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National Pg 3
Amendments for Finance Bill, 2021



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National Pg 6
'Sexual violence against children up'



Harbinder Singh Sethi (C), who was facing economic sabotage charges, leaves the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday with relatives after being released on a plea bargaining accord registered with the court. He agreed with the Director of Public Prosecutions to pay 26.9bn/- and remain under surveillance for one year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Harbinder Sethi freed on 26bn/- liability accord

● Court satisfied that 200m/- already deposited

By Guardian Reporter

BUSINESSMAN Harbinder Singh Sethi yesterday regained his freedom after nearly four years in custody, following the payment of 200m/- out of 26bn/- he was ordered to compensate the state.

Earlier, the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court found the owner of Independent Power (T) Ltd (IPTL) guilty by his own admission, of fraudulently obtaining money in the economic sabotage case.

The decision was handed down by the Chief Resident Magistrate Huruma Shaidi when the case of Economic Sabotage No. 27/2017 was summoned to court for registering the prearranged agreement.

The court was satisfied that the businessman had deposited 200m/- with a further condition that he will pay the remainder in instalments within 12 months, upon which the businessman was told that he was free to go, thus walked out of the court and was joined by

his family.

Sethi was facing an economic crimes case alongside James Rugemalira and the two have been behind bars since 2017, but in 2019 he wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to negotiate his release under the plea bargaining formula set out by fifth phase president, the late Dr John Magufuli.

The two businessmen were arrested in connection with the Tegeta escrow account saga and first appeared at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court on June 19, 2017 facing 12 charges, which included money laundering.

The two were accused of dealing with criminal networks, forgery, submission of false documents, obtaining money through fraudulent means, occasioning the government a loss of \$22,198,544 and Sh309 billion.

The prosecution says Rugemalira and Sethi committed the said crimes in Dar es Salaam, South Africa, Kenya and India.

Detained clerics set free in Dar flown to Zanzibar

● Appeal Court upheld technicality win by defence lawyers in nine-year-old case

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

FAMILIES of two Muslim clerics were pleasantly surprised to see their loved ones arrive home Tuesday night unannounced after spending nine years in custody, facing

terrorism charges.

Speaking to 'The Guardian' here yesterday, relatives of Sheikh Farid Hadil Ahmed and Sheikh Mselem Ali Mselem said they had no prior information that

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'Govt must work with donors, devise new revenue sources'

By Guardian Reporter

MOBILISATION of funds for development projects in the 36trn/- budget projection for the 2021/22 financial year will be achieved if the government endears itself to development partners and devises new sources of internal revenue, a retired administrator has declared.

Ludovick Utouh, a former Controller and Auditor General (CAG)

and executive director of the Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA) made this observation when presenting an analysis of the 2021/22 budget estimates in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Urging that the government should also work to reduce the national debt, the former CAG who was accompanied by Mzumbe University Business School

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Justice for children, youths important, says ACHPR judge

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFRICAN Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) president Lady Justice Imani Aboud has assured children and youth activists and stakeholders locally and elsewhere that the institution is there to serve them.

Officiating at an occasion to mark the Day of the African Child at Arusha

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CRDB Bank Plc managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (R) briefs Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority's market development and research director, Zakaria Muyengi, in Dar es Salaam yesterday on insurance services available at the bank. This was at the launch of a public insurance education campaign dubbed 'Enjoy Life, Insure What You Treasure' attended by CRDB clients. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ANIMAL EXPORT

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HEALTH CENTRES

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SMART AGRICULTURE

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Coast regional commissioner Abubakari Kunenge cuts a tape to launch the second phase of assembling of Hongyan vehicles at GF factory yesterday. To his left is GF assemblies company managing director Imrani Karmali. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Detained clerics set free in Dar flown to Zanzibar

FROM PAGE 1

the two were about to be set free.

Awadhi Hadi Ahmed, Sheikh Ahmed's younger brother said the family was traumatized and lived in fear for the entire period the cleric was incarcerated.

"We heard a knock on the door at 9pm and upon answering we were pleasantly surprised to see Farid," he said.

The younger Ahmed said the family was hugely relieved and thankful to those who facilitated the release as well as all Tanzanians who have for years been agitating for justice to be done.

Sheikh Farid's son Muaadh said he missed his father a lot because he was only 12 when he was arrested and is now 21 years—an adult. He said he did not have the

guidance of a father which every child deserved.

"It is the best birthday gift ever, I've turned 21 today and my father is back home a free man," he said.

Speaking of their release, Sheikh Mselem said they were set free at 7pm and taken to the Julius Nyerere International Airport and put on a chartered plane to Zanzibar.

Upon touching down, he said they were taken to the VIP Lounge of the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

From the airport, he said they were put to additional VIP treatment with each being chauffeured in a separate SUV "to the destination of their choice."

"The driver asked whether I wanted to be taken to my first or second wife but I chose to be

driven to my mother's house," he said.

The cleric thanked Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi for making efforts that led to their release.

Sheikh Ahmed, leader of Uamsho (awakening) movement and his 35 colleagues have been in remand prison since 2012 facing terrorism charges. Apart from him and Mselem, 16 others were also set free yesterday and the fate of remaining others has not been clarified.

Last month, lawyers representing the clerics won over prosecution appeal against the decision of the court drop 14 of 25 charges leveled against them.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the prosecution's objection to dropping charges, where

prosecutors said the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has the authority to appeal the decision of the High Court or lower courts with additional jurisdiction, citing technical issues of opposing penalty or in acquittal.

On April 23, the High Court dropped 14 charges after agreeing to arguments of defence lawyers, Daimu Halfani, Juma Nassoro, Jeremiah Mtobesya and Abubakar Salum that the court has no jurisdiction to hear the charges as the alleged crimes were committed in Zanzibar.

The DPP set out an objection to the Court of Appeal but during the hearing of the appeal the defendants' lawyers raised objections against the government's appeal and prevailed.

Justice for children, youth crucial, says ACHPR judge

FROM PAGE 1

Primary School yesterday, Justice Aboud made this assertion when answering questions raised by some pupils on the role the court plays in safeguarding the rights of children.

The court can and will hear all matters related to child rights abuse, she stated, pointing out that children cannot come to the court directly, as they need to involve their parents, guardians or elders in their community in reporting issues or filing cases.

Young people should speak up against all injustices experienced in their communities or families, she emphasised, saying that the world marks the Day of the African Child "because there were children who many years ago dared to stand up against all odds, in opposing the oppressive system in apartheid South Africa."

"As it happens also, the recently launched African Court's five-year strategic plan, 2021-2025 intends to actively address and seek out new ways to strengthen the complementary nature of the court's human rights protection mandate, including the Rights and Welfare of the Child," she told the gathering.

Getting the work done will involve closer engagement with national human rights stakeholders such as national courts, human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, including those operating at the regional and continental level, along with bar associations, academia and the

media fraternity, she elaborated.

Victor Lowilla, the CHPR Legal Officer, had earlier said that African children still suffer human rights abuses, including forced labour in mines as in the Congo, being drafted into fighting groups in Central Africa, assimilated in rebel causes, while being compelled to beg or trade in the streets, in Tanzania.

"And we still have many children being denied the right to attend school," he specified.

Through its newly launched strategy, the court plans closer cooperation with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Governance Architecture Platform members, notably the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, along with courts of regional economic communities.

"And we also envisage enhancing our collaboration with international partners, such as United Nations human rights bodies, European and Inter-American human rights courts and institutions," the court president stated.

"It is therefore expected that in five years' time the African Court will be transformed into a continental legal entity which can present tangible evidence of its increased efficiency and effectiveness, which will in turn have led to greater credibility in the capacity of the AU human rights system to make a positive difference in the lives of African individuals and peoples," she added.

'Govt must work with donors, devise new revenue sources'

FROM PAGE 1

principal, Prof Honest Ngowi said that overall, the government had done well.

He praised it for coming up with what he termed as the poor man's budget, asserting that more revenue sources would enable the government accomplish ongoing flagship projects and start new ones.

Despite the fact that the national debt remains within sustainable levels, there is a need for the government to look for new revenue sources so as to swiftly service the national debt which has reached 29 per cent of the 2021/22 budget expenditure commitments, he stated.

He commended the government for improving relations with development partners as this will facilitate obtaining more funds to support the budget, along with concessional loans that have more generous terms than market-based loans.

On the collection of property tax to be conducted on a prepaid format as with electricity, Utouh said that in order to avoid discretionary decisions on who is supposed to pay what amount, the government needs to set uniform payment scaled to expenses.

It also needs to reinforce the security of ICT systems, to ensure that database servers are manned and owned by public institutions, similarly underlining the need to amend the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act of 2010 to help achieve objectives of the proposed budget.

"As it is now, the one who finances the feasibility study gets into the competition, something that might jeopardize the execution of the project if the one who financed the study fails to secure the tender," he argued.

Reports on the performance of public institutions like the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), the Office of the Treasury Registrar and the Ethics Secretariat should be made public and presented to the National Assembly, while also being opened to the public, he

emphasised.

The Wajibu assessment also suggested that the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Bank of Tanzania and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) invest heavily in building capacity on identifying and tax online business, which he said is booming in the country.

CAG reports known as 'management letters for public entities' should also be public, and the legislature make effective management of implementation of the approved budget, so that it achieves intended objectives, he said.

This can be done by ensuring it reviews quarterly budget implementation reports that are provided by the Treasury, he affirmed, while advising the government to initiate discussions with neighboring countries on extending services to those countries when strategic projects like the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) are completed.

Such a link would improve foreign currency flows so as to cover huge debts arising from the projects, he elaborated.

"The government should ensure that it increases financial capacity, staffing and infrastructure of tax arbitration tribunals so as to hear and decide tax cases as currently 360.08bn/- and \$181.43m cases need to be arbitrated," he said.

The government also needs to reduce the number of projects planned for the year to give it a chance to allocate more funds in implementing a few projects that will be completed on time, the retired administrator intoned.

"Generally, we commend the government for the 2021/22 budget estimates as well as coming up with new sources of revenue such as telephone line tax, municipal bonds as well as property tax through prepaid metering," he added on the budget where the government proposes to spend 36.329trn/- where 63 per cent targets recurrent expenditure and 37 per cent caters for development projects.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir bin Ally talks with journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the suspension of this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Temeke District Commissioner Godwin Gondwe (C) shakes hands with NMB zonal manager Donatus Richard after receiving 576 iron sheets worth 18m/- donated by the bank for three primary schools namely Yombo-Dovya, Tuangoma and Faraja to support government efforts in education sector in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

Government is yet to decide fate of live animal exports

THE government is yet to decide whether to lift or not the temporary ban on exports of live animals which has been in place since 2016.

Deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Mary Masanja said in a response to a question by Muheza legislator Hamis Mwinjuma who wanted to know when the government will lift the ban of export of butterflies and other live animals.

In response the deputy minister said the government was conducting a verification of the losses and profits of the businesses and that after the exercise the decision will be made.

"The government noticed that there were irregularities in the way the business was being conducted including transporting

of some protected animals abroad," she said.

Exporters of the live animals have several times carried behind the scene discussions with officials from the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to find a lasting solution to the problem to no avail.

They have recently said they were seeking an audience with President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her intervention on the matter saying their families are suffering economically following the ban.

Through their umbrella body the Tanzania Wildlife Exporters Association (TWEA) argued that

they only export pet species available in open areas which is two third of the total area of the country and not from protected areas which covers one third of the Tanzanian total area.

TWEA has on several occasions complained of incurring losses amounting to billions which included battling lawsuits in foreign courts from their clients who decided to go the legal way after an agreement between the two sides to deliver the animals in time was not honored.

The government banned transportation of all live animals outside the country in March 2016

until proper procedures were made to ensure only approved animals were transported.

The decision sparked anger from exporters who complained that the ban was a surprise decision to them as it was made a month or so after they were handed licenses to operate.

The traders claimed that Tanzania has painted a bad image in a business full of competition that involves various countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia and many others saying it will take time to restore the trust from customers.

Amendments for Finance Bill 2021 tabled for first reading

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Finance Bill 2021 which proposes for amendment of key tax laws to facilitate implementation of the 2021/22 national budget was tabled for first reading in Parliament on Tuesday evening.

The bill which is divided into twenty parts whereby part one deals with preliminary provisions which includes the title of the Bill and the date of which the Act shall come into operation.

Deputy minister for Finance and Planning Hamad Masauzi presented the bill in Parliament where among other things the bill proposes to amend the Income Tax Act, Cap. 332 whereby section 10 is amended so as to empower the Minister to grant exemption in respect of projects funded by donors or through non-concessional loans without prior approval of the Cabinet with a view to fast track implementation of the projects.

"Part III of the Bill proposes to amend the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306 by imposing a levy on airtime depending on the consumer's ability to top up in order to raise funds for implementation of development and strategic projects," the minister said.

On another note, Section 124 of the Act is proposed to be amended by imposing excise duty at the rate of 10percent on imported used motorcycles aged more than three years in order to discourage importation of used motorcycles with a view to protect the environment.

This section is further proposed to be amended in order to add to the list money transfer and payment service providers licensed under the National Payment Systems Act.

Part of the Bill proposes to amend the Government Loans,

Grants and Guarantees Act, Cap 134. Section 13 is amended to enable the Government to issue a guarantee to institutions or companies to borrow an amount of money not exceeding the value of shares of the Government in the respective institution or company undertaking the project upon approval of the Cabinet.

The Finance Act 46 Part VI of the Bill proposes to amend the Gaming Act, Cap. 41 whereby section 31A is amended to reduce gaming tax on winnings with a view to encourage players to opt for local gaming activities instead of offshore gaming activities.

Further, the Second Schedule is amended by increasing gaming tax on sports betting and introducing a tax rate for virtual games and other gaming products licensed under section 51 of the Gaming Act in order to increase Government revenue.

Part VII of the Bill proposes to amend the Higher Education Students Loans Board Act, Cap 178 whereby section 7 is amended by imposing a requirement of seeking approval of the Minister and publication in the Gazette before the Board exercises its powers of setting criteria and conditions for granting of student's loans and issuing grants, bursaries and scholarships.

The aim of the proposed amendment is to regulate the Board's powers of imposing conditions on the loans issued to students.

"Part III of the Bill proposes to amend the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306 by imposing a levy on airtime depending on the consumer's ability to top up in order to raise funds for implementation of development and strategic projects"



Uhuru Torch race leader Lieutenant Josephine Mwambashi presents a title deed to one of 93 residents in Mbulu town council yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

'Consumer advocacy body to begin next fiscal year'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has finalised the process to set up the National Consumer Advocacy Council (NCAC) as a tool to ensure consumers' rights.

The NCAC will have the legal power to stand in for consumer protection and rights when it comes to matters fair competition.

