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Mwinyi urges people to uphold integrity

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MP for avocado oil processing plant

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Stern measures against eGA laws

Lack of orders hits Africa's first Covid-19 vaccine unit

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA's first Covid-19 vaccination plant risks shutting down after receiving not a single order, a company executive said over the weekend.

Aspen Pharmcare in South Africa, based in Durban, was granted a licence last November to package and sell Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine and distribute it across Africa.

The notice of its intent to shut down comes at a time when a large portion of Africa's population remains unvaccinated and South Africa has entered the fifth wave of the pandemic, health officials said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said last month that only a sixth of adults in Africa had been fully vaccinated.

Prof. Tulio de Oliveira, the director of the Centre for Epidemic Response and Innovation in South Africa, told the UK broadcasting agency BBC that the closure could affect the production of other vaccines that Africa's first Covid-19 vaccination plant, touted last year as a trailblazer for an under-vaccinated continent frustrated by sluggish Western handouts, was rapidly risking shutting down after receiving not a single order, a company executive said on Saturday.

South Africa's Aspen Pharmcare negotiated a licensing deal in November to

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Samia roots for ethical, investigative reporting

● Work professionally, global conventions won't protect you



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses participants in a media stakeholders' conference for the World Press Freedom Day held in Arusha yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

JOURNALISTS must do their job of informing the public in a professional manner by conducting in-depth investigations so as to avoid providing confusing or insulting information, as doing so undermines media credibility as a whole, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

Addressing stakeholders at the 2022 World Press Freedom Day conference, the president said that some journalists are mistusing the media, especially social channels because they know that there are international conventions that shield them," she said, underlining that the best thing is make sure that you protect yourself in everything one does.

There is no need for journalists to wrangle with the government while the media seeks to contribute to nation building efforts as well, saying at times such reporting is instigated by pecuniary pressures exercised upon media practitioners, she stated.

She assured the stakeholders that she had directed authorities to commence discussions that will facilitate amendment of the Media Services Act of 2016 so as to uphold the freedom of journalists and the welfare media industry at large.

Media laws and regulations will be reviewed and amended, "but before that discussions

NGO: Budget credibility crucial for development

By Guardian Reporter

SEVERAL steps need to be implemented to enhance budget credibility via the creation of a public resources management control system, a non-governmental organization has suggested.

Yona Killagane, the board chairperson for Wajibu Institute of Accountability, says the think tank is proposing citizen engagement as owners of public resources. People should constantly demand accountability from duty bearers on the collection and use of public resources entrusted to the government on their behalf.

The institute proposes that parliamentarians be freed from the risk of losing their constituency reelection eligibility in exercising their oversight functions of scrutiny and approval of the national budget, he stated in an interview in Dar es Salaam.

Focusing on the annual budget review before a new fiscal plan is presented before

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Census, juvenile rampage top Eid festival messages

By Guardian Reporters

UNREST in the city of Dar es Salaam in the wake of the upsurge of youthful robber groups known as 'panya road' preoccupied social reflections in Eid al Fitr ceremonies, while active participation in the Population and Housing Census set for August 23 came up in various Eid Baraza messages.

Other themes taken up in preaching relate to domestic violence, murder and unrelenting spate of accidents, as religious leaders all over the country marked the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

The festival, a vital moment in the Muslim calendar at the end of a month of fasting to mark the start of revelation of the Quran, is characterized by early morning prayers,

family festivity and prior shopping for new clothes, gifts and other treats.

Preachers stressed on the importance of continuing to observe the values of virtuous living underlined in the period of fasting, as well as maintaining the peace to facilitate implementation of various development initiatives. Clerics widely emphasized the

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Muslim faithful follow proceedings during Eid el Fitr prayers at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma yesterday. More photos on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

“ Poor living conditions for many journalists arising from media outlets failing to pay salaries on time or not paying them at all, she stated, citing various hardening business conditions

should be conducted to put clearly the limits of freedom," she further remarked.

Held under the theme 'Journalism Under Digital Siege', the event brought together media practitioners constituting the Eastern Africa Editors Society (EAES) along with civic organisations and other stakeholders.

The president was insistent that media organs must observe informing the public by prioritizing patriotism and issues of national interest rather than using their organs negatively by promoting divisive information and opinions, she cautioned.

She warned people misusing social media by putting offensive content that violates people's rights and the country's laws, while the minister, Nape Nnauye said that after the president's go-ahead on reviewing current media legislation, the ministry had commenced a review of law provisions and regulations that are seen to have gaps.

He urged media practitioners to exercise patience on their demands as the government reviews the relevant legislation, with permanent secretary Dr Jim Yonazi lauded the president for supporting media industry development.

Stakeholders from 52 countries participated in the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day at the regional level here, showing how the event is close to the feelings of media practitioners everywhere.

Salome Kitomari, veteran chairperson of the

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents Eid El Fitr gifts to children at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

Police hold Babati resident allegedly for possessing 10kgs of marijuana

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

POLICE in Manyara Region have arrested Evamery Thomas (43), a resident of Mawemailo in Babati District, Manyara Region for allegedly possessing 10 kilogrammes of marijuana.

Manyara Regional Police Commander Benjamin Kuzaga told reporters here that the incident took place on April 27, this year at 6.15pm when the suspect was traveling to Babati town from Arusha in a minibus. The RPC said Evamery was arrested at the Minjingu in Nkaiti ward in Babati district, noting that she was found with marijuana when hiding in a gown.

Meanwhile, police here are holding 16 illegal immigrants for illegal entry. The RPC Kuzaga said the aliens were arrested at different times in Simanjiro and Mbulu districts.

In the first incident, Kuzaga said that it happened on April 27 at around 8pm in Ngage Village, Lobosoit ward, Simanjiro District when 13 Ethiopian nationals were arrested in a Toyota Land Cruiser VX driven by Boniface Kimaro. The driver escaped with one Ethiopian national to unknown

destination.

Kuzaga named those who were arrested as Abdul Majid (25), Selemo Wolday (21), Adino Wolroto (21), Abraham Malaku (21), David Kabemo (35), Daraba Dullah (17), Mahamushi Demeka (25), Salami Lambros (25), Manrasa Abiya (25), Misgano Tamaske (25) and Bugala Fikire (16), Madam Zakala (20) and Damascka Tamaskel (17).

In Mbulu District police arrested three Somali nationals who are Mulucan Temegew (21), Biruk Erimias (23) and Saynab Dahir (26). The three Somalis were nabbed in a Nissan X-Trail and they were on the way to South Africa through Tunduma boarder post.

The incident, according to Kuzaga took place on May 01, this year at around 7pm in Endagikot village. In the incident police arrested Said Ibrahim (32) and Abel Vais (32) all from Moshi municipality for illegally transporting the migrants.

Manyara senior superintendent of immigration, Beatrice Bwire acknowledged the arrests and called on the people to stop trading illegally as it is not appropriate to be arrested.

Lack of orders hits Africa's first Covid-19 vaccine unit

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package and sell Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine and distribute it across Africa, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) describing the deal as a transformative moment in the drive towards leveling stark inequalities in access to Covid-19 vaccines.

With only a sixth of adults in Africa fully vaccinated, according to the latest WHO figures from the end of March, Aspen's agreement to sell an Aspen-branded Covid-19 vaccine, Aspenovax, throughout Africa seemed like a sure bet.

South Africa, which has vaccinated 30 per cent of its population, is considered as already in the fifth wave of infections, and surprisingly there have been no orders received for Aspenovax, company director Stavros Nicolaou told Reuters over the phone.

"If we don't get any kind of vaccine orders, then clearly there'll be very little rationale for retaining the lines that we're now using for production," he said of the Covid-19 vaccine plant in Gqeberha area in the Eastern Cape Province.

African countries have struggled with logistical issues, lack of skilled staff, cold chains and other problems surrounding the distribution of vaccines. Another issue is that after initially leaving Africa out in the cold, donor countries have since paid up

and the continent is now well supplied. In the long run the aim was to shift to producing other vaccines but that the firm had banked on these initial volumes to buy it time to establish the operation, he stated.

"If you don't breach this short term gap with orders, you can't sustain these capacities on the continent," the director noted, at a time when health officials dream of vaccinating three-quarters of the continent's population.

The African Union targeted internal production of 60 percent of all vaccines administered in Africa by 2040 while at present just one percent is produced within the continent, with several such plants being set up.

"If Aspen doesn't get production, what chance is there for any of the other initiatives?" the director wondered, at a time when the pharmaceutical giant Moderna has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kenyan authorities for an mRNA vaccine manufacturing facility.

In a statement recently the company said its goal is to produce up to 500m doses of vaccines a year for the continent, with a focus on drug substance manufacturing, though the facility could be expanded to include fill-and-finish work.

"In parallel, Moderna is also working on plans to allow it to fill doses of its COVID-19 vaccine in Africa as early as 2023, subject to demand," he added

Samia roots for ethical, investigative reporting

FROM PAGE 1

Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Tanzania Chapter was enthusiastic about the Head of State for initiating various improvements in the industry since taking office slightly over a year ago.

The country has witnessed positive change in the growth of the media industry, widening the freedom of expression and unlocking media outlets that were hitherto banned, she pointed out, noting that the media sector was facing some legal problems thwarting the industry.

Poor living conditions for many journalists arising from media outlets failing to pay salaries on time or not paying them at all, she stated, citing various hardening business conditions.

Conference participants noted that media practitioners and stakeholders have for years been complaining about laws and regulations that impede media freedom, including the Access to Information Act of 2016, the Media Services Act of 2016, the Cybercrimes Act of 2015 and the Electronic and

Postal Communication Act (EPOCA).

The World Press Freedom Day, which is celebrated annually on May 3, serves as a great reminder on policy makers' commitment to protect freedom of expression, a day for reflection for media stakeholders on adherence to professionalism.



Held under the theme 'Journalism Under Digital Siege', the event brought together media practitioners constituting the Eastern Africa Editors Society (EAES) along with civic organisations and other stakeholders



A cross-section of the media sector stakeholders during the World Press Freedom Day in Arusha yesterday. Photo: State House

NGO: Budget credibility crucial for development

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the legislature, he appealed for public participation in the budget process through village meetings and other dialogue forums.

There is a need for improving the business environment where the government effectively implements the blueprint for regulatory reforms, he said, noting that the institute, in a recent study, found extensive abuse of procurement and contract management processes.

Bank accounts are not well

scrutinized, revenue is lost due to system failure, transactions are twice recorded, while accounts reconciliation is poorly conducted, he stated.

Wajibu noticed areas of corruptive or fraudulent transactions amounting to 3.3bn/- in a ministerial department, or 13 percent of the total spending of 25.9bn/- for fiscal 2020/21, higher than 1.7bn/- of such transactions noticed for the previous fiscal year, he declared.

Violations of prisoners' human rights are numerous, he stated, citing the lack

Census, juvenile rampage top Eid festival messages

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importance of supporting the census exercise, by coming out in large numbers to be counted.

Dodoma regional sheikh Mustafa Rajab said that every Muslim should come out to be counted, underlining that the country needs vital statistics to plan and implement development strategies effectively.

This will support the provision of quality social services to the people, so we need to support it by being counted, he told the audience, noting that Tanzanians must continue to promote unity and peace by working together regardless of ethnic group, religion or race.

Muslims must celebrate the big day in a good way by pondering the mighty acts of divinity and not indulging in pleasures that unravel what was learned during the fasting month, he stated.

In Mbeya, Muslims were encouraged to actively participate in the Population and Housing Census, with regional sheikh Msafiri Njalabaha urging Muslims to prepare for the census. They must ensure that they provide accurate information to officers counting them, as only this way shall the government have accurate statistics.

The exercise is good for the nation and it conforms to religious edicts, as it "helps the government to know the full number of Tanzanians so that it can serve us well. Now I ask my Muslim brothers to come out of the exercise and cooperate with the officers who will come to count us," he declared.

In Mbeya, regional commissioner Juma Homera said preparations for the exercise have been completed by more than 90 percent and now the regional secretariat was conducting an awareness drive among the public so that everyone participates in the exercise. Religious leaders and civic officials need to use various forums to encourage people to prepare to participate in the exercise.

In Mwanza, regional sheikh Hassan Kabeke said that it was important for Muslims to be humble, preach peace and pray for the country's leaders. Chaos and conflicts are inevitable but believers should remain united "and make sure we end them and continue building and promoting love to everyone so as to allow God to open his blessings for us."

Addressing a vast crowd attending Eid prayers at Nyamagana ground, Sheikh Kabeke said it is vital for Muslims to be in the forefront in promoting peace and unity.

With cash and material contributions of followers, the regional Muslim council was building health centres in various districts in the region, to support the government's efforts in the provision of quality health services.

"Our aim is to help reduce the distance to health facilities in various areas in the region and promote access to quality medical services," he said.

Speaking after the Eid prayer, Nyamagana DC Amina Makilagi commended the Muslim community for its support for government efforts, promising government support the new initiative, to help cut the distance people need to cover to access a medical facility.

In Kibaha, Coast Region leading sheikh Khamis Mtupa urged Muslims to ensure that they participate fully in the national census exercise as this will enable the government to obtain accurate statistics of people and settlements, making it easier to plan for the country.

"The government cannot plan the national budget without having the correct number of people and their needs," he declared.

Katavi regional sheikh Mashaka Makulululu urged Muslims to continue doing good acts as they strived to do during the fasting.

"Eid day is a special moment to praise God for taking us in all the days of Ramadan. We need to continue promoting love and peace among ourselves and not doing bad things," he stated, condemning killings taking place in various parts of the country. Those killers face punishment on earth and after death, he declared.

He hinted that many people have no fear of God and this is what stimulates these killings, appealing for all people to change their ways.

Shinyanga regional sheikh Ismail Makusanya called on the public to remember putting national leaders in their daily prayers, such that blessings underline every initiative for the country's development. "Muslims should remember that they have a role of praying for national leaders as well as promoting peace and unity for the country's progress," the cleric intoned.



Senior Superintendent of Immigration in Manyara region Beatrice Bwire shows to reporters (not in the picture) 13 illegal suspects Ethiopian immigrants (seated) who were arrested at Ngage village on 27th April, this year in Simanjiro district. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Govt intends to establish one stop centre to facilitate investment permits

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government intends to establish one stop centre that will provide all services under one roof to easily facilitate investment permits as one way to attract investors in the country.

Key institutions will come together including the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA), the Immigration Department, Labor Department, Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and the Office of Commissioner for Lands (CoL).

BRELA Chief Executive Officer, Godfrey Nyaisa said this here on Monday when speaking to reporters soon after the meeting with heads of the institutions.

Nyaisa said that the system would be able to provide services to the investor through a common window to remove various barriers.

He said the system would also reduce barriers for investors in the country so that they could be attracted to investing in order to increase government revenue which would go to help improve services to the community.

According to him, the system will enable the Investor to complete all the formalities within a day or three so that he can continue with his other investment process or start a business.

Acting Director of TIC, John Mnali, said the system will help solve various challenges for investors when they arise as one way to increase investment.

He said that despite having a single service window for investors, investors are now forced to fill out various forms to enable them to register, obtain a permit to start a business or investment, and be allowed to work.

Dr Mwinyi urges people to uphold integrity, good behaviour during Ramadan festival

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has urged the people to maintain the integrity and good behavior they had throughout Ramadan as it is an important foundation for maintaining peace, obedience to the rule of law and good governance.

Dr. Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday at the Idd el-Fitr celebrations that mark the end of the Holy Month of Ramadhan held at the Sheikh Idrissa Abdulwakil Hall in Zanzibar.

He said it was an obligation to continue encouraging each other reminding each other of the importance of developing the good things that were taking place and teaching each other throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan, as the month of Ramadan is a special time to learn piety by doing good deeds and abstaining from its prohibitions.

He explained that among the important lessons learned during the holy month of Ramadan is a heart of love and compassion by thinking and doing good to those in need.

He added that various Institutions and Muslims were mobilized and provided various offerings and grants to those who had limited ability to meet their needs, including orphans, widows, the elderly and people with disabilities.

"Therefore, my advice is that even after the completion of the Fasting, The Holy Month of Ramadan is our responsibility to continue this practice good," Dr Mwinyi said.

He added that Islam teaches that the giving of tithes and offerings to deserving ones have many benefits including purifying the soul of the giver and bringing it love in a society where also, the giving of tithes and offerings removes hatred, envy and hostility and plays a key role in building a loving society and true brotherhood, and fostering cooperation within the community.

He also lauded various institutions and Muslims who organized competitions to memorize and recite the Qur'an. This is a cult great bounty before Allah, but it is also a good way to prepare future Islamic leaders.

President Mwinyi also urged parents and guardians to focus on the safety of our children especially during this festive period, stressing that all of them have a responsibility to manage and ensure children are safe from all things that can ruin happiness and their peace with us parents.

He tasked the Police Force to step up its efforts to ensure road safety, especially during this festive season as it is important to put in place good procedures that will help reduce road accidents and traffic congestion, a problem which is very common especially on holidays.

Dr Mwinyi also tasked motorists to be vigilant during this period all of the holidays to avoid unnecessary accidents.



Therefore, my advice is that even after the completion of the Fasting. The Holy Month of Ramadan is our responsibility to continue this practice good

swissport



NOTICE OF THE 37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting of **Swissport Tanzania Plc**, in respect of the year ended 31st December 2021, will be held on Friday, 27th May 2022 **physically** at Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam, The Kilimanjaro and **virtually** through Microsoft teams. The meeting will start at **11:00 hours**.

AGENDA:

1. Notice and Quorum
2. Confirmation of the Agenda
3. To confirm the minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting
4. To discuss matters arising from the previous meeting
5. To receive, consider and adopt the Directors' Report, Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021
6. Appropriation of Profits
7. To elect Directors representing local shareholders
8. To fix directors' remuneration
9. To appoint External Auditors for the financial year 2022
10. Any other business

NOTES

1. A member wishing to attend the meeting must come with a copy of his/her original Depository Receipt. For those who wish to attend the meeting virtually, are required to submit a copy of his/her share certificate together with his/her personal identification (Passport, National ID or Driving Licence) to **info@cadsecurities.com**. Registration will be closed at **16:00 hours** on **Monday, 23rd May 2022**. Login credentials will be emailed to individual shareholders after successful registration.
2. A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a **PROXY** to attend and vote on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Articles and of Association of the Company.
3. A proxy form and identification of the proxy must be deposited at the registered office of the Company or emailed to **info@cadsecurities.com** before registration is closed at **16:00 hours** on **Monday, 23rd May 2022**.
4. For clarifications please call on **+255 777 787845** or **+255 742 691 550**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Dated at Dar es Salaam this 4th day of May 2022

KW KAPINGA & PARTNERS
COMPANY SECRETARY

From landing to take-off: we care!

PICTURE SPREAD: EID EL FITR CELEBRATIONS COUNTRYWIDE



President Samia Suluhu Hassan waves to Muslim faithful shortly after Eid El Fitr prayers at the King Mohammed VI Mosque of Kinondoni suburb in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi delivers the Eid el Fitr greetings from the podium of a Police Field Force Unit guard at the Sheikh Idrisa Abdulwakil grounds at Kikwajuni in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greets Mufti Abubakar bin Zubeir, the chief sheikh, shortly after arriving to participate in Eid El Fitr prayers at the King Mohammed VI Mosque of Kinondoni suburb in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO



Mufti Abubakar bin Zubeir speaks during the Eid El Fitr prayers at the King Mohammed VI Mosque of Kinondoni suburb in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO



Muslim faithful follow proceedings of Eid el Fitr prayers at the Sabasaba grounds in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu



Kumbaru Sisal Plantation Ltd workers in a queue waiting for festival meat stew in Muheza District of Tanga region yesterday provided by the firm for the Eid el Fitr celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



Iringa municipality Muslim faithful follow proceedings of Eid el Fitr prayers at the Samora Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin



Women Muslim faithful follow proceedings of Eid el Fitr prayers at the Gaddafi Mosque in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Adhere to rules and regulations, DC counsels record keeping managers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka has called on the government record keeping managers to ensure that they adhere to integrity, rules, procedures and guidelines issued by the government to facilitate their work.

RC Mtaka made the remarks over the weekend in the city here at a workshop for archivists aimed at discussing archival issues in the public service.

"Integrity in carrying out our responsibilities is a very important issue so for those who are not honest they should change so that we can contribute to building a noble public service," he said.

He added: "I know there are many challenges you face in your offices and some you have mentioned here, so do

not give up even if your leaders do not value you."

Mtaka criticized the behavior of some leaders to make registers offices as places to send people serving the punishments they are given if they make mistakes.

"The registrar office is not a place to send a high-ranking official who has committed an offense, it is not possible to send a person who does not have a professional record keeping job to do record keeping," said Mtaka.

Tanzania Records and Archives Management Professionals (TRAMP) boss Francis Mathias, pledged to implement the directives issued by the Head of Archives and Records in public institutions to be effective in the functioning of the institution and in national development.

'Mwinyi's custom to hold monthly talks with media productive'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi's custom to hold monthly talks with the media has helped to strengthen the concept of good governance and enable people to submit their grievances directly to the president for timely solutions.

Jamal Kassim Ali, Zanzibar Minister of State (President Office) made the remarks while presenting the budget estimates, revenue and expenditure of the Office of the President for the financial year 2022-2023 at the House of Representatives in Chukwani outside Zanzibar City.

He said the "Talk to President Mwinyi" talks have helped convey the people's grievances directly to the president to be answered by government officials.

He noted that this is a process that enables the people to find solutions to the challenges they face and thus build confidence in the people about their leadership.

"The use of online forum to speak to President Mwinyi has significantly helped to address the challenges facing the people and thus build greater confidence in the incumbent leadership," he said, adding that when Dr. Mwinyi started the programme to hold talks with journalists every month, they got a chance to ask various questions about government

performance as well as things that affect the community.

He said the process was supported by journalists who use the opportunity to ask various questions and get answers from the president with great accuracy, noting that in the one year since President Mwinyi came to power, he succeeded in creating an atmosphere of peace and stability in the Government of National Unity (GNU), a move that has created political stability and ended the politics of hatred and hostility.

He said the existence of political stability had created great hopes for the people as well as various investors a move that has helped open the doors to investment in large projects.

He called on politicians to promote peace and stability in the country by continuing to build unity and solidarity and to avoid the evils of political hatred.

