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State fails, Rugemalira out



James Burchard Rugemalira (3rd-R) poses for a photo in Dar es Salaam yesterday with some members of his family shortly after the city's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court acquitted him of the economic sabotage charges he had faced since 2017. The Director of Public Prosecution had a little earlier dropped the charges. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

● DPP drops all charges arising from 2014 escrow account saga

By Guardian Reporters

THE Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday acquitted James Rugemalira after the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) dropped charges against the businessman.

Speaking shortly after he was set free, Rugemalira's lawyer Michael Ngalo told journalists in Dar es Salaam after that his client walked home a free man the DPP entered nolle prosequi.

His co-accused, Harbinder Singh, Sethi was released in June this year after paying a fine of 200m/- out of the 26bn/- he was ordered to pay.

He signed a document to say the remaining amount will be paid in instalments as demanded by the DPP, the sum being settled in 12 months.

Sethi was facing an economic crimes charge alongside Rugemalira, thrown into remand prison in 2017 in the wake of a parliamentary resolution of December 2014 which declared that payment of the Tegeta escrow account after issues pending at the High Court were cleared was gross fraud of public funds.

After they were arrested, Sethi and Rugemalira appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate on June 19, 2017 facing 12 charges, which included money

laundering. The prosecution listed long accusations of dealing with criminal networks, forgery, submission of false documents, obtaining money through fraudulent means, occasioning the government a loss of \$22,198,544 and 309bn/-.

The funds were the total amounts involved in repaying the TANESCO debt to IPTL which Sethi bought from Mechmar Corporation of Malaysia as well as the 30 per cent shared held by Rugemalira.

The purchase was validated by the High Court Judge John Utamwa but was rejected by the legislature, citing claims by a merchant bank, the Standard Chartered Bank of Hong Kong.

The bank failed to pursue the issue in the Court of Appeal to overturn Utamwa's ruling, and continued to petition various governments and international tribunals, heavily relying on the parliamentary resolution, observers noted.

The prosecution maintained that the said crimes were committed in Dar es Salaam, South Africa, Kenya and India, that is, the locations were the purchase of IPTL shares was discussed, validated and executed.

Arraignment of the two businessmen followed a sitting of a panel of

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NMB Bank in four awards for excellence

By Guardian Correspondent

NMB Bank Plc has yet again stamped its authority as excellence specialist in the local financial services market after scooping four international awards that secure its position at the helm of the industry.

The new accolades for best service delivery and performance brilliance, which the top lender disclosed yesterday in Dar es Salaam, add to six the number of awards it has bagged so far this year.

The four recognitions are the best SME bank and best investment bank in Tanzania 2021 from the 'World Economic Banking Magazine,' the best innovation retail bank in Tanzania from 'International Banker' and the best retail bank in Tanzania by 'International Business Magazine' 2021.

"The awards are in recognition of NMB Bank's proven track record of excellence and its strong commitment to innovation, which is evidence of our customer focus in line with our vision to become the preferred financial partner," the lender said in a statement.

The latest prizewinning development comes after the bank was early this year named the Best Bank in Tanzania for the ninth consecutive year by 'Euromoney Awards' and best retail bank in

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Mbowe hearing stalls for hours over crowds

By Guardian Reporter

OFFICIALS at the Corruption and Economic Crimes Division of the High Court yesterday suspended proceedings of a terrorism case facing Chadema national Chairman, Freeman Mbowe, and three others for three hours after entry to the courtroom was temporarily restricted.

The new entrance rule was also meant to curtail members of the public and party cadres from entering the courtroom with their mobile phones.

The new rules allow ten journalists, 20 advocates, three people representing special groups, five political party leaders, photographers and five relatives of each of

the suspects. Deputy Registrar Magdalena Ntandu said the new procedures followed congestion experienced the previous days. Health wise, the courtroom has to accommodate not more than 45 people, but members of the public interested in hearing the case exceed the requirements, she stated.

"It is a matter of health concerns; our air conditioners are not functioning properly, thus we wanted a small number of representatives from each group. Some people are using their mobile phones to record court proceedings and share them on social networks," she stated, affirming

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CRDB CEO one of 50 Africa's most reputable bank executives

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc's CEO Abdulmajid Nsekela has been named as one of the most reputable chief executives in the industry in Africa by 'Reputation Poll International' for 2021.

Nsekela joins a list of 49 other African banks CEOs who are on this year's list, which includes chief executives who have, through investment in technological innovation, negotiated the Covid-19 situation to perform well.

In a statement, the US based polling agency said innovation can be observed in the African banking sector since last year when the Covid-19 pandemic struck the continent. Over the past decade, the dampening profitability has led to unprecedented innovation being stirred up from first-time



Graphic evidence by US-based polling agency Reputation Poll International of CRDB Bank Plc CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela having been named one of the 50 most reputable bank CEOs in Africa for this year. Photo: Special Correspondent

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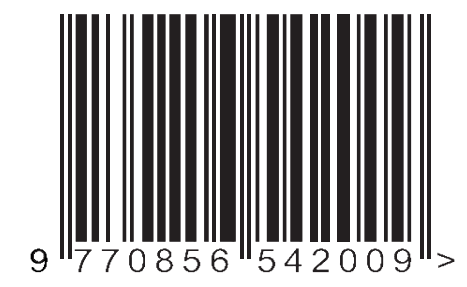
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Mbowe hearing stalls for hours over crowds

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that only journalists can do so, in accordance with journalism ethics.

"There are those who forget to put their phones on silent mode thus causing disturbances. We restrict people from recording and sharing the contents because evidence analysing must be done by the court."

The court later decided that people following the case including Chadema members may enter the courtroom under condition of not recording court proceedings.

The High Court resumed the case hearing at 1pm with the prosecution side led by Senior State Attorney, Robert Kidando questioning Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Ramadhani Kingai who started to testify against Mbowe on Wednesday.

Kingai who is the Kinondoni Regional Police Commander (RPC) told the court that it wasn't a must for him to bring a notebook which was used to take notes when Mbowe and other men were arrested and charged with the unbailable terrorism-related offences and economic sabotage.

ACP Kingai claimed that one of the accused persons, Adamu Kasekwa reported to have once suffered from mental illness, and that he was treated at a Mbeya-based hospital.

The Prosecution requested the court to suspend hearing of the case until today because not all the witnesses reside in Dar es Salaam. He stated the public side has a total of seven witnesses, noting the second person to testify against Mbowe will be present at the court on Friday.

Other accused in the terrorism and economic sabotage case are, Halfani Bwire, Adam Kasekwa alias 'Adamu' and Mohamed Lingwenya.

Mbowe was arrested in Mwanza mid-July just hours after his party was about to hold a public forum to push for the writing of a new constitution.

He was first taken to court on July 26 at which he was joined with other accused, namely Halfani Hassan, Adam Kasekwa aka Adamu and Mohamed Lingwenya, all of who were read economic sabotage charges in Criminal Case No. 63 of 2020.

The accused face six counts, claimed to conspire between May 1 and August 1 in 2020 at Aishi Hotel in Moshi municipality in Kilimanjaro Region as well as in Dar es Salaam city, Morogoro and Arusha to commit terrorist acts by blasting unnamed petrol stations.

In the second count, Mbowe is alleged, during the same period and in the same locations, to have provided financial assistance to Halfani, Adamu and Lingwenya as delivering money would facilitate making explosives and to blast petrol stations and other public utilities. This was aimed to destabilise basic democratic, economic and political foundations and ruin the country's reputation, the prosecution alleged.

In the third count, the accused Halfani, Adamu and Lingwenya are charged with receiving money from Mbowe.

In the fourth count, Adamu is alleged to have, on August 5 2020 at Rau area, been found with a Luger Pistol S/n A 5340 without a permit.

In the fifth count, Adamu is also accused that in the same day and place he was found with explosives including three bullets without licence.

In the sixth count, Adamu is alleged that on August 19 2020, with intention to endanger the country's peace, was illegally found using military uniforms and other army items.

"There are those who forget to put their phones on silent mode thus causing disturbances. We restrict people from recording and sharing the contents because evidence analysing must be done by the court."



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi swears in Kubingwa Mashaka Simba (R) as Zanzibar's Public Service Commission secretary. The event was held at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) sat in London and issued a ruling in favor of the Hong Kong bank, intimating that the Tanzania government as sole shareholder in TANESCO needs to pay the bank, claiming proceeds from the Tegeta escrow account that it was the creditor to Mechmar Corporation, despite failing to put up a credible case for hearing at the Court of Appeal on the Utamwa J. ruling.

Local political and media sentiment was elated with their arrest, seen as a bold move by the

State fails, Rugemalira out

government to bring to justice suspects implicated in mega scandals.

Tabling the committee report in the National Assembly in November 2014, then Kigoma North MP Zitto Kabwe as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and his vice chairman Deo Filikunjombe (leading 19 CCM MPs in the committee) said that Sethi collaborated with high-ranking state officials to swindle the 300bn/- from central bank vaults.

Filikunjombe died in a plane crash before the 2015 general election.

The payment of the Tegeta escrow account funds to IPTL irked wide sections of the government and the legislature, with the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) asserting in a report that the payment was invalid as there were remaining issues to be settled between TANESCO and IPTL by the time the money was emptied from the escrow account.

IPTL and Tanesco were in a 20-year power purchasing

agreement from 1995 for 100MW of electricity, a situation that was rocked into conflict as Rugemalira sided with TANESCO in an ICSID case in 1998 which contested the 3.6m dollars monthly payments, struck down to 2.6m dollars in the ruling in 2002.

From then on the Malaysian company, detesting their local partner for not going with the scheme, started working to quit their investment for insufficient profits and dubious unmet expectations



Tanzania Youth Alliance (Tayoa) CEO Peter Masika (2nd-L) briefs Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (L) yesterday on condom dispensers. This was on the sidelines of a meeting for regional medical officers held in Dodoma city. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NMB Bank in four awards for excellence

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Tanzania by the 'Global Banking and Finance Awards.'

The bank won the two awards for mostly its outstanding overall performance, digital banking and financial inclusion efforts as well as innovation ingenuity and the social investments it continues to make.

Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna called the excellence triumph a monumental feat that proves NMB's market leadership and unrivalled ability to deliver innovative solutions.

"It's a great accomplishment and honour for NMB Bank to receive these four prestigious awards and the recognition they represent," she said, noting that the awards principally recognize the bank's strong financials and

operational efficiency, leverage technology to drive better customer experience (CX) and improve cost efficiency.

Digital investments have enabled it to significantly expand the product mix and distribution channels for better customer services and relevant transactional solutions, she stated.

Currently 93 per cent of the lender's transactions happen outside branches, while in the past year, NMB introduced a good number of innovative and impactful solutions above what its peers managed to put on the table, the statement observed.

"We continue to invest strategically in our technology and branch network and strengthen more our ability to deliver innovative solutions to the market," it further asserted.

"The bank's management deserves praise for its execution of strategic plans to improve

operational efficiency, leverage technology to drive better customer experience (CX) and improve cost efficiency. International Banker Magazine Editor Simon Brown said that NMB Bank's focus on its digital offering helped increase non-funded income by 19 per cent year-on-year in 2020.

This was the reason its net interest income increased 11 per cent year on year; gross loans and advances to customers jumping 15 per cent in the period and customer deposits rising by seven per cent for the year in 2020.

NMB Bank continues to support the local economy, act as a good corporate citizen and innovate in the Tanzanian banking sector, with products such as NMB Mkononi Plus, and is a worthy winner of the International Banker 2021 best innovation in retail banking award, he added.

CRDB CEO one of 50 Africa's most reputable bank executives

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customer channels, automation and new back-office technologies.

This is the second time this year that Nsekela's leadership is recognised internationally, after being conferred with a Hall of Fame award by the African Leadership Magazine for his outstanding business leadership.

It said the most recent crisis the world witnessed was the Covid-19 pandemic, which struck a blow to the banking industry across the globe, with African banks seeing a decline in average returns on equity (ROE) from 14 per cent in 2019, to 7pc in 2020, on the basis of a survey by McKinsley Inc., 2021.

But CRDB under Nsekela has remained strong with gross profit increasing by 35 percent to 236bn/- last year compared to 175bn/- it created in 2019. The bank continued its stellar performance during the first half of this year with profit increasing by 26 percent to 88.6bn/- from 70.4bn/- during the corresponding period last year.

In 2018 when Nsekela took over as CRDB chief executive, the bank embarked on digital transformation journey to drive financial inclusion which has resulted to an impressive 87 percent increase in profit to 120bn/- in 2019 compared to 64.2bn/- in 2018.

The agency, a leading global reputation chronometer, said it finds it necessary to recognize the banking sector as it plays a major role in society, connecting people, linking up businesses and influencing the economy in numerous ways.

As part of its annual ranking, the executive appraisal of reputable individuals from all works of life, after extensive research on various playmakers (the CEOs) in the African banking sector, the agency selected 50 individuals as the most reputable bank CEOs in Africa at present - whom it listed accordingly.

They are those who have built and played an imperative role in revolutionizing the banking sector based on excellence, integrity, reliability, expertise, technology and ease of credit, it said, noting further that they have

helped their banks attain great heights of performance.

Commenting on the recognition, Nsekela said he is humbled to be on the prestigious list which includes CEOs of leading Africa banks. "This award does not belong to me but to all CRDB staff members, management and the board because it's a result of our team work," he stated.

He pointed out that despite the COVID-19 disruption CRDB has continued to deliver a strong balance sheet underlined by strong growth in both net interest and non-funded incomes. "We recovered in areas that had exhibited weakness in the course of the year, thanks to an adaptive strategy and timely interventions," the CEO declared.

Heavy investment in innovation has witnessed more than 80 percent of transactions being done outside of bank branches countrywide, enhancing financial inclusion as per the government's agenda, he further noted.

"We have accelerated our digital transformation project to ensure that we serve our customers effectively while also observing health guidelines," he stated, elaborating that the bank's focus is to drive usage of our digital channels such as simbanking, internet banking as well as agents.

This will reduce the need for our customers to visit our branches, he emphasised.

Under Nsekela CRDB has increased its corporate social investments through projects such as the 'Beautiful Tanzania' campaign launched earlier this year. Under the campaign, the bank plans to plant 1.5m trees countrywide.

The bank has shown commitment to give back to the community, as through initiatives such as the CRDB Marathon which this year raised half a billion shillings to be used in the treatment of children at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam.

The funds will also be injected in the construction of a modern call center at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, he added.



NBC Bank business development manager Isdory Sebastian (L) and Dar es Salaam City Council youth development officer Sapiencia Masaga present to Najma Yusuph (R) a certificate of participation in a just-ended business, financial education and credit seminar. The training was organised by Ilala Municipal Council in collaboration with the bank. It was chiefly meant to prepare entrepreneurs to make good use of loans and opportunities provided by the government and the municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NBC, Ilala municipal equips SMEs with financial management skills

By Guardian Reporter

IN ensuring that SMEs make good use of various loans and opportunities provided by the government as well as municipality councils; the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) in collaboration with Ilala Municipal Council, in Dar es Salaam yesterday conducted a business training to SMEs in the municipality to bridge the knowledge and skills gap in the subsector.

The training would help to equip participating SMEs with the right technical know-how to enable them to effectively manage their operations and understand the macro-economy within which they conduct their affairs.

Speaking at the training which

brought together more than 400 SMEs from the municipality, Dar es Salaam City Council Youth Development Officer Sapiencia Masaga, apart from commending the bank for the efforts, said the training would significantly help the SMEs to make better use of the loans they expect to receive from the municipal council.

"Despite the great efforts made by our municipal councils to provide loans to various groups of SMEs we still do not get good results because most of the beneficiaries have been failing to make good use of their loans and as a result they fail to achieve their goals and more often default on making the arranged repayments. We thank NBC for this training aimed at overcoming the challenge," she said.

For his part, NBC Bank Business Development Manager Isdory Sebastian said the bank has partnered with Ilala Municipal Council in providing training to the SMEs in order to help them to have a better understanding of financial management so that they can run their business professionally to avoid losses that could hamper the prosperity of their business.

"As an SME-friendly bank, we understand that starting and running a business in Dar es Salaam is no small feat, and there are lots of challenges that SMEs face. We have conducted the training to equip them with relevant and practical knowledge to guide them in their business's effective running and surmount any challenge they encounter...We are very grateful to

Ilala Municipal Council for giving us this opportunity," he said.

Speaking at the training, entrepreneurs Iddy Kazulaya and Bahati Angetile said the training would go a long way in building their business capacity as many of them have been failing to properly grow to the intended objectives of the loans due to lack of adequate education in business operations.

"The biggest challenge I see is that most of us receive these loans even before submitting our business ideas as a result when we get the money, we spend them on other plans before the implementation of the project. We are grateful that through this training many of us will be helped to understand how to overcome a number of challenges," said Kazulaya.

CTI commits to continue with efforts to help firms move more responsibly

By Getrude Mbago

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has expressed commitment to continue capacitating and reminding its member companies to conduct their businesses responsibly so as to promote integrity and sustainable development.

Responsible business conduct entails above all compliance with laws, such as those on respecting human rights, environmental protection, labour relations and financial accountability.

Speaking during the opening of a two-day stakeholders training workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI Policy Specialist-Trade Frank Dafa said that by adhering to responsible business conduct, it enhances positive impacts on economic growth.

Dafa said that the workshop brought together over 20 participants from various member companies to drill them with essential skills on responsible business conduct.

"We have experts from Denmark today who are taking the participants through the course to enable them to deeply understand responsible business conduct so as to apply in their companies for more benefits," he said.

He said as an organisation which has been working to support companies to operate effectively, prosper and contribute to national wealth and development, it will continue advocating to ensure that integrity remains their core guideline.

He said that the workshop has been conducted under the Strategic Partnership Programme implemented by CTI and the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI).

Dafa noted that doing business

with integrity will more likely generate good returns, attract investors and retain motivated employees. In contrast companies that don't make efforts to do business responsibly can face long-lasting reputational and financial damage.

"Participants will also be awarded with certificates of participation so as to enable them to be recognised when making networks and partnerships with other companies," he added.

Denish Kotecha, a product development manager at the 21st Century Textile Ltd commended CTI for organising the workshop saying that this will help them to further improve their businesses.


"Although we have in-house business conduct at our company, I am sure that this training will further help us to improve our activities and conduct business more responsibly, expand networks in and outside the country and thus generate more income," he said.

Kotecha said 21st Century Textile Ltd is currently eyeing for more markets in Europe and America, so investing in responsible business conduct is inevitable.

Ashery Mbasha, chief financial officer at Chemi and Cotex Industries Ltd hinted on the note that having responsible business conduct enables the company to implement its projects smoothly and contribute to social and economic growth.

"Our company also promotes gender equality, respects human and children rights as well as ensuring that we deliver quality services and products to consumers," he said.

Recently, CTI developed a special "Code of Conduct" which will be complied by member companies so as to further enhance trust and promote ethical sustainable business in the country.



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consultancy: CAPACITY ASSESSMENT OF MEDICAL STORES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING AND MATERNAL HEALTH COMMODITIES IN TANZANIA

Introduction

UNFPA, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), is implementing a five-year family planning project to increase access to family planning for all, including marginalized and vulnerable populations, focusing on the procurement of up to 32% of family planning commodities for Mainland Tanzania.

The Medical Stores Department (MSD) is managing the health supply chain and procuring for the Government of Tanzania mainland. UNFPA and other development partners procure and hand over reproductive health commodities to MSD for storage and distribution to service delivery points. UNFPA procures contraceptives and other life-saving maternal health commodities, with the support of the UNFPA Supplies programme and the FCDO Family Planning project. UNFPA also supports capacity building in supply chain management for key stakeholders from the MSD and at government health facilities, including in quantification, logistics management information systems, skills in the provision of specific family planning services, and meetings to review the status of reproductive health commodities at the various service delivery points in the health supply chain.

Purpose

The overall objective is to assess and build the capacity of the MSD to manage the supply chain of life-saving maternal health and family planning commodities in Tanzania.

Geographical area and Scope of the Assignment

The assessment and capacity building will cover Tanzania Mainland, with a focus on national-level actors in the Central Medical Stores Departments, selected regional warehouses and service delivery points in Tanzania.


Duration of the consultancy

The duration of the consultancy should not exceed 30 working days within three months.

How to apply

The call for this consultancy is posted on the UNFPA Tanzania Country Office website accessible at <http://tanzania.unfpa.org>. Within the site the Consultancy detailed terms of reference (TOR) can be found at <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/consultancy-capacity-assessment-medical-stores-department-procurement-family-planning-and>. Interested individuals with the required qualifications and experience should submit their application to tanzania.office@unfpa.org with the subject line "Consultancy Capacity Assessment of Medical Stores Department". Applications documents to be sent should include: 1. Application letter 2. Updated CV indicating previous assignment/s of similar nature 3. Concept note on the understanding of the TOR for execution of the assignment 4. Financial proposal to undertake the assignment.

The deadline to submit application documents is 01st October 2021 (4:30 pm Tanzanian Time).



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EABC advocates digitalisation of transport, logistics value chains

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has urged the EAC partner states to fast track digitalisation of transport and logistics value chains to enhance efficiency and export competitiveness of the bloc.

Speaking during the East African Maritime Leaders Round Table in Mombasa, Kenya, EABC chairman Nicholas Nesbitt said that the adoption of digital technologies to automate the EAC shipping, transport and logistics industry will reduce the cost of doing business, improve export competitiveness and ease the movement of cargo from the ports to trucks to clients.

The meeting was organised by EABC in partnership with the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) bringing together over 50 business leaders from across the region.

Chairman Nesbitt elaborated: "Articles 93-94 of the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community calls for co-operation among port authorities and harmonisation of tariffs and regulations in the region."

He cited congestion, delays, complex freight clearance procedures, inadequate storage and berthing facilities piracy and terrorism as among major challenges at the ports.

He also urged the EAC Secretariat to develop an Integrated Maritime Safety and Security Strategy and the review of the EAC Customs Management Act.

Newton Wang'oo, Chair Kenya Transporters Association speaking on behalf of KEPSCA CEO Carole Karuga said "Over the period of 2013 to 2019, cargo traffic at the port of Mombasa has increased from about 22 million tonnes to 34.4 million tonnes."

Wang'oo urged for harmonisation, digitalisation, reduction and simplification of export procedures and documents.

He called for public-private partnerships to improve regional infrastructure connectivity such as the construction of roadside stations for truck drivers along the transport corridors.

Peter Masinde, Head of Inland Container Depots Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) said; "this Maritime Round Table is a precursor to the East Africa Maritime Awards (EAMA) Gala Dinner slated for tomorrow."