Deputy minister for Industry and Trade Exaud Kigaha told the National Assembly here yesterday that

the government is determined to protect both consumers and manufacturers for fair businesses and related competition.

He said in the 2021/22 fiscal year, the government has set aside funds for completion of the final details of having in full swing the operation of the National Consumer Advocacy Council.

However, Kigaha said the government is on the final touches in preparations of the National Standard policy

which is also key to consumers.


The Deputy Minister gave the response when reacting to a question by Oscar Ishengoma (Muleba south-CCM) on when the state will come up with an entity to protect final consumers.

He said the government is aware of the need for consumer protection which are well stipulated under the Fair Competition Act No.8 of 2003) and implemented by Fair Competition Commission (FCC).


DAR ES SALAAM SECONDARY EDUCATION SOCIETY

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday, 26th June, 2021 at 11:00 a.m at Shaaban Robert Secondary School.

HON. SECRETARY



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



PRE-QUALIFICATION NO. TFRA/PQ/2021-2023/F/01 FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF BULK FERTILIZER

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR BULK FERTILIZER IMPORTATION FOR THE PERIOD OF AUGUST 1, 2021 TO JULY 31, 2023

RE-ADVERTISED

1. Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) established by Fertilizer Act, Cap 378 has been mandated to coordinate importation of fertilizer through the bulk procurement system by the Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations GN. 49 of 2017.
2. TFRA now intends to Pre-qualify fertilizer dealers (Suppliers/Producers) for importation of fertilizer for the cropping seasons 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 under the Bulk Procurement System (BPS).
3. Tenders shall be invited on product basis and the estimated import quantity per annum is 570,167 MT as provided below:-

Type of fertilizer	Estimated quantity
UREA	227,957 MT
DAP	165,438 MT
CAN	75,436 MT
NPK	72,886 MT
SA	28,450 MT
Total	570,167 MT

4. Pre-qualification will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations, GN. No. 49 of 2017 and Fertilizer Bulk Procurement System Guidelines and is opened to all interested applicants except the existing prequalified suppliers.
5. A complete set of pre-qualification documents in English language can be collected by interested companies at TFRA offices or sent by mail after applying and receiving a control number to make online payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred United States Dollar only (USD 500) to the TFRA account. Please consider all your transfer charges so that the amount to be received in the TFRA account is NOT less than US \$500 otherwise your payment will be automatically rejected by the system.
6. Application for pre-qualification should be submitted by hand in sealed envelope, delivered to the address below or **Electronically** by Email (pdf) using info@tfra.go.tz at or before 10:00 A.M. Local Time on **Thursday 8th July 2021** clearly marked **"Pre-qualification No. TFRA/PQ/2021-2023/F/01 for Fertilizer Bulk Procurement"**.
7. Applications sent by email **WILL BE ACCEPTED** but TFRA will not be responsible for electronic document not delivered, lost or opened prematurely. For all Electronic submission, the applicant must send the original document by hand or courier for record and reference purpose if pre-qualified.
8. Late applications, portion of application, applications not opened during the pre-qualification opening ceremony and applications not accompanied with confirmation of payment for the pre-qualification documents shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

For more consultation please contact Mr. Joseph Charos +255 784 632 208 and Mr. Nganga Nkonya +255 715 316 570;

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TFRA)
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TANAPA in five-year strategy to increase number of tourists

By Guardian Correspondent,
Dodoma

TANZANIA National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has embarked on a five-year strategic plan to be implemented in seven areas that includes innovation and expansion of the scope of tourists' products and other goods and aimed to increase the number of tourists in the country.

The remarks were made here yesterday by the Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner, Paschal Shelutete at a seminar organised by the authority for journalists.

Shelutete said the authority was implementing conservation and tourism activities in accordance with the five-year (2018/19 - 2022/23) strategic plan that has been revised and replaced by another five-year strategic plan beginning 2021/22 to 2025/26.

He said the strategy aims to implement government directives in the country's tourism sector.

He mentioned the strategy's other priority area as including the strengthening infrastructures for tourists, specifically road infrastructures, airport, national parks' entrances, accommodation, communications, water and electricity.

"Other areas include boosting of tourist areas advertising via television including the TBC's Tanzania Safari Channel, radio programmes and in the social networks," he said.

The Commissioner added other strategies as including offering opportunities to the private

sector to develop tourism in the national parks, putting in place an enabling environment in the public and private sectors to woo investment in the national parks areas.

He said in the coming five years, the Authority plans to increase accommodation capacity in the national parks from 3,429 beds to 5,000.

Citing various achievements attained, Shelutete said these include the installation of a hot-air balloon in Serengeti, Tarangire and Ruaha national parks and canopy walkway tourism in the Lake Manyara and Kitulo national parks.

"The ongoing feasibilities include investment on cable cars from the Machame gate to the Shira Plateau in the Kilimanjaro National Park, as well as continuing with strategic projects to boost tourism in Rubondo, Burigi-Chato and Serengeti national parks," he added.

Earlier, opening the seminar, Dodoma Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner, Ahmed Mbugi called on the journalists to use their pens to advertise tourists' attractions in the country to mobilise Tanzanians to visit their national parks.

For his part, TANAPA's chief conservation Officer July Iyimo said tourism helps to develop the country's economy and boost national income, introduce the country to the world and increase job opportunities.

He appealed to the journalists to write news that mobilises Tanzanians to visit their national parks.



Tanzania Revenue Authority deputy head of revenue James Ntalika talks to motor vehicle spare parts businessman at Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam on how to pay revenue timely during the door to door education campaign yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TANZANIA has declined by 35 per cent from an average 162 patients per every 1000 in 2015 to 106 per 1000 in 2020, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The country has also declined in regions with high malaria prevalence from 11 in 2017 to seven in 2020 thanks to the Tanzania Biotech Products Limited (TBPL) which has proved to an efficient national biological arsenal aimed at eliminating malaria through the production of biolarvicide.

Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima

'The incidence rate of malaria declines'

said in a written response to a question by opposition Special Seats legislator Halima Mdee.

The MP wanted to know the contribution of the factory in fight against malaria in the country.

The minister said in response that since TBPL—the subsidiary company of National Development Corporation (NDC)—started production in 2016 a total of 340,520 litres of biolarvicide have been bought by the government from the factory at a cost of 4.5bn/- which is an average of 13,200/- per litre.

The chemicals have been distributed to 28 regions and 185 district and municipal councils across the country.

"The efforts includes implementation of other ways of controlling the spread of the disease such the use of treated nets," she said.

The minister assured the MP and the country at large that the government will continue to use products from the factory to achieve the goal of eliminating malaria whereby the country intends to reduce malaria

prevalence to 3.5per cent by 2025 from 7.5per cent in 2017.

She further said every district council is entitled and accountable to ensure it set aside funds for purchasing the chemicals every financial year.

Malaria prevalence in the country decreased by half from 14.4 per cent recorded in 2016 to 7.3 in 2018, a study by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

According to the 2017 Tanzania malaria indicator survey the rate reached 7.3 per cent in 2017 from 14.4 per cent in 2015.



District Commissioner for Unguja North Sadifa Juma inspects one of the toilets at Kandwi elementary, primary and secondary school in Unguja, Zanzibar after a major renovation by Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) under the sponsorship of Exim Bank Tanzania. The renovation cost about 10m/-. Looking on are Exim Bank Zanzibar branch senior manager Mwinyimkuu Ngalima (R) and the founder and CEO of Asma Mwinyi Foundation (AMF) Asma Mwinyi (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent,
Dodoma

Govt not satisfied with contractor's extension request for road project

THE Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Prof Riziki Shemdoe has directed for the in-depth verification of time extension requested by the contractor of tarmac roads in Dodoma city.

The project is so far 70 per cent complete and was supposed to be finalised next month, but the contractor, China Heinan International Cooperation Co. Ltd (CHICO), has requested for time extension of 10 months to finish

the work.

Speaking here on Tuesday after inspecting the project, Prof Shemdoe said the project was supposed to be completed within 18 months according to the contract agreement that ends July 32, 2021.

"True, great work has been done for the 89.1bn/- project involving 51.2 kms of roads, but I have instructed the project consultant to verify the 10-month

extension request as I do not buy it because it is too long.

"Just too many months, considering that the contractor used 16 months to complete 70 per cent of the work, how can they use 10 months to complete the remaining 30 per cent?" queried Prof Shemdoe.

He said he was directing the Project Consultant to work together with TARURA and the Project Manager to verify the

time extension request in order to arrive at the agreeable time for work extension.

He also instructed for the verification to see how the project would be involved in tree planting along the roads as well as the construction of sheds for waiting passengers at bus stops.

He also assured that all the payment invoices submitted by the contractor for the 44bn/- have been paid out.

Five agreements on ship building for Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has signed five agreements for building new ships in the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika valued at 438.8bn/-.

The signing event was witnessed here on Tuesday by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and officials of Marine Services Corporation Limited (MSCL) at Mwanza south port in Mwanza City.

The signing involved by MSCL acting managing director Philemon Bagambilana on behalf of the government and two foreign firms.

While at the Port, President Samia inaugurated the 'New MV Victoria HAPA KAZI TU' and 'MV Butiama' that underwent massive refurbishment to begin sailing in Lake Victoria.

In the first agreement a ship will be built for Lake Victoria that will have the capacity to carry 3,000 tonnes of cargo and 600 passengers.

President Samia said she would like to make Mwanza city a commercial centre for the Lake zone regions since there are many opportunities.

She further said the government will revive technical colleges to provide opportunities to the youth to receive ship building education and called upon the contractors to work professionally.

"The work done in the ships' refurbishment and dry dock is good, I am greatly pleased as cargo transport has now been made easy," she added.

For his part, the Works and Transport Minister Leonard Chamuriho said the vessels will open up the economies for Kigoma Region especially.

The chairman of the

Infrastructures Parliamentary Committee, Suleiman Kakoso said the parliament endorsed funds for building the vessels.

The further said the nation was in great shortage of ship building technicians hence the government should look into the issue of building colleges thereof by at least allocating 20bn/- for the purpose.

For his part, the Kigoma Member of Parliament, Kirumbe Ng'enda said among the agreements signed two will benefit people in his area.

He added that the vessels will assist trade between Kigoma and neighbouring countries of DRC Congo, Zambia and Burundi.

He said Lake Tanganyika lacks state owned passenger and cargo ships, as the existing one, MV Liemba needs major refurbishments.



The work done in the ships' refurbishment and dry dock is good, I am greatly pleased as cargo transport has now been made easy

Lands ministry hands out 93 title deeds during Uhuru Torch arrival in Mbulu

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbulu

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Ministry, through its land formalisation programme is in Mbulu District, Manyara Region where it handed out 93 land title deeds to residents who satisfied set conditions.

The title deeds were handed out on Tuesday this week by the Uhuru Torch Race Leader Lt Josephine Mwambashi upon arrival in Mbulu town in collaboration with Manyara Regional Assistant Lands Commissioner, Leonard Msafiri and other lands experts from Mbulu Town Council.

Reading statement on title deeds for land formalisation programme for the residents of Ayamohe and

Sanu Baray wards to the Torch Race leader, the Chairman of the Lands Formalisation Committee Timotheo Tlatlaa said the formalization plan for human settlement plots for the ward residents was mooted in 2017 by the residents through their village governments.

"The Town Council provided experts to enable the land plot surveying exercise," he said.

Tlatlaa said the exercise began and completed in FY 2018/2019, and added that a total of 2,109 plots were surveyed in the two wards and the exercise to issue title deeds to the residents was still continuing.

He said the residents contributed 100,000/- each for

the formalisation exercise and a total of 9.3m/- was collected where 460,000/- was contributed from the office of town director.

For his part, Manyara Region Assistant Lands Commissioner Leonard Msafiri said all the region's districts are engaged in the land formalisation exercise.

He said he was pleased to see Mbulu residents grabbing the opportunity as they were displaying maturity.

He cited some benefits in the land formalisation as including eradication of land conflicts as well as using the land according to better land planning programme, inviting in infrastructures including basic social services such as roads, water and schools.



Speaker of House of Representative Zuberi Ali Maulid listens to Zanzibar Chief Secretary Eng. Zena Ahmed Salum at Chukwani yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Climate-smart agriculture, new way of farming that makes farmers smile in the face of climate change

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Morogoro have started benefiting from climate-smart agriculture (CSA), which proved to be effective in curtailing stress that are caused by climate change as well as increasing yields per acre.

"I like this farming a lot, especially the use of tied ridges technology because even with little rains, one can manage to get a good harvest compared to our traditional farming where we sometimes used to lose all the crops when the rains failed," says Monica Meshack, a farmer in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region.

Meshack is amongst a group of farmers that are beneficiaries of a project sharing knowledge on how to implement climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies in the country.

CSA is an approach to increase food productivity and farmers' income while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience to shocks and stresses from climate change.

The project, Building Capacity for Resilient Food Security, is funded by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with the government of Tanzania as a main partner. The lead government partners are the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) from the mainland and their counterparts in Zanzibar at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock (MAINRL).

The project has brought together various experts to equip farmers on climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies suitable to their agricultural zones and in line with climate/weather forecasts.

Technical support is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is one such partner working to identify and demonstrate the best-bet agricultural practices and technologies to withstand climate change in collaboration with other stakeholders.

IITA has established field demonstration plots in various agro-ecological zones across the country: Unga, Pemba, and Lindi for Coastal Region.

Iringa Region for the highlands, and Dodoma and Morogoro regions for the semi-arid zones, to showcase CSA technologies and practices to the farmers.

Each demonstration plot is managed by a group of farmers who have been learning alongside the district- and village-level agriculture extension officers.

The project is also working with farmers to try out these practices and technologies in their fields to validate them including how to construct terraces and tied ridges.

"These conserve moisture in the soil for the crops when the rains are low," said Meshack. "We are also growing improved crop varieties that are resistant to drought, for example, drought-tolerant maize varieties and crops that are better suited to the drought conditions, such as cowpea," he added.

The Nghumbi village chairperson, Yona Nashon, noted that the farmers have accepted the CSA practices and technologies because of the benefits seen in their semi-arid lands.

These technologies help farmers to be resilient to climate change which affects our region. You will find a farmer planting on a small farm size but producing high yields compared to those practicing traditional farming.

Currently, the project is implemented in nine mainland and Zanzibar districts and has provided training to over 2,000 farmers through a network on 15 demonstration plots. Using agro met information in planning and decision-making.

The project is also supporting farmers to cope with this phenomenon by providing

localized agro-meteorological information and advice to help them plan for their agricultural production activities.

