



National Pg 3 Soil destruction rate shocks forest experts



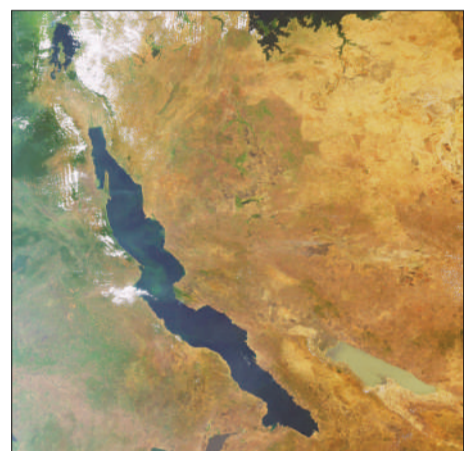
National Pg 4 Samia to grace Tahossa forum in Dar



National Pg 5 US national for tourism climbs Mt K'njaro



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Ministerial experts discuss sustainable lake management

By Correspondent Adela Madyane, Kigoma

COUNTRIES sharing Lake Tanganyika have agreed to collaboratively protect its resources by promoting sustainable fishing, livestock keeping and agriculture practices.

Stakeholders are also concerned that there are still threats of illegal fishing and discharging industrial waste water into the lake, the second largest lake in eastern Africa and the longest freshwater lake in the world.

These positions were sounded out by high level officials attending the 10th conference of the Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) management committee, bringing together ministerial experts from Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The meeting aimed at discussing ways to ensure sustainable lake management and its basin to enhance equitable economic growth, with accords agreement reached that riparian countries and communities on its shores must play a role in protecting lake resources.



We should ban importation of fishing gear if we want to control illegal fishing

Andrew Komba, environmental director at the from Vice President's Office, said that the meeting is a result of 2008 Convention on protecting Lake Tanganyika resources, to examine its implementations.

Participants shared views on curbing threats to achieving the desired social-economic development for various communities among the riparian countries.

"As riparian countries we need to maintain the lake's fisheries resources for current and future use. As we agreed in the 2008 Convention of protecting Lake Tanganyika resources; we have been fighting to end illegal fishing in Lake Tanganyika and in other water sources," he said.

Tanzania has banned the use of plastic carrier bags to avoid contaminating the lake, while more needs to be done to achieve the goal of ensuring sustainable fishing, he stated.

Godwin Gondwe, the director of Environment and Natural Resources Management in the Zambian government, said there are economic challenges in all riparian countries that need to be resolved for sustainability of using lake resources.

"We experienced challenges in implementing the convention during the

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Govt signs 1.7trn/- accords with 4 mining companies



President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnesses exchange agreements after signing, between the government and Black Rock Mining Ltd, Strandline Resources Ltd and Nyanzaga Mining Co. in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government yesterday signed four joint venture agreements valued at 1.7trn/- for extraction of graphite, heavy mineral sands, gold and diamond in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Mwanza and Shinyanga regions.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnessed the signing, with the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi representing the government. He said the three projects will further enhance mining sector activities and increase income to the government and communities surrounding the projected mining areas.

The companies involved are Black Rock Mining subsidiary joint venture firm, Faru Graphite Ltd based in Ulanga District of Morogoro Region, Strandline Resources Ltd subsidiary joint venture Nyati Mineral Sands with branches in Dar es Salaam and Tanga, plus Sotta Mining Corporation subsidiary venture Nyanzaga Co. of Mwanza, along with Petra Diamonds Ltd. Nyanzaga Co. was given a new mining license.

In the first agreement the government will get 52 percent of the proceeds and 48 percent will go to the various investors (Black Rock Mining). For Strandline Resources the government will get 66.4 percent of economic benefits while 33.6 percent goes to the investor, the minister affirmed.

Operations will be carried out by the subsidiary firms that will oversee production of the minerals.

The government similarly signed an



From the agreement, the government will nominate two board members for each of the mining companies

improved agreement with the UK firm, Petra Diamonds for operating the Mwadui mine in Shinyanga, under Williamson Diamonds Ltd (WDL).

With the new and improved agreement, the government will get 55 percent of the economic benefits and 45 percent will go to the investor, he stated.

President Samia commended the negotiating teams for reaching this point and assured the companies that Tanzania will continue to be a great place for investment. All minerals extracted will be processed for value addition before being exported, she declared.

Welcoming investors to take up mineral processing and industrial value addition, the president tasked the ministry and security organs to strengthen patrols and fight the smuggling of minerals.

Regular patrols should be conducted to ensure that we protect our resources and arrest those bent on smuggling them, she said, urging that mining sector projects should engage local communities in all stages so as to know their impacts and thus reach intended goals.

Mining projects come with opportunities that locals need to take up to increase income, she said, urging investors to conduct their activities by adhering to specified rules and regulations.

The National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) and all responsible bodies should supervise to ensure that the activities do not affect the environment, the president directed, underlining that the government

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Newspaper minibus crash ends nine lives

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

AT least nine people have died and three others seriously injured in a road accident that involved a mini bus traveling from Dar es Salaam to Mbeya.

Iringa Regional Police Commander Allan Bukumbi confirmed the accident here yesterday, saying it occurred at Mahenge village in Kilolo District at dawn Monday.

The mini-bus was ferrying newspapers to the Southern Highlands regions, with accident tied with over-speeding, which caused the driver to lose control and hit



The driver was speeding, thus failing to control the vehicle at the corner

a tree on the side of the road. It then overturned and nine people died on the spot.

"The vehicle involved in the accident was a Toyota Hiace with registration number T249 DWT owned by Soma General Traders. Those who died are five men and four women, their bodies taken for preservation at the Iringa Regional Referral Hospital.

Those injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, the commander noted, explaining that procedures were being pursued to identify the bodies for handing over to their relatives.

"The driver was speeding, thus failing to control the vehicle at the corner," he said, cautioning drivers about over-speeding. They must drive at recommended speeds and respect traffic rules and

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EU lauds readmitting pregnant girls in class

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

TANZANIA has won praise for the recent move to readmit pregnant girls back to school.

Manfredo Fanti (pictured), the resident ambassador of the European Union (EU), showered the praise at a national dialogue on the state of human rights promotion and protection in Tanzania, in the past six decades of independence.

"No country can affirm that it has reached maximum compliance with human rights. The most blatant examples



are low recognition of the rights of women and girls the world still demonstrates," he said, noting that during the 16 days of activism (against gender based violence), "the EU heard an announcement that pregnant girls in Tanzania will be admitted back to schools. This is real progress," the envoy declared.

During the 60 years Tanzania has achieved important results like maintaining peace, religious tolerance and providing shelter to refugees, among other achievements, he said, using the platform to comment on the just concluded universal periodic review (UPR) of Tanzania's human rights profile in Geneva.

He said most EU countries fully respect the position of Tanzania but hopes that the dialogue on the remaining issues will

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Govt signs 1.7trn/- accords with 4 mining companies

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now participates as an important partner in the various mining projects, where protection of environment and water sources need to be strengthened further.

She remarked on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) noting that companies have to ensure that what they earn is also shared to the community, commending investors for showing trust and deciding to inject their funds to investments in Tanzania.

The minister underlined that all the minerals including diamond will be processed locally and added value before export. Discussions between the government and Petro Diamonds started mid-2019 where the government's shares stood at 50 percent but dilution (a wider accounting framework) made the shares shrink to 25 percent.

"But with the new agreement with Petra Diamonds, the government will have 37 percent of shares that are undeletable and enables the government to earn well," he said, noting that half Williamson Diamonds Ltd debts that reached \$259m/- by end 2019 were not registered and approved by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), so they will be cancelled.

The government will get 55 percent and Petra Diamonds obtain 45 percent of the benefits, he specified.

Newspaper minibus crash ends nine lives

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regulations, he emphasised.

In September, six people were killed and nine others injured when a minibus veered off the road and overturned in Ruvuma region.

Joseph Konyo, the Ruvuma RPC, said the mini-bus heading to Nyasa district from Dar es Salaam overturned on a steep slope at Kipololo village in Mbinga district. The minibus driver failed to control the speeding vehicle on the steep

Two months ago, the negotiation committee completed the agreements, including the shareholders agreements and operational and benefit framework agreements.

The registration of the joint venture companies of Faru Graphite Corporation and Nyati Mineral Ltd has been completed, he affirmed.

Doto Biteko, the Minister for Minerals, assured people in those areas that their land patches that will be taken to facilitate mining activities will be compensated, making it clear that the ministry will exercise supervision to ensure that the projects bring positive impacts to local communities and the country at large.

The permanent secretary, Prof Simon Msanjila said the event was important as the four mining companies represent huge investment capital. Direct employment is likely to reach 6,000 people and 16 percent of total earnings as dividend to the government when the projects are in operation, he stated.

The government will also receive \$1.2bn from the shares, \$127m as royalties, \$21.8bn as inspection fees, and 6bn/- paid as revenue to the Sengerema district council for instance, he stated.

From the agreement, the government will nominate two board members for each of the mining companies, he added.

slope, he explained.

In August, five officials of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) died in a road accident involving their four wheel drive official car hitting the back of a Fuso truck. The officers were attached to the TRA customs office at Tunduma

Songwe RPC Janneth Magomi confirmed the accident saying it occurred around at 5am along the Mbeya-Tunduma Road at Haseketwa in Mbozi district, Songwe Region.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi addresses the Ethics and Human Rights Day held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that more than half a billion people globally are being pushed into extreme poverty due to the fact that they pay for health costs out of their own pockets.

This is based on new evidence compiled by the health organization and the World Bank. Findings revealed that there is a possibility that the Covid-19 pandemic will bring to a halt decades of global progress towards universal health coverage.

The pandemic disrupted health services, stretching countries' health systems beyond their limits while also triggering the worst economic crisis since the 1930s, making it even more difficult for people to pay for healthcare, WHO said in a recent released statement.

'More than half a billion people pushed into extreme poverty due to healthcare costs'

The WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "All governments must immediately resume and accelerate efforts to ensure every one of their citizens can access health services without fear of the financial consequences."

Tedros advised governments to direct efforts towards strengthening public spending on health and social support, and also increasing focus on primary health care systems that can provide essential care close to home.

He added: "Prior to the pandemic, many countries had made progress. But it was not robust enough. This time we must build health systems that are strong enough to withstand

shocks, such as the next pandemic and stay on course towards universal health coverage."

"Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, almost 1 billion people were spending more than 10 per cent of their household budget on health. Within a constrained fiscal space, governments will have to make tough choices to protect and increase health budgets," said Juan Pablo Uribe, global director for health, nutrition and population, World Bank.

The WHO and World Bank further warns that financial hardship is likely to become more intense as poverty grows, incomes fall, and governments face tighter fiscal constraints.

The World Bank is supporting over 60 low-and-middle income countries, the majority of which are in Africa with the purchase and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines, and is making available \$20 billion in financing for this purpose until the end of 2022, according to the release.

In October 2021, Nigeria received approval from World Bank for a \$400 million credit for Covid-19 vaccine acquisition. The World Bank said the fund is meant to provide upfront financing for safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine acquisition and deployment within the country and that it would be implemented as part of the COVID-19 preparedness and response project.



Director general for the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) Dr Omari Nungu (centre) presents award to secondary students of Dr Salmin Amour who emerged overall winners in the Young Scientists exhibition 2021 which was organised by the Young Scientists Tanzania (YST). The students' project was titled 'the effect of flooding water from Lake Kindai in Singida region. First right is the executive officer for the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF). First left is corporate relations advisor for Shell Exploration and Production Tanzania Limited. Photo: YST.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) has developed draft seed certification standards for different tree crops in a move aimed to improve performance of the agriculture sector in the country.

The tree crops in question involves avocado, coffee, tea, cashew, oil palm, grapes, orange, mangoes, pawpaw, apple and banana.

Speaking during an interview to The Guardian, the Director General (DG) for TOSCI, Patrick Ngwedagi expressed that the developed Draft Seed Certification Standards will first be discussed by the seed stakeholders.

"In mid this month, key stakeholders in the county's seed

TOSCI develops draft seed certification standards for agriculture tree crops

industry are expecting to convene, the professional gathering which, among others, will also discuss the developed tree crops seed/seedlings certification standards draft," he unveiled.

He added that after being confirmed by the stakeholders and agro experts, the standards will be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for final blessings and approval. "This will ensure the farmers involving in the cultivation of the said economic cash tree crops in various regions are supplied with improved seed/seedlings in order

to realize improved performance," Ngwedagi stated.

The seed regulatory organ will work closely with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) to ensure local farmers are in access to enough and improved plant varieties for all vital food and economic cash crops that grown in Tanzania.

With its headquarters based in Morogoro, TOSCI is now recognized internationally since it has been accredited to International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), admitted

to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes on varietal certification, whereby seed produced in Tanzania and certified by TOSCI can now be sold in the country and the excess can be exported to other countries.

TOSCI is responsible for seed field inspection, seed sampling, seed testing, variety evaluation and verification through National Performance Trials (NPT), Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability Tests (DUS) and Control Plot Testing.

EU lauds readmitting pregnant girls in class

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continue positively.

Prof. Chris Peter Maina, from University of Dar es Salaam School of Law, issued an appeal that the government incorporates human rights in the education syllabus from nursery school to higher learning institutions.

He issued this appeal in a presentation on the state of human rights and the role of learning institutions on human rights protection at the dialogue platform, laying out the terms of this need as reaching human rights from the family, nursery to tertiary institutions.

The purpose is to teach children to respect other human beings, thus

introducing a topic on human rights in the syllabus, particularly in Civics shall help, as most students reach college level without exposure to the issues, and by that time they are too grown up to change.

A simplified version of the Constitution with colorful images for children to learn would be equally helpful, the don underlined, in the one day dialogue conducted in Dar es Salaam by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) liaising with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

The session brought together legal and human rights activists, officials of political parties, development partners, leaders of religious communities, retired members of the judiciary and the media.

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coronavirus outbreak. We need to work together as member states to achieve our goals. We will need scientists to come in and help us to deal with some scientific issues, a variety of which arise from climate change," he asserted.

Hatamba Jeremie, chairman of the Lake Tanganyika management committee for Burundi, said there are still many challenges in managing the lake, underlining the need to come up with community level by-laws on how to use the lake resources.

DRC's Director of Environment and Fisheries, Mino Kahozi said although the country possesses a large portion of Lake Tanganyika

(51 percent), illegal fishing is a problem, underscoring the need for the four countries to collaboratively manage communities around Lake Tanganyika, especially as to the use of legal fishing gear.

"We should ban importation of fishing gear if we want to control illegal fishing," he said, noting that currently most fishing gear used around lake shores come from abroad. Riparian countries need to properly implement the laws, he emphasised.

The conference was meant to prepare the agenda for a ministerial meeting set for December 16th, expected to sign the charter for the management of lake sources for social and economic development, officials noted.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Doroth Gwajima (L) listens to Plan International manager Adolf Kaindoa (R) about the institution's operations when the latter visited the pavilion at the launch of national integrated programme in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

Soil destruction rate shock forest experts

THE rate of soil destruction in many farming areas has shocked forest experts from 11 African countries, who assembled to discuss what to do in preserving the resource in order to reduce and fight climate change that has affected mankind.

Speaking recently during the tabling of various issues on climate change, the situation in relative countries, steps taken and the implementation of national and international agreements, the Executive secretary of Africa Forest Forum (AFF) Godwin Kowero said

farmers have found themselves in hard times to develop farming whose consequences will affect everyone.

He said as for now rains come late, and when they come they turn out to be heavy and destructive and since fertile soils are carried from the mountains to rivers, lakes and the seas, the soil left behind is infertile.

"Research done on Lake Victoria showed its floor was covered with plastics, the soil has been destroyed and fertile one has been carried

away to the plains and there was now a big task to restore the soil to become fit for cultivation," he added.

He said Africa was left behind in accessing international forums that make various decisions.

"Africa lacks joint decisions on various issues so that when they go to international forums they should have a unified strategy and speak in one language, but it had been the practice for every country to act alone," he said.

For example, he said, Cuba's representative on environmental

issues has been the same one for over 20 years and has a wide knowledge and knows how to fight for his country's status at various forums, but that is not the same for African countries.

For his part, Instructors of Forests, Environment and Geographical Science from Uganda's Makerere University Dr Michael Mbogga, said African countries need policies that identify scientific works that have proof to assist in fighting climate change.

He said some of policies and laws

Region needs 623,055 tonnes of sunflower to feed 204 oil factories

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

SINGIDA region needs 623,055 tonnes of sunflower per year to cater for the 204 sunflower oil extraction factories in the region to keep them working a year round.

Opening a one-day training seminar on the correct use of fertiliser on sunflower to bring more profits to farmers in Ikungi district, acting agricultural, irrigation and cooperatives development officer Gurisha Msemo said the crop's production level was still small and does not meet the factory demand the region.

He said during the last five years, the highest sunflower production reached 197,873.5 tonnes for the 2018/19 farming season, a shortfall of over 400,000 tonnes, whilst for 2016/17 season the lowest production was 105,9678 tonnes thereby making many extraction factories operate for only three months in the year.

He mentions some of the challenges that contributed to small sunflower production in the last five years as including poor quality seeds, high prices for hybrid seeds, farmers not adhering to better farming practices, climate change, existence of unofficial sunflower market and poor farming equipment.

He said in order to solve these challenges, the District has prepared

strategies for enhancing sunflower production for the 2912/22 farming season that will expand areas under crop's cultivation and to make sure quality seeds are accessed to and used by farmers accordingly.

Other strategies include the procurement of better farming equipment, conducting mobilisation campaign for cultivation of the crop, and strengthen extension services and close follow ups on farmers.

For their part, some farmers who attended the training, including Salum Mohamed Chima said a big number of farmers in Ikungi District use traditional fertiliser fearing industrial fertiliser fattens up the sunflower, the condition that does not yield much sunflower oil.

Nuru Judianne Mtaturu, Ikungi village resident said the training has made her decide to grow sunflower and ready to mobilise others to do so.

For his part, the Managing Director of Tanzania fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) Stephan Ngailio said the government stresses for the cultivation of sunflower and oil palm in Kigoma region is to reduce edible oil imports. Ngailio said the government spends nearly 0.5trn/- every year to import edible oil, hence it insists to reduce that import bill and to mobilise farmers grow more of the two crops for their own economic wellbeing.

contributing factor.

"There was a research done that showed we can have sustainable charcoal making by planting fast growing trees as replacement, and the people told to harvest charcoal in in phases while planting other trees," she added.

For his part, the Instructor of Forests Products Department at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria Dr. Adejoke Akinyele, said the rate of soil destruction was big and that farmers do not see the value of the soil because they do not reap crops and now they go for a few reserved forest areas for their farming activities.

Pemba vanilla crop farmers complain of plummeting prices

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

VANILLA farmers in Pemba have complained of plummeting prices for the crop from 1m/- per kg to 400,000/-.

Speaking here to reporters at the weekend after the workshop on spices farming they said buyers of the crop claim that Covid-19 has contributed to the fall in prices.

Muhammed Ali Mmanga from Daya Mtabwe village in Pemba said before the pandemic they used to sell vanilla at 1m/- per kg but now the price is only 400,000/-, which he said was making them huge losses due to the costs involved in the crop's cultivation.

"I have decided to store the vanilla I have due to the low price," he said, and called for the government to make arrangements to buy the crop that is of high value than cloves.

He said if the government decides to buy the crop and other spices, dealers will stop swindling them by offering their own prices.

He said dry season adversely affect the crop because the crop needs water which becomes a challenge for them in irrigating the crop.

Baraka Masoud Kasezero Tanzania Spices Producers Association (TASPA), said that they were told export tax was high on the vanilla crop as its main market is wholly foreign.

Speaking to editors of various media at Zanzibar state House, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said the government does not set crops' prices, as that depends on the international markets.

"Just recently there were fears on the clove prices due to the pandemic but we are now thankful that its prices at the world market did not drop, but in regard to vanilla, if the prices have fallen, we should find out whether the fall I contributed by the world market or only by the whims of the dealers," he said.

In regard to the fall of vanilla prices, his government will work on the issue to see how the prices at the world market fell. Tanzania cultivates over 50 types of spices including vanilla, cloves, pepper, cardamom, cinnamon and others used in foods and medicines.

In Tanzania, vanilla can be grown in the northwest near Lake Victoria in Kagera Region, North Kilimanjaro and eastern parts of Morogoro. The crop can also be grown in Muheza, Tanga Region, Ukerewe, Mwanza Region as well as Rungwe, Ileje, Kyela and Mbeya Rural in Mbeya Region



I have decided to store the vanilla I have due to the low price



MS TCDC SEEKS GP LEARNING SPECIALISTS - WITH FOCUS ON CLIMATE AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

BACKGROUND

ActionAid Denmark (AADK) together with MS TCDC is on behalf of the ActionAid Federation supporting the federations network of Youth led spaces called the Global Platform through the Global Platform Secretariat. The Global Platform network has over the past years developed as concept in developing youth programming within the ActionAid federation. For the AADK DANIDA Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA II) the overall objective will be to ensure Global Level/Federation ownership to the Global Platform Network to sustain a vibrant and global network of youth-led spaces facilitating for radical embodiment and youth-led change and spread the secretariat function among different stakeholders to ensure the concept is anchored and owned across the AA federation for stronger and better ability to support youth-led change. In the future setup of the GP Secretariat, the functions are therefore gradually divided among AA Federation members, to facilitate a global network anchored in the AA Federation. A primary partner in this will be MS TCDC as well as ActionAid Bangladesh. A GP Advisory Group will support and inform the overall strategic development of the GP concept.

MS TCDC wishes to secure the services of a self-motivated and creative Global Platform Learning Specialist (2 posts)

The two positions open at the MS TCDC will support the tasks and responsibilities related to the Global Platform Secretariat especially when it comes to Learning and impact with increased focus on Climate and Humanitarian action (**please indicate in the application if applying with a special focus on either Humanitarian or Climate action**). The two positions of Learning Specialist will in general support the learning framework implementation and the general GP concept with a strong focus on intersectionality and reaching the most marginalized young people in humanitarian and crisis context. It is furthermore of high importance that the Global Platform network is tied around a common learning approach through peer-learning network and working together through joined global action, networking and digital platforms for transformational youth led change. This includes the cooperation with social movements, alliances and other relevant stakeholders within and beyond the ActionAid federation.

The two positions in the TCDC learning team will be within a GP secretariat unit that is part of a Global Platform Secretariat team constituting the Global Secretariat based in in Denmark and Globally. A major part of the positions will be to jointly provide direct and regular concept and strategic support to the Global Platforms (22+ entities and still counting) on the network development and the DANIDA SPA implementation of the involved AA Partners. This includes supporting the ongoing implementation of the GPs in programming and coordination in country groups and general cooperation around the individual GPs in SPA (15+) as well as on boarding and induction of new GP staff and volunteers around the world. Please see further information here: www.ms.tc/dc/en/home or www.mstcdc.org/tz.

AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Professional focus area: Learning Framework implementation. Time allocation: Percentage: 30%
- Professional focus area: Design, Plan and implement Global gatherings. Time allocation: Percentage: 15%
- Professional focus area: Thematic support Climate /Humanitarian work (state which area in the application). Time allocation: Percentage: 15%
- Professional focus area: PMEL support to the Global Platforms. Time allocation: Percentage: 20%
- Joined Projects between TCDC and GP Network: 20%

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES:

- Experience with the Global Platform Network and hands on experiences from youth empowerment, working with marginalized communities and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB).
- Learning and capacity-support experience and track record.
- Experience and good track record on cooperating and

working together young people and peer-learning methods.

- Excellent planning and organizing competencies especially within youth driven projects.
- Proved PMEL competences and skills related to international development projects and youth work
- Ability to implement GP Learning methodologies and principles to support, coach and mentor GP network to enable young people to develop their own projects and implement youth led projects.
- Excellent negotiation, coordination and facilitation skills - an advantage with experience from coordinating a global project.
- Strategic mind-set and diplomatic in their approach.
- Previous experience from ActionAid and specifically the Global Platform is an advantage.
- Knowledge and understanding around youth programming and feminist intersectional analysis.
- Ability to work independently and with team across different regions and time zones.

KEY PERSONAL QUALITIES (REQUIRED AND/OR DESIRED)

- Essential to have worked in multicultural environments and upholds standards about respect for diversity.
- Essential to have worked professionally with learning design and development
- Strong at networking with partners, volunteers, participants and other stakeholders;
- Organized and structured, keeping the general overview and plan resources and timelines accordingly;
- Able to pass on knowledge, inspire and provide constructive feedback to empower others;
- Work in a diverse environment with people from many cultures and backgrounds.

KEY PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (REQUIRED AND/OR DESIRED)

- Has minimum 5 years of relevant experience supervising a team, preferably in a multicultural context.
- Minimum 5 years of post-graduate work experience and a track-record illustrating ability to create long lasting, high impact and scalable results.
- Expert in youth led methodologies and approaches with practical experience in developing, carrying out and managing alternative learning approaches to youth projects beyond traditional learning systems
- Experience with global activism, social work, cultural projects or civil society or youth-led organizing can be an advantage.
- Experience with developing and managing strong partnerships with/between youth movements and organizations an advantage.
- Experience from ActionAid Global Platforms is an advantage.
- Preferably, experience from a capacity building position.

BASIC TERM OFFERS

- The position is offered under MS TCDC's employment policy with a fixed term contract for three (3) years with the possibility of extension depending on the future programmatic focus and needs of MS TCDC.
- Both positions are based in Arusha, Tanzania, in a dynamic working environment with non-formal atmosphere.
- A basic salary under AADK salary system grade, relocation and education allowance when relevant.
- Housing is provided by MS TCDC on campus.
- Flexible working hours, ensuring a good work/life balance.
- A vibrant work environment with highly committed and professional people.

APPLICATION AND OTHER INFORMATION

Please submit your resume and an application clearly describing your motivation as well as your thoughts about the position to the following email: Jobs@mstcdc.org/tz. The application deadline is on **7th of January, 2022**. Would you like to know more about the position? Please contact us at Jobs@mstcdc.org/tz.



MS TCDC SEEKS TRAINING AND LEARNING MANAGER

Background

MS TCDC is primarily a learning and training institution. Due to the growing need for learning and training services across its partner network, in the year 2022, the institution seeks to step up and diversify its learning ambition and work portfolio. As a result, MS TCDC wishes to secure the services of a self-motivated Training and Learning Manager to lead the institution's learning work portfolio and activities.

The Training and Learning Manager's role will support in the building and managing a Learning Unit that is strong, consolidated and aligned on a shared learning framework - applying different methodologies including digital/technology enhanced and overseeing several strategic roles including learning specialists. Furthermore, this role supports ActionAid Federation work in supporting the federations network of Youth led spaces called the Global Platform through the Global Platform Secretariat.

Training and Learning Manager Core Job roles and responsibilities

- Learning Product Development, Promotion
- Delivering of training in areas of expertise
- Learning Quality and Impact Assurance
- Management, supervision and support to Trainers and Training Consultants/Associates
- Contribute to Partnerships and Business Development efforts
- Knowledge Curation and Management of Internal Learning Processes

Routine activities associated with the Training and Learning Manager job role

Oversee the programmatic and administrative functions of TCDC which include:

- Working with a Global Learning Team, which is strong, consolidated and aligned around a shared learning framework across the Global Platform Network and MS TCDC Learning activities.
- Working trainers to regularly review standard courses, alongside Associate Trainers and other TCDC staff, to ensure TCDC courses are relevant to market needs/demands
- The research and co-development of new and relevant training areas that are demand driven, informed by research and also in alignment with the TCDC and AAI Strategy for the consumption by ActionAid Federation, SPA Countries and other TCDC historical and potential clientele within and outside of Tanzania
- The management (identification, scheduling) and development of a flow process for Face to Face and Online Learning for short courses in collaboration with Course Administrators
- Developing alternative learning methodologies in alignment with the digital age
- Performing administrative function to support Learner experience including overseeing sign-ups, reviewing course feedback and incorporating relevant feedback back into course design with support of Associate Trainers
- The management of short course Associate Trainers (scheduling teaching times, Approve Trainers Learning Design pre Course, quality assuring their teaching materials, monitoring Associate delivery during course instruction, receiving, reviewing and quality assuring reports, approving their final pay)
- Working with Library team and Associate Trainers to update and collate (electronic and hard copy) reading materials relevant for short courses &

support E-Library endeavors where needed

- Coordinating the TCDC overall Learning Committee for effective monitoring and evaluation of TCDC teaching quality and learning delivery and experience
- Be part of the TCDC Research Team to support the output from research activities in updating TCDC's learning products
- Collecting, Studying and Summarizing content feedback from end of course participant feedback session to appropriate Associate and update/reflection into upcoming courses
- Teaching some short and academic courses according to areas of expertise when available and needed

The ideal candidate has the following minimum professional qualities and qualifications

- A Master's Degree in any Social Science field such as Political Science, Development Studies, Education, Economics, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship.
- Evidence of at least five years' experience in facilitating training using participatory adult learning, pedagogy, designing and delivering or facilitating online trainings.
- Demonstrable experience in curriculum development and training evaluation.
- Previous experience in a similar level of leadership position in a training institution or development organization.
- Proven experience in building, coaching, and mentoring a team.
- Knowledge of LMS is a plus.
- Administrative Skills in Microsoft Suite, CRM a plus is a plus.
- Exceptional written and verbal skills in English.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and working in a multinational setting.

Terms and conditions:

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- The position is offered under MS TCDC's employment terms with a fixed term contract of two (2) years with the possibility of extension depending on the future programmatic focus and needs of MS TCDC.
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- Housing is provided on campus in Usa River, Arusha.
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Govt commits to create enabling environment for stakeholders in country's education sector

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reiterated its commitment to create an enabling environment for stakeholders in the education sector to produce more emerging young scientists in the country.

Dr Amos Nungu, the Director of Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) disclosed at the 11th National YST awarding ceremony that was held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

This year's award witnessed Fadhili Shaban and Shufaa Omary, students from Salmin Amour secondary school in Singida region emerging overall winners and awarded trophy, cash (over 1,350,000/- each), medal and university scholarship.

Dr Nungu said the government role was to ensure that it creates an enabling environment for students and their teachers to attract more secondary students to pursue science subjects.

"As government we put in place all friendlier and attractive infrastructure including classrooms, books and enough teachers," he said.

The director said the quality of the projects exhibited was a clear indicator Tanzania has young emerging scientists.

"Indeed, the YST exhibition is a platform to showcase the level of young talents. We shall have policies that can enable young scientists to flourish," he said.

For his part, the YST board chairman Prof Yunus Mgaya said since its inception, the YST exhibition has noted remarkable success.

He said this year's exhibition has extended to all regions in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar isles noting that the project exhibited were clear testimony.

YST executive director, Dr Gozbert Kamugisha said enthusiasm and

interest of students to participate in YST exhibitions has increased.

The founder said due to increased student's interest in participation in scientific research and innovation, YST decided to organize YST regional exhibitions in twenty four regions to widen the opportunity for more schools and students to participate in the YST programme.

He said each regional exhibition selected not less than six science projects to participate in the virtual national exhibition out of 204 projects submitted for the regional exhibition.

According to him, 30 best quality projects were awarded prizes and sixteen best projects were selected to participate in this physical exhibition for top winners of the national exhibition.

Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) representative Carren Rowland said the foundation has supported the causes and organizations that share its values and tradition.

"We believe in long-term and sustainable action to tackle the social challenges facing the country and its communities", she said.

Rowland said up to date the foundation had offered university scholarships to over 27 students who won the YST.

The senior social performance advisor from Shell Tanzania, Msomisi Mbenna said the company will continue supporting the exhibition to ensure the scientific innovations in the country play a role in addressing economic challenges.

"We have been pleased to support the YST project since 2013- helping to improve science in secondary schools. We are thrilled to have had the opportunity to support the exhibition as one of the main sponsors," he said.

Over the years, Shell Tanzania has seen an increase in the number of students participating in the YST exhibitions.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements & Development deputy minister Dr. Angeline Mabula looks at one of the cupboards at the National House Corporation project at Morocco Square yesterday. Left is NHC director general Dr. Maulid Banyani. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Ileje

ILEJE District Council has started the construction of a secondary school in Mbebe Ward as a step towards ensuring that all students selected to join secondary education begin their studies next month.

The central government has pumped in 80m /-, for the construction of four classrooms.

Songwe Regional Commissioner Omary Mgumba said this during an inspection of the school building and urged the public to continue using their manpower to save money and use it to build other classrooms.

Mgumba said the 80m/- is part of the 1.3trn/- relief package provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stimulate the economy in

Ileje builds secondary school to contain all Form I students

sectors that have been most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the money will be used to build four classrooms with the aim of reducing the 14 km distance students walk to Mbebe Secondary School.

"Once the school starts providing services it will make Mbebe ward have two secondary schools so every student who passed their Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) in Shinji and Mtima villages will get secondary education especially girls who were dropping out of school due

to long distances to and from schools," RC Mgumba said.

Ileje District education officer (in charge of secondary schools) Grolia Kang'oma said students in Shinji and Mtima villages are currently walking 14 km to and from Mbebe Secondary School, "but from next year this will be a story of the past following construction of this new school in Shinji village."

Village chairman, Ally Osia Kalinga commended the government's move to build the secondary school in his village and pledged to encourage villagers to continue providing

their manpower where needed as well as donating locally available construction materials such as stones, sand, bricks, and gravel.

Some of Shinji villagers, Sophia Panja and Lingson Kalenge said the government's vision to build a secondary school in the village had removed a major hurdle that students had to travel 14 kilometers to attend Mbebe Secondary School where during the rainy season the people were suffering.

"We'll devote our energies to ensure they get a secondary school in this village," said Sophia.

Samia to grace Tahossa forum in Dar tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is tomorrow expected to grace the 16th meeting of secondary schools head teachers in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania heads of secondary schools association (TAHOSSA) secretary general, Titus Jumanne said the meeting will be attended by 5,000 teachers from across the country.

It will bring on board heads of schools to exchange ideas, experience, success, challenges and how they can implement different government policies and directives.

He said during the meeting there will be prize giving to schools, teachers and students who did extraordinary in academic performances.

The meeting will create a platform for participants to extensively discuss different achievements made by the government including building of thousands of new classrooms all over the country.

He also lauded the government for availing billions of shillings to build girls secondary schools in ten regions of Tanzania mainland.

According to him, the government did a tremendous job to ensure that the academic performances from primary to secondary school rise and many students are enrolled from primary to secondary schools.

"This is good time to celebrate achievement we have made in education. To commemorate the 60th years of independence our President is expected to meet head teachers from across the country and speak to them her vision in education," said Jumanne.

"This meeting is great opportunity to head teachers to seat to gather and discuss their well being and on how to tackle their challenges as a move to embrace education sector," said Jumanne.

"The six phase government has also directed the construction of 1,000 new secondary schools in the wards which has no secondary school all over the country," said Jumanne.

TAHOSSA is a professional organisation comprising about 500 members drawn from private secondary schools across Tanzania. It's a professional body committed to engaging all stakeholders in the education sector in the provision of quality education and establishment of participatory governance systems in secondary schools.

RC to graduates: Be job creators, not seekers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel has called upon graduates from the country's various colleges to be creative in seeking opportunities that would enable them to employ themselves and create jobs for others.

RC Gabriel made the remarks here at the weekend during the 47th graduation of the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) Mwanza campus whereby 461 students graduated.

He said the government has no capacity to employ every graduate, instead it stresses in having in place a good learning environment as capital to enable graduates hence, he said it was important to have strategies for them to access the job and production markets.

He said there are many employment opportunities in the country if they are robustly equipped with entrepreneurship to face employment challenges.

He advised the country's colleges to develop efforts in identifying market needs and changes being made to the financial, banking, insurance, and social security sectors as well as to the technology aimed at assisting graduates to have the ability to employ themselves.

For his part, IFM Principal, Dr Immanuel Mnzava said the Institute was established by Act No 3 of 1972, which spelt out three basic responsibilities - training, research and professional consultancy.

He said in the 2020/2021 Academic Year the Institute enrolled a total of 14,395 students, 951 of who were for the Mwanza Campus, 101 for Dodoma Campus and 107 Simiyu Campus, an increase of 1,830 students compared to the 12,565 enrolled for the 2019/20 Academic Year.

He said since the establishment of training at the Institute's Mwanza campus in 2013/2014 a total 2,809 students have been enrolled on that year, 96 at Diploma level, out of who 74 graduated.

"Currently, the campus provides courses at the levels of Advanced Diploma, Diploma, Degree and Master Degree in Insurance, taxation, Banking, accountancy, Information Technology, Social security, Investment and Computer Science," he said.

For his part, the Chairman of the Institute's Board, Prof Emmanuel Mjema urged graduates that their graduation should not be the end of learning, every graduate should build up the culture of learning every day to develop the minds to acquire more knowledge in their respective fields.



Tigo north-coast region manager Robert Kaluswa (L) presents motorbike ignition key to the winner Ezra Mwaikambo after he imaged the runner up at the Wagiftishe promotion in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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BID INVITATION

Supply of two hard-top SUV 4WD vehicles in Arusha

Rikolto in East Africa is part of the Rikolto network, an international NGO with more than 40 years of experience in partnering with farmer organisations and food chain actors across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Rikolto aims to contribute to the development of a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive agricultural sector with family farmers providing quality produce for own consumption and for diverse markets. In Tanzania, we have offices in Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya and Mpanda.

Rikolto in East Africa is now inviting bidders to submit applications to supply two hard-top SUV 4WD vehicles for our European Union funded project promoting horticulture in Tanzania's Southern Highlands. The vehicles should be fit for long field trips on challenging roads. The invitation to bid and its terms and conditions are available via:

<https://eastafrica.rikolto.org/en/tender-vehicle-s-tanzania>

Please submit your bids by 20 December 2021 (4pm) following the guidelines in the invitation to bid. Only shortlisted bids will be contacted.



The Government's Internal Auditor General, Athumani Mbuttuka, makes a presentation at a meeting held in Arusha city yesterday on the role of internal auditors in supervising public financial systems and promoting good governance and accountability. Photo: Finance ministry

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

NCA-Tanzania transforms lives of communities in Kilosa district

MOROGORO Diocese Anglican Church in collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid in Tanzania (NCA-Tanzania) has managed to transform rural communities on Kilosa district to fully involve themselves in economic projects in their areas for poverty alleviation.

The project dubbed "Pima Kadi ya Jamii" has already scored achievements following the participation of the members of the community in the education sector by ensuring that the entire aid provided solved the challenge over shortage of school desks at Mandela primary school at Magole Ward in Kilosa district.

Speaking about the project, Anglican Church Project Officer,

Pius Ng'irwa, said the aim is to change the attitude of dependency by uniting forces to solve challenges facing the area.

He said the five-year project will cost 129m/- per year and will enable to empower the communities to be accountable in the social services provided in their areas through "Pima Kadi ya Jamii."

He said through the project, Mandela villagers in Magole Ward discovered that many students at the school were sitting on the floor, hence they begun working on that

challenge.

For his part the projects coordinator for Kilosa and Mvomero districts, Boni Mathayo said in 2000 in Mandela village, residents saw that all projects were being funded by the government; hence, they were not participating in them.

He said among the challenges was shortage of school desks at the school, and the villagers knew that it was the government's responsibility to provide the desks.

"After seeing that we decided to sit together with the villagers to make

them see the importance for them to participate in the issue for their own benefits," said Mathayo.

Magole ward executive officer Agnes David said in the past the villagers were difficult to convince to participate in various development activities, including the shortage of school desks.

Earlier, the head teacher of Mandela primary school Thomas Mpima said the school was being faced with the shortage of desks for 226 students, but through the "Pima Kadi ya Jamii" project, they have already received 60 desks.

By Correspondent Sabato

Kasika

KMC challenged to come up with gender-focused budget

KINONDONI Municipal Council in Dar es Salaam has been advised to come up with a gender-focused budget with strategic needs that would facilitate the country's socio-economic development.

The budget should also reflect the community's economic, intellectual, leadership and empowerment of women and men and provide them with credit opportunities for access to resources.

The facilitator of the one-day training on the importance of gender, Jovita Mlay from the Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) said that the training was provided to the heads of various departments of the Kinondoni municipality, so that their next budget would focus on gender, hence benefit women, who he claimed were left behind.

"As you prepare your next budget, consider a gender perspective that is in line with strategic needs and that facilitates the development journey that everyone should have," said Jovita.

She explained that, during the preparation of the budget, women, and men are invited to identify opportunities and barriers to development from the village and ward level, while income and expenditure reports are read and posted on the bulletin board.

"The number of women participating in budget preparation meetings should reach 30 percent, and that

woman's issues get a chance to be included in the budget," she said.

Kinondoni Municipality's Planning Officer Febronia Luyagaza said they are implementing the budget according to government priorities, and that as the situation allows, they will continue to focus on the gender wing budget.

"But we are also grateful for this training, as it is very important, and we have received it and will work on it, but our budget system is the same, that we follow government-directed priorities,"

said Luyagaza.

The municipal head of the education department, Theresia Kyara, advised the TGNP to expand its activities and go to events and provide education, to help the government fight misconduct within the community.

"I suggest that this training does not end with us, but that the TGNP should look at the possibility of expanding our activities, instead of convening such training. Try to go even where you find it difficult to educate," said Kyara.



RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for the following position in Tanzania:

Project Manager: will be responsible for managing and delivering all aspects of the project 'A National Conversation', which will focus on a range of issues including good governance, climate change and gender equality. Building off previous phases of A National Conversation, the project manager will be expected to deliver high quality project results, in particular ensuring the project has the maximum possible impact on partners and audiences.

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Please only apply if you meet the basic criteria under the person specification which can be downloaded at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaction/jobs/project-manager-tanzania-jan-2022/>

Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) which outlines their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: recruitment@tz.bbcmaction.org with the title of the position applied for in the subject line by **5pm on 02nd January 2022**. Please do not send certificates or other attachments. Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. These are local posts applicable to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people.

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<p>Scissor lift</p> <p>Major Technical Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2720Kg payload • 3,6m raised deck height • 2,13m x 3,66m deck size • 2,24m Vertical travel • 3 point contact from deck to ground level • Optional hydraulic deck shifting forward or sideways. <p>Engine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercedes 904 Engine • Power rate 110Kw • Four cylinder, four stroke electronically controlled. • Turbo charged/ air to air charged cooled • Mesabi radiator and cooling package <p>Transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 speed full power shift, close coupled to the engine and transmission • 3 speeds forward and reverse • Electric shift control <p>Axles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity 12000Kg • Oscillation on power end axle +/-10° • Hydraulic applied internal wet brakes • Internal emergency and park brakes • Limited slip differential • Outboard planetary gears • Fixed mounting on application – end axle <p>Exhaust system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purifier and muffler assembly • Insulation blankets on exposed components • Emission test port <p>Electrical system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master disconnect with lock out feature 24V • Alternator 24V & 100A • Reverse light 2 • Headlights 2 • Strobe light • Stainless steel enclose <p>Dimensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dimension (LxWxH)(mm) 7690x2130x2490 <p>Rideability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top speed (km/h) 15km/h • Inside turning radius 5.49 • Outside turning radius 7.87 <p>Hydraulic System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed central Hydraulic circuit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piston pump 110L/min • Pressure 3000psi • Return filter 10 micron <p>Brakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent front/rear hydraulic operated service brakes • Spring applied, hydraulic released emergency/park brakes • Automatic brake application (ABA) with manual reset <p>Driver and Passenger compartment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Side entry away from articulation joint • Driver at the centre seated facing outward • Passenger on the side, seated facing forward • Stick steering controls • Anti-slip dimple plate on all steps surfaces <p>Frame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy duty plate with modular tear down capability • Dual steering cylinders • Heavy duty front and rear bumpers with towing capability • Articulation lock bar <p>Key documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and detailed Quotations • Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc. • A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018; • Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required; • Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner <p>Submission of Quotes</p> <p>Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com. The reference "Maclean Scissor Lift SL2 Canopy - BUL-RFQ-21-12-03" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.</p> <p>NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement</p> <p>Key Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last date to submit quotes 20 Dec 2021 <p style="text-align: right;">Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited</p>
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Two NGOs join forces in campaign against child abuse in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

TWO Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that defend children's rights have joined efforts in a campaign against all acts of child sexual abuse in Shinyanga region, including child pregnancies and marriages.

The NGOs - Shinyanga based Agape and Global Network of Religion for Children (GNRC) Tanzania based in Dar es Salaam.

This was disclosed here at the weekend by GNRC Director Joyce Mdachi at their workshop with religious leaders, parents, gender desk, Ward officials, community development officers from Shinyanga Municipality, aimed at discussing and planning strategies against child abuse.

She said after learning about Agape activities in fighting children's rights in Shinyanga Region, including the issue of child marriages and pregnancies, they saw it fit to come to the region to join forces with the institution to eradicate children's sexual abuse.

"Hence, we saw it better to meet with other stakeholders in the campaign, aimed at laying down strategic plans for sustainable campaign to enable our children live safely," Mdachi said.

She added: "GNRC expectations is to exchange views and concepts on traditions that contribute to these acts against children, changes to policy and laws to protect the girls and alternative investment opportunities for parents instead

of depending on bride prices after marrying off their girls."

For his part, Agape Director, John Myola said acts of child abuse in Shinyanga Region still exist hence stakeholders, including religious leaders, other NGOs and the community in general are supposed to join forces in raising their voices to eradicate the vice.

Some of workshop participants including Sheikh Hamisi Nkingo said the community is supposed to change and stop sexual abuse to children, the acts he said were mostly being committed by close relatives.

Statistics provided by Shinyanga Region Community Development Officer, Lydia Kwisigabo say from January to December this year a total of 2,510 children were subjected to abuse, including sexual abuse.



Hence, we saw it better to meet with other stakeholders in the campaign, aimed at laying down strategic plans for sustainable campaign to enable our children live safely

Babati DED calls for more education on women to curtail illegal wildlife trade

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN are said to be among the important tools in addressing illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and consumption of its resources, but only if they are well educated.

