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), and the only one with a broadcast partner, Azam TV, broadcasting its games live across the country.

In January 2018, the Superbrands-winning beer brand, Serengeti Premium Lite, entered into a sponsorship deal with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to support the country's Mainland Women's Premier League.

Through the sponsorship, Serengeti Premium Lite became the first-ever sponsor to support women's soccer in the country.

The sponsorship deal has transformed the league, making it more competitive and vibrant.

The showdown has seen the emergence of such strong teams as Simba Queens, JKT Queens, Yanga Princesses, Alliance Girls, Mlandizi Queens, and Mapinduzi Queens, to mention but a few.

And in a positive and encouraging gesture to local women's soccer development this year, Twiga Stars, Tanzania's senior national women's soccer team, was crowned the 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship winners after trouncing all opponents in South Africa.

Twiga Stars' achievement has consequently taken the country's name to yet another level in southern Africa's soccer arena.

TFF information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, says that lack of sponsorship to the women's league had been one of the main challenges facing the development of women's soccer in the country.

The TFF official noted: "In Tanzania, women's soccer has been limping for a long time due to lack of sponsorship. Since its inception, the national women's super league has lacked financial support to function smoothly like its men's counterpart."

"A least that was the sorry situation until Serengeti Premium Lite came on board, injecting a new lease of life to women's soccer", Ndimbo says.

He says that the sponsorship has enabled the federation to run the league in a less stressful environment due to the popular beer brand's financial, material, and moral support.

"Before this sponsorship, it was difficult for teams to travel to play away matches because of financial problems."

"The league is now gradually gaining popularity, and we are even starting to hire professional players from outside the country," he says.

Further, Ndimbo says that with Serengeti Lite onboard, the steps were taken by TFF to develop women's soccer so far are promising.

The official pointed out that the beer brand's support has provided a massive boost for Tanzania's women's soccer as now more girls and women have a chance to participate in the lovely game of football and hence improve their standards of living.

"Besides, the participation of girls and women in football has made them good ambassadors of our nation."

The country is very proud of the steps taken so far, and we are very grateful to Serengeti Lite for this huge support", he adds.

The spokesperson said TFF recognizes Serengeti Lite as a worthy partner in football development in the country and not just as a sponsor but because of its solid and continued show of concern and care for the sport.

According to the SBL's Senior Brand Manager Mainstream Beer, Wankyo Marando, Serengeti Premium Lite is proud to engage with the women's premier league.

Wankyo reveals: "The sponsorship has played a significant role in empowering women to increase their participation and performance in the sports sector in general and in soccer in particular."

She further notes that Serengeti Lite believes that giving more visibility to the numerous talented women in the sport can help raise their profiles and bolster further development of women's soccer in the country.

"Soccer is no longer just a form of entertainment to the fans nor is it just a preserve for men only, it is also meant to unite and inspire people across the globe."

"It is also a source of steady income to the players," the official says.

Serengeti Premium Lite's sponsorship of the women's super league follows a long history of SBL's sponsorship of the men's national soccer team, Taifa Stars, which currently enjoys the brewer's support through its flagship brand- Serengeti Premium Lager.

Special Olympics Championships end in Mwanza today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of the National Special Olympics Championships ends today in Ilemela District, Mwanza.

Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT) director, Charles Rays, said the championships, which got underway on Monday, have been going on smoothly.

The official praised all 24 regions, which are competing at the championships, for showing true sportsmanship.

He said they expect Ilemela District Commissioner, Hassan Masala, to represent Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, Angeline Mabula, as the guest of honour at the closing ceremony.

"All has been going on very well, the competition has been very good and we thank all regions for competing at the championships."

"Deputy Minister for Lands,

Housing and Human Settlements Development, Angeline Mabula, has delegated Ilemela District Commissioner, Hassan Masala, to be the guest of honour at the closing day," he said.

The championships were initially slated for September 13-18 in the city but, after the SOT executive meeting held on November 29 to evaluate preparations, it was agreed that the championship should be held this month.

The games have attracted 80 coaches and 40 volunteers, SOT will use the championships to select the national Special Olympics team's athletes who will represent the country at the second Pan African Games slated for Rwanda in 2022.

The next year's Pan African Games will be used as qualifiers for the 2023 World Summer Games that will take place in Germany.