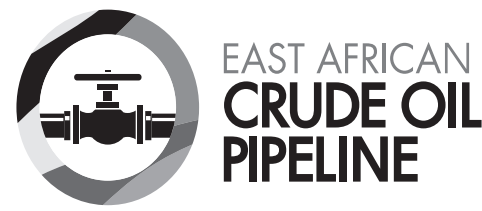
These include predictions on the start and end of the rainy season and rainfall expected. Under the project, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), in partnership with Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA), has been organising meetings to prepare farmers for the upcoming planting season.

The forums provide farmers with the seasonal forecast accompanied by advisories for their crop, livestock, and fishery production. Philemon Henry, a Meteorologist with Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), one of the project partners, noted that climate change has affected the rainfall regimes and farmers can no longer depend on traditional forecasting. "We can no longer rely on traditional farming calendars because of climate change.

The timings of the seasons have been changing and the amount of rain expected unpredictable. Thus, we urge farmers to use scientific weather forecasts from respective weather authorities, specifically TMA for Tanzania," said Philemon. "In the past, I relied on guesswork to determine when to plant, and many times I had to manually water my banana field if I got the season wrong.

"But now, I follow the weather forecast keenly as I know it has a large bearing on my farming activities," said Hassan Fumu, a banana farmer in Mahonda, who is among the beneficiaries of the project.

Developing current and future extension workers the project has also been working with the Training and Extension Department at the Ministry of Agriculture to review the certificate and diploma programs of the Ministry's Agriculture Training Institutes (MATI) to ensure topics on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) are well addressed.



READVERTISED:

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT HOUSES FOR EACOP PROJECT
REF: 0010006840

TOTAL East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company), an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable contractors to express their interest in construction of replacement houses under the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Project Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) implementation.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania. The section of the pipeline in Tanzania will traverse eight (8) regions, 27 administrative district councils and 231 Villages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Construction of replacement houses and ancillary structures (kitchens and latrines) for Project Affected People (PAPs) displaced by the pipeline project will be carried out in eight (8) different regions; Kagera, Tabora, Geita, Shinyanga, Tabora, Singida, Manyara and Dodoma.

The Project will provide a replacement house(s) at the agreed replacement land, to eligible physically displaced households. The project will determine the type of replacement structures to be provided and the location in agreement with each PAP. Contractors will construct 336 houses, 388 VIP latrines and 345 outdoor kitchens from the Company's detailed house designs all of which all are based on standardized house layouts.

The substructures and superstructures (raft slab, interior/exterior walls only) of every house and ancillary structure will be built using a Company supplied modular and re-usable customised formwork system with a custom concrete mix design. All Contractors will be expected to work with this formwork system. The completion of all remaining scope of work (labour and materials) i.e. roofing, all finishes, electrical and plumbing, civil and landscaping will be responsibility of the Contractor.

All prequalified tenderers will receive an information package on the modular formworks that will clearly demonstrate and detail the installation of the product.

Replacement houses will generally be between two to five rooms, with a gross floor area of 25m² to 75 m². Each house will typically have two (2) ancillary structures, a kitchen and a ventilated improved pit latrine. Replacement housing will be of a good standard of construction. Outside of the substructure and superstructure, the houses will be constructed using modern locally sourced materials, all of which will meet Tanzania quality standards and meet all National Building Codes requirements.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Due to the size of the scope and to assist companies expressing interest, the Project reserves the right to award individual work packages and or multiple work packages to any eligible contractor who expresses an interest.

Interested companies can enter into an agreement with other companies to enhance their service offering, however, all and each partner in the agreement MUST meet the requirements outlined below.

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request by submitting the following:

- Tanzanian National Contractors (Building) Registration minimum Class 2. (Submit copy),
- Examples of building construction experience in Kagera, Tabora, Geita, Shinyanga, Singida, Manyara, Dodoma Regions of Tanzania. (provide listing of projects within any or all the regions),
- Demonstrate financial capability to undertake the proposed works,
- Provide/demonstrate HSE (OSHA), Social and Quality Assurance and Control policies,
- Provide/demonstrate experience with project management techniques and controls, as well as large scale logistics and procurement capabilities,
- Commitment to developing local/national content value. (provide training details),
- **Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is required.**

Interested companies which have the capacity and resources to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents (Minimum Requirements) an email to talal.mufti@external.total.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on the **15th July 2021**.

Note: A detailed presentation will be presented by EACOP to share more details of the scope, scheduling as well as offering a questions and answers period from interested Bidders - details of the presentation will be communicated at a later stage.

50 grape farmers in Dodoma secures contract with the brewer company

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

EFFORTS by grape farmers in Dodoma region to seek for cultivation support and assured markets have finally fetch fruitful results following a move by some key stakeholders to start extending investment footholds towards the economic sub-sector.

To start with, the Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL Plc) have entered into the contract with at least 50 farmers for the cultivation of grapes wine varieties needed for the production of diverse wine brands.

Under the sector's maiden contract, the beneficiary farmers are provided with the needed seedling varieties, fertilizers, pesticides as well as extension services and after harvesting, the company will purchase the grapes at rewarding prices.

TBL Plc Agriculture Manager, Joel Msechu, informed The Guardian during an exclusive interview that the farmers have already received special training from a high-profile grapevine expert from South Africa.

"The training based on recommended agronomic practices necessary in growing grapes more successful," he explained.

He added that the company have also imported and supplied to the farmers three best wine grapes varieties from South Africa.

"The target is to have best wine grapes with needed sugar content to enable TBL Plc to bottle best wine brands," he said.

According to him, the company will annually keep on increasing the number of farmers.

"Apart from targeting raw material, the vision is also to assist the farmers to improve their livelihoods," he stated.

On his part, Dr Cornel Masawe, Head of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI-Makutupora) expressed that the development will play major role in advancing performance of the sector.

He said the grape farmers in the

region were working tirelessly but their cultivating morale have been diluted by a number of setbacks, including lack of reliable markets and friendly prices.

He said the institute was also in process to introduce into the country at least 13 new wine grape varieties from South Africa in a move aimed to improve the sector.

He disclosed the seed varieties to be imported from South Africa which is a mixture of red and white grafted scions, as well as root stocks are Pinotage, Cabinet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot, Durif and Carignan.

Others are Chardonnay, Chenin Black, Semillon, Ramsey, R99, R110 and SO4.

"Statistically, Tanzania is placed second after South Africa for brewing best wines within the continent, but there are only two wine grape varieties grown in the country, Makutupora Red and Chenin White, a situation which limits production of wider varieties of wines," he observed.

Researches has proved that Tanzania has potential whether to produce grapes with high sugar contents, which is useful in processing wines of high alcoholic percent (from 12 to 14 percent), in surplus to the rest countries in the world where the crops is cultivated.

"Tanzania is the only country in the globe with friendly weather which supports grapes to grow in two seasons within a year, an advantage which must be exploited accordingly," he briefed.



The training based on recommended agronomic practices necessary in growing grapes more successful

Sexual violence against children up by 26 per cent, says TAMWA

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

SEXUAL violence against children has increased by 26 per cent in 2020 and remains one of major violation of children's rights in the country, according to the Tanzania Media Woman Association (TAMWA).

Speaking yesterday during the commemoration of the International Day of the African Child, TAMWA Executive Director Rose Reuben said that sexual violence against children is still a major concern in the country, calling for more players to chip in and address it.

Citing police report, Rose said sexual violence against children cases have increased whereas in 2020, 7263 cases were reported which is an increase of 26 per cent compared to 2015 where 5803 cases were recorded equivalent to 615 cases per month which is said to be endangering the future welfare of children in the country.

With these cases, the activist said despite existing legal and policy frameworks, children in Tanzania continue to experience high rates of sexual violence in their homes, schools and communities and children continue to feel that not enough is being done to ensure they are safe from abuses, she added.

Further, efforts to fight such barbaric behaviors against children the government in collaboration with partners through its National Plan of Action against Violence against

Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017/18-2021/22 aimed at reducing violence against women children by 50% in reaching 2022, she commented.

"Although there are different plans in action the government must keep on striving to continue improving their fight against child abuse because the children lives are being threatened by these abuses," she said.

"In celebrating this day and looking at our government's efforts to reduce and eliminate child abuse, we call on communities, civil society organisations to see that it is everyone's responsibility to put an end to child abuse because these abuses starts at a family level," she added.

One of the Dar es Salaam-based parents, Secelela Balisidya said parents need to set time for children as well so that they can be able to talk to them and get the chance to know what is going on with them on a daily basis.

"As parents, we need to look at our children closely and not leave everything to our house help so that our children can be able to confide in us on every little detail that is happening to them in the course of their everyday lives be it at school or at home," she said.

Esther Dogani, a form four student from Magoza Secondary School called upon students and children to be more open to their parents, when facing abuses because only through them they will be able to get the help needed.



Tunduru Traffic police commander in Ruvuma Region Anosisye Maipopo talks with motorbike riders in Nalasi division during the launch of the campaign dubbed: "Compliance with the country's laws and regulations yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Z'bar govt suspends stone crushing business near residential areas

ZANZIBAR Minister of State in the First Vice President office, Dr Saada Mkuya Salum has temporarily suspended stone crushing business at bricks making plants until such time the government comes up with special guidelines for the business.

Dr Mkuya gave the order at different times on Monday at Bumbwini and Mangapwani areas in Zanzibar North District 'A' during her inspection visit.

She said the step was necessary in order to ensure safety to the people and the environment.

She said stone crushing plants near people's residential areas affect the environment as well as the health of the people near them and their farms.

She said despite government

calls to the people to invest in economic activities, they should not be left to adversely affect the environment and pose health hazards to the people.

She added that the exercise will be sustainable to see whether all factories engaged in stone crushing business do so by adhering to safety regulations, to both the environment and human beings.

Dr Mkuya explained that there are some investors who have been providing essential services to the community including digging wells for safe and clean water and other services.

She called upon these investors not to use the excuse

by oppressing others, saying everyone has the right to live in the country peacefully without botheration.

However she called upon these investors and the citizens in general to abide by the country's laws, regulations and guidelines governing environmental preservation.

She said in so doing it will enhance the health of the people as well as job opportunities and other activities that spur economic growth.

For his part, the Director General of Zanzibar Environmental Protection Authority, Sheha Mjaja Juma said it would be better for all brick making factories to follow

former procedures of making bricks without aggregate since the availability of sand for building is not problematic.

Mjaja said if the people want to engage in stone crushing business, they should shift their plants at stone quarries sites to remove inconveniences subjected to other people.

For his part, the Acting Director of the Energy and Minerals Department, Omar Saleh Mohammed, said as for now they were making amendments to some regulations governing natural resources, and when the amendments are ready they will come up with appropriate directives.



Tribal chiefs from various regions in the country follow Parliament proceedings in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TARI embarks on boosting groundnuts cultivation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

THE government, through the Naliende Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Naliende) in Mtwara Region, has embarked on strategies to boost groundnuts growing in the country to alleviate the country's current edible oil shortage.

The remarks were made by the country's oil seeds research programme coordinator, John Nzunda to mark the 'Day of the Groundnuts Farmer' held at Ipapa Village in Ipunga Ward, Mbozi District, Songwe Region.

He said apart from alleviating edible oil shortage, another government's aim is to raise the income of both farmers and the government through enhancing production of the crop.

He said in addition, the government aims to fight malnutrition in the country's various regions including Southern Highlands regions that produces ample food crops but still their levels of malnutrition remain above national average.

"We aim to increase groundnuts production in your small areas of land owned by farmers through modern farming practices and

use of quality seeds that have been researched on," Nzunda added.

He called upon Tanzanians to grab the opportunity provided by the researchers to learn about better farming practices and abandon traditional practices that only gives them harvests for subsistence, and not for commerce.

TARI-Naliende Research Officer, Athanas Minja said already they have discovered modern, quality groundnuts seeds that fits the country's various climate and environmental conditions as well as withstanding plants'

pests. He said as of now they have invented seeds that grow rapidly for regions with average rainfall, including those in the Southern Highlands Zone.

For his part, Mbozi District Agriculture Officer Titho Njowela called upon farmers to use the modern seeds and abide by directives from experts.

He appealed to them to purchase the seeds from government-registered agents because some poor quality seeds have found their way into the country through unauthorized routes.



Students from various schools in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam Region participate in 'Child of Africa' anniversary organised by the National Council for persons living with HIV/AIDS yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Women encouraged to participate in NACONGO election

By Correspondent Jams Kandoya

WOMEN have been encouraged to participate in the National Organisation (NACONGO) election slated for July 8, this year.

Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) Executive director Francis Kiwanga said yesterday in Dar es Salaam that women participation in the new leadership posts is very important for gender balance.

He said involvement of women in leadership is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goal 5- concerning gender equality and is fifth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015.

Kiwanga said goal no 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation and place the world back on a footing to achieve the SDG.

"I call on more women to participate in the coming election to get leaders coming from different groups including disabled recognized by the constitution," he said.

He said the move aims to broaden more chances to women participation as per goal no 5 that among others stresses on achieving gender equality.

Earlier, in his speech, Advocate Flaviana Charles in-charge for the coming election said during the day, there will be elections for the sub-committees dealing with finance, building capacity, ethics, communication and advocacy.

Advocate Charles said the NACONGO election will be preceded by the elections at regional's level after the district completed their election.

"The election is part of the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima directives made on June 7 this year to form a transition committee of 10 people to supervise the election," she said.

According to the chairman, the new selected leaders at national level will be sworn in on July 9, this year and the following day, the handing over ceremony will be done.

FCS is an independent Tanzanian non-profit organisation that provides grants and capacity building services to civil society organisations (CSOs) so as to enhance their effectiveness in enabling engagement of citizens in development processes.

It was established by development stakeholders in Tanzania. It was established and registered in September 2002 and started operations in January 2003.

The journey for Foundation for Civil Society involved many development stakeholders including the government and development partners (DPs) who agreed that there was a lack of public resources to support civil society.



I call on more women to participate in the coming election to get leaders coming from different groups including disabled recognized by the constitution

RC tasks officials to install GoT-HoMIS at health centres

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Region's district commissioners and executive directors have been given three months to make sure all health centres are installed with Government of Tanzania, Hospital Management Information System (GoT-HoMIS) for revenue collection.

The ultimatum was given by the Regional Commissioner, Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge when opening the meeting for districts officials that discussed the distribution of health supplies to the health centres.

The RC gave the directive after it was found that many health centres lacked GoT-HoMIS system, with statistics showing that out of the region's 280 health centres, only 10 were installed with the system.

"Come September 1 this year, all public health centres should have the GoT-HoMIS system without fail, and on September 2 I should be given the implementation report, after which impromptu inspections will be conducted and steps taken against defaulting councils," he said.

The RC also instructed DCs and DEDs in all local councils to

ensure revenue and expenditure at all councils' revenue sources are discussed in legally constituted meetings, adding that among the criteria to be used for gauging tax collection achievements in the region for FY 2021/22 should be the attainment 80 per cent target revenue collection in the health revenue sources.

