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Stakeholders deliberate on prevalence surveys on aflatoxins

By Henry Mwangonde

STAKEHOLDERS in the agriculture sector have proposed measures to reduce the prevalence of aflatoxins in maize to guarantee food security.

Speaking at a private sector awareness forum on food security and safety standards for maize, they aired the need for investment in research and information generation on the prevalence of aflatoxins on a regular basis and assess contamination levels over a wide area in all agro-ecological zones.

Geoffrey Kirenga, the Chief Executive Officer for the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) said that this effort will enable the use of appropriate interventions for managing the occurrence of aflatoxins in maize and other crops.

The country must make use of available experts in developing policy frameworks related to aflatoxins management, plus the dissemination of relevant information to stakeholders.

Collaborative efforts in creating awareness at all levels of commodity value chains is necessary, he said, urging that the government puts in place incentives for production and dissemination of available technologies," he said.

On why there is high prevalence of aflatoxins, stakeholders said there is lack of incentives for complying with standards, citing large maize processors and small scale processors being given the same regulatory treatment.

Weak regulatory enforcement on issues to do with food safety issues also needs to be addressed, participants noted.

Locally grown maize is reputed to have levels of aflatoxins partly due to low awareness about such prevalence, as part of the wider economic problem of impact of such poisons at all levels of the food crops value chain, participants affirmed.

In his remarks, the director for food security in the Ministry of Agriculture Honest Kessy who represented the minister, Prof Adolf

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Govt faults March-April Treasury disbursements

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has suspended an internal auditor in the Treasury, an assistant auditor and several other officials pending investigations into suspected misuse of public funds.

The premier also directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Director General Salum Hamduni to investigate the matter, with the suspended officials be entitled for reinstatement at work should the investigations prove their innocence.

This directive was given when premier Treasury employees in the capital on Thursday, where the Permanent Secretary and deputy permanent secretaries also attended.

The premier said that PCCB reports shows that on March 13 this year about 30 vouchers to pay out 251m/- were issued as special payments without indicating what kind of work it was and who was being paid.

On the same day 198.8m/- was issued as honoraria payments while on April 8, about 27 Treasury officials were paid 44.5m/- as allowance for special work for four weeks," he said, noting that on April 13 about 155.2m/- was paid to 68 officials as allowance for a three-week "special assignment."



Dr Prosper Mgaya (L), the National Institute of Transport's deputy rector (Academic, Research and Consultancy), briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in Dodoma city yesterday on the innovative way the Dar es Salaam-based institute has devised of 'blocking' vehicle lights at intersections of railways and roads in a bid to forestall crashes. This was at the ongoing second education and vocational training exhibition. Photo: PMO

Samia accepts key role at UN Women gender meet

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday reaffirmed the government's commitments towards making Tanzania achieve the 50/50 gender threshold in leadership in the current phase, as part of implementing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number five, focusing on gender equality and women empowerment.

President Samia staked out this position at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday in a conversation with the United Nations Undersecretary General and the chief executive of UN Women, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Despite the fact that Tanzania has not reached the 50/50



threshold in leadership, the government shall work to ensure that the goal is achieved during her leadership, a State House statement affirmed.

While not attaining the 50/50 gender threshold, Tanzania

has surpassed the Southern African Development Community (SADC) target of having at least 30 per cent of women in decision making organs, she affirmed.

Goal number five of the 2030 SDGs that affirms the importance of women's equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and other spheres of public life.

President Samia also thanked UN women for supporting Tanzania during the Covid-19 pandemic and its efforts to promote women endeavours in the country.

The UN top official applauded the president for supporting women issues, underlining that UN Women will continue

support these efforts, while inviting the president to attend a global gender conference salted for France at the end of next month, to survey the implementation of goals agreed during the 1995 Beijing Conference where Tanzania held the chairmanship of the conference, with Ambassador Getrude Mongella.

Ahead of the conference, countries will take up six areas of detailed involvement where President Samia has agreed to be leader in the economic rights group of countries.

Dr Phumzile was equally re-cognizant of the Tanzanian private sector for agreeing to work with the government to promote gender equality in bringing about development.

“What happened undermines our faith in the Treasury,” he declared, hinting that there are other problems in the area of transferring funds and the procedure for transferring money, “and then you are going to pick it up where you have transferred it

The premier elaborated that on April 30 the sum of 43.9m/- was paid for preparation of an environmental management plan while on the same day about 14.4m/-

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Ministry 'defends' rogue jumbos on farm rampages

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

INCIDENTS of elephants threatening the well being of villagers in various areas by rampaging farms and even attacking individuals do not arise from an increase in the number of elephants, the government has declared.

Mary Masanja (pictured), Deputy Minis-



ter for Natural Resources and Tourism, told the National Assembly here yesterday that the number of jumbos in Tanzania is currently lower than it was 10 years ago when the conflicts were fewer.

In 2009 there were 134,000 elephants but due to poaching the number plummeted to 43,000 by 2014 and in 2020, the number had climbed steadily to around 60,

000 - less than half the number in 2009.

This affirmation was presented to MPs after some of them had complained that there were too many elephants this they invade villages and destroy farms, raising the threat of famine in some areas.

"Elephants know nothing about family

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Ministry 'defends' jumbos on rampaging in farms

FROM PAGE 1

planning; what are you doing to control them?" asked Boniface Getere (Bunda).

The deputy minister responded that the farming population was now larger than it was earlier, thus it was encroaching wild-life corridors and sanctuaries.

One reason for invasion of farms was that herders who take cattle into national parks who have been dipped in medicated water to kill bugs and other parasites. The smell of these drugs disturbs elephants who wander into nearby areas thus feeding on crops, she said.

The animals are also aware of migratory corridors in search of pastures or water, and the memory lasts even after decades, she stated.

"Unfortunately, humans speak loudly and blame the animals for their own mistakes, sending the wrong message that the animals have overgrown in numbers and should now be checked."

On Monday, the deputy minister advised communities living

near national parks, game reserves and conservancies to ring-fence their homes and farms with pepper plant as well as beehives to deter wild animals especially elephants.

The advice came after Mtama MP Nape Nnauye asked if the government is ready to work with communities near protected areas to plant pepper which reports show discourage animals from entering farms and homes.

The deputy minister affirmed that the ministry is implementing the national human-wildlife conflict management strategy for 2020-2024 which seeks to end encounters between people and large herbivores leading to deaths and destruction of properties.

"It is not only humans that suffer in these conflicts. There are reported cases where humans revenge these attacks by killing wild animals, leading to unnecessary loss of natural resources," she added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with UN Women executive director Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (L), who is also UN Under Secretary General, at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

'Netherlands to spend US\$37m on agribusiness project in East Africa'

By Special Correspondent

THE Netherlands Development Organisation SNV has announced plans to spend US \$30million for the implementation of a climate change resilient agribusiness project in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Geoffrey Isote, monitoring officer for the project in

central zone confirmed the report and said that the project, which started in July 2018, up to May 2023 was being implemented in Southern Highlands Zone comprising Iringa, Katavi, Mbeya and Songwe regions and in the central zone which consists of Dodoma and Singida regions. Around 100,000 farmers

will be projected to be reached during the five-year implementation period.

"Our main target is to improve the value chain in millet, Irish potatoes, sunflowers and beans. We are actually targeting the peasant, especially the low income, to move from subsistence farming to productive agriculture by

increasing his/her income using a small area to harvest more crops of high quality," said Isote.

Samson Msigwa, who is implementing the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project on millet in Mkalama and Manyoni districts in Singida region, said his company decided to chip in after

realizing that the demand for the crop was greater than the supply from the farmers.

"Agriculture is essential to the economies of East African countries. Climate change, with its effects on temperature and precipitation, threatens this important economic activity," said Msigwa.

Govt faults March-April Treasury disbursements

FROM PAGE 1

paid out for Women's Day celebrations. Another 43m/- was paid on the same day, bringing total disbursements on that day to 101.8m/-.

The premier similarly underlined that on May 1, a total of 184m/- was paid and on the same day in the afternoon 264m/- was paid for "special work. We were at Mwanza celebrating Labour Day, while you are here paying each other allowances," he charged.

Similarly, on May 3 another 145.6m/- was paid out for preparation of "special work plan" which is supposed to fall among daily duties of the ministry, while 171.2m/- was paid on the same day for preparation of parliamentary documents.

Another 155m/- was paid out as allowance for preparation of work guidelines, the premier noted, insisting that Treasury offi-

cialists charged with collecting taxes need to build trust and do their work diligently.

He cautioned those who will continue to misuse public funds that stern actions will be taken against them.

"What happened undermines our faith in the Treasury," he declared, hinting that there are other problems in the area of transferring funds and the procedure for transferring money, "and then you are going to pick it up where you have transferred it."

On March 28, President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered an investigation into the way development funds were disbursed and spent in the third quarter of the current financial year (January-March 2021), directing the CAG and the PCCB offices to conduct an audit on how development monies were utilised in the past three months. Most of the funds were held in accounts at the Bank of Tanzania.

The president vowed to continue with the spirit of shaking up slothful bureaucracy and dealing with corrupt executives, deepening previous measures in regard to port authorities where a 3.6bn/- expenditure /eury was raised towards the end of last year.



special work. We were at Mwanza celebrating Labour Day, while you are here paying each other allowances

Aflatoxins: Private stakeholders want prevalence surveys

FROM PAGE 1

Mkenda at the forum, said there has been an increase in maize production in recent years, while the government has a national programme to fight aflatoxins.

"But there is need for collaboration from all stakeholders," he asserted to the forum organized by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) in collaboration with the ministry. For his part TPSF Executive Director Francis Nanai said the forum was a response to the need to improve the quality of farmers' produce

to capture the regional market.

The forum was intended to build a common understanding among stakeholders from the private sector, affiliated associations and government institutions on the quality and improvement required so as to bring success to the maize sub-sector.

"Expectations of TPSF and stakeholders in the maize sub-sector focus on conducting a survey on the prevalence of aflatoxins where farmers and traders can help protect produce against such poison," he added.



North Pemba regional commissioner Salama Mbarouk Khatib (R) hands over the Uhuru Torch to her Tanga counterpart, Adam Malima, shortly after the team racing it landed at Tanga airport yesterday from Zanzibar. Its 'leg' in the Isles completed, the annual race has begun the marathon Mainland one. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Kenya's Covid cases exceed 170,000 as death toll rises

NAIROBI

Kenya on Friday recorded 344 more COVID-19 infections from a sample of 4,864 tested in the last 24 hours.

This placed the positivity rate at 7.1 per cent, the number of confirmed cases since the first one last March at 170,041 and the tally of tests carried out since then at 1,801,449.

In a statement to the press, the Health ministry said the youngest of the new patients was two months old and the oldest 98 years. Kenyans numbered 366 and foreigners

16 whereas 226 were male and 156 female.

In terms of case distribution by county, Nairobi County accounted for 77, Siaya 68, Kisumu 53, Mombasa 14, Bungoma 13, Busia and Uasin Gishu 12 each, Nakuru and Homa Bay 11 each, Kisii nine and Garissa eight.

Kiambu and Nyeri counties recorded seven new infections each, Embu six, Murang'a five, Makueni four, Kericho three, Baringo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kirinyaga, Kitui, Trans Nzoia and Turkana two each, and West Pokot, Elgeyo Marakwet, Kakamega,

Mandera, Meru, Migori, Machakos, Nandi, Narok and Taita Taveta one each.

Health minister Mutahi Kagwe further announced 16 more deaths, all of them late reports confirmed after the audit of facility in the last one month, pushing the toll to 3,124.

Mr Kagwe also reported that 30 more patients had recovered from the disease, three of them under home-based care and 27 in hospital, raising the total to 116,018.

By Friday, a total of 1,188 patients had been admitted to health facilities countrywide while 4,712 were under

the home-based isolation and care.

Of those in hospital, 107 were under intensive care, 20 of them on ventilator support, 63 on supplemental oxygen and 24 under observation.

Another 86 patients were separately on supplemental oxygen, 80 of them in general wards and six in high dependency units.

In terms of vaccination, a total of 966,433 persons had taken the jab by Friday, among them 292,767 people aged 58 years and above, 165,151 health workers, 151,995 teachers and 81,729 security officers.



Crossing Mpiji River via this narrow wooden bridge connecting Bagamoyo District's Mapinga and Kiembeni wards with Mbweni in suburban Dar es Salaam calls for caution and a strong will. Residents of the areas have appealed to the government to put up a more reliable bridge. Correspondent Miraji Msala captured the scene yesterday.

Tanzania to complete electricity connection in all villages by next year, declares ministry

By Songa wa Songa, Dodoma

NEARLY 2,000 villages that have no electricity will be connected to the national grid by the end of next year, parliament heard yesterday.

Stephen Byabato, deputy minister for Energy, told the House that a total of 1,974 villages have no power but was quick to add that contractors were either already on site or heading there.

He said the current electrification projects implemented through the Rural Energy Agency (REA) is set to connect the remaining villages by December 2022.

"I assure you honourable members that the remaining villages will be connected within 18 months," he said. Byabato said REA has already mapped the unconnected villages and engaged contractors who have been tested and passed, saying he was confident they will deliver within the stipulated timeline.

The assurance from the Deputy Minister came after some MPs complained that development activities in their constituencies were being impaired by lack of electricity.

"I have an entire ward without electricity and there is no sign that it will be connected soon," said Miraji Mtaturu-Singida East (CCM).

"The contractor engaged to connect the remaining villages in your constituency is very competent; don't worry," replied the deputy Minister.

The assurance to connect the remaining villages comes amid efforts to add value to agricultural produce, fisheries as well as livestock products. Electricity is key to value addition for which energy is necessary.

REA has been implementing its strategic plan for 2016/17 - 2020/21 which articulates the mandate, vision and mission, including strategies and activities that need to be carried out to reach the planned objectives.

It provides a logical sequence for systematically implementing the mandate of the agency by responding to national socio-economic policies and programmes embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainable Energy for All - Country Action Agenda, National Electrification Investment Prospectus, Energy Sector Reform Strategy, Tanzania Development Vision 2025 (TDV2025), the second National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/17-2020/21, and the National Energy Policy, 2015.

WB endorses three projects worth \$875m for Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank has approved three projects with a combined financing of US\$875 million to Tanzania from the International Development Association (IDA).

According to a statement issued yesterday, the support is meant to improve rural road access and employment opportunities, strengthen the learning environment and alignment of priority education programs with the labor market at selected higher education institutions, and increase access to high quality broadband internet services in the country.

"Approval of the three projects reflects the World Bank's strong support to Tanzania," said Hafez Ghanem, Regional Vice President for the World Bank.

"We want to continue and even strengthen our partnership with Tanzania in its efforts to fight poverty and ensure a better living standard for its people. Investments supported by the three projects will help accelerate growth as they expand access to economic opportunities, especially for women and youth."

"The experiences of successfully transitioning economies have shown that strong human capital is fundamental for long-term growth and the development of an economically secure middle class," said Mara Warwick, World Bank Country Director. "These projects prioritize such investments, which will enable households at all income levels in Tanzania to benefit from growth."

The financing supports the following projects—the Roads to Inclusion and Socioeconomic Opportunities project (RISE, \$300M) will give more Tanzanians in rural areas access to roads in good condition to enable them to access services and economic opportunities.

RISE will upgrade roads with climate resilient approaches in six rural districts across four regions - Geita, Tanga, Lindi and Iringa - promoting a sustainable model for routine maintenance, removing bottlenecks that inhibit the improvement of rural roads, and incorporating people-centered community engagement approaches. RISE will also generate around 35,000 civil works jobs, including 19,000

community-based routine maintenance contracts involving rural communities, with at least 20 percent of these jobs held by women.

The project will also assist in laying the foundation for a greater level of ambition for inclusive sustainable rural road asset management in Tanzania.

Higher Education for Economic Transformation project (HEET, \$425M) aims to strengthen the learning environment, ensure greater alignment of priority degree programs to labor market needs, and improve the management of the higher education system.

HEET will achieve its objective by (i) strengthening and building the capacity of 14 public higher education institutions in both Mainland and Zanzibar to become high quality centers of learning, focusing on areas with the greatest potential for growth over the coming decade; and (ii) enhancing the management of the higher education system through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and subsidiary agencies. Among the key results, participating universities will add or

modernize over 260 academic programs within priority areas, with over 100,000 students benefiting from direct interventions to enhance learning.

The Digital Tanzania Project (DTP, \$150M) will increase access to high quality broadband internet services for government, businesses, and citizens, and improve the government's capacity to deliver digital public services.

This will be achieved through four components: (i) the digital ecosystem: strengthening the laws, policies, regulations, institutional capacity, and human capacity needed to promote ICT infrastructure investment, market competitiveness, digital engagement, job creation, and innovation; (ii) digital connectivity: ensuring access to affordable, high-quality internet services for all citizens, including in rural areas, and for critical government institutions; and (iii) digital platforms and services: building the technical capacity, skills, institutions, and local digital infrastructure for the government to deliver services to citizens and conduct its own business digitally.

By the end of DTP's implementation,

more than 75 percent of Tanzania's population will be covered by a mobile broadband network signal (3G or higher); some 425 government ministries, departments and agencies will benefit from broadband internet service; and a minimum of 40 percent of citizens (aged 15 and above) will be able to use the internet. The number of monthly transactions accessing a public service via internet or a mobile phone will increase from 200,000 to at least 500,000.

The World Bank's IDA established in 1960, helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives.

IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa.

Resources from IDA bring positive change to the 1.6 billion people who live in IDA countries. Since 1960, IDA has supported development work in 113 countries. Annual commitments have averaged about \$21 billion over the last three years, with about 61 percent going to Africa.



Shinyanga Regional Police Commander ACP Debora Magiligimba (R) shows journalists in Shinyanga municipality yesterday what she said were forged Tanzania People's Defence Forces documents used by a suspected criminal - a teacher - and two other people to obtain money by false pretence. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Minister suspends 4 workers for alleged misuse of abattoir funds

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Ummy Mwalimu has suspended four workers of Shinyanga municipality pending an investigation into alleged misuse of funds for the construction of an abattoir.

The workers who have been suspended include an economist for the municipality Gwakisa Mwakyeba, Tito Kagize, engineer Kasimu Thadei and head of procurement Godfrey Mwangairo.

Speaking during her tour to inspect various projects in the region the minister smelled a rat in the implementation of the project after receiving information about the project from municipal director Geoffrey Mwangulumbi.

After the information, the minister said there was an indication that there was misuse and decided to suspend the four workers.

The minister said she knew about the project via the Controller and Auditor General saying she was surprised that those responsible were not punished.

"I will not touch on the executive director because you are appointed by the president but I will suspend the four staff under your office for two weeks

pending investigations," she said.

The minister went on to say there are other workers who have been transferred from Shinyanga and directed that they should be brought to answer charges of corruption.

Minister Mwalimu said the cost for the project was 5.7bn/- and that up to now about 5.1 has been consumed.

For his part, the executive director for Shinyanga Godfrey Mwangulumbi said when giving information to the minister that earlier, the cost for the project was 5.9bn/- but it has been reduced to 5.5bn/- saying 600m/- was still available.

The Regional commissioner for Shinyanga Dr Philemon Sengati said his office was aware of the workers and that it will work on the matter and submit it in two weeks as required.

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Coalition: Extend to journalists preferential treatment in COVID-19 vaccinations

By Correspondent Ziada Kilobo

INFORMATION, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Innocent Bashungwa has made a commitment to take stakeholders' recommendations on treating journalists as front-line workers to the special national committee on efforts to combat Covid-19.

Addressing a Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) delegation which paid him

a courtesy call in Dodoma on Thursday, he said the request was within the committee's framework and he would take up the matter for the committee's consideration.

The delegation has proposed that journalists should be given priority during Covid-19 vaccinations at institutional level.

The minister's reaction was well received by the media stakeholders, who noted that the public would not be starved of informa-

tion as journalists would continue to focus on gathering and dissemination of news instead of worrying of contracting Covid-19 while on duty.

CoRI chairperson Kajubi Mukajanga, who is also Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) executive secretary, said that a number of countries including some East African Community partner states, have started treating journalists as frontliners alongside doctors,

nurses and members of law-enforcement organs in the administration of Covid-19 vaccines. Tanzania Editors Forum chairman Deodatus Balile concurred, pointing out that it was important to treat journalists as frontliners deserving priority consideration with respect to the vaccinations.

He cited Rwanda, where journalists constituted 10 per cent of those vaccinated in the very first group.