Babati District Council Executive Director (DED), Anna Mbogo made the remarks yesterday during the official opening of journalists' sensitisation workshop for changing community behaviours at the Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor, connecting Lake Manyara biosphere reserve and Tarangire National Park.

The workshop and field trip aims to enhance journalists' understanding of illegal wildlife trade in changing community behaviours concerning illegal wildlife consumption has been organized by TRAFFIC, a leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Traffic works with governments and agencies on finding solutions to reduce unsustainable exploitation and illegal trade of wildlife.

She explained that women become victims of illegal wildlife trade which is mostly done by their partners and recipients of illegal meet.

"It is only through education will help and empower them to address such illegal activities, we need to convince them to refuse to receive illegal meet for consumption; this will discourage their husbands from continuing with illegal hunting," she said.

Mbogo added that education on wildlife conservation will also help people surrounding wildlife management areas to have knowledge of what activities to engage with for protection of wildlife.

Earlier in her introduction remarks, Jane Shuma, Behaviours Change Manager with TRAFFIC East Africa Office, said the workshop and said field trip aims to enhance journalists' understanding of illegal wildlife trade in changing community behaviours concerning

illegal wildlife consumption.

Early next year TRAFFIC is expecting to begin implementing behaviours change initiatives at the Kwakuchinja wildlife corridor. The initiatives are supported by the USAID CONNECT project which is being implemented by three organizations namely, International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN, World Wild Fund for nature (WWF) and TRAFFIC.

TRAFFIC foresees that continuous community awareness and education through various communication mechanisms and channels will eventually contribute to change of behaviours that will result in the responsible consumption of wildlife resources and protection of threatened species by the community.

Executive Director of Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), John Chikomo said that they are now implementing a five-year conservation project to address the dynamics that threaten wildlife movement and the long-term preservation of biodiversity in Tanzania.



It is only through education will help and empower them to address such illegal activities, we need to convince them to refuse to receive illegal meet for consumption; this will discourage their husbands from continuing with illegal hunting



Ubembe primary school board member in Muheza district, Tanga region John Mvaa addresses parents about video kiosks ban during the night. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

THE government has been called upon to take stern measures against perpetrators of 'chagulaga mayo', a traditional custom where young girls are picked in the street without their consent.

The harmful tradition custom violates the fundamental principles of human rights, denying children's rights to education while at the same time embracing child marriage.

A human rights defender from Katavi in Tanzania made the call in Dar es Salaam at a one day dialogue on the State of Human Rights Promotion and Protection in Tanzania during the 60 years of

Govt urged to keep an eye on harmful traditional practices

independence.

The harmful tradition custom normally entails young girls who should be at school.

The practice, according to the activist, is prevalent in Katavi, Rukwa and Morogoro.

Gender activists blame the traditional custom to the Marriage Act of 1971 where its section 13(1) allows marriage to a girl child of 15 years.

During the dialogue, gender activists wondered why the infamous law had not been amended despite the ruling by the Court of Appeal stressing on the need to review the age of marriage for a girl child to 18.

In an immediate rejoinder, Nkasori Sarakikya who is the Director of Human Rights Division (MoCLA) said the government had sent the Bill on the infamous Act

to the Parliament for amendment where the House had called upon the latter to send it for public opinion. According to her, the Ministry sat with religious leaders and CSOs, for consultations.

THRDC in collaboration with the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs conducted the Dialogue on the State of Human Rights Promotion and Protection within the 60 years of Independence.



Chairman of Hai district council in Kilimanjaro region, Edmund Rutaraka addresses residents on the water project planned to be implemented to increase water availability in Hai district yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Godfrey Mushi

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Polish government says it will continue working together with Tanzania to ensure people with skin disabilities access to training to enable them employ themselves.

The comments were made here at the weekend by the country director of Adventist development and relief agency (ADRA) Dr Piotr Nouacki a training seminar organised by the Small Industries development Organisation (SIDO).

Dr Nouacki said a total of USD 87,000 (240m/-) has been provided by Polish Aid and ADRA Poland for enhancing skills and entrepreneurial training to people with albinism in Morogoro and Dodoma regions.

Opening the training seminar,

Poland vows to assist people with albinism in Tanzania receive entrepreneurial training

he said the governments of Poland and Tanzania will continue working together to make sure people with disabilities receive training to enable them employ themselves for income generation.

He also called on training participants to make sure the knowledge gained should bring benefits for their development taking into consideration that the two countries have been enjoying good relations for a long time.

For his part, Acting SIDO Manager for Dodoma Region Justine

Kahemela said the training will enable them see how they can help their own selves.

"There is an interpretation in the streets saying people with skin disabilities cannot do any work, but the truth is they can, we are giving them practical training to enable them become entrepreneurs," he added.

Project Manager, Aidan Herry said the 240m/- project is on trial basis and its life span can be increased.

He said it will be implemented in five districts of Dodoma Region -

Chamwino, Kongwa, Mpwapwa and Kondoa and in Morogoro Region it will be implemented in two districts, and added that the main instructors will come from SIDO.

Dodoma City Community Development Officer Edward Rwantungano said the plan was a good step in making sure people with disabilities acquire skills to fend for themselves.

One of the training beneficiaries, Vaileth Mushi said the project will enable them employ themselves through entrepreneurship.



Master's degree graduates of Centre for foreign relations in maintaining peace and conflict resolution and diplomatic relations management hold their certificates at the graduation held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

New push for market buildings to have special room for breastfeeding mothers

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo has suggested the need for the country's market buildings to have special rooms for breastfeeding mothers.

Prof Mkumbo made the suggestions in Dar es Salaam last week when speaking at the function to mark the 16 Days of Activism, which was organised by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).

He said the move is part of the government's efforts to create a friendly environment for women doing business in the country's markets.

Most of the markets have no special room for breastfeeding

mothers, something which is unfair for them and their children taking into account that the under-five kids spend a lot of time with their mothers in those market outlets.

The minister said most of the small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs) in the country are done by women and identified that 90 percent of the earnings of their businesses are used to provide for services in the family.

"Research shows that women use their money for buying foods, paying school fees, rent, and other needs in the family. Ministry has also noted that business activities done by women were more likely to grow

compared to men," Prof. Mkumbo said.

"In the country 60 to 80 percent of the country's small business owners are women. That is why the government through our president is at the forefront of fighting against gender-based violence."

Sweden International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) programme manager, Nasieku Kisambu said the Scandinavian nation will continue to support the support Tanzanian government in the fight against GBV and adhere to equality, human rights and democracy.

Canadian High Commission's Senior Director of International Cooperation, Helen Fytche also said that the existence of gender equality enables women to reduce poverty and strengthen the economy of families as well as the country.

TGNP Executive Director Lilian Liundi said that this year's theme is 'End Gender-Based Violence Now' while the global theme is 'Orange the world: End violence against women now' and it's part of implementing the Five-year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC 2017/18 - 2021/22).

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union (AU) Commission on Sunday called for supporting African initiatives in the manufacture of essential medicines and vaccines beyond COVID-19 as this is key to global health security.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the 55-member pan-African bloc, made the remarks at the Vaccines and Global Health Security Session of the Group of Seven Foreign and Development Ministerial meeting, according to an AU statement.

Mahamat stressed that the availability of vaccines against COVID-19 and the virus' different variants is vital for Africa and the rest of the world.

Regarding the delivery of vaccines, the

AU chairperson calls for support for vaccine, medicine manufacture in Africa

AU Commission chairperson pointed out that Africa has seen disproportionate delays, in comparison with the rest of the world, when it came to vaccines ordered from the market and those pledged under COVAX, the global vaccine equity mechanism.

"Only seven percent of Africans have been vaccinated, compared to 70 percent of people around the world," Mahamat said.

According to the AU Commission chief, when the COVID-19 pandemic started, Africa requested to have the same access

to vaccines at the same price when they became available.

"Two years later, we witnessed that these assurances of global solidarity were ignored," Mahamat said.

He further questioned the global community's commitment and solidarity with Africa, regarding which he singled out the recent treatment of Southern African countries in connection with the Omicron variant.

"Now more than ever, the world must honor its commitments with urgency. Vaccine nationalism is self-defeating

and suicidal in a global pandemic," said Mahamat.

Noting that the African continent with a population of 1.3 billion accounts for about 14 percent of the world's population, but produces less than 0.1 percent of global vaccines, he emphasized the need to enable Africa's capabilities.

In April this year, the AU launched the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing, which aimed at ensuring timely access to vaccines to protect public health security.

Increase coverage on children rights issues - scribes told

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Dodoma

JOURNALISTS in the country have been urged to increase coverage and reporting on issues which touch and promote children rights as well as bring impact on early childhood development.

The call was made late last week by the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Mwanaidi Ali Hamis when addressing journalists under the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) attending a three-day training here on orientation of the National Multi-sectoral Early Childhood Development Programme (NM-ECDP) and 'Mtoto Kwanza! (A child, the first priority) project.

She said media practitioners can contribute immensely to proper development of children, if they invest heavily in positive children reporting.

She said: "As a nation, we have to solve the challenges affecting the domains of children growth which are health, early learning, adequate nutrition, responsive caregiving, and security and safety."

She pointed out that Tanzania is one of the countries with a high number of children with malnutrition. The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (NFNC) in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics 2018, revealed that over 2,600,000 children under the age of five in 11 regions had stunted.

She mentioned the leading regions are Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Kigoma, Mara, Dodoma and Geita. Other regions are Tanga, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Morogoro and Tabora.

The deputy minister wished all

stakeholders solve the riddle as to why regions rich in food availability are affected by stunting.

More than 270 children under five lost lives from poor nutrition, 40 percent occurred in the first month after birth.

"I am glad you have been writing stories about children, and I hope you will continue writing to arrest the situation," the deputy minister said.

Another area the deputy minister insisted was about responsive caregiving, which is not taken seriously by lactating mothers, but mothers have to respond to their babies who at that time are unable to speak, but give the messages through signals.

Abubakar Karsan, UTPC Director said UTPC has more than 1600 journalists and is committed to see professionalism is adhered to.

The project is implemented by Children in Crossfire (CiC) Tanzania in collaboration with TECDEN and UTPC.

I am glad you have been writing stories about children, and I hope you will continue writing to arrest the situation

Dar residents now issue advice to govt how to deal with petty traders

By Anaeli Mbise

A CROSS-section of Dar es Salaam residents have suggested the need for the government to look for populated areas for relocation of petty traders—commonly known as 'Machingas' for them to find customers easily.

The government resolved to remove Machingas who were conducting their businesses along streets, pavements, canals, road reserves as well as in front of government schools, shops, buildings and government institutions.

In separate interviews they said that town planners should create an enabling environment by allocating the markets at places that can be reached easier.

Sabatho Nyamsenda from the University of Dar es Salaam said: "It is unfortunate that some Machingas lost their properties in the relocation exercise; the government should look for places where they can have customers. The government should also look at how to reallocate people with disabilities because the group has been left behind."

According to him, town planners should start thinking of allocating market places a few meters from the main roads to allow petty traders to conduct their businesses comfortably.

Dr Abunuwasi Mwami from Morogoro Jordan University College, (Department of Social Sciences) suggested for the government to relocate petty traders in a manner that would not affect their businesses because they depend on them for a living.

He said there should be a level playing field between small, medium and big traders whereas they should all be given chances to do business.




Chairperson of small trader's community in Kivukoni Dar es Salaam, Catherine Bundala said the re-arranging of their businesses is commendable, calling upon authorities to choose nice places in accordance with the type of business they are doing.

"Let's say, I am selling tomatoes; if you take me to the fifth floor at the Machinga Complex I would hardly sell the products because there are many people selling the same product at the ground floor," said Bundala.

Christopher Kidiga, chairperson of Gongolamboto small traders association said the designated market areas are not available, but already city authorities are ordering them to relocate to the new places.

Relocation of petty traders in Dar es Salaam and other major cities followed President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive to regional authorities across the country that they should immediately start allocating areas for Machingas.

President Hassan's directive was based on the fact that the presence of informal businesses amidst traders who pay tax and rent had for many years been a major concern in the business community because it creates unfair competition.

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Regional geopolitics must not dominate Iran's nuclear deal talks

FORMER US President Donald Trump used to engage the United Nations (UN) to punish Iran with sanctions for violating an agreement to limit its nuclear programme – a deal from which the United States withdrew two years ago.

The push set up a new confrontation at the Security Council, where European allies vehemently resisted the so-called snapback sanctions in a last-ditch attempt to hold together the fraying 2015 accord.

What followed was unclear, even though certain is the continual wrangling among the western allies while exposing the feeble foundations on which the United Nations was built as a world peace broker.

But now, with Trump out of the White House, the international stage is being reset, painfully though, to virtually reverse his administration punitive sanctions against the Middle East nation.

Just last week efforts to revive the nuclear deal were hauled back from the brink of collapse as Tehran revised its stance after pressure from Russia and China and clear warnings that the EU and the US were preparing to walk away.

The cautiously optimistic assessment came at the start of the seventh round of talks on the future of the nuclear deal in Vienna.

It follows what was seen as a disastrous set of talks a week previously in which the US and the EU claimed Iran had walked back on compromises reached in previous rounds.

But what seems odd about the entire Iran nuclear issue, and many other issues threatening the world's peace is the United Nations (UN) itself, it appears to be helpless while the super powers hold sway in many decisions.

Let it not be forgotten that the global nuclear watchdog, the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a UN organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purposes, including nuclear weapons.

From its purposes, it is quickly clear that it has not lived to what it stands for due to the existence of many countries, including major powers that already own nuclear arms, even though the watchword here is that some irresponsible nations can be making such nuclear weapons, Iran being one of them.

But Iran's nuclear programme is under IAEA supervision since mid-70s, perhaps not so close in recent years, but North Korea is not. But suffice to say that the uproar over the Iran nuclear deal is always dominated by the region's geopolitics.

We should not forget that the United Nations rose out of the ashes of the world's most devastating, brutal conflict to have affected humankind – the Second World War (that also saw the use of nuclear weapons for the first time) and was meant to avert similar future conflicts.

It has never succeeded in that because the machinery that oversees peace – its Security Council – is controlled by big powers who, as a matter of course, consider their own interests foremost.

To ensure a peaceful future in the world the UN has to agree to reforms that would give other nations more say in decision making over issues of war and peace.

But each time the subject is brought up to the world body for discussion, big powers resist vehemently.

The result of that is now discernible, a few super powers wrestling one nation over its nuclear programme simply because they have own vested interests, rather than wide global interests in the maintenance of world peace.

Universal Health Care coverage hard to bring to reality even for richer countries

HEALTH sector activists locally and elsewhere mark the International Day for Universal Health Care each December 12, a day that was decided on 12 December 2012 when the United Nations General Assembly endorsed a resolution urging countries to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage. The idea is that everyone, everywhere should have access to quality, affordable health care as an aspect of human rights and dignity, while it is also an essential parameter of values underlining international development cooperation. Marking the day started on 12 December 2017, with the UN proclaiming 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day.

While the importance of universal health coverage is globally expressed, it is up to each country to put to effect its contents, in which case the International Universal Health Coverage Day aims to raise awareness on the importance of this issue. The reason is that assuring each person access to sufficient basic medicine for the commonest of ills often comes behind other priorities. No country can be ordered as to what should be its priorities, so a worldwide movement, or a day of commemoration, helps to build a moral and intellectual consensus on this goal, enabling key public authorities to convince stakeholders on the issue.

UN chroniclers express the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage with multi-stakeholder partners, a point that is reiterated in marking the universal day. Yet it is clear that advocates raise their voices

to share the stories of the millions of people desperately in need of health care, but there are too many mitigating factors that make this goal mainly out of reach for most countries. Owing to the difficulties, concerned authorities have tried different ways to ensure that health care reaches everyone, and these have shown varying levels of effectiveness.

During the fifth phase government for instance, measures were taken to eliminate middlemen importing medical drugs from foreign manufacturers, and distributing such drugs to hospitals and health centres all over the country, apart from pharmacies.

This undeniably helped to cut down the cost of drugs, and with rising digital operations it is more feasible for ministerial authorities to satisfy themselves with what is going on. But it is important to remember that this occurred because of a wider battle against frauds in government expenditure as a whole, something that needed intense political will.

A week before the day was being marked internationally, President Samia Suluhu Hassan laid out more elaborate plans and prospects for making universal health care a reality.

Yet it will not be easy to reach what UN experts say it is having in authority health champions to make bigger and smarter investments in health. Nor is it easy to encourage diverse groups to make commitments to help move the world closer to universal health care by 2030, especially as there is a huge pandemic that is gobbling up resources and penalising health systems worldwide. The usual start is universal basic drugs handed freely.

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By Andres Constantin

Is WHO pandemic treaty set to fail?

THE adoption of a 'pandemic treaty' could mitigate harm next time we are hit by disease but only with reforms to the international legal system

In May this year, my parents received their first shot of the Russian Sputnik COVID-19 vaccine, the only one available at the time in Argentina. They were supposed to get their second jab in three months, as per the health authorities' guidelines. That day never came.

In those three months, other vaccines made by Western companies had become available. However, because of Argentina's vaccine strategy and a desire to prioritize the use of the Russian vaccine for diplomatic and political reasons, Argentinians were made to wait longer, putting them at greater risk of becoming sick due to COVID-19.

A lot of time has been spent discussing how wealthy countries engage in vaccine nationalism, abusing their economic power over poorer countries that need vaccines. But one aspect of the debate has not received the attention it deserves: vaccine diplomacy or, in other words, what happens when countries put their geopolitical goals ahead of their own citizens' well-being?

To ensure governments protect their citizens' health, the World Health Organization, academic groups, and international experts have begun to consider the adoption of a Pandemic Treaty to mitigate the harm of the next pandemic. Unfortunately, any pandemic treaty will be insufficient unless it seeks to rearrange the incentives that drive the international

legal system.

Back in March 2021, several heads of states, the WHO Executive Director and the President of the European Council called for the adoption of an international treaty to prevent and respond to future health crises. Surprisingly, in what represents a historic action, 194 countries passed a World Health Assembly resolution to host a special session to discuss such idea. The hopes are that this new international treaty would help support efforts to reinforce global health security, in light of mistakes made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And mistakes were made, not least thanks to vaccine diplomacy. While most countries are still struggling to get vaccines for their people some, like Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, or Zimbabwe, have rejected vaccine donations, or resisted buying a particular vaccine, to favor geopolitical interests over public health. With the Delta variant spreading through the world, and the threat of new variants looming on the horizon, countries are now starting to grasp the full consequences of their political decisions.

For example, in Argentina alone there were more than 400,000 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 8,000 deaths in the three-month period that the country waited for the second component of the Sputnik vaccine supply to arrive and before deciding to allow the mixing of vaccines.

Three months after my parents received the first dose of the Sputnik vaccine, with COVID-19 cases rising and despite political promises no second dose of Sputnik in sight, the

Argentinian government relented and recommended the use of other vaccines. My parents were finally able to get a second dose – this time from Moderna.

This was a great relief to me and to many Argentinians. It was also the cause of unnecessary stress.

Governments have a clear duty to protect the health and lives of their citizens from infectious diseases, like COVID-19. It is simply immoral and may even be illegal when countries are unwilling to do so. In fact, conversations about holding government leaders accountable for downplaying or ignoring proven approaches to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic are already on their way. Last month, a Brazilian congressional panel recommended charging President Jair Bolsonaro for crimes against humanity over his government's response to the pandemic.

The truth is, however, that in such circumstances the current international legal framework provides no answer. In fact, national governments are in principle entitled by virtue of their sovereignty to refuse assistance from abroad. This is why any discussion around the adoption of a new Pandemic Treaty must consider the intrinsic vulnerabilities of the international legal system and assess whether more profound changes are needed. Otherwise, the adoption of a Pandemic Treaty will fall short of its promises. The COVID-19 pandemic should serve as an awakening to recognize the flaws of the existing international legal framework.

To be sure, fixing the international

legal framework to deal with these problems won't be easy. An international pandemic treaty could pave the way, but challenges will remain. Especially, when it comes to implementation and enforcement. Even if governments reach an agreement, anticipating possible future contingencies that may increase or reduce the benefits of treaty compliance may prove to be a difficult task. But it is a critical starting point.

Vaccine diplomacy has been one of the main obstacles to effectively controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. The current international law framework is insufficient to deal with governments that put geopolitical interests first in the midst of a global pandemic.

But change is possible. Out of the ashes of World War II, the international community joined efforts to bring the world together and rethink the international system. COVID-19 provides a new opportunity to address these issues. Let's not waste it. We need bolder leadership not just to mask new problems with old solutions but to seize this opportunity to overhaul the international legal framework to effectively deal with situations where pervasive geopolitical incentives take precedence over people's health. Unless we do it, a Pandemic Treaty will be set to fail.

Andrés Constantin is a global health lawyer and advocate from Argentina, currently working on legal and policy issues relating to health at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

We should make it much easier for people to start and stay on HIV treatment

By Marcus Low

FOR some years now, our top-line conclusions when looking at South Africa's HIV statistics have been reasonably consistent. We are doing well at testing people, and if people who are living with HIV start and stay on treatment, they mostly stay healthy and the virus is suppressed to undetectable levels in their bodies. The problem is that many people who test positive either never start treatment or start but then stop.

So, the top priority in our HIV programme should be to make it as easy as possible for people to start and stay on treatment.

Yet, as a number of excellent provincial reports released this year by community healthcare monitoring group Ritshidze have shown, there are many healthcare system factors that work directly against this objective.

Maybe the most serious of these factors are the shortages of healthcare workers identified by facility managers and people who use the public healthcare system across the

country. Shortages of healthcare workers contribute to long queues, poorer quality of care, and in some cases, unprofessional staff attitudes. In short, they make healthcare facilities less welcoming.

Part of the longer-term solution must be to plan properly to train, employ, and retain sufficient numbers of healthcare workers. We have a decent human resources for health strategy in place, but there is little sign so far that government is committed to implementing it.

But more healthcare workers are only part of the solution, and not one we can wait for. Luckily, there are a number of other things we can do in the meantime.

Most of them come down to treating people according to their needs, which is commonly referred to as differentiated care. Someone who is depressed and struggling to stay on HIV treatment will require a lot of counselling support and regular contact with a healthcare worker, while someone who has been stable on treatment for years and is otherwise healthy should be left to get

on with their lives and only asked to come in for the occasional check-up. Fully recognising these differences will both suit users of the public healthcare system and help allocate limited resources where they are most needed.

What does this mean in practice?

First, we should do more work to identify the people in most need of support, for example, by better integrating mental health screening into HIV care and making sure our referral systems are working. We should then focus counselling and other resources on these people while making the process of treatment and monitoring as seamless as possible for those who just want to get their pills and get on with their lives.

Second, we should give people who are stable on treatment a six-month supply of ARVs rather than just a month or two. This is both more convenient for people on treatment and it reduces the load on healthcare facilities or medicines pick-up points.

Third, we should add more external pick-up points to government's medicines distribution system,

CCMDD (Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution). The CCMDD system is arguably one of government's most significant health successes of the last half a decade or so, but people too often still have to collect their medicines at clinics. Even better than adding pickup points would be to give people the option to have their ARVs delivered to their homes.