He also directed all local councils to ensure that all health centres submit claims for services rendered to improved Community Health Insurance Fund (iCHF) and the national Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Due to the small percentage of people who joined iCHF in Ruvuma Region, RC Ibuge directed all local councils to conduct great mobilisation of the people to join the fund.

He said so far the region has registered 11,820 households to iCHF, equivalent to 3.3 per cent while the target is to reach 180,085 households or 50 per cent.

Ruvuma Regional Medical Officer Dr Jairy Kanga pledged to implement all the directives given by the RC including enhancing the GoT-HoMIS in revenue collection and mobilisation of people to join iCHF.

LSF launches Haki Yangu App

By Guardian Reporter

THE Legal Services Facility (LSF) has launched a mobile application system known as Haki Yangu App, which help citizens get legal aid wherever they are via their mobile phone.

Haki Yangu App is a system developed by LSF, which has connected about 4,000 legal assistants across the country, through the system citizen who need legal aid services or legal assistants can meet with them for the assistance.

The system is the first of its kind in Tanzania; it will enable the citizen to communicate directly with a legal assistant or legal aid service provider via mobile phone by texting or calling.

In addition, the system can help the citizen to increase awareness of various legal issues by learning through general information on legal issues set out in the system with the aim of educating the community on issues that require legal resolution through formal and informal justice systems such as legal services and legal assistants.

Similarly, the system will enable paralegals to receive training on various online courses and further improve their capabilities to provide better and more efficient services.

Launching the system in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said that LSF has been a key stakeholder in the government especially in the legal aid sector as it has been at the forefront of facilitating access to justice for citizens through its access to justice project.

"The LSF has been pushing for policy and systemic change in the legal aid sector in close collaboration with the government. In 2017 we worked closely together to ensure that legal aid legislation was enacted to enable our citizens to access their rights through support services

and paralegals.

"Also, today I am happy to see LSF have come up with a system that will move services closer to citizens who need support and legal assistants," said Prof Kabudi.

Kabudi further added that the six-phase government recognizes the contribution made by development partners in Tanzania including the private sector as well as the non-governmental sector in supporting the government's efforts to improve various social services including legal aid services and access to justice in general as it is important in stimulating social and economic development.

According to him, the government is now implementing the process of translating the laws into Kiswahili. This is one of the important steps in ensuring that we enable citizens to understand the law and demand their rights when they are lost.

"I commend the LSF for continuing to work with the government on this issue of translating the law into Kiswahili and continuing to implement its major project in Tanzania, which has largely helped thousands of vulnerable citizens, especially women and children, to access their rights from that good work led by paralegals nationwide;

"I believe that through this system as well, many citizens, including mothers and children, will be able to get more immediate assistance when they face various challenges related to the suppression of their rights due to various factors such as gender or age," said Professor Kabudi.

LSF Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said that the facility has developed Haki Yangu App framework to continue to ensure that; legal aid services in Tanzania are more accessible because it has been a challenge in society despite its importance.

"Through the experience of

LSF in implementing the access to justice project in the country we have seen that, the majority of citizens still face various challenges including acts of sexual violence against women and children so this approach will facilitate access to legal aid services more easily anywhere via cell phone.

"For 10 years now, we as LSF have been empowering more than 200 legal aid providers across the country to provide this vital service to the community for free. Haki Yangu App is just a continuation of the implementation of our project that aims to have a legally empowered community by providing free legal aid services to all citizens." said the Chief Executive of LSF.

The LSF is a development funded organisation, which are European Union in Tanzania and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through the Danish embassy in implementing the access to justice project in Tanzania.

Under this funding, LSF is implementing a justice project in every region and district in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, where approximately 6 million people have access to legal education, and approximately 90,000 cases have reached out to legal aid providers, where 60 per cent of these cases have been resolved by the service providers (LSF Report 2020). This has significantly reduced number of cases in the courts and reduced costs that would have been incurred in managing and conducting these cases.

The existence of this app goes hand in hand with the growth of technology and thus will promote access to justice for various groups at a time and place.

Statistics show that in 2020 the LSF provided 10.4 billion Tanzanian shillings for the empowerment of more than 200 organisations providing legal aid services in the country.



AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE OF WORK (APW) TO SUPPORT UNDERTAKING WHO FCTC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY FOR THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE BACKGROUND

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. The WHO FCTC is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health. The WHO FCTC represents a paradigm shift in developing a regulatory strategy to address addictive substances; in contrast to previous drug control treaties, the WHO FCTC asserts the importance of demand reduction strategies as well as supply issues.

It was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005. It has since become one of the most rapidly and widely embraced treaties in United Nations history.

The WHO FCTC aims to tackle some of the causes of that epidemic, including complex factors with cross-border effects, such as trade liberalization and direct foreign investment, tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship beyond national borders, and illicit trade in tobacco products.

The United Republic of Tanzania ratified the WHO FCTC in 2007 and since then several tobacco control initiatives have been implemented.

Article 21 calls on Parties periodically to submit to the Conference of Parties implementation reports, including details of any difficulties they face in implementing the provisions of the Convention. Article 26 recognizes the importance that financial resources play in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

The Conference of the Parties called upon developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to conduct needs assessments in the light of their obligations under the Convention. The Convention Secretariat was requested to assist Parties in doing so, upon their request, to advise them on existing mechanisms of funding and technical assistance, and to provide information to development partners that maybe interested in providing assistance to the Party on the needs identified.

In line with the decision of the COP, needs assessments are carried out jointly with the national government concerned.

In this regard, the Government of Tanzania under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGC) in collaboration with the World Health organization (WHO) and with support from the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat is embarking to conduct a needs assessment exercise with a view to establishing a baseline of needs that the country requires to fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this consultancy is to support the Ministry of Health to conduct a needs assessment exercise with a view to establishing a baseline of needs that the country requires to fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

SCOPE & EXPECTED RESULTS

The needs assessment exercise has three phases:
 1. **the pre-needs assessment phase**, in which the Convention Secretariat studies relevant documents and Party reports, and works with the national government to prepare a detailed program;
 2. **the needs assessment mission**, during which an international team interacts with the health ministry and various national stakeholders, the WHO country office and development partners and other international organizations.

3. the post-mission and follow-up phase

in which the Convention Secretariat finalizes the needs assessment report in cooperation with national stakeholders and works with the government and international partners to implement the jointly agreed recommendations.

Key deliverables of the consultancy will be to:

- assist the Convention Secretariat to search and review relevant documents relevant to the assessment and incorporate them into the report template.
- assist the Convention Secretariat and WHO Country office in the preparation and conduct of stakeholders and bilateral virtual meetings
- update and develop the needs assessment instrument and report template with the information gathered through meetings.
- draft, with inputs from the Convention Secretariat, a summary document of the main findings to be presented to and discussed with the Government
- make necessary revisions of the needs assessment report based on the inputs from the government and the Convention Secretariat
- assist in the preparation of the post needs assessment activities specifically **development of a comprehensive, multisectoral national tobacco control strategy in accordance with the treaty**

TIME FRAME

The assignment must be completed within one (1) month from the date of commissioning.

KEY COMPETENCIES AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- Advanced Degree in domestic and international public health, trade and investment law and/or related fields
- Sound knowledge of the WHO FCTC obligations, protocols and directives
- Knowledge and record of training on domestic and international trade and investment law in the context of, and intersection with, NCD prevention
- Proven research skills and demonstrated expertise in analysis and development of technical papers and reports in public health;
- Capacity to work independently yet with ability to share information, receive feedback and engage in dialogue with partners;
- Good writing and analytical skills;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to promote collaboration and consensus building;
- Fluency in English

MANAGEMENT PLAN

To ensure ownership of the process and that it is country - led, the consultant will work closely with key actors/representatives, nominated by the government; the Ministry of Health, WHO Country Office, WHO FCTC Secretariat, development partners and other international organizations.

FUNDING SCOPE

Total budget for the assignment must not exceed USD 5,000 including costs related to the consultancy, communication and travel as appropriate.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested individual should submit a cover letter; Curriculum Vitae and Comprehensive Proposal with detailed budget to: afwctczrem@who.int not later than 21st June 2021. Applications must be submitted through the email address mentioned above with the subject clearly stated: **Submission of Curriculum Vitae for "NATIONAL CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT WHO FCTC NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL STRATEGY FOR THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA".**

THURSDAY 17 JUNE, 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Scrapping levies daunting for Treasury, MPs, public

WHILE the breadth of the public has been applauding measures to eliminate tariffs and scores of levies in various areas, it is not an easy day for the Ministry of Finance and Planning to have the whole legislature and even less so, members of the public to agree on the rationality of each step. Naturally each group of stakeholders praises what helps their part of industry, like reducing costs of bringing goods to the market or importing finished goods or raw materials, but other measures are painful. A list that was given by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries was an example; praising some cuts, but lamented similar levy cuts.

The tax cuts that CTI lamented are those relating to imports – not all of them but those which reduce what is known as ‘effective protection’ of local producers. A CTI analysis even broached the possibility of factories being closed for that reason, as duty on printed fabrics (cotton and polyester) usually known as ‘kitenge’ were reduced as well. It is clear that a level playing field for local producers and importers makes business more vibrant while ‘effective protection’ permits cost indulgence, reduces incentive for efficiency on the part of local producers, a situation that was so glaring on the part of the sugar industry.

When looking at contributions of MPs, one gets a glimpse of areas where big reforms are still needed, and also a measure of how difficult it will be for the government to go as far as that demand, or technical projection to arrive at a competitive economy. Anthony Mavunde, Dodoma Urban MP, said in a pivotal contribution that the government should review fiscal policy by removing VAT on

tourism, noting that East African countries competing with us for tourist arrivals do not charge VAT on tourism. It was a sort of discovery, as over the past year questions were rising why tourists don’t come back after the first visit.

The MP emphasised that if we are to adequately compete in the tourism sector, we need to ensure that we sort out all the issues that make tourists not return when they visit, which means that their visits are rather highly priced, so they don’t have the comfort to return and feel at ease. He cited corporate tax as another area, where he said Tanzania needs to come down to at least 26-percent from the 30-percent charged by most African countries, to attract investors. In other words the government isn’t charging too highly, but in so doing makes Destination Tanzania relatively uncompetitive, but does Treasury have room for that?

There is another observation the MP made which takes the issue nearer to the crux of the matter, when he said that the government should also form a policy forum to involve the Diaspora which is potentially a source of large remittances. He cited the Kenyan case as having more inducing investment incentives, noting that the Diaspora brings home about \$2bn per year in remittances as “there is a good environment for them to participate in local economic building.” What the MP may not have struggled to remember is that Kenyans abroad retain the right to remain Kenyan citizens in spite of accessing a foreign passport.

In other words, we are not getting enough from investments to remove tourism levies or cut corporate taxes but we ought to work harder in that area, and that means by freeing public assets to large investors.

We need to conserve biodiversity in basins highly impacted by humans

A new assessment of fisheries has found that freshwater fish are under threat, with as many as a third of global populations in danger of extinction. The report by 16 global conservation organisations, called The World’s Forgotten Fisheries, says that global populations of freshwater fish are declining rapidly.

Problems include pollution, overfishing and destructive fishing practices, the introduction of invasive species, climate change and the disruption of river ecologies. Most of the world’s rivers are now dammed in parts, have water extracted for irrigation or have their natural flows disrupted, further disrupting freshwater fish.

Two recent assessments of the world’s freshwater ecosystems catalogue the scope and severity of human impact on these once-bountiful, biodiverse habitats that contain a quarter of the globe’s known vertebrate species.

Humanity’s ever-expanding footprint has slashed biodiversity in more than half of Earth’s freshwater river basins, with only 14 per cent remaining pristine, according to new research published last week in the journal Science.

This most recent assessment, titled: ‘The World’s Forgotten Fishes’, also finds that the biggest fishes—species weighing more than 60 pounds—have undergone a particularly calamitous decline, with their numbers plummeting by 94 per cent over the past half century.

The World’s Forgotten Fishes

frames this lost biodiversity—the 80 species declared extinct, 16 disappearing in 2020 alone—as not just a tragic draining of our planet’s natural beauty and evolutionary grandeur, but levies a heavy human cost. Some 200 million people are fed by protein from freshwater fishes and 60 million people depend on hauling in that essential catch to support themselves and their families.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the researchers behind the paper in Science observed that the river basins surrounded by heavy human presences were the most severely degraded.

In contrast, the rivers that were mostly spared this fate were primarily in Africa and Australia, he adds, speculating that this is probably due to slower industrialization in Africa and sparse human populations around rivers in Australia. Prior attempts to study the extent of human impact on the world’s river ecosystems have focused only on changes in the number of species. But the new effort also incorporates the ecological roles and evolutionary relationships of the freshwater species, he says.

Overfishing and climate change are the most significant and pervasive drivers of the global decline in freshwater biodiversity, but the blockages created by dams and the introduction of non-native species have also played significant roles.

Dams and other modifications of waterways can kill off native species and even hasten their replacement by invasive fish, he adds.