Visibly RELIEVED & DELIGHTED: Livestock and Fisheries minister Dr Mashimba Ndaki (L) shares a light moment with senior officials with the ministry at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after the House approved the ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2021/2022. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Swedish govt set to provide 120bn/- for TASAF household programmes

By Guardian Reporter

THE Swedish government is set to provide 120bn /- to support households programmes managed by Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

Swedish state secretary for international development cooperation Janine Ericson said yesterday moments after she visited beneficiaries of the programme to rescue poor households at Kivule Majohe, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam.

She said that in the first phase of TASAF which ended last year, her government provided 200bn/-. "But, in this phase we plan to contribute 120bn/- and we'll release them within the next few days," said Ericson.

She said they are encouraged to contribute to the initiative because they have witnessed how it helps change the lives of low-income citizens.

"As the Swedish government, we're encouraged to continue contributing to this programme because we have seen its fruits, we have been visiting the beneficiaries, listening to them how they were living a miserable life before the programme, but now their lives have changed dramatically," she said.

"We want to see a large number of low-income citizens get out of poverty, we want to see their children get all the basic services

and live a better life."

TASAF Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga, said the initiative has significantly helped improve the lives of the beneficiaries and that the 1992 beneficiaries have voluntarily resigned after making a living as a result of the program.

"In fact, up to this point we are grateful to God, this program has shown great impact especially for the beneficiaries, there are those who have graduated and voluntarily left the program after seeing that they can now stand on their own, swear by their peers is a great achievement," he said.

"We have always been educating them that, when they are assisted by the program, they should also learn how to run small projects and save and that's what they have been doing, and we suspect that they have reached the point of seeing where they are good."

Mwamanga said they have also given a few months to more than 2000 beneficiaries who are also required to leave the program after their lives improve.

One of the beneficiaries from the Kondeni group, which is made up of women in the program for savings and entrepreneurship activities, Tausi Salumu, said TASAF has freed them from a sense of inadequacy and they have now made great strides through entrepreneurship groups.

Switch to conservational agriculture to improve productivity, farmers told

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

FARMERS have been advised to switch to conservational agriculture (CA) to increase productivity hence contributes significantly to the country's economic development.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) manager for Technology Insemination, Commercialization and Partnerships, Margaret Mchomvu made the call when speaking to maize and legumes growers during farmer's field day organized by TARI-Kifyulilo center located in Udumuka Village, Kasanga Ward, Mufindi District, Iringa Region.

She said that the time has come for farmers and espe-

cially in regions with good land like Iringa to focus on research information on running agriculture instead of practicing traditional farming, urging them to move away from subsistence farming because now agriculture is a business and it is a job creator, so there is no need to worry about employment when someone can plant an acre of beans and harvest eight to ten bags of beans by planting two buckets of beans.

Mchomvu emphasized that there is no reason for farmers to be poor when there is good land, but the secret behind is to use new agricultural technologies to increase productivity, increased income, nutrition and food security in households and the nation as a whole.

She said that the TARI is ready to ensure that agriculture in Tanzania changes as one farmer changes and Tanzania changes, so farmers have to produce more agricultural raw materials as our country moves towards a middle industrial economy.

Mchomvu added that farmers are required to produce raw materials to feed those industries that will be brought by investors, and urged farmers in the country to use technologies and techniques favored by agricultural experts as well as an agricultural research institute to increase productivity and ultimately increase income, nutrition, and food security in households and the nation as a whole.

She said that the govern-

ment has a strategy to invite investors to come and invest in these agricultural industries, so the responsibility of producing raw materials for feeding these industries belongs to farmers.

"Investors are coming to invest in agricultural industries but they will not come with the raw materials themselves, so we want them to invest in the industry but we as farmers produce the raw materials for the industry. We have to produce productively using agricultural technologies and TARI is ready to teach technology and modern farming," said Mchomvu.

TARI has set aside between 7.35bn/- and 11.63bn /- to help increase access to and use of quality seeds for farmers.

Mufindi District Commis-

sioner Jamhuri William, who was represented by Mufindi District Administrative Secretary (DAS), Silvi Ndumbalo said that the importance of research in developing agriculture, the government through the budget of the ministry of agriculture has increased budgetary impetus from 7.3 billion shillings to 11.6 billion.

He said that at present the world is facing the challenge of climate change and is a hindrance to agricultural activities thus leading to various celebrations including the PARIS initiative, focusing on the use of environmentally friendly technology.

Ndumbalo said that in doing so, TARI agricultural experts have developed conservational agriculture techniques, the technology aims to reduce

agricultural costs, reduce time consumption and not disturb the land, thus leading to productivity and environmental protection.

He thanked TARI-Kifyulilo for organizing Farmers' Day where farmers had the opportunity to learn various agricultural technologies by seeing how experts use technology.

"These agricultural technologies are being developed by our experts to help farmers increase productivity in agriculture and stimulate the growth of the individual farmer's economy and the development of the nation as a whole," said Ndumbalo.

Farmer's Day is one of the platforms used by agronomists in disseminating technologies developed by TARI-Kifyulilo that organized the farmer's

day with the aim of demonstrating, practically teaching the use of conservation agriculture in response to climate change.

Farmers also expressed their gratitude to the TARI-Kifyulilo center for organizing a special farmers' day where they also had the opportunity to practice practical agricultural conservation p in response to climate change.

TARI-Kifyulilo Center Manager Ndashemeyi Mlengera said the centre is facing numerous challenges such as of lack of funds to carry out research activities, climate change affecting research activities, staff shortages such as seed researchers, and lack of internet access due to mobile communication towers which are basically affecting the research activities.



Water minister Jumaa Aweso opens a workshop on research and drilling guidelines in Dodoma city yesterday. He is flanked by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Anthony Sanga (R), and Water Resources director Dr George Lugomela. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

PM urges NACTE to strengthen country's college management

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) to strengthen management and assist colleges to provide quality education that meets the needs of the current and future labor market.

Majaliwa made the directives yesterday when he was opening the second exhibition of education and vocational training at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma.

He said it was the responsibility of the colleges to ensure that they provide quality education to enable their graduates to be competent and meet the needs of the country and also to enable them to be self-employed.

He said that education and vocational training colleges should take advantage of the exhibition to self-assess and evaluate themselves to see how they can provide better education that meets the current needs of the labor market and provide opportunities for young people to become self-employed.

"The National Development Vision 2025 has made it clear that education is a top priority as it is the key to economic change in society."

The premier further said that worldwide vocational education and training and vocational training are known for their significant contribution to the growth of industrial development, economy, and social welfare.

"Colleges and institutions that provide this education must ensure that they provide a quality education that meets the standards and requirements of the current labor market"

He said that the government will continue to put in place policies that provide opportunities for various stakeholders to invest in the education sector and thus, support efforts to bring development to the nation.

According to him, the government recognizes and appreciates the significant contribution made by public and private institutions that provide Education and Vocational Training in the country.

"Therefore, I call on all stakeholders to join hands with the Government to invest in the provision of Education and Vocational Training in various fields," he said.

Minister for Education, Science, and Technology Prof. Joyce Ndlichako said that the Ministry will continue to ensure that it provides vocational training education by focusing on the market needs of the relevant period and preparing the youth for the future.

Chairperson of the NACTE Governing Council, Prof. John Kondoro said that they will work with colleges, vocational training institutions, and other stakeholders to oversee the provision of training and ensure that vocational education and training is provided with quality to meet the needs of the domestic and foreign labor market.



The National Development Vision 2025 has made it clear that education is a top priority as it is the key to economic change in

Govt to track down pregnant women from first clinic visit to delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is expected to come up with a system to track down pregnant women from the first time they visit a clinic to 42 days after giving birth.

The Minister for Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima made the remarks when she was speaking to health workers in preparation for formulating the system.

According to the minister the system aims at

having data on how many of them visit clinics and the services they receive.

"I want us to have the correct information on their first clinic visits but also various information on their progress up the day of delivery so that it becomes easy to track down and address challenges that arise," she said.

The minister said for the country to have a working system, there is need to have correct data, saying therefore that it was the duty of health workers to ensure the data is corrected the way it is needed.

Minister Gwajima said the government was doing everything possible to fight maternal deaths which includes establishment of various campaigns to control mother to child deaths.

She said the government has been constructing various health centres and dispensaries which has increased the desire for women to visit clinics. The minister said still there was need for more education to ensure the education reaches out to women so that they visit clinics earlier as earlier most deaths were caused by lack of proper follow-up of their health.



Policy Forum's Tax Justice Working Group Position Statement on the 2021/2022 National Budget 'Upholding Good Governance Principles for Effective Public Resources Management.'

1. Preamble

We, the members of the Tax Justice Working Group (TJWG), an initiative of 13 member organizations within Policy Forum (PF) advocating for fairness in taxation;

Having met virtually and physically since the release of the 2021/22 budget statement by the Minister of Finance and Planning in March 2021, and having consulted a number of relevant policy documents and reports on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) and Public Resources Management in relation to the National budget 2021/22 are;

Grateful of the consistent emphasis by Her Excellency Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania on tax justice and fair taxation of all entities; both local and foreign Investors in an effort to maximize domestic revenues while reducing reliance on foreign aid;

Appreciating the good intent and obvious efforts by the Tanzanian Government in clamping down enormous forms of actions and behaviours that cause revenue leakages while widening the tax base, tackling corruption, modernising revenue collection methods to enhance timely revenue collection;

Concerned about the shocking news on the revenue loss and expenditure mismanagement by various public entities as reflected in the 2019/20 Controller and Auditor General's (CAG) report while the Minister of Finance and Planning is determined to once again raise domestic revenues from TZS 24.1 Trillion in 2020/21 to 26 TZS trillion in 2021/22;

Cognizant of the obvious fact that Effective Public Resources Management is essential for the realization of public goods and reliable social services as well as basic infrastructure for national development;

Solemnly aware of the irrefutable fact that transparency, accountability, People's participation, Rule of Law and Democracy which are an integral part of the Principles of Good Governance must be observed to avoid revenue loss and maintain standard public services and proper management of public resources;

Therefore, we hereby present our position statement providing our views on the current situation on revenue collection and associated leakages, governance gaps, Government efforts and finally suggested policy and associated recommendations on how Good Governance can maximize DRM, sustainable and efficient utilization of public resources while curbing revenue leakages and misuse of public resources.

2. Revenue Collection & Expenditure

2.1: Revenue Collection

The national budget for the year 2021/22 has seen an increase of 4% rising to TZS. 36.3 trillion from TZS. 34.9 trillion in 2020/21. This is according to the proposal released on 11th March 2021 by the Minister of Finance and Planning while highlighting the National Plan and Budget ceilings for the financial year 2021/2022. Of the TZS. 36.3 trillion to be mobilized, about 72% of the resources are expected to be collected domestically including both tax and non-tax revenue and revenues from the Local Government Authorities.

While all other sources of funds towards financing the National Budget have been inconsistent from 2016/17 to 2020/21, tax revenue has remained the only source that has seen consistent growth every year. For example, tax revenue rose from TZS. 15.1 trillion in 2016/17 to TZS. 19.9 trillion in 2019/20, which is an increase of 24%. The Tanzania Revenue Authority has made significant progress in revenue collection from collecting an average of TZS. 850 billion in 2015/16 per month to TZS. 1.3 trillion in 2019/20 per month.

Overall, there has been steady progress in revenue mobilisation. During the financial year 2019/20 for example, the Government had planned to collect TZS. 33,105.4 billion. At the end of the year, the Government was able to collect TZS. 31,519.5 billion which is 95% of the target.

Sources of funding from 2016/17 to 2021/22 (all figures in billions)

| | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tax Revenue | 15,105.1 | 17,106.3 | 18,737.0 | 19,866.4 | 21,140.7 | 22,961.5 |
| Non-Tax Revenue | 3,358.4 | 2,870.7 | 2,158.8 | 3,178.9 | 2,924.8 | 3,071.0 |
| Domestic & External | 5,374.3 | 7,763.9 | 8,904.7 | 7,276.4 | 7,939.9 | 7,341.2 |
| Borrowing Grants & Concessional Loans | 5,701.8 | 3,967.1 | 2,676.6 | 2,783.7 | 2,874.4 | 2,885.0 |
| Total Budget | 29,539.6 | 31,708.0 | 32,477.1 | 33,105.4 | 34,879.8 | 36,258.7 |

Despite the observed improvement in revenue generation, reports by the CAG manifest serious mismanagement of public funds by public institutions. For example, the 2020 audit report indicates that seven (7) entities had conducted between 9 and 13 Board meetings during the financial year 2019/20 contrary to Circular No. 12, 2015 of the Treasury Registrar. For instance, TASAC conducted 13 board meetings, TPB Bank, National Housing Corporation (NHC) and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) conducted 11 board meetings. A similar Incident is observed when in 2017/18 the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority spent TZS 1.10 billion to conduct 20 Board meetings and 6 seminars.

To make matters worse, the report by the CAG covering the year 2019/20 portrays low level of implementation of audit recommendations by the CAG and instructions by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Of the 5,483 recommendations given by the CAG for the previous years, the 2019/20 report indicates that only 1,508 (27%) were adequately addressed.

Likewise, PAC being the highest oversight body ought to have been taken seriously when providing instructions to public institutions. However, for the year ending June 2020, the committee had provided a total of 259 instructions to government institutions and only 50% had been adequately addressed.

This calls for deliberate interventions by responsible oversight institutions to ensure the implementation of the recommendations. Oversight institutions should be reminded of the mandate they hold to supervise the duty bearers on behalf of the right holders who are the citizens. Thus have the duty to protect the public funds and combat its misuse as they are a result of the hard work carried out by the citizens aspiring to see that they are effectively managed for the sustainable development of the Nation.

2.2: Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure is key in implementing peoples' priorities as expressed by the Government and Members of Parliament during the budget debate in the National Assembly. The expenditure is expected to be done by following accountability principles and adherence to the National Budget as passed by the Parliament.

For better scrutiny of revenue expenditure, the CAG's Report is key to providing insights on Government Expenditures. This is statutorily stipulated in Article 143 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania and further elaborated by section 10 (1) of the Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008. section 26 to 29 of the Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008.

We have noted with great caution a number of concerns regarding the revenue expenditure by public

institutions which if not well combated will cause adverse effects in the Domestic Resource Mobilisation, an agenda that has been pioneered by the group for a number of years. A few are highlighted below:

Increased number of LGAs with qualified opinion from 9 in 2018/19 to 53 in 2019/2020 as well as the increase of adverse opinion from zero in 2018/19 to 8 in 2019/20. This shows that there is a deterioration of proper usage of public money which will undoubtedly lessen public confidence hence affecting tax collection.

We have further noted that there have been expenditures in public corporations and Government agencies that seem to be done without conducting proper assessment of costs and benefits. For instance, Tanzania Government Flight Agency (TGFA) spent TZS 3.9 billion on repairing an aircraft that has so far failed to operate. Similarly, over the past five years the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has opened 2,256 cases of which only 1,926 have been decided. Amongst the decided cases the Government has won 1,013 cases while losing 913 nearly half of all cases which leads us to question the cost to benefit ratio. It is thus advised that PCCB does more groundwork to proceed with cases that carry substantial evidence, this will lighten the load on the judiciary and prisons system.

Another key issue in Government Expenditure is the lack of proper corporate governance check-ups in public and Government Agencies. This leaves a loophole for inappropriate use of funds as there is no internal oversight. For instance, 30 public corporations lack Board of Directors while 11 corporations did not submit expenditure files for auditing. This is a very serious concern to public funds accountability.

On another note, revenue issued as loans to Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is not recovered accordingly. For instance, 130 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) issued loans amounting to TZS 42.9 billion. Unfortunately, 65% of the loans were not recovered amounting to TZS 27.8 billion. This will eventually decrease the opportunity for more people to access loans.

There are also incidents of non-expenditure of funds given to local governments. For instance, in 2019/20 TZS 10.6 billion from 26 LGAs were not used to implement 55 development projects. Similarly, 40 LGAs in year 2019/20 completed more than 68 development projects in health, water, education and agriculture as well as other sectors. All these amounted to TZS 18.3 billion. Unfortunately, the projects were not in use. For instance, the Bukoba District Hospital cost amounts to TZS 1.80 billion. This denies the provision of intended social services to citizens in need. Thus, there is a need for the Government to question the LGAs as to why they fail to execute their projects on time.

In the year 2019/20, the Government managed to collect 95% of the approved budget but there was an under-release of 46% of approved budgets to development projects. This under-release is not in proportion with the amount collected.

A significant portion of Government expenditure is used in procurement of different goods and services. The procurement for these is governed by laws and regulations. However, in 2019/20 the CAG's report showed red flags of corruption and fraud in procurement and contract management amounting to TZS 1,377.87 billion. Procurement procedures were not adhered to, thus creating an environment of fraud and corruption in the public procurement process.

3. Efforts in Public Resource Management

The financial year 2020/2021 has been unlike any other. With the world reeling from a global pandemic that has struck developed and developing nations alike, there has been a need for new and innovative ways to mobilize resources to meet the needs of the nation as well as to curb the effects brought about by the pandemic. The Tanzanian government has, for the past year, made various efforts to collect revenue and increase sources of income to meet its ever-changing needs. Furthermore, the government has placed efforts in the extractives industry in a bid to realize the benefits of mineral resources.

During his speech to the Parliament on national development and budget for the year 2021/2022, the Minister for Finance & Planning by then, Dr. Philip Mpango, highlighted Tanzania's economic growth putting more emphasis on domestic resource mobilization and the management of the resources realized. This is important as over the past five years the government of the late Dr. John Pombe Magufuli made great effort to modernize infrastructure and this can be seen through the expansion of the nation's transport infrastructure. The financial year 2020/21 was not exceptional, 37% of the budget was dedicated towards development projects including mega projects such as the standard gauge railway, the Julius Nyerere hydro power plant, airport installations and aircraft purchase.

According to the Prime Ministers speech, the multitude of projects as well as funds to operate the government were sourced from various areas, with the government having collected 17.1 trillion Tanzanian shillings from both foreign and domestic sources. Of these, 87.9% was collected from domestic sources such as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) as well as LGAs. Revenue collection, as a part of domestic resource mobilization, was mentioned to have increased remarkably and as a result internal sources of revenue have accounted for the bulk of government expenditure.

The extractive sector has also burgeoned as a source of revenue. The extractive sector has grown over 50% in the past two years, with the Government collecting TZS 307.3 billion worth of revenue from the extractive sector (July 2020/January 2021) as compared to TZS 194 billion collected in the year 2016/2017. Tremendous progress has been made pertaining to public resource management although much is yet to be done.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 We urge Tanzanian policy makers to once again influence mobilization of domestic revenue and make sure principles of Good Governance are upheld for effective Public Resource Management and predictable social services, sustainable growth, economic diversification, social security and inclusive Governance.
- 4.2 Oversight bodies such as the Parliament, Local Government Councils, the National Audit Office of Tanzania (NAOT), the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), PCCB and boards of various Parastatals should ensure accountability and responsiveness of the executive arm of state for effective public resource management.
- 4.3 Ministries Departments and Agencies and Local Government Authorities should implement all recommendations by CAG, the Parliament and Local Government Councils to avoid repeated audit queries.
- 4.4 Appointing authorities should ensure that governing boards of various Parastatals and agencies are timely appointed and oriented on principles of corporate governance.
- 4.5 The Government should reconsider the ratio of recurrent expenditure to development projects expenditure by significantly increasing the ratio of development project expenditure to recurrent expenditure with emphasis placed on the development of basic infrastructure and services such health, education, food and water.
- 4.6 Revenue collection should be done in a more customer friendly manner. The use of threats and coercion by Government officials rather than positive motivation is not a sustainable approach as the citizens remain out of sync with Government resource mobilization efforts.
- 4.7 Scale up implementation of Transparency Enhancing Elements (including giving public the right to review contracts). Transparency is a cornerstone of good governance and is vital in combating corruption in terms of how much companies are paying to government as taxes and royalties.
- 4.8 NAOT needs to establish online auditing scheme for auditing our foreign embassies. This will help overcoming the travel restrictions due to COVID 19 pandemic.

An online version with full references is available on policy forum's website.

Outgoing pan-African court leader wins Samia praises

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has congratulated the outgoing President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Justice Sylvain Oré, on the work being done by the African Court, saying Tanzanian government will continue to cooperate with the African Court.

President Samia made the remarks when she met the outgoing court leader at the State House in Dar es Salaam. Also at the meeting was the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula.

With regards to Tanzania's withdrawal from Article 34(6) which gives direct access for individuals and NGOs to directly engage with the African Court, President Samia Hassan said that Tanzania will review the withdrawal decision but for the time being the withdrawal decision still stands. Tanzania withdrew from Article 34(6) Declaration in November 2019.

According to the official State communication that was released yesterday, the Judge President, Justice Sylvain Oré also used the opportunity to bid farewell to the Tanzania President as his tenure at the Court comes to an end.