Fourth, where we can safely and responsibly shift tasks away from overworked clinic staff we should do so – after all, the clearest signal from the Ritshidze reports is that many clinics do not have the staff to cope with what they are asked to do. Initiatives such as PIMART – which allows pharmacists to prescribe ARVs for HIV prevention and treatment – should be scaled up as quickly as can be done responsibly. Apart from lifting some of the load on clinics, PIMART also offers a way to get treatment to people who refuse to go to clinics. Of course, as tasks are shifted away from clinics, it is essential that people get referred back into more active care when needed.

Low is the editor of Spotlight.

Sudan's transitional stability hangs in balance over lack of public trust in civil-military governance

By Maram Mahdi

SUDAN'S 25 October coup was a miscalculation on the part of the military. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved the government and the Sovereignty Council, suspended the Constitutional Charter of 2019 and imposed a nationwide state of emergency in an effort to ease tensions between political parties. This move received global condemnation.

On 21 November, after a month of mass demonstrations, the military reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, reversing the coup with the signing of a new transitional agreement.

Despite this accord, protests have continued rejecting the military's role in governing Sudan. Protesters are refusing an all too familiar civil-military political arrangement. Without a support base to legitimise and give credibility to this agreement, there is widespread concern and speculation about its durability and how it will be implemented.

It's not surprising that while the international community heralds this new agreement as a celebration, Sudanese remain doubtful. They see it as a way of legitimising the coup.

From the start, there was limited consultative engagement with Sudanese civil society and grassroots movements to determine the objectives of the mediation. There was no sense of legitimacy or even transparency regarding the mediation efforts from all parties involved. Hence it was a political agreement devoid of domestic buy-in or support.

The African Union, United Nations (UN) and United States, as the most visible mediating actors, had a primary objective of restoring the civilian-military partnership. Mediating actors had repeatedly called for a return to the

status quo ante, yet Sudanese protesters strongly rejected the military's role under the slogan "No negotiation, No partnership, No compromise". It soon became evident that the international community was tone-deaf in its attempt to mediate the political deadlock.

Before 25 October, it was apparent that the 'Sudanese model' of a shared civilian-military governing body was flawed and that there were inherent cleavages and directly competing interests. The coup took place just a month before the military was meant to hand over chairmanship of the transitional ruling council to the civilians.

Now that the agreement has been signed, there are serious concerns around its implementation as confrontations between civilians and state security actors arise with grassroots movements planning weekly demonstrations. There is a high level of awareness, especially among Sudanese youth, of the transitional challenges that created governance vacuums allowing the military to justify seizing control. This awareness is leading to an absolute refusal to accept the military as legitimate partners in this transition to democratic rule.

However, the challenge is that implementing any of the objectives of the transitional period and those included in the transitional roadmap, such as security sector reform, stabilising the economy and judicial reforms, requires consensus from all actors, civilian and military alike.

Whatever semblance of trust existed that the military were only custodians of the transition was shattered with the coup. Burhan's constitution of a sovereign council on 11 November was further proof that there was no intent to hand over power



Sudanese people protest against the military coup in Khartoum, Sudan, 21 November 2021.

and cede the military's grip on politics. Recent reminders offer no guarantees that the military will commit to this accord.

The most significant point of contention when it comes to moving forward with this transitional agreement centres on calls for justice and accountability. Arguably, the previous transitional government's biggest shortcoming centred on investigation and prosecution of the 3 June massacre. Similarly, the crackdown on protesters since the coup – resulting in the deaths of over 40 protesters – will continue to shape Sudanese politics for the rest of the transitional period.

There has been some effort to respond to calls for accountability. Hamdok fired the director-general of the police and his deputy, Khaled Mahdi Ibrahim El-Emam and Ali Ibrahim, over the crackdowns of the past month. This may be a first step towards accounting for the recent excessive use of force against civilians.

The reinstated prime minister has also sought to

reverse the appointments of previous regime veterans in key institutions and ministries made during the military coup. Hamdok has halted the firing of civil servants and called for a review of all appointments made during that period.

This is an important step to ensure that control of key institutions doesn't reside with members of Omar al-Bashir's disbanded National Congress Party. Although some initial steps have been taken to alleviate instability, greater flexibility is urgently needed from all actors to lift the current political deadlock.

For Hamdok, weakening the military's governance role by constituting a technocratic government and cabinet devoid of anyone linked to the previous regime or military is a crucial step. Yet it's a challenging task where the same political elite has controlled the space for decades.

Overall, all actors need to be more flexible while engaging and negotiating the fine print of the transitional agreement. A more pragmatic effort is required from the Forces of Freedom and Change, the

Sudanese Professional Association and political parties to negotiate the concessions to be made.

Simultaneously, for those leading the civilian demonstrations, a first step would be to identify and choose mediators at domestic, regional and international levels who clearly understand their objectives and won't compromise the mediation effort.

Lastly, resolving this political deadlock is not a tripartite affair between Hamdok, Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemediti), leader of the Rapid Support Forces. International and regional actors need to continue mediating the crisis keeping in mind the primary objective – how best to manage and improve civil-military relations in a country with six decades of military rule.

DM

China-Laos Railway a road of friendship that leads to prosperity

By Jiang Zaidong

A transport artery carrying the development dreams of the Laotian people and the friendship between China and Laos has come true, as the China-Laos Railway officially started operation on Dec. 3.

Laos is a friendly neighbor of China, as well as the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. As a mountainous country, Laos has only 3.5 kilometers of rail tracks, which has confined the country's economic development.

To break the transport bottleneck and realize the country's dreams of development, Laos has implemented a national strategy to convert itself from a landlocked country to a land-linked hub and is actively aligning this strategy with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

As a signature project of the co-construction of the BRI and one that demonstrates the China-Laos friendship, the China-Laos Railway connects Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province, with the Laotian capital, Vientiane, and commenced in December 2016.

Leaders of both countries contributed to the construction of the railway. Chinese President Xi Jinping called for efforts to ensure the smooth progress in building the China-Laos Railway and expand the radiation and demonstration effects of major projects such as the China-Laos railway. He has charted the course and provided a fundamental principle for the construction of the railway.

The two countries have established "fast tracks" for personnel exchanges and "green passages" for goods transportation to ensure the construction of the railway amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The railway winds along terrains with complicated topographical and geological conditions. Sixty-two percent of the main tracks in Laos are paved on bridges and in tunnels. There are 10 tunnels stretching over five kilometers and 32 bridges with a span of more than



Aerial photo shows an electric multiple unit (EMU) train of the China-Laos Railway crossing a major bridge over the Yuanjiang River in southwest China's Yunnan Province, Dec. 3, 2021. Xinhua

500 meters. Besides, the railway crosses the Mekong River twice. The constructors from China and Laos have overcome difficulties and finished the railway with high standards and quality, making the railway ready to be operational. The opening of the railway has triggered broad attention across Laos. The recent delivery of the Lancang bullet train, the streamlined "China-standard" electric multiple unit train for the China-Laos Railway, made headlines in the country, and the news

flooded Laotian social media. Members of the Laotian National Assembly posted photos of them experiencing the train on social media to show their support.

Meanwhile, the shortened traveling time between Kunming and Vientiane is also a hot topic on the Chinese internet, and the railway has ended the history when there was no rail track entering Xishuangbanna, a famous tourist destination in Yunnan.

The China-Laos Railway not only connects the two countries,

but also reinforces the bond between the two peoples. It is a carrier of and mirrors the China-Laos community with a shared future. In addition, the railway is also a road leading to development. It will better help China and Laos coordinate connectivity and capacity and investment cooperation, and advance the building of the China-Laos Economic Corridor. The two countries can make greater contributions to the high-quality construction of the BRI.

The huge impetus injected

by the China-Laos Railway into regional connectivity and cooperation has drawn great attention from surrounding countries. For instance, the Thai Embassy in Laos has enquired about the schedule of the rail line, hoping to expand transport volume from Thailand to China and lower transport costs.

The China-Laos Railway is not only a key project of China-Laos cooperation, but also a key hub of the regional transport network. To make full use of its ra-

diation and demonstration effects, all parties concerned will start working on connecting the China-Laos Railway to the Laos-Thailand Railway, so as to further connect the networks of the Singapore-Malaysia railway and the China-Europe Railway Express.

We believe that the China-Laos Railway is able to turn Laos from a landlocked country into a transport hub and make the country an accelerator for regional connectivity and a new engine driving economic cooperation. The railway will pave a road of development for Laos and other regional countries.

(Jiang Zaidong is the Chinese Ambassador to Laos.)

Rising suicides shine spotlight on Malawi's mental health burden

LILONGWE

WHEN a former deputy speaker of Parliament shot himself dead within the National Assembly buildings in Lilongwe in September 2021, it shook Malawi. It also turned attention to the mental health burden in the country.

Experts say that a sharp rise in suicide cases has become the most visible expression of the burden of mental health challenges in Malawi.

"There's depression, stress and many other silent forms of disorders. More often, we act quickly on a mentally challenged person because he is causing havoc," says Harry Kawiya, a psychiatric clinical officer at the Zomba Mental Hospital, Malawi's only referral mental health facility and one of the two specialised institutions in the country. "But the rising of cases of suicides recently tells us the severity of the mental health problem among us, which we are not adequately addressing."

National police records show that suicide cases have increased drastically in Malawi over the past three years. For instance, between January and March 2021, the country registered 76 suicides - an increase of nearly 50 percent over the same period last year.

One police station in Lilongwe registers an average of six cases every month, the station's spokesperson, Foster Benjamin, tells IPS.

"This is a steep rise, and it's worrying," he says. "The reasons [why people are committing suicide] range from family disagreements to financial troubles. In almost all the cases, those that kill themselves are men."

The former deputy speaker, Clement Chiwaya, 50, left a suicide note detailing frustrations with sorting out benefits, including an official vehicle which he had bought, as the reason.

In a village just outside Lilongwe, a man hanged himself around last year due to debts related to his small-scale tobacco farm.

His wife, Christina Makwecha, says she lost her 43-year-old husband in October 2020 after the tobacco marketing season had just closed.

"We made heavy losses such that we could not pay some of the debts for labourers and the inputs we got from agro-dealers," says Makwecha, a mother of four children.

One evening on her return from a village savings group meeting in the area, she found the man hanging in a tree in a field not too far from their home.

"It was then that I remembered that for almost two weeks before the incident, he had become increasingly restless, unusually angry and started skipping meals," she says.

While the country is registering a rising number of suicides, many Malawians lack the awareness of mental health disorders that lead to people killing themselves, says Dr Charles Masulani, Chief Executive Officer of the St John of God Hospital Services Ltd, a Catholic Church mental health hospital in Malawi.

"Just as people would know where to go when they have malaria because there is a lot of knowledge about malaria, we do not know about mental health disorders in Malawi. So, people tend to struggle within themselves without seeking help from counsellors, faith leaders or therapists, or any other who would offer help," Masulani says.

Records at the hospital show that it registered 7,671 mental



There is a critical shortage of qualified healthcare staff in Malawi to deal with the growing mental health burden in the country. Credit: Charles Mpaka

health patient consultations last year - including 4,142 men and 3,529 women.

The mental health disorders diagnosed included anxiety, bipolar disorder, psychosis, dementia, delusional disorder, depression, delirium, epilepsy, hypomania, antisocial personality disorder, learning disability and schizophrenia.

Experts say that the COVID-19 impact on businesses has worsened the high prevalence of mental health disorders in Malawi, and the government's response has been falling short.

In 2017, the Office of Ombudsman investigation found glaring deficiencies in mental health management in the public health system.

It faulted the government for failing to fund district health offices adequately for them to be able to handle patients before sending them to the referral hospital.

The Ombudsman also blamed the Ministry of Health for the persistent acute shortage of psychiatric staff, which compromised the quality of care for patients with mental disorders.

The inquiry established, for instance, that in two districts in the central region, the mental healthcare worker to population ratio ranged between 1:80,840 and 1:558,470.

According to the report, the problem of staff shortage starts with how the training for doctors in Malawi is designed.

"Whilst the undergraduates are exposed to the different aspects of the medical profession including psychiatry, during the internship psychiatry is completely shunned thereby further depriving [the system of] additional and potential psychi-

atric staff," reads the report.

The investigation further exposed inefficiencies in the procurement of psychotropic drugs for patients with mental disorders, leading to their unavailability most of the time.

Four years after the investigation, these challenges remain.

During the commemoration of World Mental Health Day in October, Dr Michael Udedi, a mental health expert in the Ministry of Health, admitted the critical shortage of specialised personnel in the public health system.

He said while the country does have some mental health clinicians and nurses in almost every district hospital of the country, there is only one psychiatrist based at Zomba Mental Hospital and no psychologist in public hospitals.

He also disclosed that in May this year, the Ministry of Health advertised vacancies to recruit psychologists; there was no response. In addition, there is no dedicated budget for mental health, Udedi told IPS in an interview last week.

"Therefore, it is not easy to track the funding for mental health per se," he says.

He, however, says the ministry does disburse some funding to the referral hospital. He also says it falls on district health offices to dedicate part of their funding from treasury towards mental health activities such as drug procurement.

In her report, the Ombudsman attributed the apparent lack of attention to mental health as a primary healthcare problem to a weak and old legislative framework.

The treatment of patients with mental disorders is catered

for in the Mental Health Act passed in 1948 - when Malawi was still under British colonial rule.

"This law is out of touch with the current trends in mental health service delivery," reads the report. In 2000, Malawi developed its first National Mental Health Policy. But this too has had no significant impact on mental health service delivery. The policy has, thus, been under review.

Now the government hopes that the challenges in the sector will be addressed once a bill, currently being drafted, is tabled, and passed in Parliament, possibly in February next year.

The Mental Health Bill has a provision for ring-fenced mental health funding. According to Udedi, this is key to addressing most of the challenges in mental health.

"This will see to it that mental health is adequately funded. This would have an implication on human resources for mental health, that's including support in training," he says.

But Udedi also challenges communities to play their part in raising awareness, minimising stigma and discrimination towards people with mental health problems and linking such people with service providers for assistance. **IPS**

CPJ's census on jailed journalists reveals distressing 'Intolerance of Independent Journalism'

NEW YORK

GOVERNMENTS are determined to control information and are prepared to imprison journalists to achieve this mission, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said following the release of their annual global census tracking journalists who were imprisoned and killed in 2021.

For the sixth year in a row, the census reported record numbers of incarcerated journalists. The census accounts for journalists held in government custody and remain imprisoned because of their work.

This year set a new global record with 293 journalists imprisoned as of December 1, 2021. Twenty-four journalists were killed during dangerous assignments, like reporting from conflict zones, in protests turned deadly, or in retaliation for their work.

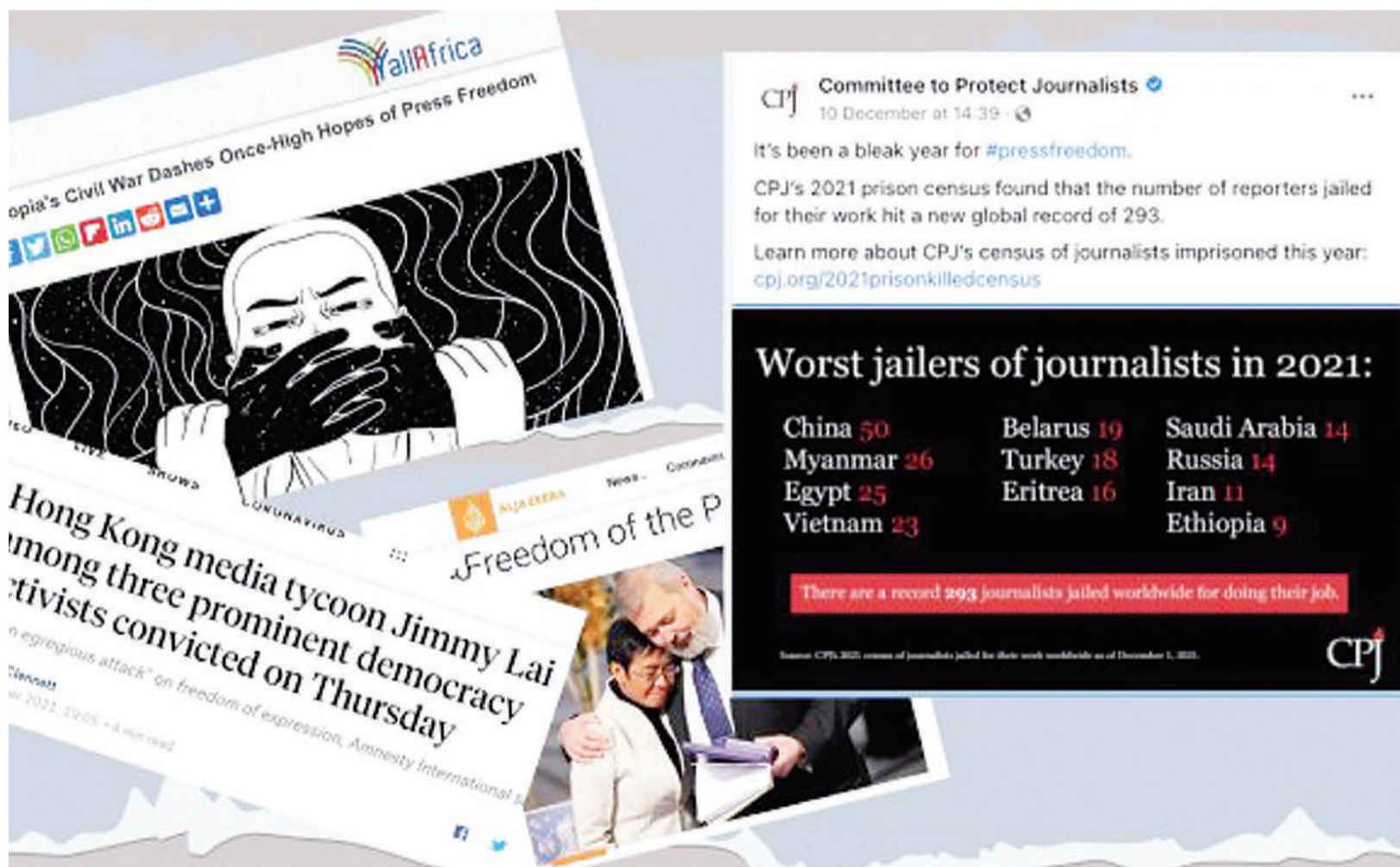
What these numbers suggest, said CPJ Executive Director Joel Simon is that "governments are determined to control and manage information, and they are increasingly brazen in their efforts to do so."

Along with the census, a special report from CPJ Editorial Director Arlene Getz, explained the trends.

Across different regions, many factors contributed to the common and "increasing intolerance of independent journalism".

Government authorities, particularly in autocratic leaderships, have bolstered their efforts to silence dissent and criticism, which in turn has stifled press freedom in those regions.

Through the implementation of legal rulings and policies, journalists not only face the threat of imprisonment with alarming alacrity, but authorities manipulate legislation to extend their sentences or



CPJ's annual report gives alarming figures of journalists jailed for doing their jobs.

keep them in police custody.

Technological and legal policies to increase online surveillance impacted journalists' ability to share stories online because they face the increasing risk of censorship and retaliation.

The report also says journalists now face diverse tactics to censor them through increased surveillance, internet shutdowns and legal rulings.

The special report reveals that at least 17 journalists were charged with cybercrimes, which could

result in criminal prosecution for news reported and distributed online. The CPJ census lists the countries with confirmed cases of jailed journalists.

This year, China topped the census list, with 50 journalists imprisoned.

This year marks the first time Hong Kong has been included in the census. Eleven journalists from Hong Kong-based news agencies were detained under mounting tensions from the pro-democracy protests and the implementation of

the National Security Law in 2020.

Following China, Myanmar has risen in this year's census in the wake of the military coup on February 2021 and the crackdown on media outlets with 26 jailed journalists.

However, the report suggests that this number may be much higher, and the situation is graver than reported. Several journalists have either fled the country in exile or gone into hiding. The deeper concern is that this crackdown on independent reporting will return

to the harsh media censorship of previous military regimes.

Ethiopia has become the second-worst jailer of journalists in 2021 after Eritrea in sub-Saharan Africa. Many journalists have been arrested in the wake of the civil war in Ethiopia, between the federal government and armed forces from the Tigray People's Liberation Front, with nine journalists still in custody.

Though they ranked lower than the top ten countries in the census list, the rapid decline in media free-

dom still comes as a shock because past reports indicated greater freedom than under the current government.

The report says that further investigations into these cases and those in other countries with confirmed imprisonments and deaths show a startling and disturbing attitude toward press freedom.

What the CPJ report reveals, that for all the international community's calls for action to improve press freedom and protection for journalists, for all the public outcry when cases are made public, the countries which are most demonstrably guilty of suppressing press freedom have done little to address impunity or to change their tactics.

They are resorting to increasingly violent, intrusive, and invasive tactics to impede freedom of expression with a greater frequency. Even in the United States, 56 journalists were arrested or detained this year, primarily during protests.

The findings in the CPJ report reflects the continued tensions between governing authorities and the media. Without the media to hold them accountable, some governments will continue to act with impunity, sending the message of the lack of regard for freedom of expression if it threatens their power.

There is little hope that the number of jailed journalists will not be topped in the next year as long as countries act with impunity.

The CPJ will not give up its efforts to safeguard journalists.

In 2021, their advocacy contributed to the early release of over 100 journalists worldwide. In addition, they have recently launched a People's tribunal to address impunity in journalist killings, which will rely on investigations and legal analysis to provide a framework for justice and accountability. **IPS**

TASAF beneficiaries appeal for more fund

By Felister Peter

BENEFICIARIES of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) have appealed for business capital to further grow their businesses to be able to stand alone and meet their daily family demands.

They are concerned that the money they receive from TASAF has helped them to start small businesses, but with the capital, they will be able to expand their small enterprises.

Speaking recently during the editor's tour in Kilimanjaro Region, one of the beneficiaries, Antusa Uchau (38) from Okaseni village in Uru South ward in Moshi District Council said that TASAF has helped to improve their lives as they can now eat three meals a day, and purchase requirement for school children.

Antusa started to benefit with TASAF funds in July 2015 whereas at first she received 52,000/-, of which she spent for her children's school requirement, food and initiated a poultry business with 15 chicks that she bought for 20,000/-.

Antusa said after six months, she sold all the chicken for 20,000/- each and collected 300,000/- in total.

With the money from poultry business and small loans from Village Community Bank (VICOPA), Antusa started a small business whereas she was selling banana to major supplier at a nearby market

"The profit I got from my business enabled me to increase my saving at VICOPA where I was saving 10,000/- every week. After

a few months I got a 400,000/- loan which I used to improve my business and started to build a house. I was to complete construction of the house in the coming months, but my business was somehow affected with the outbreak of COVID-19," she said.

Antusa added: "I have also lost some major customers in town because of the on-going exercise to relocate petty traders commonly known as 'Machingas'. It is now difficult for me to take bananas to the new market due to transport challenges."

"I would comfortable to stand alone without TASAF after four years' I am asking for further financial support to boost my capital," said Antusa

Another beneficiary, Lioba Mushi (35), a mother of three, said that before TASAF was introduced in Okaseni village, Uru South ward, they were eating once a day. She is thankful to the government through TASAF because the first money she received (60,000/-) served as a capital for her avocado business.