Masinde lauded the Port of Mombasa for embracing ICT Systems namely the Kilindini Waterfront Terminal Operating System (KWATOS), the Systems Application Product (SAP) allowing quick online clearance processes.

He stated that the COVID-19 impacted the USD. 117 billion cruise sector by reducing shipping cargo volumes.

In 2020, total cargo through the Port of Mombasa was 34.12 million MT, a 0.9 percent decline in comparison to 2019.

"Positively, during the period of January-August 2021 cargo via Port of Mombasa increased by 8.1 percent recording 23,889,758 tonnes against 22,095,917 tonnes handled in the corresponding period in 2020," said Masinde.

Silvester Kutut, chairman and founder of Express Shipping & Logistics EA Ltd stated that the cost of container shipping is on a sharp rise due to rising fuel prices and Covid-19.

Kutut recommended for improvement of value addition and manufacturing, reduction of ballast voyages and boosting of exports from the EAC region.



Rentco Co Africa (Tanzania) company secretary Dennis Mwesiga (2nd-R) and DTB-Tanzania company secretary Ives Mlawi pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday exchanging copies of an equipment leasing agreement they had just signed. They are with DTB-Tanzania head of corporate banking Betty Rupia (L) and Rentco Co Africa (Tanzania) country head Doris Nyawira. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chunya processors request lab to detect gold concentration in rocks

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

OWNERS of gold processing factories in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have requested the government to construct a modern laboratory that can detect the concentration of gold in the rocks before processing to avoid losses and distrust between them and

miners.

The request was made by some owners of gold processing plants in Chunya to the leader of the Uhuru Torch Race, Lt Josephine Mwambasi at the event to inaugurate the Kindai gold processing plant in Makongolosi Town.

The owner of the plant, Hamisi Rajab said the laboratory will help

to increase the mining pace and increase employment opportunities for the people of Chunya.

For her part, Lt. Mwambashi called on the plants owners not to despair from the obstacles and lauded them for creating employment for the youth in the area and beyond.

She said the gold processing plant has already employed 21

youth who now take care of their families and appealed to them to shun crime including marijuana smoking.

The 2021 Uhuru Torch Race has completed its special race in Mbeya Region and already the Regional Commissioner Juma Homera has passed it to his Songwe counterpart, Omary Mgunba.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angeline Mabula (2nd-R) pictured on Wednesday launching land use plan for Geita town. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on governments, civil society, private sector, health workers and communities to speak up for patient safety and act for safe and respectful childbirth.

In her message to commemorate the World Patient Safety Day, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti said by engaging patients as partners in the provision of quality care, health systems will make tangible progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

The World Patient Safety Day, launched in 2019, is celebrated every year on 17 September, to raise awareness of the importance of people-centred care and prevention harm to patients.

The theme for 2021 is "safe maternal and newborn care" with a campaign to "act now for safe and respectful childbirth".

"This is very relevant in the African Region, which accounts for nearly 7 out of 10 maternal deaths and 1 out of 3 newborn deaths globally. The major causes of death among pregnant women and mothers are postpartum haemorrhage, hypertensive diseases, and sepsis. Among newborns, the top causes of death include premature birth, babies not getting enough oxygen

WHO urges global players in health sector to speak up for patient safety

during birth, and infections," she said.

Dr Moeti noted that many of these deaths could be prevented by making sure patients feel safe, respected and that their needs are heard and acted on, and by equipping the health workers with the knowledge, skills and tools to take life-saving action.

"Women in particular, are confronted with a range of challenges as patients. They face physical and verbal abuse, and exclusion from decision-making about their care. For instance, during childbirth, pregnant women are often denied the choice of having a birth companion present or to deliver in their preferred birthing position. Newborn rights, to quality care for example, largely go unprotected," she said.

She said during the pandemic, some people have avoided seeking care in health facilities, for fear of catching Covid-19 or other infectious diseases.

To combat this hesitancy, health systems need to work on building community trust and investing more in good infection prevention and control practices. This includes investing in access to clean water,

sanitation and medical waste disposal systems, doing regular refresher training with healthcare workers, and making sure sufficient quantities of gloves, masks and other protective equipment are available," she explained.

Dr Moeti insisted care should be provided with compassion and respect, by health workers with the skills to succeed, and in clean and safe environments that prevent the spread of infections.

"As WHO, we are working with countries to make this happen by implementing the WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030. In line with this, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi and other countries have developed national quality strategies to improve practices and enhance accountability."

Countries like Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Nigeria are adapting WHO standards of care and building capacities as part of quality improvement initiatives. Eswatini, Lesotho and Kenya are among the countries adopting integrated approaches to service delivery built around the needs of patients.

Traffic police crackdown finds buses' brake systems tied with nylon strings

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 29 passenger buses operating in the Southern Highlands regions were inspected by road traffic police at Mikumi area, Morogoro Region with some found tied with nylon strings in their brake systems.

This follows a special operation by the Traffic Police in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region along the Morogoro-Iringa Highway to look for defective passenger carrying buses that also found out that some of the small vehicles carrying passengers use nylon strings in their brake systems.

The operation led by the National Traffic Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa saw 24 drivers arrested and fined with some having their driving licences impounded.

The operation also discovered passenger carrying vehicles with defective speed governors with some overspending.

Four drivers were arrested for having buses that had not been registered with the speed governor system, with some devices been tampered on.

"These drivers should be placed under custody by tampering with the speed governor systems, 12 others with various traffic offences

including over-speeding were fined and cautioned," said Mutafungwa.

He added that 12 other drivers who were found to be speeding at over 90 km/h and above had their licences impounded for further legal actions.

In the operation, 10 trucks were also inspected and five were found to be defective in their brake systems and were ordered to be rectified before they continue with their journeys.

He said five other Heicher minibuses were inspected and found with defects in the brake and power steering systems and were barred from continuing with their journeys, with some found to have been tied with strings in their brake systems using rubber strips.

The National Traffic Commander called on bus passengers to be the first to report to the traffic police all times they see the drivers of the buses they were travelling in were violating road traffic laws and regulations, in regard to fast driving or defective vehicles.

He also called on road traffic police in the country to perform their duties professionally in order to control road accidents that results in unnecessary loss of lives and limbs.

Govt forms team to collect views on warehouse receipt system efficiency

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THE Agriculture Ministry has formed a nine-man team to collect views and recommendations from farmers and stakeholders of leguminous crops aimed at finding a solution to the challenges regarding the warehouse receipt system.

This was revealed here on Wednesday by Agriculture minister prof Adolph Mkenka as he was addressing reporters, saying the team will go through the warehouse receipt system for grams, green grams, pigeon peas and sesame and come up with a solution to remove the snags.

He said recently, there was some misunderstanding in the region regarding the sale of the crops through the system whereas they liaised with regional officials to suspend the system to pave way for its restructurings.

Recently, in his speech to wind up parliament sessions in Dodoma Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said; "our plan is to continue with the warehouse receipt system but I have directed the ministry to create a friendly environment for the system to work without snags to

farmers selling the said crops," Prof Mkenka said.

He said the team is led by Hamisi Mwinymvua from the University of Dar es Salaam as chairman and Ernest Doriye from the ministry as the secretary.

He named team members as including Dr Anaciet Kashuliza, Barney Laseko, Dr Ruhinduka Remedius, Dr Wilhelm Ngasamiaku, Shaibu Chilavi and Samson Poneja, who will tour three regions of Shinyanga, Morogoro and Lindi.

Meanwhile, the minister said the warehouse receipt system has a lot of benefits saying in some areas, its removal will create conflicts among farmers and cited the example of Lindi and Mtwara regions where the system has been in use without any snags.

For his part, the team's chairman Dr Mwinymvua said they will collect views and recommendations to improve the system by meeting with cooperative officials, farmers' groups and buyers of the crops.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati pledged his cooperation to the team, aiming to improve the warehouse receipt system.



Finance and Planning deputy minister Hamad Yussuf Masauni (R) and Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata exchange greetings at the TRA headquarters in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent.

Dodoma

THE government has advised Tanzanians against importation of banned refrigerants (halocarbons) and equipment that use them including used refrigerators and air conditioners in order to protect the ozone layer.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Selemani Jafu, the minister of state in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) as he was addressing reporters to mark the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

"On September 16 we will join with the international community to mark the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer as directed by the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 49/114 of December 19 of 1998," said Jafu.

He said the ozone layer is located in the upper

Prohibited refrigerants: No retreat, stresses Jafu

atmosphere at between 10 to 50 kilometres above the earth, adding that its main function is to filter the intensity of various rays including ultraviolet B rays not to reach the earth surface.

He said once the ozone layer is destroyed, it allows more hazardous rays to penetrate to the earth surface contributing to various diseases including skin cancer, eye diseases that cause blindness.

He said other hazards include the destruction to the crops that destroys their growth systems.

He said in order to protect the Ozone layer world governments agreed in 1985 at Vienna for a protocol to protect the layer.

"The protocol stresses for cooperation among the nations in research,

supervision and exchange of information on the situation of the Ozone layer," Jafu added. He said the nations also established the Montreal Protocol on the control of chemicals that suck the Ozone layer.

He said to control the situation, the government stresses for the importation of alternative refrigerants that are friendly to the Ozone layer such as R209, R407, R404 and R717. "Also the importation of products with official labels stating: 'Ozone Friendly' or CFC-free indicating they are not made by chemicals that eats up the Ozone layer," he added.

He called on the people against throwing away used refrigerators or fire extinguishers with anti-ozone chemicals 'CFCs' and 'halons'."

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has been challenged to sensitize the community about the Covid-19 vaccine in order to achieve its goal of vaccinating an enormous number of people.

A senior lecturer and health service researcher at a university in West of England, Dr Mwidimi gave the advice saying that recently in the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) through a virtual roundtable conference that was organised by Internews.

He said myths and misconceptions about covid-19 vaccine is one of the big challenges hindering government efforts to vaccinate more people.

"Vaccine without awareness is a big challenge. The government must first invest in community awareness to inform them of the importance of getting the vaccine," he said.

Dr Ndosi said it is not true that you can

Govt challenged to sensitise public on Covid-19 vaccines

become infected after being vaccinated, but once more of the population is vaccinated, those chances are further reduced.

He said getting vaccinated not only reduces your chance of being infected, it also contributes to community protection, reducing the likelihood of virus transmission.

"Vaccines have shown to be effective at preventing severe illness from the pandemic. So even if you were vaccinated and became infected, you are very unlikely to become severely ill," he said.

Dr Ndosi said the studies have shown

vaccinated people once infected have mild to moderate cases of covid-19 compared to those who were not vaccinated.

Furthermore, the risk of hospitalization and death because of disease is nearly eliminated once you are fully vaccinated.

According to the don, the country's health experts must work hard to inform the public against those opposing it.

Besides that, extensive testing and monitoring have shown that these vaccines are safe and effective.

He said covid-19 vaccines were safe because they were developed using science and went through all the required stages of clinical trials.

Besides that, extensive testing and monitoring have shown that these vaccines are safe and effective.

He said likewise in the UK, Tanzania must allow all willing people to get vaccines without signing the consent form saying it causes fears among them.

On July 29, President Samia Suluhu Hassan led national leaders in the national launch of covid-19 vaccination national drive, promising that all willing Tanzanians should be inoculated.

COVID-19 has adversely impacted Zanzibar tourism sector, forum told

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

THE Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected sectors that depend on international trade relations including the tourist sector, the main sector for the country's economic growth.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Dr Emmanuel Chao, the chairman of a forum of experts of the International Conference of Business in Emerging Markets (ICBEMEM), an international forum that gathers scholars to address and discuss business and management ideas.

Speaking at the three-day gathering that drew participants from various countries including Zambia and Nigeria, Dr Chao said apart from the pandemic affecting tourism, it has also affected the export trade as the number of buyers has decreased.

He further said air travel has also been affected as the number of air passengers from one nation to another has dwindled after some nations placing travel restrictions due to Covid-19.

He explained that the forum has brought together experts in social science and trade whereas the first similar forum took place in Zanzibar in 2016 and discussed issues of

governance, finance, academics, and trade.

He said social and technology changes has adversely affected the trade sector hence he called on the forum to discuss on better strategies to rectify the limitations.

He said development without research is difficult and research without working on it cannot bring best results, hence he told forum participants to work together to have better development in the country.

Opening the forum, the Zanzibar Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Simai Muhammed Said said it was important to come up with joint efforts among various private sectors and colleges to research on markets especially during the Covid-19 period.

He called on the participants to deliberate and to see how developing nations can cooperate in markets and the reports they come up with should be submitted to the government for action.



Civil Engineer and Driller Job Positions

CIVIL ENGINEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Minimum Educational Qualifications/ Experience required:

- 5 years experience as a Site Engineer
- Experience in water sector
- Experience in contracts and letter writing
- You should be flexible to travel.
- Experience in project implementation and management.
- Degree in Civil / Structural Engineering recognized by CRB.
- Possess understanding of business critical scenarios in terms of site Management and safety
- Good team player with excellent communication skills both in English and Kiswahili.

DRILLER JOB DESCRIPTION

MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS/EPERIENCE REQUIRED:

- Work under instructions of a supervisor or Division manager while maintaining safe work conditions and carrying out all drilling operations while assisting with guidance to all the drill crew members.
- 5 years experience as a driller
- Experience in water drilling
- Experience in direct mud drilling
- Experience in cable tool drilling
- Experience in reverse circulation drilling
- Experience as a site manager
- Good team player with excellent communication skills both in English and Kiswahili.

How to apply:

Qualified and interested candidates should send their applications (CV and Cover letter) to Serengeti Limited through info@serengetiltd.com

All applications must be received by 24th Sept, 2021

216465307



INVITATION FOR BIDS TO PROVIDE SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH 20 DEMONSTRATION PLOTS FOR IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH THROUGH NATURAL MEANS

1.0 Background

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International (PI) in Tanzania are jointly implementing an integrated Program known as Tuungane which addresses Population, Health and Environment (PHE). Agriculture which forms the main livelihood activity on the terrestrial environment has been blamed for the increasing siltation of Lake Tanganyika through unsustainable farming practices. To reduce the soil sediments that have adverse effect to the lake fisheries productivity, Tuungane program aims at supporting smallholder farmers in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in improving their agricultural practices through adoption of conservation agriculture/Climate Smart Agriculture. Specifically, the program will build the capacity of farmers to improve fertility of their soils through natural means by the application of farmyard manure and compost onto their farmlands. Apart from improving soils fertility, this will improve soil structure of the farms and become less prone to soil erosion.

Currently, Tuungane program seeks short term consultancy services from an expert in soil fertility to establish 20 demonstration plots for improving soil health through the application of farmyard manure and compost in Buhungu ward.

2. Consultancy Services

The following is the list of needed consultancy services:

- 2.1 Train farmers on how to prepare compost, prepare 100 tons of compost in collaboration with local community members and distribute them to 15 farmers to improve fertility of their soils. The 15 farmers will host demonstration plots. The treatments will include compost, farmyard manure, compost + farmyard manure and no compost + no farmyard manure.
- 2.2 Train farmers on how to apply farmyard manure and procure 100 tons of farmyard manure from local livestock keepers and distribute them to 15 farmers to improve fertility of their soils. The 15 farmers will host demonstration plots. The treatments will include farmyard manure, compost, compost + farmyard manure and no compost + no farmyard manure.
- 2.3 Ensure that farmers prepare their farms, sow the seeds as per recommended best agricultural practices.
- 2.4 Provide agricultural extension services at demonstration plots to ensure observation of recommended agricultural best practices for 3 months.
- 2.5 Prepare and submit to TNC/Tuungane program management a monthly project progress report.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

Eligible consultants should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Minimum of Bachelor of Science in agriculture, soil science or agronomy.
- Have an experience of at least 3 years in training farmers, establishing, and supervising agricultural demonstration plots (attach list of completed similar assignments and CV of key personnel).

4.0 Application procedures

Interested organizations or individuals with technical skills and appropriate experiences on the above-mentioned assignment are warmly welcome to submit their electronic Technical Proposals which include a well Itemized Financial Budget and activity time schedule on or before 30th September 2021 by email to: hshilinde@tnc.org. Also attach legal business documents as per Government requirements (License, registration, and TIN/VAT number). Please, note that all application received after the deadline will not be honored.

NOTE: If you have already submitted your proposal, please do not resubmit as it will be considered for the evaluation process.

216465007



RE-ADVERTISED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF SURFACE EXPLORATION DRILLING SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring a service for provision of surface exploration drilling and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

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

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01280	PROVISION OF SURFACE EXPLORATION DRILLING SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML)

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	20%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.54%
Company Code of Conduct	1.54%
Company Code of Ethics	1.54%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.54%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.54%
Copy of 2021 BRELA search Registration Documents	1.54%
Copy of Company Memorandum and Article of Association	1.54%
Copy of Latest BRELA Application of Annual Returns	1.54%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.54%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.54%
Company Shareholding Structure (ownership of shares in percentage (%), Share certificates and Passport/Voter or National ID card for Management & Shareholders	1.54%
List of Directors	1.54%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.54%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
5%	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	0.83%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	0.83%
Environmental Management Plan / Programme / Policy	0.83%
Health and Safety Programme	0.83%
Certified to ISO 45001:2018 & ISO 14001:2015	0.83%
Conform to AGA/GGML Major Hazards standards and Critical control monitoring.	0.83%
OTHER POLICIES	
5%	
Gifts / Hospitality / Sponsorship Policy / Procedure	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Forced and Child Labor	1%
Policies / Procedures dealing with Abuse, Discrimination and Harassment	1%
Grievance Procedure	1%
Human Rights Policy / Procedure / Programme	1%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
5%	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01269)	
60%	
Demonstrate that suitable drilling rigs, drilling equipment and drilling support (personnel transport, fuel, water, lighting plants, drill rig servicing) will be provided for the project.	10%
Demonstrate diamond drilling (DD) capability (NQ, HQ, PQ) to depths up to 1000m, including knowledge of drill rig alignment, core orientation.	10%
Demonstrate reverse circulation drilling (RC) capability to depths up to 300m and understanding of geological RC sampling at one metre intervals, including description of cyclone/splitter sampling systems.	10%
Demonstrate understanding of downhole surveying, core orientation and azimuth alignment systems, and provide list of equipment to be provided.	10%
Demonstrate a Health, Safety and Environmental Management Plan is in place.	10%
Demonstrate that a skilled workforce will operate the drill rigs, and drilling support, and a workforce training plan is in place. Evidence of training in drilling procedures will be highly regarded.	5%
Demonstrate a Maintenance Planning System for preventative maintenance and servicing; and for non-routine breakdown repair of drill rigs and drilling equipment is in place.	5%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01280)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the **AGA** Office via e-mail at **Tenders@anglogoldashanti.com** not later than **0830 A.M 30th September 2021** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

TAMWA set to help more women participate in politics, leadership

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has organised a four-day capacity building workshop for women, aimed at empowering them to participate in politics and leadership positions.

Speaking here at the opening of the workshop, TAMWA's Executive Director, Dr Rose Reuben, said many women in the country still need to be empowered on issues of gender and leadership.

"Women should be encouraged to go for leadership positions as they also have capability just like their counterparts," she said, adding that there is a good example of women leaders.

She said the training on position of women in politics has been organised by TAMWA in collaboration with the Crisis Resolving Centre (CRC),

Young and Alive Initiative (YAI) and the African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET).

According to Dr Reuben, men have also been included in the training since they also need to be empowered on issues of gender for them to be able to support gender equality in decision making.

She said so far, they have managed to empower women on gender issues at different levels ranging from activists, youth and policy makers where challenges women face when seeking political leadership positions have been realised.

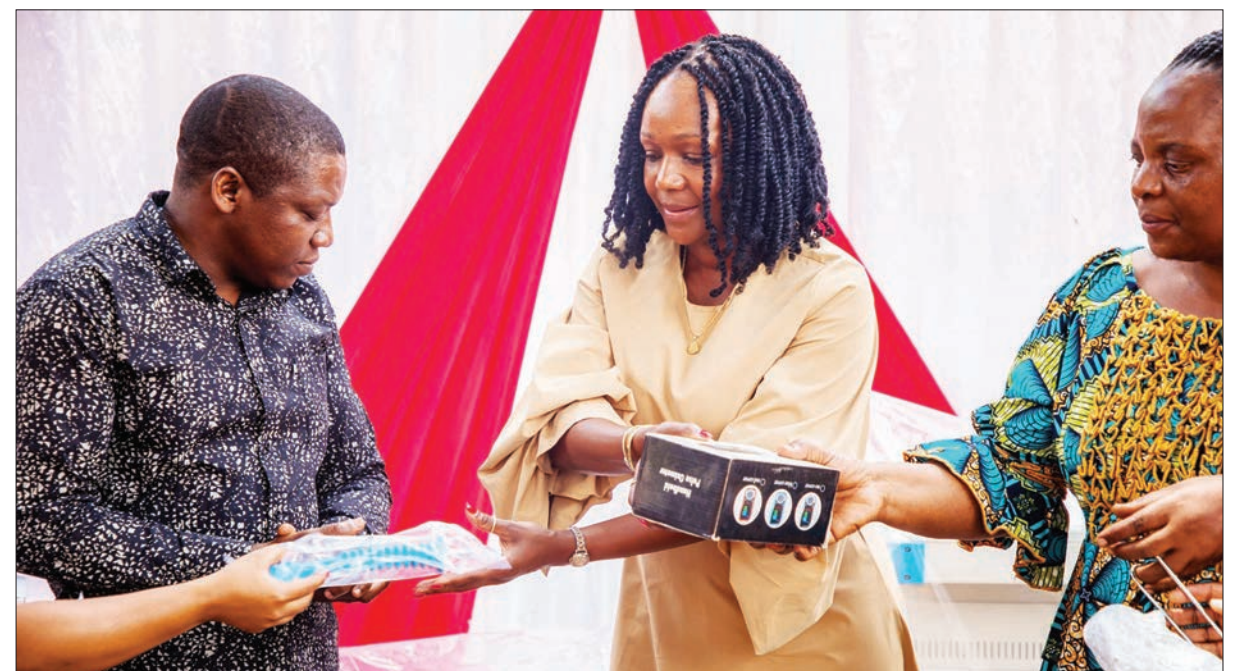
TAMWA boss added that women parliamentary caucus have also attended such seminars as well as engaging officials from the National Electoral Commission (NEC) in effort to consider having in place policies that will enable women and

young women participate in politics. She noted that through the programme some 55 women and youth activists have been empowered and connected with people who can help them on matters of participation in politics.

"On the other hand, we met some 21 members of parliament and discussed challenges women face when vying for political positions," she said, adding that they resolved to see how to solve them before 2025 general elections.

FEMNET Coordinator, Dorothy Otieno noted that the aim of the programme is to widen women and youth participation in politics since they are the future leaders.