The minister said the government was pleased with the Diaspora's efforts in supporting Zanzibar's development and investment, including encouraging investors to invest in Zanzibar.

He said at various times the Diaspora have supported various development projects including the construction of schools as well as hospital equipment in hospitals located in rural Unguja and Pemba a move that has helped bring development and fight poverty.



Tigo Pesa high value customer manager Mary Rutta (R) hands over a dummy cheque worth 25m/- to Kigamboni resident Suzanne Daniel after she emerged the winner of the firm's promotion dubbed: 'Pesa Mwaa Mwii na Tigo Pesa' grand draw in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MP pushes Hai DC to come up with plan for avocado oil processing plant

By Guardian Reporter, Hai

HAI MP, Saashisha Mafuwe has called on the district council to come up with a specific plan for a major investment in the Avocado oil processing plant, which will touch the lives of many farmers as well as help the nation cope with the problem of oil shortages.

For every 10 tonnes of sliced apricot, some small entrepreneurs working on the project get 500 liters of oil and each liter sells for 35,000/- and a small bottle of 330 millimeters, sells for 20,000/-.

Mafuwe, directed the Council to come up with the investment, when he went yesterday to hand over loans worth 93m/- to four youth groups, one group of women and five people with disabilities.

In the loans, there are 40 beneficiaries

who carry out transportation projects using bodabodas, the purchase and sale of honey, milk processing, poultry, cattle, goats and the manufacture of flower pots.

"We have started at this stage of lending this amount, the one who got a large amount got 20 million, but I would really like to have big groups that can get a big loan. If we get the avocado processing machine here in Hai, we'll have a better economy, and we'll have touched a lot of people," he said.

He added: "If we could build an apricot packing factory here, we would have touched the lives of so many people, while we wait for the construction of the strategic market for Kwa Sadala."

District Council Chairman Edmund

Rutaraka said given the problem of rising fuel prices in the country, there was a real need to focus more on investment in small-scale oil processing plants, especially derived from the avocado crop.

"I thank our Member of Parliament, for having a third eye in considering this project, but there are places to learn in this and I have already seen our neighbors in Meru, there is AVOMERU Group Company, which is involved in training and innovation to search for apricot products. We will go to study there, before coming to a factory to process live apricots," said Rutaraka.

"Avocado oil is a fat, which is safe and there is a strong possibility that this oil will be used as edible oil, especially at this time when people are complaining about the price of oil therefore farmers

will get more benefits, unlike before.

Responding to the idea presented by the Member of Parliament, the Executive Director of the council, Dionis Myinga, said he had received the idea and would share it with his experts and then refer the matter to the council for blessings.

Council's Community Development Officer, Amina Masood said one of the problems they are facing now is that some of the loan beneficiaries do not repay the loans due to misconceptions that the government money should not be refunded. "There is also the problem of loans being intercepted by political leaders and many groups not having joint projects, thus causing the beneficiaries to share the money of the loans they are given and fail to make repayments," the official stressed.



Deputy minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Exaud Kigaha (2nd R) speaks during the launch of Mati Super Brands Ltd administration block in Babati, Manyara region. Second (L) is the firm's director David Mulokozi. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

UN chief calls for debt relief, post-COVID investment

DAKAR

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged debt relief for African countries and more investment to help their economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and weather the impacts of the Ukraine war.

The United Nations chief spoke in Senegal on the first leg of a trip that will also include Niger and Nigeria, where he will visit communities affected by conflict and climate change.

Supply disruptions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine have caused

simultaneous food, energy and finance crises in Africa and beyond, Guterres said.

The coronavirus pandemic pushed many poor countries into debt distress and the Ukraine war has disrupted their economic recovery, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Public debt ratios in sub-Saharan Africa are at their highest in more than two decades, the IMF said last week.

"International financial institutions must urgently put in place debt relief measures by increasing liquidity and

fiscal space, so that governments can avoid default and invest in social safety nets and sustainable development," Guterres said.

The United Nations has made proposals to the World Bank and the IMF regarding the mobilization of various funds and debt relief instruments, but so far the measures taken have been insufficient, he added.

He called on wealthy countries and pharmaceutical companies to accelerate donations of COVID-19 vaccines and invest in local vaccine production, with almost 80% of the

African population still not vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Beyond vaccination, we see big imbalances when it comes to investments in post-COVID recovery," he said, adding that economic growth per capita is projected to be 75% lower in Africa than in the rest of the world over the next five years.

Guterres said he visited a vaccine manufacturing unit in Dakar with Senegal's president Macky Sall which will soon be equipped to produce vaccines against COVID-19 and other diseases.

Bitcoin's African outpost raises several red flags

LONDON

BITCOIN'S latest fans are about as far as you can get from Silicon Valley crypto bros. War-torn Central African Republic (CAR) has adopted the digital currency as legal tender read more. It's even odder than when El Salvador did the same thing last year. The surprise expressed by the region's central bank and President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's military reliance on Russian mercenaries are red flags. Bitcoin's path to the currency mainstream just became thornier.

El Salvador's crypto conversion in September generated lots of headlines and much huffing and puffing from the International Monetary Fund. Within months, nearly 4 million people, or two-thirds of the population, had piled into the Central American country's new Chivo e-wallet system. However, all but a handful stuck to exchanging digital U.S. dollars, rather than bitcoin. Six months on, only 14% of Salvadoran merchants had processed a crypto transaction, according to the El Salvador Chamber of Commerce.

The case for crypto in CAR looks even more tenuous. Most of the former French colonies 5 million citizens, who enjoy just \$525 of GDP per capita, lack access to broadband or 4G phone reception, a prerequisite for bitcoin-based transactions. And unlike El

Salvador, which has a third of its people working in the United States, there are few overseas Central African migrants wanting to send money home.

Furthermore, residents of Bangui, its riverside capital, already have access to digital currency via mobile money networks run by operators like France's Orange (ORAN.PA). And - unlike many deeply impoverished countries - they also have a stable currency thanks to the six-country CFA franc, which is pegged to the euro, underpinned by the Bank of France and overseen by the regional Bank of Central African States (BEAC) in neighbouring Cameroon. Swapping that for the wild gyrations of bitcoin sits uneasily with Touadéra's vision of a new era of crypto-fuelled peace and prosperity.

The BEAC's surprise at Bangui's bitcoin gambit raises serious eyebrows. So too does the presence since 2018 of large numbers of Russian mercenaries, who have been accused by the United Nations of atrocities including torture, rape and summary executions. Paying their employer, Wagner Group, will have been complicated by U.S. and European sanctions imposed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bitcoin - as well as CAR's reserves of gold and diamonds - may be an alternative medium of remuneration. If so, the cryptocurrency will be tarred by association.



Government to take stern measures against public institutions violating e-Government Act

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE e-Government Agency (eGA) has been required to take appropriate action against all public institutions that violate the requirements of the e-Government Act, No. 10 of 2019.

Deogratius Ndejemi, Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance (PO-PSMGG), made the directives here on Monday when wrapping up the working session of the heads of departments and units of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in government. The training was meant to comply with e-Government laws and regulations.

He said eGA is a complete authority so; it should take appropriate action in accordance with the law when it sees public institutions building ICT systems without the authority of that authority or violating e-government laws, rules, procedures and guidelines.

"EGA has legal teeth so start implementing the Government Internet Act in practice by taking action once all institutions go against the law," he said.

Regarding complaints about internet access in some areas, Ndejemi urged the heads to find a solution to the problem that people have been complaining about when they need services provided by Public Institutions through ICT systems.

"You find a person walking a long distance to follow a tax payment service for the benefit of the nation, and then they are told the network does not exist as the system does not work, and sometimes in our councils to fix the payment number the citizen is told the network is down which

hinders service delivery," he said.

The deputy minister also said the government's priority is to have an e-Government that will eliminate the problems of citizens not getting quality and timely services, and encourage ICT professionals to use their skills in building robust systems that will improve service delivery.

The eGA CEO Eng Benedict Ndomba assured Ndejemi that eGA will continue to play its primary role of coordinating, overseeing and promoting the government's network efforts for public institutions and promoting compliance with e-government policies, laws, regulations and guidelines.

The two-day working session was attended by the ministry of it directors, heads of ICTs of independent departments, authorities and government agencies and regions districts' heads of ICTs.



EGA has legal teeth so start implementing the Government Internet Act in practice by taking action once all institutions go against the law



Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Kinondoni head of education desk, Bibie Msumi speaks at the launch of the corruption campaign dubbed: 'Sepesha Rushwa' conducted by Ant-Corruption Voices Foundation in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA residents have been asked to continue to care for and plant trees in large numbers to support President Samia Suluhu Hassan's efforts to make Dodoma region green.

A member of CCM's National Executive Committee (NEC) in Dodoma Region, Ahidi Sinene made the statement yesterday at the planting 2,000 trees at the Mirembe National Mental Health Hospital in the city.

Sinene said every citizen should be aware of the government's efforts

Dodoma Region residents tasked to plant more trees

to improve the environment in the country, so it is important for everyone to take responsibility for planting enough trees in their environment to develop those areas.

"I urge the people of Dodoma to focus on tree planting because it helps to eliminate drought, including bringing shade, especially in the dry

season," said Sinene.

He called on the hospital to ensure that it maintains the trees to help fulfill President Samia's campaign to bring it to Dodoma.

"As we plant trees to fulfill the dream of reuniting Dodoma with other regions, but we also support President Samia's efforts to emphasize the issue

of environmental improvement," said Sinene.

Bernard James, Secretary of the Institute for Information Development Association which is the organizer of the tree planting project, said they are currently focusing on rehabilitating Dodoma due to severe environmental degradation.

Cooperation between security forces, journalists to boost freedom of press

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WEST 'A' Unguja District Commissioner, Suzan Peter Kunambi said that cooperation between the security forces and journalists will help respect the freedom of the press and scribes to do their job professionally.

DC Suzan made the remarks while opening a dialogue meeting on safety of journalists organised by the Zanzibar Press Club (ZPC) held at the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre (ZLSC).

She said the community needs to get information from journalists so it is not good for journalists to be seen as enemies and instead they should be given cooperation when they need to get information.

Suzan, who is a journalist by profession, said security forces, especially the police force, were the main source of information for journalists to provide information to the public.

"The police force provides information on accidents including fire and other security incidents so I urge the media to use this source properly," she said, adding that there are people who use incidents that occur in the community including accidents as a source of information and post on social media which is against the ethics of journalism.

She also said it was incumbent upon journalists to seek accurate sources of information and avoid use of incorrect sources and urged the police force to be prepared in the event of serious incidents in reporting incorrect information to avoid misinformation.

The DC urged journalists to stop working for resentment and the debate is aimed at eliminating these issues because the security forces together with the media are interdependent in maintaining peace in the country.

She urged the participants to work in accordance with the rules,

regulations, guidelines, work ethic and professionalism to avoid unnecessary problems and conflicts between journalists and security forces.

"Make good use of the debate as a catalyst for increased cooperation between journalists and the country's security forces."

The Assistant Superintendent of Police, Said Mohammed Said, said Article 18 of the Police Force had identified journalists so that relations between the police and other security forces were inevitable because they all served the same community.

Thus, he urged them to have a collective team to serve the community with excellence and to encourage journalists and police officers to work ethically and professionally for each to know the limits of their work.

"These debates will help us gain understanding and work together to serve the country in the national interest," he said.

The conference is part of the implementation of the Journalism Protection and Security Programme implemented by the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) and the IMS Headquarters in Denmark under the auspices of the European Union in which various topics were discussed including the relationship between the police and journalists and the security of journalists and relations with the security forces.



These debates will help us gain understanding and work together to serve the country in the national interest



CRDB Bank Palm Beach branch Manager, Theresia Mwamunyange (R) hands over a cash prize of 10m/- to Muhidin Salumu Hassan after he emerged the winner of Biko raffle 'May Day' grand draw in the city over the weekend. Left is Biko ambassador Kajala Masanja. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

EDUCATIONAL institutions have been called upon to establish anti-corruption clubs which will play a key role in the fight against the malpractice from a lower level to work places.

The call was made in Dar es Salaam by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) head of education desk for Kinondoni district Bibie Msumi.

Msumi was speaking when she launched the anti-graft campaign dubbed 'sepesha Rushwa' which is run by a Non-Governmental Organisation known as corruption Voices Foundation which involves youth.

"Go and establish anti-graft clubs in colleges and universities so that every

Establish anti-corruption clubs, educational institutions urged

student understands the negative effects of the vice even at work places," she said.

She called upon youth in the country to sensitize the society to join forces in supporting the campaign which will facilitate change.

According to the official, corruption affects the economy so if youth can be fully informed of the negative impacts on the economy, the problem may come to an end.

The public relations officer for the NGO Asumwisywe Bambengile said the campaign will be carried for two years and that will be implemented in three regions of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Arusha.

Bambengile listed down reasons for choosing the regions as population, being the capital city and Arusha for being the tourism hub.

He said the NGO was determined to work with government in the fight

against corruption in schools, places of work and society at large.

The chairman for the organisation Abel Otieno MC Reyvan' said the campaign is aimed at behavior change adding that the message which they are sending will help in changing attitudes.

"Even the name of the campaign says it all, this means we will work on changing the behavior of society on the way they perceive corruption," he said.

Foundation injects \$55m to get COVID-19 shots from airports

By Guardian Reporter

THE Rockefeller Foundation has launched a \$55 million global investment over two years to support country-led efforts to fully vaccinate 90 per cent of the most at-risk populations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

The move is an effort to support low- and middle-income countries' efforts to overcome demand-side barriers to vaccination to reach at-risk populations.

With this new initiative, the Foundation is focusing its global health resources on supporting locally-driven interventions to increase vaccine demand - access, trust, and information, - that have been consistently underestimated, misunderstood, and underfunded in the global covid-19 response to date, according to a statement issued by Ashley Chang, head of media relations, The Rockefeller Foundation.

"COVID-19 vaccines still represent the world's best chance at sustainably managing and overcoming the pandemic, yet two years into the pandemic, vaccination rates remain severely inequitable," she said.

"Only 15 per cent of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose, while high-income countries deploy third or even fourth booster shots."

"The world has every tool it needs to make COVID-19 endemic for everyone, everywhere - but only if those tools are in the hands of the people who need them most," said Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, president of The Rockefeller Foundation.

"With this new commitment, The Rockefeller Foundation will help countries across the Global South reach at-risk populations, simultaneously increasing covid-19 vaccination rates and building health systems capable of addressing future COVID-19 outbreaks and other public health threats."

While global supplies of vaccines increase and stabilize, challenging demand-side issues are preventing countries from accelerating vaccination campaigns.

The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator estimates that an additional \$6.8 billion is needed to support COVID-19 demand generation and expects funding to come directly from countries themselves along with development banks and other

international grant financing.

This is occurring at a time when the World Bank estimates that low-income nations need 24-30 percent of their GDP to respond to and recover from the pandemic's health and economic crises, but with interest rates rising, their external debt outstanding has grown to more than two-thirds of GDP.

In response, The Rockefeller Foundation's Global Vaccination Initiative will invest in projects to generate vaccine demand by focusing on three levers including data and digital tools, capacity building, and financing.

Through a demonstrate-and-scale model, investments will support data-driven solutions - applying the latest socio-behavioral insights, digital tools, and data analytics - to provide decision-makers with actionable insights relevant to their contexts and communities to inform the most effective approaches to increase vaccination for most vulnerable groups like at-risk, older adults and frontline health workers.

To ensure that these data insights are effectively incorporated into vaccination strategies, the Foundation is working with partners on the ground to increase community engagement and mobilisation, and build tailored, durable solutions that will prepare health systems for wide-ranging health campaigns for COVID-19 and beyond.

"As Covid-19 vaccines are now increasingly available to lower- and middle-income countries, the Global Vaccination Initiative is laser-focused on closing the gap in vaccination rates that exists between richer and poorer countries by addressing the root cause: demand," said Dr. Bruce Gellin, The Rockefeller Foundation's chief of global public health strategy.

"Our approach centers on working together with countries to understand the drivers of demand and barriers to vaccination - only then can we design innovative solutions to swiftly get doses to the most vulnerable communities."

The Rockefeller Foundation's Global Vaccination Initiative has already engaged several organizations to implement its strategy, including United Nations, COVID Global Accountability Platform (COVID GAP), Duke University and COVID Collaborative, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Africa Infodemic Response Alliance (AIRA) and Pulitzer Centre.



World Occupation Safety, Health Day fete a successful one, OSHA boss says

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OCCUPATIONAL Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) Chief Executive, Khadija Mwenda has described this year's commemoration of the World Occupation Safety and Health Day at work as a success as it meant towards steering up campaigns that promote a safe working environment to get rid of accidents and diseases.

The day is marked on every April 28th and Tanzania being a member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) joined other countries across the globe to celebrate the day.

At national level the day was held in the country's capital city - Dodoma with the chief guest being Prof Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office-Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability; under the theme: 'Act

together to build a positive safety and health culture.'

Speaking at the day's climax, Khadija noted that, this year's campaign is centred towards ensuring there is involvement of all people at different levels of decision-making including workers in a move to build a preventive culture at workplaces instead of waiting until things go wrong only to make rectifications.

"When safety culture is deep rooted among all people, it will lead to reducing occupational accidents, diseases and deaths resulting from hazardous working environments and hence increasing productivity in the national economy," OSHA boss stated.

According to her, a number of activities are being implemented as part of the commemorations which include; OSH training among SMEs dealing with activities in diverse

economic sectors such as mining, forestry, small industries under the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), persons with disability and students of higher learning institutions and vocational training colleges.

Others are OSH exhibitions, inspections at ministries offices as well as awards competition among workplaces that are trying hard in improving the safety and health of their workers.

Prof Ndalichako urged all OSH stakeholders - government, employers and workers to cooperate in building a preventive culture towards OSH hazards by putting in place effective OSH systems.

"Generally if you ask workers about the sources of accidents at workplaces, most of them will tell you that a poor working environment is to blame.

However, if the same question is asked to employers, the answer could be accidents are caused by recklessness of workers," said the minister.

Prof Ndalichako added: "As we mark this day; it is necessary to encourage all stakeholders to have a broad discussion on ways that could be used to strengthen a preventive culture within our society."

The World Day for Safety and Health at work originated from the former International Commemorations for Dead and Injured Workers, celebrated by the trade union movement since 1996.

In Tanzania, the World Day for Safety and Health at work commemorations are coordinated by OSHA on behalf of the government. This year the day is being celebrated for the 18th time since 2004 when it was officially launched.

By Chloé Farand

CABINET ministers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have approved the auction of 16 oil blocks, including in one of the world's largest carbon sinks and most environmentally sensitive areas.

Nine of the blocks are located in a region of the Congo Basin known as the Cuvette Centrale, an area about a third of the size of California which is home to the world's largest tropical peatland complex. At least three of the blocks up for auction directly overlap with the peatlands, according to the Rainforest Foundation UK.

Scientists estimate the peatlands store the equivalent of three years of global CO2 emissions.

Left undisturbed, this tropical peat swamp forest is likely to remain a carbon sink and counteract some global heating. But if the peat is drained or the land converted to other use, it could become a significant source of emissions.

Inviting big oil into the Congo Basin would have "cataclysmic consequences for the global climate and local communities," said Greenpeace Africa.

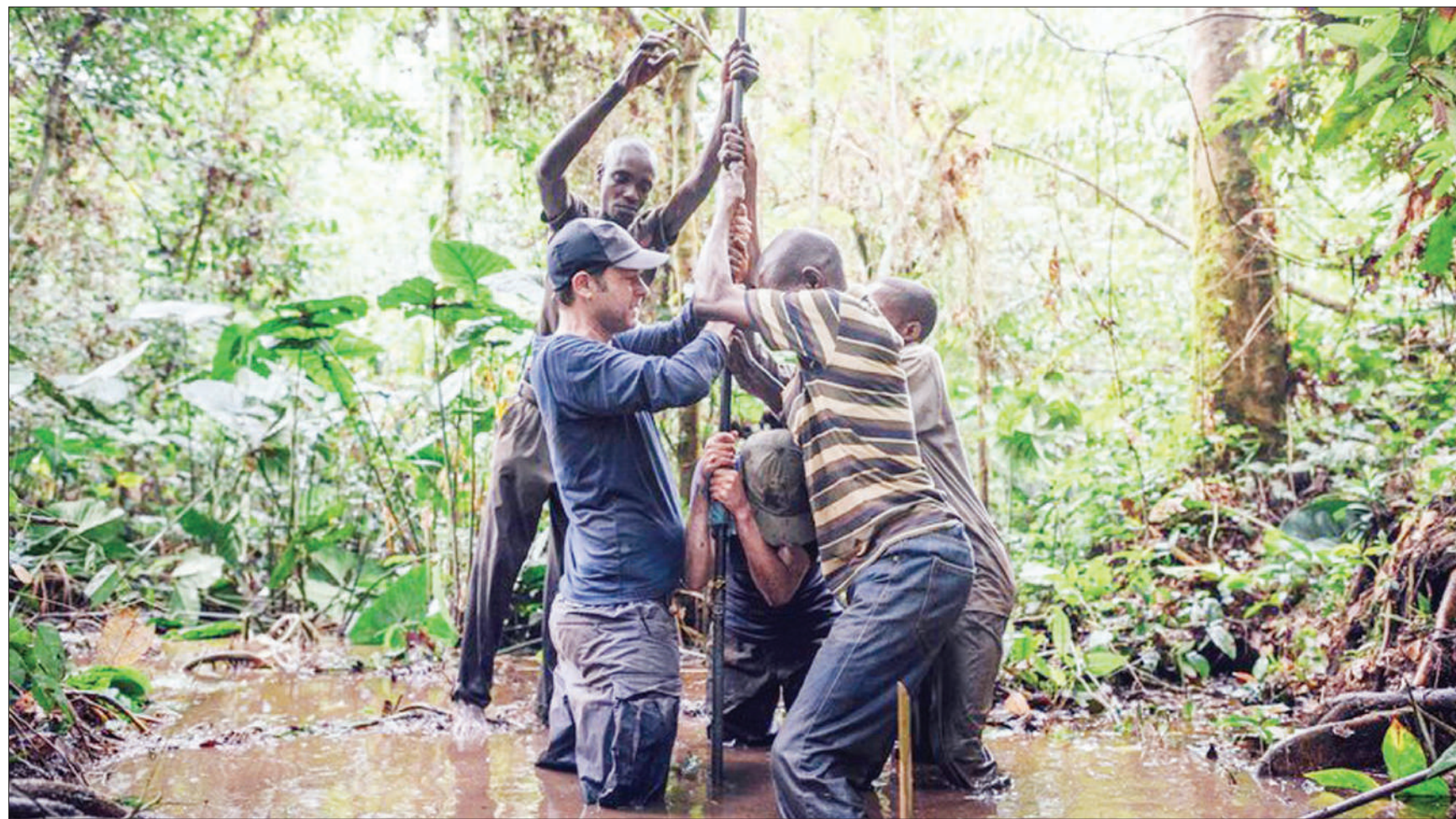
"The plan for big oil companies to trash Congo's most sensitive ecosystems is a historic error that must be scrapped immediately," added Irene Wabiwa Betoko, the NGOs' international project leader for the Congo Basin forest for Greenpeace Africa.