In the previous interview, Rays



Children with special needs play volleyball in Dar es Salaam recently.

disclosed that he had a successful and fruitful meeting with Mwanza Regional Administrative Secretary, Emmanuel Taluba.

The duo, among other issues, agreed on how to work together

to promote sports among people with special needs.

Rays said sports among children with intellectual disabilities are important as they have rehabilitative influence, not only

on the physical body but also in the mind.

The SOT official pointed out: "Sports teach independence while encouraging teamwork, they can be a space where those with and

without disabilities can equally participate."

"Sports demonstrate what real inclusion looks like to those who would try and keep them segregated," he said.

The last time SOT hosted the championships was in December 2017 in Zanzibar with the hosts lifting the overall winners' trophy.

Fifteen athletes were selected to compete at last year's Summer World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Tanzania has been doing well in Special Olympics. Last year at the maiden Pan African Special Olympics played in Egypt, Tanzania collected 11 medals.

The 11 medals were won by Khalfan Jihad who won two gold medals and one bronze medal, Hiday Vuai won one gold, one silver, and a bronze medal.

Neverson Minja and Elizabeth Kisaka won one gold medal and silver medal apiece, Salama Kheri won one gold medal.

De Bruyne still feeling COVID-19 symptoms

LONDON

MANCHESTER City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne said he is still feeling the effects of COVID-19 nearly a month after first testing positive for the virus.

De Bruyne returned a positive test on Nov. 17, the day after Belgium's World Cup qualifier against Wales. He returned to training following 10 days in isolation and managed to complete 90 minutes for City against Leeds United at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday.

De Bruyne scored twice in the 7-0 win including a 25-yard rocket in the second half but afterwards the 30-year-old said he is yet to return to full health.

"I still feel sometimes that my body is still adapting because sometimes I do two or three sprints and feel it, having had COVID," he said.

"I was pretty sick for four days. I think it was like flu but I've never had that so can't say for sure.

"But I had a temperature, especially in the evenings, and lost my smell and taste. After five days it was getting better but needed more time for the taste and the smell but now I'm okay."

De Bruyne has endured a difficult six months after being forced off early during May's Champions League final defeat to Chelsea in May after a collision with Antonio Rudiger and then suffering ankle ligament damage playing for Belgium at Euro 2020.

He has been limited to just 12 starts this season but there is hope his problems with injury and illness are now behind him.

"Obviously this season is what it is," he said. "There is nothing I can do about it, I've been kicked in the face, kicked in my ankle and I had COVID afterwards.

"It's part of football. After COVID, I came back and trained as hard as I can. With the schedule it is not that easy but I'm doing all-right, I played in two games and came in as a sub in two so I'm doing what I need to do.

"The ankle was the worst because playing and having pain every day is not something that you want to have but after a while it got better and better. Then I got COVID.

"I was 10 days on my own so I was running up the walls. I can't sit still anyway. I got away from my family as I didn't think we had it as a family and I didn't want to give it to my wife and kids. It was pretty hard to see them through a glass door."

(Agencies)

Barca, Real vs. LaLiga: Clubs sue over CVC deal

MADRID

REAL Madrid, Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao have sued LaLiga, branding the Spanish league's agreement with the investment fund CVC as "illegal."

LaLiga clubs last week voted in favour of a €2 billion investment deal with CVC despite ongoing opposition from Madrid, Barca and Athletic.

"Project Impulse," as it's dubbed by the league, will see clubs receive funds to spend on infrastructure and modernisation -- as well as increased spending limits for transfers -- in exchange for handing 11% of LaLiga's revenue from TV rights to CVC for the next 50 years.

However, Madrid, Barca and Athletic, which also have the backing of the Spanish Football Federation, say the project will prove hugely damaging to the game in the country.

"Athletic Bilbao, Barcelona and Real Madrid report that they have taken legal action in response to the agreements adopted by the LaLiga Assembly in relation to the so-called Project Impulse," the three clubs said Wednesday in a joint statement.

"[The agreement] with the CVC venture capital fund is an illegal transaction that causes irreparable damage to the Spanish football sector as a whole, and flagrantly violates the most elementary principles of Spanish sports law and the LaLiga statutes."

The league didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the suit.

The deal was approved Friday, with 37 of Spain's 42 first- and second-division clubs voting in favour. Sources told ESPN that UD Ibiza had joined Madrid, Barca and Athletic in voting against it, with an unnamed club abstaining.