"We have brought together 30 women who are future leaders to discuss challenges facing women in leadership from lowest to national levels," she said.



Geoffrey Mwambe (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), and Masasi district commissioner Claudia Kitta (R) receive part of a consignment of medical equipment from the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation director Rosalynn Mworira earlier this week. It was a donation in support of care for premature babies at the district's Mkomaindo Hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

Tanzania, Indonesia to sign trade and investment treaty

TANZANIA and Indonesia will soon sign a joint trade and investment treaty aimed at helping traders and the economy of the two countries, it has learnt.

This was said on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam by the Indonesian Ambassador to Tanzania Prof Ratlan Pardede during the 5th appreciation night for Indonesia's business partners.

Pardede told entrepreneurs, traders and buyers of Indonesian products that his country stands ready to do more trade with Tanzania.

"As such, the embassy would encourage Indonesia and Tanzania to embark on a new page of trade cooperation through the establishment of the Tanzania-Indonesia Trade and Investment Treaty," he said.

He believed that the establishment of a treaty between Indonesia and Tanzania will open up more opportunities for both countries.

The envoy said that the trade agreement will also eventually reduce barriers and expose more good quality products with affordable prices for both Indonesia and Tanzania, he added.

Prof Pardede said the Indonesian Embassy encourages businesspeople of both countries to increase export and import in various means, customized in this new normal approach.

"Therefore, we need to learn more and create possible economic cooperation for both countries to create many opportunities for trade that we believe could expand in many ways," he underlined.

For now, Indonesia's main exports to Tanzania are edible crude palm oil, machinery parts, chemical products, paper and garments.

On the other hand, main exports of Tanzania to Indonesia are cloves, cotton, tobacco, cocoa, copper and ground nuts.

Group crusades for gender diversity in management

By Guardian Reporter

A LOBBY group dedicated to close gender gap by increasing visibility, training and recognition of women in leadership has released a scorecard on female representation in boards of 28 companies listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Women in Management Africa (WIMA) unveiled edition 1 analysis yesterday in partnership with PWR Advisory, an Africa focused leadership, diversity and inclusion consulting firm.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the release, the founder and CEO of WIMA, Naike Mushi, said, the 2021 gender scorecard reports that females in Tanzania occupies only 21.6 per cent of the board representation in the listed companies to date.

According to Mushi, more needs to be done to accelerate board gender diversity and unlock untapped value for companies and society at large.

"We believe, if everyone takes charge with concerted multi-stakeholder effort over the next 12 months, the participation of women on boards in Tanzania can increase significantly," she said.

She added: "The report shows that 28.6 per cent of the companies have at least 30 per cent female representation on their boards."

According to research, minorities start to have impact at a 30 per cent representation threshold. One company (3.6 per cent) is led by a female CEO. None of the 28 listed companies has a female board chair and 25% of listed companies do not have any female representation on their boards.

It also highlights that 40 per cent of companies in the Commercial Services sector have at least a 30 per cent female board representation. This was the highest across all sectors followed by the banks, finance and investment sector where 30.7 per cent of the companies have at least a 30% female board representation.

There are female CEOs in banks, finance and investment sector. The oil and gas sector is the only sector that has no female board representation at all.

However, there is only one company in this sector listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange. The Industrial and Allied sector has the highest number of companies with a 0 per cent female board representation, she ended.

Businesses and communities in Tanzania and across the African continent in general will reap significant economic return by fully unleashing the full potential of half the population. Corporate boards as custodians of economic prosperity have a key role to play in achieving this. According to Ivana Osagie, founder and CEO of PWR Advisory, in the increasingly complex and volatile business environment with exponential levels of risk that companies operate in today, there is safety in diversity. It is a valid risk mitigation strategy.

Company donates medical equipment valued at 60m/- to Masasi District hospital

By Guardian Reporter, Masasi

MKOMAINDO hospital in Masasi District, Mtwara Region has received a donation of medical equipment worth 60m/- from Vodacom Tanzania Foundation to facilitate provision of medical treatment to premature babies.

The foundation has been donating medical equipment for quite some time in communities where they do business.

The equipment included the phototherapy machine, oxygen concentrator, incubators, warmer bed, delivery beds, ultrasound machines, speculum, vacuum and others.

Speaking during the donation handover event held at the hospital on Wednesday, Geoffrey Mwambe, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) commended the foundation for allocating funds for social activities that will surely contribute to save lives of infants and pregnant women. Mwambe who is a Member of Parliament for Masasi Constituency urged other registered companies to emulate what the mobile phone company has been doing in various areas including the health sector.

"I call upon other private institutions to donate to the community just like what Vodacom foundation has been doing, this is so encouraging," said Mwambe.

However, the minister urged public institutions, ministries and other government agencies to be accountable whenever the private sector institutions seek for their services since the sector contributes much to the national economy through taxes.

Mwambe explained that the government gets tax through pay as you earn (PAYE) paid by individual

employees and corporate income tax paid by the companies.

Speaking at the event, Masasi District Commissioner, Claudia Kitta said that the hospital has a lot of requirements, but the donation will serve the lives of many infants and pregnant women in the district and neighbouring communities.

Director of Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, Rosalynn Mworira said they have been donating a lot in maternal and children health care materials, including an awareness campaign on fistula which has been conducted all over the country.

She said they are now implementing a pilot project in Sengerema and Shinyanga dubbed as 'M-Mama Project' which saves the lives of expectant mothers and infants.

"For us it's a matter of pride that the equipment will save the lives of infants at Mkomaindo hospital and other areas in our country. We did not hesitate to donate when the hospital approached us," said Mworira.

Masasi District Acting Medical Officer, Dr Amina Mushi thanked the foundation for the donation saying from January to December 2020, a total of 4714 pregnant women delivered and received medical treatment at the health facility in Masasi District. He said a total of 4039 infants were born alive during the period.

She added that from January to July this year, a total of 2439 women gave birth at various health facilities in the district, among them, 2067 were delivered at the Mkomaindo hospital. Of the total number of the newborns 2065 were born alive.

The acting DMO said that Masasi town council recorded a decrease in the number of maternal deaths from 10 in 2020 to 3 deaths this year.



Mbeya women pictured yesterday making envelopes for sale, as part of an income-generation project, after undergoing training conducted by a local agency known as Elimisha. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Govt, partners to analyse groundwater resources in entire Kagera River Basin

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government in collaboration with partners is planning to conduct an in-depth analysis of groundwater resources in the Kagera River Basin to evaluate its quantity and quality, a move expected to ensure residents with reliable clean and safe water services.

Speaking yesterday during the launch of the groundwater project (2020-2025), Manager for Water Resources at the Lake Victoria Basin Water Board who is also the groundwater project focal person,

Emmanuel Kisendi said the study will also focus on how citizens can benefit from the project.

He said the project aims at enhancing conjunctive management of surface and groundwater research in selected trans-boundary aquifers.

"We will be here for three consecutive days to discuss on how we are going to implement this project in the northwest area of our country in the Kagera region," he said noting the project involves four countries—Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

He said before its implementation,

researchers will work to examine the quality and quantity of the water. He said each country has been given different tasks to ensure it is successful implemented.

"And as a country we must have a common understanding of how to harvest the water to avoid one country going against the rules of harvesting and as a result we either pollute the resource or use more than we can or perhaps let our citizens continue to use water that is probably not suitable for quality or human consumption," said Kisendi.

Groundwater project national consultant, Lister Kongola said the main objective of the project is to conduct an in-depth assessment of groundwater resources in the Kagera River Basin to know exactly where the resource is located as well as its quantity and quality.

The data collecting team started working today whereas among other things, it will collect data on the rock that holds the groundwater, its size and check the quality of the wells, he said adding that the exercise will be completed in November this year.



Manyara regional extension officer Samwel Dahaye takes farmers and herders through the basics of modern agriculture at a workshop held at Babati town on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THRDC calls on govt to create conditions for greater public involvement in elections

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has advised the government to enact laws that create an enabling environment for the participation of human rights defenders and citizens in elections and other democratic processes.

Speaking during the week on the occasion to commemorate the international day of democracy THRDC National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa noted that the presence of laws that invade freedom of expression, access to information, and freedom of participation are challenging and deterring citizens from enjoying democracy in the country.

"We have witnessed some political parties being allowed to

hold political rallies while others are stripped from conducting the same," he stated, mentioning that in the 2020 elections, political parties complain about the lack of participatory elections due to lack of adherence to democratic principles.

He, therefore, urged Tanzania as a member state of the United Nations and the African Union to make certain that democratic principles and good governance are upheld.

Olungurumwa stressed that there are still a lot of grievances from the people and human rights defenders at various levels of democratic process and good governance adding that THRDC has been closely

following up on the participation of human rights defenders to make sure that they fully participate in democratic processes.

"There has been an outcry that the results of the 2020 general election did not reflect a multi-party system in a democratic country, citizens rely on the representation that reflects political systems," he intoned thus insisting that Tanzanian citizens rely on the representation that reflects that democracy urging that all democratic process be participatory.

He also cautioned the government to closely observe principles of democracy including inclusive citizen participation, freedom of

assembly, and access to information.

"Human rights are the foundation of democracy and the development of any nation and for any nation to prosper, the fundamentals of human rights must be respected in order to achieve sustainable development," he emphasized.

It should be noted that the day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 as a reminder for all nations to understand the importance of upholding and supporting the principles of democracy. This year's celebration is captioned "strengthening democratic resilience in the face of crises".

BRAC International introduces newly named executive director

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) International has introduced new Executive Director Shameran Abed who will oversee and guide strategies, programmes and organisational development for scaled impact and sustainable growth.

He will also contribute to BRAC's Global Strategy to reach 250 million disadvantaged women and their dependents, youth and people living in poverty by 2030.

Shameran is therefore expected to lead BRAC's microfinance operations and oversee the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI).

The chairperson of the Supervisory Board of the NGO Irene Khan mentioned during the appointment in Dar es Salaam that they are confident that Shameran is the right person to steer the organisation at this time, driving innovation and positive transformation while ensuring continuity.

"We believe Shameran's extensive experience at BRAC and his strong strategic and collaborative skills will help us to further align our goals and objectives to achieve the vision of our late founder, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, to make BRAC a global force for poverty eradication and empowerment of the poor," she affirmed.

Shameran joined BRAC Bangladesh in 2009 and BRAC International in 2012 and has been instrumental in bringing BRAC's flagship programmes of microfinance and ultra-poor graduation to global scale.

Under his leadership, BRAC microfinance portfolio has seen impressive growth and a renewed focus on client impact. Since 2016, Shameran has also led BRAC's ultra-poor graduation work and played an instrumental role in setting up the UPGI to spearhead global advocacy and provide technical assistance to governments and other organisations.

He also comes with significant

board experience on several non-profit and corporate entities, including the boards of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), BRAC Bank and bKash.

For his part, BRAC's newly appointed Director hailed the NGO for trusting him with such a position to work alongside thousands of fearless co-workers and with millions of programme participants, whose courage and enterprise inspire us every day to accelerate and further amplify our impact.

The director also reminded his fellows of the urgency to build resilience and create sustainable pathways out of poverty for the world's most marginalized despite the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic.

"BRAC holds a truly unique position, as an organization from and for the Global South, to continue to demonstrate the same commitment and tenacity in designing and delivering practical, scalable, community-led solutions as we have done for almost 50 years," he urged.

Shameran holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Hamilton College in the United States and is a qualified Barrister in the UK.

BRAC started as a limited relief operation in 1972 in a remote village in Bangladesh and has grown to become the largest development organisation in the world impacting the lives of 125 million people.

In Tanzania, BRAC started operations in 2006 implementing various programmes to reduce poverty and empower the marginalised people to realise their potential. BRAC has operated Microfinance services through BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited and social development programmes in the areas of Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood, Education, Youth and Women Empowerment, through BRAC Maendeleo Tanzania.

Shameran is therefore expected to lead BRAC's microfinance operations and oversee the Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI)

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Covid-19 vaccination resistance closely linked to WPSD matters

TAKING stock of the World Patient Safety Day (WPSD), which is observed each September 17 to raise global awareness about patient safety, brings to mind the problems that the public authorities are facing in bringing out larger numbers of people to take Covid-19 vaccination jabs.

Many people fear for their own safety, while underestimating the dangers they face if one were to be infected by the coronavirus.

While the WPSD is about solidarity and united action by all countries and international partners, with a view to mitigating harm to patients, exactly the same issue comes up in another way in the job stalling issue.

The UN-designated Day focuses on preventing and reducing risks, errors and harm to patients during the provision of health care, as these dangers are real and just can't be ignored.

The Day, like many other such events, is meant to raise awareness and reflection on the matter, with the health sector having been allocated 11 world days scattered across the annual calendar.

These include the World Tuberculosis Day, World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Malaria Day, World Immunisation Week, and World No Tobacco Day.

Patient safety is especially important because caring for patients is done by humans who have weaknesses like the rest of us.

Thus, the UN says that patient safety is a healthcare discipline that emerged owing to the growing complexity of health care systems.

In other words, technological advances occasioned new problems in caring for patients while also solving numerous such problems, with a disturbing trend of patient harm in healthcare facilities coming up.

The UN cites patient harm due to

adverse events as one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, not just disease.

It is mind-boggling when UN statistics show that evidence suggests that hospitalisation in low- and middle-income countries leads to 134 million adverse events annually, resulting in 2.6 million deaths.

The data are much kinder in high-income countries, where at least one in ten patients is harmed while receiving hospital care by the same statistical flow.

That is partially why high-level officials are often flown to specialised hospitals abroad even when such treatment available locally, as the level of trust differs.

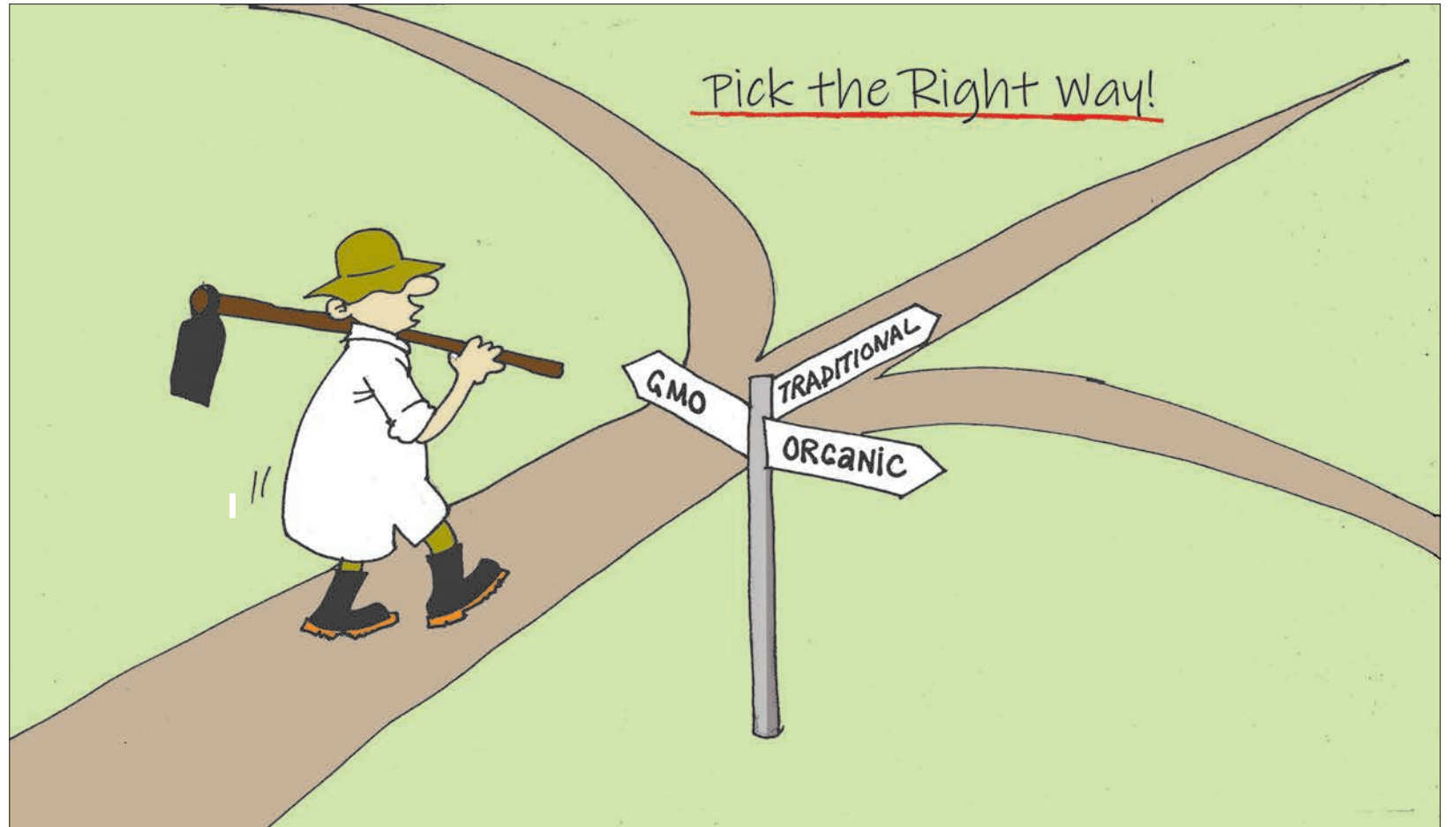
Yet, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the level of resistance to taking the jab, one has a sort of inverse proposition at hand, one of imaginary harm rather than real harm likely emerging from the situation.

Still, what this hesitation amply illustrates is that the whole problem of patient safety in the course of medication is a silent but burning issue worldwide.

It is experienced by individuals and families when it occurs but is very rarely a matter for public debate as it could embarrass the medical profession.

Paradoxically, the idea that health sector professionals ought to be in the firing line on patient safety ignores the fact that medical staff are the first ones to be exposed to danger when patients are taken to hospitals.

The early stages of Covid-19 saw swathes of medical personnel lose their lives before the rules of engaging patients and finding the right equipment like insulation clothing and adequate masking could be fully established - and adhered to. Therefore, the bottom line here is that we are all in this together.



African climate scientists deserve a decent hearing

By Special Correspondent

THE Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released a report detailing the worsening trends in climate and the future we collectively face.

As African scientists from Kenya and Nigeria, one of the first things we did was to check the list of the author the IPCC report to see how Africans were represented - and what we found disappointed us.

Disappointingly, the number of scientists from Africa was low. This gap is despite the fact that all through 2020 and 2021, the need for inclusivity and diversifying the voices we listen to as we deal with grand challenges of our day including climate change and Covid-19 has been said to be a priority.

So, we expected a somewhat fairer representation in the list of authors who had contributed to the report.

Furthermore, we know first-hand how climate change is affecting our continent and why more Africans should be part of this kind of major global report.

In 2019 and through 2020, Kenya witnessed severe invasions of desert locusts. These led to the destruction of plants and food insecurity, effectively worsening poverty.

On the Kenyan coast, where Esther grew up, the effects of climate change are visible - from the rains that have become infrequent, making it impossible to grow enough food crops to feed family and community members to sweltering temperatures and more.

In Nanka, Ifeanyi's village in Nigeria, landslides are common. Over the years, many families have lost their homes and been displaced. The increased rainfall and flooding are worsening landslides.

Lagos, Africa's most populous city, just had its worst flooding in recent years. Experts are predicting that the city of 24 million people may become unlivable by the end of the century with the rises in sea levels.

While climate change is a global problem, it is often an acute one in Africa, and thus African voices should always be well represented when looking for solutions.

To find out why there were so few African authors, we contacted IPCC, and their response was revealing.



A farmer from Kyuso District in Kenya's Kitui county inspects her devastated field after an invasion by a swarm of locusts. File photo

We learned that the first step for becoming an IPCC author was to be an expert reviewer in the first place. It showed that the agency strives for balance among different regions of the world, including between developed and developing countries.

For instance, the Working Group I report that just came out has 41 per cent from developing countries. The corresponding proportion with respect to Working Group II report in February (impacts and adaptation) is 57 per cent.

Importantly, we learned some of the challenges that could explain why there were few African authors. According to one of the three IPCC vice chairs, Youba Sokona from Mali, one of the major problems is limited publication by African scholars on African climate-related issues.

Now, Sokona is an authoritative and widely acknowledged advocate for African involvement in the work of the IPCC.

We also learned that IPCC focal points are not connected to universities and/or research organisations and non-response by the African Academy of Sciences and universities during the past three years.

In addition, serving as a contributing author is not compensated financially, which can deter the participation of scientists from countries that continue to

work with limited resources.

The reasons given were not surprising, though. Publishing, the first major problem contributing to few African authors, can be especially costly.

It has already been argued that high publishing costs continue to keep African scholars out of top science journals. What then can be done to ensure that we African scientists continue to participate as IPCC contributing authors or even just review editors?

First, IPCC, African governments, universities and Africa-based research institutions should consider setting aside funds that scientists can apply for when they have publishable research.

Additionally, IPCC should diversify the portfolio of whatever institutions and organisations it engages with to solicit and identify future IPCC report contributors.

Second, the "global North" must stop treating African scientists as victims. This colonial attitude leaves the African experts' voices out and continues to perpetuate the idea that we are victims of climate change.

Rather, there is every need to engage and recruit African experts so that they too can intellectually contribute to future IPCC reports.

Third is that Africa, the continent that contributes least to climate change but bears the greatest

burden, must be at the forefront of decision-making.

We certainly believe that IPCC ought to improve its recruitment process and more appropriately address the various concerns or reservations raised, a call that has been made before.

It is surely of fundamental importance to ensure that many African climate scientists participate as contributing authors for IPCC reports, now and in the future.

It only then, perhaps, that the report would have more synthesis about what these projections mean to Africa. It would also perhaps help boost the availability of climate data from the African continent, an issue that has continued to be raised whenever global climate reports are released.

Climate change, much like Covid-19, is a pandemic - and therefore a global issue. No continent is spared. Thus, mitigating the impact of climate change requires that all hands are forthcoming and expert views are curated - no matter where they exist.

IPCC, the UN, African country governments, the African Union, Africa-based universities and research institutions as well as the African Academy of Sciences should do the most they can to ensure they can engage more African climate scientists. It would be fair - and, ethically, the right thing to do.

Restricting use of Wami basin water signals hard times ahead

THE Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board has flashed a danger signal by taking measures to restrict the issuance of permits for water harvesting in the coastal zone pivotal water basin, and discouraging water-based commercial activities following a relentless fall in water levels.

This is not likely to be strange to Dar es Salaam residents, as they are aware that all former streams and rivers are now a pale shadow of what they used to be, except as gushes of floods if it rains really heavily.