Justice Ore's tenure as the Court's Judge President and Judge of the African Court comes to an end on 31 May 2021 after serving the African Court from 2010 when he was first elected.

Justice Sylvain Oré, a national of Côte d'Ivoire, was elected for the first time as Judge of the Court in 2010 for a four-year term and was re-elected in 2014 for a second term of six years.

He was also elected as President of the Court for a two-year term on 5 September 2016 and re-elected for the second term as President in 2018.

The Coalition congratulates both the African Court and the Government of Tanzania for the engagement especially after Tanzania's decision in 2019 to withdraw from the required Declaration under the African Court Protocol and thus limits direct access for individuals and NGOs in Tanzania to file cases before the African Court.

The Coalition would also like to urge the government of Tanzania to reconsider its withdrawal decision to demonstrate in action its support and commitment to the African Human Rights system, especially Tanzania being the host country of the African Court which is the judicial organ of the African Union.



Mtwarra district commissioner Dustan Kyobya (2nd-L) briefs journalists yesterday at the launch of the new sesame auction season in Mtwarra Region. Others include Masasi and Mtwarra Cooperative Union (MAMCU) general manager Potency Rwiza (L) and Mtwarra Rural district executive director Erica Yegela (2nd-R). Photo: Correspondent Abdallah Khamis

Minister admits NARCO failure, asks for more time

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Mashimba Ndaki yesterday admitted that the National Ranching Company (NARCO) has failed to be productive despite various efforts but did not buy the idea of privatizing it.

Winding up his ministry's budget estimates for 2021/22 in the National Assembly, the

minister was at pains in defending the government in holding on to the parastatal which MPs on Thursday recommended be handed over to the private sector.

"It is true that NARCO has not worked out despite various strategies," he said.

"The latest strategy we employed was leasing NARCO farms to private farmers and we leased out 75 per cent and

remained with only 25 per cent but that has not worked too."

However, the minister said that the ministry has decided to undertake a thorough review and analysis of the company and decide what to do with it.

"The aim is to see if it has met the objectives of its establishment and expectations of Tanzanians," he said.

The minister asked for more time for him to sit down with

experts in the ministry, deliberate on the matter and decide on way forward.

But MPs who wanted immediate action and new way forward were not satisfied, with Charles Mwijage—Muleba North (CCM) threatening to hold the shilling.

"There is no need for fresh review and analysis because the results are out there: failure," he said.

"I recommend that this august house debate this matter further."

At this point, Speaker Job Ndugai who is an ardent opponent of NARCO intervened and pleaded with Mwijage not to go that far but give the minister time as he requested.

"But I agree with you that results are known because a number of studies have already been conducted," he said.

"Let's give them time because there are processes to be followed."

He added: "But next year when we met here, do not come with the same language."

In his speech, Ndaki said that as of 30 April 2021, NARCO had a total of 16,725 cattle, 3,307 goats, 3,155 sheep and 31 horses.

Debating the ministry's budget estimates, the lawmakers argued that keeping domestic

animals profitably can only be undertaken by the private sector and not the government.

With unfenced tracks of land with few animals in its 14 farms, the company gets entangled in endless conflicts with resident living near its ranches, the MPs said, arguing that it is time for the government to let it go.

Despite the hot debate, the House passed the ministry's 169.2bn/- budget for 2021/22.



Supposedly freshly harvested maize on sale at open market at Ubungu-Mawasiliano in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the going price ranging between 250/- and 300/- each. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

750 school girls benefit from free sanitary pads

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

A DAR ES SALAAM-based textile firm—Lavy Beaty Ltd has supported 750 students from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar with free sanitary towels as part of marking the World Menstrual Hygiene Day—an annual awareness day on May 28.

The day highlights the importance of good menstrual hygiene management at a global level.

The support came after realizing that many girls from poor families cannot afford sanitary napkins, hence endanger their health by resorting to unhygienic solutions, such as leaves, old cloth, sponges, soil, or feathers.

The firm's executive director Flaviana Matata said a total of 480 pads have been sent to Dodoma and another 270, to Kiembe Samaki Islamic Secondary School students in Zanzibar.

"Everywhere we have our representatives, in Dodoma towels will be handed over to education stakeholders who will distribute them according to need, in Zanzibar they will be handed over to the management of Kiembe Samaki Islamic Secondary," said Flaviana.

She said that she had asked the government to reduce the amount of taxes levied on those towels and, that if possible, the government itself should offer to buy them and distribute them for free. According to her, thousands of Tanzanian school girls miss one and a half school months of class each year due to their menstrual cycles.

School absence lowers girls' academic performance and self-esteem

and widens gender disparities in educational achievements.

"Health experts say that if a girl has a safe menstruation, she can get rid of health problems including inflammation, fungus, and other diseases, so a peaceful and happy menstruation is important," she said.

She however suggested the need to involve boys in gaining menstrual education as co-participants as well as the agent of change. Manager of Marie Stopes Zanzibar, David Mbangi said, in celebration of World Menstrual Hygiene Day, brings together various stakeholders with the aim of raising awareness about menstrual issues.

"This day is also to encourage access to clean water and towels for girls and women, especially those who are vulnerable so that when they enter menstruation, they can feel comfortable and continue to attend classes and other activities as usual," said Mbangi.

He further said the day provides education on safe menstruation which involves a girl/woman getting all her essential needs while she is menstruating.

"The move should go hand in hand with the availability of female towels or pads, so we as an institution have been striving to provide support for such facilities in every celebration," he said.

According to the UN's education agency, one in 10 girls in sub-Saharan Africa misses school during their period.

Some girls reportedly lose 20% of their education, for this reason, making them more likely to drop out of school altogether.



Everywhere we have our representatives, in Dodoma towels will be handed over to education stakeholders who will distribute them according to need, in Zanzibar they will be handed over to the management of Kiembe Samaki Islamic Secondary

TEMESA launches e-ticketing system for Dar ferries

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical, and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) has launched an electronic ticketing system at the Magogoni and Kigamboni ferries in Dar es Salaam to ease transportation and save time.

Speaking at the launching ceremony TEMESA director Japhet Masele said the N-Card will help end congestion at the facility which is mainly caused by the ticketing system.

He said the N-card which uses NPC technology requires a passenger to own it at a cost of 1000/- and will later deposit money into it via

mobile money transfers.

"The services are available at Kigamboni ferries only and efforts are in place to ensure more passengers are given the chance to refund the cards via banks and other financial institutions," he said.

He said currently the systems will be working hand in hand with the old manual ticketing system until when the system will become familiar to passengers.

He said the N-card system has shown success because it has reduced the queue which was the normality at the entrance of the waiting lounge. He said TEMESA has installed two gates at the

entrance and outlet of the facility to ease ticketing at the facility.

"Because this is a new technology in collaboration with our partners, TEMESA has continued to offer education on the use of the card but also where it is available, and how to check the balance of their transport fares," he said.

He added that the new system will ease revenue collection and will go in line with the call by the government to discourage the use of cash.

He said in case of challenges, passengers have been told to contact service providers by calling 0800110150 for free.



Dr Juma Munna, chief medical in-charge at a Ngaramtoni health centre in Arusha Region, takes secondary school through the basics of menstrual hygiene yesterday in marking Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28). Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

African Women Leaders Network crusades for women in leadership

By Francis Kajubi

THE African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) in Tanzania has challenged women taking part in the country's politics to work on having all it takes in tapping emerging opportunities rather than relying on their gender for political mileage and favouritism.

Speaking at the breakfast meeting to welcome the UN Women Executive Director Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka who has visited the country to learn how women matters are being organized politically, economically, and socially in Tanzania, Dr Gertrude Mongella AWLN Tanzania member and Former Secretary-General, Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing said gender equality cannot be achieved if women sit back and wait for cheap favors. According to her, since the country already has a female president, women should not sit back and wait for appointments or positions that are not competent, thus the only way to achieve equality is having the right merits it takes to become a leader.

"What could have been the gender equality status in politics if special seats were not a door for women to get into the law-making organ. Women have to change the mindset of relying on special seats rather than strive to win the positions by competing with men from their political parties to their opponents at the ballot box," said Mongella.

According to Mongella, women who have made it to top political positions within President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government stand a chance to prove that they are holding such positions, not by default or favoritism but merits accompanied by the ability to their duties.

On her part, Lilian Liundi, AWLN member and Executive Director of Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) said that financing for gender equality has been gradually going down calling for development partners to make the matter a priority when it comes to funding social welfare-related programmes. "We are really calling upon the UN Women and other development partners to have a dialogue on the gender equality financing model. Women's agendas need enough funds to push them forward thus we further call for the private sector to see how it can take part in making gender equality a reality," said Liundi.

In her remarks, Mlambo-Ngcuka said that she will be visiting President Hassan at the State House to deliver messages on women-related development matters in the country's political, economic, and social spheres.

"In finding gender equality, we should not leave behind the issue of protecting women from gender discrimination. The digital era we are living in has become a new threat by driving gender violence on social media hence pulling back efforts to achieve societies with respect to women dignity," Mlambo-Ngcuka.

Govt urged to tackle the spread of contagious diseases in schools

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

THE government has been urged to help reduce the rapid spread of contagious diseases among Kuvule annex primary school pupils at Majohe Ward, Ilala District by providing better and safer latrines.

Due to inadequate toilet facilities and in most cases complete absence of latrine in majority of these schools causes many of the children not to practice proper hygiene and sanitation which greatly affects their health.

One of the parents interviewed by this paper said that as a result of this, their children were likely to get communicable diseases like diarrhoea, worms, acute respiratory infections, trachoma and dysentery.

"It does not come to mind to see a school comprising 688 pupils operating without even a single hole of latrine. The situation is really pathetic," he lamented.

Adding that according to the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) the standards for school sanitation

facilities are clearly defined to be latrines with the ratio of one drop hole per 20 girls and one per 25 boys.

Ilala District Education Officer in-charge of Primary schools, Elizabeth Thomas acknowledged that there was no single drop hole in that school because it was newly established. Adding that pupils from Kuvule Annex were allowed to use latrines at Kivule Primary school.

However, a month ago she told this paper that the municipality had already released funds

for that purpose. But yesterday when this paper visited that school there was no sign that indicated that there was construction of latrines going on!

On his side Erick Anderson from Kivule knowledge Centre expressed the fear of persistent health deficiency from pupils as a result of insufficient water supply and lack of hygiene facilities, that is, if the government will not take immediate actions to address the situation.

"The Government needs to take stern measures to improve

the school water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) situation in this school and other schools facing similar situations," he urged. Adding that they should also ensure the construction of latrines which are accessible for children with disabilities.

Nyansika Motena said that after being appointed as the ward councilor of Kivule in November last year, he found some schools including Kivule Annex, in his ward were facing various challenges among which insufficient desks, lack of latrines and short-

age of teachers. Promising that they are working tirelessly towards getting a solution.

"Water project at the school is under construction and it is in its final stages to be completed. I will be meeting with the Ilala Executive District officer among other things to discuss the issue of lack of latrines at the school," he explained.

Reports show that the implementation of the education sector development programme (ESDP) has led to a fast growing school children

population, which in turn has led to the increased demand for WASH facilities.

Other findings have shown that in all primary and secondary schools of Tanzania the water, sanitation and hygiene situation is very poor. As only 11 per cent of the schools surveyed meet the national standard of 20 girls and 25 boys per drop hole while 20 percent of the schools have more than 100 pupils per drop hole and 6 per cent of schools have no latrines at all.

Africa essential for sustainable development, poverty reduction and peace, says UN chief

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA'S rich, diverse cultural and natural heritage, is important for sustainable development, poverty reduction, and "building and maintaining peace", the UN chief has said when marking the international day in the continent.

"This year's Africa Day highlights arts, culture and heritage as levers for building the Africa we want", Secretary-General António Guterres said in his commemorative message.

This year's Africa Day highlights arts, culture and heritage as levers for building the Africa we want", Secretary-General António Guterres said in his commemorative message.

Africa Day marks the 1963 founding of the Organisation of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU), and provides an annual opportunity to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the governments and peoples of the continent.

Covid-19 has triggered a global recession that has "exposed deep-seated inequalities and vulnerabilities", according to the UN chief - endangering hard-won development gains throughout Africa and beyond.

The pandemic has also heightened the drivers of conflict by increasing inequalities and revealing the fragility of governance in many nations - particularly in delivering basic services, such as healthcare, education, electricity, water and sanitation.

The impact of the pandemic has also been ex-

acerbated by the climate crisis, which disproportionately affects developing nations.

Currently, there is a "profound imbalance" in vaccine distribution among countries, with the latest figures revealing that African countries have received just two per cent of vaccines, said the top UN official.

To end the pandemic, support economic recovery and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), he stressed the need for "equitable and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines".

The UN chief upheld that Africa Day can "provide a strong foundation for inclusive economic progress as the continent strives to meet the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic".

"On this Africa Day, I renew my call to developed nations to stand in solidarity with Africa", concluded the Secretary-General.

Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, a former senior government minister in Nigeria, observed that Africa Day "comes at a difficult time as we are countering the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences with its acute impacts on Africa".

She also noted that Africa has experienced a slow-down in economic growth, which is expected to increase only three per cent this year, "about half the world's average".

"While world leaders must continue to support our AU partners, we also call upon African leaders to further their efforts in establishing good governance, fighting corruption and supporting Africa's youth", she said.



Simanjiro district executive director Yefred Myenzi (C) pictured at Losinyai village yesterday launching the survey of more than 300 residential and commercial plots. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Correspondent James Kandoya

Govt advised to review Information Communication Technology system

THE government has been advised to review its Information Communication Technology (ICT) system to consolidate with related systems, develop missing modules to enable auditing and accountability mechanisms to take place.

The former Controller and Auditor General Ludovick Utouh made the advice recently in Dar es Salaam when

presenting the findings of the analysis of the 2019/20 Controller Auditor General's report on the Policy Forum April 2021 breakfast debate.

Utouh who is also the Executive Director at Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability said that (ICT) systems are weak functioning, missing system modules and linkages between sectors.

"Over the years, the rate of

the implementation of the CAG's recommendations has been significantly low and capped during his term as the CAG," he said.

He recommended the elimination of ghost workers in the public sector which has caused the Government to incur billions of losses yet to be recovered to date.

He emphasized the impact of Covid-19 on the audit

scope, CAG did not audit 43 Embassies and High Commission to prevent the spread of the pandemic which therefore the CAG was unable to issue an audit opinion to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation.

For her part, Rehema Tukai - the KPMG Deputy Programme Director for International Development Advisory Services said that in the fiscal

year 2019/20, more than 68 completed development projects worth 18.3bn/- from 40 LGAs were not in use citing an example of the Mlongwima Police Housings which have completed 6 years ago but lack residents up to date.

She reiterated that the funds could have been used to improve social services and called upon citizens to seek accountability for devel-

opment projects.

Additionally, Article 135 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 requires that revenue collected should be remitted to the consolidated fund however the CAG has reported in 2019/20 over 2.1bn/- which indicates a substantial raise from the previous financial year which amounted to over 1.7 bn/-

He proposed that the Government should come up with a mechanism of ensuring that there is an increased rate of implementation of both the CAG's and Parliamentary Oversight Committee's recommendations.

Primarily, Executive Director at TWAVEZA, Aidan Eyakuze proposed the adaptation of an accountability system called ProZorro which is used in Ukraine where everyone sees everything.

Africa intervention in the Horn of Africa is crucial

THE Horn of Africa (HoA) sometimes raises a metaphorical question whether its name contributed to its conflicts. 'Shall we get rid of the horn from the name?' some ask, allegorically. The adjectives "conflict ridden" and "war torn" have been associated with this region for decades.

The region is most of the time associated with conflicts and, as a result, human sufferings. Adding insult to injury, relatively stable nations like Ethiopia and Kenya are facing internal and external threats of conflicts causing more fragility in the region.

But, beyond the internal and external national interest factors driving conflict within and between nations of the Horn, alien interests from various powers from across the globe also play significant roles in the conflicts and wars in the region.

Although the region has never been off the eyes of the international community for its conflicts and nonstop wars, the recent war in Tigray region in Ethiopia has brought it renewed attention.

Since the onset of fighting on November 4, 2020, the international community has focused on the "law enforcement operation" as the government called it. On one hand, this was because of the risk it carried to spill over to the region in general.

Similarly, following the withdrawal of the United Nations and the African Union hybrid force (UNAMID) in Darfur, conflicts have resumed and displacements started anew in Sudan starting from December 31, 2020.

On the other hand, apart from the security threats posed by Al Shabaab in Somalia, the border conflict between Kenya and So-

malia is rapidly spiraling into a highly concerning matter. The border dispute between Somalia and Kenya concerns section of the Indian Ocean that is said to contain sizable amount of oil and gas deposits. Somalia urges that its borderline from the semi-autonomous Jubbaland should go straight to the section of the ocean, demarcating huge part of the claimed territory within its territory. Kenya, on the other hand, wants the border to make a turn at some point so that it takes large section of the resource rich ocean. This has, at times, caused military standoffs between the two nations apart from recalling respective ambassadors in each country.

Situated at a weaker position for bilateral negotiations given its security challenges and institutional deficiencies, Somalia has referred the matter to the International Court of Justice for resolution. It is still waiting for a hearing since being referred to The Hague in 2014.

The situation got worse recently as armed groups in Jubbaland fought the Somali National Army. The federal government of Somalia officially accused the Kenyan government of interfering in Somalia's internal affairs during the 38th Extraordinary Assembly of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State and Government in Djibouti.

The Somali government accused Kenya of training and arming the armed group in Jubbaland. IGAD responded by sending a fact finding mission to the two countries. The findings that exonerated Kenya off the accusations were rubbished by Somalia that has since defeated the Jubbaland armed group and controlled the area.

To ignite change in livestock productivity, MPs need greater insertion in market economy keys

FURIOUS debate has been going on in Parliament on the problem of Tanzania's huge livestock numbers and low productivity, and poor contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

There is no doubt that MPs are fired by sentiments of wishing the best not just for those in the livestock and fisheries sectors whose lives are too often miserable, but feel that the government is the one failing to transform the two sectors, and they say that the key reason is budgetary 'under investment' in the sectors, especially in relation to livestock. The same was being affirmed for crop agriculture, to amplify the cry for allocations.

Lawmakers were for instance calling on the government to undertake major reforms in the livestock sector, part of the reason being the budget speech statistics showing that the number of domesticated animals increased substantially last year but productivity went down.

Sector minister Mashimba Ndeki said in his speech that the number of cattle increased from 33.4m to 33.9m in the past year, goat numbers reaching 24.5m from 21.29m in the previous year, while sheep stocks rose from 5.65m to 8.5m animals.

Still, chicken numbers were up from 83.28m to 87.7m and pigs from 2.14m to 3.2m, while productivity cast a grim picture at a meager five per cent in 2020, contributing 71 per cent of GDP. It looked negative.

This GDP figure was a mark down from the 7.4 contribution in

GDP during 2019, and MPs were taking apart this dwindling productivity.

They were pointing accusing fingers at the government for contributing to this situation by "hanging onto its loss-making ranching businesses and failing to invest in modern livestock keeping methods."

Is it possible that there are modern livestock keeping methods in the ranches, and they are designed to make a difference from the traditional sector which is often insensitive to inputs?

Without labouring that point specifically, MPs weren't quite on the right analytical path when they held these figures to be indicative of government underperformance, as livestock numbers are on the whole higher, with sheep numbers rising by close to three million in a year's lapse or thereabouts.

The fact that the sector contributed less to GDP arose from the fact that other sectors were growing faster than the livestock (and fisheries) sectors - and not because of any decline in livestock management per se. So in all fairness the government did well in that direction - and hence it must have been due to good allocations.

In that case, when it comes to the issue of how to radically change the sector, the government has forgivably toed the incremental budgetary allocation line, hoping that individual participants in the sector shall take up modern methods by contemplating their own situation and using available opportunities.