Oil production in DRC is currently limited to 25,000 barrels per day, all of which is exported. Minutes from the cabinet meeting on 8 April show the government is hoping to increase production to bolster its revenues.

The country has the second largest crude oil reserves in central and southern Africa after Angola.

Oil majors including Total and Eni already have concessions in the

DRC approves auction of oil blocks in one of the world's largest carbon sinks



A scientific research team from the UK and DRC is pictured taking the first samples from the peatland in the Grande Cuvette

Cuvette Centrale region, although no exploration has taken place so far. In 2019, Total's CEO Patrick Pouyanné told local journalists the company was willing to undertake seismic surveys in the region to "help Congo to evaluate its resources".

In an overview of the country's

oil and gas sector published at the end of last year, the US International Trade Administration said "there is room" for American companies with "experience in complex and fragile environments to establish a foothold in the DRC".

Campaigners say oil drilling in

the DRC's forests contradicts the government's plan to become a "solution country" to climate change, by storing carbon in its forests and generating energy from hydropower in the Congo River and its tributaries.

A major UN science report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change earlier this month warned that an expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure will lock in high emissions, blowing past international temperature goals.

The planned tender for new oil blocks comes amid serious concerns over the government's ability to

control deforestation in the world's second largest rainforest.

A scathing audit published last month implicated six former ministers in the allocation of at least 18 illegal concessions.

Meanwhile, deforestation levels have plateaued at nearly half a million hectares of primary forest loss a year since 2016 - an area about three times the size of London.

Joe Eisen is executive director of the Rainforest Foundation UK, which is working to establish community-based forest management in the country. He told Climate Home oil exploitation in the Congo Basin would be "an unmitigated disaster for the climate and hundreds of forest-dependent communities in the peatlands and elsewhere".

The recent developments in DRC's forest sector have put international donors in an uncomfortable position. At the last round of UN climate talks, UK, South Korea, Norway and several EU member states pledged \$500m over five years to protect the country's forest through the Central African Forest Initiative (Cafi).

The deal with Cafi doesn't explicitly call for a ban in oil drilling in the peatlands but in protected areas where it is incompatible with conservation objectives. The money further hinges on the publication of an analysis by the end of 2023 to determine the extent to which mining and oil concessions overlap with or impact protected areas and high-value forests and peatlands.

Eisen told Climate Home the prospect of oil drilling in DRC's peatlands raised serious questions about the efficacy of the \$500m forest protection agreement signed at Cop26 in Glasgow, UK.

"The DR Congo badly needs development, but of a kind that benefits both people and the planet," he said.

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Global outrages of violence fewer in this year's Eid el Fitr celebrations

MUSLIMS in the country and elsewhere in the world shared two days of marking Eid el Fitr, the festival marking the start of the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad, where believers fast for 29 or 30 days depending on sighting the moon. Observers around the world were somewhat relieved that the fasting period as well as the festival weren't turned into especially violent moments for those fighting guerilla wars around the world, despite occasional flare ups. Hopes are now being stocked for the second festival, the feast of slaughter where the pilgrimage takes place that this relatively calm situation is maintained.

How much there is peace in any part of the world is a result of how far the idea of peace becomes the paramount value, above those competing with it for authority and resource mobilisation among various sections of the citizenry. Chances of the whole world becoming peaceful and following laid out peaceful means to canvass for political, social and economic demands, are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but more than 70 years since that period the world hasn't arrived there yet; still, a lot of progress has been made. How far or how rapidly this is happening now is a matter of savvy guesswork.

While earlier peaceful countries may experience explosions into warfare, the reality is that permanent tensions find expression in outbreaks of war, as political systems built on convictions that aren't friendly to the universal declaration must legitimize their stay in power if things start changing. Giving complete expression to the demands they know are supported in civil societies is a particularly

enticing situation to rebuild regime support, and thus war breaks out. But with considerable advances in the development of civil society in such a country, any breakdown will take a while and then it is rectified; otherwise it lasts.

That is why explosions of violence in developed countries do not take a long time to heal, as society in due course starts correcting errors that gave expression in outbursts of violence. But where traditional systems are dominant it is not easy for political forces to chart out new bearings, as there are few people with solid convictions on the primacy of human rights, and where they exist, they have fewer people to talk to. The reason is that large groups of people look out to see who shall favour their interests if they hold the reins of power, and when that aspect is assured, they let those rulers do practically anything.

Unless therefore an economy has been reformed enough for many people to start thinking as producers or consumers at various levels of industry, or followers of certain ideas of what is best for society from say a commercial, technological or industrial point of view, moving society becomes difficult. Societies that are anchored in tradition know what sort of voices to listen to, and indeed what they are going to say as really endless repetition of what was said in past decades, if not centuries. It is a situation where theory or what is called research is irrelevant as everyone knows the enemy and the solution, and nobody can discuss the limitations of the national spirit, why they are after the wrong things. Fasting was partially a moment to reflect upon these things, whether life is first about power and using it over others, or it is to lend a hand.

True, without bulk importation fuel supplies would be chaotic

THERE is an English expression which says that 'experience is the best teacher,' but it is usually hard to draw a line in the sand or in conversation to say what mark or event underlines what is given in solid experience. Individually we all have experiences which solidify our understanding of things in life, and lately a changing situation in fuel supplies and prices around the world appears to have dramatized a few home truths in the fuel business. It has to do with the pros and cons of importation of petroleum in bulk.

As the prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene were on an upward climb, some MPs demanded that the old method of wholesalers importing fuel on their own be restored, expecting that this would push up competition between importers and thus lower consumer prices. The regulatory authorities weren't of that view definitely, but it was a debate on relative values, projections of what happens if this or that system is used, a situation that has had to wait a few more weeks to be clarified. It is the fact that many countries are besieged by fuel supply chaos leading to dramatic disturbances and one country had to call for allied armies in the Central Asian region to assist local armed forces remove rioting demonstrators in the streets.

It has become increasingly clear that the fuel supply and pricing situation in the country, even if we take into account tax relief in that direction lately to stem the pressure from the global price hikes, is far more stable and surprisingly resilient compared to what we have seen in other countries, near and far. Just as a by the way, at one moment a motorist died in her car while in an interminable queue to refill at a fuel station, which shows

how important it was for her to remain in the queue, however sick she may already have felt. It is the sort of thing that they say in an adage, 'God forbid,' but the right systems are needed.

It is with such a situation that the bulk importation argument wins the day without further effort, as the most likely forms of market or procurement behaviour without bulk importation, in a situation of rising prices globally, are easier to see, with our naked eyes. The point is that it is now evident we couldn't have avoided the chaotic fuel prices rises prevalent nearly everywhere without bulk importation being in place, where the importer is contracted by a public agency at well-known prices and approved volumes, to last for a defined period of time. There is no room to play with the market, importing little and charging high prices, or importing and hoarding as no one knows what amounts are held by which importer, out of 39.

When oil is plentiful in the market, wholesalers importing individually and observing only a regulatory price cap can indeed lock in prices. But in a situation of supply instability and global price rises, a few dominant importers can play havoc with the market as the usual smooth competition is then sidelined for speculation and profiteering. In that sense bulk importation may have been devised due to the permanent fear in upper levels of the state that merchants are seeking to profiteer all the time, which can indeed be faulted, but it has come handy at a difficult moment. When shortages reign at the global level and thus merchants can make a kill locally, it would be hard to shift to bulk importation; the regulatory atmosphere would be corrupted by big money and suspicions. The bulk importation system was thus a stitch in time.



Prioritising maternal healthcare in the public sector

By Rosemary Bassey

ANNUALLY, 59,000 maternal fatalities occur in Nigeria. Women in Nigeria are 500 times more likely than women in advanced countries to experience issues during childbirth.

A large number of pregnant women in Nigeria do not have access to adequate healthcare. This is either due to lack of resources in their neighbourhood or because the women cannot afford healthcare. Also, many pregnant women in Nigeria avoid seeking medical help because they believe the services will be of poor quality.

Data from the United Nation (UN) shows that 303,000 women die every year during child delivery or due to pregnancy-related problems. This translates to approximately 830 women dying every day, or one every two minutes. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for almost two-thirds of all pregnancy-related deaths, leaving Nigeria and India to account for one-third of all deaths worldwide.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Nigeria accounts for one in every seven maternal deaths worldwide. In Nigeria, more than 50,000 women die each year. Approximately 95 per cent of deaths during delivery are avoidable.

Furthermore, the patriarchal society and female oppression in the country can prevent a pregnant woman from receiving proper care. In some regions, many pregnant women's healthcare decisions are influenced by cultural factors, lack of education and poverty. A research by Beatrice Wuraola Ope which sought to address the challenges of maternal care in Nigeria noted that several women in south-western Nigeria believe that giving birth in a non-institutional setting is preferable than giving birth in a modern facility because traditional birth attendants are more concerned and compassionate than qualified birth attendants.

The research showed a clear distinction between actual and perceived quality of care provided, explaining that even if modern health facilities in that region have enough health experts with internationally recognized good practice, maternal deaths may still be on the rise because women's perceptions of 'quality' influence health service utilization.

Similarly, Puddah, which is female seclusion is also widespread in Northern Nigeria, where women are isolated and encouraged to give birth at home. Allowing an outsider to assist with delivery is seen as disrespectful by many in these contexts.

In an interview with some women who had patronised the public



healthcare system during their pregnancies, it was concluded that one thing that made maternal care exhausting in the public sector was the poor state of facilities and also the lack of disregard for human life.

Mrs Joyce Egwu, a mother of three, stated that after what she had experienced in the public healthcare system after giving birth to her first child, she often advised other pregnant women to seek care in the private hospitals if they could afford it.

"Imagine being pregnant, a period everyone knows that a woman gets easily irritated or annoyed by everything and the hospital isn't clean. Most times, the nurses speak with an attitude like they are doing you a favour instead of their jobs.

"I remember a time when the hospital pharmacy was out of a particular medication I needed and when I asked the lady pharmacist when I could come back for it, she said to me if I like I should not go and look for it in another pharmacy. So, how do you trust people who are constantly rude and display disregard of life to deliver your baby without complications? God forbid should something happen, they don't seem like the type of people who would be remorseful," she added.

After narrating her experience, Mrs Egwu noted that she was shocked by the attitude the pharmacist had displayed towards her. She vowed only to have communication with her obstetrician and to get her supply of drugs outside.

Another lady Margaret Effa who spoke to Daily Trust on Sunday said that her concern wasn't with the doctors and nurses as she had a good relationship with the people who had

attended to her during her pregnancy.

However, she complained about the poor state of facilities being used at the hospital. She described the hospital where she gave birth as unkept and disorganised. She recalled that often times they wouldn't be able to find her records but because she was a familiar face, they would still attend to her.

"Sometimes you can't blame the doctors and nurses for steering up an attitude when you speak them. These are people who are underpaid and sometimes don't even get paid for a while, yet they have to attend to people in full capacity.

"The healthcare centre is located in the rural area so most times there's no electricity. You'd see ladies having their ante-natal classes outside or in rooms that are stuffy and uncomfortable. The pharmacy too isn't stocked with most drugs prescribed by the doctor," she added.

Mrs Margaret Effa, who is also a mother three, mentioned that it was only her last child that she had in a hospital. Her first two children were delivered by traditional birth attendants.

As she narrated her experience, she explained that: "the only reason why I even went to the hospital was because the lady who had assisted with the delivery of my two children had fallen ill and I didn't want to use any other person because it is better to do these things with people you trust."

She also explained that "With the traditional method, the women who surround you during the delivery process know how to console and massage the body in a way that the process is less painful. They are mothers and had once given birth so

they just know what to do.

"I also believe that the herbs given to you after the delivery process work faster than the medication at the hospital because it's made up of natural ingredients that benefits the body in so many other ways.

Dr. Paul Adejo, who is an obstetrician and has worked both in the public and private sector noted that it would not be possible for healthcare professionals to give their best with the quality of services being provided in the public sector.

"I wouldn't want to go into details but they were so many times as a doctor at the healthcare centre I worked at, I had put in my personal finances just to make sure that my patients were comfortable."

Dr Adejo also explained that the perception of healthcare services is what will encourage other women who do not want to try proper institutional methods such as hospitals, fertility clinics etc.

"It's not as if the doctors and nurses don't know how to go about their jobs but it takes more than passion to keep going on this job. Maternal casualties can be avoided if the parties responsible are ready to prioritise healthcare and make sure that the standard quality of care is given to the women who visit the hospital.

"The only difference between the public and private sector is the state-of-the-art facilities being used to treat patients and also the fact that you have to see the value for the money you're paying. So, if the public sector can try to adopt the quality of service given at the private hospitals, pregnant women will be opportune to experience a safe and sound pregnancy period."

NAIROBI/JOHANNESBURG

Commitment to African medicines agency needs more than words

Across Africa, local manufacturing and pharmaceutical companies are responding to the urgent need for locally produced medical products and technologies despite the existing regulatory challenges. We can support manufacturing capacity by expediting the establishment and operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA).

In November 2021, after 15 countries signed and ratified the AMA treaty, the AMA became a specialised agency of the African Union (AU). To date, 19 countries – Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe – have ratified the treaty.

However, this number remains far short of the 55 AU member states and excludes some of the region's power houses such as South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Senegal.

However, this number remains far short of the 55 AU member states and excludes some of the region's power houses such as South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Senegal.

Over the next five years, Africa's health care sector, especially local pharmaceutical production, will be a key economic driver for the region – predicted to be about two percent of the global pharmaceutical market in 2022.

Harmonising health product regulations will make Africa a more attractive market for the pharmaceutical sector, for both research and development, as well as introduction of innovations.

These harmonisation efforts will further improve trade in support of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), by deepening African integration and enabling the development of markets for health commodities and technologies? Of most importance, the agency will coordinate joint assessments and inspections for a select group of products,



To date, 19 countries have already ratified the treaty. However, this number remains far short of the 55 AU member states and excludes some of the region's power houses such as South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Senegal. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

and coordinate capacity building.

The next two years will be critical in setting up the agency, including selecting a host country, appointing the director general, recruiting staff, and setting up offices for AMA.

Countries that have not yet ratified will not have an input into these key decisions which will bolster the medicines regulatory environment in the region.

This has been a long journey. The

agency is derived from the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) initiative launched in 2012, led by African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to address challenges faced in medicines

regulation in Africa.

These challenges include weak legislative frameworks, duplicative and slow medicine registration processes, and subsequent prolonged approval decisions, limited technical capacity, and weak supply chain control. As COVID-19 has shown, these challenges pose both a public health and economic risk to the continent.

To improve the fragmented regulatory system for medical product registration in Africa, the vision is to gradually move from a country-focused approach, with 55 countries acting independently to a collaborative regional one, with five Regional Economic Communities supporting one Agency.

AMA will review regional policies and identify new sources of funding to enhance national capacity to regulate medicines, as well as try to simplify the complex requirements from regional and global level standards and guidelines.

Member states also need to be cognizant of the extensive operationalization process required to set up the agency's administrative and technical workstreams. For instance, as part of the administrative workstream, they need to select a host country, appoint a Director General, recruit staff, set up office space, and register the treaty with the UN Secretary General.

We need to move swiftly to ensure the entire continent is on board. By now, every AU member state should have approved and ratified the AMA by signing, ratifying, and depositing its instruments at the AU commission.

Member states need to commit resources to co-finance the operations of the agency as top priority, building on the already existing commitment of more than €100 million by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the European Union.

With the vision of preparing Africa to facilitate the production of 60 percent of vaccines needed on the continent by 2040, the establishment of AMA is a clarion call to countries and regulators. We must urgently put in place the tools needed to realise the optimal operationalisation of the Agency by the end of 2022.

We applaud the 19 member states that have ratified the AMA. We urge these states to be champions by promoting the benefits of the agency all over the continent to encourage and motivate the rest to come on board and ratify the Africa Medicines Agency.

DOMINICA

English and Dutch Caribbean rally around UN sustainable development framework

When Dominica signed on to the United Nations Multicountry Sustainable Development Framework for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean (MSDCF) in March, the country joined others like Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Aruba as part of a 5-year framework to plan and implement UN development initiatives.

Support for the 2022 to 2026 agreement has continued to grow since December 2021, when Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Guyana signed the cooperation framework, which hopes to help nations achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

For countries in the Caribbean, one of the most vulnerable regions globally, the framework is a critical instrument, based on building climate and economic resilience, the promotion of equality, and enhancing peace, safety, and the rule of law.

It is also crucial for a country like Dominica which in 2017 lost US\$1.4 billion, or 226% of its GDP to Hurricane Maria. The small island state has been on a mission to build resilience across sectors through initiatives like its Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan, while grappling with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.

The country's representatives have used platforms like the United Nations General Assembly to urge development partners to consider the unique vulnerabilities of small island states in their support packages.

The country's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit says the UN framework will help Caribbean governments to implement programs that strengthen health, education, and social services while contributing to economic growth.

"We are operating in a tumultuous period defined by huge environmental and climate-related challenges, conflict, and economic uncertainty. The agreement proposes to help our small territories confront the trials of our time and achieve economic resilience and prosperity. It is cause for optimism as we devise ways to tackle our common problems together," he



Castle, Comfort Dominica. Dominica is the latest Caribbean country to sign on to the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, to accelerate progress with sustainable development goals and recover from COVID-19. Credit: Alison Kentish/IPS

said.

The agreement builds on a 2017-2022 framework which was signed by 18 Caribbean countries. Initiatives under that framework focused on areas such as building Caribbean resilience and the implementation of low-emission, climate-resilient technology in agriculture.

UN officials say that the new agree-

ment, referred to as 'the second-generation framework,' considers lessons learned. Developed during the pandemic, it also acknowledges that COVID-19 has compounded structural vulnerabilities for Caribbean countries, which must now 'build back better.'

"This new agreement opens a new era of cooperation to drive collabora-

tion and mutual commitment for the people of Dominica," UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Didier Trebuq said at the Dominica signing.

For months, leaders across the Caribbean have been speaking of being at risk of not meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, as they redirect scarce resources to cope with the

protracted pandemic.

According to preliminary data from the UN, Goals 1 to 6, known as the 'people-centered goals,' have been severely impacted by COVID-19.

The Prime Minister of Barbados, the first leader in the Barbados and OECS grouping to sign the MSDCF, said the pandemic slowed progress towards meeting SDG targets.

"We're going to have problems in the battle with poverty, we're going to have problems in making sure that people don't go hungry, we're going to have problems in making sure that people have access to good health and well-being, as we know, is already happening in the pandemic. We're going to have problems in delivering quality education and who have been the greatest victims of this pandemic if not our children across the world, many of who have been denied access to education because they don't have access to things like electricity and online tools in order to be able to receive it," Prime Minister Mia Mottley said, referencing Goals 1 to 4.

She said Goal 5 and 6 - Gender Equality and Clean Water and Sanitation are also at risk, noting that women have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, while countries like Barbados continue to be concerned with access to groundwater in the face of the climate crisis.

The MSDCF was developed by the six UN Country Teams, after rounds of consultation with government agencies, the private sector, development partners, and civil society organizations.

It will function at two levels: regionally by adopting joint approaches to common challenges and nationally to tackle country and territory-specific issues and vulnerabilities while helping governments to prepare for future external shocks.

According to the MSDCF, the vision is for the region to become more resilient, "possess greater capacity to achieve all the SDGs, and become a place where people choose to live and can reach their full potential."

It promises to provide more effective support to signatory countries, through streamlined use of UN resources and in keeping with the goals of the recently approved UN Development system reform.

It hopes to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and facilitate faster recovery from the socio-economic and health impact of COVID-19, with one regional voice on a shared development path.

Equality before the law, fair exercise of power in Tanzania

By Telesphor Magobe

In the last column we saw that coerced confession of guilt in Tanzania, such as the use of threats, force or torture during police interrogation, is unconstitutional and the Court of Appeal of Tanzania reaffirmed this in *Hamis Chuma @ Hando Mhoja v R* [2018] in its judgment delivered in August 2021.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at two concepts. The first one is equality of human beings and equality before the law (a component of the rule of law) and the second is fair exercise of governmental power, short of which results in unreasonableness, arbitrariness and abuse of power.

Equality of human beings was stressed in *Ndewawiozia d/o Mbeamtzo v Imanuel s/o Malasi* [1968]. Justice Saidi (as he then was) said, among other things, "The world is now in the stage of full equality of all human beings irrespective of their sex, creed, race or colour."

Article 12 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977 as amended in 2019, provides for equality of human beings and Article 13 provides for equality before the law. Sub-

Article (1) states: "All persons are equal before the law and are entitled, without any discrimination, to protection and equality before the law."

Equality before the law presupposes that there is no person who is above the law. Therefore, all citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania are equal before the law and none is above it.

Stressing this point in *Jackson Ole Nemeteni @ Ole Saibul @ Mdosai @ Mjom-bamjomba & 19 Others v The Attorney General* [2004] the High Court of Tanzania held that equality before the law "embraces not only ordinary persons, but also the government and its officials, and all must be subjected to the same rules."

You might have come across expressions like: 'the President is the law himself [herself]' - what he or she says is the law and he or she is above the Constitution - or you might have just heard people say 'the boss is always right, cannot err'. Are there any legal authorities to back such claims?

In ordinary life people tend to respect those in authority and even do it more than what is needed of them or more than what the Constitution and laws stipulate. There is a saying that 'The

more power you give the more power you lose and the more power the receiver gets it'.