The board says that currently the water level at the main source of water supply has fallen to 7,500 meters, from 12,500 meters in September last year.

That is fairly close to usable limits as the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) sources the precious liquid from the basin at the rate of 5,000 cubic meters per second.

What this situation underlines is that our water harvesting and retention capacities are abysmal and unlikely to improve over time, as we are not in a position to harvest massive rainwater when it falls.

At most, households are to do the harvesting so that they can store water for hardy times, whereas few have inbuilt capacity for substantial water harvesting and storage. So we depend on rains to feed rivers, while the underground is drying up.

We keep expressing worries over

prolonged periods of dry spells that affect water supply efforts, disturbing its distribution to Dar es Salaam residents and in Coast Region.

It was unclear though whether innovating methods to push water into its treatment plants will necessarily increase the water pushed into the plants. The idea that restricting the use of water for non-domestic use is a handy solution is acceptable as an emergency, but economic growth isn't simply the management of emergencies.

The belt where the board is saying it is restricting water harvesting is really the upcoming industrial belt of the country on the basis of existing feasibility and land occupancy pursuits by incoming industrialists.

This will leave most industrial projects earmarked for Dar es Salaam and adjacent areas idling, with projects shifting to Rufiji District and Morogoro Region or to safer Coast Region areas lying beyond the Wami basin.

All this is merely the first shot in what is likely to become an economic planning and resource allocation crisis, as availability of good amounts of water is crucial to urban settlements and industrial development.

But in that no large-scale water harvesting is in place, and no harvester is likely to work with a public agency having water supply monopoly, it is DAWASA that has to find the water.

Mobile clinics expedite vaccination in remote communities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

ONE of the major hindrances to immunization campaigns in remote communities in Tanzania and elsewhere in the developing world is difficulty in reaching vaccination centres.

As a result, the vast majority of children and expectant mothers in periphery regions miss out on recommended life saving vaccines, consequently derailing efforts to stamp out certain diseases.

Kilombero District in Morogoro Region—an expansive rural area—is one of the places in Tanzania where immunization efforts have for decades been facing snags due to a number of challenges, chief being infrastructure challenges.

After learning of the situation, Plan International came up with Kilombero Mobile Health Clinic (KMHC) which was implemented in Mlimba District Council and Ifakara Town Council—both in Kilombero District.

According to implementers of the 18-month project which was handed over to Kilombero District recently, it has tremendously saved lives of mothers and children who would have missed life-saving jobs.

The project donated 18 motorbikes to enable community health workers reach communities living in places with poor road infrastructure and vaccinate them.

According to Esteria Soka, Project Coordinator at Plan International, the initiative also trained health workers, health supervising committees, local leaders and community members living in the project area, adding that a total of 101,797 people were vaccinated; 50,596 females and 51,201 males.

She said the project focused on three key issues namely- child immunization, antenatal care, maternal and child health, and was implemented in 36 villages within 18 wards.

Soka a total of 776mn/- was used to facilitate outreach programmes in the project area with benefits being increased immunity of beneficiaries as well as reducing child mortality.

“Our project goal was to increase community awareness about health issues and vaccination to pregnant mothers and children under five,” she said.

She said after the implementation, the project recorded a drop in maternal deaths from 19 to 7 and achieved recommended vaccination by 100 per cent.

Another achievement, according to Soka is that the number of men attending clinics with their wives and children increased from 35 per cent before the project to 80 per cent 2019-2021.

In Ifakara Town Council, Soka said the project was implemented



Some of community health workers at Mlimba District Council after receiving motorbikes ready for vaccine roll out in remote areas. Photo/James Kandoya

in five wards namely Mkula, Mang'ula, Mwaya, Kisawasawa and Signali villages while in Mlimba District Council it was implemented in 13 wards namely- Idete, Namawala, Mofu, Namalumbo, Mngeta, Chita, Chisano, Kamwene, Mbingu, Utengule, Tanganyika, Masagati and Igima.

“We have built a vaccine storage facility at Mang'ula ward worth 48m/- to reduce time wasted by health workers to travel to and from Morogoro municipality to collect doses,” she said.

Mlimba District Council Medical Officer Dr Christina Guveti said that during the project implementation, the council rolled out vaccines by 98 per cent and reached long distances of up to 35 kilometres.

As a result, she said the initiative reduced chances of people in remote areas getting preventable diseases such as measles, polio, tetanus and tuberculosis.

“Before the project, there was a high prevalence of diseases and deaths that are preventable by vaccination and apart from challenges of reaching communities, awareness about immunization was also low,” she said.

“Despite the immense contribution made by the project, we are still facing some minor challenges; I call on Plan International to consider implementing phase III of the project.”

Stephano Kaliwa, Mlimba District Council Director said they are planning to allocate budget to ensure the sustainability so that the gains

registered are not eroded.

“I would like to thank the project implementers for working tirelessly to ensure mothers and children below five years are protected against preventable diseases,” he said.

He assured implementers that means of transport that were being used in the project namely four vehicles and 18 motorbikes will be used for the intended purposes to reach communities in remote places. Kaliwa reaffirmed the council's commitment to continue collaborating with Plan International and other development partners to ensure

that health of mothers and children is a top priority.

Agatha Cosmas, a rice farmer at Msita village, Chita ward in Kilombero district, is among beneficiaries of the project. She received recommended vaccines from a community health worker who visited her village.

Cosmas said that before the project she used to miss recommended jobs because to get one, she would have had to walk for miles to get access to the health centre.

“My son is now 11 months old and he has not developed any diseases so far. The project has been a suc-

cess because health workers walk door to door ensuring that recommended groups get the job” she said.

Emmanuel Livipa, also from Msita village, is one of men whose wives and under-five children were vaccinated under the project.

“The project enabled my wife and children to get the life-saving vaccines at our home that would have otherwise been inaccessible,” he said.

Livipa who is a small scale trader said that for him to take his family to a health centre for jab under normal circumstances, he would

have had to abandon his hustles for the whole day.

Neema James, a resident of Mku-yuni village, Chisano ward in Kilombero district said since the project was introduced, there has been increased community awareness on benefits of vaccines to mothers and children under five.

Before the project, she used to walk for 35 kilometres to reach the nearest health facility for vaccination and other services but that ordeal ended when the initiative was introduced.

“We call on the authorities in the district to ensure the project becomes sustainable to avoid preventable diseases and even death,” she said.

In April this year, Tanzania joined other countries in the world to commemorate the World Immunization Week which is aimed at promoting the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against preventable diseases.

Immunization saves millions of lives every year and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful health interventions.

Yet, there are still nearly 20 million children in the world today who are not getting the vaccines they need, and many miss out on vital vaccines during childhood, adolescence, adulthood and into old age.

Using the theme ‘Vaccines bring us closer’, World Immunization Week 2021 urged greater engagement around immunization globally to promote the importance of vaccination in bringing people together, and improving the health and wellbeing of everyone, everywhere throughout life.

For over 200 years, vaccines have protected people against diseases that threaten lives and prohibit development.



A vaccine storage facility at Mang'ula ward built to save time spent on transporting vaccines from Morogoro municipality. Photo/James Kandoya

As South Africa grapples with overcoming the challenge of massive COVID-19-related job losses and the highest unemployment level in the world, we need to think long-term to avoid remaining in this situation.

The First Lady, Dr Tshepo Motsepe, has thrown her weight behind efforts to promote breastfeeding for several years, because this is a vital component of ensuring that infants get the nutrients they need. But breastfeeding is unlikely to be at the top of the list of issues being considered by economists and business analysts working to address our current crisis. Fixing a deeply broken food system should be. This is why.

Two-year-old Shanique Mooi's mother Annik drops her off at the local crèche every morning before she walks 3 km to her job as a domestic worker. Shanique's mid-morning snack is a packet of chicken-flavoured Spookies - a cheap puffed maize chip covered with colourants, flavourants and preservatives. This is what most of the children who attend the only crèche in town will eat.

The development of 27% of children under five in South Africa is limited by poor nutrition

Annik is lucky - Shanique is one of the 60 children who have a place at the crèche. Most parents in her small community rely on neighbours to watch their children during the day so that they can go to work. If they are fortunate and have lived in the area for a long time, perhaps an extended family member can help out.



South Africa's growth depends on fixing its deeply broken food system

Soon after arriving at the somewhat dilapidated crèche, after being insulted by the teacher who doesn't like it when she cries as her mother leaves her, Shanique is given a bowl of congealed yellow starchy porridge for her breakfast. The porridge and the packet of chips, that her teacher eats half of, are all she will eat until her mother collects her at 3.30 that afternoon.

That diet is not enough to give Shanique the energy she needs to learn or enough fuel for her small body to grow. But it is the only prepared food that her mother can afford, and that

is available for her to buy at the local spaza shop. It's also what all the other children have, and no one likes to stand out.

Like most children her age, Shanique often gets sick, her nose runs, and she gets a post-nasal drip. This inflames her stomach lining and then she doesn't want to eat at all. The less she eats, the longer her body takes to fight off the infection, and the longer she feels miserable and can't concentrate. When she finally gets well, it's not for long because her weakened body is susceptible to opportunistic infections.

SA cannot afford to ignore the daily crisis of food insecurity faced by children and their parents

Nothing she experiences prepares her for a future in which she will escape the poverty she has grown up with. Like the other 27% of children under five in South Africa whose development is limited by poor nutrition, her experiences condemn her to a life of struggle. The 2020 edition of the South African Child Gauge correctly terms this 'slow violence'.

This slow violence starts even before children are born. Institute for Security

Studies Researcher Thandi van Heyningen's PhD research found that food insecurity was one of the factors contributing to high rates of depression and suicide in pregnant women in South Africa. This has a direct impact on children's mental health, education outcomes and physical health.

There are many reasons why children like Shanique, and their parents, should be at the forefront of discussions about what we need to do to fix our country. First, this is a question of rights that should be realised, and an imperative for achieving social justice. But it is also the

problem that will continue to confound every minister of finance, labour, trade and industry and education for the next 20 years.

Shanique has little chance of developing the soft or hard skills needed for our economy to grow unless she gets nurturing care, stimulation, healthcare and healthy food during her childhood.

She will probably not be equipped to help solve the complex problems we will face in the coming years, and there is little doubt that her income will have to be supplemented by state grants. What she needs cannot be fixed by skills training or youth employment schemes that might be available to her later in her life.

South Africa simply cannot afford to ignore the daily crisis of food insecurity faced by children and their parents. Doing so means that we will never climb out of the trouble we find ourselves in now. We have to ensure that parents like Annik can buy or at least get access to a diversity of affordable nutritious food at their local spaza shops.

This means that the state, agri-business, economists, and planners must figure out how to make fresh, quality produce available and affordable to mothers like Annik. The 2020 Child Gauge makes a number of practical recommendations to address the problem. Cabinet would be wise to consider them and make this a priority.

This article is based on a real case, but the names have been changed.

Chandré Gould, Senior Research Fellow, Justice and Violence Prevention,

COVID-19 recovery requires justice beyond rhetoric

BONN

Policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis have exacerbated rather than reduced global inequalities. On the one hand, the net wealth of billionaires has risen to record levels since the outbreak of the pandemic (increasing by more than US\$ 5 trillion to US\$ 13.1 trillion from 2020 to 2021), on the other hand, the number of people living in extreme poverty has also increased massively (by approx. 100 million to 732 million in 2020).

These contrasts alone show that something is fundamentally wrong in the world.

In response to the disastrous effects of the pandemic, there was much talk of solidarity with regard to health support, including access to vaccines. But the brutal national competition for vaccines shows that solidarity is embraced by many world leaders merely as a rhetorical flourish.

The World Health Organization (WHO) made an early appeal to countries to agree on a coordinated distribution of vaccines, with available doses distributed fairly according to the size of each country's population. This has not happened.

By the end of August 2021, more than 60 percent of the people in high-income countries had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, but less than 2 percent have done so in low-income countries.

The European Commission, the USA, the UK, and numerous other countries have signed bilateral COVID-19 Vaccine Agreements with pharmaceutical producers to secure vaccine quotas. By the end of August 2021, more than 400 agreements were concluded, securing over 18 billion doses of vaccine.

The European Commission has so far negotiated supply agreements for 4.3 billion doses of vaccine, equivalent to 8 vaccine doses per capita of the EU population. The UK could vaccinate its population 9 times with the contracted doses, the USA 10 times and Canada as many as 16 times.

Exacerbating the problem for many countries in the global South is the enormous cost of vaccines. The producers do not charge standard prices, but vary their prices depending on the quantity purchased and the bargaining power of the purchaser.

Occasionally, they grant preferential terms to rich countries, while countries in the global South sometimes have to pay higher prices. For example, the European Commission received a batch of AstraZeneca vaccine for US\$ 2.19, while Argentina had to pay US\$ 4.00 and the Philippines US\$ 5.00. Botswana had to pay US\$ 14.44 million for 500,000 doses of Moderna vaccine, or US\$ 28.88 per dose, while the USA got Moderna's vaccine at almost half the price (US\$ 15.00).

While the vaccine pharmaceutical oligopoly makes exorbitant profits, countries of the global South are confronted with falling government revenues and rising debt burdens. The



situation will worsen as regular vaccine boosters become necessary in the coming years.

What is tantamount to a license to print money for the pharmaceutical companies is a massive burden on public budgets. In view of this dramatic disparity, the promise to "leave no one behind" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains an empty slogan.

Insufficient responses to the global health crisis

As an immediate response to the global health crisis, the People's Vaccine Alliance has formulated "5 steps to end vaccine apartheid". These are in line with the demands derived from the analyses in the Spotlight Report 2021.

Increasing global vaccine production capacity, lowering market prices, and substantially increasing public financial support are vital, especially for the poor and disadvantaged people in the global South.

One way to overcome the vaccine shortage is to accelerate technology transfer. In May 2020, WHO established the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), designed to pool voluntary licenses, research and regulatory data. But most countries with large vaccine production capacity, such as the USA, Germany, China and India, do not support the initiative. Thus, it has so far remained without any noticeable impact.

Faced with scarce global production capacity, India, South Africa, Kenya and Eswatini applied for a waiver under the TRIPS Agreement of the WTO to temporarily remove patent protection for COVID-19-related vaccines, medicines and devices.

The TRIPS waiver is intended to enable manufacturers in the global South in particular to produce medicines and vaccines more quickly and at lower cost. More than 100 countries support this initiative, in-

cluding the USA as of May 2021.

The EU, the UK, Switzerland and the pharmaceutical companies and lobby groups based in these countries are particularly opposed and have so far blocked an agreement.

In this context, the more fundamental question arises as to whether medicines vital to realize the human right to health should be patented at all. Should they not in principle be considered global public goods, especially when, as in the case of the COVID-19 vaccines, billions of dollars of public money have gone into research and development?

In another initiative, the WHO and several partners—including France, the EU and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—launched the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and its COVAX initiative.

This has shifted the centre of the global COVID-19 response from WHO to a multi-stakeholder initiative with its own governance and decision-making structure, thereby further weakening WHO's role in the global health architecture.

But with the unilateral approach of the rich countries to vaccine procurement, COVAX has failed in its claim to serve a global coordination function. Its primary task is now to provide COVID-19 vaccines to 92 low- and middle-income countries with the objective to provide at least 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of 2021.

By 14 September 2021, just 270 million doses have been delivered. To date, COVAX has received pledges of US\$ 9.825 billion, nowhere near enough to provide sufficient vaccines for about 4 billion people in the 92 countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic has painfully demonstrated the absence of a functioning global health system. This reality has led to the proposal to create a Pandemic Treaty – a legally binding framework and

improved global governance structures for pandemic preparedness and response.

Whether it can actually overcome structural weaknesses of the global health architecture, such as the underfunding of the WHO, is very unclear. Depending on its design, it could lead to an actual strengthening of the WHO, or to its further weakening by outsourcing pandemic preparedness and response to multi-stakeholder bodies with limited public accountability.

More transformational steps are needed

Beyond responding to the global health crisis, far more fundamental transformational steps are needed.

An essential aspect of an agenda for change is the shift toward a rights-based economy and a concept of human rights that forms the basis of our vision of economic justice.

To make this systemic shift happen, the trend towards privatization, outsourcing and systematic dismantling of public services must be reversed.

To combat rising inequality and build a socially just, inclusive post-COVID world, everyone must have equitable access to public services, which must be reclaimed as public goods and run in the common interest, not for profit.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly emphasized that human rights must guide all COVID-19 response and recovery measures. This should also mean strengthening the rights of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis.

First and foremost, that means the millions of workers in the healthcare sector, 70 percent of them women. Most of them experience poor work conditions, low wages and job insecurity.

The situation is similar in the education sector. Research by Education International shows that even before the COVID-19

pandemic, teachers' workloads have steadily worsened, while salaries have remained the same or even decreased.

The situation has continued to deteriorate as a result of the pandemic. The global teacher shortage, which the UN estimated at 69 million even before the pandemic, will continue to grow so long as teaching remains to be "an overworked, undervalued, and underpaid profession".

A basic precondition for the adequate provision of public goods and services is that States have sufficient resources. To prevent the COVID-19 pandemic being followed by a global debt and austerity pandemic, governments must be enabled to expand their fiscal space and to implement alternative policies to neoliberal austerity policies.

This includes implementing a progressive tax reform, which prioritizes taxes on wealth and high earners.

Over the past year, many UN officials, human rights activists and civil society groups (like in the Spotlight Report 2020) have demanded that the resources of the COVID-19 recovery and economic stimulus packages should be used proactively to promote human rights and the implementation of the SDGs.

During that time, initial studies show that this is rarely the case. A report of the Financial Transparency Coalition that tracked fiscal and social protection recovery measures in nine countries of the global South found that in eight of them a total of 63 percent of announced COVID-19 funds went to large corporations, rather than small and medium enterprises or social protection measures.

Particularly poorer countries, some of which were already facing massive budget shortfalls before the pandemic, need substantial external support to finance additional healthcare and social spending and measures to overcome the economic recession.

In this regard, the general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$ 650 billion in August 2021 – the largest distribution ever made by the IMF – has been heralded as a major achievement. However, its distribution will not benefit the countries most in need without rechanneling measures and again illustrates existing imbalances in the global economic architecture.

Only if the world collectively embarks on the path toward transformational policies is there a chance to reduce global inequalities, protect our shared planet and make the proclaimed goal of solidarity a political and institutional reality.

Jens Martens is Director, Global Policy Forum, Bonn, Germany

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

African farmers and agribusinesses need fair access to markets in face of climate change

By Special Correspondent

SOUTHERN and Eastern Africa face the twin challenges of growing agricultural production to meet food demand while adapting to extreme weather. And climate change makes addressing these challenges extremely urgent.

Southern Africa is a climate change hotspot. Eastern Africa is projected to still have good average rainfall, although temperatures will increase and floodings become more frequent.

There is huge potential for meeting these twin challenges across Eastern and Southern Africa, where there are in fact good soils and water availability in many countries.

However, markets are not working well, especially for small and medium-scale farmers and agri-businesses which are at the heart of inclusive food value chains. These participants are often not receiving fair prices for their produce due to the way markets have been working, including powerful interests, high transport costs and poor facilities such as those for storage.

Get your news from people who know what they're talking about.

Analysing market failures requires information. Yet, poor market information has made the ability to monitor market prices in close to real time difficult across much of the region. Up-to-date information on food prices is critical to understanding

agricultural food systems in the region and for collectively planning responses. Information on food prices should be accompanied by other market information relating to production and market structures.

To address this, the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Competition, Regulation and Economic Development has launched a market observatory. This is one part of supporting smaller producers in negotiating fair prices and in identifying measures to make markets work better across the region.

Markets not working well

Volatility over time, and very large price differentials between areas in Eastern and Southern Africa for key crops such as soybeans and maize, reflect markets that are not working well for producers or buyers such as agro-processors.

The price differentials point to potential local market power being exploited and big profit margins being earned by large traders. The spread of larger traders across the region is meant to have heralded more efficient markets. However, market outcomes and high levels of concentration at various levels of supply chains indicate that there are also major concerns about market power.

For example, over the past 12 months, the patchy data supported by anecdotal information indicate that soybean



prices have been extremely high in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi (above US\$900 per tonne). This while there is great potential to supply from areas within Tanzania as well as from Uganda, Malawi and Zambia.

Prices in areas such as Zambia and southwest Tanzania were below \$400/t in May after the harvest and around \$500 in Malawi. The difference between the producing areas and the cities is consistent with farmers getting offered unfairly low prices by large buyers. Large buyers are taking advantage of the poor storage and the lack of other market options available for the farmers. Farmers have to accept the low prices

being offered.

The transport costs to the main urban markets should not account for more than \$100/t of the difference between \$400 or \$500 and \$900, meaning that massive profits have been made by the "middle-men" or traders. In competitive markets, trading margins would reflect reasonable costs and not super profits.

These profit margins are at the expense of farmers, who receive low prices, while high prices are charged to agribusinesses and consumers in urban areas. This undermines production in the region. It also contributes to high food prices and compounds reliance on imports. This especially affects

smaller market participants. Large and integrated processors and traders have their own transporters and infrastructure, and better market information.

Smaller market participants are charged massively inflated transport costs where they look to bypass traders and organise their own sales. This undermines effective market integration across the region. In our research, market participants in Malawi indicated that those looking to export from Malawi were being charged as much as three times what were reasonable rates.

There are also high rates being set by local transporters within some countries. This suggests market power

in transport and trading, including on the part of influential large trucking companies in some countries. Some market participants in Tanzania have resorted to placing loads on buses in recent months, incurring very high costs and yet still receiving the product at much lower than the prevailing prices in Dar es Salaam.

Next steps

Smaller producers and agribusinesses are integral in growing production and ensuring the fairer and more competitive markets required for the benefits to be widely shared and sustainable. Small to medium sized farms and agribusinesses have been growing strongly in many countries yet face many disadvantages in markets, especially relative to large multinational trading groups.

Action, including market monitoring, effective competition enforcement and investment in the necessary infrastructure and support, is required to shape markets to work better.

Steps to support smaller producers are important in any event. However, the climate emergency means they are imperative and that the time to act is running out fast. The extreme weather currently in the Americas is a warning not to be complacent.

The El Niño state brings drought in southern Africa while inducing heavy rainfall and floods in Eastern Africa. The 2015/16 period saw the worst drought in Southern Af-

rica for around 30 years. This led to maize shortages and prices jumping in countries such as South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi. Extreme weather patterns also contributed to price volatility in subsequent years with, for example, cyclones in Mozambique, poor rainfall and drought concerns in 2019 seeing prices spike again.