Lioba said the business has been growing thus enabling her to construct a modern toilet, started a goat rearing project and be able to purchase enough food for the family.

"I am thankful to TASAF for the assistance, my situation was worse because I couldn't even buy milk for my new-born. Today, I can meet all the family needs and do savings of between 2,000/- and 5,000/- per week," said Lioba.

"With the support from TASAF and profits accumulated from



One of TASAF beneficiary Lioba Mushi

avocado business; I managed to renovate my house, purchased two sheep and built a modern toilet," she said, adding

She appealed for continued support from TASAF for at least four months to be able to stand alone without the funding.

Uru South Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Severin Mende said there are 520 poor households in Okaseni village that are benefit-

ing with financial support from TASAF.

Mende commended the organization for supporting the villagers because before the program was introduced, most of the villagers were surviving on one meal a day.

"Since the introduction of this program in our ward, most of the families can afford three meals a day; we have a number of peo-

ple who have wisely used the money to start businesses which have expanded, enabling them to build better houses," said Mende.

He added: "We also have over 80 primary and secondary school students who are directly benefiting from TASAF."

Mende said that, to ensure proper use of the money, the village government has been

conducting meetings to educate beneficiaries on how they can use the fund to uplift their living standards.

The government is implementing the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) Project through TASAF targeting to improve the lives of vulnerable families and to bring social services closer to the people.

EU awards token of appreciation to stakeholders in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV)

By Correspondent James Kandoya

EUROPEAN Union (EU) has awarded a token of appreciation to stakeholders in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) to recognise their contribution saying the fight against it belongs to everyone.

Speaking at the awarding ceremony held in Dar es Salaam during the weekend, EU ambassador Manfredo Fant said the

world was at a crossroads in the fight against gender-based violence and that all nations should unite in this struggle.

The awards were presented in Dar es Salaam and witnessed by stakeholders from organisations, the private sector, anti-violence stakeholders and various ambassadors representing their countries.

"This struggle is not just for Tanzania but for the whole world, we must all unite together

to ensure gender-based violence is significantly reduced," he said.

During the ceremony, ambassador Fant had the opportunity to present the award to one of the winners of the second prize awards director of Bahati Fimale Band for their work in composing and singing songs to educate the community and protest.

For her part, Cecile Frobert, head of development coopera-

tion and cultural arts at the embassy, spoke on the charitable charity against gender based violence which was accompanied by the presentation of various awards to individuals and institutions involved in their contribution to ending gender-based violence in the country.

Participants in the festival sang community songs against sexual violence and received awards.

Joyce Kiyango, one of the re-

ipients of the awards said that all was due to her creativity that enabled them to bear fruits hence completely eliminating the problem of absenteeism.

"I'm very happy to receive the award. This is something that I grew up doing to make the kids love the lessons. However, I didn't expect it to make me recognised," she said.

Literature has revealed that the major root cause of gender based violence in Tanzania are

discrimination perpetuated by customs, cultural and traditional settings that place women and the girl child at a lower level of social relations.

It base on psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, forced marriages, sexual violence, including rape, female genital mutilation, forced abortion and sterilization and sexual harassment.

Victims of violence can suffer sexual and reproductive health

consequences, including forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic.

It can be solved by funding women's full participation in civil society, scaling the efforts for addressing unequal gender power relations, providing GBV clinical services in lower-level health facilities, addressing the needs of child survivors and developing practical guidance for building whole systems.

Climate change to affect fish catch in the continent, says AU

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union (AU) is warning that fish caught in major water bodies in the continent could decline sharply in the coming days due to climate change.

According to the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), rising temperatures in the oceans had adverse effects on the ecosystem of the water bodies.

This came as it emerged that the continent was yet to fully reap from the blue economy which is expected to hit the US-D500B mark by 2030.

This emerged during the inception meeting on conserving the aquatic biodiversity in the African blue economy which is being held in Lake Naivasha Resort.

According to AU-IBAR programme manager Dr Clement Adjorlolo, oceans were becoming warmer by the day, a move

that was adversely affecting various species.

He noted that this had been worsened by the rising levels of the water bodies due to the massive melting of ice and high tides all caused by climate change.

"As the water temperatures rise, this has forced some species to relocate and this will have negative implications on the fish catch in the coming days," he said.

Adjorlolo added that the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources was working with stakeholders to make sure the potential of the blue economy was fully tapped.

"The blue economy has high potential in terms of tourism and aquatic resources and is keen to support member countries to tap this," he said.

On his part, Mohammed Seisay a senior fisheries officer in AU-IBAR said that the current challenges facing the aquatic bodies were human-made.



He pointed to environmental degradation, carbon emissions and pollution as some of the challenges that were contributing to climate change and a drop in fish catch.

Seisay noted that AU-IBAR was working on various mitigation measures to respond to climate change which had adversely affected various fish species.

"As the fish species relocate to the deep sea, this has forced fishermen to use more fuel to get a better catch, further worsening the situation," he said.

He at the same lauded cage-fishing as one way of increasing fish catch but he was quick to warn that the system should be well utilized for maximum yield.

The acting-director AU-IBAR Dr Nick Nkwakpa said that they were keen to develop the capacity of member countries as one of fully reaping from the blue economy.

"We have developed a framework on improving the blue economy and we have moved to implement it as we believe that many people can benefit from the opportunities offered," he said.

By Special Correspondent

Africa CDC: Nations might turn to the COVID-19 vaccine mandates

AFRICAN governments might have to resort to COVID-19 vaccine mandates if their citizens don't hurry to get the increasingly available doses, the director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention John Nkengasong has said.

The warning by Nkengasong to reporters that governments "will not have a choice" came as the flow of doses to Africa's

54 countries grows but vaccine hesitancy – and the short shelf life of some donations – create new pressures to get them into the arms of the continent's 1.3 billion people.

"We don't need to get there if we just do the right thing," Nkengasong said of vaccine mandates. He called any lack of interest in vaccine uptake "extremely unfortunate" after African officials have fought for

months against dramatic vaccine inequality between their nations and richer ones around the world. Africa remains the world's least vaccinated continent against COVID-19, with less than 8% of the continent's population fully jabbed.

Now the rapidly spreading omicron variant, first identified in southern Africa and now reported in 11 African countries, is driving a sharp increase in

COVID-19 cases on the continent. New cases in the past week surged by 93%, the World Health Organization said, though "there are signs of hope as preliminary data indicates that hospitalizations across South Africa remain low" and the new variant might cause less severe illness.

Only six African countries have met the global target of vaccinating 40% of their popu-

lations against COVID-19 by the end of this year, and "this is simply dangerous and untenable," a WHO immunization official, Richard Mihigo, told reporters on Thursday.

Some countries including Zimbabwe and Ghana have turned to vaccine mandates for public employees and others, not without objections. Kenya's plan to require COVID-19 vaccinations for access to govern-

ment services starting later this month has brought criticism.

African nations have procured 431 million vaccine doses so far and administered 245 million, the Africa CDC's Nkengasong said, adding that "you can't even talk of a booster when you have people who haven't received their first dose." The African continent is now receiving around 20 million vaccine doses a week, an

encouraging trend, the WHO's Mihigo said, "but it is very important that these donations come with shelf life" instead of a rapidly looming expiration date. Some countries, unable to distribute them in time, have handed back doses or destroyed them.

Mihigo also warned of "potential diversion" of vaccines by richer countries seeking to administer additional, booster doses to their own citizens, including children.

Democracy and its digital discontents under the microscope at Biden summit

By Peter Fabricius

A DECADE ago, during the Arab Spring, social media helped topple dictators. Now digital technology has been thoroughly co-opted by autocrats and is mostly used to destabilise elections and spy on political opponents.

The world's democracies resolved to take steps to recover their lost digital space from those authoritarian governments, at US President Joe Biden's virtual Summit for Democracy last week.

More than 100 leaders of global democracies participated in the summit, most of whom expressed concern about the retreat of democracy across the world.

Africa was represented by Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari, Senegal's Macky Sall, Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta, Zambia's Hakainde Hichilema, Namibia's Hage Geingob and Malawi's Lazarus Chakwera, among others.

President Cyril Ramaphosa declined his invitation, possibly missing an opportunity to hear how others viewed the global state of democracy and to offer South Africa's vision on what should be done to preserve and advance it.

China had dismissed the summit as a "farce" – probably because Taiwan had been invited – and other sceptics had said it was presumptuous of the US to present itself as a global champion of democracy.

But the two-day summit did present a revealing picture of democracy around the world and agreed on measures to address its deficits. Biden said he would host a second summit in a year's time, to assess

progress of these measures.

Political leaders, as well as leaders of civil society, unions, business and academia pondered a range of threats to democracy, including growing authoritarianism, particularly by means of digital technology; corruption; attacks on democratic institutions such as elections, the rule of law and freedom of expression; and the loss of confidence in democracies because of their failure to deliver public services.

Samantha Power, administrator of the US's international development agency, USAID, chaired a discussion on one dominant theme: "Countering Digital Authoritarianism and Affirming Democratic Values".

She noted that 10 years ago, social media had been a cause for celebration because it had helped bring down dictators in the Arab Spring.

The internet was then seen as fostering openness and transparency. Access to information and the ability for people to connect in their own societies across borders "would shake authoritarian regimes to their core and accelerate progress toward democracy".

"Today, it seems the opposite has happened," Power said. Digital technology had contributed to democratic recession in the world by governments' ability to monitor, censor and repress their people as never before. "Authoritarians learnt that Big Data, social media control the internet, and artificial intelligence could make them even more powerful."

Meanwhile, tech companies, too, often favoured profit over principle, and many democratic governments, including the US, "stood by as digi-



US President Joe Biden

tal repression spread around the globe".

Egils Levits, the president of the Baltic state of Latvia – a country "on the frontlines of the fight against many digital threats", (read Russia) as Thomas Carothers, senior vice-president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, put it – said all democracies were facing the weaponisation of the information space against their societies, "the manipulation of our hearts and minds".

Levits, a former judge in the European Court, said Latvia had proposed several measures to counter such threats, including the establishment in 2014 of the Nato StratCom Centre in Riga, one of the world's leading institutions of research on disinformation.

Levits also noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had been a "digital exam" for all countries and Latvia had "passed the exam". The Latvian government and public sector had

worked fully remotely during the pandemic and were still doing so.

Lawmakers had adopted and signed laws from a distance, fully digitally. Schools had worked remotely and daily communication between the citizen and the state had not been interrupted. The state had also launched a mass programme to increase digital literacy and had committed to giving every pupil and teacher a laptop.

It had also provided every citizen with a digital identity, supplied unlimited internet for everyone, and established a one-stop digital shop for most public services.

"In short, to build back democracies, we need modern, digital and trustworthy public services that will restore trust in our public institutions," he said.

Taiwan's digital minister, Audrey Tang, noted that Taiwan was on the frontlines of the global struggle against authoritarianism – presumably a reference to its tensions with China, which does not recognise it as a separate state and has threatened to take it by force if it formally declares its independence.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, democracy had retreated in many countries as authoritarian regimes used lockdowns to justify human rights violations in the name of public health and the greater good, Tang said.

"Taiwan combated the pandemic with no lockdowns and the infodemic with no take-downs." The government used innovative digital measures such as SMS-based contact tracking to avoid lockdowns.

The US and its allies would take greater responsibility for the digital tools they exported, ensuring they were not used to abuse human rights, through a new Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative, which included the US, Denmark, Norway and Australia.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen noted that digital technology had created opportunities for democracy as well as challenges, including repression and censorship to stifle free speech and democratic expression.

She said digital social media companies had to be held responsible for what was put on their platforms and must remove damaging content – as some were already doing.

Microsoft President Brad Smith said technology had been a great enabler of democracy. But it had been weaponised by some, including through the intentional dissemination of disinformation, domestically and by foreign nation states.

He said there were only two ways to hold societies together: by sustaining truth, or by force.

"But you can't sustain trust if you can't sustain truth," he added. "And in the tech sector, this is one of the big challenges we need to look at. We need to recognise that our business models and architecture and algorithms can be misused, sometimes by ourselves, sometimes by adversaries, to undermine trust in all of our institutions."

Tech companies needed to exercise greater restraint to protect democracy. "But we also need to recognise that ultimately no com-

pany, no industry, no technology, no person, should be above the law. We are not nation-states; elected governments of the world are. And we do need a new generation of laws and regulations and international collaboration if we are going to sustain the trust that is indispensable to democracy."

He quoted John F Kennedy as saying in 1961 that, "Technology has no conscience", but, Smith added, "people do". And so, "We all need to act with conviction to exercise our consciences to use technology to protect democracy." Levits agreed that global internet platforms could not be left to regulate themselves.

"These are companies in our countries and we should be capable to address that issue. The power of decision-making, where one sets the boundaries of speech, responsibility for hate and accountability has to return to democratic institutions through rule of law and regulation."

He noted that the European Union was already drafting legislation to regulate global internet platforms, "which should guarantee a certain responsibility of those platforms and at the same time to guarantee freedom of speech. That's very important." Power said that of the 3.8 billion people in the world with internet access, about three quarters lived in countries where governments, last year, arrested and jailed people for expressing non-violent political or social views online.

She nonetheless also agreed with Manuel Muñoz, Provost of Spain's IE University, that the democracies participating in the summit represented about 70% of global GDP and so had the power and leverage to regulate global digital-tech companies and counter authoritarian abuse of digital technology.

"Authoritarians only own the future if we let them," she said. The vast majority of people preferred democracy to repression and free speech to censorship.

The summit for democracy provided "an opportunity to build a global consensus on an affirmative global vision of digital democracy", Power said. She announced several new initiatives that the US intended to undertake over the coming year – in the run-up to the second democracy summit next year – as part of the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal that Biden had announced at the summit.

Power said USAID would expand its digital democracy work, investing up to \$20-million annually to help partner nations align their rules governing the use of technology with democratic principles and respect for human rights.

With its democratic allies, the US would build a global charter for digital public goods in which all stakeholders, including governments and tech companies, would endorse open-source tech products that respect human rights.

The US and its allies would take greater responsibility for the digital tools they exported, ensuring they were not used to abuse human rights, through a new Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative, which included the US, Denmark, Norway and Australia. **DM**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 180 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 RAT, EAT, BYE
 4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN, HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
 5 letters AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
 6 letters BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
 7 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
 8 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
 9 letters CALAMITY,

CLUES: Across
 1 the sixth day of the week
 6 bring about or perform
 7 Country of a thousand hills
 10 tala
 11 quite, gentle and submissive
 13 Togo's Capital
 15 fever marked by severe internal bleeding
 17 ethnic group in Chemba district
 19 move towards the land
 20 hinnies
 22 a light meal
 23 a narrow passage of water connecting two seas
 24 a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley and rye

Down:
 1 a public meeting place and market square
 2 angry
 3 an illicit drinking place in India
 4 man's wide brimmed hat
 5 cannabis
 8 without clothes
 9 let someone do something
 12 remove from a place of danger to a safer place
 14 alkene
 16 legal prohibitions
 18 Russia's Capital
 21 energy, style and enthusiasm
 22 a pigsty

By Magzeli: 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
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TPSF chief wants speedy reduction of interest rates charged on loans

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE banking industry led by Bank of Tanzania should speed up the process of lowering hiked interest rates charged on loans so that the private sector can borrow, invest and afford to repay them on schedule.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's Chairperson, Angelina Ngalula said in Dar es Salaam last week during an investment forum graced by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa that double digit rates being charged by financial institutions in the market are prohibitive.

"Private investors are required to pay very high interest rates of up to 20 percent which is impossible and cannot be used to invest in a profitable business that creates wealth. These hiked interest rates also contribute to high production costs which means that we cannot compete with foreign companies' products which pay single digit rates as low as two percent," Ngalula lamented.

She explained that the government should take a closer look at the interest rate situation in order to enable the private sector in the country to increase productivity hence contribute towards national economic development.

The TPSF chief further called on the government to intervene and rescue tourism companies that are struggling with loan repayment after their businesses collapsed due



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's chairperson, Angelina Ngalula.

to the coronavirus outbreak that triggered lockdowns across the globe.

She also called for the formation of local content policy that will bring in a coordinated approach on how the private sector can work while adhering to tax compliance, laws as well as regulations while exploiting different business opportunities available in the market.

Addressing the TPSF members, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning along with Bank of Tanzania to continue improving monetary policy in order to facilitate the provision of capital to the private sector through credit with lower interest rate.

Majaliwa said the ministry and its affiliates need to review policies that govern credit so that the challenge of hiked interest rates should be solved.

"The Ministry of Finance and Bank of Tanzania should continue to review interest rates as a percentage or put in place a system that will be recommended by TPSF to enable investors borrow and be able to repay in the agreed period while also earning profit," Majaliwa noted.

He further said in order to strengthen the private sector in the country, all the ministries and government institution should work together in ensuring that they come up with plans and solutions for the challenges facing the investors.

"We as the government are ready to support the private sectors securing different projects that we invest in if they show high level of commitment and integrity as well as not being selfish," he stated while commending TPSF for contributing to the country's economic growth.



Private investors are required to pay very high interest rates of up to 20 percent which is impossible and cannot be used to invest in a profitable business that creates wealth. These hiked interest rates also contribute to high production costs which means that we cannot compete with foreign companies'

Lindi RC urges forest conservation group to sensitise communities on value of trees

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

COMMUNITIES in Lindi region need to be sensitized on the importance of conserving the environment including natural forests which are important to sustain human lives and wildlife.

Lindi Regional Commissioner, Zainab Taleck made the call last week while speaking to members of Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network that are already working with communities in the natural hardwood rich region.

Taleck said destruction of natural forests is rampant due to shifting cultivation, overgrazing and illegal logging, among other malpractices.

"Lindi is a region rich in biodiversity with a lot of indigenous tree species suitable for timber, medicinal

purposes that cannot be damaged by insects pests, but right now our biggest challenge is illegal logging fuelled by charcoal making and agricultural activities," Taleck told visiting TFCG and TCFCN members.

"Currently, there are many encroachers from Shinyanga and other pastoralist regions who have come with huge herds of cattle grazing in village forest land illegally," she noted while stressing that her office is working with stakeholders to stop the malpractice.

The Lindi RC further noted that sensitization is the best way to address the challenge hence ordered forestry officers in the region to work with TFCG to stop the destruction. "People should be informed of the socio-economic importance of natural forest to their lives and the danger of being extinct once desertification devours the natural resources rich land," she stated.

"As Mjumita and TFCG you can come visit in my office and use our forestry officers to sensitise communities on forest conservation and management," Taleck stressed while commending the activist groups to convince them establish village land forest reserve under Community Based Forest Management (CBFM).

Briefing the RC on Mjumita's mission, Advocacy Officer, Elida Fundi pledged to work with district and regional authorities to address challenges facing communities. "Currently Mjumita and TFCG are working with district officials by providing training on how to guide villagers conserve their forests with clear land planning allocations," Fundi said.

He said TFCG and Mjumita are implementing a Conserving Forests Through Sustainable Forest-based Enterprises Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) project in seven districts across including in Lindi with the



Lindi Regional Commissioner, Zainab Taleck (R) talking to members of Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and Mjumita delegation when they made a courtesy call at her office last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

funding from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The seven districts are: Mvomero, Kilosa and Morogoro Rural in Morogoro region, Liwale, Nachingwea and Ruangwa in Lindi region while Iringa region has Kilolo district only.

"This project's goal is to achieve sustainable pro-com-

munity natural forest management that transforms the economics and governance of forest products value chains and contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation," he added. Under the project, so far a total of 100,000 people have benefited from the project of which the majority are in Morogoro and Lindi region.

Global shortage of nurses set to grow as pandemic enters third year

GENEVA

THE numbers of nurses around the world are falling further just as the Omicron coronavirus spreads, and there is also an imbalance as Western countries step up recruitment of healthcare workers from African and other poorer countries, the International Council of Nurses said on Friday.

Many nurses are burned out from the COVID-19 pandemic and rates of "intention to leave" within a year have doubled to 20-30%, said Howard Catton, CEO of the Geneva-based group that represent 27 million nurses in 130 national associations.

"I think that we are at a tipping point ... if those numbers continue the trend that we are seeing, it could be an exodus of people," Catton told a news briefing. "I almost think that governments need to be thinking about the life support package of measures they need to be putting together to invest in their nurses and their health care workers next year," he said.

At least 115,000 nurses have died from COVID-19, but Catton said this World Health Organization figure from the start of the pandemic through May was conservative and the true fig-

ure is probably twice that. There was already a global shortage of 6 million nurses pre-pandemic and some 4.75 million nurses are due to retire over the next few years, he added.

On average, wealthy countries have nearly 10 times the rate of nurses in terms of their populations compared with poor nations, but many are recruiting overseas to staff their hospitals, he said, noting that the Philippines and India were traditional exporters.

"We have absolutely seen increased recruitment activity by the UK and Germany as examples in Europe, the U.S. and Canada in North America as well," he said. He added that African countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria were seeing their nurses recruited.

The emergence of the Omicron coronavirus variant, first detected last month in southern Africa and Hong Kong and now reported in nearly 60 countries, has caused fresh anxiety.

"My sense is that nurses around the world, I think like all of us were perhaps starting to feel that we were starting to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, but now there is a palpable anxiety that we could be going back close to square one," Catton said.



Howard Catton, CEO of International Council of Nurses.

M-Pesa subscribers, agents to share 4.9bn/- of profit made in Q3 of 2021



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's M-Pesa director, Epimack Mbeteni speaks at a past event.

By Smart Money Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of M-Pesa who regularly transact on the platform will get a pie of the 4.9bn/- profit made during the third quarter of this year, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has announced.

The 'dividend' payments are due to be completed by mid this month to allow subscribers spend their cash towards end of year and Christmas festivities. "We are extremely gratified to see that despite challenging commercial environment being faced by our customers, the M-Pesa platform continues to be a major foundation for their economic activities," said M-Pesa Director, Epimack Mbeteni.

"We are currently disbursing 4.9bn/- to our customers who have been using the platform during third quarter of this year, and the payments will go directly into their M-Pesa

accounts," Mbeteni added.

He said the profit will be paid to individual customers, retail agents and other M-Pesa business partners based on their wallet transactions between July to September this year. "The share of profit is dependent on the level of activity the user has had on M-Pesa for the said period. Such activities include transfers, bill payments, airtime purchases to name a few," he explained. Customers can text the word 'Kiasi' to 15300 to find out how much they will receive.

"This revolutionary mobile money platform has played a huge role in building inclusion and access to services in the country. Women and youth have seen the ease and convenience of using M-Pesa and are taking advantage of the numerous

services that simplify and improve their lives," the M-Pesa Director noted.

"It has also been a key resource empowering small businesses to weather the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. For us at Vodacom Tanzania, our priority is to make sure that this platform remains the most agile and responsive to customer needs," he concluded.

Vodacom's M-Pesa is the country's largest mobile financial service platform in the local market according to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority with over 10 million users. The GSMA certified platform has significantly increased financial inclusion and economic activity in the country with over 108,000 agents across the country.

Cap:

US mum on Kenya trade pact talks



President Uhuru Kenyatta speaks at a past Kenya-US Trade conference.