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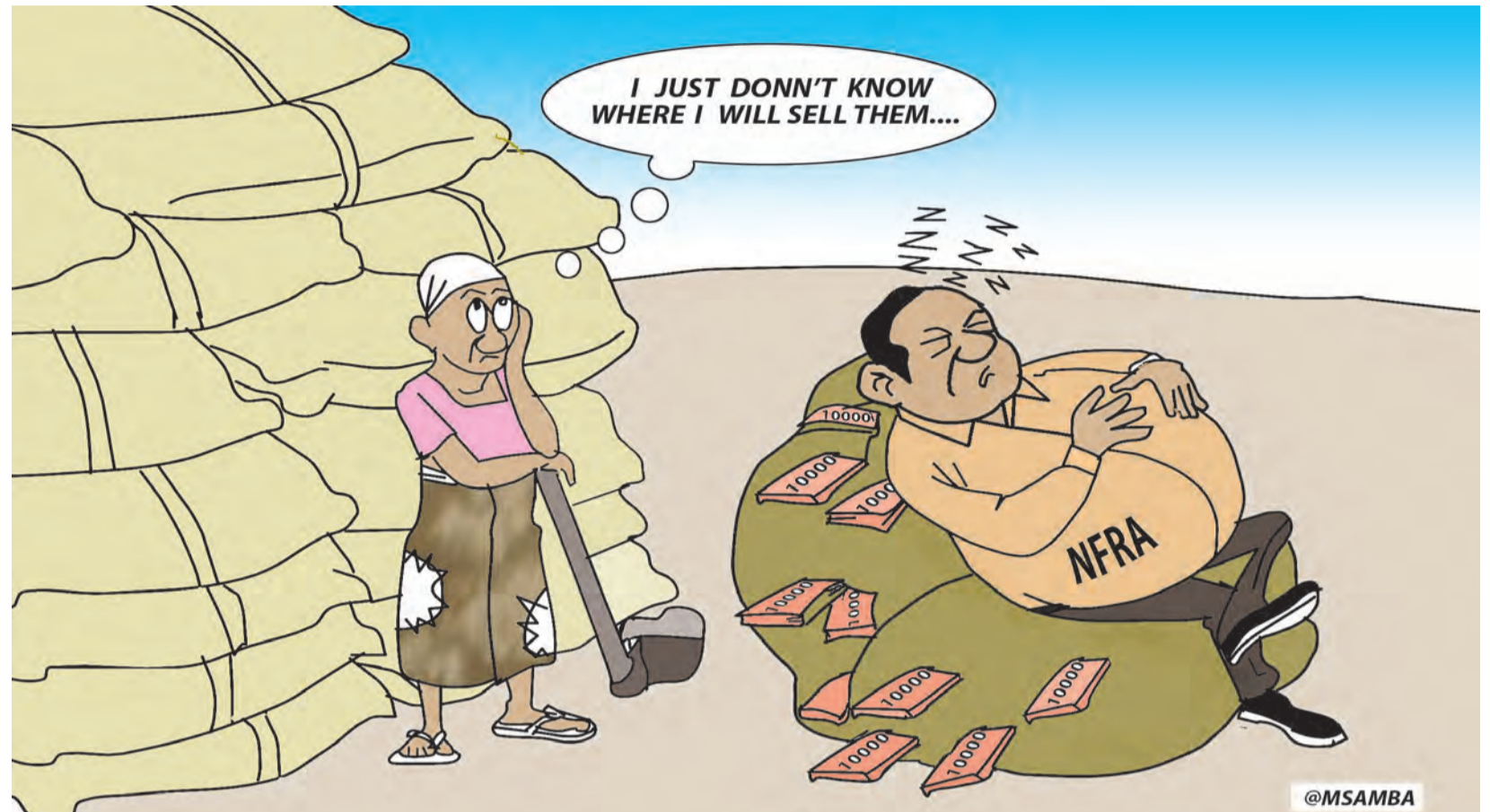
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African countries can create greater economic income with reduced tariffs

By Yariv Cohen

BACK in the last week of April, Joe Biden, the newly inaugurated US President, brought together 40 world leaders in a virtual summit to discuss climate action. Biden was sitting in his office, welcoming leader by leader via a big screen, and the entire two-day conference was streamed live. Some meaningful announcements were made, with many countries pledging to strengthen their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) that were initially set up during the Paris Agreement in 2015, embodying efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Brazil President, Jair Bolsonaro, took a somewhat surprising stance after previously threatening to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, and vowed to end illegal deforestation in the country by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Yoshihide Suga, the Japanese Prime Minister pledged to curb emissions by 46% by 2030, a rise from the past commitment of 26%. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi re-confirmed the country's vow to install 450 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030, a meaningful step for the world's 3rd biggest emitter.

Five African countries attended the summit including Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Nigeria, and South Africa, which pledged to strengthen the country's NDC and shift its intended emissions peak year ten years earlier to 2025. But to reach such ambitious goals, some extreme changes will have to take place, with regulatory advancements leading the list of long-overdue adjustments across the continent, which often seem to be going backwards rather than onward.

A regulatory backslide Last year, the Kenyan government reimposed a 16 per cent VAT rate on standalone solar products, and the East African Community that includes Ken-



ya, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda - reinstated import duty on the same products.

A recent report by GOGLA (the global association for the off-grid solar energy industry) and KEREKA (the Kenya Renewable Energy Association) overviews the harmful effects of these policy changes. The report states that the prices of standalone solar systems in Kenya have risen 10-24 percent since the tariffs was re-imposed, and that sales volumes had fallen by at least 25 percent.

Stand-alone solar systems have a very specific role across Africa, as they are one of the main methods of electrifying remote, rural communities that are the most impoverished in their home countries, and often globally. For these communities, encompassing hundreds of millions of people, a rise of 10-24 percent in the price of the solar system makes it impossible to purchase. And this difficulty would play both a climate and a social role in the long term.

Human development and climate change, intertwined Solar-based solutions are as crucial to human development as they are to climate change. Throughout the rural areas of Sub Saharan Africa, petrol and other combustible fuels are used for lighting, cooking, and heating purposes that are often done through indoor open fires. Fire and smoke contribute to high mortality and disease rates, as homes can be easily burnt to the ground, and smoke causes various diseases including pneumonia, lung cancer. Across the

region about 1 million mortalities a year are caused by smoke-related health issues.

The problem is not only in the household. About 730 million tons of biomass are burned for fuel each year in developing countries, releasing as much as 1 billion tons CO2 into the atmosphere. In addition open fires emit high concentrations of a number of black carbon and methane, both with significant climate consequences.

When looking at the globally-conscious side, the underlying impact of the use of solar panels for electricity is the added products that rely on that power.

When millions of people across Africa use LED bulbs to light their homes, instead of polluting kerosene lamps, clean stoves instead of an open fire for cooking, solar irrigation systems instead of a hazardous diesel generator, millions of tons in GHG emissions are saved every year.

The socio-economic effects are also evident, with home electricity being a crucial factor in education, gender equality, innovation, and more. People across Africa who have access to solar electricity in recent years are reporting a higher sense of security after dark, and less thefts of cattle and livestock.

An increase in social activities and more time to add new hobbies. Children are able to do their schoolwork after dark, and parents are reporting higher grades. Better health due to lowered consumption of combustible fuels for lighting and heating.

New businesses are opened and a higher income is prevalent.

The GOGLA-KEREKA report tells this story with some interesting numbers. While the VAT rate would generate around \$9.6 million per year, and import duties \$10 million for the Kenyan government, by of keeping the VAT off, an estimated 250,000 households could open new businesses, or have residents that could start new jobs, potentially generating \$46 million more in tariffs revenues for Nairobi, with a further \$2.7 million per year in prospect from the creation of 2,500 more jobs in the renewable industry.

The report also states that keeping the new policy could result in 600,000 fewer households with access to solar by 2025.

A great example is Rwanda, which decreased national tariffs and created a favorable environment for solar solutions to prosper, and established a vast impact across the country, where electrification rate soared from only 9.7 percent in 2010 to over 60 per cent today.

A more positive, more enabling regulatory environment is crucial in reaching these ambitious climate pledges, and in asserting coveted human-development goals. Leaders across Africa should look at the long-term outcomes and do everything in their power to achieve them.

Kenyan peacekeeper championing ideals of women, peace and security

UNITED NATIONS

MAJOR Steplyne Buyaki Nyaboga of Kenya singles out the establishment of gender-responsive military patrols in farming communities in Central Darfur, Sudan as one of the proudest moments of her two-year mission with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation (UNAMID).

Before these patrols, displaced women farmers expressed crippling safety concerns over getting to their farms, which hindered their ability to provide for their families.

The patrols brought security and peace to the women - hallmarks of the UN Security Council's resolution 1325 of 2000, which recognises the unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

They also represent the type of action for which Nyaboga has been named the UN 2020 Military Gender Advocate of the Year.

The award, bestowed annually since 2016, recognises the "dedication and effort of an individual peacekeeper in promoting the principles of women, peace and security".

In a video message, she said she was receiving the prestigious accolade with "great humility and unprecedented joy."

"With this award, I receive a high commendation to continue championing the ideals of the women, peace and security agenda, as anchored in the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325," Nyaboga said.

She is the first Kenyan peacekeeper to receive the UN award.

Representatives of her country's Defence Ministry congratulated her on her achievement, stating that "she performed in an exemplary manner" making all Kenyans, particularly women, proud.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres commended Nyaboga for her commitment to making life better for women who suffered greatly during Sudan's armed conflict. He told the virtual award ceremony on May 27 that women who endured forced displacement, sexual violence and political marginalisation found their voices and an advocate in the Kenyan Peacekeeper.

"Through her efforts, Major Nyaboga introduced new perspectives and increased awareness of crucial issues affecting women and children across the Mission and helped strengthen our engagement with local communities," he said, adding that "she organised campaigns and workshops aimed at addressing issues that affect Darfuri women."

Nyaboga was also recognised for training the mission's military contingent on issues such as sexual and gender-based violence.

"This helped our peacekeepers better understand the needs of women, men, girls and boys, and strengthened the mission's bond with local communities. Her enthusiastic hands-on approach made a profound difference for her colleagues and for the people of Darfur. Her efforts, commitment and passion represent an example for us all," the Secretary-General said.

The award ceremony is held annually on May 27th, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. It is also the day when peacekeepers who lost their lives the previous year, are recognised for their service



Major Steplyne Buyaki Nyaboga of Kenya, who was named the UN 2020 Military Gender Advocate of the Year.

to the organisation.

This year, 129 military, police and civilian peacekeepers were awarded posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal. They came from 44 countries and died while serving the UN in 2020 and January 2021. The award is named after a former UN Secretary-General, who also died in service. He was involved in a plane crash during peace negotiations in the Congo.

According to the UN, some of the 129 fallen peacekeepers honoured this week died as a result of malicious acts, others in accidents, while some succumbed to illness - including COVID-19.

Their deaths bring to 4,000, the number of women and men who have lost their lives since 1948 while serving the UN.

Secretary-General Guterres told the ceremony that peacekeepers continue to face 'immense' challenges and threats.

"They work hard every day to protect some of the world's most vulnerable, while facing the dual threats of violence and a global pandemic," he said.

"Despite COVID-19, across all our missions, peacekeepers have not only been adapting to continue to deliver their core tasks, they are also assisting national and community efforts to fight the virus. I am proud of the work they have done."

UN Peacekeeper's Day was observed this year under the theme "The road to a lasting peace: Leveraging the power of youth for peace and security."

It focuses on the importance of youth contribution to the UN agenda and the important role of young

people in peace efforts, globally.

"From CAR to DRC to Lebanon, our peacekeepers work with youth to reduce violence and sustain peace, including through Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration and Community violence reduction programs," the Secretary-General said.

As the international organisation honours the men and women of its peacekeeping missions, the UN Chief said the world must remember them and be grateful for their bravery, commitment, service and sacrifice.

Installed capacity of renewable energy rises steadily in China

By Ding Yiting, Wan Yu

NO country in the world has achieved gender equality, and the global Covid-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder of the enormous work that remains if we are to build a gender-equal world.

In 2020, annual renewable energy capacity additions of the world increased 45 percent from a year ago, the highest year-on-year increase since 1999, said Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) in a report it issued on May 11.

According to the report, China alone was responsible for over 80 percent of the increase in annual installations from 2019 to 2020, as massive onshore wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) projects of the country had to be connected to the grid by the end of 2020.

Statistics released by China's National Energy Administration indicated that the country's total installed capacity of renewable energy amounted to 948 million kilowatts as of the end of March this year.

In particular, wind and solar farms saw capacity reach 287 million kilowatts and 259 million kilowatts, respectively, and the installed capacity of hydropower amounted to 371 million kilowatts. Besides, the country generated 475.47 billion kWh of electricity from renewable energy sources in the first quarter of this year.

On March 22, the total PV power generation in east China's Zhejiang province exceeded 10 million kilowatts for the first time, which meant that over 1/7 of the province's power supply came from solar energy.

Striving to build itself into a national clean energy demonstration province, Zhejiang is targeting the goals of peaking carbon dioxide emission and achieve carbon neutrality.

By building a high-elastic power grid in the age of energy internet and a new type of power system with new energy as the main body, Zhejiang is providing green and clean impetus for regional development.

The province has launched a system that transforms energy consumption of enterprises, including electricity, natural gas, coal, and petroleum, into carbon emission volumes levels, which serves as a basis of energy efficiency evaluation for enterprises.

So far, the system has been employed by over 3,700 enterprises above designated size in Zhejiang's Huzhou Municipality. Companies can scan the code to know their carbon emissions per unit of output value.

In Butuo county, Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan province, a huge converter station that covers an area of around 87 standard soccer pitches is under construction.

As a core part of a 800 kV ultra high voltage (UHV) DC transmission project spanning from Baihetan in the junction area of Sichuan and Yunnan provinces to east China's Jiangsu province, the converter station is the largest of its kind under construction in the world.

It is also the largest one in terms of unit capacity, said Wang Yongping, vice general manager of the State Grid Sichuan Electric Power Company. According to him, the initial phase of the project is expected to be



Photo taken on May 23, 2021 shows a wind farm in Yuhuan, east China's Zhejiang province. The wind farm has 25 wind turbines and an installed capacity of 49.5 megawatts. It is able to generate 120 million kWh of electricity on a yearly basis. Photo: People's Daily

put into operation July this year.

Zhang Jin, a senior engineer from the State Grid's UHV transmission project department, introduced that the UHV construction of the State Grid in the next

five years will focus on clean energy. Seven circuits of UHV DC power transmission lines will be built during the period, which will increase power transmission capacity by 56 million kilowatts.

"By 2025, cross-regional power transmission by the company is expected to be 300 million kilowatts, half of which will be clean energy, helping reducing 1.34 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emission,"

he said.

People's Daily

New advances inspire China's deep space exploration

BEIJING

WITH news of achievements pouring in these days, China is pushing forward its deep space exploration, aiming to contribute its wisdom in humankind's peaceful utilization of outer space.

SPACE STATION CONSTRUCTION

On April 29, China sent into space the core module of its space station, kicking off a series of key launch missions that aim to complete the construction of the station by the end of next year. The successful launch of the Tianhe module marks that China's space station construction has entered the full implementation stage, which lays a solid foundation for the follow-up tasks. Tianhe will act as the management and control hub of the space station Tiangong, meaning Heavenly Palace.

China will send two cargo spacecrafts and two manned crafts this year to dock with the core module. It plans six missions, including the launch of the Wentian and Mengtian lab modules, two cargo spacecraft and two manned spaceships, in 2022 to complete the construction of the space station.

"The station is expected to contribute to the peaceful development and utilization of space resources through international cooperation, as well as to enrich technologies and experience for China's future explorations into deeper space," Bai Linhou, deputy chief designer of the space station at the China Academy of Space Technology.

China has extensive exchanges and cooperation on the space station project, with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the European Space Agency, and national space agencies from countries like Germany, Italy, France and Pakistan.

The cooperation has covered multiple fields, including technologies, science research and application, and astronaut selection and training, producing many achievements.

"Through cooperation, we want to build China's space station into a scientific research platform shared by the world and benefiting all humankind," said Hao Chun, director of the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

MARS LANDING

On May 15, China landed its Mars probe, Tianwen-1, on the red planet, ushering in a new chapter of China's deep space exploration and marking another contribution to humanity's exploration of the universe. The lander, carrying a Mars rover, touched down at its pre-selected landing area in the southern part of Utopia Planitia, a vast plain on the northern hemisphere of Mars. T

Tianwen-1, consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of southern China's island province of Hainan on July 23, 2020. It was the first step



The Long March-5B Y2 rocket, carrying the Tianhe module, blasts off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in south China's Hainan Province, April 29, 2021. (Xinhua)

in China's planetary exploration of the solar system, with the aim of completing orbiting, landing and roving on the red planet in one mission.

More than 40 Mars missions have been launched since the 1960s, but only about half have succeeded. The success rate for landing is even lower.

The exploration of Mars will not only investigate whether there is or was life on Mars but will also help shed light on the history of evolution and the future development trends of Earth, as well as search for potential living space for human beings, said Li Chunlai, deputy chief designer of China's first Mars exploration mission.

Extensive international cooperation has been car-

ried out during the Tianwen-1 mission. China is working with the European Space Agency and Argentina for the mission's measurement and control, and with France and Austria for the calibration of multiple payloads and data analysis.

FUTURE EXPLORATION PLAN

China would implement multiple space missions, including Chang'e-6, Chang'e-7, Chang'e-8, asteroid exploration, Mars sampling returns, and Jupiter explorations in the future.

It has completed feasibility studies of the fourth phase of its lunar exploration program and is expected to build an international lunar research sta-

tion on the moon's south pole in the future.

"China is willing to cooperate with relevant countries and international organizations to deliberate the basic capabilities for the initial construction of a lunar research station and test key technologies," said Wu Yanhua, vice administrator of the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

Three missions are planned for the fourth phase of the lunar exploration program.

The program includes the retrieval of lunar samples from the south pole by Chang'e-6, a detailed survey of the moon's south pole resources by Chang'e-7, and the testing of key technologies in preparation for the construction of the lunar research station by Chang'e-8.

China aims to launch the Chang'e-6 probe to collect samples in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon around 2024. The CNSA has invited scientists around the world to participate in the program, offering to carry solicited payloads.

China is also pushing forward its exploration of a near-Earth asteroid and a main-belt comet with one space probe.

The mission is to send a probe around an asteroid named 2016HO3 and then land on it to collect samples. The probe will then fly back to Earth's proximity and release a capsule to return the samples.

After that, it will continue its journey and finally arrive at the main asteroid belt and orbit comet 311P. The whole process will take about ten years.

Displaced in conflict, Palestinians look forward to Gaza's reconstruction

GAZA

ALTHOUGH the fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip has ended, the pain has just begun for many Palestinians who had their homes destroyed in the 11-day conflict.

Hiba Saad, a 42-year-old Palestinian woman from the Shuja'eya neighborhood, east of Gaza city, said she and her family were forced to leave their house during the Israeli airstrikes.

"It was the most difficult night for us. My children, husband and I walked a long way to get away from death, as the Israeli aircraft carried out many raids around my house," the mother of 11 recalled.

"The only thing we wanted back then was to escape death," she said with a breaking voice. Now, Saad and her family live in a classroom of al-Shateya primary school run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Saad's family is among 130 families living in the school who could not return to their destroyed and uninhabitable homes.

The family of Mohammed Ghabay-

en is also residing at an UNRWA facility after his home in the village of Beirut Lahia was completely destroyed.

The 32-year-old father of five said, "It was not my first time that I was forced to be displaced. In 2014, I was displaced too, where I stayed at a UNRWA school for more than 80 days due to the destruction of my house."

"Back then, things were very complicated. We had no economic or political support and the reconstruction took ages," he added.

Ibtissam Abu al-Qumbuz, from Gaza City, lives in a house of her relatives after her own house was destroyed. "What has been the sin of these children that they need to live in homelessness, poverty and deprivation?" the 52-year-old said, referring to her kids and grandchildren that make up some 30 people.

"What crime did they commit for Israel to impose collective punishment on them?" she asked.

The displaced families expressed their fear that the reconstruction of Gaza would not be accelerated and that the miserable conditions that they lived through after the end of the 2014 conflict would be repeated.

Naji Sarhan, undersecretary of the Hamas-run ministry of public works and housing in the Gaza Strip, told Xinhua that the Israeli bombing of the coastal enclave had destroyed infrastructure including residential buildings, factories and hospitals.

It is estimated that 1,100 housing units were completely destroyed, and 900 others were partially destroyed and rendered uninhabitable. The estimated cost of housing losses amounted to at least 150 million U.S. dollars, while losses in other sectors exceeded 400 million U.S. dollars.

However, there are many buildings and economic and agricultural facilities that have not been rebuilt in the first place since the 2014 fighting, which makes the total losses exceed 500 million U.S. dollars.

Nevertheless, Sarhan expressed optimism that the reconstruction of Gaza might occur soon.

"There are many countries that have shown positive positions regarding their pledge to rebuild Gaza and we are counting on their help," he added.



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



CAPITAL RADIO

Namtumbo, where villagers do say no to illegal logging and deforestation

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC) has brought in positive results in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region as villagers are no longer engaging in illegal logging as it was in the past.

Reports have it that villagers are now aware of the dangers that comes with illegal logging and deforestation and in turn they collectively conserve the nearby forests so as to earn cash that makes them to execute different village development projects.