Adaptation to the effects of climate change means supporting increased production, such as through irrigation, coupled with intra-regional trade across Eastern and Southern Africa. According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment, while Southern Africa will experience less rainfall and more droughts, Central to Eastern Africa is projected to maintain precipitation levels, on average. When extreme weather hits one part of the region there will likely still be good harvests from other areas.

Urgent measures are required to support agricultural practices for farmers to adapt to climate change and increase production while ensuring markets work effectively across the region. The good news is that the region has the potential to substantially improve its resilience and increase earnings for farmers and jobs in the related value chains. This requires fair market prices and support for investments in areas including irrigation, production, storage and processing.

By Guardian Reporter

Report calls for media to create more space for Zanzibar women politicians in elections

MALE politicians dominated media coverage than their female counterparts during the election process, a trend that needs to be worked on if Zanzibar is to increase women's representation in government decision-making bodies.

This is according to a report on a comparative content analysis of the print media and broadcasting outlets' coverage of Zanzibar women and male politicians.

The report is titled 'Strengthen Women in Leadership' (SWIL), which was carried out by the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) in Zanzibar.

The SWIL project is aimed at increasing the participation of women in democratic processes and leadership at all levels in society. The main objective of that endeavor is to empower women politicians, and in the long run, be regarded as active and vibrant actors in leadership processes.

This initiative is implemented in partnership with Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA), and Pemba Environmental Gender and Advocacy Organization (PEGAO) with the support from Royal Norwegian Embassy.

The analysis intended to explore the role the media plays in Zanzibar politics, by looking into the way women and male politicians are covered using a gendered frame. It is also meant to determine whether female politicians in the Indian Ocean Archipelago receive equal



coverage as their male counterparts, where quantity, quality, and prominence are concerned. It analyzed the amount of coverage given to Zanzibar women versus men politicians by the local newspaper and broadcasting outlets in terms of quantity and quality in the period between November and December 2020.

Some of the key findings on print media news outlets show that that gender writers were approximately 83 percent were male writers from two newspapers—Zanzibar Leo and Mwananchi which were sampled in the study.

According to the report, stories analyzed were categorized into news stories, political analysis, features, editorials, and

commentaries and the results show that 95 percent of the stories covered by both newspapers were politically oriented.

"The rest two percent were features, two commentaries, and one political analysis," the report said.

Results on coverage of women versus male politicians show that for both newspapers, the coverage of women and male politicians was not even, whereby coverage of women politicians in both print news outlets scores 14 percent of the total stories, while male politicians got lion share of the coverage of 57.5 percent between November and December 2020.

The rest of the coverage involved both male and female

politicians (28.5percent), but the male dominated throughout the articles.

On size of articles on women politicians published in the newspapers covering women and male politicians varied.

In the Zanzibar Leo newspaper, the report said: "There were less than 6 percent of the total articles that featured female politicians who were given full-page and three-quarter page coverage. The majority of the articles were placed inside pages."

On the use of gendered frames in reporting, the report stated that almost all of the newspapers did not mention the marital status of women politicians in the articles carried. None of the

articles carried in both newspapers mentioned the marital status of female politicians.

On tonality of articles of women politicians, the report shows that most articles published on men and women politicians were neutral. It also revealed that little attention was given to coverage of Zanzibar women politicians. For a period of almost two months, no story was recorded that directly covered women politicians in Zanzibar.

It further unveiled that the tone of a news article is usually formal and must be unbiased. Since the end work of a newspaper is to spread awareness rather than pass judgment on people and other entities.

Similarly, less than 31percent of women were government ministers or held equivalent public offices. Nevertheless, data on women holding elected offices in the Zanzibar government show that women politicians' presence in politics is considerably higher than their presence as sources in the news.

Women represent a 37percent of the Tanzania Parliament. In the Zanzibar House of Representatives, 25.6 percent of members of the house are women. Another element that contributes to the inequality of media coverage accorded to

women politicians is that heads of political parties are more likely to be interviewed and that majority of those leaders are men.

As reliance on sources is fundamental to newsgathering, the fact that most authoritative sources, including political party leaders and spokespersons, are male means they are the "primary definers" of news as news sources.

As pointed in the report, "dependence on these sources also reinforces male dominance in the news as most of these sources tend to be men".

Nevertheless, while the lower presence of women in major political positions does account for general lower media coverage, that fact in itself does not explain why female candidates comparatively receive less media attention than their male counterparts. The reasons for such gender inequality must also be sought elsewhere.

Findings on broadcasting media news outlets show that coverage of both women and male politicians was uneven. The analysis said that the amount of airtime time in the broadcasting outlets covering female politicians varied.

For instance, airtime granted to women politicians by ZBC TV had two percent of its news transcriptions on women

politicians got prime time transmission, whereby 65percent of the women politicians got less than a minute of news bulletins and 35percent of the stories had less than a minute of airtime while 30 percent and 29 percent of the news stories occupied less than a 30 seconds respectively.

According to the report, the ZCTV had five percent of its stories on women politicians covering on prime-time and 11 percent of the transcripts occupying less than minute transmission, whereby 27 percent of the transcripts occupied prime-time while 30 percent and 27 percent of the transcripts occupied one minute and less than a minute respectively and three-quarter of transcripts ZCTV occupied more than a minute while the rest of the women programme transcripts had not less than 45-minute clips.

The airtime provided by broadcasting TV covering women and male politicians varied. In the ZBC TV analysis, there were few news stories that featured female politicians that were given less than a minute and three-quarters of the news coverage got less than a minute coverage. The majority of the news stories featuring women politicians got less than a minute respectively.

Given the findings on airtime granted to women politicians, it was learned that women are at a disadvantageous side in the sense of prejudicial media coverage. This trend can be attributed to the side effects of gender bias in the media.

Southeast Asian farmers adapt, insure against growing climate risks

KATHMANDU

As incidents of drought and extreme rainfall increase, farmers in Southeast Asia are partnering with experts to develop targeted weather forecasts to work around the threats and, when adaptation becomes too costly, buy specially designed insurance to protect their livelihoods.

Climate impacts are increasing. In 2016, for example, the impact of what is known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) resulted in severe drought and saline intrusion in 11 out of 13 provinces in the Mekong River Delta. This affected 400,000 hectares of cropland, resulting in 200 million dollars in economic losses and food insecurity among farmers. Household incomes dropped 75 percent, pushing vulnerable farmers who had little savings and no insurance deeper into poverty.

Integrated risk management and risk transfer approaches (e.g. innovative insurance solutions) will be critically required for smallholder growers to manage the physical and financial impacts of climate.

A key component of the project, DeRisk Southeast Asia, is to develop a number of adaptation strategies, says Professor Shahbaz Mushtaq, the project's insurance segment lead at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) one of three project partners. The others are the World Meteorological Organisation and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, part of the CGIAR.

"So the project is working on improved climate forecasts, new irrigation systems and practices, and improving production systems," says Mushtaq in an online interview. "The underlying premise is that the smallholder growers need to mitigate their risk as much as they can while developing and adopting suitable adaptation practices."

"Then, the project also acknowledges that there's a limit to adaptation," he adds. "Not all risk is manageable. [It is] when it is no longer economically viable then you need to transfer the risk elsewhere, this is where insurance will play a major role".

DeRisk, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, operates in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. For example, in a pilot led by the Alliance in one of the provinces in the Mekong River delta, the department of crop production (across levels), extension officers and farmers now sit down with weather forecasters (or meet virtually because of COVID-19 restrictions) to mould a general weather forecast into seasonal and 10-day advisories that target rice producers.

"We really emphasize co-development by multiple stakeholders, integrating information from the hydro-meteorological ('hydro-met') experts and the crop experts with the local

knowledge of farmers," says Nguyen Duy Nhiem, DeRisk Country Coordinator in Vietnam.

For example, the representatives will take a seasonal forecast, broken down by month, and generate guidance for specific crops such as: "the best planting date, the best variety to plant and if drought happens, what drought-resistant variety to use," Nguyen tells IPS in an online interview.

That advice is packaged as a bulletin and delivered using a variety of media, including stationary loudspeakers in villages, paper bulletins or posters and on a smartphone app called Zalo.

The 10-day advisories zero in on daily conditions. "For example, if it's going to rain on a certain day, farmers are told not to apply fertilizers or pesticides because they would leach into the soil," explains Nguyen.

He's happy with the project's progress. The stakeholders from the hydro-met sector and agriculture sector "understand better each other's languages," says Nguyen. "For example, prior to project's engagement when talking about 'rainy days', the agriculture stakeholders and farmers think that rain should be an amount that can be measured in a gauge while for the hydro-met sector that can be any amount above 0.0 mm. The definition of rainy days has been explained during discussions and clearly noted in bulletins."

In addition, Nguyen says the 20,000-plus farmers who have received the advisories in the past two cropping seasons have been very pleased because the information helped them avoid the impact of damaging weather and make more informed decisions better. If plans hold, other districts and provinces in the region will start developing the tailored forecasts in 2022.

Challenges, according to Nguyen, include the lack of capacity of staff in provincial weather offices to develop the tailored forecasts. Another is reaching more farmers. Although many farmers have access to smartphones, not all of them know how to use them to access the advisories in the Zalo group. Possible solutions, he says, include developing an app or partnering with a telecom company to send messages to all customers in project areas.

In neighbouring Laos, agro-climatic advisories are available for the whole country, in monthly and weekly forecasts, says DeRisk Country Coordinator Leo Kris Palao. The implementation of DeRisk in Laos was linked with existing efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to further improve this system with national partners.

The system is automated, he explains in an email interview. Called the Laos Climate Services for Agriculture (LaCSA), the system analyses meteorological and agricultural data from national databases and field-level data collection by local



partners. Offices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry review advisories before being disseminated.

LaCSA can be accessed online through an app (Android/iOS), but for those who don't use IT tools, the information, as in Vietnam, is also shared via loudspeakers, radio and TV, and community and school posters.

More than 21 000 farmers in Laos have adapted their activities after receiving an advisory. "We are happy with the progress made by the De-RISK project in Laos," says Palao. "Based on our baseline assessment, most of the responses from farmers receiving the agro-climatic advisories indicated that change in planting dates, use of suitable varieties tailored to the climate condition of the season, and water and fertilizer management were among their adaptation practices."

Mushtaq says that to further mitigate the 'residual risk', which can't be managed economically through adaptation strategies, his team developed various indexed-based insurance products that are now being tested through a pilot insurance scheme - Coffee Climate Protection Insurance.

"We went to the field and interviewed several hundreds of smallholder coffee growers and industry." The assessment for the insurance scheme included asking about the biggest risks faced by farmers, whether it be drought, disease, or extreme rainfall, among other hazards. "We wanted to de-

velop products for those risks that are most impactful," Mushtaq says.

The researcher of USQ adds that if an extreme weather event occurs and a farmer can't immediately recover from losses, "his production would suffer, it would impact the supply chain, it would impact the roaster, and it would impact coffee production regions. But if farmers could get back on their feet very quickly, it would help the industry, it would the whole supply chain. That's the underpinning driver for the supply chain industry to contribute insurance premiums."

Mushtaq says he was impressed when coffee growers told him that drought and extreme rainfall are major risks but didn't want drought insurance because they are able to cope through access to irrigation. "But if there's extreme rainfall, we don't have an option to manage that risk, so we want products to cater to it," the farmers said.

The initial assessment found that farmers have a range of attitudes about insurance - some were willing to pay more than the suggested premium, others would not even consider purchasing, and the majority were in the middle, unsure.

Finally, most agreed on the product. What swayed the doubters was the credibility that USQ and its partners had developed over the years working with the coffee industry represented by the private sector and associations, says Mushtaq. "To me, the most important success factor was the presence of the industry

itself. You need to have really solid leadership to drive this agenda. And we were very lucky that we got some really good partners in the coffee industry."

In stages 1 and 2 of the pilot, farmers and coffee traders will split the costs of the premiums, but in later years, other actors in the supply chain, such as roasters, will have to contribute a portion; the exact division of costs still needs to be negotiated.

Currently, the 'extreme rainfall' insurance product is in operation, explains Mushtaq, meaning that if total rainfall exceeds the threshold for the two-month season, payments would be triggered. As the insurance is indexed, the payouts would reflect the amount of protection that farmers chose to purchase.

To get to this point, "we had to run several workshops, and gather a lot of information on how indexed-based insurance products works," he says, adding that more needs to be done to increase awareness. Moving forward, the team considers running a campaign to address this, "Awareness is still a problem, and we do need to run a massive campaign."

DeRisk aims to develop its climate services and insurance products further and work with national partners on policies and strategies supporting smallholder farmers in the region in response to climate risks.

(IPS)



RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:15 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23:00 HRS WEEK END SHOW 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM HIZI NAZO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MITAA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 18:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMBA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO ALLOCATE 50-ACRE PLOT TO SHELTER AFRIQUE IN DAR

By Property Watch Reporter

A 50-acre plot of land will be given to Nairobi-based Shelter Afrique where demonstrations of innovative and alternative building materials will be made in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week, Shelter Afrique's Managing Director and CEO, Andrew Chimphondah said his delegation met with Minister of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements, William Lukuvi and his officials where discussions were held on the provision of the land.

"The minister committed to the provision of 50 acres of land in Dar-es-Salaam where an annual event showcasing the improvements and breakthroughs in the building sciences can be exhibited," Chimphondah said.

He said the housing development financier will be developing the concept and will explore the possibility of hosting the first event in 2022. In August of 2021, Shelter Afrique through its centre of excellence held a masterclass session for government officials in Zanzibar to deepen capacity within the industry.

"Similar conversations are being held to hold another one in Dodoma as well



An illustration of the defunct Bahari Beach Satellite City project was partly financed by Shelter Afrique.

before the end of the year," he added while commending Lukuvi and Finance Minister, Mwigulu Nchemba for facilitating payment of US\$2.7m being capital boost from Tanzania to boost housing innovation at the regional developer. The payment takes Tanzania's shareholding from 0.3 to 1.54 percent.

Effectively, the contribution now reduces ownership of the top three shareholders with Kenya's, Nigeria's and African Development

Bank's shareholdings now standing at 17.78 percent, 13.27 percent and 12.83 percent respectively.

Chimphondah also thanked the government for the payment saying his management is happy with the confidence being shown by shareholders following years of bad results blamed on mismanagement.

"We thank the government of Tanzania for choosing to increase its stake in Shelter

Afrique despite the prevailing condition, and in particular the Ministers for Housing and Finance William Lukuvi and Mwigulu Nchemba for making the disbursements - It's a vote of confidence in the company," he added.

In addition to the Tanzania's contribution the Company has also received additional capital contributions from Kenya (USD 9.92m), Cameroon (USD 3,529,801.29) Mali (USD 2,062,994), Rwanda (USD 1.1m), Uganda (USD 0.08m), Togo (USD 0.58m), Swaziland (USD 0.32m), Ivory Coast (USD 0.57m), and Democratic Republic of Congo (USD 0.5m), bringing the total additional capital receipts to \$20.69m within the last six months of 2021.

"We also wish to thank several other shareholders such as Namibia, Zimbabwe Morocco, and Swaziland, Cameroon, Kenya, DRC, Mali, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Rwanda and Togo for their positive response to the call for recapitalization, this continues to show confidence in the strategy of the company," Chimphondah noted.

Shelter Afrique has approved financing projects of more than US\$ 52.246m in Tanzania but has also has equity Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company since in 2014 and has remained an active member.

M-Pesa subscribers to remit to bank accounts directly in EA region

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

Vodacom PLC has initiated the second phase of its international money remittance expansion scheme with the launch of 'Dunia kijiji, Afrika mashariki in yako' campaign in which clients will directly transfer money from M-Pesa to all bank accounts in East African countries.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam this week, Vodacom Tanzania Plc's M-Pesa Director Epimack Mbeteni said that the new functionality enables Tanzanian customers to send from their M-Pesa wallets to all bank accounts in East Africa.

Mbeteni said customers were only able to send mobile money to other mobile money networks like Safaricom, Airtel and MTN in the region but now Vodacom has broadened the reach to include bank accounts.

M-Pesa currently services approximately 240,000 users monthly who receive international remittance but also there remains a significant number of users who still use traditional bank transfers and other means of cash transfer, he said.

Mbeteni further noted that the first phase of international remittance started with Safaricom in Kenya Back in 2019 which added more partners which granted M-Pesa one way access to the world allowing users to receive money from over 200 countries via few key partners.

"The increased functionality that allow users in the country to now send money directly to other mobile phone users and bank accounts in East Africa is expected to bring several advantages with it," he said while naming some of the advantages as increased convenience since there will be no need for users to stand in line in banking halls; and better security because there will no need for a middle man to facilitate the transaction.

He further noted that the campaign aims to educate the public about the new facility as well as encourage early adoption by merchants in the country. Backing Mbeteni's arguments, Equity Senior Manager for Diaspora Banking and International Money Transfer, Doreen Raphael said, "We are happy to work with Vodacom in making sure that their customers are receiving money in real time as soon as the money has been sent from anywhere."

Rich nations head to South Africa seeking coal exit deal

JOHANNESBURG

Developed economies 'have a responsibility' to fund the transition to a low carbon economy - SA Department of Environmental Affairs spokesperson.

Four of the world's richest nations will send a delegation to South Africa as soon as next week to seek a deal to begin closing the country's coal-fired plants, according to people familiar with the matter.

Officials from the US, UK, France and Germany are looking for an agreement with Eskom, which generates almost all of South Africa's power from a fleet of 15 coal plants. Any deal struck could be announced during the United Nations climate talks known as COP26, set to start in Glasgow, Scotland, on October 31, one of the people said.

"The developed economies have a responsibility to fund the just transition to a low carbon economy and climate resilient society," said Albi Modise, a spokesperson for South Africa's environment department. He confirmed that John Murton, the UK's envoy to COP26, will visit the country "to assess opportunities for enhanced cooperation" but added that the dates are still being finalised.

Alok Sharma, the COP26 president, has said he wants to use the summit to "consign coal to history." But he's met resistance from a number of middle-income countries that rely on coal. A Group of 20 meeting in July failed to reach an agreement on phasing out coal.

South Africa's use of coal has made it the world's

12th biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, ahead of the UK, which has an economy eight times its size. Eskom alone accounts for more than 40% of South Africa's emissions.

Debt burden While the utility has laid out plans to start closing down its coal plants and having them at least partially replaced with renewable energy, gas-fired generation and battery storage, its debt burden of R402 billion hinders it from borrowing more money to pay for the energy transition.

In July, Eskom CEO Andre de Ruyter suggested a facility from development-finance institutions that would be paid over a number of years. In an August presentation to the government, the company said it was in initial talks to raise R33 billion from five such organisations. Mandy Rambharos, the head of Eskom's Just Energy Transition department, has previously said the phase-out could cost more than \$10 billion.

Multilateral development banks including the World Bank are under pressure from the United Nations to speed up the green transition. Earlier this year the Asian Development Bank became the first to announce plans to help pay for the early retirement of coal plants.

Funding options A range of funding options will be discussed during the South Africa visit, the people said. One potential option is access to as much as \$2 billion that the US, France, the UK and Germany pledged at June's G-7 meeting to help phase out coal globally.

John E Morton, the



An Eskom coal-fired plant in Johannesburg.

US Treasury's first Climate Counsellor, will also attend, according to one of the people, who asked not be identified. The US Treasury

declined to comment. A spokesperson for the French environment ministry confirmed that discussions are taking place.

"One of the major challenges of COP26 will be the decarbonisation of the electricity mix throughout the world, particularly in the

major emerging countries," they said. The UK and German governments didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's head office in Dar es Salaam.

HYATT KILIMANJARO HOTEL'S CHIEF OPTIMISTIC ON TOURISM REBOUND THIS YEAR

By Property Watch Reporter

HYATT Regency Hotel has reiterated its commitment to provide quality services embedded with precautions against the coronavirus outbreak to promote safety in the hospitality sector which is recovering from the pandemic.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam mid this week after being introduced, new General Manager for the hotel, Alexander Eversberg said the major focus will be to continue leading the hospitality facility in a safe environment as the global pandemic lasts. "I am optimistic about the future of tourism in Tanzania and we think global tourism will continue to grow in the next two months and we will have a safe 2022," he said.

According to Tanzania Tourist Board, the country's tourism industry is slowly gaining momentum as the vaccinations are being administered on people around the globe to contain the virus. TTB Board Chairman, retired High Court Judge Thomas Mihayo said recently that more tourist arrivals are being witnessed since mid this year.

"We are pleased to begin receiving these tourists and they are coming after being satisfied with the government's measures in the fight against the coronavirus in line with the requirements of the World Health Organization," Justice Mihayo said recently while receiving a plane of Israeli tourists who visited the country.

Seconding his boss, Hyatt Regency Hotel's Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing, Denis Glibic said the hotel will start celebrating 10 years of under Hyatt Hotels Corporation management. He added that the 10 year anniversary will mark a new chapter in the hospitality industry in the country as the world class management company seeks to exploit the rebounding tourism industry.



Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

Hyatt Hotels Corporation, headquartered in Chicago in the US is a global hospitality company with a proud heritage of making guests feel more than welcome. Tanzania's tourism sector has been badly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic with govern-

ment agencies and properties in the industry missing revenue collection targets by 85 per cent in the 2020/21 financial year. Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority and the Tanzania Wildlife Management

Authority were given a combined target of collecting a total of 584.62bn/- but managed only 15 per cent of it hence missing 495bn/- as lockdowns in the developed world kept tourists at home.

More than 400 residents of Maputo's Vila Olimpica now at risk of being evicted

MAPUTO

More than 400 residents of Vila Olimpica do Zimpeto in Maputo may be evicted from their apartments for not honouring their commitments to the Housing Development Fund (FFH).

The Vila, a flagship social housing project, now houses over 3,000 people. After holding the 10th African Games in Maputo in 2011, the government made available the just-over 600 apartments for young people and civil servants on a lease basis.

Radio Mozambique has learned that arrears currently amount to around US\$3 million (191.3 million meticaís). The warning of possible eviction was delivered by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund for Housing Development (FFH) Armindo Munguambe, who added that lawsuits were underway and could result in the eviction of the joint owners.

The minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, João Osvaldo Machatine, said recently that the government expected, at the time of the concession of the houses, that the revenues from Vila Olimpica do Zimpeto would be used for the construction of low-cost housing and with repayment benefits for youth and civil servants.

The FFH says that, if the outstanding amount were already paid over, it would be enough to "build 300 houses for the Renascer project", a studio apartment project for the most vulnerable in the municipal district of Ka Tembe, Maputo city.

Meanwhile for more than two weeks, Cabo Delgado, and, in particular, its provincial capital Pemba, has been experiencing a crisis in the supply of construction cement, causing the price of the product to skyrocket.