NAIROBI

THE US is mum yet again on the fate of a free trade pact after top American trade officials and their Kenyan counterparts held talks earlier in the week.

Separate statements issued by both Kenya's Trade Cabinet secretary Betty Maina and her US trade chief Katherine Tai, after a virtual meeting last Tuesday did not provide any timelines for resuming the stalled talks on the deal signalling a persisting deadlock. There has been growing unease in Nairobi about the delay by Joe Biden's administration to conclude the deal.

Both Nairobi and Washington, however, emphasised deepening trade engagement between the two countries. "During the meeting, both ministers expressed views on how to progress the trade and economic relationship between Kenya and the United States. "Ambassador Tai lauded Kenya's

important leadership role in the African continent and the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to deepening the bilateral relationship," said a statement released by Ms Tai's US Trade Representative team in Washington after the meeting.

The statement said the two Trade ministers guided their senior teams in the identification of "creative approaches" to key issues that would align the ongoing relationship to the "worker-centred trade policy in the US-Kenya trade and investment relationship," while at the same time strengthening the US-Kenya economic and trade ties.

"Ambassador Tai and Cabinet secretary Maina committed to continuing engagements and cooperating on areas of mutual interest between both countries, including climate change, vaccine access and regional integration efforts," it added.

The Biden administration had earlier called for the objectives of the bilateral pact to be recast to recognise Biden's agenda with some of the aims of the negotiations set by the Trump administra-

tion likely to be dropped.

Last Wednesday, President Biden nominated former chief executive of ICT firms Hewlett Packard and eBay Margaret Whitman as the US ambassador to Kenya. Her nomination comes amid growing unease in Nairobi about the Biden administration's delay to conclude the free trade agreement with Kenya.

A trade agreement with Kenya, which would be the first US free trade deal in sub-Saharan Africa, comes amid growing concern about China's investments across Africa. The Biden administration is seeking to cut China's share of the global trade.

Kenya and the US formally launched negotiations in July last year for a bilateral trade pact that the two economies hope could serve as a model for additional agreements across Africa. Kenya wants to do a deal with Washington before the expiry of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), which allows sub-Saharan states to export thousands of products to the US without tariffs or quotas until 2025.

ASA outlines major seed production plans

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

AGRICULTURE Seed Agency (ASA) has outlined major seed production transformation plans to ensure self sustaining and availability of improved seeds for the farmers across the country.

In an interview with the Guardian recently, ASA's CEO, Dr Sophia Kashenge said the transformation will include increasing both quantity and quality of seed production. This will range from increased seed production to improved seed infrastructures. Dr Kashenge said the transformation aims at meeting the quality seed demand for many farmers and investors due to increased awareness and huge response on improved seeds.

Citing an example, she said for the past five years, ASA has increased production of improved seeds from 784 metric tonnes per annum five years ago to more than 2,947 metric tonnes currently. Similarly, the number of seed plantations increased from three plantations to 14 farms.

The ASA chief executive said that the agency is also planning to increase the number of seed plantations to have enough plantations for seed production. "We think that the population is increasing but the size of the land remains the same. In the next five to six years, there will be shortage of land for expansion of our plantations" she said. "We have also increased utilization of the seed plantations. At least 10 seed plantations are currently effectively used to produce improved seeds," she said.

ASA has also embarked on establishment of massive and modern production infrastructures and farm implements. For example, in the past five years, ASA had only one tractor that had to rotate from one farm to another

to cover all the plantations. The tractor could move from Msimba, Mwele, Tanga and Dabaga Iringa but today, the number of tractors have increased to of 9 and are all working well on the plantations.

She said that ASA is also establishing hardware for seed storage. Several hardware have so far been built in three farms and others have been rehabilitated. The seed Agency has also expanded areas of drying seeds on almost four farms.

We have also increased housing facilities for our staff and workers. These are the plans to be implemented this year and we believe these plans are going to transform seed production and availability to the farmers in the country.

Dr Kashenge called on the communities surrounding the seed plantations to seek improved seeds and plant in their respective fields so that they don't spoil the improved seeds from the Agency farms.

She said that seed is a key input for improving crop production and productivity. Improved seed is pivotal in improvement of food security and farm household livelihood. Increasing the availability and quality of seeds can increase the yield potential of the crop by significant folds and thus, is one of the most economical and efficient inputs to agricultural development.

Dr Kashenge said she ASA has seen personal commitment President Samia Suluhu Hassan not only on strategic crops such as Maize, cotton, cassava, Sun flower, Oil Palm, Sisal but in all crops. ASA has also witnessed promotions of private sector involvement on local seed production as well as promoting friendly seed production environment, all these have contributed to the increasing trend for improved seed produced locally in the country.



ASA's CEO, Dr Sophia Kashenge.

Ford commits \$3m to launch Extractive Industry and Climate Change Governance

LAGOS

FORD Foundation announced its commitment of \$3 million to launch the Extractive Industry and Climate Change Governance Fund, a five-year initiative to promote and support a more equitable governance of natural resources that leads to sustainable and inclusive development in West Africa.

Focusing primarily on Nigeria and Ghana, the fund will be hosted by Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP) to support a network of resource governance organizations and civic actors, anti-corruption organizations, budget advocates, and grassroots and community organizations addressing inequality as it relates to the natural resources sector in the region.

Climate change reflects a fundamental failure of global development that is rooted in the extraction of natural resources. In West Africa, the extraction of metals, minerals, and fossil fuels has exacerbated inequalities and caused severe environmental damage that drive climate change.

Whether natural resources aggravate or reduce inequality depends on who controls those resources, how the benefits that derive from them are distributed across different communities, and whether those resources are used in ways that foster ecosystem restoration or degradation.

"With renewed efforts toward energy transition, there is an opportunity to transform the natural resources sector toward embracing equitable governance and sustainable practices," said Anthony Bebbington, director of Ford's Natural Resources and Climate Change program.

"An energy transition that is both low carbon and socially just will be an asset that helps economies to thrive in West Africa at the same time as it mitigates the impacts of climate change. Key to this is centering the needs of local communities affected by resource extraction and a re-envisioning of development models and energy systems that benefits communities and sustains the planet."

With dwindling funding support and in the face of the pandemic, civil society organizations in West Africa are facing significant challenges that impact their sustainability and capacity to effectively promote policy actions that target inequality and injustice.

"To thrive, we need a strong civil society that can help shape a more sustainable future for West Africa," said Emmanuel Kuyole, program officer for Ford's Natural Resource and Climate Change program. "As COVID-19 exacerbates deep-seated inequalities, funders must double down their support for civil society organizations to influence decisions that affect the communities they represent."

Science intellectuals want decision makers in Africa to review engineering curriculum

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ENGINEERS, academicians and researchers in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) have raised serious debate on the role of engineering colleges and universities in training quality and qualified personnel that meet Africa's employment needs.

The STI stakeholders wondered whether graduates from colleges and universities on the continent have capacity to deliver on mega projects, industries and public service in terms of competence. They also questioned to what extent are the three major actors: the government which make policies and decide; academic training institutions; and the private sector, are they supporting the engineering ecosystem in line with global fast changing technologies.

These and other many questions stirred a heated debate with some of them calling on the academic communities, policy and decision makers in Africa to make sure that the training of engineers responds to actual demand of the employers in terms of quality, standard and numbers.

The stakeholders also advised that there is a need for engineering students and graduates to be placed on mega projects for a specific period of time so that they acquire experience and practical knowledge for employability.

Dr Bitrina Diyamett from Science and Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO) said statistics from researchers indicate that Africa is producing far less engineers than it needs for social economic development. Dr Diyamett said that engineering practices play a crucial role in addressing development challenges by bringing innovative ideas into reality, hence contribute to the transformation of the industrial sector that triggers economic growth.

She said currently when the countries are aspiring for industrialization, there is increasing need for qualified engineering practitioners. However, most of the engineers in the region cannot be employed due to lack of quality and required standard.

"Teachers know this, parents know this and even policy makers know that these graduates cannot find employment because some of them can't be employed which forces them to abandon the field and opt for other fields such as accountancy. There is a big problem here," Dr Diyamett said.

She said that research carried out by



Engineers, academicians and researchers attending a stakeholders meeting that debates the competence of latest graduate engineers in the market held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu.

STIPRO, has revealed that some engineering graduates have gone back to school hence leading to a mismatch between demand and supply of the professionals. "I believe that there is need to make use of the research findings, to review the policies and make them evidence based. I call upon university community because are the ones who prepare the curriculum, and the broader national policies because the policy operate within the academia," she noted.

Seconding Dr Diyamett's observation, Project Coordinator for East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project, Dr Jonathan Mbwambo urged the university communities and governments to take advantage of the mega projects that are going on to expose engineering students to such investments so that they can acquire experience and gain knowledge on latest technologies.

Dr Mbwambo whose regional body is responsible for quality assurance in East and Southern Africa, explained that there are a lot of mega projects on the continent in which governments are investing huge sums of money.

"These projects are coming with not only finance but also knowledge and skills, so what we see is that there is a lot of potential for university students to learn from. We are challenging

colleges and universities to bring these engineering students to the centre of implementation of these projects," he advised.

"We believe also that these projects may be used as benchmarks changes to be made on our engineering curriculum. Instead of just changing the curriculum so that what is being learned can meet the expectations of the industry and match up with the needs of East and Southern Africa market," he argued.

He called on governments to continue investing in mega infrastructure projects saying if the investments match well with the curriculum, it will help higher learning institutions upgrade their training manuals to produce more employable graduates.

Former Vice Chancellor at Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Professor Burton Mwamila urged the university communities and governments to urgently review engineering curriculum in order to meet latest market demand.

Citing an example, Prof Mwamila said China took deliberate efforts to train its engineering students at Europe universities which has resulted in improving the quality of curriculums and the engineering field, after returning home.

Prof Mwamila was backed by

Makerere University's Prof Henry Alinaitwe who added that the supply of engineers in Africa is very low hence, the need to produce more qualified and competent engineers for the continent is to develop rapidly.

"There are lapses in the quality of engineers produced in Africa due to inadequacies in the ecosystem. This can be improved upon if governments are committed just like China did," Prof Alinaitwe recommended.

He also suggested that there is need to have a minimum percentage of local engineers participating on mega projects even if the funding source is from external sources.

"All engineers should be attached on such massive projects to gain knowledge and experience in a structured manner. This practical training scheme is necessary to mould fresh engineering graduates with work based skills that lead to registration and early retention in the profession," he recommended.

The meeting was aimed at spurring national and regional debate on the relationship between theoretical engineering taught in higher learning institutions and job market needs as perceived by employers.

EAC economies grew the fastest in Africa last year

By Correspondent Victor Karega

EAST African economies remained resilient, growing by 2.3 percent and keeping the region on its trajectory as the fastest-growing in Africa in 2020, said a report by Ernst & Young.

The report, "Reset for growth: Fast forward EY attractiveness report Africa November 2021" indicated that across the continent, East Africa was most robust, with Tanzania and Ethiopia growing the fastest in 2020. Southern Africa was affected negatively, with South Africa registering the highest number of Covid-19 cases in 2020, pushing the economy into deep recession.

In the latest outlook, although gross domestic product growth in Ethiopia and Tanzania slowed in 2020, it remained in positive territory while the general East Africa gross domestic product is expected to pick up in 2021. Kenya's growth is expected to rebound to five percent, supported by its Economic Recovery Strategy and a strong recovery in the services sector. The country is also eyeing a free trade deal with the US.

The EY survey indicated that a new stable government in Tanzania and rebound in manufacturing will drive growth in 2021 to 4.5 percent while Ethiopia's growth is projected to decline to 2.2 percent as it struggles with high unemployment and political unrest in Tigray. Both Ethiopia and Kenya recorded some of the highest Covid-19 numbers across Africa, with the current low vaccination rates continuing to pose a risk.

In addition, rising public debt, with high debt distress risk in both Kenya and Ethiopia, could slow the growth rebound. Kenya's debt rose to an estimated 69 percent of GDP at the end of 2020, which is considered high by emerging market standards. The Africa report forms part of the broader global EY Attractiveness Programme that focuses on insights derived from understanding growth from foreign direct investment in and across Africa.

According to EY Africa Chief Executive Ajen Sita, rising investment into sectors outside the traditional extractive industries is creating more sustainable long-term growth in the continent. "Rapidly rising FDI into service sectors including business services, telecoms, media, technology, financial services, and consumer services will enable sustainable job creation over time," Sita said.

EY Africa government and infrastructure leader, Sandile Hlophe on the other hand, said Africa is still an attractive investment destination with its young population and vast natural resources giving it potential for enormous growth and innovation.

The outlook for 2021 is mixed, with government recovery measures varying by country. Private sector involvement, slowly recovering trade, rising commodity and crude prices, rebounding tourism and strong agricultural output are expected to determine Africa's recovery prospects.

The continent is projected to grow by 4.6 percent in 2021, then averaging four percent up to 2025. Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco and Kenya are expected to rebound more strongly in 2021. But mounting debt, high unemployment, low vaccination rollouts, political unrest, lack of basic infrastructure and rising poverty levels pose risks to this outlook.

"Africa's demographic dividend looks promising but to make significant progress, the continent needs to improve governance, continue with political reforms, enhance transparency, diversify its economy, invest in infrastructure, and proactively seek inbound investment to create more employment opportunities for its people," the report said.



EY Africa's CEO, Ajen Sita.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Egypt's Nile cruise bookings back with a bang after Covid halt

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN Selvana Wagih has made it a winter holiday tradition to take a Nile cruise between the southern cities of Luxor and Aswan for the past six years - but she could not do so last year.

"I would have gone last year too, but my husband was nervous," says Ms Wagih, 36. This year, Ms Wagih's family revived the annual ritual, booking a three-day cruise for the winter break with her husband and two children, aged 3 and 8.

"It was difficult to find a booking. I wanted to spend New Year's Eve on the boat, but that date wasn't available," says the history teacher, who lives in Hurgada on the Red Sea. Winter is usually peak season for the bucket-list destinations of Upper Egypt, when the weather is ideal and visitors take advantage of their holiday breaks.

But the industry took a beating after crew members and dozens of passengers on a Nile cruise vessel tested positive for Covid-19 in March 2020. Cruises were suspended until that October. Then the winter holiday period coincided with Egypt's second coronavirus wave, and the distribution of vaccines had not yet begun in the country.

Now the Omicron variant of the virus presents a new challenge as it disrupts international travel, but there are reasons to be optimistic. The grand reopening of Luxor's Avenue of the Sphinxes in November was a big boost to the city's tourism, with hotels fully booked, and Egypt's visitor numbers have been increasing in recent months. "We had a very successful summer. Our numbers were really good," Assistant

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Lamia Kamel told The National. "Based on what we saw in the summer, we expect a very successful winter as well." Soukayna Boudouani recently travelled from the US with a friend to celebrate her 30th birthday in Egypt, taking a Nile cruise from Luxor and Aswan and stopping by Cairo.

"I wanted to do something big for my 30th - mostly historical - and Egypt is full of history," says Ms Boudouani, who lives in South Carolina. She visited Luxor the week before the Avenue of the Sphinxes opening and it was already packed with visitors.

"We couldn't even take a good picture at the Abu Simbel temples. There were too many tourists," she says. "I noticed there were a lot of Russian groups too." Marwan El Sadek, chief executive of Egypt Tours agency, says Nile cruises are 90 per cent booked for the Christmas and New Year period and business is close to 2019 levels.

"Last year, boats were on and off. This year, all the boats are on," he says. Whereas last winter 75 per cent of Egypt Tours' business was the local market at heavily discounted rates, this year the division is 60 per cent foreigners and 40 per cent local.

Similarly, Mostafa Sayed, chief operating officer of Nile Cruisers, says several ships have sold out for the holidays, with most tourists coming from the US and Latin America. Because of the Omicron variant, however, a group of 50 people from South Africa who were supposed to arrive on December 4 had to cancel.

Egypt halted direct flights from seven African countries in response to the variant, which was first reported in South Africa on



Boats sailing on the River Nile, Egypt.

November 24. A few countries, including Kazakhstan and Canada, have increased restrictions for travellers from Egypt. "If there are no travel restrictions from countries, there will be a lot of tourists," Mr Sayed says.

With the ongoing uncertainty, more people are waiting until the last minute to book, says Amr Badr, Abercrombie & Kent's managing director for Egypt and the Middle East. "The lead time is much shorter. Egypt

used to be booked years in advance. Now Egypt is booked weeks and sometimes even days in advance," he says.

Another trend he has noticed is people booking smaller private boats such as the dahabiya, which have a maximum of eight cabins. "The Nile cruises are on a trajectory to grow and I think the demand on these smaller, luxury-type boats is going to continue to intensify," Mr Badr says.

Yasser Abdelkhalik, Luxor branch manager for Memphis Tours, says tourists also now feel more at ease, given the mandatory vaccination of all workers in Egypt's hospitality and tourism industry. "This helped a lot," he says. "Hopefully the positive situation continues and business doesn't stop again. 2020 was a terrible year."

WORLD

West African leaders threaten Mali sanctions over elections

By Bloomberg

THE Economic Community of West African States threatened to impose new sanctions on Mali unless the nation's military junta sets a timetable for a return to democratic rule.

The warning comes after Malian authorities signaled elections may not be held as scheduled on Feb 27. Africa's third-biggest gold producer has already missed deadlines to hold a constitutional referendum in September and a promised overhaul of the voters roll.

Ecowas, as the regional economic bloc is known, is considering "economic and financial sanctions" from Jan 1, according to a

statement issued after a summit in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, on Sunday. The bloc "strongly deplores that the deadline for the holding of the elections is likely to not be respected."

Mali's interim government, which took power after the military ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August last year, had promised to oversee an 18-month transition back to constitutional rule, culminating in elections in February. Last week, Malian authorities informed Ecowas that the timetable for the vote will be announced by Jan 31 at the latest.

Mali has been a linchpin of international efforts, involving France and the European Union, to fight a growing Islamist insurgency in the semi-arid Sahel, which was headed



A French soldier patrols the streets of Gao in Mali on Dec 4, 2021. AFP

for the deadliest year of Islamist-militant violence, with a record number of civilians killed in the first six months of 2021. Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop said insecurity in the country means that only five of Mali's 19 voting districts would be able to hold a ballot safely.

Ecowas said it's equally concerned that three months after a coup in Guinea, there's also still no date for elections there.

Guinea is being run by an interim government after the putsch in September that deposed President Alpha Conde.

Ecowas "insists on the need to hold elections within the six-months period previously decided on," it said.

The bloc upheld Mali and Guinea's suspension from the bloc as well as sanctions that target the nations' transitional leaders and their families. **Xinhua**

Israeli PM begins first visit to UAE as Iran tensions surge

ABU DHABI

PRIME Minister Naftali Bennett began the first official visit by an Israeli leader to the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, seeking to strengthen Gulf ties at a time of heightened regional tension as world powers try to revive a nuclear deal with Iran.

Bennett, a far-right politician who took office as the head of a broad Israeli coalition government in June, plans to hold talks on Monday with the UAE's de facto leader, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

The diplomatic outreach comes as world powers negotiate with Iran on salvaging a 2015 nuclear deal opposed by Israel and abandoned in 2018 by then-US president Donald Trump.

Since August 2020, the UAE, followed by Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco, have moved to normalize ties with Israel under a US-sponsored initiative dubbed the "Abraham Accords" after the biblical patriarch revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Bennett's UAE trip is the first by an Is-



Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed (R) chats with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett after his arrival at the Presidential Terminal at Abu Dhabi International Airport on Sunday. Bennett arrived in the UAE for the first official visit by a prime minister of the Jewish state, after the countries established diplomatic ties last year. AFP

raeli premier to any of those countries since the accords. On arrival in Abu Dhabi after a flight from Tel Aviv, Bennett was

welcomed by an honor guard and the UAE's foreign minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed.

"What a wonderful reception. I am very excited to be here on behalf of my people (on the) first official visit of an Israeli leader here," Bennett said. "We are looking forward to strengthening the relationship," he added.

Israel has broadened setting up joint defenses with Gulf Arab states that share its concern over Iranian activities. Pursuing economic, health and energy ties with its new ally, the UAE has signed dozens of memorandums of understanding with Israel since the Abraham Accords were signed. Yet the UAE has also reached out to its Iran, sending its senior national security adviser there last Monday to meet his Iranian counterpart and President Ebrahim Raisi.

A flight-tracking app showed Bennett's El Al Israel Airlines plane overflying Saudi Arabia, which does not have formal ties with Israel, en route to Abu Dhabi. Riyadh agreed last year to allow Israel-UAE flights to cross its territory despite the absence of official ties. The rapprochement in the Gulf has been condemned by Palestinians, whose diplomacy with Israel stalled in 2014. **Agencies**

China remembers Nanjing Massacre victims

NANJING

IN front of the darkly-dressed crowd, China's national flag flew at half-mast as the country held its eighth national memorial ceremony Monday for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

Despite the winter chill, thousands of people who observed epidemic prevention protocols attended the ceremony in Nanjing, East China's Jiangsu province, with white flowers on their lapels conveying condolences.

At exactly 10:01 am, sirens started to blare and the city came to a halt. Drivers in the downtown area stopped their cars and honked; pedestrians paused for a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims.

Teenagers read out a declaration of peace and citizen representatives struck the Bell of Peace. White doves, symbolizing peace, were released over the square of the Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

The ceremony was held by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and

the State Council at the square.

The commemoration proclaimed the Chinese people's firm stance on learning from history to create a bright future and their noble aspiration for adhering to the path of peaceful development, said Chinese Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan when addressing the ceremony.

Sun, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, was joined by about 3,000 people from all walks of life wearing white flowers on their lapels.

Under the leadership of the Party, the Chinese people have realized the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled and embarked on a new journey to build China into a great modern socialist country in all respects, Sun said.

She added that China's national rejuvenation became a historical inevitability.

"It is the greatest consolation to the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, the martyrs, and all those who died during the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression," Sun said.



People pay silent tribute to the Nanjing Massacre victims at Zhongshan Wharf in Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu province, yesterday.

Following Sun's speech, 84 teenagers read out a declaration of peace. Six citizen representatives struck the Bell of Peace. A total of 3,000 white doves, symbolizing peace, were released over the memorial square.

The Nanjing Massacre took place when Japanese troops captured the city on Dec 13, 1937. Over six weeks, they killed more than 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers in one of the most barbaric episodes of World War II.

In 2014, China's top legislature designated Dec 13 as the national memorial day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

Eleven victims of the massacre have passed away this year, reducing the total number of registered survivors to 61. **Xinhua**

Russian Security Council's chief has no plans for meeting US Secretary of State in Jakarta

SINGAPORE/JAKARTA

THERE are no plans for a meeting between the Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolay Patrushev and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Jakarta, the Russian embassy in Indonesia told TASS.

"Such plans do not exist," the embassy said about the possibility of a Patrushev-Blinken meeting. "The secretary of Russia's Security Council will hold Russian-Indonesian consultations on security."

A source at the Security Council's staff told TASS Patrushev had no plans for a meeting with Blinken.

"There are no plans for such a meeting," the official said.

Patrushev arrived in the Indonesian capital on a two-day visit on Monday. On December 15-16 he will be visiting Cambodia.