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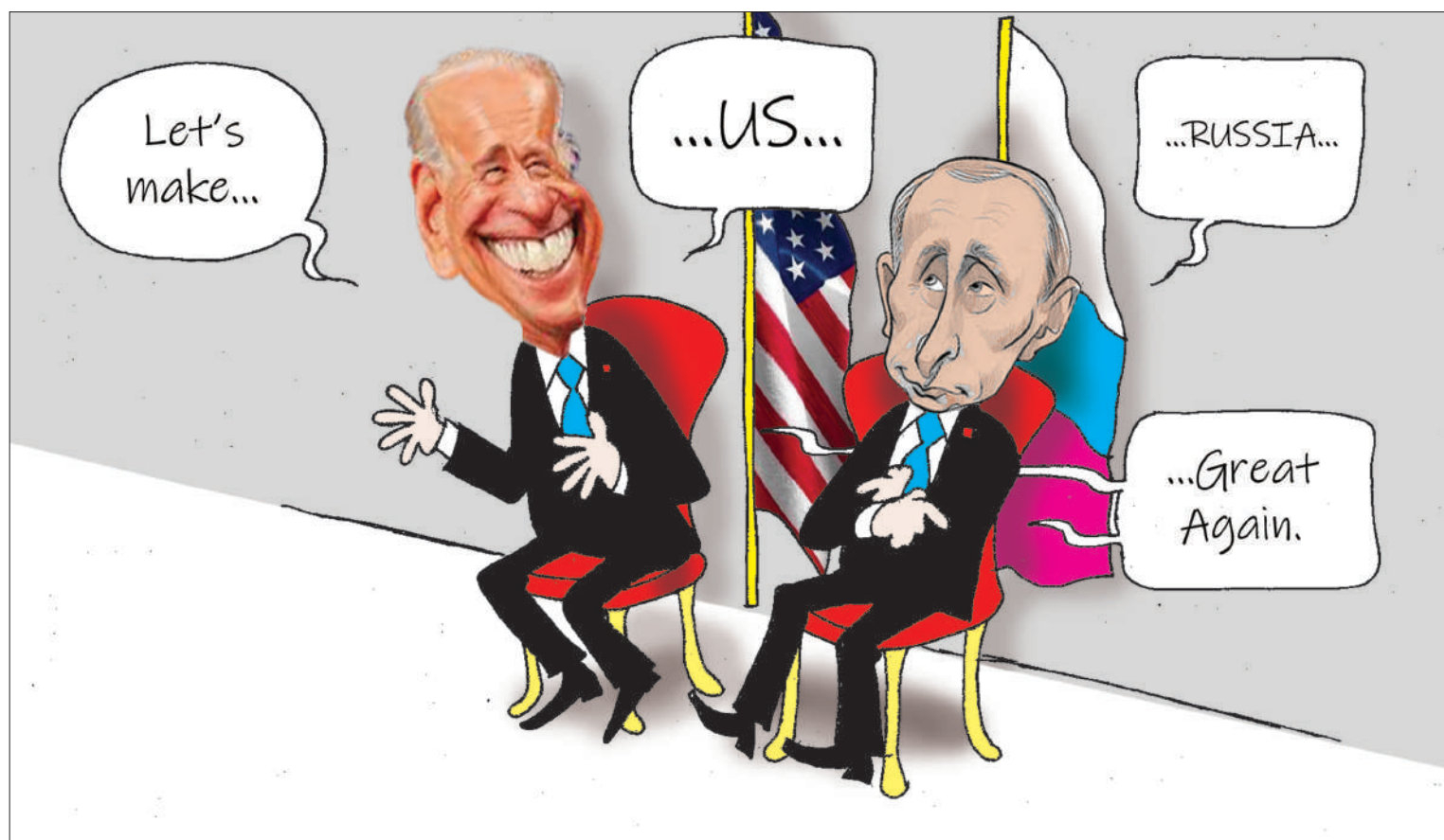
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By Paul Hoffman

STATE capture is a type of systemic political corruption in which private interests significantly influence a state’s decision-making processes to their own advantage.

The term was first used by the World Bank, around the year 2000, to describe the situation in certain central Asian countries making the transition from Soviet communism. Specifically, it was applied to situations where small corrupt groups used their influence over government officials to appropriate government decision-making in order to strengthen their own economic positions; these groups’ members would later become known as oligarchs.

The classical definition of state capture refers to the way formal procedures (such as laws and social norms) and government bureaucracy are manipulated by government officials, state-backed companies, private companies and/or private individuals, so as to influence state policies and laws in their favour: private individuals and firms so as to influence state policies and laws in their favour.

State capture seeks to influence the formation of laws, in order to protect and promote influential actors and their interests. In this way it differs from most other forms of corruption which instead seek selective enforcement of already existing laws.

Allegations of state capture have led to protests against the government in Bulgaria in 2013-2014 and in 2020-2021 and Romania in 2017, and have caused an ongoing controversy in South Africa beginning in 2016.

With swift civil recovery procedures available worldwide, the harnessing of lawyers in private practice to supplement the efforts of the Special Investigating Unit ought to have a back-straightening effect on those who are taking their time about repaying the loot they accumulated through State Capture.

President Cyril Ramaphosa is acutely aware of the need to put a stop to the grand corruption and attendant looting by the racketeers at work in South Africa both in recent years and at present.

He is reported to have remarked, after Ace Magashule tried to suspend him, that: “Many steps are being taken to rid our country of corruption. And those who are corrupt, who have pursued corrupt ways, will continue to fight and fight to the end because their life revolves around corruption. But we will end it and they will go where they belong.”

More recently, he told the

Time to go hell for leather and outsource the recovery of the State Capture racketeers’ loot

National Council of Provinces on 10 June 2021 that “we want to remove the temptation for corruption. We want to remove corruption completely and therefore we want all levels of government to work transparently, to be accountable”.

Removing the temptation for corruption involves both deterrence and the application of the law of diminishing returns. Corruption is a calculated and greedy form of crime. Those who calculate that they can get away with it let their greed run riot on the funds of the public. These are invariably funds better spent on combating the pandemic, alleviating poverty, promoting equality and ensuring the enjoyment of the various rights and freedoms guaranteed to all in the Bill of Rights.

The state is obliged to respect, protect, promote and fulfil everyone’s rights as set out in Chapter Two of the Constitution. Corruption has been characterised as a human rights issue in the Glenister litigation because the loot extracted by the corrupt diminishes the capacity of the state to deliver services to the public in the effective and efficient manner contemplated by the Constitution. The judgment in question, penned jointly by Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and Justice Edwin Cameron (both now retired) informs the attitude of the president in making the utterances quoted above:

“There can be no gainsaying that corruption threatens to fell at the knees virtually everything we hold dear and precious in our hard-won constitutional order. It blatantly undermines the democratic ethos, the institutions of democracy, the rule of law and the foundational values of our nascent constitutional project. It fuels maladministration and public fraudulence, and imperils the capacity of the state to fulfil its obligations to respect, protect, promote and fulfil all the rights enshrined in the bill of rights. When corruption and organised crime flourish, sustainable development and economic growth are stunted. And in turn, the stability and security of society is put at risk.”

Now that more than half of SAA has effectively been privatised and electricity generation of less than 100MW has also been opened to the private sector, it is time to consider the options of the state in relation to the objectives so clearly spelt out by the president in recent weeks, as quoted above.

It has long been the stance of Accountability Now that the best-practice way of implementing the

Glenister decisions is to establish a new Chapter 9 Institution to prevent, combat, investigate and prosecute corruption. Whether the mandate of the new body should be all corruption (as desired by the NEC of the ANC), or only grand corruption, is a matter for Parliament to decide in the course of the necessary legislative process which will, as is usual, include public participation.

In the meantime, and as a short-term solution to the racketeering with impunity that is impoverishing the public purse, urgent consideration should be given to the civil recovery of loot, wherever it may be in the world, using the services of the private-sector lawyers who are registered with the Legal Practice Council (LPC) in SA. The expertise needed is available, the opportunity for entering into contingency fee agreements approved by the LPC exists and the prospect of recovery of the loot of State Capture is tantalising.

An evidence leader in the Zondo Commission, Matthew Chaskalson SC, has let it be known that there are 17 corporates in the same position as the international management consultants, McKinsey, which has volunteered to disgorge its loot. None of the others has done so yet. With swift civil recovery procedures available worldwide, the harnessing of lawyers in private practice to supplement the efforts of the Special Investigating Unit ought to have a back-straightening effect on those who are currently backsliding or taking their time about repaying the loot that they have accumulated during the State Capture activities in which they have been involved.

The big corporates are sitting ducks for a well-briefed and highly motivated team of SA lawyers in private practice who have the necessary expertise in international debt collection that is related to racketeering. The possibility exists of a competitive process in respect of the recovery of the loot of all 17 recalcitrant corporations who are retaining their loot instead of following the precedent set by McKinsey.

It needs to be noted that many firms of attorneys and counsel will be willing to act on a contingency fee basis to restore the country to fiscal health via the civil recovery of loot.

This means that a great deal of legal work can be put in hand in a short period of time leading to an inflow of looted funds that will enable the state to make an informed decision about the necessary reform of the criminal justice administration.

The reformed corruption-busters will be able to take criminal action against those from whom loot has been successfully recovered. The racketeers will be suitably discouraged when the war to recover loot swings into action, as it could within a matter of weeks, if the right political will can be mustered and converted into nimble action against the racketeers.

It is apparent that the president does have the necessary political will. The resolution of the NEC of the ANC in August 2020 is to the same effect. In that resolution, the national Cabinet is instructed urgently to establish a stand-alone permanent entity to deal with corruption independently and on a multi-disciplinary basis. The funds raised by roping in the private sector legal firms will stand the new body in good stead.

It is laudable that the NEC has taken the Glenister decisions to heart and has instructed Cabinet to set up a body that complies with the STIRS criteria that the courts have set in binding terms that were never properly honoured during the Zuma era for reasons that become more and more obvious as the evidence presented to the Zondo Commission unfolds.

As far as the looting of SOEs is concerned, it has long been a problem that junior staff tasked with recovering loot are fearful of their lives and apprehensive of their careers should they be identified by the (still powerful) looters and racketeers they are required to sue. The creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle to take cession of the claims to loot is a means of allaying these fears and apprehensions. It could be part of the civil recovery process that is long overdue and readily achievable, if the president is taken at his word.

The inflow of recovered loot can make a real difference to the proper financing of anti-corruption efforts in SA. The civil debt recovery processes available internationally are swift and sure. Very often the looters do not even oppose the cases brought against them as they realise their game is up and that depositing to false affidavits to oppose their disgorging of the loot only makes matters worse for them.

The Hawks have plenty of other priority crimes to attend to and the NPA does not have the necessary specialised skills available to it to tackle corruption as extensive and as grand as that which SA now has to counter. Using the recovered loot to set up the new STIRS compliant Chapter 9 Institution has a measure of poetic justice to it.

Prison was horrible but I will still do my work as journalist - Jeffrey Moyo upon prison release

BULAWAYO

INTERNATIONAL correspondent Jeffrey Moyo, who was released from detention today after being arrested for breaching Zimbabwe's Immigration Act by helping two foreign journalists work in the country, says press freedom is undermined when journalists cannot work undeterred.

"I feel relieved as it was so horrible inside for 21 days without my freedom," Moyo told IPS upon his release from Bulawayo Prison today, Jun. 16. "The detention is a complete infringement of press freedom in Zimbabwe."

Moyo (37), a correspondent for Inter Press Service (IPS), the New York Times and other media, was arrested in Harare on May 26 and detained at Bulawayo Prison. He was released after 21 days when he was granted ZWL5000 bail unopposed by the state, which admitted to erring in finding him a threat to national security.

In May, Bulawayo Magistrate, Rachel Mkanga denied Moyo bail on the grounds that the journalist was a threat to national security and the country's sovereignty. Moyo has been charged with violating Section 36 of the Immigration Act, based on an allegation that he made a false representation to immigration officials. This pertains to the accreditation of two of his colleagues, Christina Goldbaum and Joao Silva from the New York Times.

Fight for press freedom
The accreditation of journalists should not offend any-

one or any authority in the country, Moyo said, arguing that the accreditation of journalists in Zimbabwe should be a right and not a difficulty.

"Journalists are not dangerous and do not cause any harm to any particular individual or government," said Moyo, who was welcomed by his wife, Purity, and son outside Bulawayo Prison. "I am scared about what happened but I will not stop my work. ...I am committed to doing my job as journalist no matter what the authorities say to me as long as I tow the line in terms of the law. I will continue to do my job."

Moyo was granted bail on Jun. 14 and was set to be released on Jun. 15 but an error with his release papers at the Bulawayo prison resulted in him spending another night in jail. "I am just happy that he has been released, I am relieved," Purity Moyo, Jeffrey's wife, told IPS. She was prevented from seeing her journalist husband in prison and had communicated with him via letters.

"I thank my wife who brought me something to eat every day," Moyo told IPS. "The letters my wife communicated to me gave me hope as did visits from colleagues from the media. I thank God that I am out and united with my family."

Horrible prison
Moyo was arrested in May 26 and detained in Central Police Station in Harare. He was later moved to the city of Bulawayo, 400km from Harare, and detained at the Bulawayo Central Police Station under conditions he described as



Jeffrey Moyo was overcome with emotion after his release from Bulawayo Prison today, Jun. 16. The international correspondent, who works for IPS and the New York Times, among others, was detained for 21 days when the state refused to grant him bail, calling him a threat to national security. Moyo was arrested on May 26 on charges relating to the accreditation of his New York Times colleagues.

horrible and traumatising. "I was detained overnight at the Bulawayo Central Police Station under horrible conditions; no bedding, no blankets and I was sleeping on the concrete floor and there was no food at the police station."

It was only to get worse.
Moyo said conditions at the Bulawayo Prison were inhu-

mane. He said he was placed in a crowded prison cell with 18 other people. The food was bad.

"Health wise I am okay but the food in prison is horrible," he said explaining that he was served porridge with no sugar or salt, plain sadza (a type of maize or cassava porridge) and dried vegetables and beans without cooking oil.

Violated rights
Moyo's lawyer Doug Coltart told IPS that his client's detention was a series of appalling violations of his human rights. The state, after three weeks of opposing bail, made a turn around to say it had no case against Moyo and that the grounds it cited for opposing his bail were baseless.

This demonstrates precisely

how the denial of bail at the magistrate's court is being used to punish innocent people, Coltart said. He also noted that in being denied the right to see his wife and relatives as well as his extended detention, despite being granted bail, were all violations of Moyo's rights. "The prison officials continue to refuse to show us the purported error

in the warrant of liberation and this raises our strong suspicion that it was all a lie and an abuse of the detention process to keep him for an extra night," Coltart told IPS. Moyo is set to appear in court on Jun. 24 in preparation for trial. If convicted he could face 10 years in jail. Media rights organisations have welcomed Moyo's release. **IPS**

The government should explain plans in wake of Johnson and Johnson vaccine setback

By Marcus Low

COVID-19 was high on President Cyril Ramaphosa's agenda at the just-completed G7 summit in Cornwall in the UK. As it should be. With a third wave of infections sweeping through a number of provinces, the country's vaccination rates are still disturbingly low. Ensuring that more people are vaccinated quicker should arguably be the President's top priority for at least the next six months.

South Africa is currently procuring two safe and highly effective vaccines for its Covid-19 vaccination programme - a two-dose vaccine made by Pfizer/BioNTech and a single-dose one from J&J. For now, though, it is only the Pfizer/BioNTech jab that is being administered.

This is not what was planned.

The envisaged scale-up of South Africa's vaccination programme in June was premised on the expectation that we would have at least two million doses of the J&J vaccine ready to go into arms from early June.

Those plans were first delayed while the US Food and Drug Administration investigated the possible contamination of those two million doses - an investigation that arguably took too long.

Those plans were then virtually torn up when it emerged over the weekend that we will not be able to use any of those doses because of possible contamination. The contamination occurred at a factory in the US before the vaccines were shipped to South Africa.

Depressing as these developments are, the public can take some comfort in

the fact that regulators are taking potential contamination very seriously and will not allow the use of vaccines that are at risk of having been contaminated. As an aside, it is worth stressing that the J&J vaccines used in the Sisonke research trial came from a different factory and were not contaminated.

Where does this leave us?