A tour of the main outlets revealed that a 50 kg bag is now priced at between 700 and 800 meticaís, up from the 500 to 520 meticaís charged hitherto. The situation is concerning for citizens, who are forced to reschedule their plans, especially with regard to house construction.

A press release from the Provincial Directorate of Industry and Commerce of Cabo Delgado reveals that the crisis is being caused by a dearth of clinker, the main raw material for the production of cement.

This has closed the cement factory in Mizeze, Metuge district, for 30 days. It will only reopen on September 26th. The lack of clinker is the result of difficulties in maritime navigation, which have constrained the import of this raw material in Cabo Delgado province and in northern Mozambique in general.

The Provincial Directorate of Industry and Commerce of Cabo Delgado says that it has created a joint unit, coordinated by the National Inspectorate of Economic Activities (INAE), to monitor price speculation in the province.

US firm rejects toll fees for Mombasa-Nairobi road

NAIROBI

The US firm contracted to build the Sh300 billion Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway has rejected Kenya's offer to have it construct the road and recover its costs from charging motorists toll fees.

The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) on Tuesday said American contractor Bechtel has settled on a model where the State pays it for building the road instead of recovering its money through user fees.

This will force the government to borrow the billions of shillings, jerking public debt whose rapid growth has triggered warnings and throwing the road construction into limbo. Motorists were expected to pay toll charges for the luxury of cruising on the route which is currently characterised by heavy congestion and slow speeds.

The budget office cited a study by Inter-America Development Bank showed a road is likely to be a viable candidate for construction through the toll model if it has a flow exceeding 5,000 vehicles per day unless the government offers a substantial subsidy to the contractor.

"This limits the number of roads that can be undertaken by the model in Kenya to a few sections of the main transport corridors. Along the A8 (Malaba - Eldoret - Nakuru - Nairobi - Voi - Mombasa) road, the Nairobi Expressway has so far proved to be a viable section for tolling while the Mombasa - Nairobi Expressway has proved difficult," PBO said.

"The contractor has indicated that the country will get better value for money if the road is constructed under an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) model rather than a toll model."

Bechtel argues that the alternative public-private partnerships (PPP) model where the contractor sources for funds would cost five times more at \$15 billion (Sh1.5 trillion) and take much longer to complete. The plan to build the Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway dates back to the July 2015, when then US President Barack Obama signed a memorandum of understanding with the Kenyan government.

The US government nominated construction giant Bechtel Corporation to be considered for the project. The new dual carriageway was set to have two lanes on



A section of Thika Road.

either side and run parallel to the current Nairobi-Mombasa Road.

The project contract was signed in August 2017 and was single-sourced to the American firm, keeping with the tradition of state-to-state funding deals that favour companies from the financing country. The toll model has been hailed as a solution to the road financing problem since it takes the pressure off a country to accumulate public debt.

Many countries, including the Canada, France, UK, India, South Africa and Nigeria, have adopted the toll model to fund their road infrastructure. Toll fees were introduced in Kenya in the late 1980s but

were scrapped in the mid-1990s in favour of the roads maintenance levy currently charged at Sh18 per litre of petrol and diesel.

Kenya is seeking to maintain the pace of spending on new infrastructure with funding from private backers while reducing borrowings and budget deficit. The current Sh7.8 trillion public debt accounts for 72 percent of the GDP and is above the threshold set to measure sustainability.

The government has approved the construction of Nairobi Expressway by China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) granting the firm a concession to operate the road and recover funds by charging motorists toll fees for 30 years

before ceding it to the State.

The project is ongoing and is expected to be completed by December, 2021 at an estimated cost of Sh67 billion. Roads targeted for tolling include Nakuru Highway, Mombasa Road, Thika Superhighway and Nairobi's Southern Bypass.

The PBO has, however, raised concerns that toll roads may lead to civil unrest. The Chinese contractor has kicked off the recruitment of attendants to collect toll fees as the pay-for-use project nears completion.

"The Nairobi Expressway project has also not won full support of the public since the project is shrouded [in secrecy], with lack of

proper and comprehensive information disclosure and other ambiguities especially on assumptions behind the 30 years' period given to the investor and the risk mitigation measures if the assumptions fail to hold," the PBO said.

There are also concerns that tolls will be a double tax on many motorists who are currently paying for road maintenance through the fuel levy. The budget office cited the case of Nigeria where the tolling collection was cancelled on the Lekki Toll Road after community riots against paying of tolls. In Kenya, a proposal to introduce tolling in 2016 on the Nairobi Southern Bypass sparked public outcry.

CONSTRUCTION

HYUNDAI VEHICLES TO RUN ON HYDROGEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE

SEOUL

The future of transportation is in water, or at least water vapour, according to Hyundai. The Korean giant has rolled out its vision to adopt hydrogen power as a mainstream fuel platform by 2040.

Speaking via Zoom, Hyundai's chairman Chung Eui-sun told media that the company plans to electrify commercial auto vehicles with either hydrogen fuel cell electric or battery-electric power trains on all models by 2028.

Smaller courier vans will be plug-in battery-powered electric vehicles, while larger trucks, buses and prime movers will use hydrogen fuel cells to power electric motors for long-haul freight. Hydrogen fuel cells produce electricity in a similar way to lithium-ion battery cells, except they don't need charging as they use hydrogen to produce the electricity onboard.

Hydrogen stored in onboard tanks is fed to the negative side of the fuel cell, while oxygen is fed to the positive side and a catalyst splits hydrogen molecules into protons and electrons to create electricity with the "tailpipe" by-product be-



Hyundai is also developing a driverless truck and a rescue vehicle.

ing nothing more than water vapour. "Hyundai Motor Group's vision is to apply hydrogen energy in all areas of life and industry such as our homes, workplaces and factories. The goal is to make hydrogen readily usable for everyone, everywhere," Chung said. His target

is for Hyundai to be the first global carmaker to have a 100 per cent hydrogen-powered range of commercial vehicles on sale by 2028.

"In addition, we want to offer practical solutions for the sustainable development of humanity, and with these breakthroughs, we aim to help

foster a worldwide hydrogen society by 2040." The degree and frequency of environmental disasters is rising fast and we now face a code red warning for humanity

Hyundai began exploring hydrogen as an automotive fuel in 1998 with its FCEV (Fuel Cell Vehicle) concept car

and revealed its successor, the FCEV Tucson model in 2013, which was its first hint at mass-production. Hyundai launched the next-generation fuel cell vehicle, the Nexo in 2018, followed by the world's first heavy-duty fuel cell truck, the Xcient fuel cell last year.

According to the Hydrogen Council, a global chief executive-led initiative of energy, transport, industry and investment companies, hydrogen energy will account for 18 per cent of global energy demand by 2050 with a market size of \$US2.5 trillion. The popularisation of hydrogen energy is also estimated to help cut carbon dioxide emissions by more than six billion tonnes a year.

Hyundai has started mass-producing an improved version of the Xcient fuel cell truck with plans to tap into the 400,000 annual sales of heavy vehicles across Europe. This is in addition to developing a range of five to seven-metre-long

EVs that will target the seven million yearly sales of light commercial vehicles globally by 2030. It's also looking to produce a tractor based on the same technology to be released in 2023.

The company claims that a large part of the heavy haulage business will transition to autonomous driving and robotics, and has unveiled a driverless, fuel-cell-powered, long-haul truck concept for transporting shipping containers.

The trailer drone concept requires two fuel cell-powered bogies that can move autonomously through portside operations and tight urban environments with a range of more than 1,000 kilometres from a single fill. Its cargo can be broken down into packages using a "cluster mode", which enables several trailer drones to travel together in an almost train-like configuration, splitting as each load reaches its destination.

Owner of the 'most expensive US home' defaults on \$165m debt

LOS ANGELES

A sprawling mega mansion in the upmarket Los Angeles suburb of Bel Air - once touted as the most expensive private residence in the US with a price tag of \$500 million - has been placed into receivership after its developer, a former film producer, defaulted on more than \$165m in debt.

In the US, a property that has been defaulted on is turned over to a court-appointed receiver. Rather than taking over ownership and liabilities, the receiver obtains the necessary permits, completes construction work, compiles a list of creditors and prepares the house for sale to pay off lenders.

The mansion, named The One, is an opulent structure spread across 1.6 hectares of land, offering views of the Los Angeles skyline. Nile Miami, the developer, bought The One in 2012. He began construction in 2013 and was expected to finish in 2018, but the ambitious project has been plagued by funding issues, a report by CNBC said.

The mansion is 100,000 square feet and has nine bedrooms, a private nightclub, four-lane bowling alley, beauty salon, spa,

five swimming pools, a 50-seat movie theatre and an underground garage for 50 cars, with two car-display turntables.

The master bedroom spans more than 4,000 square feet and the property is surrounded by a giant moat to keep out unwanted guests. A sky deck with a putting green, a golf simulator, 10,000-bottle cellar and two art gallery spaces are among other features.

Mr Miami, however, decided to forego some amenities, including a jellyfish tank and a frozen room with an ice bar. Most of the developer's earlier projects included similar features, and others such as glass-bottomed pools and cryogenic chambers.

The Los Angeles County Superior Court put the mansion into receivership and it is likely to be listed on the market at a steep discount once its court-appointed receiver, Ted Lanes of Lanes Management, completes some final touches, court documents show.

Mr Miami, who touted the property as his "life mission" and "the biggest, most expensive home in the urban world", posted a video on his Instagram account last summer declaring it was 10 weeks away from completion, saying: "Seven years ago, I had an idea to create the biggest, most expensive house in the urban world: The One Bel-Air. And I did it." "There's a lot of people out there



An aerial view of Bel Air mansion which has nine bedrooms, a private nightclub, four-lane bowling alley, beauty salon, spa, five swimming pools, a 50-seat movie theatre and an underground garage for 50 cars.

with a lot of money - they want something no one else can have," Mr Miami told CNBC in 2017. "This is it."

The developer borrowed \$115m from Hankey Capital, founded by Los Angeles billionaire Don Hankey, to build the mega mansion. Other creditors include Yogi Securities Holdings, Inferno Realty and Maybach Corporation Holdings, according to property documents.

The One also has more than \$1m in unpaid taxes and debts from concrete, air-

conditioning and tool companies, according to CNBC. The price of the house and timing of the sale have not yet been determined, the court-appointed receiver said.

"What I would love to see happen is that the house gets completed, the certificate of occupancy is awarded and we have an orderly sale that maximises the value," Mr Lanes told CNBC. "Hopefully, there will be sufficient proceeds from the sale to fund the secured and unsecured creditors and for the equity to realise some value."

China Evergrande hires Houlihan Lokey as financial advisor

BEIJING

China Evergrande Group on Tuesday morning said it was engaging outside advisors to assess its liquidity as it acknowledged that its already shaky finances have begun a downward spiral as buyers shun its available homes and creditors swarm.

"The Company expects significant continuing decline in contract sales in September, thereby resulting in the continuous deterioration of cash collection by the Group which would in turn place tremendous pressure on the Group's cashflow and liquidity," Evergrande chairman Xu Jiyin said in a statement to the Hong Kong exchange.

Houlihan Lokey China Ltd and Admiralty Harbour Capital Ltd will assess the group's capital



Evergrande's headquarters in Shenzhen.

structure, evaluate the liquidity of the group and "explore all feasible solutions to ease the current liquidity issue and reach an optimal solution for all stakeholders as soon as possible", Xu added.

However, with the company's own employees protesting in its headquarters and creditors suing in the courts, analysts

believe that the time for Evergrande to solve its problems without government intervention may already have passed.

"By this stage, it is usually too late to resolve the problem internally," Michael Pettis, a professor of finance at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management, commented on Twitter on Tues-

day. "Revenues will drop further, efficiency will decline, debt-servicing costs will rise, and liquidity will be further squeezed as potential buyers refuse to leave deposits and suppliers refuse to serve Evergrande except for cash upfront."

Xu announced the appointment of restructuring advisors today as se-

curity guards linked arms around his headquarters in Shenzhen following days of angry protests in the building as buyers of Evergrande's wealth management products, including many of its own employees, demanded payment and caused scenes that quickly circulated on social media.

The protests preced-

ed Xu's admission in the announcement today that two of Evergrande's subsidiaries had "failed to discharge their guarantee obligations as scheduled" for RMB 934 million (\$145 million) in wealth management products issued by third parties, saying that the company "is in active discussion with issuers and investors with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable repayment arrangement."

He added that the group risked cross-default on its existing financing arrangements and creditors demanding acceleration of repayment if it failed to meet its guarantee obligation or to repay any debt when due or agree with the relevant creditors on extensions of such debts or alternative agreements.

Concerning Reassurances Before the latest disclosures, the world's most indebted developer had released a statement on its website Monday night in a bid to calm the rising storm and quash internet rumours about the group's imminent collapse.

Flying-taxi hubs planned for 65 cities spanning London to LA

LONDON

A network of flying-taxi hubs is planned for 65 cities in a tie-up between infrastructure firm Urban-Air Port and South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor Co, which is developing a vertical take-off and landing craft.

Bases are planned in the UK, the US, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Australia, South Korea and Southeast Asia, the companies said in a statement Thursday. A first site in Coventry, England, is due to open in early 2022.

Urban-Air Port says it's the only company focused solely on building networks for operating flying taxis and cargo drones. Just \$150 million has been spent on physical infrastructure this year, compared with \$5 billion invested in eVTOLs themselves by startups such as Joby Aviation and Lilium GmbH.

"The sector is soaring and we know that a future with electric flying vehicles and drones in cities is going to be a reality soon, but it can't happen if we don't have the infrastructure on the ground and in the air," Urban-Air Port founder and Executive Chairman Ricky Sandhu said in the release.

After Coventry, the next sites due to come online will be in another city in England's midlands and in Los Angeles, a spokesman for the UK-based company said. The London hub will be situated somewhere in the West End retail district or City financial center, he said.

Urban-Air Port plans to establish a network of more than 200 electric air mobility facilities worldwide in the next five years. The hubs will be modular and designed to fit into both dense urban areas and more-remote locations where charging will be provided using hydrogen fuel cells.

The Coventry base, to be known as Air-One, will see drones from Malloy Aeronautics and SkyFarer ply routes to demonstrate the viability of carrying cargoes such as refrigerated medical supplies. Safeguard Vertiports will meanwhile develop a certification program that meets UK standards.

WORLD

US, Britain, Australia announce new security partnership

WASHINGTON

THE United States, Britain, and Australia announced on Wednesday the creation of a new trilateral security partnership.

US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison made the announcement during a virtual event.

In a joint statement, the three governments said the partnership, called "AUKUS," will help "significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities."

The first initiative under AUKUS will be delivering a nuclear-powered submarine fleet for Australia and the three countries will spend as many as 18 months discussing how this capability will be delivered, according to the

statement.

Australia intends to build the submarines in Adelaide, a coastal city in the country's south, in cooperation with Britain and the United States, Morrison said in his remarks.

"Australia is not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons or establish a civil nuclear capability," he said, vowing to meet all of its nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

Biden and Johnson said the nuclear-powered submarines that Australia wants to acquire are conventionally armed, noting that their countries will also be fully in line with their non-proliferation obligations.

A senior administration official told reporters on Wednesday that AUKUS "is not aimed or about any one country," claiming that "it's about advancing our strategic interests, upholding the



The Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Waller (SSG 75), a Collins-class diesel-electric submarine, is seen in Sydney Harbour on November 2, 2016. File photo

international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific."

Rift With France

The new partnership sparked a rift with France, which said that it scuppers Australia's 2016 deal with a French shipbuilder Naval Group to build up to 12 submarines – a project that had blown out to an estimated A\$90 billion (US\$66 billion).

The decision to scrap the program was "contrary to the letter and spirit of the cooperation that prevailed between France and Australia" and shows "a lack of coherence," France's Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian and Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly said in statement.

"The regrettable decision that has just been announced regarding the FSP program only reinforces the need to make the issue of European

strategic autonomy loud and clear," the French ministers said in reference to the Future Submarines Program. "There is no other credible way to defend our interests and our values in the world, including in the Indo-Pacific."

In a press briefing on Thursday, Morrison defended the decision and said he understands it's disappointing for France. Touting a "forever partnership" with the US and UK, he said it would take as many as 18 months to work out details of the agreement before work on the subs begins in Australia. Building and commissioning such nuclear-powered submarines can take years, or even decades.

"As a prime minister I must make decisions that are in Australia's national security," Morrison said. "I know that France would do the same."

Xinhua & Agencies

Australians petition for Chinese vaccines

SYDNEY

THOUSANDS of Australians have signed a petition calling on their government to consider importing Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccines to boost the country's vaccination program.

As of Sept 15, the online petition had garnered 8,504 signatures.

The petition, which was launched on the website of the Parliament of Australia, earlier this month, will close on Sept 22 and then be considered by the House of Representatives, the lower house of Australia's bicameral parliament.

The petition was launched to address "the serious COVID-19 epidemic in Australia" and the "shortage of vaccines".

China-made vaccines are "safe, effective and efficient and cheaper", according to the petition, noting that the jobs "have been supplied to millions of people around the world already".

The petitioners urged the government to import Chinese vaccines "as soon as possible" to help in Australia's fight against the virus.

Australia's COVID-19 immunization program has come under a great deal of criticism for delays and vaccine shortages.

While no official offer has been made to Australia from China, a spokesperson for the Federal Health Department told China Daily that the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation "continues to consider the emerging evidence on COVID-19 vaccination, including vaccines provided outside of Australia and the protections offered".

Currently only COVID-19 vaccines registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or TGA – the government's medicine and therapeutic regulatory agency – are available for use in Australia. They are: AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria, Pfizer's Cominarty and Moderna's Spikevax.

But supply has been inadequate, promoting calls for import of China-made jabs. Concerns have been growing recently following new COVID-19 outbreaks due to the Delta variant of the novel coronavirus.

Vaccines made by China's



This photo taken on Jan 6, 2021 shows the packing line for inactivated COVID-19 vaccines of Sinovac Biotech, a Chinese biopharmaceutical company, in Beijing. XINHUA

Sinopharm and Sinovac, which have been approved by the World Health Organization for emergency use, are being used in China and dozens of countries around the world.

The Chinese firms have signed on to the UN-backed global vaccine sharing scheme COVAX to distribute the jabs to poorer countries.

Other vaccines WHO has approved for emergency use are the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech shots; as well as those made by Johnson & Johnson and the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca; and a version of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine known as Cov-

ishield, which is produced by the Serum Institute of India in Pune.

Bruce Thompson, dean of the School of Health Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology, said: "Supply will always be an issue of the SARS-CoV2 vaccine and anyway we can address that is a good thing".

SARS-CoV2 refers to the virus that causes the COVID-19 respiratory disease.

Any vaccine that Australia adopts is based on "evidence and the quality of that evidence", Thompson told China Daily.

The TGA "is excellent and

has appropriate processes and criteria that any manufacturer, irrespective of where they come from, has to follow", the professor said, referring to the regulatory agency.

Adrian Esterman, chair of biostatistics and epidemiology at the University of South Australia, said: "With Moderna soon arriving in Australia and Novavax (jabs) coming early next year, we will probably not need more vaccines."

That said, he noted that when it comes to procurement decisions, political considerations have "unfortunately" come into play.

Xinhua

Putin says withdrawal of western coalition's troops from Afghanistan 'put mildly hasty'

NOVO-OGARYOVO

THE withdrawal of the western coalition's troops from Afghanistan was "hasty, mildly speaking," Russian President Vladimir Putin said addressing a summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

(CSTO) via video link yesterday, and noted the related threats in the region.

The environment in the zone of the CSTO's responsibility and the external borders of its members is "not only unstable, but carries new, truly critical challenges and risks



for security of our countries,"

he said.

"Right after a hasty, mildly speaking hasty withdrawal of the troops of the US and its allies from Afghanistan and the rise to power of the Taliban (outlawed in Russia - TASS) we shared views on the dangers related to the drastically

changed situation in the country at an extraordinary CSTO summit. All approved then the conclusion that amid the current environment a close cooperation between CSTO member-states is required as never before," Putin emphasized.

Agencies

Mexican authorities rescue 22 foreigners kidnapped in a hotel

MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN authorities rescued on Tuesday 22 foreigners, most of them Cuban and Haitian, who were earlier in the day kidnapped when gunmen stormed a hotel in the central state of San Luis Potosi, the region's attorney general said.

The gunmen also kidnapped 16 Mexicans when they ransacked the Sol y Luna hotel in Matehuala, about 195 km north of the city of San Luis Potosi, the regional capital.

The Mexicans were released earlier but the foreign nationals had to be rescued in a remote area by the road between Matehuala and the regional capital, Arturo Garza Herrera, the attorney general of the state, said in a statement.

The foreigners were due to be transferred to the city of San Luis Potosi to be fed and to get medical help. Garza's office did not give any details of the rescue or say if any of the foreigners were injured.

While most of the rescued foreigners were Haitians and Cubans, earlier there were reports that some Venezuelans were among them, Garza's office said in a statement. Three minors and a pregnant woman were among them.

"I am going to notify the migration institute so that they can be involved since we do not know the migratory status of these people," Garza said.

Many migrants hoping to reach the United States face great danger on the way, with kidnappings, extortion, rape and even murders reported. Some are conscripted to work for drug cartels fighting over drug-trafficking routes.

In June, a human rights group reported that some 3,300 migrants stranded in Mexico since January due to a US border policy have been kidnapped, raped, trafficked or assaulted.

Agencies

China takes an active part in global cooperation against the Covid-19 pandemic

By June 2021, China had provided \$2 billion in aid for the international Covid-19 response, and as aid to social and economic recovery in developing countries hit by the pandemic.

China has sent medical supplies to more than 150 countries and 13 international organizations

China has supplied more than 290 billion masks, 3.5 billion protective suits, and 4.6 billion testing kits to the world

China has provided more than 520 million doses of vaccines to over 100 countries and international organizations

China has sent 33 medical expert teams to 31 countries in need of help

Data Source: The CPC, Its Mission and Contributions

PD International
人民日报国际部

CHINA and ASEAN have achieved remarkable progress in bilateral trade since the two sides commenced their dialogue relations in 1991.

Over the past 30 years, their trade volume expanded 85 times, with cumulative mutual investment exceeding \$310 billion. Besides, the two sides have jointly built over 20 economic and trade cooperation zones.

The blooming China-ASEAN relations have grown into the most successful and vibrant model for cooperation in the Asia-Pacific and an important engine driving the successful development of East Asia.

According to Chinese customs, the bilateral trade between China and ASEAN grew to \$685.28 billion last year from \$8.36 billion 30 years ago,

China-ASEAN trade expands by 85-fold in 30 years

expanding 16.5 percent annually on average, 3.4 percentage points higher than China's trade growth in the same period.