According to the US embassy in Jakarta Blinken will meet with Indonesia's President Joko Widodo, and hold talks with Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and other senior officials to discuss bilateral strategic partnership, the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, pandemic-related challenges, climate and ways of promoting democracy.

'Phenomenal' Omicron spread makes up 40% of London cases

LONDON

BRITAIN said yesterday Monday that the Omicron coronavirus variant was spreading at a "phenomenal rate" and now accounted for about 40 percent of infections in London, so people should get a booster shot because the double-vaccinated are still vulnerable.

Since the first Omicron cases were detected on Nov 27 in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has imposed tougher restrictions and told the nation on Sunday that a "tidal wave" of Omicron was coming.

Britain says that unless action is taken there could be a million people infected with Omicron by the end of the month.

"It's spreading at a phenomenal rate, something that we've never seen before, it's doubling every two to three days in infections," Health Secretary Sajid Javid told Sky News.

"That means we're facing a tidal wave of infection, we're once again in a race between the vaccine and the virus."

Johnson, who is grappling with a rebellion in his party over measures to curb Omicron and an outcry over alleged parties at his Downing Street office during last year's lockdowns, said people should rush to get booster vaccines to protect "our freedoms and our way of life".

He has faced criticism for overseeing mistakes in transferring patients into care homes, and for building a costly test-and-trace system that failed to stop a deadly second wave.

Javid said there had been no deaths yet confirmed in England and just 10 people hospitalized in England with the variant.

He said that while symptoms might be milder, the variant's swift spread meant that unless the government acted then the health service could be overwhelmed.

S. African president tests positive for COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is receiving treatment for mild COVID-19 symptoms after testing positive for the virus, said the Presidency in a statement released on Sunday night.

The president, who is fully vaccinated, started feeling unwell after leaving the State Memorial Service in honor of former Deputy President FW de Klerk in Cape Town earlier on Sunday. The president is in good spirits but is being monitored by the Military Health Service of the South African National Defence Force.

Ramaphosa is in self-isolation in Cape Town and has delegated all responsibilities to Deputy President David Mabuza for the next week.

Ramaphosa has just finished his visit from four West African states including Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal. The Presidency said he and the South African delegation were tested for COVID-19 in all countries. The president also tested negative on his return to Johannesburg on Dec. 8.

The president said his own infection serves as a caution to all people in the country to be vaccinated and remain vigilant against exposure.

Xinhua

Indonesia expects drastic cut to budget deficit on tax windfall

By Bloomberg

INDONESIA'S finance chief further cut estimates for the budget deficit this year and next, as a fresh round of tax hikes is set to bolster the government's earnings.

The shortfall should come in at 4.1 percent of gross domestic product in 2022, much lower than the 4.85 percent it set in the national budget, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said in an interview

with Bloomberg Television's Rishaad Salamat.

That's a steep decline from this year, when the deficit is seen at the lower end of the 5.1 percent-5.4 percent range due to tempered spending and an 18 percent jump in state revenues as of October, she said.

Indonesia joins other nations that are tightening their belts heading into 2022, rolling back pandemic-era stimulus that sustained their econ-

omies but ran up government debts. The country's growth recovery is set to take hold this quarter as COVID-19 cases steadily decline and consumers start spending, even as the omicron variant risks inciting fresh lockdowns.

A new law that raises value-added taxes and offers tax amnesty should yield additional revenue of about 1 percent of GDP next year, the finance minister said. The government also plans to use

its unspent cash and tap Bank Indonesia's bond-buying program to reduce its financing needs.

Taper Vigilance

Indrawati is keeping an eye on the monetary tightening by advanced economies, which could trigger foreign outflows from riskier assets. As Indonesia kicks off its G20 presidency, she called for a coordinated global exit policy to spare emerging markets

from any disruptive effect.

"We need policy measures to be communicated clearly and taken in stages," she said at a panel in Bali on Thursday. "For example, not to use broad-based monetary instruments for economic issues which are actually microsectoral."

Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo also urged developed nations to focus their policies on "fundamental economic problems" such

as demand-driven inflation, instead of temporary price pressures due to supply chain disruptions and energy shortages.

Indonesia has been spared from the inflation pressures plaguing US and European policymakers, Indrawati told Bloomberg Television. Ample food stocks and fuel subsidies have kept a lid on consumer prices, which have stayed below the central bank's 2 percent-4 percent range. That

gives the monetary authority room to maneuver in case of any volatility from the Federal Reserve's impending taper.

"I think they continue recalibrating their policy," she said, referring to Bank Indonesia.

"Bear in mind that on the domestic side at this very moment inflation is still very low, at the same time our external balance is also relatively strong."

Agencies

Impacts of Russia's collapse could be much bloodier than in Yugoslavia, says Putin

MOSCOW

CONSEQUENCES in case of Russia's collapse could be much more dramatic and bloodier than in former Yugoslavia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview for a documentary entitled "Russia: Its Recent History" aired on the Rossiya-1 TV channel on Sunday.

"It can be definitely said that we would be feeling very bad, we would be battling to survive now rather than seeking to boost birth rate.

And the tragic example of Yugoslavia demonstrates that if we had lived through what happened in Yugoslavia, consequences for Russia, bearing in mind the mentality of the Russian people, and not only Russian, but all other nations living in Russia, the confrontations would be much tougher and bloody than after Yugoslavia's collapse," he said.

"I would put it delicately not to give grounds to say that we are indulging

in looking for enemies, it was absolutely evident for me, when I was FSB (Federal Security Service - TASS) director, I saw it with my own eye that certain forces in the West wanted Russia to collapse, directly supporting separatists, bandits and terrorists who were sparing no effort to shake Russia. It was an absolutely evident thing for me," he said.

According to the Russia president, separatism in the Caucasus in the 1990s emerged "not from nothing, it largely stemmed from the Soviet-era heritage, from the forcible displacement of people after World War II, but it was used by destructive elements abroad."

"The North Caucasus was flooded with various terrorist units and terrorists from the Middle East. And along with political, economic and social problems, the country was faced with the aggression of international terrorism, and actually, a civil war, very bloody and brutal," he added.

Belt and Road sees steady progress in transport connectivity

By Liu Zhiqiang, Lu Yu'nan

ON 5:27 am, Nov. 25, a train carrying 100 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of machine parts, garments and shoes started its engine in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin province, and departed for Russia's Yekaterinburg. It was the 571st China-Europe freight train dispatched by China Railway Shenyang Group.

In the first 10 months this year, China-Europe freight trains have made 12,605 trips and transported nearly 1.22 million TEUs, up 26 percent and 33 percent year on year, respectively. Both figures exceeded the total amount in 2020.

The safe and stable freight service that connects China and the European continent has played a vital role in ensuring smooth logistics among China and other countries and regions along the Belt and Road amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Transport connectivity is a foundation and a crucial guarantee for the construction of the Belt and Road. In the eight years after the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed, a general connectivity framework consisting of six corridors, six connectivity routes and multiple countries and ports has been constantly improved, laying a solid foundation for the Belt and Road construction.

New progress has been achieved in connectivity projects under the Belt and Road framework. The China-Laos Railway officially started operation on Dec. 3. The upgrade project for the Pakistan Railway's Mainline-I has completed technical consultation and is currently going through financing negotiation. Feasibility studies over a railway connecting China and Nepal is also under progress.

So far, the two major road projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have been delivered and put into operation, and the bridge linking China's Heihe and Russia's Blagoveshchensk has been completed and is technically ready for operation.

On maritime cooperation, the Greece-based Piraeus Port, which has received investment from China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), has finished the second round of shareholding rights transfer. It has further consolidated the port's position as the largest harbor in the Mediterranean. Besides, other China-invested ports, including those in Djibouti, Pak-

istan's Gwadar and Sri Lanka's Hambantota are also under sound management.

According to COSCO, the company has invested 64.2 billion yuan (\$10.08 billion) in Belt and Road countries and regions, building 20 container terminals and 195 routes for container vessels. It has allocated a shipping capacity of over two million TEUs to routes along the Belt and Road, which accounts for 68 percent of the total container shipping capacity of the company.

In recent years, China has rapidly expanded its international transport network. As a result, it is seeing prominently improved connectivity with its neighboring countries. At present, the country's shipping services cover all coastal countries along the Belt and Road, and China ranks first in the world when it comes to the Liner Shipping Connectivity Index.

Since April 2019, China has signed agreements on international road transportation with multiple countries, including Georgia, Belarus, and Laos. It signed a transit transport agreement with Nepal, opened six routes stipulated in an SCO agreement on international road transportation facilitation, and implemented the Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets.

Under the BRI framework, China has signed 22 agreements on international road transportation facilitation with 19 countries, and 70 bilateral and regional shipping agreements with 66 countries and regions. It has also signed bilateral inter-governmental air transport agreements with 100 countries, maintained regular cargo flights with 54 countries, and reached regional air transport agreement with ASEAN and the European Union. In addition, the country has signed cooperation documents on postal services with 22 countries.

"We'll keep refining international logistics channels, enhance capacity building in international cargo transport, and accelerate the construction of a connected, safe and efficient logistics network, so as to guarantee the safety and smoothness of the global logistics and supply chain system, and promote the high-quality development of Belt and Road connectivity," said an official with the country's Ministry of Transport.

People's Daily



A bullet train runs on the China-Laos Railway.

Joint statement of world political parties, social organisation and Think Tanks on making independent efforts to explore the path toward democracy and working together to promote common development

DEMOCRACY represents an important achievement of humanity in the advancement of political civilisation, and development an eternal pursuit throughout human history. People of different countries and regions, through their unremitting explorations, have brought about distinctively varied forms of democracy and development paths, presenting a magnificent spectacle of flourishing human civilisations. Political parties, as they are in a position to build, preserve and develop democracy, have been charged with the important mission to realise democracy and promote development. In view of the above, we, the 355 political parties, social organisations and think tanks from 140 countries and regions, issue a joint statement to the whole world as follows:

I. We are of the view that the world we live in is a diverse and colorful one. Diversity is what defines the fascinating feature of human civilisations, and indeed the source of vitality and dynamism for the development of the world. The ways and means of realising democracy are varied. Since different countries and regions may not necessarily share the same history, culture, social system and development stage, there does not exist any system of democracy or pattern of development that is applicable to all countries. The practice of judging the rich variety of political systems around the world by a single yardstick, or observing the colorful political civilisations of the humanity from a monochromatic sight, is in itself undemocratic. Nor is it conducive to development.

II. We are of the view that the best way to evaluate whether the political system of a country is democratic and efficient is to observe whether the succession of its leading body is orderly and in line with the law, whether all people can manage state affairs and social, economic and cultural affairs in conformity with legal provisions, whether the public can express their requirements without hindrance, whether all sectors can efficiently participate in the country's political affairs, whether national decisions can be made in a rational, democratic way, whether professionals in all fields can be part of the team of national leadership and administrative systems through fair competition, whether the ruling party can serve as a leader in state affairs in accordance with the Constitution and laws, and whether the exercise of power can be kept under effective restraint and supervision.

III. We are of the view that the



judgement on whether a country is democratic hinges on whether the people can become the real masters of the country. While it is necessary to observe whether the people can enjoy the right to vote, it is even more important to observe whether their right of extensive participation is guaranteed. While it is necessary to observe what verbal promises the people get during election campaigns, it is even more important to observe how many of the promises are fulfilled after elections. While it is necessary to observe what political procedures and rules are stipulated in regulations and laws, it is even more important to observe whether these regulations and laws are rigorously enforced. While it is necessary to observe whether the exercise of power follows democratic rules and procedures, it is even more important to observe whether the exercise of power is truly subject to the supervision and restraint by the people.

IV. We are of the view that democracy is the right of all peoples, rather than an exclusive privilege of the few. The judgement on whether a country is democratic or not should be made by their people. We stand opposed to acts that interfere in the internal affairs of others in the name of democracy.

V. We are of the view that the point of departure as well as the goal of the development of human society should be to improve people's wellbeing and to achieve well-rounded human development. The promotion of democracy should focus on the continuous realisation of people's aspiration for a better life and the upliftment of their sense of fulfillment, happiness and security. Currently, countries need to especially strengthen cooperation in the fields of poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, development financing, climate change and green development, industrialisation, digital economy and connectivity, and to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so that concentrated efforts are devoted to solve problems of the greatest, most immediate and most practical concern to the people. All countries and all peoples of the world deserve the opportunity and right to development. Efforts need to be made to promote inclusive development and ensure that no country is

left behind. VI. We are of the view that to make international relations more democratic is the trend of the times and the only way to realise this lies in putting true multilateralism into practice. As mankind is faced with various challenges and global issues, the effective response thereto can only be found in more inclusive global governance, more effective multilateral mechanism and more proactive regional cooperation. Better performance in the practice of multilateralism can always lead to better answers to the common problems facing humanity.

VII. We are of the view that efforts to build a human community with a shared future point the right direction to the development and progress of civilisation. The shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom must serve as guidance in the endeavour to build such a community with a strong sense of responsibility for the future of humankind, so that countries with different social systems, ideologies, histories, cultures and levels of development can share interests, rights and responsibilities in international affairs and work together to build a better world.

Deeply aware of the joint mission placed on our shoulders to promote democracy and improve people's livelihood, we undertake to work hand in hand to rise above all kinds of differences, promote exchanges and mutual learning, enhance mutual understanding and build broad consensus, so that we continue to make our due contribution to the people's wellbeing, national development, world peace and human progress.

(Source: International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China)

Kentucky tornado death toll could fall, company says

MAYFIELD

A ray of hope emerged on Sunday from the aftermath of a barrage of tornadoes that obliterated a Kentucky town and killed people in five states, as representatives of a candle factory destroyed in the disaster said far fewer people may have died than previously feared.

Officials had said the death toll could soar past 100 from twisters that tore through at least six states in the US Midwest and South on Friday night, while seeing little chance of finding survivors in the rubble two days later.

In Kentucky, Governor Andy Beshear estimated the death toll at 80 and said it was certain to rise above 100, but that was based on suspicion that scores were killed when a candle factory was destroyed in the small city of Mayfield.

Up to 70 people at the factory had been believed dead, but that number could be revised down to 16 or fewer, a company spokesman said, raising the possibility the governor's death toll estimate could come down significantly.

Among the 110 people who were at the factory, eight have been confirmed dead and eight others remained missing, said Bob Ferguson, a spokesperson for Mayfield Consumer Products.

"There were some early re-



In this aerial photo, destruction in downtown Mayfield, Kentucky is seen on Sunday in the aftermath of tornadoes that tore through the region. AP

ports that as many as 70 could be dead in the factory. One is too many, but we thank God that the number is turning out to be far, far fewer," Ferguson told Reuters, adding that rescue teams were still searching for the eight who remained unaccounted for.

It was unclear how many factory workers Beshear was counting in his estimated death toll, which he formulated on Saturday and said on Sunday remained unchanged - at least for now.

"We're still getting informa-

tion in on the candle factory. The owner has been in contact and believes he has some different information. We are trying to verify it. If so, it may be a better situation and the miracle we were hoping for," Beshear told a news conference earlier on Sunday evening.

Dakota Moore, 20, was working at the candle factory when the tornado warning came. As was the drill, everyone - about 100 people - lined up in the hallway in the center of the building, near the bathrooms.

"My ears started ringing. I

started looking around and everybody down on the other side by the women's bathroom started ducking down. The walls started coming in on that side. There was this old lady, I was trying to get to her, and the wall took me down," Moore said.

The next thing he knew, he was getting wet as the roof above him had collapsed and it was raining.

Moore said he tried to help another man who was stuck in rubble up to his neck, but was unable to lift him out.

"I was able to get to his neck to see if he had a pulse or anything. Flatline," he said.

Search for survivors

Two days after disaster struck, rescue workers scoured debris for survivors and many people without power, water or even a roof over their heads salvaged what they could.

While Kentucky was hardest hit, six workers were killed at an Amazon.com Inc warehouse in Illinois after the plant buckled under the force of the tornado, including one cargo driver who died in the bathroom, where many workers told Reuters they had been directed to shelter.

A nursing home was struck in Arkansas, causing one of that state's two deaths. Four were reported dead in Tennessee and two in Missouri.

Agencies

SPORT



A runner that battled it out in 2021 Familia Marathon which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend (2nd L), competes in one of the races with his family. KCB Bank Tanzania sponsored the race which is one of the joyful and enthusiastic sports event that aimed at bringing families and friends together to share athletic experience. The Familia Marathon, which included 5km, 10km and 21km races, presented family members, relatives, friends, and acquaintances with opportunity to participate. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Simba SC keeper wins praise

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, says he believes Simba SC goalkeeper Aishi Manula's prowess was an obstacle to the former's side to come out victorious when the clubs met in this season's NBC Premier League fixture last weekend.

Simba SC hosted age-old rivals Yanga in the top flight match held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, ending in a 0-0 draw.

Coach Nabi pointed out that had it not been Manula's good goalkeeping, then Yanga would have posted a victory over Simba SC in the game.

According to the Tunisian gaffer, his squad created a lot of chances that could have witnessed the clash culminating with victory for the club.

"Their goalkeeper has done a great job, he saved numerous attempts, for example, there was an attempt by Said Ntibazonkiza, if the goalie didn't defend well, do you think we wouldn't have won?" the tactician queried.

"Suffice it to say that he is a good goalkeeper." "It is football, such an outcome happens but I can say that my players played well," he disclosed. Manula's exploits in the last weekend fixture see the keeper feature in eight NBC Premier League ties, conceding two goals.

The shot-stopper conceded when Simba SC came up against Ruvo Shooting in a top-flight tie held in Mwanza on November 19 and ended with Simba SC registering a 3-1 victory.

Geita Gold FC attacker Juma Mahadhi later scored past Manula in the fixture which took place in Dar es Salaam on December 1, with Simba SC commanding a 2-1 win.

LeBron scores 30, Lakers top Magic 106-94 for 5th win in 7

LOS ANGELES

LEBRON James scored 14 of his 30 points during Los Angeles' spectacular third quarter, and he added 11 rebounds and 10 assists while the Lakers rolled past the Orlando Magic 106-94 Sunday night for their fifth victory in seven games.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored seven of his 19 points as Los Angeles utterly dominated a close game out of halftime, scoring 23 consecutive points while holding the Magic to 2-for-23 shooting in the third quarter with their field goals scored nearly 10 minutes apart. Los Angeles rode that 36-10 advantage in the third to its second straight win and moved two games above .500 for the first time in four weeks.

Russell Westbrook had 19 points and James secured his 101st career triple-double in the final minutes as the Lakers won their second straight with second-leading scorer Anthony Davis sidelined by left knee soreness. Coach Frank Vogel said examinations of Davis' knee found it structurally sound, and the team anticipates him returning to action soon.

Cole Anthony scored 21 points for the Magic, who went 0-5 on their West Coast trip despite rallying in the fourth quarter.

Franz Wagner added 20 points and seven rebounds, but the Magic responded to Saturday night's last-second loss to the Clippers with a solid first half and a catastrophic third quarter in their 12th loss in 13 games. Orlando dropped to 5-23 despite hitting 13 3-pointers.

Los Angeles' 23 straight points comprised its longest run of the season, and the Lakers turned a small halftime deficit into a 25-point lead while holding Orlando without a field goal for 9:48. James scored 13 points in the first four minutes after halftime, slicing up Orlando's defense with 3-pointers and dunks alike while also making two crowd-pleasing blocks at the rim.

Neither team took a substantial lead in a first half highlighted by James' spectacular chase-down block of R.J. Hampton's layup attempt in the second quarter. The Magic hit nine 3-pointers during the first half in another significant step for one of the NBA's worst-shooting and lowest-scoring teams.

Meanwhile, in Detroit, Kevin Durant scored an NBA season-high 51 points in the Brooklyn Nets' 116-104 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

With James Harden resting, Durant scored at least 10 points in all four quarters.

"I knew I probably needed to pick up a little more of the scoring tonight," said Durant, who had his seventh 50-point game of his career. "We were turning the ball over more than we should, and I was doing as much of that as anyone, so I figured I better just keep shooting."

Patty Mills added 18 points for the Nets, who outscored Detroit 30-13 in the fourth quarter. "It was fun just to watch K.D. when he's playing like that," Mills said. "Being a part of it is even better. You don't see many games like he had tonight."

Cade Cunningham had 26 and Frank Jackson added 25 for Detroit, which lost its 12th straight. The Pistons' last win was Nov. 17 against the Pacers, and they still haven't won back-to-back games this season.

"We didn't get this win, but we are moving in the right direction," Jackson said. "I know it doesn't look like that, given all the losses, but we're working hard and getting better."

Detroit also was missing leading scorer Jeremi Grant, who is sidelined indefinitely by a thumb injury.

"We have to play with the guys we have," Pistons coach Dwane Casey said. "We can't think about 'What if Jeremi could play?' We gave ourselves a chance to win the game, but we have to finish one of these out."

Hours after Durant was fined \$25,000 for using multiple expletives at a fan who yelled "Durant, stop crying," on Friday during a game in Atlanta, he also bested Stephen Curry's 50-point total for the league high this season, which Curry did Nov. 8 against Atlanta.

The Pistons led 91-86 after three quarters despite 38 points from Durant, who scored seven in the Nets' 11-0 run to start the fourth. He picked up his fifth foul with 8:46 to play, but stayed on the floor as the Nets expanded the lead to 105-92 midway through the quarter. "I saw the look in his eyes and knew he didn't want to come out," Nets coach Steve Nash said. "He was just incredible tonight. Not only does he score 51, but he had (nine) assists and (seven) rebounds. He even had a couple blocks and played incredible defense in the fourth quarter."

The Nets led 60-57 at the half behind Durant's 22 points. Detroit outshot Brooklyn 47.8% to 38.5% in the first half, but struggled with turnovers and on the glass.

SPORTS

Simba SC and Yanga share the spoils in NBC Premier League

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

DESPITE being hyped and touted to the hilt, the blockbuster football derby between Simba SC and Yanga, unfortunately, turned out to be a 0-0 damp squib.

Indeed, although we were all expecting fireworks from the meeting between the two mammoth clubs, the encounter failed to yield up even a solitary goal and sadly ended in a barren stalemate.

The result means that Yanga remains comfortably ensconced in the first position on the NBC Premier League table while Simba SC is a few points behind their old foes in second place.

Impressively, both teams have never succumbed to defeat thus far in the current league campaign, and naturally, they deserve to be lauded for this praiseworthy feat.

As for Yanga, it is crystal clear that the Jangwani Street side is steely determined to put an end to Simba SC's four-year reign over top-flight football here on the home football patch.

And, judging from the exhilarating football action already witnessed this season, it seems as if the stage is set for a veritable gladiatorial battle, which could potentially go all the way down to the wire.

Let us stick with football now and alter our gaze slightly to the national amputee football team who have been hogging the sporting headlines lately for all the right reasons.

Indeed, the team who was fondly given the moniker of 'Tembo Warriors', really fought tooth and nail to qualify for the Amputee Football World Cup, which is slated to be staged in Turkey next year.