As yet the government has not provided a detailed account of its revised vaccination plans - nor any meaningful details of plans to boost supply in the short term. The most recent planning documents we've seen still assumed a significant supply of the J&J vaccine in early June.

A total of 300,000 J&J vaccines (that are not contaminated) have reportedly been secured for the vaccination of teachers in the coming weeks. While the government has confirmed these plans, it has provided relatively little detail and much of what we know is from circulars sent out to provinces rather than from government statements.

J&J will, of course, continue to supply new batches of vaccine for fill and finish at Aspen Pharmacare's factory in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape. Ramaphosa said at the weekend that Aspen has already begun work on new batches of the J&J vaccine.

Aspen then said on Monday it expects to release J&J vaccines manufactured from drug substance that has not been affected by the contamination issues within a week and that they should have further doses ready in July. Aspen CEO Stephen Saad told eNCA that over the next two



weeks a couple of million doses plus should be available - including about a million from Aspen and another million or so directly from J&J. (The interview with Saad is worth watching.)

Ramaphosa also said over the weekend that US President Joe Biden has agreed to donate doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to South Africa - in addition to what we are already procuring from Pfizer. There are, however, no details yet on when the doses will arrive and in what quantities.

Time for stronger, more

transparent leadership

South Africa's vaccination efforts have been plagued by rotten luck - first with the AstraZeneca vaccine's disappointing performance against the Beta variant and now with the contamination of two million doses of the J&J vaccine.

But bad luck is something governments should plan for.

As it is, it appears the government had hardly any contingency planning. After the AstraZeneca setback,

it was first and foremost researchers who scrambled to get healthcare workers vaccinated in the Sisonke study. With this second setback, it is not yet clear what the back-up plan is, or, as Peter Bruce suggested in Business Day, whether there even was one until a few days ago.

Saad's reassurance that we should have a couple of million doses ready over the next two weeks, with more to follow in July, is great news. But to the extent that we are scrambling and coming up with a Plan B, it is notable that the details of this Plan B have so far been

communicated by a private company and not by the government.

The government should now step up.

The President or the acting health minister should urgently provide the public with a briefing on its updated vaccination plans given the J&J setback. This should include details of when we will be getting a vaccine into the system, as well as which vaccine and how much of it, along with a detailed account of what steps the government is taking to procure additional vaccines faster.

And, of course, we should also be told what our Plan B and C is if any of the new plans don't work out.

If the information provided by Saad is correct, then the acceleration of our vaccination programme is back on - albeit three or so weeks behind the original schedule. That three-week delay is likely to cost lives, as people who might otherwise have been vaccinated fall sick with Covid-19 when South Africa's third wave of infections takes its toll.

We simply cannot afford any more such setbacks.

DM/MC

SCO members to open up new prospects for development

By He Yin

SINCE it was founded in Shanghai on June 15, 2001, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has traveled an extraordinary journey over the past 20 years and grown into a major constructive force in the Eurasian region and global affairs.

Committed to the Shanghai Spirit, SCO members have enhanced cooperation in the political, economic, security, people-to-people and cultural fields, setting an example for a new type of international relations that features mutual respect, equity, justice and win-win cooperation.

As an important founding member of the SCO, China has greatly contributed to the development of the organization.

The SCO has always stuck to its original aspiration and mission of jointly striving for stability and promoting development over the past two decades.

From combating the three evil forces of separatism, extremism and terrorism to carrying out all-round cooperation, SCO members have forged a constructive partnership featuring non-alliance, non-confrontation and not targeting any third party, creating a new model for regional cooperation and making new contributions to regional peace and development.

The combined GDP of SCO

member states has reached nearly \$20 trillion, over 13 times more than that when the organization was established. Besides, SCO members' total value of foreign trade has reached \$6.6 trillion, an increase of 100 times from 20 years ago.

The SCO stands as a comprehensive regional cooperation organization that covers the largest area and population in the world, as well as an important force for promoting global peace and development.

It is generally believed by the international community that the SCO is exerting an ever-growing and more profound influence on the world.

Since it was established, the SCO has creatively initiated and followed through the Shanghai Spirit, which champions mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development.

The Shanghai Spirit has vitality and value that transcend geography boundaries and time. Against the backdrop of profound changes unseen in a century, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, member states of the SCO have firmly carried forward the Shanghai Spirit, supported each other in fighting the virus, and actively pushed ahead with cooperation in various fields, infusing positive energy into the steady development of the SCO, global fight against the pandemic, as



Visitors watch the model of Chinese-made aircraft C919 at the 2021 Shanghai Cooperation Organization International Investment and Trade Expo held in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province, April 28, 2021. (File photo)

well as multilateral cooperation.

Faced with the complex and fast-changing international situation, which is characterized by mounting unilateralism and protectionism, frequent regional hot-spot issues and severe security threats, the international community looks forward to the SCO continuously contributing wisdom and strength to tackling global challenges,

improving global governance, safeguarding and practicing multilateralism, and defending international fairness and justice.

Over the past two decades, China has always been committed to promoting the development of the SCO, and unremittingly strived for regional safety and stability as well as development and prosperity of countries involved.

Since 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping has attended meetings of the Council of Heads of Member States of the SCO for eight consecutive years, calling on SCO member states to jointly build a closer SCO community with a shared future, and proposing a series of important cooperation initiatives, which received positive responses from various parties.

Xi's vision of building a

community with a shared future for mankind was written into the Qingdao Declaration signed following the 18th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO held in 2018, and made a common aspiration of all member states of the SCO.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) put forward by Xi has synergized with SCO members' national development strategies as well as region-

wide cooperation initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union, generating major opportunities for regional development.

Last year, Xi proposed building a community of health for all, a community of development for all, and a community of cultural exchanges for all under the framework of the SCO for the first time.

Xi's proposals have enriched and developed the connotations of the Shanghai Spirit, boosted countries' confidence in and charted the way forward for promoting the development of the SCO in the post-pandemic era.

Standing at a new historical starting point, the SCO shoulders new expectations and new responsibilities in the new era.

It's believed that the SCO members will continue carrying forward the Shanghai Spirit, enhancing solidarity and mutual trust and deepening cooperation in various fields to open up new prospects for the development of the SCO.

China will continuously strive for building a closer SCO community with a shared future together with other SCO members, and make new contributions to building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

HARARE

Zimbabwean sculptor's pandemic inspired art gains worldwide acclaim

ZIMBABWEAN stone sculptor David Ngwerume's COVID-19 pandemic-inspired art is receiving international acclaim due to its unique way of reflecting the current dynamics facing the world.

Since the beginning of this year, Ngwerume has used much of his time carving pandemic prevention messages in stone, capturing the world's attention with his expressive artworks.

After gaining the spotlight on social media and in the international press with his unique approach to art, Ngwerume was recently commissioned by the African Union (AU) to make a piece that will be on display at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The sculpture, which he recently finished and is currently on display at his gallery in the capital of Harare, showcases a woman seated on a chair receiving a COVID-19 jab from a dismembered pair of hands. Dubbed "the jab of faith," Ngwerume said the piece "depicts the times we are in, where the world is moving toward vaccination of all citizens as a preventative measure against the spread and further spread of the coronavirus."

The artist said with anti-pandemic messages chiseled in stone, his art has resonated well with the public. "My art has managed to convince many and has managed to bring alternative messages to people around an issue which is at the centerpiece of this whole world, that is the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

"I strongly also feel that it has drawn a different kind of audience to the messages of awareness around this COVID-19 pandemic, and also it has brought altogether the new way of portrayal of such messages in stone sculpture at large."

The sculptor said art is a reflection of perception and can convey feelings and moods in a way that words alone cannot accomplish.

"Art presents a very vernacular spectation, because when you make a sculpture piece you freeze time for a moment, hence it is something that brings an everlasting sensation," he remarked.

The artist is confident that his work will continue making an impact worldwide. "I am so hopeful that it reaches even further into communities, into societies and



A stone sculpture depicting a woman wearing a face mask is seen at David Ngwerume's art gallery in Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe, on April 26, 2021. (File photo)

changes the perception of how the world is moving and influences us as humanity to look forward towards a unity of purpose through this popular consensus and usher our world into the next era," he said.

Ngwerume is no doubt one of Zimbabwe's most prolific expressionists as evidenced by his dynamic art. Earlier this year, the talented artist made headlines after unveiling a piece titled

"The New Normal" which draws inspiration from the reality the world is facing due to the pandemic.

The piece, which is made up of black granite, showcases a woman, carved in the shape of the African map, wearing a headscarf and a surgical mask. One of his notable pieces chronicles the times we are in where vaccines are being rolled out globally.

Titled "Piece to arms," the sculpture aims to counter vaccine hesitancy. It features a half figure of a woman wearing a surgical mask presenting her shoulder to a pair of disembodied hands holding a syringe. Another piece titled "Mask up" is a figure of the late pop star Michael Jackson wearing a hat, a mask, and a pair of gloves.

The piece "We are torn" portrays a woman sneezing into her arm to prevent the spread of the virus. The COVID-19 themed artwork is part of a wider collection that Ngwerume is currently working on and will be exhibited this coming July at his gallery in the eastern Harare suburb of Greendale.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Activists want govt to reinstate fare system for court witnesses

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

EARLY last year Tanzania was hit by COVID-19 epidemic, which has affected various economic sectors in Zanzibar, Tanzania and the world at large.

When the disease broke out, the government was forced to close down various social and economic activities to save people's lives from the silent killer disease.

Despite the government allowing some of the activities to take place after the decline of the disease, but still so far there are various side effects caused by the disease.

Among those implications is the lack of fare for witnesses who are required to testify in different courts, especially in GBV cases.

The fare for the case and the criminal case is in accordance with the law of the court where witnesses, who are required to testify in court are required to be given the money.

Magistrate of the Unguja South Region court, Kahmis Ali Simai said according to the rules witnesses who appear in court to testify are required to be paid a fare, but the money has not been paid since the outbreak of the Coronavirus epidemic early last year.

"It is true that according to the rule of law, a witness who is required to appear in court to give evidence in criminal cases should be given a fare to enable him/her to appear in court, but since COVID-19 erupted, the witnesses are not given fare," he said.

He said the reason for the not paying them was due to the little amount of money the court was given.

"This was caused by the economic crisis due to COVID-19," he said.

Before COVID-19, witnesses were given money for transport from where they lived to the court, which increased the motivation of the witnesses to go to court to give evidence.

He urged witnesses especially in GBV cases not to be discouraged to come to the court to give evidence despite the fact that there is currently no fare for them because the case without evidence, the accused cannot be convicted.

Sabra Ali, gender officer in Unguja West A District said many cases of abuse are dismissed due to various reasons including the suspect's failure to convict due to lack of evidence.

She said the cases could not be found guilty because the witnesses failed to appear in court due to various reasons including lack of fare to and from the court.

Gender official also cited a culture of secrecy as one of the causes of GBV cases fail to convict the suspects.

According to her, many GBV victims are helpless and do not have the ability to pay fare for witnesses to go to court and the witnesses are forced to pay their own fares and other services to get to court.

Sabra said sometimes witnesses are called more than once to testify in court so when they do not have a fare they fail to arrive, calling on the government to set up a special fund to help the community so that they could go to court to give evidence when needed.

A mother whose child was sodomized (name withheld) said her case is still pending in court and has already submitted witnesses for evidence and the next step is now to be tried.



The woman was required to appear in court to present three witnesses, at which point she had to pay for their transport to the court.

"If I had no fare for my witnesses they would not have been able to come to court to give evidence because they told me they wanted to go and give evidence but they do not have the fare and I had to take money out of my pocket to give them," she said.

She asked the government to make an effort to enable witnesses to get to the court and testify.

Human rights activist from Unguja North Region Hadia Ali Makame said that witnesses in GBV cases need to be given fare to testify against the victims.

She urged the government to reinstate the fare system so that those cases proceed smoothly and the justice is obtained and perpetrators are convicted.

She said when a witness is summoned to the court and he/she is forced to suspend some of his/her economic activities for the day, so it is advisable for the government to restore the fare system.

She explained that the witnesses are currently paying their own way to get to the court and some of them live far from the court so they are forced to pay the fare to get to the court and that level due to the distance the witness lives where there are those who pay to pay 3,000 / - for fares.

"For a rural resident most of whom are helpless 3,000/- to give it is too big to enable him/her to come to the court to give evidence," she said.

Time Asaa Khamis, from Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) said it is a good thing for witnesses in the GBV cases to be given money for transport for them to give evidences.

She said that a case without evidence the accused could not be convicted, advising that the witnesses should not be given only their own fare or subsistence allowance for the whole day that he/she is required to appear in court.

She said: "When you call a witness in court you are disturbing his/her economic activities. So, I think it is important to give them subsistence allowances."

Two new bird species identified in Tanzania

By Special Correspondent

ORNITHOLOGISTS and animal researchers have recently identified and named two new bird species in Tanzania, a laborious task that required the use of museum specimens collected half a century ago.

According to a recent report released in the international journal of avian science Ibis, two previously "undescribed" warblers of the Cisticola genus known to have inhabited central Tanzania since the 1980s have been formally named by a dedicated group of researchers who went so far as to consult museum artifacts from 1961 to make their discovery.

"These putative new species have been illustrated in field guides on African birds, although with no formal name," the journal entry notes. "We use these [museum] specimens to provide formal descriptions of each form and, using DNA sequence data extracted from these specimens, we place them in a broad phylogenetic framework for the genus Cisticola."

A report from the outlet Sci-News explained the Cisticola genus is known for "small insect-eating birds" that have existed since the Old World. German naturalist Jakob Kaup originally recognized the "Cisticolidae" bird family in 1829, and since his ornithology work over 50 species of warblers have been recognized worldwide.

"Cisticola warblers primarily inhabit wetlands, savannah, broadleaved woodlands and upland habitats, almost exclusively in Africa," University of Copenhagen researcher Lars Dinesen and his international colleagues who assisted on the Ibis journal entry told Sci-News in a statement.

"Their identification and



classification have been problematic for both professional and amateur ornithologists because of their cryptic coloration, seasonal variation in plumage and the patchy geographical distributions of many of the currently recognized species."

Indeed, Sci-News noted only two members of the Cisticola genus are found in populations outside of Africa: the Madagascan cisticola and the golden-headed warbler, which is found in Australia and sev-

eral countries within Asia.

These particular species of warbler, called the Kilombero cisticola and the white-tailed cisticola, inhabit the floodplains in southwestern and central Tanzania, respectively.

"The presence of two undescribed Cisticola warblers in the marshes of the Kilombero floodplain in central Tanzania has been known since the 1980s and these putative new species have been illustrated in field guides on African birds, although with no formal name," Dinesen and his team told Sci-News. "Based on the combined evidence from genetics, morphology and bioacoustics, we conclude that these two cisticolas represent independent species."