The opposition of Madrid, Barca and Athletic saw them excluded from the terms of the initiative. Therefore, while the other clubs are due to receive the first cash influx of €400 million in the coming weeks, they will not, but they will retain all of their TV rights income.

Barca president Joan Laporta spoke out against the deal last summer, saying that he would, in effect, be mortgaging off the club's future by signing up for it, even though refusing to do so led to the departure of Lionel Messi.

In a war of words with LaLiga president Javier Tebas, the three teams contend that the CVC agreement has been pushed on clubs suffering financially because of the coronavirus crisis.

Madrid, Barca and Athletic even wrote to fellow clubs earlier this month to offer an alternative proposal called "Project Sustainable" in collaboration with European Super League backers JP Morgan, Bank of America and HSBC.

(Agencies)

Arsenal respond to Arteta's Aubameyang demotion

LONDON

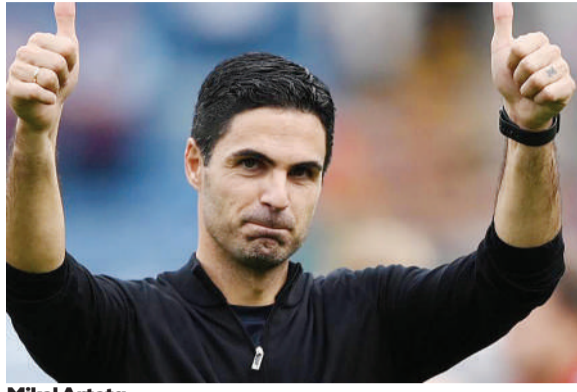
THE pre-match message was for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang but we know now he wasn't the only one listening.

Mikel Arteta's decision to strip Aubameyang of the captaincy dominated the build-up to Arsenal's game against West Ham United on Wednesday and could have had divisive effect given the striker's popularity within the squad. Yet it had the opposite impact, galvanising this young group to produce one of their most complete performances of the season to earn a 2-0 win, climb into the top four and offer an exciting glimpse of what life without Aubameyang could resemble.

"They were fully focused," said Arteta after the match. "They wanted to show how strong we are as a team. The performance, the attitude and the commitment they showed today is exactly what we are as a club.

"I expect it from every player: to stick to our values. We will talk about that another day. Today I want to talk about the game."

There was a time not too long ago when Aubameyang was carry-



Mikel Arteta

ing a disjointed Arsenal team on his shoulders. Arteta's predecessor Unai Emery would almost certainly have been sacked earlier than November 2019 had Aubameyang not been so prolific in front of goal to that point.

Yet after a series of disciplinary issues and a loss of form, Arteta demoted the 32-year-old on Tuesday citing a lack of "commitment and passion" in addition to "certain moments where he has not fulfilled his duties." Commitment and passion were in abundance on Wednesday. The Emirates Stadium crowd can sometimes be an unforgiving bunch, but they responded to the application on show, Arsenal pressing West Ham relentlessly into mistakes in a breathless first half that somehow ended without a goal at either end.

Aubameyang's will-

ingness to press has often been questioned, but Gabriel Martinelli, Alexandre Lacazette and Bukayo Saka led from the front in that regard.

And Martinelli's 48th-minute opening goal bore more than a passing resemblance to Aubameyang in his pomp, drifting in off the left to collect Lacazette's pass before curling a right-footed shot past former Arsenal goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. There were even hallmarks of Thierry Henry about the way Martinelli opened his body up to finish clinically but, hey, one step at a time.

Proving a reliable replacement for Aubameyang would be a hugely valuable place to start for Martinelli. A bundle of energy with and without the ball, the 20-year-old made four tackles -- only outdone by the excellent Lacazette (five) -- Martinelli's seventh Pre-

mier League goal makes him the most prolific Brazilian prior to the age of 21 in the league's history behind Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus (16).

"Certainly it was one of [his best performances] in every aspect of the game," Arteta said of Martinelli. "Physically he is growing. He was cramping again and he needs to mature in that sense as well.

"But his overall understanding of the game is getting much better, he is able to put some gears into his play, instead of sometimes doing everything 100 mph. The energy and the quality he shows at times is top."