This perhaps is what we see happening in our lives. Take, for instance, politicians. When they want to be voted for they would promise to serve people (to be people's servants). But once they are in power they turn into masters.

The Constitution provides for the equality of human beings and the equality before the law. This means that the law must be respected by all persons without regard to individual persons' political, social, economic or cultural/religious power.

The law shouldn't be bent because the person concerned is an authority. Actually, a good leader is the one who shows how the law should be followed and not be broken. Even if one is President or acting on behalf of the President one must always do or omit to do something with the authority of the law, otherwise one will be acting arbitrarily and unfairly.

Article 37(1) of the Constitution requires the President to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the United Republic of Tanzania in the



performance of his or her duties and functions. He or she is, however, free to accept or reject the advice given to him or her by any person, unless he or she is required by the Constitution or any other law to act in accordance with the advice given to him or her by any person or authority.

So, it cannot be true that the President is above the Constitution or any other law he or she is subject to or is the law himself or herself or what he or she says becomes law. In Tanzania and also in Zanzibar, the Constitution is the supreme law and when any other law conflicts with any provisions of the Constitution, the latter shall prevail and that other law, to the extent of the inconsistency with the

Constitution, shall be 'null and void' [see Article 64(5) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and Article 4 of the Constitution of Zanzibar].

How about regional or district commissioners who order the police to arrest and detain individual persons? Which legal authority do they rely on? Section 7(1) of the Regional Administration Act, 1997 empowers a regional commissioner (RC) to order the arrest of any person present, who commits or to his or her knowledge, has committed any offence for which a person may be arrested and prosecuted.

Where the RC is convinced that a person is likely to commit or probably occasion a breach of the peace or disturb public tranquility

and that breach cannot be prevented in any way except by detention, he or she may order a police officer verbally or in writing to arrest a suspect and take him or her into custody [Subsection (2)].

So, where there is the likelihood of or the probable occasion of the breach of the peace or public tranquility the RC may order the arrest and detention of a particular person, but is prohibited not to abuse his or her power.

Subsection (3) states that within 48 hours after the arrest and detention, the person so arrested and detained should be arraigned as the law prescribes.

Where an RC abuses the authority of his or her office, then he or she, as well as any other person helping him or her to abuse the authority of his or her office, is guilty of an offence [Section 96 of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) as amended in 2019].

According to Section 96(1), "Any person who, being employed in the public service, does or directs to be done in abuse of the authority of his office, any arbitrary act prejudicial to the rights of another, is guilty of an offence and where the act done or directed to be done

is for the purposes of gain, a person convicted of an offence contrary to subsection (1) is liable to imprisonment for three years [Subsection (2)]." But this shall be enforced only with the sanction of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) [Subsection (3)].

A district commissioner (DC) too is empowered by the law to order or cause to be arrested any person who in his or her presence commits, or to his or her knowledge has committed, any offence for which a person may be arrested and prosecuted [Section 15(1)] and the person arrested has to be arraigned within 48 hours as the law provides [Subsection (2)].

However, a DC who abuses the authority of his or her office, then he or she, as well as any other person involved in the exercise of power in abuse of authority, is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted in accordance with Section 96 of the Penal Code [Subsection 9].

H.W.R. Wade and C.E. Forsyth in their book entitled "Administrative Law (Eight Edition): Oxford University Press (2000)" argue that if discretionary power is to be tolerable, it must be checked

through Parliament and courts.

The authors further say that every act of governmental power - that is every act which affects the legal rights, duties or liberties of any person, "must be shown to have a strictly legal pedigree." When this happens the aggrieved person may always resort to court relief and "if the legal pedigree is not found to be perfectly in order the court will invalidate the act, which he [or she] can then safely disregard."

From what has been said above, it is clear that governmental power has always to be kept within its legal limits to protect citizens against abuse. The authors further suggest that the rule of law requires that government officials must have a legal warrant for what they do and if they act arbitrarily citizens have effective legal remedies. This is what fair exercise of power means.

Today's proverb: "Wedlock is like a place besieged - those within wish to get out, those without wish to get in."

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BY SALLEK YAKS MUSA

The country's banditry: Why 5 government strategies have failed

HEIGHTENED violence and insecurity in the north-west and north-central regions of Nigeria has become an existential threat to many.

Reported security incident trends show the regions experienced 65% of the total security incidents in Nigeria in the first quarter of 2022, with 2,331 fatalities.

Bandits are largely responsible for stoking violence and insecurity in these regions.

Numerous bandit groups exist in north-west and north-central Nigeria but they do not have any central authority and there is little to suggest collaboration between them. The groups have different operational capacities and technical capabilities, and are mostly clandestine in their operations. Their main activities are cattle rustling, kidnapping civilians for ransom, armed attacks and community invasion.

Since 2016, the current government has adopted

numerous military and other non-military strategies to stamp out banditry. But the increasing activity and violence of the groups indicate that the government's efforts have failed to achieve the desired results.

Based on my work and analysis of security trends, I have identified five strategies adopted by the Nigerian government and analysed why they failed. I also have suggestions about what the government can do differently.

Dialogue, settlement and peace missions

In the early stage of banditry in 2016, some Nigerian state governments leaned heavily on negotiation and settlement to end it. Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto and Kaduna states adopted different dialogue and settlement initiatives to end the killings, banditry and kidnappings.

The state governments paid money as compensa-

tion to identified leaders of bandits in return for peace. Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina states further offered an amnesty hinged on renouncing banditry and kidnapping, and the surrender of weapons.

Following the same logic, a famous Islamic cleric, Sheik Ahmad Gumi, initiated a peace mission aimed at reaching a consensus between the government of Nigeria and bandit leaders to end the violence. This wasn't well received by the public. The Kaduna state governor, for one, insisted that the Fulani would not abandon nomadic life of tending animals.

Overall, the dialogue, settlement and peace mission failed to end the banditry. But it did reveal that the groups were mainly driven by economic motivations.

Air bombardment and seizing telecommunication services

As negotiations and settlements failed, in 2018 government efforts turned to military aerial bombardment of occupied forests used as bandit strongholds. The effort was strengthened by the seizure of telecommunication services in parts of the north-west for several weeks in the last quarter of 2021. Seizing the network was meant to undermine the ability of the groups to communicate and receive information about military activities.

The operation did not weaken the groups. The crisis worsened, and civilian casualties resulted from the military air raids in 2021 in several communities.

Lack of support by ground troops undermined the operation as bandits moved from one location to another to evade the aerial bombardments. Similarly, the shutting down of telecommunication services was not uniformly done across the north-west. Ban-

dit groups could easily move elsewhere.

Deploying women soldiers

In Kaduna State, which has become the epicentre of banditry, 300 soldiers from the Nigerian Army Women Corps were deployed on the highly volatile A2 Abuja-Kaduna expressway in January 2021. This was done to complement and strengthen the ongoing security operations on the route.

In the first month of deployment, the A2 highway was free of abductions. But the A235 Kaduna-Kajuru-Kachia route and surrounding communities experienced a spike in attacks and abductions.

Again, the attackers simply moved their operations.

Ending ransom payment

State governments decided, in 2020, not to negotiate with bandits. They also discouraged victims' fami-

lies from paying ransom to bandits in exchange for their kidnapped family members.

The Nigerian Senate considered passing the Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2021. This would criminalise payment of ransom as a felony punishable by 15 years in prison.

The intention was to make kidnapping for ransom less attractive. But the bill attracted public criticism. Some government agencies rejected it and the government is said to have paid ransom (though it denies this). Successful rescue of victims by security forces would have discouraged Nigerians from paying ransom, but such rescues have been insignificant. Citizens are therefore not confident that if they do not pay ransom, their kidnapped family members will be freed through security operations.

It remains unclear whether the Senate will still ap-

prove the bill after the public debates.

Labelling bandits as terrorists

A federal high court ruling has compelled the federal government to proscribe bandits as terrorist organisations. This was intended to ensure that the appropriate level of force, tactical and operational assets and resources were deployed against the groups. In essence, this should translate to tougher sanctions for the bandits, and the application of the Terrorism Prevention Act to penalize their informants and supporters. Yet these measures have not deterred the now sanctioned terror groups.

Recent terror attacks by the groups include an ambush of the convoy of a deputy governor; killing of 11 soldiers at a military base; the Kaduna airport attack; the Kaduna-bound passenger train attack; and kidnap of students of the Zamfara

State College of Health Technology, Tsafe.

Recommendation

Poverty, hunger and unemployment make people vulnerable to radicalization and drive conflict. What is required is sincere policy implementation to lift Nigerians out of these circumstances.

In the short term, improved security collaboration with civilians would make individuals and communities feel safer and more willing to offer vital information to security forces. Trust in government security forces is lacking in Nigeria.

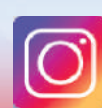
There have been cases of violent extremist organisations infiltrating villages in retaliation for their cooperation with government security agencies. Government forces therefore need to keep their sources of information confidential. They must also prove themselves capable of finding and rescuing kidnapped victims so that ransom doesn't have to be paid.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Hydrogen, the new energy rush for Africa

By Special Correspondent

GREEN hydrogen will be one of the largest economic opportunities over the next 30 years. Driven by international actions to combat climate change, it has the potential to revolutionise numerous value chains in the energy industry and across both the mobility and manufacturing sectors. With rapidly improving technology and decreasing costs for fuel cells, green hydrogen is becoming a more appealing fuel alternative in Africa.

At the core of green hydrogen production is the availability of renewable energy that is not being utilised for its prime role as electricity supply. For Europe, the lack of spare renewable energy capacity will be a roadblock for the hydrogen economy and so the search is on for viable locations for production. Pilot projects have started in Chile and the Middle East, but the greatest opportunities lie in Africa with many European backed schemes at various stages in the planning process.

Backed by Africa's extensive renewable energy resources - the International Renewable Energy Agency estimates that renewable energy capacity in Africa could reach 310GW by 2030. The hope is that development of green hydrogen projects will not only address continent-wide energy demand,

increasing energy security and contribute to domestic energy independence, but will provide an environmentally sustainable fuel alternative for years to come. The big question, however, is whether that hydrogen production will benefit the African energy transition or be shipped back to Europe.

South Africa's hydrogen valley

In South Africa, the government is attempting to match the synergies between platinum mining, renewable energy, and hydrogen production to form a hydrogen hub. Platinum is a key component in Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) electrolysis used to produce hydrogen at scale and in fuel cells themselves. The hydrogen valley will serve as an industrial cluster, bringing various hydrogen applications in the country together to form an integrated hydrogen ecosystem.

The initiative is part of the work being done to support the implementation of the National Hydrogen Society Roadmap, which was recently approved by Cabinet, as well as phase 3 of the country's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

Speaking at the launch, the director-general of the South Africa Department for Science and Innovations, Dr Phil Mjwara, said the establishment of a hydrogen valley was an important



national initiative. "The implementation of phase 3 of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is driven by the core elements of 'reconstruct' and 'transform', and this entails building a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy," he said. "The establishment of a South African hydrogen valley is therefore seen as an opportunity that has great potential to unlock growth, revitalizes the industrial sector, and position South Africa to be an exporter of cost-effective green hydrogen to the world. Hydrogen

therefore remains an integral part of our Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan."

South Africa's proposed hydrogen valley will start near Mokopane in Limpopo, where platinum group metals (PGMs) are mined, extending through the industrial and commercial corridor to Johannesburg and leading finally to Durban. The hydrogen valley will be used to establish, accelerate, and embed niche innovations through Upscaling and replication. Hydrogen and fuel cell tech-

nologies offer an alternative source of clean electricity, while hydrogen allows for energy to be stored and delivered in usable form.

The feasibility study, conducted by Engie, identifies nine hydrogen-related projects across the mobility, industrial and construction sectors that could be used as a springboard for the establishment of the hydrogen valley. One project will focus on converting heavy-duty diesel-powered trucks to fuel cell-powered trucks, which will support increased consumption of

hydrogen in the transport sector. The projects will also facilitate the commercialization of publicly funded intellectual property, while contributing to the beneficiation of PGMs in targeted geographic areas. Hydrogen and fuel cell technologies offer an alternative source of clean electricity, while hydrogen allows for energy to be stored and delivered in usable form. Using hydrogen as an energy carrier could potentially reduce South Africa's dependence on fossil fuels that cause global warming, while reducing

the country's reliance on imported oil.

Namibia to develop hydrogen hub

In West Africa, an ambitious project to produce 300,000 tonnes of green hydrogen each year is taking shape. The Namibian Government has appointed Hyphen Hydrogen Energy to develop the country's first large-scale, vertically integrated green hydrogen project in the Tsau //Khaeb national park. The project, worth an estimated \$9.4 billion, will produce either pure green hydrogen or in derivative form such as green ammonia.

"The first phase, which is expected to enter production in 2026, will see the creation of 2 GW of renewable electricity generation capacity to produce green hydrogen for conversion into green ammonia, at an estimated capital cost of \$4.4 billion," Marco Raffinetti, Hyphen CEO, says. "Further expansion phases in the late 2020s will expand combined renewable generation capacity to 5 GW and 3 GW of electrolyser capacity, increasing the combined total investment to \$9.4 billion."

Once fully developed, the project will provide a major boost to Namibia in terms of foreign direct investment and job creation. The \$9.4 billion investment amounts to the same order of magnitude of the country's current GDP and will

see 15,000 direct jobs created during the four-year construction of both phases, with a further 3,000 jobs created permanently during the operational phase. More than 90 per cent of all these jobs created are expected to be filled by Namibians. In addition to taxes, Hyphen will pay concession fees, royalties, a sovereign wealth fund contribution and an environmental levy to the government.

"The Tsau //Khaeb national park is among the top five locations in the world for low-cost hydrogen production, benefiting from a combination of co-located onshore wind and solar resources near the sea and land export routes to market," Raffinetti adds. "Namibia's world class natural resources, combined with a progressive, pro-investment and visionary government under the leadership of President Hage Geingob, have enabled the country to move with incredible speed to position itself as the leading edge of Africa's ambitions to enter the green hydrogen production space."

"This collective deep technical expertise across the entire green hydrogen value chain, combined with our financial strength and experience in developing, fundraising, and implementing infrastructure projects in Africa, will be crucial in successfully delivering a project of this magnitude and complexity."

African mining beginning to feel the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution

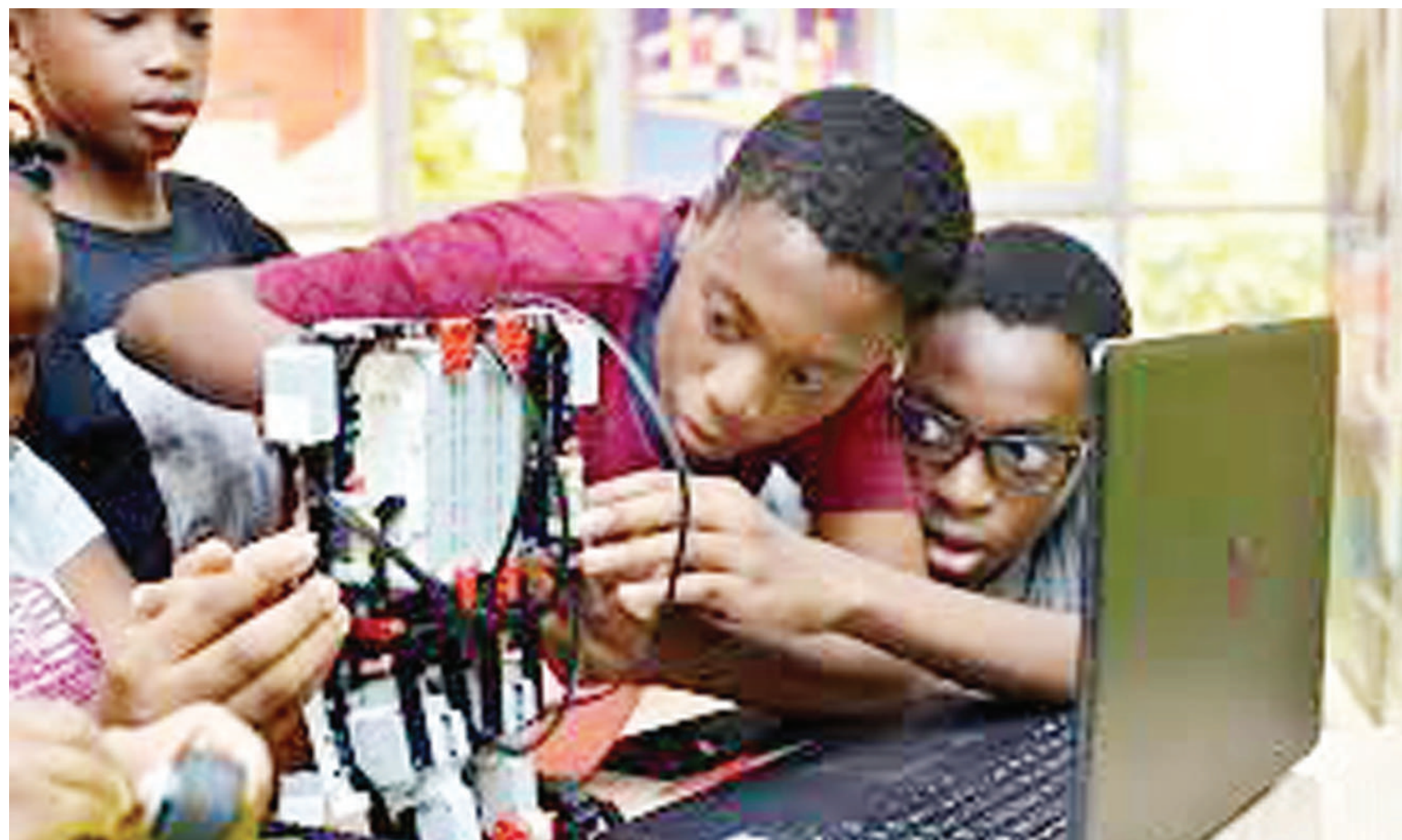
By Mark Venables

THE digital age is set to disrupt the lives of individuals, communities, but particularly organisations. Mines are no exception to this rule, with far reaching implications and important opportunities. Mines on the African continent need to be aware of both the impending changes to their business, and of the impact of those changes to the societies in which they operate. The African Mining Indaba 2022 programme will cover these issues in Cape Town from 9 - 12 May 2022.

According to Deloitte, over the past five years African mines have navigated a commodity price downturn, challenging labour conditions, regulatory changes, upward cost pressures and unpredictable international politics. The fourth industrial revolution (4IR) has emerged during this, presenting new opportunities and challenges for mining companies. Furthermore, regulatory changes and societal impacts require mines to become not merely compliant, but to adopt smarter ways of deriving value from regulation, while ensuring mutual benefit to the surrounding communities and environments in which they operate. New skills, a changing workforce, organisational restructuring, and adoption of new technologies are all important to navigate in this era.

Emergent opportunities from 4IR for mining companies, including what a digital mine will look like and the future of working at a digitally enabled mine. Covering incremental improvements to existing challenges through digital infrastructure and improved planning and decision making, these changes will drive competitive innovation and sustainable mining practices.

Last year PwC and The Minerals Council of South Africa launched its report '10 Insights into 4IR'. The report highlighted that the South African mining industry was increasingly



making use of innovative technologies to run more efficient operations, to manage risk, to improve health and safety and reduce the cost of maintenance and extraction, as well as pursuing a skills uplift.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the digitisation of the work process, as well as the adoption of automation and other innovative tools in the mining industry. These are some of the key findings from a report issued jointly by PwC and the Minerals Council South Africa. The report - 'The state of digital transformation in the South African mining industry' - was compiled with the aim of gaining an understanding of how the mining industry visualises the impact of the 4IR on its people, processes and technologies; how they perceive the

evolution of 4IR on their businesses in the years to come; and what steps they are taking to transform their businesses in anticipation of these changes.

"Adoption of innovations emerging out of the 4IR did not go into lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic," Minerals Council CEO Roger Baxter says. "In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the application of 4IR technologies, helping Minerals Council members and others to manage the pandemic more effectively. South African mining needs 4IR. We need to be globally competitive on costs and on environmental, social and governance issues. Over the last decade, multi-factor productivity in South Africa has fallen by 7.6 per cent. Mining cost

inflation was two to three per cent higher annually than general inflation, leading to two thirds of our output being on the upper half of the global mining cost curve. Mining output declined by ten per cent and minerals sales contracted by 11 per cent.

"The Minerals Council advocates a people-centric, 4IR enabled approach to modernisation of the sector. With the elevated levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality, a pure technology focused approach will not be socially acceptable. It is hence encouraging that this report does not only focus on technological issues, but also on issues related to culture and the upskilling and/or reskilling of the workforce."

Pieter Theron, PwC partner advisory services and head of industry

4.0 South Africa explains that digital is a pivotal game-changer in the mining industry. "It is disrupting mining operations and business models and, in some instances, changing the entire fabric of the mining industry," he explains. "According to our research, some mining companies consider themselves as digital champions and innovators that will pilot innovative technologies without waiting for others to prove it first. New technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), smart sensors, big data analytics, 3D printing, and machine learning will all boost productivity in the mining industry. In the process, mining companies will need to look at ways to upskill their

workforces to work in this new world as it will require new skills to unlock the benefits of digital transformation."

According to Professor Ronny Webber-Youngman, the head of the department of mining engineering at the University of Pretoria and a council member of the International Council of the Society of Mining Professors the term disruptive has a positive slant where it means the use of technology to disrupt the historical or traditional way of doing things and replace it with new technologies and approaches.

"The mine of the near future will include remote control of most activities, autonomous or near autonomous driverless vehicles (improved safety, mine design holography, real-time monitoring and real-time response and interventions in ensuring safe and healthy working environments with automated critical control interventions), 3D printing of designs, and an emphasis on non-technical skills as part of the curriculum." Webber-Youngman explains. "The mine of the near future will make full use of Extended Reality (XR) technology (a coming together of VR (virtual reality), AR (augmented reality), and MR (mixed reality) and 4IR solutions as part of a strategic intervention in dealing with mining, industry- and educational-related challenges."

With incredible opportunities in the 4IR and the challenges these opportunities bring, the future is now. Those who are prepared will successfully navigate a revolution. The pace of digital change and the advent of the 4IR has come to bear in the mining industry. Innovations will not only improve safety and operational efficiency but become a cornerstone of future competition through automation and disruptive innovation. Regulatory changes further demand that this innovation is balanced within the socio-economic environments that mines operate.