Five villages that have benefited from FORVAC include Chengena, Kilangalanga, Masuguru, Limamu, Njalamatata and Kumbara. Through different training, the five villages have been able to prepare advocacy action plans to tackle forest management challenges through the community-based forest management (CBFM).

Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA)'s Coordinator for Southern Zone, Benedict Minja said that involved different forest stakeholders in the district organized by MJUMITA.

Minja was speaking recently at one-day workshop that involved villagers, local government leaders from across the district and the forum was meant to inform village leaders and local government authorities on a four-year programme-FORVAC, good governance, financial management and government's contribution on community based forest management (CBFM).

This has been possible through FORVAC project that is being executed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, through Forestry and Beekeeping Division in partnership with other stakeholders that includes MJUMITA, MPINGO Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) and Namtumbo district in six villages.

He said that villagers were trained on good governance and financial management.

Other positive results includes MJUMITA has been able to develop electronic forest crime monitoring tool for villages to monitoring forests crime incidents and make follow-up on what legal actions has been taken to address these issues.

According to Minja, 27 village leaders and Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC)'s members have been trained on how to collect information on forest crimes and report it to forest management institutions or authorities dealing with those issues.

Two community-based organization have been established in Luchili and Limamu ward as tool for demanding their rights and improve good governance.

MJUMITA has been offered four smart phones to the VNRC's members to make follow-up on forest crimes within their village land and forest protection has been improved as result of regular patrols conducted by the VNRC's members.

As a result of MJUMITA works on good governance and financial management in CBFM villages, Namtumbo District Council has taken actions against unaccountable village leaders as a result of financial mismanagement as it has been seen in Mtelawamwahi village where the VEO has been suspended as a result of financial embezzlement.

Also under FORVAC project, Namtumbo District Council with support from other stakeholders have managed to allocate a total of 20,789 hectares of village land forest reserve in Mtelawamwahi and Kitanda villages which are now satisfying sustainable harvesting of the forest product through sustainable harvesting plans enabling the villages to earn revenue that will be allocated for village development projects.

"As MJUMITA we are very glad to see where they are today, this is an im-



Masuguru and Chengena village leaders attend training on good governance and financial management conducted recently in Namtumbo District with support from MJUMITA. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

portant step towards making these villages own their village forests," said Minja

On behalf of Limamu residents, a Village Natural Resource Committee (VNRC)'s Secretary, Adimu Muhagama said that through the knowledge and skills gained from MJUMITA, Namtumbo district and Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI), Limamu village has been able to carry out patrols inside the village land forest reserve and remove 8 invaders who were conducting agricultural activities illegally inside the forest.

The invaders were arrested on November last year by members of the village natural resources committee (VNRC) in partnership with the village government. "As villagers we expressed thanks to MJUMITA, MCDI and Namtumbo district for what they train us because training on forest conservation, good governance, financial management and forest management has started bearing fruits," he said.

Right now villagers are now

very competent enough to conserve the forest reserve within their village land.

Also the village has been able to develop forest management plan, by-laws for forest management, establish a total of 1784.43 hectares of village land forest reserve for community based forest management, 22,000 hectares of land for agricultural activities and 11,000 hectares of grazing plots for livestock keepers.

"We are very happy for what we have achieved so far because deforestation has decreased significantly, villagers are aware on the importance of forest conservation and on July this year will start harvesting timber and other forest products," he said

Before intervention, deforestation at Ndanje village forest reserve located 45 kilometre from Limamu village was very high and five hectares of forest reserve were damaged.

People from Namali, Ndongosi, Kikunja and Nambendo villages were entering inside the forest reserve illegally cut-

ting down trees for timber and commercial farming activities especially maize, sesame and millet crops.

"As VNRC's members we noticed the incident when conducting patrols inside the forest reserve to keep encroachers invading the forest illegally for timber harvesting, charcoal making, agricultural activities, cattle grazing and medicinal purposes," he said

Highlighting on the impact of good governance and financial management training, he said the training has brought in positive changes for village leaders and residents.

"Right now accountability for village leaders has been improved, all the information related to revenue collection and expenditures are placed on the village's notice board, people are allowed to stop by and have a look what is there and even to suggest what should be done for the village's development, he said.

Also villagers are now aware on how much money the village collects in taxes and spend

it something which was not there before.

Highlighting on forest crimes, he said so far the village has been able to report three forest crimes incidents.

"We have already arrested three invaders alleged to illegally conduct agricultural activities and remove forest signs at Ndanje village forest reserve, the committee's members will take them to the village office for legal action as well as pay fines in accordance with the damage they cause in our forest reserve," he said

According to him, if they will not confess to pay it, they will take them to Namtumbo district for more legal action," he said.

He commended MJUMITA for developing electronic forest crime monitoring tool to assist VNRC's members at Limamu village to report forest crime incidents to the forest management institutions and other authorities dealing with those issues.

"Right now it is very easy to send information relating to forest crime online than travelling long-distance by bus from Limamu village to Namtumbo district located 45 kilometre as well as reduce transport costs," he said

Limamu village was officially established in 1974; so far the village has 4227 and 625 households.

Namtumbo District Commissioner, Sophia Kizigo lauded MJUMITA, MCDI and other stakeholders to introduce the project in Namtumbo district.

"I believe if MJUMITA, MCDI will continue to train people on forest conservation, the main functions of forests and the benefit it has for them will protect the forests they have.

Inside Africa's drive to boost medicine and vaccine manufacturing

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

WITH COVID-19 vaccine supplies to Africa slowing down, the continent is working to boost its own manufacturing capacities for vaccines, medicines and vital health technologies.

Biruk Abate Halallo, Health Attaché at Ethiopia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Offices in Geneva, is the driving force behind a resolution on the local manufacturing of medicines, medical technologies and vaccines that is being presented at the World Health Assembly, WHO's leading decision-making body, this week.

What is the resolution for?

Africa suffers more than its fair share of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Over 90% of the world's malaria deaths and 70% of all people living with HIV/AIDS are in Africa. More access to good medicines could significantly reduce this needless human toll.

Ninety-five per cent of all medicines used in Africa are imported and the continent accounts for just 3% of all medicine production globally. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed Africa's vulnerabilities in ensuring access to vital drugs, vaccines and health technologies and more and more African governments view the supply of safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines as a national security issue.

Boosting local production will save lives, boost public health and strengthen African economies, including supporting local jobs. It should also trigger the sharing of crucial technologies.

The full title of the resolution presented at the World Health Assembly this week is 'Strengthening Local Production of Medicines and Other Health Technolo-

gies to Improve Access.'

It covers strengthening local production, promoting technology transfers and innovation and considering the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and intellectual property rights through the lens of boosting local production.

The resolution was co-sponsored by more than 100 WHO Member States, including 54 African countries.

What are the next steps?

WHO Member States and WHO must push on with the recommendations in the resolution.

Member States should align their national and regional policies and strategies around local production. This will help economies of all sizes build synergies, share the workload and avoid costly duplication.

African market integration and trade facilitation is crucial and African countries must make better use of regional economic integration platforms such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and The new African Continental Free Trade Agreement offer great opportunities.

More integration will help lead to the manufacturing of products that are in high demand in the region, will expand access to more markets and make local production sustainable.

Countries should formulate education policies that foster research and development in pharmaceuticals as well as encouraging thousands more people to gain skills to thrive in the industry. Countries must strengthen and harmonize their regulatory systems to ensure all medical products are of the highest quality and that local manufacturers adhere to inter-

national standards.

WHO should strengthen its role in providing leadership and direction in promoting the strategic use of quality and sustainable local production of medicines and other health technologies. It must keep up the technical support to Member States, as well as in developing policies, capacities and aiding partnership building and international collaboration.

To fully implement this resolution we need strong political commitment from WHO Member States. We need more public and private partnerships. Support from WHO and other partners is key and we may need additional resources and investment in infrastructure to get going.

What is Ethiopia doing to boost manufacturing at home?

There are 12 medicine manufacturers and 38 medical supply and device manufacturers working in Ethiopia and that are licensed by the Ethiopian Food and Drug Administration.

Building on this is a priority and with technical and financial support from WHO, we have developed a National Strategy and Plan of Action for Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Development. This was the first country-level adaptation of the vision of the African Union's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa which aims to catalyse local African pharmaceutical production.

Rolling out the strategy brings together key government ministries, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders and partners. It is run by a Steering Committee that is co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Trade and Industry.

As part of this we are strengthening our regulatory capacity by reforming the Na-



tional Regulatory Authority and have set up a new institute to support the pharmaceutical industry.

We are also supporting and encouraging domestic and international investment through shaping a conducive business environment. This includes offering incentives to encourage local manufacturing and setting up the Kilinto Pharmaceutical Industrial Park. We're also working to improve policy coherence, product diversification, human capital development and capacity building across the pharmaceutical sector.

How do you boost demand to sustain local manufacturing?

The key drivers of pharmaceutical demand in Ethiopia are population growth, economic growth, rising health coverage and efforts to address more and different diseases.

With over 112 million people and an annual population growth rate of 2.3%, Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous nation. It has the fastest growing economy in the region, with growth averaging 9.4% a year from 2010

to 2020. As the spendable income of the population rises, so too does the demand for basic health services, including medicines.

The expansion of Ethiopia's primary health care sector in the last 15 years has been hailed as a model in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2003 we have worked to reach more communities and the percentage of women receiving antenatal care by a skilled provider increased from 27% in 2000 to 74% in 2019. Births in health facilities rose from 5% to 48% in that period.

Ethiopia has also introduced a community health insurance scheme in 75% of our districts. This has helped ensure communities engage with health services, which in turn drives demand for medicines and medical supplies.

Moreover, Ethiopia is undergoing an epidemiological transition from communicable diseases to non-communicable disease and injuries, and efforts to address all types of public health problems are changing the demand for medicines and health technologies.

Hunger, food insecurity in southern Africa – a region on brink of mass starvation

BY TATENDA MAZARURA

MORE than 100 million people in Africa are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity, a situation that may worsen in the coming months.

In a report issued on 23 March 2021, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned of an unprecedented food security crisis in more than 20 countries across the globe.

According to the Hunger Hotspots report, the majority of the affected countries are in Africa.

In southern Africa, a region with a high proportion of workers in the informal economy, the most vulnerable have been hit hard. More specifically in parts of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, some people are experiencing a critical hunger situation, with extreme depletion of livelihoods, insufficient food consumption and high acute malnutrition.

While Covid-19 has resulted in devastating effects on global hunger and poverty - particularly affecting the poorest and most vulnerable populations - chronic and acute hunger were on the rise due to various factors including conflict, socioeconomic conditions, natural hazards, climate change and pests. By the end of 2020, more than 155 million people were suffering from acute hunger due to conflict and instability.

Recently released data on food security conditions from the Famine Early Warning Systems Network provide insight into the unprecedented scale and level of the current food security crisis, indicating that crisis conditions are at their highest level since 2010, when extensive drought and famine affected the Horn of Africa.

“We are seeing a catastrophe unfold before our very eyes. Famine - driven by conflict and fuelled by climate shocks and the Covid-19 hunger pandemic - is knocking on the door for millions of families,” said WFP executive director David Beasley.

Internecine conflict in the DRC makes fighting food insecurity impossible

One severely affected country is the DRC, where more than 15 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity, with a projected 19.6 million likely to face high acute food insecurity, including 4.9 million struggling to survive “emergency levels”, between January and June 2021. Such staggering figures reflect a combination of multiple shocks, including violence, natural disasters, epidemics, economic decline and the socioeconomic impact of Covid-19.

Protracted conflict remains a leading driver of food insecurity, most notably in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The intensification of violence in these areas in 2020 led to livelihood disruptions, access constraints and an estimated 5.2 million people being internally displaced.

Cholera and malaria are also widespread and there have been outbreaks of Ebola.

Angola: Drought, locust plagues and economic malaise Angola is struggling with its worst drought in at least four decades. Another dry cropping season in 2021 is likely to push families in the southwestern provinces into extreme vulnerability, increased food insecurity and livelihood losses, worsened by the current economic downturn and an outbreak of the African migratory locusts.

Reports indicate that locust swarms damaged several crops in Cuando Cubango province in southeastern Angola, and remain a serious threat to agriculture and food security.

The WFP has warned of an impending hunger crisis, including chronic food insecurity and malnutrition in the worst-affected areas. As water supplies continue to dwindle, up to 40% of crops have been lost and livestock



A girl holds a container as she waits to receive porridge at Kuchengetana kitchen in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe, 03 December 2020. 35-year-old Samantha Murozoki has been feeding thousands of people for the past 230 days. She has drawn public support for her works at a time families are struggling to put food on the table due to the Covid-19 pandemic. (File photo)

are at risk.

Tightening credit conditions and overall reduced business activity as a result of Covid-19 have also worsened the situation.

According to the Hunger Hotspots report, an estimated one million people in Angola will suffer food insecurity in 2021, 17% above the five-year average. Given that people have been struggling to cope with multiple shocks since 2016, the total population in need of help could rise sharply in the coming months.

Conflict zones in Mozambique worst affected

A number of crises, including recurrent climate shocks in the form of drought and floods, conflict and violence and the impact of Covid-19, are disrupting livelihoods across Mozambique and increasing food insecurity in the country.

The situation is particularly concerning in the conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado, as well as Inhambane, Gaza, northern Maputo and southern Manica provinces.

In the northern region, conflict and erratic weather have disrupted communities' agricultural activities and livelihoods. By the end of 2020, nearly 840,000 people in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula were facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and 4), while disruption of markets due to insecurity has driven up the cost of food and household items.

Across the country, at least 2.7 million people were facing severe hunger by the end of the year, the majority of them (1.9 million) in rural areas.

Hunger in Madagascar at a 40-year high

Madagascar is experiencing its worst hunger crisis in 40 years, brought on by droughts and sandstorms that have turned many fields infertile. WFP says about 1.35 million people are food insecure in southern Madagascar, nearly double what it was in the same period in 2020. Severe malnutrition rates

continue to spiral.

The situation is so dire that locusts - which are ordinarily considered a crop pest - have become a source of survival for many. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, most poor families have to rely on foraging for wild foods and leaves that are difficult to eat and can be dangerous for children and pregnant women. Aid agencies have reported people eating termites and mixing clay with tamarind.

The WFP has called on the international community to send urgent help to Madagascar and says acute malnutrition in children under five has almost doubled over the past four months in most districts in the south. Ambovombe has the highest rates.

Zimbabwe's corruption and macroeconomic instability at the centre of rising hunger

Zimbabwe continues to suffer from a complex food security crisis, driven by weather shocks and persistent macroeconomic instability that is worsened by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rampant food inflation remains a key driver of acute food insecurity. Despite a slowdown in monthly price increases since mid-2020, and a stabilisation of the official exchange rate, food prices in February 2021 were still 35% higher than the previous year.

The pandemic has increased hunger and food insecurity in Zimbabwe, which was already struggling with a poor economy before it began.

The WFP says the problem is especially acute for unemployed urban dwellers. About 2.4 million in the country's urban areas are struggling to meet their basic food needs owing to the Covid-19 restrictive measures.

The WFP also scaled up the 2020/21 Lean Season Assistance to reach 1.5 million rural people in 29 districts in April with humanitarian food aid.

Although most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network argues that the residual effects of the measures and the larger global economic slowdown continue to affect income-earning opportunities for poor households who predominantly rely on the informal sector.

A high proportion of informal activities such as cross-border trade, petty trade, remittances and small-scale industries are ongoing, though at below-normal levels, especially as land borders remain closed.

In early April, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported more than 200,000 returnees from mainly South Africa and Botswana due to job losses and deportations since March 2020.

These populations are likely putting further pressure on already weak labour markets in areas where they return.

Years of successive drought have also left Zimbabwe vulnerable to food insecurity. At the beginning of 2021, the WFP predicted that at least 7.7 million people out of the 15 million population would require food aid in the first half of the year.

Conclusion

The hunger and food crisis engulfing southern Africa is dire. The Covid-19 pandemic has only made an already bad situation worse and difficult to manage. Once again, the region will require food aid to feed itself and sustain life.

Much of the food insecurity situation stems from systemic economic conditions as well as long-standing and recent conflict. Natural disasters deepen the crisis.

However, the lack of any sustainable mechanisms to mitigate the impact of food insecurity and hunger makes the region vulnerable almost annually as any shock opens the floodgates that leave more people food insecure. **DM/MC**



RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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BUSINESS



Constable Amy Fielding is the first woman in South Africa's Northern Cape to qualify to drive a SAPS Caspir.

DETERMINATION

Northern Cape's cop breaks barriers as first female to climb into Caspir

CAPE TOWN

She may only stand 1.6m tall, but Constable Amy Fielding strikes an imposing figure as she climbs into a SAPS Caspir.

Fielding, 26, is the first woman in the Northern Cape to obtain a licence to drive a police Caspir and is the only woman in her 55-person unit who can drive the vehicle. She joined the Public Order Police Unit in 2019. To drive a Caspir, Fielding needed to pass her Code 10 and PDP licence, as well as state authority to drive the vehicle.

She recently obtained her state authority during a test in the mammoth vehicle at the Springbok Training Centre. When asked what driving the heavy vehicle is like, Fielding brushes off her accomplishment and simply responds that it "just takes some concentration."

Encouragement

Based in Springbok, Fielding's unit is frequently dispatched to quell unrest and manage crowds across the province. The young police officer completed her basic training in Oudtshoorn when she was 21, after her dad convinced her to join the service. "I never wanted to be a police officer. I wanted to be a teacher, but my dad encouraged

me to join in 2016, and I fell in love," recalled Fielding.

Having grown up in the small town of Steinkopf, about 45km outside Springbok, Fielding loves seeing new places as part of her duties. "I love that public order policing allows you to meet new people and go to new places. It's nice to travel, especially when you're from a small town," she said.

However, crowd management does come with its challenges, said Fielding, especially when you're a petite woman. "You always feel nervous when faced with public unrest, but we have senior officials to guide us," she said.

"Sometimes, members of the public see me as small and a woman, and they try to take advantage, but it helps to have the support of my unit. We're all brothers and sisters in blue, and I never feel like there's anything I can't do," she said. The unit's ranks, with regard to female officers, recently increased from four to 15 during the last intake, she said.

The next challenge Fielding has set for herself is to qualify to drive a police Nyala. She will have to attend a specialised course to do so, due to the size and technique required to drive and park the vehicle.

WARNING

Working 55 hours or more per week poses serious health hazard, says UN

GENEVA

Working more than 55 hours a week increases the risk of death from heart disease and strokes, according to a UN study released on Monday.

The report by the UN's World Health Organisation and International Labour Organisation agencies comes as the Covid-19 pandemic accelerates workplace changes that could increase the tendency to work longer hours.

The study, published in the *Environment International* journal, is the first global analysis of the risks to life and health associated with working long hours. It focuses on the period before the pandemic, and the authors synthesised data from dozens of studies involving hundreds of thousands of participants.

"Working 55 hours or more per week is a serious health hazard," said Maria Neira, director of the WHO's environment, climate change and health department. "It's time that we all - governments, employers and employees - wake up to the fact that long working hours can lead to premature death."

The study concluded that working 55 hours or more per week was associated with an estimated 35 per cent increase in the risk of suffering a stroke, and a 17 per cent rise in the risk of dying from ischemic heart disease, compared to working 35 to 40 hours.

Who does this affect the most?

The WHO and the ILO estimated that in 2016, 398,000 people died from a stroke and 347,000 from heart disease after working at least 55 hours per week.

Between 2000 and 2016, the number of deaths owing to heart disease linked to long working hours increased by 42 per cent, while the figure for strokes went up by 19 per cent. Most of the recorded deaths were among people aged 60 to 79, who had worked 55 hours or more per week when they were between 45 and 74 years old.

"With working long hours now known to be responsible for about



A woman works from home late in the night.

one-third of the total estimated work-related burden of disease, it is established as the risk factor with the largest occupational disease burden," the WHO said. Frank Pega, a technical officer from Neira's WHO department, said the study found no difference in the effect of working long hours on men and women.

However, the burden of disease is particularly high among men - who account for 72 per cent of the deaths - because they represent a large proportion of workers worldwide and therefore the exposure "is higher amongst men", Pega said. It is also higher among people living in the western Pacific and South-East Asia regions, where there are more informal sector workers who may be forced to work long days, Pega said.

"The pandemic has changed

the way many people work"

The WHO is concerned about the trend as the number of people working long hours is increasing. It currently represents nine per cent of the total world population. The organisation also said that the coronavirus crisis was speeding up developments that could feed the trend towards increased working hours. "The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly changed the way many people work," said WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Teleworking has become the norm in many industries, often blurring the boundaries between home and work. In addition, many businesses have been forced to scale back or shut down operations to save money, and people who are still on the payroll end up working longer hours.