Anything less than a win on this night would have brought Arteta's authority into question and placed pressure on the Spaniard to find a way back into the team for Aubameyang, who has scored 58 Premier League goals since the start of the 2018-19 season. Instead, this game felt similar to mid-March, when Arteta dropped Aubameyang at the last minute after the Gabon international reported late for a team meeting on the day of the north London derby and his team responded with an impressive 2-1 win in a performance of similar vigour.

However, what came

next can offer an important history lesson. The Gunners won two of the next nine in all competitions, a run that brought the sensibility of Aubameyang's peripheral role under renewed examination.

This time, they face Leeds United next -- hammered 7-0 by Manchester City on Tuesday -- Sunderland in a Carabao Cup quarterfinal, Norwich City and then Wolverhampton Wanderers before New Year's Day. It is an inviting programme that offers the chance to generate further momentum and shift the emphasis on Aubameyang to match the focus and diligence around him if he is to revive his fortunes in north London.

Despite Arsenal's dominance, the game was not safe until the very end. The home side benefited from a soft penalty decision as Vladimir Coufal appeared to win the ball from Lacazette with a tackle in the box, although it was notable afterwards that West Ham boss David Moyes suggested the defender should have been more decisive in his challenge.

Lacazette missed the resulting spot kick -- the third Premier League penalty in a row Arsenal have squandered -- but the damage was

still profound for the Hammers given Coufal's sending off for the offence and the resulting numerical disadvantage. Substitute Emile Smith Rowe finally killed off the visitors three minutes from time with another excellent finish, wrongfooting Fabianski with a left-footed shot from Saka's pass. It was the tenth league goal Arsenal have scored by a player aged 21 or younger, the highest number achieved by any team this season.

The furor over Aubameyang overshadowed the importance of this game beforehand given the Hammers' fine form under Moyes and the somewhat fragile progress being made by Arteta's Arsenal. It is also worth remembering that Aubameyang was initially made captain after winning a player's vote. His popularity is such that a poor performance would have been interpreted as signs of discontent at one of Arteta's boldest decisions in his managerial career to date.

Instead, they delivered one of their best displays of the season. They responded to Arteta's call. Time will tell if that continues -- and whether Aubameyang can do the same.

ESPN

Barcelona's Aguero retires due to heart condition

BARCELONA

BARCELONA striker Sergio Aguero has announced his retirement from football at the age of 33 due to a heart condition.

Aguero has not played since the end of October, when he was taken off during the first half of Barca's draw with Alaves after experiencing chest pain.

Barcelona later announced that the discomfort had been caused by an arrhythmia -- a broad term to describe any heart rhythm that is not completely normal -- that would require treatment over a three-month period.

The former Manchester City forward has since had regular cardiac exams to monitor his health, with the results advising him it would be a risk to carry on with his professional career.

He announced his retirement at a news conference on Wednesday, joined by Barca president Joan Laporta.

An emotional Aguero said: "This conference is to announce I have decided to stop playing professional football. It is a very difficult moment. The decision I have taken for my health; the problem I had a month and a half ago.

"I have been in good hands with the medical staff. I made the decision 10 days ago after doing everything possible to have some hope of playing on. I am very proud for my career. I always dreamed of a professional career since the first time I touched a ball at 5.

"I want to thank Atletico Madrid, who took a chance on me when I was 18, and Manchester

City -- everyone knows who I feel about City and how well they treated me there."

Former Barcelona star Lionel Messi had kind words for his former teammate via an Instagram tribute.

"Practically all of our career together, Kun... We have lived very beautiful moments and others that were not so much so, but all of them brought us together even more and made us closer as friends. And we are going to continue to live moments together off the pitch," Messi wrote.

"With so much happiness to lift the Copa America such a short time ago and with all of your accomplishments in England, the truth is that it hurts a lot to see how you must leave what you love the most due to what has happened.

"I am sure you will continue to be happy because you are the type of person who radiates happiness and those of us who love you are going to be with you. Now you will start a new stage in your life and I am convinced that you are going to live it with a big smile and with all the same hopefulness that you put into everything.

"I wish you the best in this new stage!!! I love you very much my friend and I am going to miss our times together on the pitch and with the Argentina national team!!!"

Barca legend and City manager Pep Guardiola was in attendance at Camp Nou alongside director of football Txiki Begiristain. The entire Barca first-team squad and representatives from Aguero's former clubs were also present.