Mark Venables is the Consultant at African Mining Indaba

Pacific community-led health missions arrive with critical support to Tonga and Kiribati grappling with COVID-19 surges

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Before the pandemic emerged in 2020, health services in many Pacific Island countries were under-resourced, under-funded and understaffed.

In the central Pacific atoll nation of Kiribati, virus cases have skyrocketed from zero to more than 3,000 since the beginning of the year.

"Ashfall and a tsunami from the volcanic eruption affected an estimated 84 percent of the population covering the whole of Tonga."

In Kiribati, Margaret Leong, SPC's Infection Prevention and Control Adviser, conducted training in the use of PPE with local healthcare staff.

The deployment of health and medical experts to Tonga and Kiribati in February by the regional development organization, Pacific Community, have proven to be crucial support missions.



Pacific Community health experts conduct laboratory training for COVID-19 testing with their healthcare colleagues in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Credit: Pacific Community (SPC)

Tonga, an archipelago nation of 104,494 people in the southern Pacific Ocean, managed, for a long time, to stave off the pandemic, recording its first COVID-19 case only in October last year.

But, as the world reached out to help, disaster recovery efforts were complicated by a spike in the pandemic. As of 20 April, Tonga recorded 9,220 cases of COVID-19 and 11 related deaths.

While Tongans receive free public healthcare, the island nation has limited health infrastructure and human resources.

But, as the world reached out to help, disaster recovery efforts were complicated by a spike in the pandemic. As of 20 April, Tonga recorded 9,220 cases of COVID-19 and 11 related deaths.

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do tests. This was before Rapid Antigen Tests were widely used for testing. We were sending up to 500 swabs per day and this was a challenge to our laboratory."

Earlier in the year, Elisiva Na'ati, a dietician from the Pacific Community arrived in the country to aid recovery efforts following the volcanic disaster.

Across the vast Pacific Ocean, containing 22 island nations and territories with a total population of about 11.9 million, the role of the Pacific Community during the pandemic is, for many islanders, the difference between life and death.

Only 12 of 21 Pacific Island countries have met the global goal of 4.5 healthcare workers per 1,000 people and national health expenditure per capita in 10 Pacific nations is US\$500 or less, compared to the world average of US\$1,000.

Since the pandemic emerged, the Pacific Community has provided countries with laboratories, medical technology and skills for the testing of COVID-19, assisted vaccination initiatives, upskilled the capabilities of nurses for greater responsibility and strengthened national capabilities to monitor emerging public health threats.

In the atolls of Kiribati, home to about 119,940 people, SPC's medical and health professionals worked alongside local health staff, patients and international partners, such as UNICEF,

WHO and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which provided funding.

The country managed to keep COVID-19 from crossing its borders until January when its first case was identified in an incoming traveller.

"We went into the country at the peak. We came to assist with preparing the wards, to support the training of PPE use. We set up isolation centres for patients in the community because the hospital beds were all full.

"Some of the issues and challenges they had were healthcare worker fatigue and psychological stress. Staff were getting sick, so there were insufficient numbers of healthcare workers at the peak.

At the same time, Dr Lamour Hansell led the SPC's Clinical Care Services part of the mission, helping to manage COVID patients in intensive care. "We started up a new hospital for COVID patients, supplying new infrastructure. An old hotel was found [in Nuku'alofa] and turned into a critical care facility.

The work was relentless, round the clock and demanding, but Dr Hansell had only praise for his local colleagues, who, he said, were flexible and adaptable in the face of enormous professional and personal pressures. He witnessed many moments of courage and strength in his co-workers, remembering "one of the clinicians who had to treat and manage her own grandmother who had COVID-19. It was a very humbling thing to see, very humbling and inspiring," he emphasised.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. contemporary, 6. exclamation used to express good wishes on meeting or parting, 7. Qatar Capital, 8. Rabat is the mother city, 9. manage to make a living with difficulty, 10. lacking interest or excitement, 11. place where Andean people live, 12. letters and parcels sent by post, 14. in addition, 18. a stiff bristle growing from the ear or flower of barley, rye, and grasses, 19. Ionian, 21. epoch, 22. assert or confess openly, 23. suffix forming adjectives, 25. pass, 27. a measure, 28. a diazo copying or colouring.

RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists time slots and corresponding program names such as '05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I', '06:30 AM NIPASHE', '07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN', etc.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

BUSINESS



Africa Data centre's East Africa regional Managing Director, Dan Kwach.

Data centres become power producers-CEO

INCREASED cloud adoption and the ever-growing use of digital tools are fuelling growth of datacentres in Africa. However, the lack of infrastructure to support these datacentres remains a challenge.

Africa Data Centres' East Africa regional MD Dan Kwach is seeking to change the narrative and usher more enterprises into cloud adoption. Vicent Matinde Exerpts

VINCENT MATINDE (VM): What is changing in the datacentre space in Africa?

DAN KWACH (DK): For me, it's all about the tools of mass efficiency. We live in a society driven by technology, which we use to communicate and conduct our business and personal lives, so we need to deliver these services most efficiently.

By partnering with Distributed Power Technologies (DPT), another company under the umbrella of our parent company, Cassava Technologies, we aim to provide renewable energy and storage solutions for our datacentres across Africa.

Distributed Power Technologies gives us tailored renewable energy solutions at no upfront investment and on power purchase and power lease agreement, and guarantees zero technical risk, by harnessing the best technologies available. These are the technologies I believe will be game-changing.

VM: Do we need more datacentres in Africa and how would it change connectivity for Africans, more so on the cost side?

DK: Africa still does not have nearly enough datacentres, which are critical infrastructure as they ensure the continent's digital sovereignty. As of early last year, Africa accounts for less than 1% of the globe's co-location datacentre supply.

There's a challenge when it comes to the distribution of datacentres across Africa, with most of the continent's colocation facilities based in South Africa, Nigeria, followed by Kenya and then Morocco.

Unfortunately, most African Web sites are still hosted in Europe. Many might think this doesn't matter, but remember, the closer a datacentre is to the user, the faster the user will be able to access information and be able to use the services that are hosted at that datacentre.

Co-location facilities rent space, power and cooling to enterprises as well as the hyper-scalers, and they offer the interconnection that enables organisations to scale at low complexity and cost.

VM: What is the current state of cloud-based technology tools adoption in Kenya/East Africa with the advancement of datacentres in the region?

DK: The adoption of cloud technology in Kenya and East Africa as a whole has accelerated in the past few years, fuelled by better broadband connectivity and data becoming more affordable.

However, many private entities and public sector organisations in East Africa have yet to fully jump on the cloud bandwagon and adopt these services due to inadequate knowledge, unclear

regulations, as well as concerns around the expense and security of the cloud.

As with many other regions in Africa, inadequate access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection remains a significant barrier to cloud adoption, because the cloud cannot happen without this connectivity.

VM: As an operator, what are some of the challenges you experience in running these facilities across the region?

DK: One critical logistical challenge is power. Africa is significantly underpowered with only about 20% of the continent's citizens able to benefit from any sort of reliable utility power.

We believe an off-grid solution using renewable energy is the only truly viable solution in the long term and can see datacentres become power producers who could even supply power back into the grid at some point.

Another challenge is the well-documented shortage of the skills needed to run datacentres effectively.

There is the opportunity to harness the power of new technologies such as automation, smart datacentre infrastructure management solutions, as well as artificial intelligence to help address the management of power and cooling while finding ways to reduce the need for bodies in the datacentre.

VM: Are we seeing more companies/enterprises hosting their solutions locally and what is driving this move?

DK: Business leaders in Africa find themselves under growing pressure, as they have to manage significant, and often inequitable, competition between their businesses and their counterparts in the more developed world.

Concurrently, the global COVID-19 pandemic forced entities in every sector and of every size, to rationalise their investments, increase productivity and lower costs - in short, they suddenly had to do more, with a whole lot less.

We are seeing a slew of new companies starting to host their solutions and their data locally because by hosting these outside their borders, African countries were ceding a good chunk of their political, economic and digital sovereignty.

VM: What does the future hold for ADC in terms of expansion and growth?

DK: In September last year, Africa Data Centres announced the largest expansion plans Africa has ever seen. These plans will see us building several hyper-scale data centres across Africa, including the top five data centre markets in Africa, namely South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Morocco and Egypt.

We have set aside US\$500-million to enable us to more than double our already significant footprint in Africa, which will boost digital transformation on the continent.

These plans shine the spotlight on our commitment to accelerating digital transformation in Africa, and growing our datacentre's footprint is a critical element when it comes to delivering on our vision of a completely digitally connected future that will bring Africa up to speed with the rest of the world.

MPs overrule Uhuru on collapsed bank refunds

NAIROBI

DEPOSITORS in collapsed banks will be compensated within six months after MPs overruled President Uhuru Kenyatta's advisory to remove the time cap for the Sh500,000 compensation.

President Kenyatta had on February 3 rejected the Bill, saying it conflicts with Kenya's law and international standards that demand depositors in failed banks be paid within 30 days of the institution being placed in liquidation.

The President had advised the MPs to delete the sections in the proposed law that prescribe six months as the waiting period for payment of compensation ahead of him approving the law.

But Parliament got votes of more than 233 MPs or a two-thirds majority of the House to overturn the President's memo in line with the Constitution.

This forced Mr Kenyatta to sign the law, which took effect last month, with the six months clause, which the parliamentary committee on Finance and National Planning said will be harmful to depositors because they would wait longer to be refunded in the event of a collapse.

"The corporation (Kenya Deposit Insurance Corporation) shall make the payment to a customer under subsection (1), within six months or any shorter period following the conclusion of liquidation of the institution insured," says the Act that was recently made public.

President Kenyatta wanted MPs to delete the proposal to amend Section 28 of the KIDC Act that introduced the new provision prescribing the caps.

"The President notes that the proposed new subsection is inconsistent with section 33(6) of the Act," the February memorandum stated.

The Act requires that where the KDIC is obliged to start payment in respect of any insured deposits, the corporation shall within 30 days after the appointed liquidator make payment based on the records of the institution and the opinion of the cor-



Central Bank of Kenya.

poration as regards entitlements of the amount claimed.

The Head of State also rejected the caps, saying they conflict with the International Association of Deposit Insurance's core principles for an effective deposit insurance system.

He said paragraph 15 of the International Association of Deposit Insurance provides that the deposit insurance system should reimburse depositors' insured funds promptly to contribute to financial stability.

The paragraph also dictates that there should be a clear and unequivocal trigger for insured depositor reimbursement.

MPs rejected the proposal to double the compensation from Sh500,000 to Sh1 million.

The KDIC - an independent agency that manages the deposit refund in collapsed banks - had opposed the raise, saying that if passed, it would increase its exposure to Sh950 billion against the current fund of Sh130 billion.

The agency added that changing the law to allow for compensation per ac-

count instead of per depositor would be against the internationally accepted best standards of deposit insurance.

Kenya in July 2020 increased the depositors' compensation in collapsed banks to Sh500,000, marking the first increase in 30 years.

It was increased from Sh100,000, which had remained since 1989.

The low compensation had exposed wealthy savers to higher losses in the event of bank closures because the refund was not adjusted to take into account changing economic realities over the three decades.

This increased coverage from 90 percent of the deposits to 98 percent and in terms of value from eight percent of deposits to 20 percent.

The KDIC is funded by charging commercial banks a small percentage of their deposits in the form of insurance.

Currently, all banks pay an annual premium at a flat rate of 0.15 percent of the average total deposit liabilities or Sh300,000 per bank, whichever is higher.

The fee is applied uniformly and as-

essments are carried out in July and premium payments are expected by August of each year.

In 2015 and 2016, Dubai Bank, Chase Bank and Imperial Bank were placed under receivership, fuelling jitters among investors.

Dubai Bank is facing liquidation while Chase Bank and Imperial Bank had their good loans and deposits transferred to State Bank of Mauritius and KCB Group respectively.

Last month, KIDC started paying depositors of Dubai Bank, Euro Bank and Kenya Finance Bank following the recovery and sale of the lenders' assets.

The payments will translate to full compensation to claimants of Euro Bank fully paid while those for Dubai Bank and Kenya Finance Bank will have been paid 92 percent and 93 percent respectively.

The corporation is currently overseeing the liquidation of 19 financial institutions with the payment to depositors and creditors set to be paid over a period of one year from the date they are declared.

Use electric cars, tour operators told

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOUR operators have been called upon to use electric cars instead of fuel to conserve the environment and reduce operations costs.

The Director of Haspal, a company involved with designing electric cars, Satbir Hanspal said fuel consuming vehicles destroy the environment.

"The cost of fuel from Arusha to

Serengeti is huge, but when they use electric vehicles it is cheaper because one is required to charge only," he said.

He said Tanzania is the first country in the world to use electric cars in transporting tourists to various national parks, noting that currently the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has brought forward four vehicles to be redesigned to use electricity.

He added that tourists are interested

in visiting countries which are environmentally friendly due to the importance of wildlife to mother earth.

Satbir said the vehicles will increase employment opportunities to Tanzanians as there will be a number of vehicles from companies operating.

He said currently his factory has the ability to redesign 95 vehicles per month from diesel to electricity.

According to him, the company plans

to expand after the increase in number of clients but plans to transfer the technology to higher learning institutions.

"The coming of the Julius Nyerere hydropower project will facilitate our factory to produce more.

The new technology from Tanzania is now being used by vehicles from Kenya, Rwanda, Namibia and South Africa.

Bread prices put pressure on rising cost of breakfast

NAIROBI

BREAKFAST will get costly as bread makers start increasing prices on the rising cooking oil, fuel, wheat and packaging cost, sparking inflation.

Mini Bakeries, which owns the Supa Loaf brand, has raised the price of 400grammes bread to Sh60 from Sh55.

Broadways has indicated that it will increase the price of 400g in the coming days to Sh60 from Sh55 while the 600grammes will go up from Sh83 to Sh90 with 800g that is now retailing at Sh110 expected to rise to Sh110.

The increase in the cost of bread - a staple breakfast for many households, comes at a time when the prices of milk have also gone up, raising the cost of breakfast for consumers grappling with expensive petrol, soap and cooking gas.

Mr Bimal Shah, the managing director of Broadway Group of Companies, said the increase is inevitable because of a sharp rise in the cost of production.

"The price of everything has gone up. We are grappling with high cost of diesel on transport, expensive cooking oil and an increase in packaging material, which is now up by 20 percent," said

Mr Shah.

Cooking oil prices jumped the highest in April with a litre selling for Sh351.99, a 41.66 percent surge compared with a year ago, the KNBS data shows.

This is the third review in prices of bread since January last year when the prices with bakers attributing the move to expensive wheat.

Inflation rose to a seven-month high in April to hit 6.47 percent from 5.56 percent in the prior month occasioned by steep rise in prices of essential items like cooking oil, soap and cooking gas in the last one year, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

The price of wheat has been on a steady increase since February 24 when Russia announced that it would be invading Ukraine to hit a high of Sh50,000 from Sh43,000 in January.

The two countries supply Kenya with 66 percent of the total wheat that is consumed locally and the current war that has resulted in logistical challenges and export bans has hurt prices.

Ukraine has also introduced export quotas on wheat to protect its local population from a shortage that may be occasioned by the ongoing war.



Bread for sale.

Twitter takeover: Here's how Elon Musk bring to the table

NEW YORK

TO make sense of Elon Musk's business philosophy, one needs to refer to the works of Joseph Schumpeter on the concept of creative destruction coined in 1942.

Schumpeter, an Austrian born political economist, believed at every business cycle in the product and process innovation, new production units must replace outdated ones, which he considered an "essential fact about capitalism."

From his electric car manufacturing company - Tesla to his plans to colonise planet Mars in the space exploration race - and now to Twitter, Musk, a South African born in the ranks of America's billionaires, has been described as a man who epitomises destroying the old and creating the new.

The creative destruction concept, according to Dennis Aguma, a tech analyst and founder of nase Africa could spill over to Twitter, an American microblogging and social networking platform with over 230 million

users.

Musk buys Twitter
Last week, Musk with an estimated net worth of \$265 billion according to Forbes magazine latest rankings, clinched a deal to buy Twitter for \$44 billion cash in a transaction.

The Reuters news agency described the transaction as "a shift of control of the social media platform populated by millions of users and global leaders to the world's richest person."

The transaction, according to a published statement by Twitter on April 25 stated the deal will close this year upon satisfaction of other customary closing conditions, which were not stated.

Social media users have expressed concerns on whether a Musk takeover of Twitter could lead to relaxing of content restrictions, and a more hands-off approach to moderation.

Unlike its peers like Facebook, Twitter has been described by some users as "restrictive" in expressing themselves with a restriction on the number of characters one can tweet.

The social platform allows 280 characters close to



CEO, and chief engineer at SpaceX, Elon Musk, arrives for the 2022 Met Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

40 - 70 words with spaces included for a Tweet, but this limit is half to 140 characters for Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages, a change that Twitter made in November 2017. Audio and video tweets remain limited

to 140 seconds or 2 minutes and 20 seconds for most accounts. Ali Rosen, a product manager at Twitter wrote in 2017 that historically, 9 percent of tweets in English hit the character limit of 140 characters

which necessitated the company to increase it to 280 characters.

At the time, using 140 characters, according to Rosen, reflected the challenge of fitting a thought into a tweet, often resulting

in lots of time spent editing and even at times abandoning tweets before sending them.

Rosen explained that the 280 character limit gave people more space, and they spent less time editing their tweets in the composer.

This showed that more space made it easier for people to fit thoughts in a tweet, so they could say what they wanted to say, and sent tweets faster than before.

User experience

But again, more Twitter users still find using the 280 characters restrictive, but on a lighter side Twitter allows one to freely express themselves through multiple messages known as threads.

The more pressing question has been why Twitter doesn't allow its users to make edits to their posts once tweeted giving leeway to grammatical mistakes.

A month ago, Twitter announced its plans of adding the 'Edit' button in a short tweet that stated: "Yes, we've been working on an edit feature since last year! We're kicking off testing within @TwitterBlueLabs in

the coming months to learn what works, what doesn't, and what's possible!"

Will Musk upstage the status quo and allow content moderation on Twitter? It is a question that the billionaire has provided in hints in a series of tweets after the transaction was sealed.

"Let's make Twitter fun!" he tweeted.

In another recent tweet which doubled as an official statement, Musk wrote: "Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated."

He pledged to make Twitter "better than ever" by enhancing the product with new features, making the algorithms open source to increase trust and determine what users see in their feed, defeating spam bots with fake user accounts or stolen social media accounts, and authenticating all humans.

Unless acted upon by external forces such as digital legal requirements from the USA and European Union, users envisage that Musk will create a "more liberal Twitter with new ideas."

Aguma, a tech analyst and founder of nase Africa is of the view that Musk being a South African and business minded person could buy into the African tech space especially for individuals with disruptive tech ideas and startups.

Stephen Obed, a tech entrepreneur running Kweli Shop, an e-commerce platform, says despite Twitter being a conversational platform, the entrance of Elon Musk will make more business sense for the platform.

For now, the key limitation that Twitter has, at least according to Obed, is that a lot of content covers up business and marketing promotional engagements.

Unlike Facebook where promotional content can be optimised for a user, Obed says any promotional content on Twitter gets swamped by other conversations such as news, gossip, or politics rendering the message irrelevant.

With finer details of the transaction being inked for Elon Musk's eventual takeover, the world awaits with bated breath on what the billionaire has to offer.

KAMPALA

AS the country battles with unprecedented hikes in prices of essential goods, households are at the front-line of dealing with the harshest realities of the price changes. The family may consider some of these ideas below as they deal with the challenging financial times.

Family financial discussions

The family (especially spouses) should have an open and candid money discussion on how the family is going to navigate the current challenging financial waters. Most changes the family needs to make shall be tough and will require consensus. This discussion may be uncomfortable (especially if it has not been happening) but it is necessary for the financial health of the household.

No wastage, stretch paycheque

Frugality is a natural response during challenging times. Family resources should be directed to basic needs like food and key family overheads like school fees. Having family buy-in is critical to identifying the leakages and take the difficult decisions to plug them. Amidst changing prices, it is prudent to assume that a paycheque that could take you through one month can now only do two to three weeks, so you are going to have to stretch it.

Engage lenders, avoid more debt

Families with debt may struggle to repay amidst the increasing costs of living. In case you anticipate this to happen, don't consider hiding from your bank manager or lenders.

Approach them and share with them your economic realities and look for a solution together. This may include rescheduling the loan or giving you an opportunity to liquidate your property on your own terms without excessive penalties. At the same time, avoid the temptation of taking on more debt to cover the gap created by the increasing prices. This may prove difficult to

Coping with high commodity prices



execute but it is critical to avoid falling deeper into the debt trap.

Go slow on capital intensive projects

If your household has a capital intensive project like building a home that it is undertaking, it may prove helpful to slow down on the project to release cash-flows to cover the rising household bill. The desire to continue the project may push the household further into debt which may worsen the household's family health. It is sometimes okay to pause a project for a few months to allow the family to stabilise.

Get economically active

There is a limit to how far you can minimise the costs, therefore, the family should

look to boost the income. If one of the spouses is out of work, this is a good time to consider how they can become more economically active which may include looking for part-time work or starting a business.

Be generous

During this period, you shall notice that many in your community are doing economically worse than you. This is a period to share and not to hoard. Such challenging times present an opportunity to bond as a community and generosity is the glue that can create and sustain this community bond.

On the other progress, the Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Shaban Ramathan Mubajje, while leading prayers at

Uganda National Mosque at Old Kampala, said rising commodity prices have put Ugandans in a chokehold.

"Why can't the government scrap taxes on raw materials from which commodity goods are made so that Ugandans can get a sigh of relief? The prices of soap, cooking oil, and sugar, among others, have shot up yet people have no money to buy them," Sheikh Mubajje said, attracting cheers from the faithful.

The leader of Kibuli Muslim sect, Supreme Mufti Muhammed Galabuzi, and the Kamuli District Kadhi, Ismail Kazibwe, said Ugandans are choking on high prices of commodities.

In Mbale City, Sheikh Abubaker Magombe, who led prayers at Umar and

Yumbe Mosque in Mbale City, said many Muslims are sleeping hungry because of the high food prices.