"No job is worth the risk of stroke or heart disease. Governments, employers and workers need to work together to agree on limits to protect the health of workers." Citing a study by the US National Bureau of Economic Research, conducted across 15 countries, Pega said: "When countries go into national lockdown, the numbers of hours work increased by about 10 per cent."

Working from home, combined with the increasing digitalisation of work processes, makes it harder to disconnect, he said, recommending the firmer scheduling of rest periods and personal time. The pandemic has also increased job insecurity, which, in times of crisis, tends to push those who have kept their jobs to work more to prove their place in a more competitive market, said Pega.

COVID-19

Drinking culture shift: will pubs survive?

NAIROBI

"I'm never going back to the bar again," says Geoffrey Muriuki, who runs a small firm in Nairobi's Upper Hill. For as long as he can remember, he has been drinking alcohol in bars while socialising with his friends.

But in the midst of a pandemic, that has led to death of over three million people, sitting inside a small, crowded, smoky room and drinking from shared glasses as friends and strangers laugh into each other's faces, is no longer as appealing.

When the health crisis led to the

closure of bars, several Kenyans found alternatives; some started drinking from their cars, while others assembled pub benches in their gardens, where they have the luxury of social distancing.

Mr Muriuki and his friends are among the drinkers that have found a new way of hanging out and spending less on alcohol compared to when they frequented bars. "I used to spend up to Sh20,000 on weekends, but now I spend half of that. Bars sell the alcohol triple the price sold in shops and that is how I wasted my money," he says.

What Mr Muriuki, his friends and many other Kenyans are doing, is buy their favourite whisky or beer at liquor stores, park their cars on the roadside or secluded area and banter up to a few hours before the 10pm curfew.

The 'park and chill' concept has continued from March 2020 when the government first closed pubs and restaurants. A concept that started as a way of beating cabin fever is evolving into a trend that is threatening pub businesses.

A spot check by BDLife shows that alcohol sales in most Nairobi pubs are low since the reopening last month. Ordinarily most people don't drink during the day and with the closing time set at 7pm, drinkers spend less time at the bar and others have been avoiding it altogether. Peter Kimeu, a party lover admits that before Covid-19, he used to be out all weekend, socialising with friends in clubs until the wee hours of the morning.

Now, he says, he is forced to drive to specific outlets as early as 2pm if he has to get his fill before closure. "I no longer go to bars or clubs like I used to. Nowadays, we

plan for the weekend early, pick a pub and arrive early so that by 7pm, we'd feel like we partied 'all night long," he says. At Smuffs Lounge on Thika Superhighway, since they reopened after six months of closure, things have never been the same.

"There has been a steep decline in sales. We used to sell up to 60 bottles of liquor in a night but now count ourselves lucky if we sell 10," says Patrick Baderha, the Smuffs Lounge manager. Some club owners have been forced to offer subsidised prices on selected alcohol to woo patrons.

At Bobos in Nairobi, the restaurant-cum-bar is among the few left operating in Central Business District (CBD). With low alcohol sales and few patrons coming in because the working-from-home clique are drinking from their 'home pubs', the future is uncertain. "The two hours that the president took away after reopening meant a lot to us. Who will come here at 9am and buy a bottle of liquor and start drinking?" Poses Grace Boncilin of Bobos.

"We used to do more than 50 bottles of liquor in a night, but now the much we can do is only five. I don't know for how long we can keep the business running." While pub owners are counting losses, for wine and spirit shops, especially those selling at wholesale prices and located within estates, business has never been better. Alcohol home deliveries have been a game-changer.

Drinking culture

"We have been experiencing brisk business since we started doing deliveries. We are happy we still have our jobs at a time when people are being laid off," says James Kinyanjui, the owner of Pipers Wines and Spirits, located on

Nairobi's Northern Bypass.

Mr Kinyanjui says that weekend afternoons are some of his busiest times as people park their cars along the busy bypass, keep replenishing liquor from his store and while away time. "What they used to spend at the bar for a bottle of liquor, they can get two of them here for the same price," he added. It may seem trivial, but the closing of pubs may herald a shift in drinking culture. Pub culture has evolved from the days of drinking from a makeshift bench to glitzy rooms with big TV screens, live music bands, and leather chairs, to serving the best of meats.

Beer makers such as East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL), have noticed the shift. They launched Party Central, an e-shop where one can buy beer, wine, or whisky and have it delivered to the doorstep. Joel Kamau, Kenya Breweries Limited commercial director, says today's consumers are shifting to e-commerce and cash and carry outlets because they deliver a convenient and immediate solution.

"With the majority of consumers at home, we are seeing an acceleration in e-commerce. Consumers have discovered the convenience of in-home delivery and the uptake has been growing since the pandemic hit in March 2020," says Mr Kamau, adding that "about 78 per cent of consumers who have used a home delivery service have reported willingness to continue to using this service in the near future."

In a pandemic, it is only the resilient and fast adapters that are still in business. Graham Villiers-Tuthill, EABL marketing and innovations director says "the team quickly responded, tearing up the old rule book."



KBL commercial director Joel Kamau flanked by patrons.

SUCCESS

Multitalented sisters credit their mother and lockdown for spot at international showcase



CAPE TOWN

Western-Cape based sisters Anisa and Sithi have made their country proud. The multitalented duo's dancing, singing and acting chops have earned them a spot at the 2021 International Model and Talent Association (IMTA) convention, and they're the only South African siblings to be selected to perform.

The event is held annually where a select few are chosen to showcase their talents interested talents scouts looking to find international superstars. "I first got a call back at 3 am on my mom's cellphone, and we were jumping up and down with excitement," Sithi says of her reaction when she first learned she had been selected.

But the 11-year-old says, her excitement momentarily lapsed when she realised "the call was just for one person". "We sat for about 10 minutes waiting, panicking if we were going to receive another call for Anisa." Luckily, the sisters got to share the thrilling news when 16-year-old Anisa also got a callback.

"I was very happy when my sister received that call, but I started to question if I was going to get a callback after putting in so much work and effort. It was such a shock when I also ended up getting a callback," Anisa recalls.

"During lockdown, we kept practising our craft"



Western-Cape based sisters Anisa - at left - and Sithi.

The duo say they needed to pass through two rounds of auditions before the final selections were made and had about two weeks to prepare, often training for up to 6 hours a day to perfect their performances. For Anisa, preparation included battling through dental issues.

"I remember being upset with myself for not being able to sing to the best of my abilities. I struggled to pull out notes because I could barely open my mouth," she says. As luck would have it, the sisters say being in lockdown also gave their talents a boost.

"During lockdown, we kept practising our craft by learning

new dance moves and tricks, acting, designing and singing. All that practice during lockdown really played a role because it made sure that we wouldn't become rusted."

Anisa and Sithi also credit their mom as their "biggest supporter". "Our mom would always push us to do more... Not many parents think and support their children when they choose to take the arts as a career choice," the girls say.

While initially intended to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, plans for an in-person IMTA convention is still up in the air due to the pandemic, Anisa and Sithi say. "By the looks of it, we might have

a virtual one this year, or it would be postponed to 2022 to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to keep everybody safe and healthy." Nonetheless, the duo is continuing to raise funds, and so far, their mom and family members have come together to raise funds, but they still have a ways to go before raising enough money.

"Sponsorships are hard to get during [the pandemic] since companies are focusing more on health care and group activities and not individual sponsorships." To help them achieve their target, Anisa and Sithi have set up a fundraising page.

ENTERPRISING

Meet the youngsters using social media to drive domestic tourism

KIGALI

Through social media, a group of three young men started up a touring group called 'The 250 explorers.' With a strategy of being the lens showcasing the beauty of Rwanda, these young visionaries dream of becoming the future of domestic tourism in Rwanda.

It all started when the group's founder, Jesse Juru Nyacyesa, a mechanical engineering student at the University of Rwanda and a social media influencer, posted on Twitter inviting people to join him on a tour. Though no one responded, he didn't give up and when he issued his second invite, he managed to get two people.

"This all began in December 2018, when I wanted to visit the Campaign against Genocide (CAG) museum and posted it on Twitter. At first, no one showed interest but two people reached out the second time,"

Nyacyesa tells The New Times. The 250 explorers began with visiting museums, but later as members, they agreed that they wouldn't only visit museums as there is a lot to see in Rwanda.

"We chose to begin with museums because most of us are youth aged below 25 years with little to no clue about our history," recalls the founder. "We also decided to visit and explore other tourism places in Rwanda as a way of promoting domestic tourism which is lacking among the youth," he adds.

Prior to any trip, the 250 explorers post on their social media platforms announcing the upcoming event and call upon anyone interested to join them. They also decided to create a WhatsApp group for effective communication.

The group had successful trips last year, for example, they visited

Liberation Struggle museum, Nyamata Genocide Memorial Centre, Rwanda Art Museum, to name a few. Every successful trip came with more people. And a group that started with only three members now has 85, and anyone is welcome to join.

In five years, the group aspires to be tourism advocates especially for the younger generation. "We want to inspire the youth to explore our motherland and be that lens showcasing the beauty of Rwanda. We want to be the future of domestic tourism in Rwanda," Nyacyesa says.

As a way of encouraging young people to go for tourism, Nyacyesa says it's important for authorities in charge to come up with special tariffs for students and the youth at large, "because we have tried to advocate for that wherever we go but it's still not easy for young people to visit some places."



Jesse Juru Nyacyesa, the 250 explorers founder.

TECH SAVVY

Startup teaches young Nigerians to code on smartphones

LAGOS

Samuel Anyaele regularly tells his students that everything they need to write a software code can be found on their mobile phones. He writes HTML codes on his phone, which are displayed on a monitor in a tiny classroom in Lagos, Nigeria's megacity. His students look up at the big screen and down at the smaller one in their hands.

"We are effectively giving them a tool to work whether they have a PC or not," said Anyaele, who runs three-month courses. Coding skills are seen by many young Nigerians as a way to earn money from clients based anywhere in the world. Job opportunities are

scarce in Nigeria, a country of 200 million inhabitants where two-thirds of people aged 15 to 34 are either unemployed or under-employed.

Anyaele, who runs free classes for beginners and charges \$210 for courses aimed at professionals, works for one of many Lagos companies offering to teach aspiring software developers. The most widely known is Andela, a software training company, that has received funding from Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's foundation. "If you don't find jobs locally, there are international jobs," said Joseph Agunbiade, founder of Univelcity, which also provides training.

Last year's \$200m

acquisition of Nigerian fintech firm Paystack by Silicon Valley giant Stripe, and the \$1bn valuation of local payments company Flutterwave, have shown what is possible. Chinonso Okafor, 20, one of Anyaele's students who is now building websites for clients, said using his phone means he can continue working after his laptop runs down when the electricity cuts out.

But some people struggle to see phones as anything more than an entertainment device said Anyaele, who identified that perception as a mental block that many fail to overcome. "They're assuming it's something childish, or something that isn't professional," he said.



Samuel Anyaele in class.

WORLD

Germany calls colonial-era killings in Namibia 'genocide'

BERLIN

GERMANY yesterday apologized for its role in slaughter of Herero and Nama tribespeople in Namibia more than a century ago and officially described the massacre as genocide for the first time, as it agreed to fund projects worth over a billion euros.

But Herero paramount chief Vekuii Rukoro rejected as insulting a deal agreed by the German and Namibian governments because it did not include payment of reparations.

"That's a black cat in the bag instead of reparations for a crime against humanity," Rukoro told Reuters, referring to a German commitment to fund 1.1 billion euros (US\$1.3 billion) of reconstruction and development projects in Namibia.

"No self-respecting African will accept such an insult in this day and age from a so-called civilized European nation."

German soldiers killed some 65,000 Herero and 10,000 Nama members in a 1904-1908 campaign after a revolt against land seizures by colonists in what historians and the United Nations have long called the first genocide of

the 20th century.

While Germany has previously acknowledged "moral responsibility" for the killings, it has avoided making an official apology for the massacres to avoid compensation claims.

In a statement announcing an agreement with Namibia following more than five years of negotiations, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the events of the German colonial period should be named "without sparing or glossing over them".

"We will now also officially call these events what they were from today's perspective: a genocide," Maas said.

"In light of Germany's historical and moral responsibility, we will ask Namibia and the descendants of the victims for forgiveness," he said.

The German funding will directly benefit the genocide-affected communities, he said.

Namibian media reported on Thursday that the money would fund infrastructure, healthcare and training programs over 30 years.

Anne Marcus, a 34-year-old German living in Namibia, said she was suspicious of the announcement because it came at a time when



Chief Vekuii Rukoro

Namibia was financially vulnerable.

"I think it was a very opportune time for the Germans to act and agree on something, knowing that there was a likelihood for Namibia to accept whatever offer came their way. So I'm not entirely sure justice has been served," she said.

The southwest African country saw its economy contract by a record 8 percent in 2020 as it was hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Last month, it received its first-ever funds from the International Monetary Fund to address the country's deteriorating fiscal po-

sition.

Germany, which lost all its colonial territories after World War I, was the third biggest colonial power after Britain and France. However, its colonial past was ignored for decades while historians and politicians focused more on the legacy of Nazi crimes, including the Holocaust.

In 2015, it began formal negotiations with Namibia over the issue and in 2018 returned skulls and other remains of massacred tribespeople that were used in colonial-era experiments to assert claims of European racial superiority.

China urges US to immediately work with WHO on COVID-19 origin tracing

BEIJING

CHINA on Thursday urged the United States to immediately work with the World Health Organization (WHO) on COVID-19 origin tracing in a science-based way like China did.

Since the United States has repeatedly asked China to be part of a comprehensive, transparent and evidence-based international investigation, the United States should likewise fully respond to the concerns of the international community, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a press briefing.

Zhao (pictured) said a research report of the joint WHO-China study had presented authoritative, formal and scientific conclusions, which stressed it is "extremely unlikely" that the virus was leaked from a Chinese laboratory.

The international expert team has made positive comments on China's open and transparent attitude on many occasions, he

added.

However, some people in the United States have repeatedly called for a reinvestigation of China, ignoring the facts and science, as well as the questions surrounding their own traceability and their tragic failure in the COVID-19 fight, Zhao said.

This fully shows that the U.S. side doesn't care about the facts or the truth at all, and is not interested in serious scientific origin tracing, he added.

"Instead, they want to use the epidemic to stigmatise and engage in political manipulation, and to shift the blame," Zhao said.

They are being disrespectful to science, irresponsible to people's lives, and counter-productive to concerted global efforts to fight the virus, he added.

Pointing out that with over 33 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 600,000 deaths from COVID-19, both the highest in the world, Zhao said the United States, instead of examining its own



behavior, attempted to scapegoat China. "What are they up to? Can they sleep at night with a troubled conscience?" he asked.

"What secrets are hidden in the suspicion-shrouded Fort Detrick and the over 200 U.S. bio-labs all over the world? In July 2019, there were reports on the unexplained outbreaks of respiratory disease in northern Virginia and on the subsequent EVALI outbreaks in Wisconsin. What's hidden there? When will the United States release detailed data and information on relevant cases?" the spokesperson said, adding the United States owes an explanation to the world.

"The United States keeps saying that it wants 'China to participate in a full, transparent, evidence-based international investigation'. Then we ask it to follow China's example and immediately start science-based cooperation with WHO on study of origins, conduct a full, transparent, evidence-based international investigation in the United States, fully respond to international concerns, and contribute to mankind's early

victory over the pandemic and better preparedness in the face of future public health emergencies," Zhao said.

Stressing the motive and purpose of the U.S.-driven "investigation" relying on its intelligence apparatus is crystal clear, Zhao said U.S. intelligence has a notorious track record, as the world has learned a long time ago.

Zhao noted that its masterpieces include the test tube of laundry powder which was cited as evidence for weapons of mass destruction and the staged "White Helmets" video. Former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo even boasted, "I was the CIA director, we lied, we cheated, we stole. We had entire training courses. It reminds you of the glory of the American experiment."

"How can anyone trust the findings from an 'investigation' conducted by such an intelligence organ with no credibility to speak of?" Zhao added.

Xinhua

UN top envoy in Somalia welcomes deal by Somali leaders to hold elections in 60 days

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations top envoy in Somalia yesterday welcomed the decision reached by Somali leaders to hold presidential and parliamentary elections within two months following four days of intense negotiations in Mogadishu.

James Swan, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, urged all stakeholders to move forward swiftly in the same spirit of

compromise and cooperation to implement the agreement.

"We further encourage the federal government and federal member states' leaders to continue regular consultations throughout the electoral process to ensure that any emerging disputes can be resolved quickly," Swan said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

On Thursday, Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble and leaders of five federal member states, along-

side governor of Banadir Regional Administration, agreed that the process to elect the president and members of parliament would be completed in 60 days.

The electoral committee will issue a timetable agreed upon by the federal and state-level electoral implementation teams.

The leaders resolved that the consultative council of leaders will be responsible for the electoral process and resolve any

issues that arise.

A communique was issued on Thursday with key resolutions on the formation of electoral committees at the federal and state levels, management of the Somaliland election committee management, resolving election and security issues in Gedo region, implementation of the women's quota and the release of the elections timetable and completion of the roadmap to state-building.

The communique gave a timeframe of two years to resolve outstanding issues that include finalizing the federal constitution, resource-sharing, defining the powers of federal institutions, restructuring of security forces, reaching an agreement on the model of dialogue with Somaliland, and establishing enabling conditions for the implementation of the one-person, one-vote elections.

Xinhua

Xi says China to strengthen BRI cooperation with Austria

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that he stands ready to work with his Austrian counterpart, Alexander Van der Bellen, to strengthen cooperation on the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

In his message exchanged with the Austrian president to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of bilateral diplomatic ties, Xi said he attaches great importance to China-Austria relations, and stands ready to constantly promote the China-Austria friendly strategic partnership to new levels, so as to bring benefits to the two countries and peoples.

Xi pointed out that since the founding of bilateral diplomatic ties 50 years ago, China and Austria have adhered to principles of mutual respect, mutual trust, and win-win, driving forward the development of ties consistently.

Since the two countries confirmed the establishment of a friendly strategic partnership in 2018, the bilateral relations have witnessed new development opportunities, Xi said, adding that the two countries have been deepening political mutual trust and constantly exploring practical cooperation in various fields.

During the joint fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the two sides have helped each other, deepening the friendship between the two peoples, Xi said.

On the same day, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also exchanged congratulatory messages with Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz.

Xinhua

Belgium recalls ambassador to South Korea after wife's slap

BELGIUM'S ambassador to South Korea will leave his post in the coming weeks after his wife assaulted a clothes shop employee in an incident widely seen on social media.

Foreign affairs minister Sophie Wilmes has decided to end Peter Lescouhier's tenure this summer after three years, the foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday.

Footage from security cameras showed the ambassador's wife, Xiang Xueqiu, slap the face of a storekeeper in the South Korean capital, Seoul, who tried to stop her approaching a colleague on April 9.

The colleague had suspected the wife was trying to leave the shop with an item of clothing she had not paid for.

Belgium's foreign ministry said Xiang had met the shop employee to apologise for her "unacceptable behaviour" and was cooperating with police, adding that her diplomatic immunity had been removed after a South Korean police request.

Lescouhier had served his country loyally, the ministry said, overseeing a successful state visit in 2019.

"It has, however, become clear that the current situation does not allow him to continue carrying out his role in a serene manner," the ministry said.

Agencies

Kremlin sees no reason for new problems to arise in Russia-EU relations

MOSCOW

MOSCOW sees no reason for new problems to arise in relations between Russia and the EU over the difficulties with accepting planes en route from Europe, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"There is no reason for new problems here," the spokesman said when asked how the technical difficulties with European flights bypassing Belarus may affect Russian-EU ties in the near future.

Peskov stressed that "neither the Russian Federation, nor the Russian aviation authorities, nor any Russian services or agencies have anything to do with what happened with the Ryanair flight in Belarus."

"Nevertheless, this situation has emerged, there are certain differences, and the ICAO (the International Civil Aviation Organization) wants to study the situation in detail, which should also be welcomed," the spokesman noted, anticipating that the investigation should take about a month.

"However, in this case, the technical problems were not caused by us, so I don't think we should just shoot from the hip and say that there will be new problems with Russia," Peskov concluded, stressing that Moscow sees no grounds for it.

Agencies

HONG KONG

WITH a bill amending electoral laws adopted on Thursday, a new democratic electoral system has taken shape in Hong Kong and will enable the global financial hub to open a new chapter of good governance and maintain long-term peace and prosperity.