Sergio Aguero

"Sergio, I think, as we just saw, we are left with deep joy and excitement with what you could have been here at Barcelona, but anything you need with your condition we are here at your disposal," Laporta said.

"You will be remembered not just as a player, but as a friend. A new journey awaits, and I am sure it will be just as successful. You deserve it."

City also paid tribute to Aguero on social me-

dia and posted: "King Kun. Everyone at Manchester City would like to take this opportunity to thank @aguerosergio for his incredible contribution to our success over the last decade and wish him well in his retirement."

Said Aguero: "I feel OK right now. Obviously the first two weeks were really difficult. When they did the first physical test on me, the medical staff told me there was a very

big possibility I would not be able to continue playing.

"I am still processing everything. Then they called me to tell me it was definitive. Right now, I am OK, but I know it was difficult."

Aguero joined Barca on a free transfer in the summer from City. A calf injury delayed his debut until October, with his first goal coming in the Clasico defeat to Real Madrid.

Madrid also paid tribute to Aguero online and posted: "It was an honour to compete against a player like you, one of the best players in the world. Good luck to you and your family."

Aguero was making just his fifth appearance -- and only his second start -- for his new club in the Alaves game on Oct. 30 when he experienced breathing problems.

Aguero had burst onto the scene in Argentina as a teenager with Independiente before signing with Atletico Madrid in 2006. He scored 102 goals in five years in Spain before joining City in a deal worth around €40 million.

Atletico sent a message to the striker on social media and wrote: "Thanks for the memories, Sergio. We wish you all the best. It was an honour to enjoy your football in red and white. Good luck."

In Manchester, Aguero scored the dramatic last-minute winner against Queens Park Rangers on the final day of the 2011-12 season to help City win their first Premier League title.

In total, he won 15 trophies in England, including five league titles, and is City's record goal scorer with 260 goals in 390 appearances.

His role in City's growth over the past decade saw the club announce recently that he would be honoured with a statue outside the Etihad Stadium alongside Vincent Kompany and David Silva.

Aguero has also won 101 caps for Argentina, scoring 41 goals, and was part of the squad that won the Copa America last summer and was a runner-up at the World Cup in 2014.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal respond to Arteta's Aubameyang demotion

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Simba SC to take on big guns in CAF Confederation Cup



Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC will learn its CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage opponents on December 28, 2021.

The draw will be conducted at CAF headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, and will begin at 14:00 with CAF declaring the draw procedure and the ambassador will be communicated in due time.

The draw will divide the 16 teams that reached the group stage into four groups of four teams each.

It is the first time that the Msimbazi Street side are competing in Africa's second-tier club competition and follows on from their humiliating CAF Champions League preliminary exit.

The Tanzania representatives have qualified for the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage after overcoming Zambia's Red

Arrows FC on a 4-2 aggregate in the playoffs.

They were relegated to the CAF Confederation Cup after being eliminated from the CAF Champions League by Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy when the former lost 3-1 at home in the second game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

After winning 2-0 in Botswana, it was assumed Simba SC needed to confirm second consecutive CAF Champions League Group Stage qualification only to crumble in the second half to allow the unfancied Botswana visitors to pull a major upset.

The results forced the resignation

of Simba SC French tactician Didier Gomes da Rosa who has been replaced by former Real Madrid assistant coach, Pablo Martin.

The rest of the clubs through are Al Ahli Tripoli (Libya), Al Masry (Egypt), AS Otoho (Congo), ASEC Mimosas (Côte d'Ivoire), Coton Sport (Cameroon), CS Sfaxien (Tunisia), JS Saoura (Algeria), Orlando Pirates (South Africa), Pyramids (Egypt), RS Berkane (Morocco), Simba (Tanzania), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), US Gendarmerie Nationale (Niger), Zanaco (Zambia), Al Ittihad (Libya) or Enyimba (Nigeria), JS Kabylie (Algeria) or Royal Leopards (Eswatini).

Based on the CAF club rankings,

Simba SC will most likely go into the draw in Pot 2 unless Royal Leopards go through from their tie with Algeria's JS Kabylie whose second leg was postponed due to travel restrictions.

The seeded teams in Pot 1 are TP Mazembe (45 points), RS Berkane (41), Pyramids (31).

Teams in the same pot cannot be drawn together meaning Simba SC will face any of former winners TP Mazembe, RS Berkane along with last year's runners-up Pyramids FC.

The CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage will start in February 2022 and conclude in July.

Matches in the group stages will be played on Wednesday and Sunday.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bonga Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Big guns cruise through to Federation Cup's next round

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BOLDLY speaking, the majority of the Mainland Tanzania Premier League clubs were naturally expected to negotiate through to the Federation Cup round of 32 by the virtue of being handed fair draws in the round of 64.

All the 16 Premier League sides were once again drawn to play against paper-weight opposition at the stage of 64.

As if that was not enough advantage, they were all handed a home draw against lower-tier sides.

Only one Premier League side has been knocked out of the competition having lost their round of 64's game on Wednesday.

Mbeya City, who are one of three sides that are still unbeaten in the Premier League this season, were forced into a barren by Championship squad, African Sports, losing 7-6 on the ensuing penalty shootout.

Namungo FC faced second-tier opposition too in Mashujaa FC, and the Lindi-based side was staring an upset in the face as they trailed the latter 1-0 until very late when found an equalizer through David Molinga before triumphing on penalty shootout.

Table leaders, Yanga, and Azam FC made light work of second-tier oppositions on Wednesday night.

Yanga won 4-0 against Championship club, Ihefu SC, who opted to field a second-string side as they concentrate on their promotion battle in the Championship.

The winner of the Federation Cup qualifies to represent the country at the CAF Confederation Cup.

Simba SC is the Federation Cup defending champion.

Wednesday results: Yanga 4-0 Ihefu SC, Azam FC 4-0 Green Warriors, KMC FC 4-1 Maji Maji, Prisons 3-0 Kitayosce, Kagera Sugar 3-0 TRA Kilimanjaro, Mbeya City 0-0 African Sports (3-4).

Mtibwa Sugar 7-1 Tunduma United, Mbao FC 1-0 DTB FC, Kiluvya FC 0-1 Baga Friends, Maskani FC 1-2 Rhino Rangers.

Tuesday results: Simba SC 1-0 JKT Tanzania, Coastal Union 2-0 Fountain Gate FC, Polisi Tanzania 2-1 Ken Gold FC, Mbeya Kwanza FC 2-1 Mwadui FC, Ruvu Shooting 4-1 Gwambina FC, Namungo FC 1-1 Mashujaa FC (7-6), Dodoma Jiji FC 2-0 Pan African.

Geita Gold FC out to defeat Ruvu Shooting

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

2021/22 NBC Premier League rookies, Geita Gold FC, says much as it is ready for today's top-flight encounter against Ruvu Shooting at Nyankumbu Stadium, Geita, it will play with caution.

Geita Gold FC's information officer, Ahmed Kivuyo, yesterday said they are well prepared for the encounter that is a must-win for them.

The Geita outfit has started this season on a bad note as they are anchoring the 16-team league table with five points from seven games.

"Playing at home does not mean we are in a comfort zone, we have prepared well for this encounter and hopefully it's a time for reckoning what belongs to us. It will not be an easy game, we will not fool ourselves that we will do well at home, we need to play our lungs out as this season's Premier League has a lot of surprises," he said.

Last Monday the team beat Mbeya-based DHB side 4-0 in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup and Kivuyo said the win has boosted morale in the camp.

Geita Gold FC's goals in the match were scored by Danny Lyanga who scored a brace, Juma Mahadhi, and George

Mpole, who scored a goal each.

"There are no any special preparations for the game, it is business as usual but we will do our best to win the game, the good thing is that after defeating DHB in the Azam Sports Federation Cup the morale in the camp is high

and all players are looking forward to tomorrow's encounter," he said.

Ruvu Shooting information officer, Masau Bwire, said they are not losing sleep over the game against Geita Gold FC.

He said he is hopeful that the pitch is

good for Premier League matches.

"The team is ready for the encounter, we know what to expect to meet there but we are ready for them and the good thing is that morale in the camp is high and all players are eager and willing to play the match," he said.



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Damas Ndumbaro, participates in the 2021 East African Parliamentary golf tournament, held at the Kili Gof course in Arusha yesterday. Ndumbaro was a member of the Tanzania Parliament men's golf team which took part in the tournament. The golfer emerged as the tournament's overall winner after registering 73 points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

You are NOT MY TYPE!



WHAT FONT are you ANYWAY?