Researchers concluded both bird families diverged somewhere between 2.5 and 3.5 million years ago, according to the Ibis report.

"We use our own and public recordings to characterize the vocal repertoire of each of these new species and compare song characteristics with other members of their respective clades," the report said. "Dating of nodes in the molecular phylogeny suggests that both cisticolas endemic to the Kilombero became isolated and diverged from their sister-species between 2.5 and 3.5 million years ago, long after the formation of the Eastern Arc Mountains and the Malawi Rift."

Dinesen and research team also used the scientific paper to implore to the larger animal conservation community to move both species to a critically endangered status, given environmental issues with the floodplain.

"The Kilombero floodplain was once connected with the vast wetland habitats of the ancient Zambian Luangwa drainage system," the team told Sci-News. "However, this connection was broken in the Late Miocene, with the formation of the Malawi Rift." "We propose that both species should be classified as

globally endangered, owing to immense anthropogenic pressures on the floodplain, as documented in several publications and by a recent Ramsar Advisory Mission," the paper noted.

This is not the only scientific bird news in recent weeks. A recently discovered extinct dwarf emu egg was found almost in its entirety, and has offered the global scientific community valuable information into the deceased species.

How the CPC sustains Chinese people's support

BEIJING

GOING over the history of the Communist Party of China (CPC), it is an unassailable fact that the Party always has the support of the people.

International polls have indicated over and again that Chinese people's approval ratings of the CPC and the government rank the highest worldwide.

Last year, a report by Harvard University based on its survey in China spanning 13 years shows that the Chinese people's overall satisfaction toward the central government exceeds 93 percent.

So how does the CPC sustain this widespread support over a century?

EVERYTHING IS FOR THE PEOPLE

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said the Party has won the people's wholehearted support because it has always served the people with heart and soul and strived for the well-being of all ethnic groups.

It is enshrined in the CPC Constitution that the Party has no special interests of its own. "In its own work, the Party shall follow the mass line, seeing that everything is for the people and everything relies on the people."

Passing down generations of Chinese leaders and CPC members, this people-oriented philosophy has been the underlying dynamic for the CPC to lead the Chinese people fighting for national independence and striving for socialist modernization.

Since the start of the reform and opening-up in the late 1970s, more than 770 million people had been lifted out of poverty in continuous poverty relief efforts led by the CPC. In early 2021, Xi declared that China had eliminated absolute poverty.

"What we have seen is a party that had never let down its guard, a party that has been consistently toiling on behalf of the Chinese people, appreciating its historic role and the choice by the Chinese people and history," said Charles Onanaiju, director of Nigeria's Center for China Studies.

The people-oriented approach of governance also demonstrated its strength in the country's battle against coronavirus last year.

China emerged among the first countries to contain the virus. It made COVID-19 treatment free-of-charge, pledging to treat every patient and leave no one unattended. "We saved lives at all costs. We never gave up no matter how old a patient was or how serious their condition was," Xi said.

The oldest COVID-19 patient saved in China is 108 years old.

"The leadership of the CPC clearly has the support of the people of China," said Stephen Perry, chairman of Britain's 48 Group Club, who spoke to friends in China about Wuhan's lockdown. "The basic position of the CPC has been, is, and will continue to be all about the people, hear the people, and get the policies right to meet the needs of the people."

ROOTED IN THE PEOPLE

Recalling his meeting with Xi years ago, Perry said, "I looked into his eyes as he was talking. I could see a man who'd experienced poverty, who'd experienced the life of the peasants of China."

Many Chinese leaders started their careers from the grassroots, going through the difficulties ordinary people face and understanding their needs, which laid a solid foundation for their practical and people-oriented approach in formulating national policies.

"Meat would not grace our tables for months at a time," Xi once said, referring to the days when he was sent to Liangjiahe Village in northwest China's Shaanxi Province as a farmer some five decades ago. "How I wished to treat my fellow villagers to meat at least



Combo photo taken on July 15, 2020 shows villagers' smiles in Shenshan Village of Jinggangshan, east China's Jiangxi Province. (Xinhua)

once."

From a junior local official to China's top leader, Xi has always held dear the wish he had made. Ensuring the rural poor improve their lot has been his motivation all along.

Many senior officials share similar experiences. They have worked in remote areas and shouldered grave tasks. They have proved their capability in promoting regional and national development in various positions.

Laurence J. Brahm, a senior international fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, studied this unique characteristic of the CPC leadership and concluded: "They know the entire structure of the economy and the psychology of people in being able to address their needs and respond accord-

ingly." In just decades, the Party led the country's massive transformation, bringing huge economic and social benefits to the people.

China's per capita disposable income reached 32,189 yuan (about 5,024 U.S. dollars) in 2020, more than double the level in 2010, with 400 million middle-income earners of its total population of over 1.4 billion.

The country has the largest social security system globally, with basic medical insurance covering over 1.3 billion people and basic old-age insurance covering about 1 billion. The average life expectancy of the Chinese has risen to 77.3 years.

British scholar and political commentator Martin Jacques said he believed the reason why the CPC enjoys a lot of support is that it managed to deliver a tremendous transformation for the Chinese people.

RESOLUTELY FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Corruption, a common problem faced by all political parties, is a disease people hate most. And it is precisely what the CPC is determined to address thoroughly. Since 2012, the Party has investigated and punished corrupt officials -- including some high-ranking officials -- on a scale unseen in decades.

Xi said: "We will strike both the 'tigers' (high-ranking corrupt officials) and swat the 'flies' (low-ranking corrupt officials), and advance the system under which officials don't dare to, are unable to, and have no desire to

commit acts of corruption as a whole." Ahmed Bahaa El-Din Shaaban, secretary-general of the Egyptian Socialist Party, believes that a significant factor behind the CPC's success is its ability to keep itself clean through continuous anti-corruption campaigns.

Moreover, the Party has combined internal supervision with state and public scrutiny, coordinating it with legal, democratic, auditing, and judicial supervision and also scrutiny by public opinion. Together, they create a powerful synergy for conducting oversight. The resolute fight against corruption has resulted in surging public support. According to a survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics, 97.3 percent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with the improvement of Party conduct, the working practices of government officials, and social morality.

"History has provided ample proof that the state is the people, and the people are the state," Xi said. "With the people's trust and support, the Party can overcome all hardships and remain invincible."

Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM HIZI NAZO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS KIPINA JOTO 23.00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09.00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11.00 AM MTAU WA MAGOMA 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15.00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18.00 HRS BONGO TEN 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.15 HRS CHEMISHA BONGO 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01.00-05.00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM COMMERCIALS 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.15 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18.00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MIBAVU ZANGU 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS RAFIKI I 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00- 05:00 MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Thursday 17 June 2021

Tira director touts 50pc insurance penetration by 2034 while singling out CRDB Bank

By The Banker Reporter

PLANS by the government to ensure that by 2034 at least 50 percent of Tanzanians have some form of insurance cover, can only be realised if financial institutions such as CRDB Bank Plc play a key role.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority's Director of Planning, Research and Marketing, Zakaria Muyengi said in Dar es Salaam this week when launching CRDB's insurance mobilization campaign that big banks and financial insurance have an important role when they collaborate with insurance company to offer Bancassurance services to customers.

Muyengi said the CRDB campaign is an important vehicle to speed up the penetration of insurance services in the market from the current meagre 15 percent to at least 50 percent as per the National Financial Sector Development Plan of 2020/21 to 2029/3 which was unveiled in September last year.

"Statistics show that only 15 percent of Tanza-

nians use some form of insurance cover which is very little compared to other African countries such as South Africa," Muyengi said adding that the government was to see contribution of the industry increase from the current one to three percent during the same period.

He said the government through Tira is continuing to push for speed insurance services deployment through the Bancassurance initiative which is tailor made to allow banks work with insurance companies to provide services and products to the public.

"I know that CRDB Bank has many years of experience in selling insurance products to customers in the market because, unlike your peers, you established an insurance broker many years ago," the Tira Director added while pointing out that CRDB has a good relationship with insurance companies.

He commended the bank's management and staff for innovative products launched in the market such as Kava Assurance and motor vehicle insurance being sold digitally through SimBanking which encourages more people to



join.

Muyengi further commended CRDB for coming up with the public sensitization campaign on insurance services saying Tira wants all stakeholders to do the same and ensure that people are aware that insurance is a necessity in life.

Speaking at the event, CRDB Group CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the campaign dubbed, 'Enjoy life, insure what you value,' is aimed at sensitizing and mobilizing the public to buy insurance cover to protect against risks.

Nsekela said the campaign is aligned with the government's plans to increase insurance penetration in the market through sensitization of the public. "As a genuine public bank we understand the role that we need to play in supporting government plans to increase insurance coverage to 50 percent," he said.

He said lack of knowledge on the importance of insurance cover among the people is a major hindrance towards increased penetration hence the need to invest in sensitization campaigns that will public understanding of the services.

"In a short while, we will also start our 'Nipo mtaani kwako' campaign which involves our officials going to the field to sensitize the public on the importance of banking services and convince them to open accounts, this year we will also include insurance in the package," the CRDB chief noted while revealing that the bank through its insurance brokerage firm offers all types of life and non-life insurance.

European digital banking platform forges alliance to tap into Africa's mobile growth

LAGOS

DIGITAL banking platform provider, Layer is to partner with United Bank for Africa (UBA) to fuel its digital transformation aimed at providing greater access to a wider range of financial services for its South African and European customers.

Layer is described as a digital transformation platform designed to enable large financial institutions to rapidly revolutionise their customer and back-office digital experiences. In a statement released to the media, the new partnership will see the company add an estimated 18 million users to its platform across 25 countries in Africa and Europe.

"Through its collaboration with Layer, UBA will be able to provide seamless banking services in different jurisdictions from one central platform without altering core banking systems. Layer's proprietary platform enables banks to offer their customers a blend of traditional and neobank capabilities through one single platform that sits on top of core banking systems and connects through open source technology (APIs). UBA has implemented all of the capabilities available on the Layer platform, to provide end to end digitalisation of their banking services, delivered through a new mobile app and website in 18 countries and in four languages," the partners explain.

Layer one of only a few European



Roy Zakka, Founder and CEO of Layer

Fintech firms to work directly with an African bank in rolling out a fast-paced, collaborative platform that aims to transform how data is utilised across the banking sector. Layer says the smartphone revolution is gathering pace in Sub-Saharan Africa. In South Africa, an estimated 20 to 22 million people own a smartphone and while this represents only around one-third of the population, sales are accelerating, and ownership is expected to grow by a further five million by 2023.

Coupled with findings by McKinsey that 46% of bank customers expect to use digital or mobile services more in the post pandemic world, Layer is assisting UBA to position itself to revolutionise the way it does business in South Africa by becoming the go-to bank that ensures a seamless experience for staff and customers.

Commenting on how UBA choose Layer as their digital banking platform, UBA Group MD Kennedy Uzok said: "We conducted a very thorough digital banking vendor/platform evaluation process across the global market considering the advancement in technology, richness of features, ownership cost effectiveness and smooth implementation approach."

Speaking about the significance of the partnership, Roy Zakka, Founder and CEO of Layer commented: "This is an exciting and ambitious partnership in spirit and scale. We are delighted to work with UBA to accelerate the arrival of digital banking services across the continent of Africa and Europe. We are helping position UBA as a digital first leader across Africa while also helping reduce their annual expenditure by more than 40% for mobile applications alone."

Central bank digital currencies a useful tool for emerging markets, but with risks

LONDON

EMERGING market countries have been frontrunners in the adoption of digital currency projects, which could boost financial inclusion, according to a new report.

However, countries adopting digital currencies face risks, such as increasing digital dollarisation as they gain access to other countries and a potential rise in local inflation rates, according to BofA Securities.

"Central banks representing a fifth of the world's population are likely to issue a general purpose CBDC in the next three years, according to the latest Bank of International Settlements survey. Eighty-six per cent of global central banks are exploring the benefits and drawbacks of CBDCs. About 60 per cent are conducting experiments or proof-of-concept," the bank said in a research note.

"The most advanced central bank digital currency projects are currently run in China, [South] Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and the UAE." CBDCs are digital forms of national currencies such as the dollar, the euro or the dirham, backed by a country's central bank.

A growing number of nations are trialling CBDCs and central bankers and finance ministers from the Group of Seven nations last week pledged to work together to understand "their wider public policy implications." "Our objective is to ensure that CBDCs are grounded in long-standing public sector commitments to transparency, the rule of law and sound economic governance," the policymakers said in a joint communiqué.

The People's Bank of China building in Beijing, China's central bank was the first to begin experimenting with a digital currency back in 2014. Bloomberg. Central bank digital currencies may increase financial inclusion but are a headache for lenders

The UAE has already completed Project Aber, a CBDC proof-of-concept trial with Saudi Arabia last year, which confirmed blockchain technology could be used to "reimagine both domestic and cross-border payment systems in new ways."

In February, the UAE Central Bank also joined a multi-nation project with the Bank of Thailand, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Digital Currency Institute of the People's Bank of China to examine the business use cases for using blockchain for real-time, cross-border payments in both domestic and foreign currencies.

Central banks in emerging markets are adopting CBDCs because they can bring significant efficiency gains in payment systems.

CBK, World Bank start bonds market reforms

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has embarked on reforms aimed at cutting dominance of large commercial banks in government securities, lower cost of borrowing and boost cash flow for investors who exit.

This is part of the conditions in a deal between Kenya and the World Bank Group for disbursement of \$750 million (Sh81 billion) under the Development Policy Operations (DPO) expected by end of the month.

The CBK in January published updated auction rules for Treasury bonds and bills as part of the reforms to reduce domestic debt costs and risks by promoting transparency and market confidence, thus "preserving the integrity of the auction process."

The bank backs the refreshed rules, which give more clarity on operation of government debt auctions, to "potentially helping to enlarge participation and improve auction bidding behaviour, which is currently dominated by large commercial banks."

The share of banks in domestic debt has reduced slightly this year in what analysts have partly attributed to issuance of long-dated bonds by the CBK, and accounted for 51.4 percent of the Sh3.67 trillion portfolio as at June 4 compared with 53.29 percent at the end of December.

"In the secondary market, the CBK is seeking to implement a benchmark bond programme to strengthen secondary market liquidity and reduce domestic debt costs, whilst also supporting broader domestic bond market de-

velopment," World Bank analysts said.

The programme will see the CBK - Treasury's agent in debt markets - restructure Kenya's debt maturity profile by prioritising benchmark bonds which will set standards for the performance of other bonds.

The World Bank said the CBK has committed to develop a bond reopening calendar, identify candidate bonds and provide justification for the choice and adopt a benchmark bond size limit.

It also pledged to reduce refinancing risk and increase concentration in the benchmark issues by coming up with a refinancing programme through strategies such as buying back the bonds when interest rates are lower and also asking investors to invest in other bonds rather than redeem their cash.