Interestingly, the Amputee Football



Yanga's midfielder, Said Ntibazonkiza (R), blocks Simba SC defender, Henock Inonga, when the sides met in the 2021/22 NBC Premier League encounter played in Dar es Salaam last Saturday. The two sides shared the spoils with 0-0 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

African Cup of Nations (CANAF), which served as the qualifiers for the global event, was recently held here in our neck of the woods.

And, perhaps by dint of the undiluted support from the home fans, the 'Tembo Warriors' successfully outclassed the opposition to qualify for the Amputee Football World Cup.

What is needed now is for efforts to be deployed to ensure that amputee football on our soil has a

rosy future.

This is a weighty task that will require dedication, commitment, and diligence as well as firm resolve from all concerned actors for it to be achieved.

Turning to badminton, it is a disappointing reality that badminton tournaments have been few and far between on the local scene in recent years.

However, mid-last week, this entertainingly captivating sport received a much-needed shot in the arm when the Uhuru U-19 Badminton Championship was held.

Indeed, the sport has gone through a decidedly arduous spell in recent years for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, it is hoped that local badminton will now experience an upturn in its fortunes following the staging of the first badminton tournament in some time.

After all, hope springs eternal as the famous saying goes.



Simba SC Chairman, Murtaza Mangungu.

Simba SC leadership accepts investor's request to build stadium

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC leadership has welcomed a request by the club's investor Mohamed Dewji 'Mo' to come up with an immediate plan to implement the club's stadium construction plan.

Dewji, who had until early this year served as the outfit's Board of Directors Chairman, appealed to the board to sit down and fulfil the plan.

He submitted the request to the board early Monday, following a post he put on his social media pages, promising to raise 2bn/- for the project.

The club's management immediately responded by posting an appreciation on the outfit's social media pages.

The statement disclosed: "We thank Simba SC honorary president, Dewji, for opening the doors for the construction of Simba SC stadium."

"We have started a process that will enable Simba SC fans to contribute to the construction. We will soon announce the procedure."

Dewji later confirmed receiving Simba SC's comment by posting a message on his social media pages.

Dewji wrote: "I have received many comments from my

fellow Simba SC followers, advising the club to build its stadium and they are willing to contribute to make the construction a success."

"I would like to make it clear that I have received the comments."

"I urge Simba SC Board of Directors to sit down and come up with an immediate resolution so that this project can be implemented."

"For starters, I promise to donate 2bn/- . I beg you to join us all."

Simba SC currently owns a venue, known as 'Mo Simba Arena', at Bunju, Dar es Salaam, the facility serves as the senior side's training venue.

'Mo Simba Arena' was as well used by Simba SC women outfit, Simba Queens, as a venue for the latter's previous season's Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League fixtures.

Simba SC's drive to encourage the outfit's followers to contribute to the project has come about after the outfit's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, was barred from accessing Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday to watch NBC Premier League match between her outfit and age-old rivals, Yanga.

Pique: Barca in 'critical' spot after Osasuna draw

BARCELONA

GERARD Pique says Barcelona urgently need a win to kickstart their season after twice giving up the lead as they drew 2-2 with Osasuna in LaLiga on Sunday.

Youngsters Nico Gonzalez and Abde Ezzalzouli were on target for Barca, but Osasuna fought back at El Sadar with goals from David Garcia and Chimy Avila.

Barca are now without a win in three games under new coach Xavi Hernandez and, after being knocked out of the Champions League in midweek, have slipped to eighth in the league table.

"Like Xavi said [after the defeat to Bayern Munich on Wednesday], a new era is starting and it's vital we start picking up points in LaLiga," Pique told Movistar.

"We're adrift [of the top four] and the more points we can make up in the coming weeks, the better. We competed today, but the result was a huge shame.

"Now it's about winning, winning and winning. We are in a critical situation and it's urgent that we get back to winning ways."

Barca, who will play in the Europa League in the new year for the first time in 17 years, are now five points off fourth-placed Atletico Madrid and 18 behind leaders Real Madrid, who met in the Madrid derby later on Sunday.

Pressed on whether simply obtaining a top-four place, and qualification to next season's Champions League, is now the target, Pique refused to set long-term goals.

"The objective now is to think about the next game," he added. "The only objectives are short-term. Long-term, it's good for the club that the youngsters are playing regularly, but we have to think short-term."

Coach Xavi said the performances of teenagers Gavi, 17, Nico, 19, and Abde, also 19, was both positive and negative for Barca.

Gavi, already a full international with Spain, set up the first goal for Nico, with Moroccan winger Abde crowning another impressive display with his first goal for the club after a break led by Ousmane Dembele.

"Abde, Gavi and Nico were extraordinary," Xavi said in his post-game news conference. "We're lucky with the contribution the youngsters are making. It was a great effort from the whole team, but it's the youngsters making the difference -- and that's difficult to digest.

"I think that's positive and negative. It is a positive for the future but also a negative because such young players can't always be the standout performers. We have to demand more from everyone."

Barca -- who were missing seven players against Osasuna, including Jordi Alba, Pedri, Ansu Fati and Memphis Depay -- now travel to Saudi Arabia for the

Maradona Cup on Tuesday against Boca Juniors, with their next competitive game in LaLiga at Camp Nou on Saturday vs. Elche.

Meanwhile, Joan Laporta has said Barcelona will collaborate with the police after Albert Benaiges, the former head of the club's youth system, was accused of sexual abuse of children in his charge over 20 years, accusations he denies.

The Barca president has also offered his support to the people who came forward after an investigation by the newspaper Ara, which included interviews with more than 60 witnesses, detailed Benaiges' actions when he was a physical education teacher at a school in the Catalan city during the 1980s and 1990s.

So far, per Ara's investigation, one former student has made a formal statement to the police.

The allegations include Benaiges exposing himself to boys and girls at the school and touching children, but there have not been any accusations linked to Barca's academy, where Benaiges worked between 1992 and 2012 before returning earlier this year.

"Barcelona completely support the possible victims that have suffered these reprehensible acts that have been reported at [a school in] Barcelona," Laporta said in a recorded statement on Sunday.

"We are collaborating with the police with complete transparency to clarify if any of these acts took place at our club. We will always protect and defend minors and their families.

"Barca stand alongside those that suffer injustices and violence. We are not going to hide from this. If any case is detected at the club, we will deal with it with complete transparency, while always supporting those affected and their families."

Benaiges, 71, was credited with discovering Andres Iniesta and also worked with Xavi Hernandez when the current Barcelona coach was younger. After holding several roles within the academy, he left in 2012 but returned in March when Laporta was re-elected as president.

Laporta added they would never have brought him back if they were aware of the allegations.

After leaving Barca, Benaiges, who was born in Mexico, worked for Al-Wasl in the United Arab Emirates, Chivas in Mexico and Cibao in the Dominican Republic before reuniting with Iniesta at Vissel Kobe in Japan.

He left his role with Barca last week having been made aware of Ara's investigation.

"I have never hurt anyone and if I have done it hasn't been intentionally," Benaiges told Ara on Friday. "I have an adopted son and four foster children; my conscience is very clear, I have never forced anybody and I have denounced paedophiles."

ESPN

Japan's golden oldie 'King Kazu' eager to play on at 54

TOKYO

EVERGREEN Japanese football star Kazuyoshi Miura said he "still has the passion" to continue his career at 54, local media reported Monday, with contract offers still coming his way.

Miura, known as "King Kazu", extended his record as Japan's oldest footballer this year, turning out for Yokohama FC in the J-League's top division.

But the veteran's contribution was minimal, managing only one minute of league action all season as his side finished bottom of the table.

Now he is considering a new challenge, with offers from two fourth-tier teams reportedly on the table.

Miura said Yokohama FC has also offered him another contract extension, but he is determined to sign for a team "with a clear vision".

"I've been saying for the past

10 years that if there's a team that wants me and needs me, I'll go regardless of what division they're in, and that hasn't changed," the Nikkan Sports daily reported Miura as saying in Osaka, where he is training to keep in shape.

"As long as I still have the passion, of course I want to go for it," he said. "I still have the passion."

Miura reportedly received an offer to join fourth-tier side Suzuka Point Getters, who are managed by his elder brother Yasuhiro.

"King Kazu" said he was keen to join a club with ambitions of moving up the divisions.

"If a club just says 'come here', that's no good," said Miura, who also has a reported offer to join fourth-tier Kochi United.

"It's better to go to a club with a clear vision."

Miura, who will turn 55 in February, has said he wants to keep playing until he turns 60. **AFP**

Real Madrid move 13 points clear of Atletico after derby stroll

MADRID

REAL Madrid strengthened their already-commanding position in the title race on Sunday by defeating Atletico Madrid 2-0 to move 13 points clear of the defending champions in La Liga.

Atletico have a game in hand over their rivals but the advantage is considerable and perhaps even insurmountable, even in December.

Barcelona are now 18 points adrift and arguably an irrelevance at the top after they were earlier held to a 2-2 draw away at Osasuna.

Sevilla, who last won the Spanish title in 1946, are the closest challengers, eight points back, and having played a game fewer.

"We are favourites today, of course, you can say that," said Carlo Ancelotti. "But if you relax it can cost you dearly. We have to keep going, to get closer to winning it as soon as possible."

Madrid, though, were ominously superior in a derby that had its occasional bad-tempered moments but was largely neutralised by the home side's dominance at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"The title race is still alive," insisted Diego Simeone. "There are a load of matches left. Madrid have a lot of points, it's true, but La Liga is complicated."

Karim Benzema was passed fit enough to start and then, worryingly for Madrid went off again at half-time, but not before volleying them into the lead. Marco Asensio doubled the advantage in the second half.

There was never any sign of an Atletico comeback, with the home fans confident enough to cheer their team's every pass in the 70th minute while some of Madrid's defending late on was done at walking pace.



Xavi has now overseen only two wins in his first six games in charge. "We need a win, urgently," he said.

The 21-year-old Vinicius Junior was instrumental again, providing the assists for both goals, but it was the 36-year-old Luka Modric who ran the game, with the Croatian at his majestic, mesmerising best.

At one point in the second half the home crowd gave Modric a spontaneous standing ovation and he was so comfortable he even had time to applaud them back.

"It was an incredible performance, nothing else to say, it was spectacular," said Ancelotti. "With the ball, without the ball, the consistency, the personality, it was extraordinary."

Atletico's attacking talents all failed to fire. Luis Suarez started on the bench and came on when Madrid's ascendancy was established. Joao Felix and Thomas Lemar replaced Antoine Griezmann and Yannick Carrasco at

half-time but Simeone's attempts to shake life into his team came to nothing.

The first goal came from a mistake but Koke was in the middle of the pitch when his pass forward was cut out by Modric, the threat was not immediately obvious. But Casemiro played into Benzema and within seconds Vinicius was driving from the right and into the penalty area.

Atletico's defence were dashing back with such intent they forgot about Benzema behind them, the Frenchman holding his position just inside the area for the cut-back. Vinicius found him with a floated pass and Benzema had time to send a perfect volley past Jan Oblak.

Felix went close soon after the restart but the changes made little difference to the balance of the game and

just before the hour Madrid made it two.

Luka Jovic did well to feed Vinicius down the left and as the Brazilian approached the area he surprised everyone by playing right to Asensio, who slid his finish first time into the corner.

Barcelona's nightmare week, meanwhile, ended in more disappointment as they conceded in the 86th minute to draw away at struggling Osasuna.

After losing at home to Real Betis last weekend and being dumped into the Europa League by Bayern Munich on Wednesday, Barca could only muster a point against Osasuna, who sit 10th and are now winless in eight league matches.

The deflation for Xavi Hernandez's team will be heightened by the manner of Osasuna's equaliser, coming so

Leicester thrash sorry Newcastle, Palace pile pressure on Benitez

LONDON

LEICESTER left Newcastle still rooted in the Premier League relegation zone with a 4-0 victory, while Crystal Palace's 3-1 win against slumping Everton piled the pressure on Rafael Benitez on Sunday.

Despite being hit by a coronavirus outbreak that left Brendan Rodgers without seven players, the Foxes gave Eddie Howe another reminder of the task he faces to keep Newcastle in the top flight as Yuri Tielemans struck twice at the King Power.

Howe will be able to call on the resources of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund in the January transfer window and results elsewhere this weekend mean they remain just three points adrift of safety.

But Newcastle face Liverpool, Manchester City and Manchester United in their next three games and, on this form, will be lucky to escape that run without another severe hit to their goal difference.

Leicester had won just two of their previous nine games in all competitions and were dumped out of the Europa League by Napoli on Thursday.

However, they got the break they needed to edge in front before half-time when James Maddison engineered contact with Javier Manquillo to win a penalty.

With Jamie Vardy watching on from the bench, Tielemans took responsibility from the spot to open the scoring seven minutes before half-time.

Patson Daka's form has seen him earn his spot ahead of Vardy in recent weeks in the Premier League and Zambian had the easiest of tasks to roll in his seventh goal of the season from Harvey Barnes' unselfish pass to double Leicester's lead.

Tielemans rounded off a fine team move for his second of the afternoon before Maddison's fine finish compounded Newcastle's pain five minutes from time.

Victory lifts Leicester to eighth and back in the fight for a place in the top four.

- Benitez misery -
At Selhurst Park, there was more misery for beleaguered Everton manager Benitez as his side lost for the seventh time in their last nine league games.

On-loan Chelsea midfielder Conor Gallagher put Palace ahead in the 41st



Deadly Daka: Patson Daka scored in Leicester's 4-0 thrashing of Newcastle (AFP)

minute with his fifth goal this season.

Everton winger Demarai Gray gave away possession on the edge of his area and Jordan Ayew was first to the loose ball, squaring for Gallagher to fire home.

Benitez, already disliked by Everton fans after his spell in charge of Merseyside rivals Liverpool, saw his plunging popularity dip even further in the second half when he was booed for sending on Salomon Rondon to replace Richarlison.

The mood grew even more toxic among Everton's travelling fans after

James Tomkins doubled Palace's lead in the 61st minute.

Tomkins poked in from close range after Everton made a hash of clearing Will Hughes' corner.

Rondon got one back with his first Everton goal in the 70th minute, the striker slotting home after Joël Ward deflected Abdoulaye Doucoure's shot into his path.

But Gallagher's 20-yard curler in stoppage-time left Everton languishing seven points above the relegation zone.

West Ham's Champions League am-

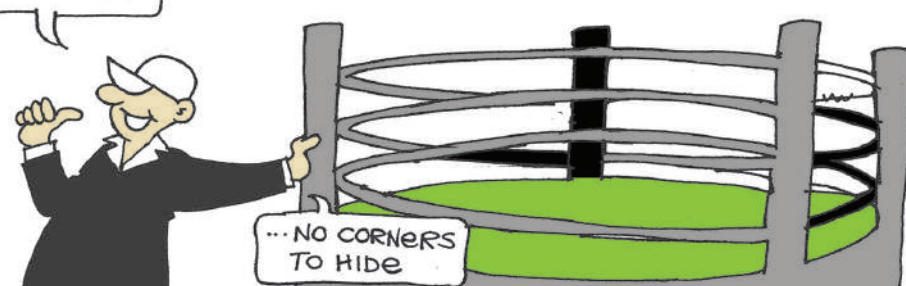
bitions were dented by a 0-0 draw at Burnley. The Hammers have won just one of their last five league games as Nick Pope frustrated David Moyes' men with a string of saves at Turf Moor.

West Ham edged one point ahead of fifth-placed Manchester United, but Tottenham, who are not in action this weekend due to their own Covid outbreak, are just two points back with two games in hand.

A point also does little to aid Burnley's hopes of survival as they remain in 18th, but are now just two points adrift of safety.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

A PERFECT RING...



SPORT

Real Madrid move 13 points clear of Atletico after derby stroll



CRDB Bank Chief Executive Officer, Abdulmajid Nsekela (L), presents a trophy to 'SimBanking' team skipper, Nicodemus Milinga, after the squad triumphed in this season's CRDB Bank Super Cup in the finals held in Arusha over the weekend. Looking on (L-R) are CRDB Bank's Chief Operating Officer, Bruce Mwile, and the bank's Chief Financial Officer, Fredrick Nshekanabo. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

2021's CRDB Bank Super Cup showdown climaxes in Arusha

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's CRDB Bank Super Cup sports competition which involved teams from CRDB Bank departments and branches' staff in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, came to a close in Arusha last weekend.

The CRDB Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Abdulmajid Nsekela, was the official guest in the closing ceremony.

The CRDB Bank Super Cup included men's soccer games and basketball for female staff.

In football, the tournament involved 16 teams, of which eight were made up of staff from various units located at the Bank's Headquarters.

The other eight teams were made up of staff from all regional branches of CRDB Bank Tanzania.

On the women's side, eight teams that were made up of employees from the institution's headquarters and branches participated in a basketball event.

All teams were given names based on the various products offered by the bank including, 'SimBanking', 'Tanzanite', 'Hodari', 'TemboCard', 'Nia Moja', 'Ulipo Tupo', and others.

The institution CEO, Nsekela, said the main purpose of hosting the sports competition was to strengthen relations between the staff and management, as well as increase productivity at work.

The CRDB Bank boss noted: "We believe this competition is an important step in achieving the goal of improving the health of employees as well as increasing solidarity and cooperation in carrying out professional responsibilities to provide better services to their customers."

"Today we are concluding this competition with great success, it is the first time this competition has been held in the history of our bank."

The conclusion of the competition was accompanied by the presentation of various prizes including cash and trophies to individual winners and teams.

Football event's winners received cash prizes amounting to 5m/-, basketball event's champions walked away with 3m/-.

The bank also presented prizes to individual players who performed well, with the best player and top scorer earning cash prize amounting to 200,000/- apiece, 300,000/- was handed to the final's best performer.

Nsekela congratulated the bank's staff for responding to the call and making the tournament a success.

According to him, the competition was very successful and witnessed participating teams showcasing stiff competition, thus bringing out quality. "This is just the beginning, next year we will make sure we further improve this tournament as well as add basketball teams in this league, we will present the biggest prizes to the winners to bring competition," Nsekela revealed.

The CRDB Bank's Director of Human Resources, Siophoro Kishimbo, thanked the Directors of Departments, Regional Branch Managers for providing adequate co-operation and permitting their employees to participate in the competition.

He said the competition has offered the institution a great boost and allowed employees to showcase their talents. CRDB Bank has long given sports a great deal of importance.

The institution finances various sports programs including the CRDB Bank Bonanza which includes sides comprising ministers and Members of Parliament. CRDB Bank Marathon, which this year gained international registration, as well as the national basketball tournament, termed as 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', are sports competitions that are also financed by the institution.

This season's 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup' took place in Dodoma in November involving regional basketball teams.

Kamran Akmal refuses to play PSL 2022 for Peshawar Zalmi

KARACHI

KAMRAN Akmal, the most-capped player in the history of the PSL as well as the tournament's second-highest run-scorer, has refused to take part in the next edition of the league after being picked in the draft in the lowest category of players by his old team, Peshawar Zalmi.

Calling it a "humiliation", Akmal told ESPNcricinfo, "If it has to end like this, so be it, but I am not going to play".

The PCB had tweaked the player categories before the draft, and Akmal had been moved down from the Diamond category to the Gold category but was eventually picked up by Zalmi as their last pick, from the Silver category.

Zalmi head coach Mohammad Akram is expected to meet Akmal today, but as far as the player is concerned, his decision won't change.

"If it has to end like this, so be it, but I am not going to play with such humiliation," he said. "This is an embarrassment. You don't treat a player like this. With all the runs I have scored in the league, I deserve better."

"I agree that rejigging the categories wasn't the franchise's prerogative, it was Ramiz Raja [PCB chairman] who reworked the categories. But being picked in Silver was a further demotion."

"We have also announced a benefit year for him and a certain amount from our earning will go back into that. With age [Akmal is 39], things change and we have to be realistic. But on paper, he is still with the team and that is why we picked him."

After the draft on Sunday evening, Akram told media persons that he had spoken to Akmal and offered him the same remuneration as a Gold-category player would expect to be paid.

"Kamran has always been the closest to our heart. He has not only served Pakistan well but has entertained PSL fans for last six years," Akram said.

"I had spoken with him earlier and informed him that if we pick him in the Silver category, we will still pay him the same money as he would earn in the Gold category by making him the team's mentor."

"We have also announced a benefit year for him and a certain amount from our earning will go back into that. With age [Akmal is 39], things change and we have to be realistic. But on paper, he is still with the team and that is why we picked him."

"He has been our key player and I hope I will be able to persuade him to play the season. But, at the end of the day, it's their [the players'] choice, they are professionals and can play wherever they want."

The six franchises met in Lahore last evening to pick their squads for the seventh edition of the PSL, which will kick off on January 27 in Karachi.

Each franchise had a chance to retain up to eight players, and Zalmi chose not to retain Akmal, the plan being to pick him from the draft instead.

Wahab Riaz, the captain of the team, was retained, while Shoaib Malik was acquired from the Diamond category. The team has also brought in Mohammad Harris as an additional wicketkeeper.

Akmal's PSL record is impressive. He has 1820 runs from 69 games, the run tally second only to Babar Azam's 2070 from 58 games.

Akmal has scored his runs at a strike rate of 136.84 and is the only one to have scored three hundreds, Sharjeel Khan has two.

A Zalmi player from the start of the competition in 2016, Akmal is also the leading wicketkeeper in the PSL with 60 dismissals to his name.

AGENCIES

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager geared for bigger marathon



Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi.

By Guardian Reporter

THE main sponsor of the Kilimanjaro Marathon, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, has promised a much bigger and exciting event come February 2022 as the race marks its 20th anniversary.

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi, said with barely two and half months left, they are working closely with the organizers to ensure the 20th anniversary is much bigger in terms of attendance and activities.

Irene disclosed: "This is a milestone for Tanzania's number one beer, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, which has been sponsoring the event since the marathon's inception 20 years ago."

"We are going to mark the 20th anniversary in style as this goes into history as one of our biggest and longest existing sponsorships that have seen Kilimanjaro Premium Lager reaching greater heights year after year," she said.

Irene revealed that they have all these years been inspired by the support for tourism and

Tanzanian culture as a whole - which the event helps to promote.

She said they expect to have several exciting activities before and during the event to create excitement and special memories of the event.

According to the Brand Manager, they have set aside 22m/- in prize money, with the top winners in both the male and female category walking home with 4m/- apiece.

Tanzanian male and female athletes that will finish first in the 42km race will receive a motivational prize of 1.5m/- apiece.

She called on participants to register on time as registration had opened online on October 17, 2021, through www.kilimanjaramarathon.com and via TigoPesa by dialing *149*20#.

She also called on participants to start training early on to ensure that this time around most of the prizes, especially in the 42km race, are presented to domestic athletes.

"We as TBL Group will also be represented by some of the staff members who are already training hard to ensure they are ready for the February race, which is one of the biggest in East and Central Africa and attracts over 11,000 participants from over 55 countries worldwide," she said.

Sponsors of the 2022 Kili Marathon include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, Tigo-21km, Grand Malt -5km, water table sponsors, Absa, Unilever, TPC Sugar, Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water.

The event's official suppliers are GardaWorld Security, Keys Hotel, Kibo Palace Hotel, and CMC Automobiles.

Next year's event will be held at the Moshi Cooperative University (MOCU) on February 27, 2022.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is organized by Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 SSPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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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 The Cruise

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