"We call upon the government to find a solution before it is too late," he said.

The Tororo District Kadhi, Sheikh Yusuf Ibrahim Asante Ragang, blamed the rise in prices of commodities on greed.

He said Uganda has enough resources for all its citizens but "there is a section of greedy people who are hoarding commodities to make more profits".

In Soroti town, Rajab Ngobi, a Muslim faithful, said the situation is so bad that breadwinners are now at loggerheads with their spouses, who think that they don't want to provide basic necessities.

"Something should be done to shield the citizens from exorbitant prices," he said.

"During the month of Ramadan, there was unity among ourselves. People have been fasting and giving to the needy. After this period, our people will continue observing the same principles," he said.

While responding to the appeal by the religious leaders, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, who attended the Idd prayers at Uganda National Mosque, said the government is considering not increasing taxes on imported raw materials in the next financial year.

Meanwhile, Mr Habib Aluma, the Secretary Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, West Nile region, urged Mus-

lims in Arua City and other parts of the region to be exemplary to the society by avoiding criminal habits.

"Islam condemns gender based violence and all acts of immorality. Parents should sit together with their family members in meetings and find solutions other than engaging in violence," he said.

The Kabale District Kadhi, Sheikh Kabu Lule, said despite the challenges they are going through, they should not engage in domestic violence.

The regional Kadhi of Ankore-Kigezi, Sheikh Abdulkarim Katamba, who led Idd prayers at Abubakar Jamia Masjid in Kakoba ward in Mbarara City, said family wrangles are causing insecurity in the country.

"I urge you fellow Muslims

to respect and love one another to avoid the escalating cases of family wrangles in our communities. Let the children obey their parents and above all do Allah's will," he said.

At Masaka Main Mosque, the Imam, Sheikh Abasi Nseera, urged security agencies to always carry out investigations before arresting Muslims suspected to have links with the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

Sheikh Nseera said although the ADF has Muslims in its ranks, they don't represent Islam as a faith.

"We have seen on several occasions security agencies raiding mosques to arrest Muslims suspected of being ADF members, but in most cases those that are arrested are found to be innocent," he said.

"Like the heinous actions of the defunct Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in northern Uganda were not blamed on Christians, it should be with the Muslims because ADF doesn't represent the Islamic faith," he added.

Sheikh Nseera also asked the government to devise means of running its programmes without necessarily putting heavy taxes on Ugandans, who are already battling the high cost of living occasioned by the high commodity prices.

Background

Commodity prices have risen worldwide and this has partially been blamed on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has affected the supply of some commodities such as fuel, gas, grains, among others.

The war came at a time when many countries were easing the lockdown restrictions which were put in place to curb the spread of Covid-19.

While addressing the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Parliamentary Caucus meeting on April 25, President Museveni explained that during the Covid-19-induced lockdown, the demand for some commodities went down which resulted in some companies running bankrupt and closing their businesses.

'Government coffee agreement is a raw deal'

KAMPALA

ON 10th February 2022, the Ugandan government represented by the Minister of Finance, Mr Matia Kasajja signed an investment Agreement with Uganda Vinci Coffee Company Limited (UVCC) represented by Ms Enrica Pinetti, the Board chairperson of the company.

The Agreement outlines several incentives for the company to set up a coffee processing plant in Namanve. Ms Jane Seruwagi Nalunga, an expert on multilateral, bilateral, regional and national trade.

The coffee industry is extremely important to both the people of Uganda and the Ugandan economy. Coffee is Uganda's second major cash crop and it is a significant earner of foreign exchange for the economy and a source of livelihood for many Ugandans.

Latest data from Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UDCA) indicates that Uganda's coffee exports for 12 months (February 2021-January 2022) totaled 6.72 million bags worth \$741.03 million compared to 5.47 million bags worth \$ 511.66 million of the previous year 2020. Besides, between 1.2 and 1.7 million families in Uganda produce coffee.

Let us begin with the clause 3.1.4. This speaks to exporting of the excess green coffee beans until upon satisfaction of the installed capacity of the coffee processing facility at Kampala Industrial and Business Park at Namanve.

Now, this clause creates unfair competition between the company and the other local investors as it gives the Vinci company liberty to export the excess green coffee beans coupled with the multiple incentives that are awarded including an advantage of priority supply hence creating an imbalance in competing for similar market with the other exporters.

Remember, the main objective of this Agreement is to set up a processing plant to add value and reduce the exportation of raw beans which leaves Uganda trapped at the lower bottom of the value chain since the highest revenue collected from coffee is at the upper levels of the value chain.

Then there is clause 4.1.2. Here, we see comprehensive relief and exemption provided from taxes which are way beyond the law. Government commits to exempt VINCI Company from all taxes including those which are not exempted under the laws of Uganda.

The latter connotes that where a tax is not exempt under the laws of Uganda, Government will pay the tax on behalf of the company. This exposes Uganda to a risk of losing revenue to pay on behalf of the company.

Further, Section 12 of the investment code Act provides for the minimum capital investment required for a foreign in-



vestor to qualify for incentives. However, the Agreement does not provide for the capital investment amount of money in the Agreement, it is unclear how VINCI has qualified for all the incentives provided for under the Act.

As for clause 4.1.3, the government commits to taking immediate steps to restore the company to the economic position it should have been in should there be a change in law or change in tax that affects the operations of the company.

This clause bears risk on government yet throughout the Agreement, the government does not have any cost benefit therein. It is thus absurd that despite all the incentives given, government still has to bear cost for the losses incurred by the company.

On clause 4.2.1, government undertakes that it will take all reasonable measures to give priority of supply of coffee to the company before registering any contract or acknowledging any arrangement for the export of coffee beans so that the company will have ample supply of coffee to sustain its operation.

This clause is creating monopoly for VINCI to the extent that it is the sole market before all the other already existing exporters to whom farmers have been supplying coffee beans.

This clause thus brings about uncertainty in supply to the other existing exporters which will in turn affect their capacity in exports. Important to note is that the MoU [Memorandum of Understanding] does not create any limit to how much supply VINCI should take in yet it puts a clause to supply other exporters unless VINCI is satisfied.

The clause also limits farmers from looking for other markets other than from VINCI yet this Agreement is between the government and VINCI and thus cannot bind farmers who are not parties to this Agreement.

According to clause 4.2.2, the Company undertakes that it will pay for the priority supply of superior quality coffee beans at a premium price to be determined by the company but in any case, not lower than the price approved by the Relevant Authority for a particular consignment or the prevailing International price for each respective grade of coffee whichever is lower.

This clause when read with clause 4.2.1 suggests that VINCI will have access to the superior quality before all the other exporters. Knowing that there is no limit to what surplus VINCI should obtain, this puts other exporters at the

risk of acquiring poor quality.

Setting price by VINCI will not only put the farmers at the risk of loss but will affect their livelihood since coffee is the source of livelihood to over 12,000 households in the country.

It should also be noted that other exporters in the sector do not set price for the farmers but negotiate with the farmers on the best price. We recommend that the government amend the MOU and leave the right to decide on the price with the farmers and they should be able to sell to the exporter with the best price that suits their products.

This is a badly negotiated agreement for the country. If you look at 4.4 clause on electricity supply, you realise that the company shall be given a subsidy so that the price it pays for electricity at the plant does not exceed \$5 cents per unit.

By September 2021, the price of electricity was \$0.189 (Shs672.875) per kWh for households and \$0.148 (Shs526.900) for businesses which includes all components of the electricity bill such as the cost of power, distribution and taxes.

For comparison, the average price of electricity in the world for that period was \$0.137 per kWh for households and \$0.128 for businesses.

This proposed 5 cent is thus way lower than what an ordinary Ugandan is paying yet will be consuming less. If the country wants to collect enough revenue, then this clause should be rethought so that the poor Ugandan does not pay the price for investors.

Therefore, the MoU should be amended to show value for money for what VINCI will be consuming that is, they should pay at least Shs400.900 for the electricity to be consumed.

And on exercise of transfer option, it is stated that the company may exercise the option to sell and transfer the plant to the GoU or a third party.

This clause does not make it mandatory for the government of Uganda to take over the plant yet through the Agreement, there has been so much burden of payments and risk levied on the government and tax payer's money.

The MoU should be amended to make it mandatory for the plant to be sold to the

government if VINCI is exercising transfer options such that it acts as a future economic benefit in case of loss of the investor.

Absence of a termination clause is also disturbing.

The termination clause is fundamental so as not leave any ambiguity in determining the term and obligations set out in the Agreement. Consideration of these termination clause in this Agreement will help parties know exactly when it will get terminated and what events may cause such termination.

The investment capital is also not indicated in the Agreement. The Uganda Investment Code of 2019 requires that a foreign investor qualifies for incentives where the investor makes a capital investment or an equivalent in capital goods worth at least \$500,000 as way of capital invested.

What is the way forward?

There should be a review of the Investment Code Act 2019 to ensure that investments deliver on their promises; It should ensure that investments established in Uganda work for the people by fostering inclusive and sustainable development through enhanced forward and backward linkages, employment creation, skills and technological transfer.

Cameroon should follow CAR's crypto example: explain experts

YAOUNDE

FOLLOWING the recent adoption of Bitcoin as legal tender in the Central African Republic (CAR), Fintech experts in Cameroon believe the country should follow a similar route.

Prof. Kelly Mua Kingsley, a finance engineer and graduate of Harvard Kennedy School of Government, said the move by CAR authorities will accelerate innovation in payments and create an innovative financial backdrop.

He believes Cameroon should pursue legislation on cryptocurrencies in order to prioritise payment safety and the protection of consumer data. "Cameroon must adopt cryptocurrency legislation that facilitates domestic payments and centralised clearing via the central bank. Similarly, tax payments and social security contributions should be envisaged to ensure a faster integration into the Cameroonian economy and encourage the digitisation of payments."

Kingsley added that law has the power to reinforce domestic digitisation trends and quicken the pace of adoption of digital technologies by the citizens. "Innovation via the blockchain will bolster transparency in private and public sector payments and spur domestic economic activity as a raft of clearing and payments companies will develop around this law. Over the long run, innovations across the energy sector will preserve mining activity."

He urged the integration of Cameroon into cryptocurrency. "Transactions costs



should mitigate any loss in taxable income, supporting public finances and encouraging a more innovative payment infrastructure that enables Cameroonian businesses to compete effectively locally and globally. Finally, Blockchain technology will be adopted across other areas of the economy, such as healthcare, manufacturing, and education."

Ngenge Senior, Buea-based developer of Fintech mobile app Easy MoMo, said the move by the CAR government to accept Bitcoin is a good move. "It will help the country to avoid the overdependence on the US dollar for trade."

Senior however insisted on the need to watch out for the volatility of Bitcoin. He also expressed scepticism over the traceability of transactions and how the cryptocurrency could be used by especially the political elite for money laundering.



ITV	21:35	15:00	18:15	17:30
MONDAY 2 May	Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	Meza Huru	Korean: Jumong	Meza Huru
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:50 Chetu ni chetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:00 Sports Gazette
6:00 HABARI	22:20 Soap: Love to Death	17:00 The Base	19:30 Shika Bamba	19:30 Chetu ni chetu
6:40 Kumekucha	23:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	20:00 Habari	20:00 Series: Itohan
7:30 HABARI	00:00 Al Jazeera	18:15 Mapishi	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	02:00 DWTV	18:30 Jagina	21:15 Igizo: Rebeca	21:30 Capital Prime News
8:55 Habari za saa	WEDNESDAY 4 May	19:00 Usafiri wako	21:40 Art and Lifestyle	22:00 Dakika 45
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	22:10 ITV TOP 10	22:45 The Décor
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	6:00 HABARI	20:00 Habari	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:15 Al Jazeera
9:55 Habari za saa	6:40 Kumekucha	21:05 Malumbano ya hoja	23:50 Soap: Uzalo rpt	
10:00 Watoto wetu	7:30 HABARI	23:00 Habari	01:15 DWTV	Thurs 05 May
10:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	23:30 The Base	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
11:00 ITV Top Ten	8:55 Habari za saa	00:30 Al Jazeera	07:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
11:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	02:00 DWTV	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
12:00 Al Jazeera	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	FRIDAY 6 May	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
12:30 Usafiri wako rp	9:55 Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	16:30 Business edition rpt	17:00 In good shape
12:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	6:00 HABARI	17:00 Meza Huru	19:00 Turning the spotlight
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	10:25 Uchumi wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	17:30 Meza Huru	19:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	7:30 HABARI	20:00 Series: Itohan	20:00 Series: Itohan
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30	22:00 Capchat rpt
13:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Al Jazeera	
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	SUNDAY 8 May	
14:15 Soap: Love to Death	12:30 Jarida la wanawake	9:55 Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	06:00 Al Jazeera
14:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	6:00 HABARI	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
15:00 Meza Huru	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	10:30 Usafiri wako	6:40 Kumekucha	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
16:30 Watoto Wetu	13:45 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	10:55 Habari za saa	7:00 Habari	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love
17:00 The Base	13:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	8:00 Al Jazeera	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
18:00 Jiji Letu	14:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	11:55 Habari za saa	09:00 Watoto Wetu	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
18:10 Aibu yako rpt	14:15 Soap: Love to Death	12:00 Al Jazeera	10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt	16:30 Business edition rpt
18:15 Mapishi	14:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	11:35 Bongo Movie rpt	17:00 In good shape
18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo	15:00 Meza Huru	12:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Alya ya Jamii	16:30 Watoto Wetu	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	15:30 Mwangaza	19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Soap: Uzalo	17:00 The Base	13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	16:30 ITV Top 10	19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Habari	18:00 Jiji Letu	14:00 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	17:20 Kipindi cha kikiristo	20:00 Series: Itohan
21:05 Dakika 45	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	14:15 Igizo: Rebeca rpt	18:00 Jiji Letu	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love 21:30
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	18:30 Ijue Sheria	14:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mapishi	22:00 Capchat rpt
22:15 Soap: Love to Death	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	15:00 Meza Huru	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	23:00 Al Jazeera
23:00 The Base	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	15:30 Watoto Wetu	19:30 Igizo: Rebeca	Frid 06 May
00:00 Al Jazeera	20:00 Habari	16:30 Watoto Wetu	20:00 Habari	06:00 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	21:05 Aibu Yako	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
TUESDAY 3 May	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	SATURDAY 7 May	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:40 Ripoti Maalum	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:15 Mizengwe	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 14:00
6:00 HABARI	22:15 Soap: Love to Death	6:00 HABARI	22:15 Mjue Zaidi	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
6:40 Kumekucha	23:00 Habari	6:40 Kumekucha	22:15 Bongo Movie:	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
7:30 HABARI	23:30 The Base	7:30 HABARI	00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt	17:30 Meza Huru
8:00 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	02:05 Al Jazeera	19:00 Rev
9:00 DWTV Journal	02:00 DWTV	8:55 Habari za saa	CAPITAL	19:30 Eco@Africa
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	THURSDAY 5 May	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	Tues 03 May	20:00 Aibu Yako
10:00 Watoto wetu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Watoto wetu	06:00 Al Jazeera	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
10:25 Jagina rpt	6:00 HABARI	10:30 Shamba lulu	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	20:45 Telenovela Laws Of love 21:30
11:00 The Base rpt	6:40 Kumekucha	11:00 The base	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera	7:30 HABARI	11:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love 14:00	00:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Alya ya jamii	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	12:00 Al Jazeera	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	
13:00 DWTV: Kesho Leo rpt	8:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Ijue sheria rpt	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	Sat 07 May
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Capchat rpt	08:00 Al Jazeera
14:00 Soap: Love to Death	9:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	17:30 Meza Huru	09:00 Rev rpt
14:45 Bongo Movie:	10:00 Watoto wetu	13:30 Igizo: Rebeca	19:00 Innovation	09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
16:30 Watoto wetu	10:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Our Earth	10:00 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 The Base	11:00 The base	14:00 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	20:00 Series: Itohan	10:30 Innovation rpt
18:00 Jiji Letu	11:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Igizo: Rebeca rpt	20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of love	11:00 Out n'about rpt
18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW	12:00 Al Jazeera	14:55 Habari za saa	21:30 Capital Prime	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara	12:30 Ijue sheria rpt	15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
19:00 Jarida la wanawake	12:55 Habari za saa	16:15 Igizo: Rebeca	22:30 Eco@Africa	12:30 Our Earth rpt
19:30 Soap: Uzalo	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	17:00 Shansham za Pwani	23:00 Al Jazeera	13:00 Business edition rpt
20:00 Habari	13:30 Igizo: Rebeca	18:00 Jiji Letu	Wed 04 May	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Sling Shot
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	14:00 Soap: Love to Death		06:00 Al Jazeera	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws Of love 17:15

WORLD

Ethiopia probes uniformed fighters filmed abusing boy

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S state-appointed rights commission said on Monday it was investigating a video showing a group of fighters in Ethiopian army fatigues abusing and shooting a boy they accused of being from the embattled Tigray region.

The video, widely shared on social media since Friday, showed a group of men in Ethiopian army combat fatigues stoning, taunting and kicking a boy with a bloodied face, before shooting him in the stomach.

Badges on the chests of several fighters read "Ethiopian Army". Reuters was unable to confirm their identity independently.

"We are trying to gather information on the distressing incident," Daniel Bekele, the head of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

told Reuters in a text message.

Neither Ethiopia government spokesperson Legesse Tulu, military spokesman Colonel Getnet Adane responded to requests for comment on the video.

In March the EHRC said all sides involved in the conflict in northern Ethiopia had committed human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, which may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In the video, the fighters accuse the boy of being from the town of Abiy Addi in central Tigray, a region whose forces have been fighting the central government since November 2020.

Tigrayan leaders accuse Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of wanting to centralize power at the expense of the regions; he accuses them of wanting to regain national power, which they lost when



A young man walks past a tank said to have belonged to Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) rebels near Debre Tabor, on Dec 6, 2021. File photo

he was appointed in 2018.

"Don't kill him, let him suffer," said one man, as another adds: "He can't talk now, we were first supposed to get information from him."

"We should have buried him alive," another man said. One man hands a small girl a rock to throw at the boy's head, and later the men force bank notes into the boy's mouth as he lies bleeding from a head wound.

Reuters was not able to verify the time and location where the video was filmed or the actions it showed. The boy's fate was unclear.

In March, the EHRC said soldiers

and regional security forces had shot dead ten civilians - Tigrayans and ethnic Gumuz - after an attack on a military convoy left 53 people dead. Some of the bodies were burned, and an eleventh Tigrayan man thrown onto the pyre alive, the commission said.

The film of the flaming man trying to escape and being pushed back by uniformed security forces was posted on social media.

The government promised to punish those responsible but it is unclear if any action was taken.

Agencies

Rate hike an unwelcome twist for Aussie PM's re-election bid

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison was dealt an election blow on Tuesday after the country's central bank raised rates in the middle of a tough campaign, which could further increase living costs and hamper his party's prospects at the polls.

The Reserve Bank of Australia lifted its official cash rate to 0.35 percent from record low of 0.1 percent in a bid to contain surging inflation and signaled more tightening to come.

Morrison (pictured), trailing in polls ahead of a national election to be held on May 21, said Australians had been preparing for a hike in interest rates "for some time" but conceded the decision would be

difficult for some.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have seen them double buffers on their mortgages ... and strengthen their balance sheets in preparation," Morrison said at a media briefing.

"For those who are paying more, that will be hard and we understand that."

The hike in rates means millions of Australians will have to cough up more money on their mortgages for the first time since 2010. Cheap loans fuelled a housing boom last year, a windfall for household wealth and consumer confidence, but that has also raised affordability concerns.

With inflation rising twice as fast as wages, real incomes are in the red putting pressure on Morrison's



Liberal-National coalition, that has a one-seat majority in the lower house of parliament. Centre-left Labor is ahead in polls.

The last time the RBA increased rates during an election campaign was in 2007, and then Prime Minister John Howard went on to lose both the vote and his seat.

Asked by reporters whether he had just lost the election, Morrison said: "Of course not". Voters would understand the rate hike was due to global events and not the government's handling of the economy, he said.

An ANZ survey out earlier in the day showed Australian consumer sentiment dropped 6 percent last week as high inflation numbers fuelled concerns about the cost of living.

S. Korea lifts outdoor mask rule, but many prefer to keep them on

SEOUL / MANILA / YANGON / WELLINGTON

SOUTH Korea has loosened rules requiring masks to be worn outdoors as COVID-19 cases drop, but many people are not taking them off yet due to pervasive Omicron infections.

Most people were seen wearing masks on the bustling streets in Gwanghwamun district, where government and corporate buildings are located, saying the protection makes them feel more at ease.

"I tried taking it off when I left home but then 70-80 percent of people I saw downtown were wearing it. I guess it's too early to get rid of it even when we're outside," Lee Byung-young, 61, told Reuters.

Kim Eun-hee, 52, said she would feel safer without a mask if daily infections fall further to about 5,000.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) reported 20,084 new COVID-19 cases for

Sunday, with daily cases continuing to drop from a peak of more than 620,000 in mid-March.

People are still required to wear masks indoors, and at outdoor events with 50 attendants or more, such as at rallies, concerts and sports stadiums.

The country of 52 million people has managed to limit its total case load to 17,295,733 with 22,958 deaths, through aggressive tracing and testing as well as widespread vaccination.

India

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 43,084,913 on Tuesday, as 2,568 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Nearly 42 percent of the new cases were reported from Delhi, which has 5,744 active cases at Meanwhile, 20 new deaths were reported across the country since Monday morning, taking the total

death toll to 523,889.

Myanmar's Ministry of Health on Sunday lifted the quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated travelers who test negative for COVID-19 in a rapid test at the Yangon International Airport.

The rapid diagnostic test (RDT) for COVID-19 at the airport costs 15,000 kyats per testing for travelers, and the result comes within an hour, the health ministry said.

All foreign travelers entering the country before Sunday have to wait in quarantine at designated hotels for about 24 hours for the RT-PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test result.

All travelers entering the country until now are still obliged to present both a certificate of vaccination completed at least 14 days before arrival and a negative result in an RT-PCR performed within 72 hours of their arrival.

All foreign travelers are still required to submit COVID-19 medical insurance purchased from

Myanmar Insurance and a health declaration form, the ministry said. The health ministry also shortened the quarantine period for the travelers entering the country with relief flights and through land border gates, from five days to three days for fully vaccinated travelers and from seven days to five days for those who are not fully vaccinated.