In breakdown, exports rose from \$4.45 billion to \$383.68 billion, with an average yearly growth of 16.4 percent, while imports rose from \$3.91 billion to \$301.6 billion, growing 16.5 percent on average each year.

Last year, ASEAN became China's top trading partner. China also maintained ASEAN's largest trading partner for the 12th year in a row.

During the past three decades, the trade structure between the two sides has been constantly optimized. In 2020, China exported

\$204.48 billion worth of mechanical and electronic products to ASEAN. The exports of textiles, steel, mobile phones, ships, furniture, fruits, automobiles, and medical products were also on the rise. ASEAN's exports of primary and resource products to China, including agricultural products, rubber, petro, natural gas, and coal, maintained robust growth.

The 2020 China-ASEAN Trade Index, released by China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) on Sept. 11, stood at 241.09, increasing 19.64 percent and 141.09 percent from 2019 and 2010, respectively.

Since the establishment of the Chi-

na-ASEAN Free Trade Area, China's customs has taken the lead in completing negotiations with ASEAN to upgrade the rules of origin and has smoothly implemented them, as well as helping foreign-trade enterprises thoroughly enjoy the policy of tariff reduction. According to the GAC, over 90 percent of the commodities between the two sides are traded tariff-free, with a total tax reduction of 314.9 billion yuan (\$48.85 billion).

With the concrete steps of the Belt and Road construction, a batch of major infrastructure projects have been implemented, which effectively raised the level of connectivity be-

tween China and ASEAN countries and made bilateral cross-border logistics more unimpeded.

The GAC said the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor, on which freight trains started carrying commodities between southwest China's Chongqing municipality and Singapore via Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in 2017, is now expanded to a six-route transport network that makes over 10 trips every day, from only one each week in the early days. It has become a significant channel of exportation in western China and the fastest and most convenient passage linking China and

ASEAN under the the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership framework.

At present, the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor is connected with the China-Europe freight train service and the two have carried 1,504 twenty-foot equivalent units this year, fully releasing the trade potential of China and ASEAN.

Statistics released by Chinese customs indicated that the total trade volume with ASEAN of the 14 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities along the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor reached \$81.22 billion in the first eight months this year, up 28.7 percent and lifting China-ASEAN trade growth by 4.4 percentage points. **People's Daily**

Russia, Turkey to deliver humanitarian aid to Kabul, Taliban official says

CAIRO

RUSSIAN and Turkish officials have notified the Taliban radical movement (outlawed in Russia) of their plans to deliver humanitarian aid to Kabul airport in the near future, newly-appointed head of the airport's administration Abdul Hadi Hamdani said on Monday.

"Recently, planes from Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to those from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan, have been landing at the airport. Russia and Turkey have also assured us that in the coming days, they will dispatch their aircraft with humanitarian aid for Afghan people to Kabul," he noted in a video address published on the Facebook page of Afghanistan's Civil Aviation Authority.

At the same time, he stressed that certain difficulties remain that are preventing the full-fledged resumption of international passenger air traffic.

"Approximately 10-15% of technical problems at the international flights terminal so far remain unresolved. Nonetheless, we are planning to resolve them in the near future," the official noted.

However, he noted that there

are no security problems remaining with domestic flights, which resumed on September 4, and "passengers can freely fly to Kabul or out of it."

Civil air traffic in Afghanistan has been suspended after Taliban fighters swept into Kabul on August 15 without encountering any resistance and gained full control over the Afghan capital within a few hours. Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said he had stepped down to prevent any bloodshed and subsequently fled the country.

Following this, until August 31, several countries had concurrently been conducting emergency evacuations of its citizens and Afghans who cooperated with them.

The airstrip and the terminals of Kabul's airport were significantly damaged due to the general chaos and the August 26 terrorist attack.

Since the end of August, the technical specialists from Qatar and Turkey have been assisting in the restoration of the airport's operations. On September 4, the first domestic flights left Kabul for Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, and Herat.

On September 9, the first international flight since the US pullout from Afghanistan was performed from Kabul to Doha, carrying 115 people, including a number of citizens from Western countries.

EU chief puts recovery in the spotlight

BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Commission President Ursula von der Leyen used her second State of the Union address on Wednesday to tout the European Union's successes in responding to the pandemic and rebuilding its economy.

Von der Leyen highlighted the need for the bloc to reduce its dependence on others in areas from military matters to the production of semiconductors.

On the health front, she said that when she delivered her first address as EU chief a year ago, there were no safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19. Now, she told the Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, "Europe is among the world leaders" by this measure. "More than 70 percent of adults in the EU are fully vaccinated," von der Leyen said.

But she admitted there were "worrying divergences" in vaccination rates among the 27 member states. Statistics show that the gap is almost 90 percent in Malta but only 20 percent in Bulgaria.

Von der Leyen also touted the faster economic recovery from the pandemic upheavals compared with the last crisis more than a decade ago. Then, it took eight years for the euro area's GDP to get back to precrisis levels. She said that growth in the euro area outpaced that of the US and China in the last quarter.

The commission, in its summer economic forecast, expects GDP to grow by 4.8 percent this year and 4.5 percent in 2022 in both the EU and euro area.

In contrast with her rosy assessments on the economy, von der Leyen la-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

mented the events that have unfolded in Afghanistan, and she spoke of the profound pain for the families of fallen servicemen and servicewomen after the change of government in Kabul. Without naming the US, she said the EU has to "reflect on how this mission could end so abruptly".

"There are deeply troubling questions that allies will have to tackle within NATO," she said.

The chaotic pullout from Afghanistan by the US, without consulting its European allies, has drawn sharp criticism in Europe and raised questions about whether the US can be trusted on future military missions. There have been many talks within the EU in the past weeks on setting up expeditionary forces. "What has held us back until now is not just a shortfall of capacity, it is the lack of political will," von der Leyen

said. She and French President Emmanuel Macron will hold a Summit on European Defense during the French presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2022.

Macron is seen as the most influential European leader after German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who will step down later this month. Macron himself needs to get past a presidential election at home next April.

Tech sovereignty

Besides defense, von der Leyen stressed the need for investment in what she called European tech sovereignty, notably in semiconductors.

She said the EU has to double down to shape its digital transfor-

mation according to its own rules and values, saying "there is no digital without chips" and "we depend on state-of-the-art chips manufactured in Asia".

The commission will propose a new European Chips Act to leverage the EU's research, design and testing capacities and to coordinate EU and national investments along the value chain, according to von der Leyen.

She also touched on the new EU Indo-Pacific Strategy, describing it as "a milestone" and one that "reflects the growing importance of the region to our prosperity and security".

But a recent European Council on Foreign Relations study shows that many EU member states are still largely uninterested in events in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the speech, von der Leyen claimed that Team Europe has contributed US\$25 billion a year to keep its commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement for rich countries to provide US\$100 billion in climate financing a year to help poor countries in their transition.

Haiti PM, suspect in murder of president, replaces justice chief

HAVANA

FRESH turmoil hit Haiti's government on Wednesday as Prime Minister Ariel Henry replaced his justice minister and a senior official stepped down, saying he could not serve a premier under suspicion in the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Amid a brewing political crisis, Henry (pictured) replaced Justice Minister Rockefeller Vincent with Interior Minister Liszt Quitel, who will take charge of both portfolios, according to a statement in Haiti's official gazette.

The resignation of Renald Lubrice, who served more than four years as secretary general of Haiti's Council of Ministers, came after new evidence emerged linking Henry to the former justice ministry official who investigates say is one of the main suspects behind Moïse's killing.

Prosecutors say phone records show the two spoke twice around 4 am on July 7, just hours after Moïse, 53, was shot dead when heavily-armed assassins stormed his private residence.

Henry has denied any involvement in the murder but he has not directly addressed the phone calls and on Tuesday he replaced Haiti's chief prosecutor who had been seeking to charge him as a suspect and ban him from leaving the country.

The premier last week dismissed attempts to interview him over Moïse's killing as politicking designed to distract him from the work at hand in the poorest country in the Americas where power struggles have for decades hampered development.

In a letter shared on social media on Wednesday, Lubrice said he cannot serve someone who "does not intend to cooperate with justice, seeking, on the contrary, by all means, to obstruct it."

Henry on Wednesday replaced Lubrice with Josue Pierre-Louis, a veteran technocrat who has since 2017 held the rank of government minister in his role as the General Coordinator of the Office of Management and Human Re-



sources, according to the gazette statement.

Killing and crisis

More than 40 people including 18 Colombians have been detained so far as part of the investigation into Moïse's killing. The investigation has made little apparent progress to solve the mystery and has been riddled with irregularities.

Several judicial officials went into hiding after saying they received death threats while the original judge assigned to the case recused himself.

Moïse named Henry, a neurosurgeon, to the position of prime minister just days before he was assassinated in a bid to placate the political tensions that plagued his mandate and led to a major constitutional and political crisis.

The country has just a handful of elected officials after failing two years ago to hold legislative or municipal elections amid a political gridlock. Moïse had ruled by decree. But there is no constitutional framework for a government in a situation like the current one.

As such, Henry needs a broad consensus in order to govern. On the weekend he announced an agreement between Haiti's main political forces on a transition government aiming to lead next year to elections and a new constitutional referendum.

But any sign of weakness could lead to a fresh power struggle.

Senate President Joseph Lambert, who tried to claim the presidency in the days following Moïse's killing as the most senior elected official remaining, made a fresh swipe at the post on Tuesday evening.

Chinese robot market hits 100 billion yuan

THE 2021 World Robot Conference was held at the Beijing Etrong International Exhibition and Convention Center from Sept. 10 and 13.

A number of the latest achievements in the sci-tech and industrial world were exhibited at the 2021 World Robot Expo, which ran parallel to the Conference, making the event an important stage demonstrating the frontier robot technologies and industrial development.

The World Robot Expo set up three major exhibition sections for industrial robots, service robots and specialized robots. A total of over 500 products were showcased by some 110 enterprises and scientific institutions, many of which were unveiled for the first time.

The Chinese robot industry created a value of over 100 billion yuan (\$15.52 billion) last year, making China a dynamic engine driving the development of robots around the world, said Xin Guobin, vice-minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, at the opening ceremony of the Expo.

An expert told People's Daily that in general, the Chinese robot industry has rapidly improved its basic performance in recent years, and is gradually stepping into the mid- and high-end market. It is already leading the world in certain innovation and application sectors, the expert said.

Industrial robots are mostly applied in auto making, metalwork and electronics sectors. However, in recent years, they have been gradually seeping into furniture, home appliance, hardware, sanitary fitting, and food and beverage industries. According to statistics, China has been the world's largest market for in-



A 5G-enabled surgical robot is displayed at the 2021 World Robot Conference held in Beijing, Sept. 12, 2021. (File photo)

dustrial robots for eight consecutive years.

Human-robot collaboration is a vital trend for technological innovation in the development of industrial robots, and surgical robots are a typical example of it. This year's exhibition area for medical robots was doubled when compared with that in the last session, where some surgical robots caught huge attention. Collaborative robots are smaller, lighter and more flexible than traditional ones, and they play a very important role in industries that require high-precision assembly and packaging.

The development of artificial intelligence very much facilitat-

ed the rapid progress of service robots in recent years, as the speech understanding and visual recognition functions are making these robots smarter. Service robots, in particular those for rehabilitation and companion, are on a rapid progress, too, especially in the housekeeping and elderly care industries. Chinese service robots are basically moving neck and neck with their foreign peers in terms of speech understanding and image recognition technologies.

Besides, China has also built a batch of very competitive specialized robots, including special unmanned aerial vehicles, underwater robots and rescue robots.

Chen Jin, a technician with Chinese robot manufacturer Lesen, told People's Daily that the company has developed a heat-resistant robot that is able to work for 30 minutes non-stop in an environment of 1,000 degrees Celsius. It greatly expands the range of operation for firefighters and rescuers, as fires taking place in airtight plants would always make temperature go up to 800 and even 1,000 degrees Celsius in about 10 minutes, which prevents rescuers and equipment from getting close. He introduced that this robot has already been utilized by firefighting departments.

People's Daily

NEW YORK

Vaccination efforts geared up in US as COVID-19 kills 1 in 500 Americans

THE federal government of the United States is commanding a strong gear for its COVID-19 vaccination efforts with new vaccine approval planned and extra pressure exerted on the country's top businesses and incoming immigrants, as the pandemic has killed roughly one in every 500 Americans.

U.S. President Joe Biden is expected to meet on Wednesday with executives from companies including Walt Disney Co., Microsoft Corp. and Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. to advance his COVID-19 vaccination requirements for the private sector.

The White House meeting comes after a plan Biden announced last week designed to bring the pandemic under control, which includes vaccine requirements affecting roughly 100 million workers. Attendees are expected to discuss how they are expanding requirements at their companies and institutions and how mandates have driven up vaccinations among employees.

ANOTHER GRIM MILESTONE

According to Johns Hopkins University data, as of Tuesday night, 663,913 people in the

United States have died of COVID-19. Per the U.S. Census Bureau, the country's population as of April 2020 was 331.4 million.

This meant that roughly "one in 500 Americans died from coronavirus since the nation's first reported infection," "another grim milestone in its fight against the devastating COVID-19 pandemic," reported CNN on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, according to The New York Times, the 7-day average of confirmed cases of the pandemic stood at 152,177 nationwide on Tuesday, with

its 14-day change striking a 5-percent fall. COVID-19-related deaths were 1,888 on Tuesday, with the 14-day change realizing a 50-percent rise.

COVID-19 deaths and cases in the United States have climbed to levels not seen since last winter, wiping out months of progress and potentially bolstering President Biden's argument for sweeping new vaccination requirements, reported ABC late Tuesday.

Fifty four percent of U.S. adults said the worst of the outbreak is still to come, despite widespread vaccination

efforts, according to a Pew Research Center report based on a survey of 10,348 U.S. adults conducted from Aug. 23 to 29, which was released on Wednesday.

VACCINES FOR SMALL CHILDREN

Pfizer and BioNTech plan to file for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emergency authorization in November for their COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than 5, Pfizer Chief Financial Officer Frank D'Amelio said on Tuesday. The company expects to

have data for the 5 to 11 age group by the end of September, while data for the even younger group is expected later in October, D'Amelio added.

The FDA is under pressure to authorize a vaccine for children younger than 12, as many parents say they are anxious to get their children vaccinated as schools reopen and the highly contagious delta variant continues to spread.

Studies for the Pfizer vaccine in children ages 5 to 11 are ready for review, according to the FDA. Pediatrician Pia Fenimore in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, said that meant

the vaccine could be ready sooner than expected, possibly in mid- to late October.

"A lot of people were willing to volunteer their child for these studies, so we were able to get the numbers of children in these studies faster than we thought we would," NBC on Tuesday quoted her as saying.

MORE VACCINATIONS

The above-mentioned Pew report also found that 73 percent of those aged 18 and older say they've received at least one dose of a vaccine for COVID-19. About a quarter of adults say they have not received a vaccine.

Xinhua



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of the previous National Boxing Championship fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Open Boxing Club Championship set for next month in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's National Open Boxing Club Championship will be held in Dar es Salaam next month, Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) disclosed.

Lukelo Wililo, OBFT secretary-general, said the showdown will be held from October 5-10 at a venue that will be disclosed later.

He said the showpiece will be used to select four boxers that will make the national boxing squad set for the International Boxing Association (AIBA) World Boxing Championship, scheduled for October 26-November 6 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Wililo disclosed the country has two boxers, Alex Isendi and Yusuph Changarawe, who have qualified for the showpiece.

The OBFT official stated: "We will have the National Open Club Championship in Temeke, as the National Indoor Stadium is closed for renovation."

"The championship will also be used to select four boxers who will join the two boxers, Isendi and Changarawe, who qualified for AIBA World Championship which will be held in Serbia."

"We have eight boxers who are top-ranked so the qualifying events' trials will be among them, the best will be selected for the AIBA World Championship," he said.

In the past, OBFT had failed to send boxers to international events due to financial constraints the federation now experiences.

Wililo said this time he is confident

that the boxers will travel to the event as the government announced its commitment to promoting sports.

The OBFT official pointed out: "We thank the government for its commitment to see that sports enjoy progress in the country and also its commitment that it will fund national teams' foreign assignments."

"We know we will benefit from this funding and the other good thing is that boxing is among the five sporting disciplines which will enjoy government support in its first phase of a sports development initiative," he said.

The AIBA World Championship last took place in Ekaterinburg, Russia in 2019, but Tanzania did not send its boxers.

Super Middleweight pugilist, Selemani Kidunda, is the last domestic boxer to have represented the country at the AIBA World Championship. He competed in the 2013 showdown in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Serbia event will be overseen by Serbia's President, Alexander Vucic, who heads the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

AIBA president Omar Kremlev is reported to have said the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championship will show determination to provide boxers around the world a platform to achieve their full potential.

"We are confident that the tournament will be conducted safely given the successful implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures throughout the year," he said.

Mtibwa Sugar set to rope in former Simba SC coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FORMER Simba SC head coach, Cameroonian Joseph Omog, stands a great chance to move to Mtibwa Sugar within the next two days.

Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar, who have set up pre-season camp in Turiani in the region, currently do not have a head coach.

The Mainland Premier League outfit's efforts to bring in Rwandan coach, Thierry Hitimana, ended in vain, given the coach opted to seal a contract with Simba SC.

Mtibwa Sugar information officer, Thobias Kifarur, said Omog was one of five coaches considered to be in charge of the squad next season.

"We got a profile of 70 coaches from different countries and analyzed five and out of them, Omog is there, therefore, in the next two days we will announce him," he said.

Cameroonian Omog is familiar with Mainland Premier League, given he coached Azam FC in the 2013/14 season and thereafter coached Simba SC before parting ways with the outfit.

Mtibwa Sugar has strengthened its squad so it is looking for a coach who will help the squad do well next season, after surviving relegation in the past top flight.

In addition to roping in the new head coach, Mtibwa Sugar signed several players to reinforce the side.

The footballers are a midfielder, Said Ndemla, and defender Ibrahim Ame that have moved to the club on loan from Simba, fullback Abdi Banda, who was plying his trade in South Africa, fullback Hassan Kibailo from Coastal Union, and others.

According to Kifarur, the squad is continuing to participate in preparations for the 2021/22 season in Turiani to ensure it performs well.

Aruti Aces win DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney opener

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's defending champions, Aruti Aces, have started their campaign wonderfully, commanding a 40-run victory over NTS Bosch Gymkhana in the city early this week.

NTS Bosch Gymkhana won the toss and elected to field first, restricting Aruti Aces to 146 runs losing five wickets in 20 overs.

Aruti Aces lost early wickets, their captain, Bhavesh Govind, and all-rounder, Salum Jumbe, led the team, notching 43 runs in 23 deliveries and unbeaten 40 runs in 24 deliveries respectively.

The duo managed to push their team's score to 146 runs for the loss of five wickets in 20 overs.

There were encouraging scores that were put by top-order performers, Mohammad Ali, Ejaz Aziz, and Ally Mpeka.

Ali that had opened the innings, ended with 15 runs consisting of a boundary, Aziz notched 14 runs, nailing a boundary, Mpeka ended with 19 runs which consisted of a six.

Kelvin Anjelo, Kartik Syal, Amit Raghuvanshi, Mohamed Yunus, and Jay Hirwania took a wicket each for NTS Bosch Gymkhana

In return, a dominant bowling performance by Aruti Aces ensured that NTS Bosch Gymkhana was bowled out for 106 runs in 19.3 overs, thereby conceding a 40-run loss to the former.

Youthful cricketer, Syal, deployed as a low order batsman, ended as NTS Bosch Gymkhana's top run-getter, notching 51 runs which consisted

of six fours and a sixer.

Top-order batsman, Harsheel Shah, chipped in with 13 runs consisting of three fours.

Efforts by NTS Bosch Gymkhana to make a solid start to the chase endured a blow, as they faced three dismissals in quick succession.

The opener, Amit Raghuvanshi, made his way back for naught having executed three knocks.

The fellow opener, Kheel Suchak, as well did not last long, returning with five runs, which included a boundary.

Youthful cricketer, Mohamed Yunus, slotted in at number three, was as well a victim of Aruti Aces' bowling onslaught, exiting the crease with mere five runs, which included a boundary.

Medium-pacer, Salum Jumbe, was once again the pick of Aruti Aces' bowlers, taking four wickets and only giving away nine runs in 3.3 overs.

His all-around domination ensured him the Colourflex Man of the Match award.

However, the second-week fixtures, slated for this weekend, stand to bring about a completely different challenge.

Aruti Aces will confront another tournament favourites, Harab Motors Pak Stars, in what is tipped to be the match of the week.

Harab Motors Pak Stars sit comfortably on top of Group A after their wins against FMED Upanga and Kaon Lions.

Harab Motors Pak Stars will be depending on, among others, the outfit's Tata Purple Cap holder, Nisar Ahmed, and Petrofuel Purple Cap holder, Pafford Anacet, to inspire.

However, Aruti Aces have got some top talent in their ranks, apart from Jumbe, to ensure



Aruti Aces cricket side's all-rounder, Salum Jumbe (R), is presented with the Colourflex Man of the Match award from franchise owner, Andrew Muga, after Jumbe's outfit took on NTS Bosch Gymkhana in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament clash, which took place early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

that the tie is even.

No matter what the results, it stands to be an entertaining match for the neutrals.

Elsewhere, Balakrishna Strikers will take on Horizon Annadil Burhani the same weekend.

Honest Logistics SKLPSC will come up against hosts, Alliance Caravans, and Aruti Aces will be back in action, taking on Kaon Lions in the remaining fixtures of the week.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup has been held annu-

ally since 2015. Petrofuel Limited is the title sponsor of this year's tournament.

The firm is joined by Colourflex, TATA International, and Pepsi as the showdown's co-sponsors.

This year's tournament features the top 10 teams in the country playing under the franchise model, with each team being backed by top corporates in the country.

The teams include Aurobindo Aga Khan SC, Horizon Teleports An-

nadil Burhani, Honest Logistics SKLPSC, Balakrishna Strikers, and hosts, Alliance Caravans.

Others include Kaon Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, NTS Bosch Gymkhana, and FMED Upanga also participate in the showpiece.

Other sponsors of the tournament include NGK Gathani, Jihusu, Flashnet, RAS Logistics, Mlimani City, AOne Bottlers, Kishen Enterprises, Samaki Samaki, Delta Africa, DeepHeat, and G1 Security.

Mara unveils athletics squad for 2021 National Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MARA has unveiled 10 athletes who will represent the region in the coming National Championships slated for later this month at Sheikh Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

The championship is set to take place from September 24-25 at the venue and Mara's athletics official, Vedastus Makaranga, said the athletes are undergoing intensive training ahead of the event.