With 40 votes in favor and two against, the Improving Electoral System (Consolidated Amendments) Bill 2021 was approved in its third reading by the Legislative Council (LegCo) of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), after it was first brought

Hong Kong starts new chapter with improved electoral system

to Hong Kong lawmakers on April 14.

HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam called the bill's passage a "landmark occasion" for ensuring "patriots administering Hong Kong" under "one country, two systems."

The bill's passage followed related amendments made at the state level by the country's top legislature earlier this year.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress adopted on March 30 the amended Annex I and Annex II to the HKSAR Basic Law,

which concerns methods for the selection of the HKSAR chief executive and the formation of the LegCo.

Improving the electoral system was another major step following last year's national security legislation to put an end to violence and political instability and get Hong Kong back on track, said the chief executive.

Stressing the urgency and necessity of improving the electoral system, Lam said anti-China disruptors capitalized on the electoral loopholes

to enter the HKSAR's power structure in recent years, jeopardizing Hong Kong's constitutional order and endangering national security.

During the two-day debates from Wednesday, lawmakers briskly expressed their views on the bill.

Starry Lee, a LegCo member and chairwoman of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, said the new electoral system is crucial to Hong Kong's future development from economic growth to peo-

ple's well-being.

Regina Ip, a LegCo member and chairwoman of the New People's Party, said the amended laws have gone through strict scrutiny and the legislation will help Hong Kong open a new chapter.

With the improved electoral system, Hong Kong will have a democratic system of its own characteristics and step on the road of good governance, lawmaker Junius Ho said.

Under the electoral improvement, the membership of the Election Committee,

which elects the HKSAR chief executive and part of LegCo members and nominates LegCo candidates, has been expanded from 1,200 to 1,500. The number of LegCo members has also been increased from 70 to 90.

Pro-establishment lawmakers pointed out that under the new electoral system, the Election Committee and the LegCo will have a broader representation of various sectors in Hong Kong, which will improve the efficiency of Hong Kong's administration and help resolve

deep-seated social problems. The amended laws will be published in the Gazette and come into effect on May 31.

As the local legislation has been completed, Hong Kong will hold elections of the Election Committee and the LegCo on Sept. 19 and Dec. 19 this year respectively, and hold the Chief Executive election on March 27, 2022.

"To achieve Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability is no longer a slogan, but becomes the visible reality," Kenneth Fok, vice chairman of All-China Youth Federation, said.

Xinhua

Thousands flee Goma after Congo warns of possible new eruption

GOMA

THOUSANDS of people scrambled to flee the Congolese city of Goma on Thursday, some picking their way across landscapes scarred with lava, after officials said a second volcanic eruption could happen any time.

Magma, the molten rock that normally stays beneath the earth's crust, had been detected beneath the city and the adjoining Lake Kivu, Constant Ndima Kongba, the military governor of North Kivu province, said, citing seismic and ground deformation data.

"Given these scientific observations, an eruption on land or under the lake cannot be ruled out at present, and it could occur with very little or no warning," he said.

Thirty-one people were killed on Saturday evening when Mount Nyiragongo, one of the world's most active volcanoes, sent a wall of orange lava downhill towards the city, destroying 17 villages on the way.

The lava stopped just 300 metres short of Goma airport, the main hub for aid operations in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Much of the city was spared but hundreds of earthquakes since have destroyed buildings and opened cracks in the earth.

Ten neighbourhoods in the east of the city, which lay in the path of lava from the previous eruption in 2002, needed to move to Sake, around 21 km to the northwest, Ndima said.

"Evacuation is compulsory. Those who do not adhere swiftly carry unnecessary risks."

Thousands of people heeded his message, filing out of town on foot, with huge bundles on their heads. Others fled by car, creating traffic jams across the city, or on large boats that took them across Lake Kivu.

On the road north of Goma, a stream of people picked their way across a landscape charred by lava still hot from Saturday's eruption, drone video footage showed.

"The first day I didn't move because there were no orders, but today it's different," said Alfred Bulangalire, 42, who was fleeing Goma on foot with his wife and four children.

"I know that my shop will be looted, but I have to protect myself and my family," he said.

Lake risks

A spokesman for the national government said at one point that boat traffic had been banned because Lake Kivu was considered dangerous, but a local governor later said the lake would remain open.

Volcanologists in Goma warned earlier on Thursday that, in a worst-case scenario, a volcanic eruption under the lake, accompanied by a large earthquake, could trigger a sudden release of carbon dioxide from the bottom of the lake.

Such an explosion could asphyxiate thousands of people, they said.

"Faced with this spectrum of dangers ... the only option has been to protect human lives and keep the population out of the path of the lava flows," government spokesman Patrick Muyaya told journalists.

Goma's Heal Africa hospital, which was re-built on hardened lava from the 2002 eruption, has sent its patients to other facilities in town, its director, Serge Kahatwa, told Reuters.

"Other hospitals are full so it's a big problem right now. They are overwhelmed," he said.

Diego Zorrilla, the UN's deputy humanitarian coordinator in Congo, said UN agencies were accelerating plans



Goma residents carry few belongings after an evacuation order has been given on Thursday. (AFP)

announced on Wednesday to temporarily relocate around 250 non-essential staff, around half of their aid workers.

Congo imposed mar-

tial law on the region earlier this month to try to stem the bloodshed and widespread insecurity many people still face every day, long after the official end of a civil war in 2003.

Around 3,000 houses were destroyed in Saturday's volcanic eruption and more than 20,000 people left homeless. At least 40 people are still missing.

Agencies

Rwanda and France to 'relate much better' - Kagame

KIGALI

RWANDAN President Paul Kagame on Thursday said Rwanda and France are going to "relate much better" to the benefit of two peoples, politically, economically and culturally, during a joint press conference in Kigali with the visiting French President Emmanuel Macron.

Macron's statement made at the Kigali Genocide Memorial earlier in the day, which recognized France's responsibilities in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against the Tutsi that claimed over 1 million lives, is "important" and "powerful" and that something "more valuable than an apology" as it told the truth, said Kagame, after meeting his French counterpart at the presidential office. He highly praised Macron's speech as "an act of tremendous courage," suggesting that the work of historical documentation must continue jointly.

While saying Macron's visit is about the future, instead of the past, the president said Rwanda wishes to "form a strong and sustainable relationship" based on the priorities that matter to the both countries, including many issues discussed in their meeting, such as investment, digitization, gender equality, among others.

"Rwanda shall be a strong partner in all of these areas," he said. For his part, Macron said since 2017, the two countries have, despite the existing historical challenges, worked together to revive bilateral ties and significant progress has since been made. He also pledged that France would accelerate the efforts to bring to justice genocide fugitives in France.

Xinhua

China's deep-water drilling machine sets new world record

A CHINESE deep-sea drilling rig recently drilled to a depth of 231 meters on a seabed more than 2,000 meters beneath the sea level in the South China Sea, setting a new world record in deep-sea drilling depth.

Before that, the maximum designed drilling depth of deep-sea drilling machines around the world was 200 meters, and the actual depth drilled in pressure coring was 135 meters.

The Chinese drilling rig Hainiu (meaning "manatee") II, developed by Hunan University of Science and Technology (HNUST), signifies that China has theoretically acquired the capability to explore all maritime resources as a front runner in deep-sea drilling.

Pressure core sampling is a unique technique of Hainiu II, which enables the rig to retrieve core samples from the ocean floor while maintaining in-situ pressure. It is considered vital for exploring flammable ice, a methane-laced ice crystal, and some other seafloor minerals.

Flammable ice is in ice form only when it's under seawater pressure. Once withdrawn from the depth it is adapted to, it would volatilize due to decompression. That's why such substances can only be retrieved with pressure core sampling.

The Hainiu II drilling rig has made a series of technological breakthroughs, such as whole-process pressure coring, as well as high-capacity drill rods and fast connection & release, said Wan Buyan, a professor with



Photo shows China's Hainiu II deep-water drilling machine on a research vessel.

the HNUST and chief researcher of the Hainiu II project.

All the core technologies were independently developed by Chinese researchers, which have obtained 125 Chinese patents and four international ones, Wan added. The smart drilling machine can be operated by one person alone on a mother ship. While drilling and sampling, it can also detect rock electrical resistivity and porosity, and take photos in the borehole.

China has placed increasing

importance on the R&D of marine equipment over the recent years. Deep-sea drilling technologies are important for the manufacturing techniques of other deep-sea equipment, and are able to drive the development of relevant industries.

Over 10 years ago, almost all the equipment on China's research vessels was imported, Wan recalled. Now, however, more than 80 percent of the devices used in Chinese expeditions are domestically produced, and the proportion will

continue to grow in the future, he added. Wan disclosed that the research team of Hainiu II will further improve the performance of the drilling machine to make it more adaptive, better complete operations, and become more intelligent.

The team plans to put the drilling rig into an exploration operation at the Mariana Trench with a depth of over 10,000 meters, where no seabed drilling has ever been performed, Wan said.

People's Daily

'Political mistake': Russian diplomat castigates US refusal to return to Open Skies Treaty

MOSCOW

SPEAKING with TASS yesterday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov criticized Washington's decision not to return to the Treaty on Open Skies as another political error.

"The United States has made another political mistake, dealing one more blow to the European security system. We gave them [the Americans] a chance, but they failed to take it," he pointed out.

"They continue to circulate fallacies about Russia's alleged violations of the treaty, which is completely absurd. It's useless to repeat our position, those willing to find out about it can do so easily, but the fact is that no one in Washington is willing to do that," Ryabkov emphasized.

A US Department of State spokesperson confirmed to TASS on Thursday that the United States did not plan to rejoin the Treaty on Open Skies "given Russia's failure to take any actions to return to compliance."

The spokesperson added that "Russia's behavior, including its recent actions with respect to Ukraine, is not that of a partner committed to confidence-building."

Russia's Foreign Ministry announced on January 15 that Moscow was launching



domestic procedures to pull out of the Treaty on Open Skies, citing the lack of progress in removing obstacles to the treaty's continued function following Washington's withdrawal in November 2020.

The US Department of State said in April that the American authorities had not yet made a final decision on rejoining the deal.

For years, the US had blamed Russia for selectively implementing the Treaty on Open Skies and violating a number of its provisions. Moscow, in turn, laid claims against Washington's implementation of the accord.

On May 19, Russia's State Duma (the lower house of parliament) unanimously passed a bill denouncing the treaty. The Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) is expected to consider the bill on June 2.

It depends on the Federal Assembly

Russian deputy foreign minister also noticed that

"the dates for concluding the procedures for Russia's denunciation of the Treaty on Open Skies now depend on the Federation Council (upper house of parliament) and the decision by President Vladimir Putin. That said, all this could be completed before the June summit."

"Anything is possible. I repeat, that does not depend on the Foreign Ministry's stance. Now, that depends on the Federal Assembly, in this case, the Federation Council, because the State Duma has made its decision.

And, of course, everything depends on the president," Ryabkov said responding to a question on the issue.

He confirmed that US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman had informed him of Washington's decision not to rejoin the treaty.

Ryabkov also stressed that Russia had not deviated from the schedule of procedures for exiting the accord. He recalled that back in January, when these procedures were launched, they were expected to be completed by the end of spring.

"There are several important, practically final steps to be taken. On May 31, a meeting of the Federation Council's Committee on Foreign Affairs will be held, during which the issue will be addressed.

CHINA'S first Mars rover, Zhurong, drove down from its landing platform to the Martian surface at 10:40 a.m. (Beijing Time), May 22 and started exploring, leaving the first mark of China on the red planet.

It marched 0.522 meters on the surface of Mars to mark the important date.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) released visuals of the rover driving filmed by its obstacle avoidance cameras.

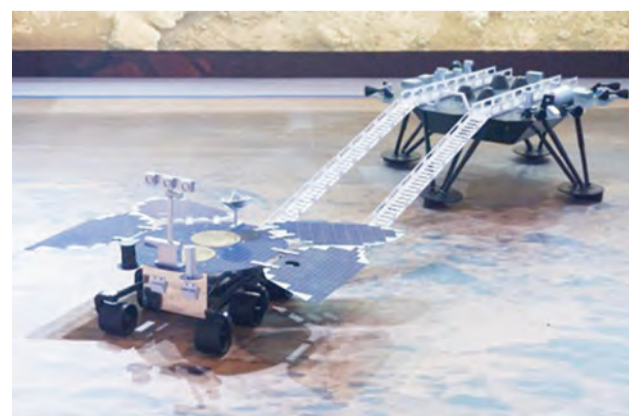
"The rover left the landing platform on which it had spent 303 days, and touched down on the novel and unfamiliar piece of land that we have long expected, steadily," Zhang Rongqiao, chief designer of China's first Mars exploration mission, told People's Daily.

As China's first exploration mission to Mars, Tianwen-1 completed orbiting, landing and roving on the red planet at one stroke, which is an un-

precedented achievement in the history of aerospace.

Mars rover is a mobile detector that lands on and explores the red planet. The rover Zhurong looks like a beautiful blue butterfly, whose four wings are solar panels for power supply. It is reported that the rover is equipped with advanced active suspension that enables the craft to move like an inchworm, raise its wheels, and lift and lower its chassis.

Chen Baichao, chief director-designer of the rover system from the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), introduced that the suspension system is able to effectively cope with wheel



Models of China's first Mars probe Tianwen-1 and Mars rover Zhurong are exhibited at the 2020 Inno-Match Expo held in Shanghai, Oct. 30, 2020. (File photo)

sinkage. The rover can still retain its mobility even when a wheel malfunctions, he added.

With a mass of 240 kg, Zhurong is 3.3 meters in length, 3.2 meters in width and 1.85 meters in height. It has an ex-

pected lifespan of at least 90 Martian days, or about three months on Earth. The rover is equipped with six scientific instruments to study the space environment, topographic features, surface structure of soil, atmosphere (temperature, air pressure, wind velocity and direction), and local magnetic field on Mars.

Zhurong is actually not marching at a high speed on Mars. It operates with a three-Martian day cycle: first day for environmental perception, second day for movement, and the last for scientific exploration, and telemeters data on a daily basis. Due to the harsh Martian environment, the rover can work only one

to two hours each time.

As a matter of fact, Zhurong has to overcome a number of difficulties in order to work on Mars. The faint sunlight, low temperature, restricted Earth-Mars communication, poor trafficability and unpredictable sand storms pose major threats to the rover's existence and patrol mission, said Jia Yang, deputy chief designer of the Mars rover from the CAST.

For instance, the distance between the two planets is 320 million kilometers, and it takes nearly 40 minutes for a signal to travel both ways, which means the rover cannot be controlled in real time, Jia introduced. The tempera-

ture on Mars, which falls below 130 degrees below zero Celsius at night, is also a huge challenge for the rover, he added.

What's more, the wind velocity on Mars could reach 180 meters per second, which is more than three times of the speed of a super typhoon on Earth. Such winds could start huge sand storms that pose severe risks for the existence of the rover. Besides, the sand storms will also impact the power generation of Zhurong.

To cope with these difficulties, the R&D team of the Mars rover has tailored the designing of the craft to match Martian conditions. For instance, regarding the communication problem caused by the long distance between Earth and Mars, Zhurong works autonomously for the most of the time and plans its exploration based on Martian days.

People's Daily

Yanga midfielder optimistic of nailing place in first team

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA midfielder, Said Juma Makapu, has said the change of coaches in the team has been affecting him at various times but he still hopes he will get a chance to feature in the starting outfit.

Makapu has of late not been getting a place in Yanga's first team regularly, despite showing great ability when he gets a chance to replace other players when they sustain injuries.

The midfielder, who has been with Yanga for a long time, said that throughout his time at the club, coach Luc Eymael was the one who showed the most trust in him, unlike other coaches he has worked with.

"Luc Eymael is among the coaches who have allowed me to play regularly, he was probably interested in either my performance or the requirements he wanted in his team, he asked me to be fit," he revealed.

Makapu noted: "The way I was fighting to feature in practice or matches when Eymael was there is the same way I'm doing this time."

"I still believe I will get a chance to play regularly because I do all the coach needs while we are in training, I moreover do what he needs when he gives me a chance in the match," he said.

Since Eymael departed from Yanga, four coaches, Zlatko Krmpotic, Cedric Kaze, Juma Mwambusi, and Nassredine Mohamed, have all coached Yanga.

Makapu was still not the mentioned coaches' first choice in either midfield or defense.



Yanga's midfielder, Said Juma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Makata: Dodoma Jiji FC lost to stronger opponents in ASFC quarterfinals

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DODOMA Jiji FC's head coach, Mbwana Makata, has said that his outfit lost to the best team in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) quarterfinals, although his players put a spirited fight.

The Dodoma-based team lost 3-0 to Simba SC in the showdown's quarterfinal clash in Dar es Salaam mid this week.

Skipper John Bocco netted a brace and Meddie Kagere scored one goal to make Simba sail through to the semi-finals of the showdown.

The Dodoma Jiji FC tactician stated they needed a victory but the difficulty came in converting the opportunities they created.

He stated: "It was a tough game and the players struggled to win but it was not easy especially our opponents were strong in creating chances and using them, they are a good team."

"Everyone knows that Simba has come out of the CAF Champions League so they are a strong team and we took on the best team. What we are doing is learning more," he said.

Meanwhile, Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said the club's management had already met with defender Lamine Moro, who is allegedly serving punishment for misconduct.

Bumbuli said the management had listened to the defender and it was satisfied with some of the statements he had made.

Bumbuli noted Moro spoke about the clash between him and head coach Nassredine Nabi when they were in Mtwara in preparation for the Mainland Tanzania Premier League match against Namungo FC earlier this month.

He noted: "We sat down with Lamine last week and listened to him, since he brought the matter to us then we have resolved it and given him and the coach chance to end the misunderstanding."

Bumbuli said despite ending the differences, the Ghanaian player was still not in the plans of their coach in Yanga's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s last eight-game against Mwadui FC played at CCM Kambage Stadium in Shinyanga on Tuesday.

Mwadui FC went down 2-0 to Yanga in the match, which means Yanga has booked a place in the tournament's semi-final.

He said everything would be fine once the team returned from Shinyanga.

Much as Nabi claimed to have expelled Moro from the squad's camp due to misconduct, the Ghanaian defender denied it and said he was not undisciplined. The coach felt he was contemptuous.

Makapu was still not the mentioned coaches' first choice in either midfield or defense.

Simba SC now plotting Namungo FC downfall

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League defending champions Simba SC will be eager to continue enjoying the driver's seat in the top flight as they today lock horns with Namungo FC in Lindi.

Simba SC traveled to Lindi yesterday, with their hosts Namungo FC set to face the former with sweet memories of their 1-0 win over Gwambina FC in a top-flight match, which took place in Mwanza this week.

The league leaders left with all of their players due to the opposition they normally face when they confront the hosts at Majaliwa Stadium.

Namungo FC needs a victory to finish in one of the top spots, whilst Simba is looking for a victory to facilitate their quest for defending the silverware.

Simba's head coach Didier Gomes said he would travel with all of his players and there would be no complacency as

the team's two goals this season have not been met.

Gomes said the first goal was to play in the CAF Champions League's semi-finals but it failed and they have two main goals left.

He said their first goal is to win the ASFC trophy, as well as the top flight's silverware, which will give them a chance to play in CAF Champions League next season.

"The good news is that after being eliminated from the Champions League without achieving goals, no player has lost his morale and that is why we got a big win in the ASFC match against Dodoma Jiji FC while playing well as well," he said.

Meanwhile, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia has officially announced the participation of four Tanzanian teams in the Champions League and Confederation Cup next season, while urging those who will have the opportunity to protect the country's dignity.

The participation of four Tanzanian teams has been confirmed after Simba and Namungo FC did well in the continental tournaments.

Simba crashed out of the quarterfinals of the Champions League, whereas Lindi-based Namungo FC exited the Confederation Cup in a group event, seeing to it the country increases its points.

Karia said in Dar es Salaam that, he is proud to see in the four years he has been in power the position of four teams has come to fruition, due to the quality and competition of the Premier League.

Last season saw the country entering four sides after Simba reached the Champions League quarterfinal stage.

"It is proof that the quality of the league has improved compared to the past, this is the second time in my leadership to see the representation of four teams, I believe that we will not lose these opportunities," he said.

He said those who will get

the positions must make good preparations to ensure they are treated fairly by avoiding being knocked out early.

The teams that do well from first to fourth place in the Mainland Premier League are in a good position to get the continental tournament's representation, along with those who will enter the final of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Azam FC stated it is confident the squad will be sold, including Prince Dube, who has been linked with a move to Simba, as he will help Azam FC in next year's international tournament.

He said they will add about three players to strengthen the squad which so far sits third in the Premier League with 60 points.