Myanmar's health ministry said it has lifted and shortened the quarantine periods as the COVID-19 positivity rate of incoming tourists was very low.

New Zealand

New Zealand has recorded 9,109 new community cases of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health said in a statement on Tuesday.

Among the new community infections, 2,678 were reported in the largest city Auckland, said the ministry.

In addition, 128 new cases of COVID-19 were detected at the New

Zealand border.

Currently, there are 481 COVID-19 patients being treated in New Zealand hospitals, including 10 people in intensive care units or high dependency units. The ministry also reported 20 more deaths from COVID-19.

Philippines

The Philippines is considering donating to Myanmar five million doses of Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, a senior health official said on Monday.

The donation would be the first by the Philippines to another nation, after it scrambled for much of last year to procure vaccines for its 110 million population.

Health officials have said the Philippines now has ample supplies. Authorities are seeking clearance to donate the Russian vaccines through the Myanmar Red Cross Society, health undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told a regular news conference.

To embrace a global governance philosophy that emphasises extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits

AS the world undergoes profound changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century, new traditional security risks and governance issues are arising, further fueling the tensions in international situation and increasing the difficulty of maintaining international order.

Against this backdrop, Chinese President Xi Jinping, aiming to safeguard common interests of the world and create a future shared by mankind, encouraged the world to work together to tackle global governance challenges and embrace a global governance philosophy that emphasises extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, when addressing the

opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2022 on April 21.

He also stressed promoting the common values of humanity and upholding true multilateralism, saying it is particularly important for major countries to lead by example.

His proposals fully demonstrated China's sense of responsibility to lead the reform of global governance system and promote historical progress in the quest of peace and justice.

The world must uphold solidarity as it rises up to global governance challenges.

"In this day and age, the international community has evolved so much that

it has become a sophisticated and integrated apparatus. Acts to remove any single part will cause serious problems to its operation. When that happens, both the victims and the initiators of such acts will stand to lose."

President Xi's simile vividly explained that countries around the world share a same future. Facing outstanding global challenges, the right choice remains to enhance international cooperation and give full play to the global governance system, rather than doing the opposite and arbitrarily hindering international cooperation under all kinds of excuses.

Since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, some countries have been try-

ing to tie the whole world to it, turning world economy into a political issue, a tool and even a weapon, with a total disregard for whether it would impact the life of the people around the world.

Such practice will not help solve the crisis at all, and may destroy the international economic cooperation outcomes achieved in the past decades.

As it confronts global governance challenges, the world must uphold real multilateralism.

While the globe remains in the grip of the pandemic, it is facing new traditional security risks. Meanwhile, the widening development gap is further bothering the sluggish global recovery, and new issues such as digital gov-

ernance are emerging while climate change and other governance issues still need to be addressed.

It is never a good idea to go it alone to solve these problems. Global actions, response and cooperation are required to overcome these concerns. Only by practicing a global governance philosophy that emphasises extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, can countries expand common ground and build the most powerful strength.

Hegemonism and power politics are presently posing a grave danger to the world's peace and progress. It is urgent to uphold true multilateralism and firmly safeguard the international

system with the UN at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, which is also a common aspiration of the international society.

Major country must fulfill their responsibilities as the world rises up to global governance challenges.

A country's international status is measured by its openness of mind, breadth of vision, and sense of responsibility rather than its size, strength or power. "It is particularly important for major countries to lead by example in honoring equality, cooperation, good faith and the rule of law, and act in a way befitting their status," President Xi said.

People's Daily

Xinhua

New York City raises COVID-19 alert level to medium

JOHANNESBURG/ NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY on Monday adjusted up its COVID-19 alert level from low to medium, indicating the presence of medium community spread of COVID-19.

The accumulated new cases per 100,000 people in the city in the last seven days moved up to 209.02, which surpasses the threshold of 200 to enter the medium level, according to the official data.

The seven-day average new cases have increased to nearly 2,500 by April 29 from over 600 in early March.

With the medium risk alert level, New Yorkers must exercise even greater caution than they have the last few weeks, said Dr. Ashwin Vasan, health commissioner of NYC in a statement.

New Yorkers are advised to upgrade to higher-quality masks while wearing a face mask in public indoor settings, according to the color-coded alert system introduced in early March.

Led by Northeast, Midwest and Northwest regions, COVID-19 cases in the United States are on a meaningful rebound in the last few weeks.

According to the latest data from Johns Hopkins University, the national count of COVID-19 cases in the United States has exceeded 81 million, with 993,733 related deaths so far.

Africa

Africa's first COVID-19 vaccination plant, touted last year as a trailblazer for an under-vaccinated continent frustrated by sluggish Western handouts, risks shutting down after receiving not a single order, a company executive said on Saturday.

South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare negotiated a licensing deal in November to package and sell Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine and distribute it across Africa.

The World Health Organization called the deal a "transformative moment" in the drive towards levelling stark inequalities in access to COVID-19 vaccines.

With only a sixth of adults in Africa fully vaccinated, according to the latest WHO figures from the end of March, Aspen's agreement to sell an Aspen-branded COVID-19 vaccine, Aspenovax, throughout Africa seemed like a sure bet.

South Africa, which has vaccinated 30 percent of its population, also looks set to experience a fifth wave of infections.

Yet, "There've been no orders received for Aspenovax," Aspen senior director Stavros Nicolaou told Reuters over the phone.

"If we don't get any kind of vaccine orders, then clearly there'll be very little rationale for retaining the lines that we're currently using for production," he said of the COVID-19 vaccine plant in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape.

African countries have struggled with logistical issues, lack of skilled staff, cold chains and other problems surrounding the distribution of vaccines. Another issue is that, after initially leaving Africa out in the cold, donor countries have since paid up and the continent is now well supplied.

Nicolaou said that in the long run the aim was to shift to producing other vaccines but that the firm had banked on these initial volumes to buy it time to establish the operation.

"If you don't breach this short term gap with orders, you can't sustain these capacities on the continent," he said, at a time when health officials want to vaccinate three-quarters of the continent's population.

The African Union's goal is to produce 60 percent of all vaccines administered in Africa locally by 2040, up from the current 1 percent, and several such plants are being set up.

"If Aspen doesn't get production, what chance is there for any of the other initiatives?" Nicolaou said.

Politico: US top court set to revoke landmark abortion ruling

WASHINGTON

THE US Supreme Court looks set to vote to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide, according to a leaked initial draft majority opinion published by Politico on Monday.

The unprecedented leak from the conservative-majority Supreme Court sent shock waves through the United States, not least because the court prides itself on keeping its internal deliberations secret and leaks are extremely uncommon.

Reuters was not able to confirm the authenticity of the draft. The Supreme Court and the White House declined to comment.

"Roe was egregiously wrong from the start," conservative Justice Samuel Alito wrote in the draft opinion which is dated Feb 10, according to Politico, which posted a copy online.

Based on Alito's opinion, the court would find that the Roe v. Wade decision that allowed abortions performed before a fetus would be viable outside the womb - between 24 and 28 weeks of pregnancy - was wrongly decided because the US Constitution makes no specific mention of abortion rights.

"Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each state from regulating or prohibiting abortion," Alito said, according to the leaked document.

The news broke a little more than six months before the mid-term elections that will determine if Democrats hold their razor-thin majorities in the US Congress for the next two years of President Joe Biden's term in office.

Abortion is one of the most divisive issues in US politics and has been for nearly a half century.

"This decision is a direct assault on the dignity, rights, & lives of women, not to mention decades of settled law," said former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"It will kill and subjugate women even as a vast majority of Americans think abortion should be legal. What an utter disgrace."



A crowd of people gather outside the Supreme Court, on Monday in Washington. AP

an utter disgrace."

Republican Senator Tom Cotton said: "...Roe was egregiously wrong from the beginning & I pray the Court follows the Constitution & allows the states to once again protect unborn life."

Four of the other Republican-appointed justices - Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett - voted with Alito in the conference held among the justices, the report added.

After an initial vote among the justices following an oral argument, one is assigned the majority opinion and writes a draft. It is then circulated among the justices.

At times, in between the initial vote and the ruling being released, the vote alignment can change. A ruling is only final when it is published by the court.

In a post on Twitter, Neal Katyal, a lawyer who regularly argues before the court, said if the report was accurate it would be "the first major leak from the Supreme Court ever."

The court, which has a 6-3 conservative majority, heard oral arguments in

December on Mississippi's bid to revive its ban on abortion starting at 15 weeks of pregnancy, a law blocked by lower courts.

It appeared based on December's oral argument that a majority was inclined to uphold Mississippi's abortion ban and that there could be five votes to overturn Roe.

The Roe v. Wade decision recognized that the right to personal privacy under the US Constitution protects a woman's ability to terminate her pregnancy.

Christian conservatives and many Republican officeholders have long sought to overturn it.

The Supreme Court in a 1992 ruling called Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey reaffirmed abortion rights and prohibited laws imposing an "undue burden" on abortion access.

Mississippi asked the justices to overturn both rulings and Alito's draft opinion largely adopts the Republican state's arguments.

If Roe is overturned, abortion is likely to remain legal in liberal states. More than a dozen states currently have laws protecting abortion rights. Numerous Republican-led states have passed various abortion restrictions in defiance of the Roe precedent in recent years.

Republicans could try to enact a nationwide abortion ban, while Democrats could also seek

to protect abortion rights at the national level.

Democrats said the draft opinion undermines the importance of this year's elections, in which they are seeking to maintain control of the House and Senate.

"We need to turn out the vote like we've never turned out the vote before," Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin told MSNBC. "The people need to stand up and defend democratic institutions and the rights of the people because the Supreme Court is certainly not doing anything for us."

Republican Senator Josh Hawley said, without evidence, that the leak was likely from a liberal inside the court.

"The justices mustn't give in to this attempt to corrupt the process. Stay strong," he said in a Twitter post.

Agencies

Russia going ahead with Victory Day celebration

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is not looking to end its special military operation in Ukraine by Victory Day on May 9, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said, as the country looks set to mark the anniversary.

Speaking with Italian outlet Mediaset on Sunday, Lavrov insisted Moscow would not rush to wrap up its "special military operation" in time for the anniversary, which celebrates Nazi Germany's surrender to allied forces including the then Soviet Union in 1945.

"Our military will not artificially adjust their actions to any date, including Victory Day," Lavrov said. "The pace of the operation in Ukraine depends, first of all, on the need to minimize any risks for the civilian population and Russian military personnel."

Lavrov noted the operation was particularly aimed at ensuring the safety of civilians and making sure that there were no threats from Ukraine to civilians and Russia, "which would be related to offensive weapons and the spread of Nazi ideas that the West is trying to downplay".

Media representatives in Moscow, including China Daily, have already received approval by the Kremlin for participation in this year's May 9 military parade in Red Square.

In total, 11,000 servicemen, 131 weapons, military and special equipment, as well as 77 aircraft and helicopters will take part in the Victory Parade, but Moscow did not invite any of the foreign leaders to Red Square, said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Pes-

kov.

Ukrainian civilians holed up inside a steel plant in Mariupol under siege by Russian forces for nearly two months began evacuating over the weekend and people sheltering elsewhere in the city were set to leave on Monday.

Video posted online on Sunday by Ukrainian forces showed elderly women and mothers with small children climbing over a steep pile of rubble from the sprawling Azovstal steel plant and eventually boarding a bus.

More than 100 civilians were expected to arrive in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Zaporizhzhia on Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday.

Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of the Azov Regiment, urged groups like the United Nations and the Red Cross to ensure the safety of those being evacuated.

UN humanitarian spokesman Saviano Abreu said civilians arriving in Zaporizhzhia, about 230 kilometers northwest of Mariupol, would get immediate support, including psychological services.

Separately, recent weeks have seen a number of fires and explosions in Russian regions near the border.

An explosive device damaged a railway bridge on Sunday in the Kursk region which borders Ukraine, and a criminal investigation has been started, the region's government said.

Later that day, a fire occurred on the territory of the Russian Defense Ministry's facility on the border of three municipalities of the Belgorod Region.

Agencies



Our military will not artificially adjust their actions to any date, including Victory Day," Lavrov said. "The pace of the operation in Ukraine depends, first of all, on the need to minimize any risks for the civilian population and Russian military personnel

China sets new record in high-speed rail closing speed

CHINA'S high-speed trains set another new record!

On April 21, two new Fuxing bullet trains for testing independently developed by China passed by each other at a relative speed of 870 km/h, with each of them running at 435 km/h along a section of the high-speed rail line between Jinan, east China's Shandong province and Zhengzhou, central China's Henan province. This is the fastest closing speed among two trains in the world are able to reach.

The new Fuxing bullet trains will offer the most important technical support and guidance for the development of the CR450 project that aims to develop a new generation of high-speed trains running above 400 km/h, as well as the construction of the safety demonstration lines for 350 km/h bullet trains.

"The closing speed of 870 km/h, in other words, means that it only takes 0.86 second for two trains of the same length to pass by each other," said an employee from China Railway, former Ministry of Railways of China.

Shortly before the record was made, the two bullet trains had completed another test in which they passed by each other at a relative speed of 806 km/h in a tunnel along a section of the high-speed rail line between Zhengzhou and southwest China's Chongqing municipality.

The CR450 project, which was started in 2021, aims to develop more environmentally friendly, more energy-saving and more intelligent



An intelligent Fuxing bullet train is running along the Beijing-Harbin high-speed railway, July 10, 2021. File Photo

Fuxing bullet trains that better suit the 5G-enabled operation in the future.

"The new train is a world-leading model developed by China Railway in cooperation with Chinese enterprises, universities and institutes engaged in the design and manufacturing of high-speed trains."

It is inspired by the intelligent bullet trains running along the Beijing-Zhangjiakou high-speed rail," said the head of China Railway's Department of Science, Technology and Information Technology.

The new Fuxing model is equipped with nine new technologies independently developed by China, includ-

ing eddy current braking, carbon ceramic braking, permanent magnet traction system and pantograph active control. Consisting of four power cars and four non-powered cars, the train features enhanced safety, reliability, as well as power and economical efficiency. It is a world-leading train in terms of its comprehensive performance and showcases many new groundbreaking Chinese technologies.

An employee told People's Daily that train meets are unavoidable along high-speed rail tracks, and when a bullet train traveling in one direction passes by another that goes in the opposite direction, the hard

air flow around the trains may lead to an instantaneous wind pressure of 5 to 10 kPa, which will make fierce vibration of the cars, thus lowering comfort level and even making safety troubles."

"That's why China has always been conducting train meet experiments for bullet trains," the employee said.

Since April, the new model has completed over 60 tests on regular tracks and in tunnels to evaluate its dynamics, aerodynamics, resistance, noise and other performance in high-speed operation and train meet scenarios. These tests obtained data of the bullet train model, the roadbed,

the tunnels and other infrastructure under different working conditions, and revealed the rules of how safety and comfort indexes of the train vary as it speeds up.

China Railway said the successful tests of the train demonstrated the performance of new technologies and equipment and project practice experience of China's high-speed rail. They are of important significance for improving China's independence in railway technology and consolidating the country's leading position in the sector.

People's Daily

Simba SC and Yanga still struggle with short-term player contracts

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

REPORTS indicate Azam FC is battling to bring back the squad's former goalkeeper Aishi Manula after struggling to find a perfect fit since his replacement, Ghanaian Razack Abalora, left on a free transfer.

Azam FC has put a lot of money on the table. If a soccer enthusiast is a Simba SC fan, this news is shocking.

If a domestic soccer fraternity member is a Simba SC leader this news is even more shocking.

Simba SC will have to put a lot of money on the table to keep Manula whose contract with the outfit expires at the end of this season.

Then I thought the Joash Onyango issue would not be controversial, I was wrong.

I thought Yanga would be satisfied with their central defenders, Dickson Job and Bakari Mwanjeto, I was wrong.

I hear that Simba wants to bring chaos to the Onyango issue. The Kenyan defender's contract, as is the case with Manula, also expires at the end of this season.

I have tried to imagine. Simba SC will face a major cash spree either at the end of the season or from now until the end of the season.

The Msimbazi Street club may find itself spending one billion shillings on building its squad for next season. First, the club has to spend a lot of money to retain the existing players.

I think it could be the largest amount of money ever spent on retaining existing players before the outfit starts looking out and bringing in new players. A large group of top players is ending their contracts.

Hassan Dilunga, Joash Onyango, Manula, Bernard Morrison, Meddie Kagere, Rally Bwalya, Kennedy Juma, and Chris Mugalu are all set to have their contracts with Simba SC expiring at the same time.

Every player in his position will claim a huge amount of sign-on fee, every player may find himself using the Clatous Chama contract as a measure of his ability to secure a lucra-



Simba SC defender Joash Onyango is one of the NBC Premier League outfit footballers handed short-term contracts.

tive contract with the club.

Fortunately for them all, they are joining the ranks of the other two big-money teams in the country, Yanga, and Azam FC.

It will be disconcerting news for Simba SC if the other two outfits want the players.

I am aware Simba SC wants to go to the market to recruit new players. After Yanga has improved and become more likely to win the top-flight silverware this season, Simba SC will want to reinvigorate the squad and rope in new quality players for the do-

mestic and continental assignments.

And Simba SC knows that Yanga will also want to strengthen their squad.

The first area where Simba SC must enter the market for the most money is the offensive zone.

Msimbazi Street squad is not satisfied with what the club saw in John Bocco, Meddie Kagere, and Chris Mugalu this season.

The question that remains in Simba SC leaders' minds is whether they will extend Mugalu's contract or bring in another striker.

But Simba SC could also

go to the market to rope in a foreign center-back because there is a high percentage the club will part ways with Ivory Coast defender Sergi Wawa.

Simba SC believes the defender's time at the top level has passed and his place has gone directly to Enock Inonga who has been playing alongside Onyango as central defensive partners.

Yanga will soon face this challenge. This season Yanga can breathe and fight for a few players, but next season they will have a difficult life.

For starters attacker, Fiston Mayele will see his contract with the side expire. A football lover never knows what will happen next.

Khalid Aucho, Yannick Bangala, Jesus Moloko, Djuma Shaban, all of these will have their contracts with Yanga expiring.

At the moment Yanga can breathe because they know they will have these stars in the continental matches they will participate in because they are close to winning the Premier League title.

Yanga will have to spend a lot of money to retain these stars because they have automatically joined their first team this season and changed the team drastically.

This is Yanga's problem or advantage in recent years. Each player comes in with automatic relevance.

Herritier Makambo is the player I am not sure if he will be at the club either the end of this season or at the end of next season.

He is back at Yanga but has failed to show his edge the way he did before he left the club three years ago.

Simba and Yanga have found themselves in this predicament of retaining their dependable footballers for a lot of money in the short term due to the habit of giving them two-year contracts.

It has become an order among domestic clubs. Contracts run for two years. So far football lovers have not been able to find an answer to why the contracts must run for two years.

There are probably two reasons. The first reason is that the players enjoy contracts of this kind.

They know that in the next 24 months they will have more money to sign a new contract (signing-on fee).

They believe that if they sign longer contracts then sign-on fees will be delayed.

But clubs also seem to enjoy this situation. They get nervous with the level of the players.

They feel they can hand a player a long-term contract and then his performance plummets along the way.

The player will be bound by his contract when the outfits' leaders tell him they do not need him anymore.

This is what happened to Makambo. Yanga believed that they had signed a top striker but he is never the same now.

And even at the end of this season, Yanga may want to part ways with him but the attacker must convince them that he has a contract. Yanga will have to pay a large sum of money to terminate his contract.

But I sincerely wish Yanga had given Mayele a long-term contract. However, when they gave him a short-term contract they did not know what Mayele could give them so far.

The problem with the country's football clubs is they focus more on the new players than the existing performers.

Domestic soccer fans have as well taken up this behaviour. They are not excited to hear a player extends his contract with an outfit, they are excited to hear that a new top player is coming to the club.



Fatuma Kibasu

Dar female cricketer set for Dubai tournament

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN female cricket player, Fatuma Kibasu, has been selected as one of the world's leading female cricketers that will take part in the FairBreak Invitational T20 tournament which will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This will be the world's first privately funded tournament in women's cricket history taking place in the UAE emirate in conjunction with Cricket Hong Kong.

A total of six teams, namely South Coast Sapphires, Warriors, Falcons, Spirit, Tornadoes, and Barmy Army will feature in the competition and 19 matches will be played throughout the tournament.

These six teams will have a total of 90 women cricketers from 35 countries.

Fatuma is a right-handed batter and right-arm-off spinner from Morogoro.

The prolific batter has two T20I centuries and three half-centuries in 17 T20Is. She has scored 604 runs at a strike rate of more than 120.

With the ball, she has accounted for 12 wickets in 13 innings.

This six-team FairBreak Invitational tournament is made up of players from all around the world and will be the world's first privately funded tournament in women's cricket history with the leading healthcare group Gencor as the lead sponsor.

According to Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Media and Communication officer, Atif Salim, Fatuma hold an African record of scoring 143 runs not out and she is third in the world.

Salim pointed out: "Fatuma is one of the selected female cricket players from Africa including Henrietta Ishimwe of Rwanda who will represent the Barmy Army team, Mary Anne Musonda of Zimbabwe will play for the Tornadoes, Marazzane Kapp, Laura Wolvaardt both from South Africa, among the selected."

The 32-year-old cricketer will play for the Spirit team that will as well constitute skipper Bismah Marooof (Pakistan), Sophia Dunkley (England), Nicola Carey (Australia), Chaya Mughal (UAE), Betty Chan (Hong Kong), Sarah Bryce (Scotland), Nattakan Chantam (Thailand), and GK Diviya (Singapore).

Anuradha Doddaballapur (Germany), Sophie Ecclestone (England), Ayabonga Khaka (South Africa), Shizuka Miyaji (Japan), Nattaya Boochatham (Thailand), and Yasmin Daswani (Hong Kong) complete the squad's list.

The coaching panel includes head coach Erin Osborne (Australia), and assistant coach, Esther De Lange (Netherlands), team manager is Vaishali Jesrani (Oman).

The other African cricketer in the Spirit squad is South African Ayabonga.

Mary Anne, Zimbabwe women's cricket side's captain, became the first female cricketer from the country to score an international century. She achieved the

feat against Ireland last year.