He said the athletes are under coach, Collins Awino, and he said he is confident the team will do well at the championship.

"Last year we did not compete at the national championships, given we experienced several challenges which included the Coronavirus pandemic."

"This time around we are ready and soon the athletes will start in-house camp at a place to be named soon," he said.

He mentioned the athletes and their categories in brackets as Japhet Kitungu (100m, 200m) Makoba Ndogero (100m, 200m, 400m), Msomi Khamis (200m, 400m, and 800m), David Paul (800m and 1500m), and Neema Nyaisawa (5000m).

Others are Justine Sogita (1500m and 5000m), Asha Mzumari (800m and 1500m), Rugendo Marakanyi (1500m and 5000m), Mahiti Sabayo (800m and 5000m), and Ivon Juma



Dar es Salaam athletes take part in training in the city to shape up for a past National Championship which took place in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

(200m, 400m and 800m).

Meanwhile, Juma Mataka, Singida Regional Athletics Association's Chairman, said they will host trials at Mwenje Secondary School in the region tomorrow to select 10 athletes to represent the region at the National Championship.

Last year the two-day championship was held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and was sponsored by Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) at the tune of 60m/-, involving 250 athletes from 28 regions.

The championship was taking place after five years of absence and TOC sponsored the event with funding from Olym-

pic Solidarity (OS) and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Tanga athlete, Mbaraka James, was the showdown's winner in the men's 1500m race, beating national team athletes, Gabriel Geay and Epimack Boniface.

James won the 1500m race in 3:47.12, Coast Region is the National Athletics Championship's defending champion.

The region's athletes won six gold medals, nine silver medals, and four bronze medals.

Arusha finished second with five gold medals, seven silver, and four bronze medals, Unguja South finished third with two gold medals, one silver,

and one bronze.

Zanzibar's, Urban West was fourth with two gold medals, one silver, and five bronze medals.

Hosts, Dar es Salaam, was fifth with two gold medals and two bronze medals, while Dodoma and Kilimanjaro were tied on the sixth position, winning one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal apiece.

Mbeya took the seventh position after winning one gold medal and two silver medals, Tanga settled for the eighth position with one gold medal.

Mwanza and Pemba South ended ninth and 10th, taking one gold medal and two silver medals respectively.

'Morbid' reception for Griezmann as Atletico given late scare by Porto

MADRID

ANTOINE Griezmann was whistled by Atletico Madrid fans on his return to the Wanda Metropolitano on Wednesday as his team were fortunate to escape with a 0-0 draw with Porto in the Champions League.

Griezmann was left out of the starting line-up by Diego Simeone and was then whistled by a large section of Atleti fans when he came on in the second half. Many were also eager to show their support for the Frenchman, who has re-signed on loan from Barcelona.

Simeone defended the striker after the game.

"Some people want to be morbid and make a drama out of bringing back an extraordinary player like Griezmann," he said. "Hopefully he gets better and he responds to all the people who are criticising him."

Atletico were lucky to take a point from a compelling but cagey contest in Group B after Porto's Mehdi Taremi capitalised on a poor back-pass from Renan Lodi late on, only for the goal to be ruled out for the slightest of handballs.

Taremi bundled the ball past Jan Oblak and as he toppled over the Atletico goalkeeper his hand feathered the ball as it was rolling into the net, making it a foul according to the latest laws.

"Luckily there is VAR," said Oblak. "It seemed strange to me how the ball bounced off his body."

Porto could also feel aggrieved with an injury-time red card for Chancel Mbemba, who obstructed Griezmann as the 30-year-old was breaking down the right but still far from goal. With the penultimate kick of the game, Luis Suarez curled the free-kick over.

Atletico finished strong but a draw was a fair result and does little damage to either's chances of advancing to the last 16. Liverpool are the early pace-setters in the group after they beat AC Milan.

"Porto were very good," Oblak said. "Creativity and chances were lacking but these are tough games against teams that close up and play on the counter attack so it's never easy."

- Griezmann return divides -

Griezmann made his second debut for Atletico last weekend when he played 58 rather underwhelming minutes against Espanyol in La Liga.

But this was his first appearance in front of the home fans since his return from Barcelona, where he failed to live up to expectations after eventually agreeing to a 120-million-euro move in 2019.

Griezmann lived up to the latter stages and there was enough applause to go with the whistles to suggest he can quickly earn back the fans' affections again.

The first half was tight with hardly a chance for either team. Suarez was slid through by Thomas Lemar but the shot was saved. Jesus Corona skipped past Yannick Carrasco and crossed but Taremi poked wide.

Geoffrey Kondogbia made a brilliant last-ditch challenge on Zaidu Sanusi and then Lemar went off injured, replaced in midfield by summer signing Rodrigo de Paul.

AFP

Ancelotti lauds Madrid youngsters in win over Inter

MILAN

REAL Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti praised the side's "quality" youngsters after Rodrygo and Eduardo Camavinga combined for the late goal that gave the team a 1-0 Champions League group stage win at Internazionale on Wednesday.

The coach brought on Rodrygo, 20, on 65 minutes and then Camavinga, 18, with ten minutes left at San Siro and the game goalless after the Italians had dominated the first half. With time running out, Camavinga -- signed for €30 million from Rennes on transfer deadline day -- was spotted by midfielder Federico Valverde inside the box, and his volleyed first-time cross was buried by Rodrygo.

"We have young players who are strong," Ancelotti said in his post-match news conference. "I have to add experience, that's normal in this kind of game, but this team has youngsters with a lot of quality, a lot."

"[I've told Rodrygo] that how many minutes you play isn't important, it's how you play," Ancelotti added. "He had 20 minutes and did well, not just with the goal, but also defensively. In front of goal he's very cool-headed... His role is important, sometimes he can play from the start, other times he can come on and be decisive."

Rodrygo -- brought in as a €45m teenager from Brazil in 2019 -- has a knack of delivering in the Champions League and gave Madrid a 3-2 home win over Inter in last season's group stage with another late strike.

"Every time I've played in the Champions League I think I've done well, I've done something good for the team," he said. "I'm happy about that. I love playing in the Champions League and scoring goals... Of course I always want to play, whenever I'm on the pitch I can do something for the team, but I respect the coach who takes the decisions."

ESPN

Grealish stars as Man City hit Leipzig for six

LONDON

JACK Grealish scored a superb first Champions League goal as Manchester City survived Christopher Nkunku's hat-trick to beat RB Leipzig 6-3 in a pulsating Group A opener on Wednesday.

Grealish admits the lure of playing on the Champions League stage convinced him to leave his boyhood club Aston Villa to join City in a club record £100 million (\$138 million) move in the close-season.

The England winger made the most of his first taste of the tournament's bright lights with a brilliant solo effort in the second half at the Etihad Stadium.

Grealish also set up City's first goal for Nathan Ake with a pinpoint corner.

While City were snubbed by Cristiano Ronaldo when the Portugal superstar opted to join Manchester United, Pep Guardiola believes Grealish is more than ample compensation and this influential display underlined why.

"I loved it. The past few weeks, I couldn't wait for this game," Grealish said.

"I've actually played in the Champions League now and it was amazing - the music and every-



Manchester City's Jack Grealish celebrates scoring against Leipzig (AFP)

thing - and the game just topped it all off.

"When I'm in that position, running into the area I'd back myself one-on-one against anyone and it paid off. It was a great night."

Nordi Mukiele's own goal had doubled City's lead before Nkunku got one back on a memorable personal evening for the French winger.

Riyad Mahrez's penalty made it 3-1 and Nkunku netted again before Grealish's moment of magic.

Nkunku's third was followed by Joao Cancelo's rocket and a red card for

Leipzig's former City defender Angelino.

Gabriel Jesus rounded off the goal-spree as City celebrated Guardiola's 300th game in charge in fitting style.

There was more good news for Guardiola as Kevin De Bruyne impressed in his first game back from the ankle injury which had sidelined him since August 15.

Guardiola insists that last season's Champions League final defeat against Chelsea will serve as the "motor" driving City's challenge this term and they wasted little time seizing pole

position in Group A.

"Leipzig never give up. They play all or nothing," Guardiola said.

"We scored a few minutes after they scored and it helped us a lot."

Leipzig boss Jesse Marsch added: "Whenever we got any momentum, City came up with a response. There were too many individual errors. We weren't good enough against this kind of opponent."

- Grealish shines -

City were ahead in the 16th minute as Grealish's corner found Ake and he rose highest for a powerful header that Peter

Gulacsi tipped onto the crossbar, only to see it bounce down over the goal-line.

City doubled their lead thanks to Mukiele's comical blunder in the 28th minute.

De Bruyne tenaciously eluded three Leipzig players and curled a sublime cross towards Grealish that the panicked Mukiele diverted into his own net as he tried to head back to Gulacsi.

Nkunku punished sloppy defending to give the visitors hope in the 42nd minute.

Ake was guilty of ball-watching as Mukiele

nodded towards Nkunku, who dispatched his header past Ederson.

City hit back in first half stoppage-time when Lukas Klostermann blocked Ferran Torres' header with his out-stretched arm and Mahrez smashed the spot-kick into the top corner.

Their defensive flaws remained alarming and Leipzig reduced the deficit again in the 51st minute.

Dani Olmo's floated cross found Nkunku left unmarked by Ake and he thumped a fierce header past Ederson.

Cutting in from the left, Grealish left Tyler Adams trailing in his wake as he curled a brilliant finish into the far corner in the 56th minute.

Nkunku completed his hat-trick with a predatory close-range strike from a tight angle in the 73rd minute.

But Cancelo quashed any hopes of a Leipzig fightback two minutes later when he grabbed City's fifth with a thunderous drive from 25 yards.

Angelino was dismissed in the 79th minute for a crude foul on Cancelo and Jesus tapped in six minutes later to put the seal on a memorable evening.

AFP

Messi makes first start but PSG held by Club Brugge in Champions League

BRUSSELS

LIONEL Messi finally made his first start for Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday but the disjointed French giants had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Club Brugge in Belgium to begin their Champions League campaign.

Ander Herrera gave PSG an early lead at the Jan Breydel Stadium only for Hans Vanaken to equalise for the home side, who were excellent and thoroughly deserved their point.

Messi -- who had played just 24 minutes as a substitute prior to this game -- is still looking for his first goal for his new club although he hit the bar in the first half and tested Brugge goalkeeper Simon Mignolet after the break before picking up a yellow card for a foul on Mats Rits.

However it was not a convincing performance from the Parisians as coach Mauricio Pochettino lined up his star attacking trio of Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe together for the first time.

"We need time for them to get to know each other," insisted Pochettino of his front three.

Mbappe came off hurt in the second half and PSG, despite building a team with the aim of winning the Champions League, have already complicated their chances just of making it out of a difficult Group A.

They next host Manchester City, the team that eliminated them in last season's semi-finals and who began their campaign with a remarkable 6-3 victory against



PSG were held to a 1-1 draw by Club Brugge as Lionel Messi made his first start for the French side (AFP)

RB Leipzig on Wednesday.

"I am pleased with the effort. It wasn't a great evening for us but we need to stay calm and keep working," said Pochettino.

"The most important thing is to get the necessary time. We will try to do better."

Club Brugge were seen as the likely whipping boys when the draw was made but the Belgian champions are a well-run club with a proud history -- European Cup runners-up in 1978 -- and some excellent players.

"More motivation" - For all the talk of Messi, Neymar and Mbappe - already christened the 'MNM' - for much of this game the most impressive attackers were in the blue and black stripes of the home side.

Captain Vanaken got their goal, while giant young striker Charles De Ketelaere was a constant

threat and Dutchman Noa Lang regularly got in behind Achraf Hakimi on the PSG right.

"We showed we have guts. Real guts," said Brugge coach Philippe Clement.

"My players played a historic game. I am extremely proud. We have proven that physically we are very strong. I

think we just had more motivation."

Pochettino can point to the absences of Angel di Maria and Idrissa Gana Gueye due to suspension as well as the injured Marco Verratti but his team will need to do much better in their coming European outings.

Yet their evening had

started so well, with Mbappe turning Clinton Mata inside out before sending in a low ball from the left for the arriving Herrera to sweep home in the 15th minute.

Forget the superstar strikers, that was the Spanish midfielder's fourth goal in PSG's last four games.

However the home

side were back level before the half-hour mark as Eduard Sobol got in behind Hakimi and cut the ball back for the unmarked Vanaken to finish.

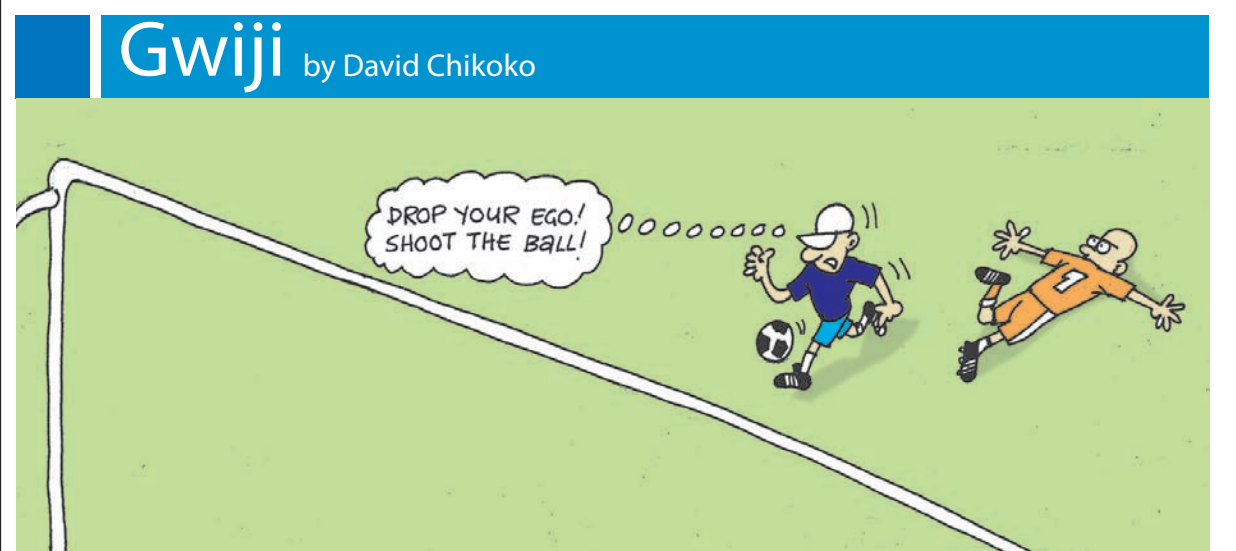
Moments later Messi cracked a curling strike off the crossbar but Keylor Navas -- preferred to Gianluigi Donnarumma in the away goal -- was kept busy saving from a Vanaken free-kick and tipping over a De Ketelaere shot.

Pochettino had to make changes at half-time, replacing midfield duo Leandro Paredes and Georjino Wijnaldum with Danilo Pereira and Julian Draxler.

Mbappe then had to hobble off with a worrying ankle knock just six minutes into the second half.

PSG finished the stronger of the two sides but Mignolet boxed away Messi's shot in the 70th minute and the Argentine blazed another attempt over, as the Belgian fans celebrated the draw as though it were a victory.

AFP



SPORT

Greatish stars as Man City hit Leipzig for six

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilina (r)
16:00 Ujuzi (r)
16:30 #HASTAG
17:00 SSELKI
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 shewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MIAJALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzanite Women Festival gets underway in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE maiden edition Tanzanite Women Festival gets underway today in Dar es Salaam, National Sports Council (NSC) disclosed.

Najaha Bakari, the NSC information officer, said the three-day festival, which is aimed at celebrating the power of women in sports, will be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and Uhuru Stadium.

She said today there will be a symposium and later on, there will be sporting activities.

The NSC information officer said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to be the guest of honour on Saturday at Uhuru Stadium.

"All is set for the maiden Tanzanite Women Sports Festival, tomorrow (today) there will be a symposium and later in the day, there will be sporting activities. We expect President Samia Suluhu Hassan to be the guest of honour on Saturday," she said.

She mentioned some of the activities like sports, business exhibitions, music performances, and other activities.

The NSC official said female musicians including 'Shilole', 'Ruby', Maua Sama, and others, will entertain participants at the festivals, saying it will be more of sports and entertainment.

She said women who did the country proud in various sporting disciplines and sectors will be awarded medals and others cash awards at the festivals.

"As you know the Tanzanite Women Sports Festival is held to honour and recognize women who did the country proud in sports and also those who are still in the sports sector. We have lined up several entertainment activities which will be performed by women artists," she said.

She said there will be several sporting activities which include women football, netball, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, and games binging together able-bodied players, jumping, tug-of-war, athletics, and boxing," she said.

The NSC information officer said the festivals, which will be held annually, are aimed at showing the world women's competence in social and economical sectors.

The NSC Acting Secretary-General, Neema Msitha, is heading the organizing committee which is made up of women of substance drawn from various sectors in the country.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) secretary-general, Lukelo Wililo, said his body will be represented by two women boxing teams namely JKT and Ngome which will be involved in three bouts.

He said there will also be professional boxing bouts while Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) chairperson, Devatha Marwa, said they will be represented by JKT Mweni and Uhamiaji netball teams.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) head of the technical committee, Michael Washa, said they will be represented by teams from national security services and plans are underway to feature female pupils and students who performed well in this year's national inter-primary schools games and inter-secondary schools games which were held in Mtwara.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC), through its secretary-general Ramadhan Namkoveka said they have received an invitation letter from NSC and they expect Mwanaidi Ngitu, who is the first female para-athlete to represent the country at Paralympics, and Sauda Njopeka who competed in the just ended Tokyo Paralympics to take part at the festival.

Mwanaidi and Sauda so far are the female Para athletes who have represented the country in Paralympic Games in the women's category.

National sports associations of volleyball, basketball, and football could not be reached to issue names of their teams that will take part in the event.

Yanga faces uphill task in 2021 CAF Champions League preliminary round return leg



Tanzania's Yanga midfielder, Feisal Salum (L), negotiates his way past Nigeria's Rivers United FC defender when the sides met in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round's first leg match, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, faces an uphill battle progressing past the opening hurdle of their 2021/22 CAF Champions League campaign after suffering a 1-0 defeat in the first leg of their first-round tie against Rivers United FC of Nigeria last weekend.

Failure to deal with a set piece allowed the Nigerian representatives to capitalize and score.

A goal from the head of Moses Omodumuke, who was at the end of an assist from Auwal Ali Malam ten minutes after the restart, was enough to secure a first-leg lead for the visitors.

Yanga is competing in their first CAF Champions League since the 2019/20 season after finishing second in the 2020/21 Mainland Tanzania Premier League campaign.

The club could have easily conceded three times after

showcasing a below-par display in the first half.

Their first shot on target came late in the last ten minutes of the match highlighting how impotent the team was against the Nigerians.

At the back where Dickson Job partnered captain Bakari Mwamnyeto, while Shomari Kibwana and Adeyem Salehe started on the fullbacks positions.

Yanga still struggled to clear their lines properly, making several school-boy errors at the back.

Rivers United FC seemed to lack a proper striker otherwise they would be leading at halftime.

Rivers United FC's dominance was aided by winning the midfield battle.

Yanga's midfield pair of Mukoko To-

nombe and Zawadi Mauya was not in its element.

The midfielders could not break down the Nigerians' attack and added no value when Yanga were attacking.

It was porous and allowed the visitors to control the tempo of the game.

The battle is far from over, but it will take a committed effort, and Yanga taking their chances if they are to bounce back from the setback in the second leg at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium in Port Harcourt on Sunday.

Overtaking a 1-0 deficit is not unthinkable but you have to show character, true grit, and massive heart in doing it away from home.

Perhaps Yanga would have to ask notes from their rivals, Simba SC, which has a bye past the opening

round and showed the way last season by winning in Nigeria against Plateau United.

Soccer followers should not forget that in the build-up to this game, Rivers United FC had to deal with the challenge of losing four key players after the COVID-19 test that was released less than two hours to kick off revealed six members of the team's contingent returned positive.

This means soccer followers will see how much better they are with at least a couple of those players back.

Yanga must alter their approach and be more aggressive if they are to mount a fightback.

While Rivers United FC was fearless, with a confident style of play, building attacks with vision and dangerous passes, Yanga was the complete opposite despite playing in familiar environments.

Yanga's technical bench under head coach, Mohamed Nabi, understands that they have a very difficult job on their hands now and, if they approach Sunday's game in the same way, they will have real problems.

The form is not on Yanga's side either. Nabi's men have now lost two of their international matches recently.

Luckily for Yanga, only one goal separates both sides, and if the Dar es Salaam team strikes first there will be some doubts creeping into the minds of the Nigerians who are likely to approach the game with an air of superiority after their exploits in the first leg.

Belief and defensive stability and attacking edge would be fundamental to Yanga's chances against a highly motivated host side that would look to repeat their last season's feat of thrashing South African counterparts, Bloemfontein Celtic, 3-0 to advance with a 5-0 aggregate score.

Taifa Stars rise three places in FIFA rankings

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, has jumped three places to 132th in the latest world rankings released by FIFA yesterday.

Tanzania amassed 21 points after a 3-2 victory against Madagascar and a 1-1 draw against DR Congo in their 2022 World Cup Qualifiers early this month.

Taifa Stars traveled to DR Congo on September 2 and settled for a one-all draw after Simon Msuva canceled Dieumeri Mbokani's goal in the first half.

Then they hosted Madagascar on September 7 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam and won 3-2 to go top of Group J.

Taifa Stars, under head coach Kim Poulsen, will seek to climb even further when they face Benin in a doubleheader next month.

Benin climbed to 82nd after claiming victory against Madagascar and a draw against DR Congo.

Other Group J opponents, DR Congo, and Madagascar are now ranked 67th and 100th respectively.

Meanwhile, Uganda is still the top-ranked East African region, despite falling to 86th place after goalless draws against neighbours, Kenya, and Mali.

At the continental level, Senegal is up one place to 20th in the world to make them an outright top-ranked African nation.

Senegal 'Teranga Lions' move comes on the back of their 3-1 victory over Congo Republic and 2-0 win over Togo



Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

in World Cup Qualifiers.

Tunisia, which is the second-placed African nation, moved three places up to position 28th after they defeated Zambia 2-0 in Qatar 2022 World Cup Qualifiers.

On the global scene, Belgium re-

mained the top-ranked side, followed by Brazil.

European champions, Italy, on a record unbeaten international run of 37 matches, are fifth with Argentina settling for the sixth spot.

Third place equals England's high-

est ranking in 2012. Gareth Southgate's side lost on penalties to Italy in the Euro 2020 final at Wembley in July and were World Cup semi-finalists in Russia in 2018. France went out of Euro 2020 in the round of 16.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