Dar es Salaam's Silent Ocean Company's official, Mohamed Kimilagwa (L), presents a dummy cheque amounting to 2.5m/- to Arusha's marathoner, Augustino Sulle, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sulle will represent Tanzania in this year's Langa Marathon Challenge, which will take place in South Africa tomorrow. The firm has financially supported the runner in a bid to see to it he excels in the marathon, which serves as one of the Olympic qualifiers. Also in the photo is Mr. UK Marathon coordinator, Nelson Mrashani. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

Morogoro music troupe set to introduce new dancers in concert

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band is set to unveil four new dancers at a special show, known as 'wafia dansi', which will take

place in Morogoro tomorrow.

The show has targeted to come up with strategies, which will see the music genre crawl back to popularity.

Three music troupes, Dar es Salaam's Bogos

Musica, led by prominent vocalist Nyoshi El-Saadat, Dodoma's Sky Melody, and Waluguru Original Music Band, will take part in the event.

"We will use the show to unveil the new dancers we hired in the past

few days. They include Regina Filbert, a prominent dancer with stints in various troupes in Dar es Salaam in the past," Waluguru Original Music Band's director, Deogratius David, said.

He disclosed they are

in the closing stages as far as preparations are concerned.

According to him, the event will bring together various people involved in the domestic music industry to discuss various issues about dance music development.

The vocalist stated they will present ways through which dance music will regain its lost glory.

"This is an opportunity our troupe will use to unveil new dancers, ensuring music enthusiasts appreciate music troupes based in up-country have what it takes to rope in popular artists from Dar es Salaam," he disclosed.

The musician said he believes the show will turn out to be a driving force for seeking to get dance music to get hold of its lost glory.

He maintained the dance music aficionados 'wafia dansi' are determined to regroup, come up with ideas that will fulfill the target.



Waluguru Original Music Band's dancers and singers showcase their skill at a recent show in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Ruben Dias and Thiago Silva -- marshalling Champions League final defences

PORTO

BOTH were signed at the start of this season and both have gone on to play important roles in helping their clubs make it to today's Champions League final in Porto.

AFP Sport looks at the impact of Ruben Dias on Manchester City and his fellow centre-back Thiago Silva's importance to Chelsea.

- Dias: City's transformative signing -

What could turn out to be Manchester City's most glorious season started inauspiciously with their first home game of the campaign ending in a 5-2 thrashing from Leicester City. City's swift response was the signing of Dias for a club record £62 million (\$87m).

"If this doesn't work, I think it is possibly the end of the Pep project," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said on the day Dias arrived in Manchester.

Instead Dias, now 24, has not only finally filled the void left by Vincent Kompany's departure in 2019, but he has had a transformational impact on those alongside him. England internationals John Stones and Kyle Walker suddenly look like the £50 million players City bought in Guardiola's early days.

The strapping Portuguese international had no problem adapting to the physicality of English football, but it is his leadership in his first year in a new country that has caught the eye.

"Opponents will always score, because they are good, but we don't give them easy chances -- that is the big improvement of Ruben Dias," said Guardiola in March. "He's a central defender who leads the line and leads the team. His performance and decision making are good, but he also helps other players make good decisions -- that is how you become an incredible defender."

Thanks to Dias, City have been the defence in the Champions League this season, conceding four goals in 12 games.

Likewise a 15-game winning run that saw City soar from mid-table to a commanding lead in the Premier League between December and March was built on the foundations of 10 clean sheets.

Last week, Dias became the first defender in 32 years to win the English Football Writers' Association player of the year.

"I think me receiving this prize is the major example of how our team works, the way we build our game," he said.

- Silva's close relationship with Tuchel -

Silva, 36, is at the opposite end of his career to Dias, but it is his wealth of experience and relationship with coach Thomas Tuchel that makes him so valuable to a Chelsea side whose success in 2021 has been built primarily around an outstanding defence.

Last year the Brazilian captained Paris Saint-Germain as they lost 1-0 to Bayern Munich in the final in Lisbon. It was his last game for the club as Silva's contract was not extended, much to the disappointment of Tuchel.

"The decision doesn't matter. He will remain my player. He is in my heart and it was incredible to go through this with him," Tuchel said nine months ago.

Silva promptly joined Chelsea on an initial one-year deal, but was reunited with Tuchel in January when the German replaced Frank Lampard in the Stamford Bridge dugout.

It remains to be seen if Silva will still be there next season, and he actually played more games for Chelsea under Lampard than he has under Tuchel.

Injuries ruled him out of most of the new coach's early games, including the last-16 tie against Atletico Madrid.

An animated Silva instead spent the second leg of that tie marshalling Chelsea's defence from the stands, and his experience has helped bring out the best in Antonio Ruediger and Andreas Christensen alongside him with Tuchel overseeing 18 clean sheets from his first 24 games.

Tuchel also knows that, with so many young players in his squad, Silva's experience is invaluable.

"I am pretty sure that for 'Thia' it is a big advantage to come back to the final, to have this experience again and learn from the year before," Tuchel said of Silva, who is returning to the city that was his first stop in Europe in 2004 when he played for Porto's reserves.

AFP

Man City, Chelsea eye Champions League glory in Porto final

PORTO

PEP Guardiola's Manchester City are 90 minutes away from the trophy they so desperately crave but a Chelsea side transformed in recent months stand in their way in today's all-English Champions League final in Porto, the Portuguese city which was named as a last-minute host.

It is the third final of Europe's elite club competition to be played between two Premier League sides, and the second in just three seasons, and so this is a match-up that underlines the strength of the cash-rich English game.

And these are the two clubs whose own transformations in the last two decades under mega-rich foreign owners have done the most to change forever the landscape of the Premier League.

Not so long ago, the idea of Chelsea and City meeting in the biggest club game of all would have been laughable. Their only previous encounter in a final came in 1986 in the short-lived Full Members Cup, when Chelsea won 5-4 at Wembley.

That was before the Premier League and modern Champions



Pep Guardiola

Thomas Tuchel

League existed, before Roman Abramovich bought Chelsea in 2003 and before the Abu Dhabi takeover of City in 2008.

The west London club had a head-start in terms of becoming big spenders and as a club they have the experience of this stage before, having beaten Bayern Munich on penalties on their own turf in the

2012 final.

They have also won the Europa League twice since then. - 'Close the gap for 90 minutes' -

City, though, have never made it this far but are finally here, after 13 years of enormous investment from the Gulf and four previous years of disappointment under Guardiola, the man who was hired principally to win them the Euro-

pean Cup.

"We are quite a similar team to what we were in the past when we were knocked out. The margins and little details this year fell down on our side whereas before it was the opposite," said Guardiola, who is looking to win his third Champions League as a coach, a decade after his last victory with Barcelona.

After romping to the Premier League title, their third in four seasons, and having also won the League Cup this season, a City side starting the likes of Kevin De Bruyne and Ruben Dias are the clear favourites at the Estadio do Dragao.

Chelsea, though, have beaten City twice in the last six weeks, first in the FA Cup semi-final and then at the Etihad Stadium in the league.

"I could not expect a tougher opponent," Guardiola said.

They have been transformed since Thomas Tuchel replaced Frank Lampard as coach in January, even if they did finish the domestic season with three defeats in four games including the FA Cup final against Leicester City.

"We have arrived here. This is an incredible achievement and once you arrive you want to be on your very best, but it's City with Pep on the other side who are maybe at the moment the best in Europe, maybe in the world," said Tuchel, who was given a boost as fitness concerns Edouard Mendy and N'Golo Kante returned to training on Wednesday.

"It is on us again to close the gap for 90 minutes and the good thing

is we did it already.

"In football everything is possible and in a final everything is possible."

- Shadow of Covid -

Of course Covid-19 casts a shadow over the final, which is only being played in Porto after the last-minute decision to move the game away from Istanbul.

The Turkish metropolis was denied the chance to host the occasion for the second year running after the UK government put the country on its travel red list, making it impossible for fans of either finalist to attend the game from England.

Just like last year when Lisbon was the last-minute solution, Portugal rode to the rescue again, and fans will be there with the country one of the few on the UK's green travel list.

With Portuguese authorities allowing the Estadio do Dragao to be filled to 33 percent capacity, there will be 16,500 spectators in total, including 6,000 fans of each club.

Portuguese police have said dealing with such an influx of English fans as the country opens its borders again will be "an operation of great complexity".

AFP

Man City v Chelsea Champions League final a world away from forgotten Wembley clash

LONDON

MANCHESTER City and Chelsea head into today's Champions League final as English football superpowers, but 35 years ago both clubs had endured such hard times that reaching the much-maligned Full Members' Cup final was cause for celebration.

While City's showdown with Chelsea in Porto is a high-stakes clash, their first-ever meeting in a final came in a competition that was shunned by the elite and no longer exists.

At the start of the 1985/86 season, the beautiful game was an ugly mess in England as rampaging hooligans clashed in decaying stadiums and attendances fell.

Just months earlier, 39 people died during riots sparked by Liverpool fans before the European Cup final against Juventus at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

The Full Members' Cup was born out of the ashes of that tragedy, an ill-conceived creation aimed at filling the fixture void left by the post-Heysel ban on English clubs from European competitions.

Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham and Everton all opted out of the competition, leaving City and Chelsea among only five top-flight clubs taking part.

Fans initially treated it with derision and just over 4,000 witnessed City's 6-1 win against Leeds in the group stage, a record-low home attendance at that point in the club's history.

Yet by the time City



beat Hull and Chelsea dispatched Oxford to reach the 1986 final, the tournament had become a beacon of hope after decades of distress in east Manchester and west London.

For Chelsea, it was their first final since winning the European Cup Winners' Cup 15 years earlier.

They were in only their second season back in the top-flight after coming within a whisker of crashing down to the third tier in 1983.

Chelsea were among the clubs most affected by the hooligan disease and Blues chairman Ken Bates briefly resorted to erecting an electric fence at Stamford Bridge in a bid to contain the violence.

- 'Memorable day' -

City were in equally straitened circumstances as they prepared for their first Wembley appearance since the 1981 FA Cup

final.

In their first season back in the top-flight after two years in second-tier purgatory, cash-strapped City were light years away from the current dynasty bankrolled by their Abu Dhabi-based owners.

In a sign of the chaotic thinking that bedevilled English football at the time, the final was

played just 24 hours after both clubs were in First Division action.

City were weary after a draw with bitter rivals Manchester United, while Chelsea beat Southampton, with 10 players from each side featuring in both the league game and the final.

The fans did not care as around 67,000

watched one of the most entertaining, if long-forgotten, finals ever staged at the old Wembley.

"It was important. We all had aches and pains after the derby but we jumped straight on the bus to Wembley," said City's Mark Lillis.

Chelsea raced into a 5-1 lead fuelled by David Speedie's hat-trick -- the

first Wembley treble since Geoff Hurst's for England in the 1966 World Cup final.

Thanks partly to two goals from Lillis, City closed the gap to 5-4 but Chelsea held on to win their first trophy for 15 years.

"In the early rounds it wasn't taken seriously but Chelsea hadn't been to Wembley for a long time," said former Chelsea winger Pat Nevin, who played in the match.

"It was a really memorable game. Any Chelsea fan that was there will never forget it. Boy did they make some noise."

The Full Members' Cup went extinct after 1992 and it would be a surprise if City manager Pep Guardiola or Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel had even heard of it.

But for one sun-splashed spring afternoon at Wembley, the competition provided a welcome glimpse into the future for two downtrodden clubs who can now bask in their status as European heavyweights.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City, Chelsea eye Champions League glory in Porto final

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (I)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (I)
16:00 Akili & Me (I)
16:30 RHASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 shewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:45 SAJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9PM

UJENZI

Tonight on EATV Find out how using glass blocks from Conghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanfex Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Premier League set to take two-week break

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THIS season's Vodacom Premier League will go for a two-week break to pave way for senior national team 'Taifa Stars' camp, it has been revealed.

The 'Taifa Stars' will, under the tutelage of Kim Poulsen, start intensive training to shape up for the qualifiers for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

The two-week break will get underway after the top-flight game between Ruvo Shooting and Simba, which will take place on June 3.

Taifa Stars, which was announced by Poulsen yesterday, will enter camp early next month in preparation for the World Cup qualifiers and AFCON qualifiers to be played in September 2021.

The camp will get underway once the schedules from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the world soccer governing body (FIFA) have been made public.

During the two weeks, Tifa Stars will play two friendly matches in preparation for the World Cup qualifier. The global showpiece will take place in Qatar from November 12 to December 18, 2022.

In a schedule released recently by Tanzania Premier League Board, the showdown will be put on hold immediately after the game between Ruvo Shooting and Simba.

The top flight will get back to action on June 15, 2021, in which one clash between Biashara United and Namungo FC will take place.

Yanga will have to wait until June 17, 2021, given they will return to the field to face Ruvo Shooting immediately after playing their latest Premier League game against JKT Tanzania in Dodoma on May 19 2021, and recorded a 2-0 victory.

Meanwhile, Simba's French coach Didier Gomes has been tasked with supervising the registration of new players at the squad.

The club's leadership under the Board of Directors' Chairman, Mohamed Dewji, confirmed the move.

The leadership said the plan gears towards making sure he has a good and strong competitive squad that will give him good results in various tournaments next season.

The coach has already made recommendations for the registration of his new players, seeking to strengthen the outfit with a total of four foreign players for the CAF Champions League.

Simba's Board of Directors' vice-chairman, Salim Abdallah, noted everything related to players' registration has been assigned to the technical bench, led by Gomes.

He said that the technical bench is the one that knows the shortcomings of the team, so they will not interfere with the coach in his registration proposals for next season.

He added that they want to achieve big goals in Champions League, which had the outfit making it to the quarterfinals this season.

"In the run-up to CAF Champions League next season, the leadership is determined to get our team far, including playing in the final after having achieved our goal this season, namely taking part in the quarterfinals."

The official pointed out the club has learned a lot this year after crashing out of the quarterfinal stage and one of them is to have the best squad that will get the outfit in the right place.

"To have the best squad we have to make a good registration that will be managed by the technical bench which itself has seen the reduction of his squad, so we will leave everything to our coach Gomes in next season's registration," he disclosed.

Aga Khan SC A eyes Caravans A's scalp in 2021 Kazim Nasser tourney Div A's semis



Aga Khan SC A's cricketer Arshaan Premji will be seeking to help his side come out victorious in the 2021's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A last four's encounter with Caravans A, slated for tomorrow. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

AGA Khan SC A cricketers will be out to inch closer to lifting this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A's top honour, as they confront Caravans A team in the showdown's second semi-final tomorrow.

Winners of the clash, which will take place at Leaders Club venue, will take on Alaf Aces A in the final, which will take place the same day.

Alaf Ace A's cricketers made it to the final following a resounding six-wicket victory over Aga Khan SC A in the semi-final termed as 'Qualifier 1', which took place last week.

The Aga Khan SC A against Caravans A clash promises to be a pulsating meet, given either of the outfits will be

out to prove they are no pushovers.

Senior cricketers that include Abhik Patwa, skipper Riziki Kiseto, and Vishal Patel will, on the one hand, seek to catapult Aga Khan SC A to a convincing victory by staging impressive showing.

The mentioned players have played a pivotal role in the squad's ability to make it to the semi-finals, given they have made the most of their experience.

They will link up with promising cricketers including Jassani brothers, Arshaan and Aahil, Sadick Iddi, Dhruvit Mehta, and Arsaalan Premji to keep Caravans A squad in check.

It is an opportunity for Aga Khan SC A to substantiate their pedigree in domestic cricket and prove their loss to Alaf Aces A outfit in the first of the last four clashes was mere slip up.

The 'Qualifier 1' had Aga Khan SC A recording 162 runs for seven wickets in 19.5 overs after having won the toss and opted to start batting.

Patwa started well after he had been given a reprieve by Alaf Aces A's Kibwana Salum and Ejaz Aziz, who dropped catches from the Aga Khan SC A opening batsman's bat.

The experienced cricketer cracked several

good shots and took the game away until the 12th over, he got out with the team's score at 96 runs.

He notched 68 runs comprising three sixes and nine fours, turning out to be a top run getter.

Arshaan scored 46 runs off 41 balls, with his score including four fours and a six, bringing about hopes the squad can score more than 180 runs.

Disciplined bowling by Alaf Aces A's Mohammad Ali prevented Aga Khan SC A from ending their innings with a bigger score.

Ali ended with two wickets, giving away 20 runs in his four overs.

Salum as well took two

wickets, fellow bowlers, Ali Mpeka, Salum Jumbe, and Ankit Baghel, posted one wicket each.

In reply Alaf Aces A started the chase quite sensibly and cautiously, with Baghel, who is extremely flamboyant and attacking-minded batsman, playing sensibly.

The all-rounder paced his outfit and his innings ended with the cricketer posting 62 runs which consisted of seven fours and two sixes.

Alaf Aces A lost Jumanne Mohamed in 3.2 overs with the squad's score at 20 runs and Baghel carried on with skilful batting.

The cricketer's attacking approach was there but the shots were extremely calculative, he got out with the club's score at 87 runs.

Experienced skipper, Bhavesh Govind, forged a solid stand with Mpeka, making certain of their club's victory with skilful shots.

Bhavesh hit the winning shot, a six, from Aga Khan SC A's Harsheed Chouhan delivery.

Caravans A's cricketers, on the other hand, will be out to see to it they are still within reach of the competition's title.

They are set to line up such competent players like Sreejith Kumar, Jitin Singh, Hamisi Abdallah, Kassim Nassor, and Manoj Kumar to post a win over Aga Khan SC A.

DCC A tames Lions Cricket Club in 2021 DC Kazim Nasser League's Division B thriller

By Guardian Reporter

THIS season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division B's title race has taken shape following Dar Cricket Club (DCC) A's hard-fought one-run win over Lions Cricket Club in the city recently.

It was a tie that brought together teams, which have of late developed an exciting rivalry, and ultimately ended with DCC A squad having the last laugh largely because of their tenacity.

The closely contested game, held at the University of Dares Salaam ground, had DCC A going in to bat first, posting 134 runs for five wickets in 20 overs.

Opening batsman Adil Kassam made full use of his experience, scoring 62 runs and clearing the boundary on seven occasions.

Kassam, who had in the past featured for Upanga SC, mostly contributed to DCC A's acquisition of the score, with his fellow top order batsmen, Assad Aziz, Meet Jetha, and Sufian Usman, chipping in with two-digit scores.

Lions Cricket Club's bowling unit had its first success in its plan to keep DCC A in check with Usman's dismissal after



Dar Cricket Club (DCC) A's players pictured before playing one of the club's recent Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division B matches in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR CRICKET CLUB

4.4 overs, leaving DCC A with 26 runs.

Usman, who opened the innings with Kassam, was caught by Lions Cricket Club's Rijali Fentu from Abubakar Selemani's bowling, having notched 17 runs which consisted of two fours.

Aziz, slotted in at number three, pushed the team's score, notching 24 runs which consisted of two fours.

Kassam ultimately made his way back to the pavilion after 16.6 overs, leaving his squad with 111 runs and three

wickets down.

The DCC A efforts to record a bigger score were pegged back with Sajad Ratansi's dismissal, he exited with paltry two runs. Jetha chipped in with 10 runs.

Hozefa Hussein and Ally Hafidh had unbeaten stints, recording five runs not out and unbeaten two runs respectively.

Shamil Hameer posted two wickets, as was the case for Selemani, during Lions Cricket Club's bowling spell.

Hameer and Selemani gave

away 26 runs apiece in their four-over spells.

Lions Cricket Club, later on, fought gallantly at the crease, seeking to tame DCC A, only to fall short with three runs needed.

Their top order batsmen, led by the youthful Selemani, displayed an encouraging batting performance, notching two-digit scores.

Openers Mubin Hassan and Mohamed Salim, did not have much time to make their presence count, posting 11 runs and 19 runs respec-

tively.

Selemani was ultimately the side's top run getter, ending with 23 runs which consisted of a four.

Fentu chipped in with 19 runs which included a four.

The other top order batsman, Abdulsamad Ahmed, ended with 12 runs, nailing a four in his spell.

Yasser Abdulhamid, deployed as middle order batsman, scored 12 runs which somewhat improved Lions Cricket Club's total.

Atif Salim and youthful Ramadhani Mbunde's early exits dealt the team a huge blow, as far as the chase was concerned.

Abdulwahid Mohamed took two wickets during DCC A's bowling spell, giving away 14 runs in four overs.

The DC organizes the annual tournament in a bid to boost the promotion of the game in the country.

Harab Motors Company, Shamsu Pharmacy, and Swepac Imports International are the tournament's sponsors.

The tournament is also backed by Imports International, 3M Pharmacy, and Funcity that will present free vouchers to players in divisions B and C events' knock-out stages.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