She is a right-handed batter and has featured in eight ODIs and 21 T20Is so far, after making her international debut in 2019.

Henrietta, a right-handed batter and a right-arm speedster from Rwanda, will turn out for the Barmy Army squad.

She has featured in 31 T20Is since her debut in 2019. She has scored 260 runs and picked up 24 wickets.

Marazzane is the number one all-rounder in the world in WODIs. She is also the world's number four bowler in WODIs.

The South-African all-rounder is one of the best in the business. She is a vastly experienced player with more than 200 international appearances.

She has also done well in franchise cricket like the Hundred and the Women's Big Bash League in which she was the player of the match in both the finals last year.

South Coast Sapphires outfit is made up of Sana Mir (captain), Shabnim Ismail, Maryam Omar, Jade Allen, Grace Harris, Emma Lai, Elyse Villani, Shebani Bhaskar, Natasha Farrant, Kim Garth, Kary Chan, Geetika Kodali, Babette de Leede, Gaby Lewis, and Christine Lovino.

Falcons outfit comprises Suzie Bates (captain), Danielle Wyatt, Britney Cooper, Marizanne Kapp, Mariko Hill, Theertha Satish, Sornmarin Tippoch, Kaia Arua, Nannapat Koncharenkai, Christina Gough, Gunjan Shukla, Marina Lampough, Chamari Athapaththu, Anju Gurung, and Jahanara Alam.

Sindhu Sriharsha (captain), Hayley Matthews, Georgia Redmayne, Mignon du Preez, Kathryn Bryce, Shamilia Connell, Esha Oza, Mariana Martinez, Celeste Raack, Udeshika Prabodhani, Yasmeen Khan, Shameelah Mosweu, Shanzeen Shahzad, Bella Poon, and Jennifer Alumbro are cricketers turning out for Warriors.

Barmy Army franchise consists of Heather Knight (captain), Selina Solman, Laura Wolvaardt, Tara Norris, Deandra Dottin, Henriette Ishimwe, Kavisha Kumari, Shemaine Campbell, Iqra Sahar, Fatima Sana, Rumana Ahmed, Laura Cardoso, Roberta Moretti Avery, Rubina Chhetri, and Ruchitha Venkatesh.

The concept of 'FairBreak' was introduced in 2013 under the name Women's International Cricket League (WICL).

The initial thought process behind 'FairBreak' was to provide more opportunities and remuneration to female cricketers.

Gradually, the 'FairBreak' movement envisioned a world where people have fair and equal access to opportunities that enable them to succeed in their chosen endeavour, independent of gender or geographical location.

Cricket is used as a primary vehicle to achieve the objective of equality.

Premier League Board slaps fines on Simba and Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS season's NBC Premier League leader, Yanga, has been warned by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) through the league's steering and management committee, after being found guilty of violating Premier League rules during a match against Azam FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on April 6.

A statement from the TPLB steering and management committee stated that Yanga erred in entering the stadium through a door that was not approved for entrance.

According to Premier League rule 17 (21 & 60) on game procedures, Yanga has been fined 2m/- and given a stern warning.

The Premier League leader has also been fined 1m/- after the squad's supporters had thrown water bottles at one of the assistant referees in the tie.

The punishment was issued following Premier League rule 47 (1) regarding the control of clubs.

Yanga's rival, Simba SC, has also been fined 1m/- after its supporters had thrown water bottles at the referee when the squad locked



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Almas Kasongo.

horns with Coastal Union in a league tie played at the CCM Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga on April 9.

The clash ended with Simba SC cruising to a hard-fought 2-1 victory to cling on to the second spot in Premier League.

Simba SC fans did so after the

side's forward Meddie Kagere had scored the winner in the second half.

The Msimbazi Street side has been penalized following Premier League rule 47 (1) regarding club control.

In another development, Geita Gold FC and Tanzania's senior

national team striker, George Mpole, has said that even if he loses out on Premier League's best goal scorer prize, he is still satisfied with the success he has helped his club enjoy.

Mpole, the second-ranked striker with 11 goals, pointed out the work he has done so far shows that he has not done it by fluke due to his diligence and good cooperation from his teammates.

"I am happy to see that I am at my best this season and that is evidenced by the goals I have scored against many teams including Azam FC and Simba SC," Mpole disclosed.

The striker said that due to the difficulty witnessed in the race for the Premier League golden boot prize, he will be satisfied even if he fails to emerge victorious because he has already fulfilled his responsibilities.

He said with the position Geita Gold FC is in now and the remaining matches, he believes the outfit will finish in one of the top five places this season and that will be a great achievement for him.

Yanga striker Fiston Mayele is the NBC Premier League's leading goal

Infantino: World Cup workers 'gain pride' from hard work

DOHA

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said migrant workers gain pride from hard work when he was questioned on Monday about workers suffering in Qatar while building World Cup infrastructure.

Despite the abuses, Infantino claimed workers would feel proud at being given the chance to construct stadiums for the tournament in the Gulf nation, earning a living rather than being given charity.

The comments came after Infantino was asked at the global conference of the Milken Institute in Los Angeles if FIFA would use its profits to make "any sort of commitment" to help families of workers who died in Qatar.

Infantino did not directly address that point when responding to MSNBC anchor Stephanie Ruhle on stage, instead pointing to the introduction of a minimum wage and enhanced labor rights.

"Let's not forget one thing ... when we speak about this topic, which is work, even hard work, tough work," Infantino said. "America is a country of immigration. My parents immigrated as well from Italy to Switzerland. Not so far, but still."

"When you give work to somebody, even in hard conditions, you give him dignity and pride. It's not charity. You don't make charity. You don't give something to somebody and say, 'Stay where you are. I give you something and I feel good.'"

Ruhle interjected: "But to build the stadium where the World Cup is to be played."

Infantino responded: "Exactly. It's also a matter of pride and to have been able to change the conditions for these 1.5 million people, this is something that makes us as well proud."

Infantino did not directly dispute the claim put to him by Ruhle -- denied by Qatar after being reported by The Guardian -- that 6,500 workers have died building infrastructure to stage the Middle East's first World Cup in November. Infantino said only three people have died on the construction sites of the stadiums.

"Now 6,000 might have died in other works and so on," Infantino said. "And of course, FIFA is not the police of the world or responsible for everything that happens around the world. But thanks to FIFA, thanks to football we have been able to address the status of all the 1.5 million workers, working in Qatar."

Construction workers, mostly men from southwest Asia, live with multiple people in the same bedrooms in Qatar, while their families remain in their home countries. Switzerland, which Infantino cited, welcomes families and offers free public education to children of immigrants.

FIFA also announced on Monday it had added a first new American sponsor of the men's World Cup in 11 years, signing a deal for this year's tournament in Qatar with blockchain technology provider Algorand.

The deal is also a "technical partnership" to help FIFA develop a digital assets strategy, football's world governing body said. It could help FIFA market related non-fungible tokens (NFTs).

The value of the World Cup sponsorship, at a third-tier regional level covering North American and European rights, was not disclosed. FIFA has set a target of earning \$7 billion total revenue in its four-year commercial cycle that ends in Qatar.

FIFA operations are turning toward North America ahead of the expanded 2026 World Cup being hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. It should be a commercial boon with 48 teams competing instead of 32, playing a total of 80 games instead of 64.

Algorand founder Silvio Micali said in a FIFA statement his company could help "transform the way we all experience the world's game."

The deal also covers the 2023 Women's World Cup being hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

(Agencies)

Russian clubs banned from next season's Champions League

GENEVA

RUSSIAN clubs have been banned by UEFA from participating in the Champions League and all other European competitions next season, European football's governing body announced on Monday.

"Russia will have no affiliated clubs participating in UEFA club competitions in the 2022/23 season," it said in a statement.

Russian clubs and national teams were suspended "until further notice" by UEFA in February in the wake of the country's invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian team's exclusion from the Women's European Championship to take place in England in July was also confirmed Monday.

Portugal, who had lost to Russia in a qualifying play-off, will take their place in Group C alongside 2019 World Cup runners-up Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

In addition, UEFA declared Russia's bid to host either the 2028 or 2032 European Championship "not eligible".

Russia's national team had already been kicked out of the qualifying competition for this year's World Cup in Qatar by FIFA just before a crucial play-off tie against Poland in March.

The country's football federation initially appealed that decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport only to drop its legal challenge last month.

It was also confirmed on Monday that Russia will play no further part in the qualifying campaign for the 2023 Women's World Cup with all its results up to now considered null and void.

AFP

Man Utd's home finale win can't gloss over dismal season, simmering protests

MANCHESTER, England

THE first game at Old Trafford this season was a summer friendly against Brentford that Manchester United fans were desperate to get into. The last was a Premier League game against the same opposition that some couldn't wait to leave.

The optimism of that post-lockdown warm-up game in July disappeared a long time ago and has been replaced with a growing anger directed at the owners, the board and, occasionally, the players.

Supporters' latest show of disillusionment was to leave the 3-0 win over Brentford 17 minutes early -- one minute for each year of Glazer ownership. The expected exodus wasn't as large as organisers had hoped, but the 90 minutes were filled with anti-Glazer chants and banners following a protest outside the stadium for the third home game in a row.

It wasn't so long ago that fans were desperate to get back in after nearly 18 months of coronavirus restrictions, but even the most hardened United fan has grown weary during what has been a miserable campaign.

Beating mid-table Brentford is scant consolation.



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Brentford at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, England, Monday, May 2, 2022. (AP Photo)

Yet again supporters have been left pinning their hopes on a new manager, this time in the shape of Ajax coach Erik ten Hag. Most will tell you they are optimistic about what the Dutchman might achieve here, but there remains a suspicion it could also unravel in spectacular fashion -- just as it has for every permanent manager since Sir Alex Ferguson retired in 2013.

Interim manager Ralf Rangnick, however, remains hopeful.

"It's obvious quite a few players will leave and there is a need for top-quality players," Rangnick said afterwards. "I strongly believe that if everyone works together we can bring Man United back to where we need to be."

"Other clubs only needed two or three transfer windows to challenge, but from now on we need to bring in top-quality players who really help raise the level. If this happens then I don't think it should take too long."

It says everything about what Ten Hag will inherit at Old Trafford that while United are still trying to avoid their lowest points total in the Premier League era, their two main rivals, Manchester City and Liverpool, will spend the week contesting Champions League semi-finals before continuing their scrap for the title this weekend.

In the end, victory over Brentford was comfortable, but it was only United's fifth from their last 17

games in all competitions, and they owed much of it to two players with a combined age of 71. Juan Mata, a 34-year-old without a league start since the last day of last season and almost certain to leave the club this summer, was one of the best players and it's probably no coincidence that with the Spaniard in the team, United completed more passes than in any other league game this season. Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo, three years older than Mata at 37, scored a penalty to make it 18 goals in the Premier League this season -- far and away United's top scorer. His future is, for now, also uncertain. Bruno Fernandes and Raphael Varane, also on the scoresheet against Brentford, are likely to be central to Ten Hag's new era, while David De Gea strengthened his case to compete with Ronaldo for United's player of the year.

Anthony Elanga, who set up Fernandes' opener with a pinpoint cross, is another of only a handful of players who will emerge from this season with any credit. Rangnick's temporary spell won't be remembered particularly fondly either and the German admitted he would have liked to see the display against Brentford replicated more regularly

during his time in charge.

"I think tonight we showed one of our best performances in the last six months in possession," added Rangnick. "We were in control in most parts, still had a few gaps defensively, but I was pleased with the performance we showed tonight."

"The season is not yet over, we have another two games to play away. I am not completely happy with these six months. I would have expected to qualify for the Champions League, that was the goal we had."

It's still mathematically possible that United could finish in the top four, but it's more likely that a season in the Europa League or Europa Conference League awaits. Whichever European competition he finds himself in, Ten Hag's task here is huge. Not only will he be charged with re-vamping the squad, he will also be asked to transform the mood. New signings will help and so will a positive start to the new season, but the frustration and exasperation with the owners will never be far away.

A routine win over Brentford and another Ronaldo goal could not hide the fans' displeasure. It's one of a number of issues Ten Hag will have to deal with when he finally takes the reins.

ESPN

Man United clear to sign Rice, but would he want to join?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MANCHESTER United are likely to have a clear run to signing West Ham midfielder Declan Rice this summer, sources have told ESPN, but it will be a test of the pulling power of the Premier League's most successful team as to whether they can even come close to doing a deal for the England international.

They are still Manchester United, one of the world's great clubs, but they have become a byword for failure and mismanagement in recent years and look set to miss out on the Champions League next season as they slipped eight points behind fourth-placed Arsenal, who have one game in hand, this weekend. United's reputation has taken such a battering that they could find the next transfer market tricky to navigate, and Rice might just be the type of player who looks at United and thinks that his career will be better served by waiting for something more appealing to come along.

Although West Ham manager David Moyes said last month that the Hammers didn't want to let Rice depart, the former United and Everton boss then muddied the waters by recalling how an 18-year-old Wayne Rooney left Goodison Park for around £27 million to join United in 2004, saying: "I thought Wayne was irreplaceable, but what happens in football is you move on."

In one brief statement, Moyes let slip the reality of football -- not just modern football, but how it has always been -- that the best young players will, sooner or later, be tempted away from the clubs who gave them their big break by



Declan Rice

the prospect of boosting their income and career opportunities at a bigger, wealthier and more successful team.

West Ham know how it works better than most. Rio Ferdinand, Frank Lampard, Joe Cole and Michael Carrick all started out at the club before leaving to enjoy huge success elsewhere. Older Hammers fans will recall how Paul Ince left in 1989 for £1m to help ignite the Old Trafford revolution under Sir Alex Ferguson, with Ince becoming a crucial figure at the start of the two decades of success enjoyed by United under their legendary former manager.

Sources have told ESPN that United want Rice to become a modern-day version of Ince by adding tenacity, determination and leadership to a midfield desperately lacking in depth and quality.

The 23-year-old is seen as having the character required to thrive at United under incoming manager Erik ten Hag and also be a statement signing that

window gives them a one-off chance to sign him.

Sources have said that City are focused on signing a centre-forward, namely Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland, and reinforcement at left-back. Chelsea, who released Rice as a teenager, are hampered by the ongoing ownership takeover process at Stamford Bridge and the issue of having to replace Antonio Rudiger and (almost certainly) Andreas Christensen in defence once their contracts expire this summer. Thomas Tuchel's team may also be distracted by the challenge of finding a striker to replace under-performing £97.5m signing Romelu Lukaku up front.

Meanwhile, Liverpool are focused on rebuilding their midfield, with Jordan Henderson, Thiago Alcantara and James Milner all the wrong side of 30, but sources said the club are likely to look for a less-expensive option, with Borussia Dortmund's Jude Bellingham being considered in the summer of 2023.

So, with City, Chelsea

and Liverpool unlikely to chase Rice's signature this summer, and neither Tottenham or Arsenal regarded as having the finances to compete, the midfielder may have just United as an option if he decides to leave West Ham at the end of the season.

With two years remaining on his contract at the London Stadium, and West Ham holding the option of extending that deal by a further 12 months, the Europa League semifinalists are under no pressure to let him go. But football is all about taking opportunities when they arise and this summer could see both West Ham and Rice capitalise.

The club will stick to their £100m-plus valuation for a player who has enjoyed the best season of his career, finishing third behind Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and Man City's Kevin De Bruyne in the FWA Footballer of the Year vote last week, while Rice will know that he can now command the six-figure weekly salary enjoyed by the players at the top clubs.

With Rice currently earn-

ing a reported £62,000-a-week, he could triple or quadruple that salary with a move to Old Trafford. And as much as West Ham would want to keep him, they are in no position to offer that kind of money. Even if they won the Europa League to qualify for next season's Champions League, it would be the road to financial ruin if the club tripled Rice's wages and then had to give similar rises to the likes of Michail Antonio, Jarrod Bowen and Tomas Soucek.

So West Ham and Rice are both likely to have a decision to make this summer. Manchester United will look to take advantage, but they aren't the United of old anymore and where-as joining the club was once a dream for so many top players, it has proven to be a nightmare for the likes of Lukaku, Paul Pogba, Harry Maguire and other big-money signings since Ferguson retired in 2013.

United can make Rice a big earner, but if he wants to be a winner, there is no guarantee that he will see Old Trafford as the place to continue his career.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man Utd's home finale win can't gloss over dismal season, simmering protests

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Ruvu Shooting players feature in a warm-up at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam shortly before participating in a recent NBC Premier League clash played at the venue.

Ruvu Shooting vows to turn around fortunes in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

RUVU Shooting Head of Information and Communication, Masau Bwire, has said that their squad is ready and hungry to ensure it comes out of the relegation zone battle of the NBC Premier League when it comes up against Yanga at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma today.

Shooting, the clash's hosts, decided to choose Lake Tanganyika Stadium based on Premier League rules, which allow participating clubs to play no more than two games at different stadiums from their home stadium.

Ruvu Shooting is in the 14th place in the NBC Premier League standings with 21 points above Coastal Union who sit 15th with a goal difference separating the two sides.

The national service team will have to win the game against Yanga who so far have not lost any Premier League game to move to mid-table the positions, with the 11th place which is held by Dodoma Jiji FC being likely.

In the last five games, Ruvu Shooting has won one match, which was played on March 17, garnering a 3-1 win over Coastal Union of Tanga while drawing the other three games.

The Coast Region outfit has since the 2013/14 season notched only one win against Yanga in the league, posting a 1-0 victory in the 2019/20 season thus showing how history is not on their side.

Bwire pointed out: "Our coach Boniface Mkwasa has built our players in a psychological state, and we have confirmed that because we are with everyone in our team, so we believe Yanga are going to bow their heads down after the game."

"I may be saying this, but I know people are mocking me by saying I am having fun, but let me assure you we are in a good fighting spirit and ready to stop Yanga tomorrow (Today)."

"We have brought this game to Kigoma to entertain our fans here, and nothing more than winning, and stopping this team (Yanga) that is famous that it is yet to lose since the start of this season," Bwire revealed.

In the first round of the Premier League this season, Yanga beat Ruvu Shooting 3-1 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Jangwani Street giants' goals were netted by Feisal Salum, Djuma Shaban, and Mukoko Tonombe, now with DR Congo side TP Mazembe, while Ruvu's goal was scored by Shaban Msala.

The last time Yanga played at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma, it lost 1-0 to Simba SC in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final, the lone goal was netted by Ugandan midfielder Tadeo Lwanga.



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Yanga SC looks to inch closer to lifting Premier League title



Yanga's players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's NBC Premier League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA is closing in on its first Premier League title in five years and the club will go one step closer with a win against Ruvu Shooting when the two sides clash at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma today afternoon.

The goalless draw with age-old rivals Simba SC on Saturday must have felt like cold rain, while for the most part, Yanga's current season has been beautiful sunshine.

And the Jangwani Street outfit is keen on getting back to the sunshine as soon as possible.

The Green and Yellow side has been close to perfect on the road this season and the club will want to maintain that record until the end of the campaign.

They have won nine and drew two of their 11 away games to remain unbeaten in the league.

Coach Nasredine Nabi's charges have only dropped points on four occasions in 21 matches.

That is an incredible record and Nabi will be ensuring that levels remain sky-high for the

rest of the campaign.

The title is theirs, but they will remain motivated to be record breakers.

With the big games out of their way, they will likely finish the season without letting up and that is terrifying for any team set to face them and Ruvu Shooting

is well aware of this fact.

Ruvu Shooting has had an inconsistent campaign. The Coast Region side is coming off a 3-1 loss to Namungo FC.

They have fallen to 15th place in the table and want to avoid falling into the relegation fight.

They will need a good

result against Yanga to keep themselves away from the bottom of the table.

Boniface Mkwasa is a former Yanga coach and player, who will be wanting to get one over on his former club.

He will be highly motivated to get the victory that would increase Ruvu Shooting's chances of survival.

Yanga is the best defensive team in the league, which will make it difficult for Ruvu Shooting to get many chances.

Ruvu Shooting will rely on midfielder Rashid Juma to cause the damage and add to his three goals and one assist.

In head-to-head stats, Yanga and Ruvu Shooting have met in 21 league matches since 2010/11.

The Jangwani Street boys have claimed 17 wins compared to one for Ruvu Shooting, while three matches have been drawn.

In the reverse fixture, Yanga won 3-1 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam in November, courtesy of goals netted by Feisal Salum, Djuma Shaban, and Mukoko Tonombe while Shaban Msala got Ruvu Shooting's consolation strike.

Shomari sheds light on his top-notch performance in Dar derby

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER showing a good performance in an NBC Premier League game against Simba SC played in Dar es Salaam last weekend, Yanga fullback Kibwana Shomari has revealed the secret of his top-class displays.

Shomari shone brightly as he effectively contained three Simba SC stars, Bernard Morrison, Pape Ousmane Sakho, and Clatous Chama, they were rotating on the right wing.

What gives the diminutive defender great credit is that the left-back position is hardly his natural position, as he is a right-back.

The defender has however been used there since Congolese Djuma Shabani was signed to play right-back for this season.

Shomari spoke in an exclusive interview and revealed that the new shoes he wore in the clash made him feel very comfortable.

The fullback noted that he was given the shoes as a gift by young Tanzanian striker, Kelvin John, who plays for KRC Genk in the Belgian Premier League.

He said before the match, John told him he had sent him as an incentive to do well in the game ahead.



Yanga fullback, Kibwana Shomari (R), challenges Simba SC midfielder, Pape Ousmane Sakho, in an NBC Premier League clash held in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

"I launched the shoes on the battlefield because John gave me three days before the game and encouraged me by telling me I could do wonders and I should not be afraid to show my ability," Shomari noted.

The performer said: "I don't mean Chama, Kibu Denis, and Morrison are bad, no, they are very good players but the match was on my side."

Shomari moreover said the footballers he came up against are all good

players, but Morrison is better because he has tricks when in possession and runs fast and when he does not have the ball you see him looking for it.

"Morrison has his strengths and weaknesses, with the ball he hardly

passes, he likes to play and he can ignore you and come out waiting for you to humiliate you again, this hinders his side's efforts to register a victory, it is not very important," he said.

Shomari has been very impressive for Yanga this

season, despite missing many games due to injuries he suffered at the start of the year.

His maturity has however proved that he is still a strong defender for Yanga and Tanzania for years to come.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