CBK governor, Patrick Njoroge.

Temeke DC describes NMB Bank as true partner in development



NMB Dar es Salaam zone manager, Donatus Richard making remarks after presenting 576 pieces of iron sheets to worth 18m/- to Temeke district commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (seated 2nd R) for public schools in the district at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam this week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

By The Banker Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has been described as the government's true development partners thanks to its massive investment in community projects emanating from its one percent allocation from last year over 206bn/- net profit.

Temeke District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that NMB has been in the forefront in investing in community projects such as education, health and relief aid to disaster struck communities.

"NMB has been a good corporate citizen because of the regular support which the bank has given to Temeke District and other areas of the country in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiatives to improve people's lives," Gondwe said after receiving iron sheets worth 18m/- donated to three public schools in his district.

He said NMB's through its corporate social responsibility initiative has been donating to communities even without being requested hence qualifying to be a truly public bank which targets the public in its investments.

"This bank has sent teams of officials who are going round public schools and health facilities in Temeke to sensitise people on better health practices but also scouting for areas needing support," he added.

NMB Dar es Salaam Zone Manager, Donatus Richard commended government officials including Gondwe for supporting the bank's business activities in the country hence enabling it to be a market

leader in terms of profit making.

"It's from such profits that we allocate one percent of the net amount to give back to the community each year," Richard said while calling on the beneficiaries to make better use of the donated materials so that living standards should be improved.

Meanwhile NMB's Eastern Zone Manager, Dismas Prosper donated construction materials to various public schools in Ulanga District of Morogoro Region worth 25.8m/-. Prosper said the donation is also meant to improve learning conditions but also heed government directives to invest in construction of more

classrooms.

Prosper who handed over the donation to Ulanga District Commissioner, Ngollo Malenya said the bank will continue supporting state efforts to invest in education and health services. "We at NMB understand that an educated and health population is good for banking and growth," he noted.

In remarks after receiving the donation, DC Malenya urged the beneficiaries to show appreciation to NMB by performing well in national examinations. "Let's make better use of these donations so that they last longer and yield better results," he advised.



Crypto University founder Grey Jabesi.

Crypto University is offering free courses in cryptocurrency for entrepreneurs

JOHANNESBURG

EDUCATION platform Crypto University together with Celo is offering free cryptocurrency and blockchain courses for entrepreneurs.

The Crypto Women's Course launches on 12 June 2021 and the Celo Blockchain Course takes place on 19 June. According to Crypto University founder Grey Jabesi, the Crypto Women's Course will give women a head start with cryptocurrency.

"Learning about crypto is a very useful skill today, it's essential personally but also can open a lot of doors for those who wish to ever work remotely for crypto companies. I support women who want to take over the crypto space. It is time for inclusion in the crypto sectors and this course is an opportunity for women to upskill in this area," says Jabesi.

Interested applicants can register here for the Crypto Women's Course. The Celo Blockchain Course course can be completed within a few hours. The course will focus on the fundamentals of distributed ledger technology and how it works, and the Celo Blockchain. "This course was creatively designed to simplify everything. We used animation and illustrations to

break things down. You can also take it further and learn how to build decentralised applications using the Celo blockchain," explains Jabesi.

Interested applicants can register here for the Celo Blockchain Course. Cryptocurrency has a very successful domain for the last few years. Some consider crypto as the biggest wealth transfer of our time and almost everyone now knows of someone who changed their life for the better because of crypto.

"As a technology industry, it is also developing very fast. However, there is some work to be done to make this industry more inclusive. This is a necessary feature for building products or ecosystems that appeal to all people in the world. "According to LinkedIn, blockchain is among the highest paid jobs in the world. Having some knowledge about blockchain can open a lot of doors for most people especially in this digital globalised economy. There also will be a hackathon for those who are interested in building a product on the Celo blockchain." Concludes Jabesi. The education platform says prospective crypto traders will learn everything there is to know about blockchain and get a job in the crypto domain.

PwC to add 100k jobs in \$12bn strategic revamp with South African unit adding 2 500

JOHANNESBURG

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS is investing \$12 billion across its global business in an overhaul targeting better audits, digitisation of services and greener operations.

The professional-services provider will hire 100 000 employees and develop the skills of existing staff over the next five years as it seeks to respond to the post-pandemic operating environment, it said in an emailed statement on Tuesday.

"We will continue to evolve our ways of working, and expand our capabilities in the areas that matter most for the future, while remaining steadfast in our commitment to quality," PwC Chairman Bob Moritz said. "We want our people to be the most sought after in the market."

Auditors are grappling with managing quality amid a shift in ways of working introduced by the Covid-19 pandemic. The International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board has revised standards for auditors, coming into effect in 2022, to boost technology use, help manage new risks, and improve quality management.

PwC is also seeking ways to address growing calls for transparency in the profession from



CEO of South African unit of PwC, Dion Shango.

stakeholders after several accounting scandals among the Big Four auditing firms knocked public trust. In South Africa, for example, KPMG has put in place a variety of reforms after it came under fire in 2017 for work done for a politically connected family accused of plundering the government's coffers.

The South African unit of PwC will add at least 2 500 new employees over the next five years, chief executive officer in the region Dion Shango told reporters in a conference call. Across Africa, where it

has a presence in 34 countries, the firm plans to bulk up its operations with a \$400 million investment.

The company is also interviewing for non-executive directors to strengthen audit oversight.

PwC has also set aside \$3 billion of its total global investment to help double the scale of its Asia-Pacific operations, it said. The firm's spending will also focus on responding to environmental, social and governance trends across its operations.

MARKETTRENDS

Acwa Power raises \$746m through sukuk issuance to fund growth

RIYADH

THE issuance was the first the company has completed in the Saudi Arabian market and benefited from "significant interest from fund managers, government funds and insurance companies", the company said in a statement on Monday evening. The offer was 1.8-times oversubscribed.

"The success of the issuance is proof of the wider market's faith in KSA's bond market and Acwa Power's strong credit fundamentals, which have attracted a diverse pool of sophisticated investors," Paddy Padmanathan, president and chief executive of Acwa Power, said. "The issuance is also a vote of confidence from investors in our ability to capture large opportunities in Saudi Arabia and other growth markets."

Companies in the Gulf have been taking advantage of low rates to raise debt as the region emerges from an economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and last year's oil price plunge. Emerging markets specialist Franklin Templeton said this week it expects debt market issuance in the Gulf this year to be in line with last year's total of \$250bn, but for a greater proportion of this to be issued by the corporate sector.

Acwa Power operates in 13 countries in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia. It has a portfolio of 64 assets with a total investment of \$66bn, producing 42 gigawatts of power and 6.4 million cubic metres per day of desalinated water. The transaction is also Acwa Power's first since Saudi's sovereign wealth fund, the Public Investment Fund, became a 50 per cent shareholder in the company last year.

The sukuk issuance "marks a new phase in diversifying our company's funding sources to cater for future growth, reinforcing our strong track record in delivering power and desalinated water ... to communities in the kingdom and around the world", Kashif Rana, chief financial officer at Acwa Power, said. HSBC Saudi Arabia and Samba Capital acted as joint lead managers and bookrunners for the sukuk, while Norton Rose Fulbright provided legal counsel.

Earlier this year, Acwa Power secured financing for a \$1bn power project it is developing in Uzbekistan as part of its strategy to boost its renewable energy portfolio in the Central Asian republic. The company also signed an agreement with Dubai-based Neutral Fuels to supply net-zero biofuel - a clean form of fuel that lowers emissions - to power the kingdom's Red Sea tourism project on the coast.

Money talks, money walks, change the attitude

By Bupe Mwakabaga

WE are currently in mid-June and yes it was just yesterday when we celebrated the New Year. The coronavirus global pandemic has changed a lot in the way we earn, spend and save money. Our income streams have been adversely affected by this pandemic. Some of our colleagues have lost their jobs and businesses. Amidst all these challenges, there is one thing that we have learnt and that is change is inevitable and planning is a necessity.

Budgeting is a process of planning how to spend earned income on expenditures. Income can be considered as incoming money as a result of various business activities including sale of products and services. While expenditure is the outgoing money as a result of paying expenses, bills and related aspects over a specific period. Now comes the next question. How do we budget? Or rather, do we budget right?

Step 1: Set your goals; your

budgeting journey starts with setting a financial goal. Your financial goal could be purchasing a piece of land by December, 2021 or starting a business in three months. You need to set both a short- and long-term financial goal.

Step 2: Make a plan; once you set a SMART financial goal, you need a plan. Your plan is a roadmap that will enable you to achieve your financial goals. The act of planning how much of your earned income will be spent and saved is budgeting. There is a famous saying that indicates 'if you fail to plan, you plan to fail'.

This saying is applicable to budgeting. If you don't plan how to spend your earned money eventually you will lose it. Money talks and mostly it says goodbye. Imagine if you have 20,000/- at 9:00am and you begin to buy various unplanned items, before you realise it you will have run out of cash and not be able to account for your expenditure.

Step 3: Know your net in-



come; the first step in creating a budget is to identify the amount of in-coming money after all statutory deductions and taxes. For example, if you are employed, your net income is the amount of money that is credited to your account after tax deductions. If you are an entrepreneur, the net income is money earned after various deductions.

Step 4: Track your expenditure; once you know your income streams, you need to identify and track your expenditure. You need to document your expenses in either an application or notebook. If you track for three consecutive months, you should be able to identify an expenditure pattern. This pattern will help you to improve your budgeting as you will have accurate estimates of your anticipated expenditures.

Step 5: Save to attain your financial goal; you know your income and expenses. Now you need to save some of your earned income. Your savings is a result of deducting expenses from your income. You need to save for a purpose which could either be emergency funds, vacation or investment. Remember those financial goals that you initially set? Your accumulated savings will enable you to draw closer to these goals.

Step 6: Keep checking in; you need to create a habit of constantly reviewing your budget. It is important to constantly check your budget so that you can explore opportunities for lowering your expenses and increasing your income and savings.

Aim to adjust your habits if necessary. If you track your expenditures, then you will be able to identify your spending areas of concern. Your expense trend will give you a snapshot of what to stop spending money on. For instance, you spend 3,000/- per

day to clean your car at the parking lot at work which results to an expense of 15,000/- weekly and 60,000 monthly.

Such realization will prompt you to evaluate the need to clean your car daily. If yes, can you consider cleaning your car at home as a way of doing exercises. Whatever option that works for you, just adjust your expenses according to your income.

Do you have a paid gym subscription and you don't attend? Perhaps you want to cancel subscriptions to everything that you no longer use and save that money for a certain financial goal. I hope these simple steps will get you started on creating and monitoring your budget. Finally, remember every cent counts towards your budget and establish a savings plan that you can stick to.

At Standard Chartered Bank we offer financial education training sessions to equip our communities with the right knowledge in order to attain financial freedom. If you would like to receive these training sessions, please get in touch.

NB: Bupe Mwakabaga (pictured) is country manager, IT and operations at Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited.

The Jobo effect; banks perspective of accounting for climate risk



By Jennifer Kajuna

OVER a month ago, Tanzania braced for the much-spoken cyclone Jobo which was expected to make landfall along the coastal zone. Among others, the cyclone was expected to bring heavier than usual rainfall and flooding.

You can imagine the effects that could arise should Jobo have succeeded! As food for thought, who would have suffered most from Jobo? Any ideas of the Jobo-related losses that could have occurred from a banking sector outlook? Most literatures and studies have seemed to

embark on the impact of climate change on the economy, and how countries and regions are impacted by related loss events, with a little focus on the impact of such events on banks.

Notwithstanding, and mostly in the current arena of heightened climate change, it is important for banks to incorporate climate related risks to their traditional financial risks. The available bank-related studies have sought to analyse how climate risk drivers give rise to financial risks, and this is what banks in Tanzania should aim at.

In that light, the Basel Committee

on Banking Supervision, in April 2021, issued two analytical reports on climate related risk drivers and their transmission channels as well as climate related financial risks - measuring methodology.

The former report highlights the effects of climate-related financial risks and how they can translate into bank's financial risks by expounding some key components. For starters, banks need to consider "climate risk drivers." Climate risk drivers represent all sorts of climate-related changes that could give rise to financial risks i.e. the traditional market, credit, operational, reputational, liquidity

and even currency risks.

Climate risk drivers could be physical risks arising from the changes in weather and climate that impact economies or they could be transition risks arising from transitioning an economy that is reliant on fossil fuels to a low-carbon economy. For the case of Tanzania, such physical risks could result into damage to properties, infrastructure and agriculture which could potentially generate financial losses to the banking sector.

From a credit risk perspective, much higher impairments would be expected for customer in specific geographical locations or sectors that may be directly impacted by such physical risks which may reduce the borrower's ability to repay or hinder the bank to fully recover the asset in the event of a default. This remains an area of management judgment to ascertain and assess the magnitude and timing of the climate risk drivers on their business.

On top of that, "transmission channels" is also a key component to consider. As explained by the Basel Committee, transmission channels could either be micro or macro-economic transmissions. Microeconomic transmission channels could impact the bank's credit risk through its counterparties; market risk could be heightened due to diminishing value of financial assets whereby calamities could trigger prices reduction and increase market volatility in traded assets.

At times, liquidity risk could increase as banks' access to funding is reduced due to changes in market conditions. Climate risk drivers may also cause banks' counterparties to draw down deposits and credit lines. There could also be an increase in reputational risk due to changing market or consumer sentiments resulting from climate risk. Generally, transition risk drivers are likely to affect the income of banks' counterparties, which, in aggregate, could have massive macroeconomic effects.

Again, it is important for banks to understand that the impact of climate risk drivers can be affected by the geographical heterogeneity of their portfolios, amplifiers such as interactions and interdependencies between transmission channels as well as mitigants that reduce or offset impacts through both reactive and proactive actions.

Having navigated through the risks, banks are now called upon to establish and/or incorporate into their current structures, methodologies to adequately measure climate risk and properly account for it while also dealing with the related challenges such as data gaps and the uncertainties of predicting climate change. It's time to gather pace!

Jennifer Kajuna (pictured) is an Audit Manager at KPMG in Tanzania (kajuna@kpmg.co.tz). The views and opinions expressed here are her own and do not necessarily represent those of KPMG.

BANKING & FINANCE

King Mohammed VI urges transporters, embassies to facilitate Moroccan Diaspora's travelling home

RABAT

KING Mohammed VI has given his instruction to the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity as well as to Moroccan embassies and consulates abroad to assist Moroccan from the Diaspora travel back home for summer holidays.

King Mohammed VI has instructed the foundation and consulates to put at their disposal of members of the Moroccan community residing abroad a special support system on board ships operating the crossing back home, the Royal Office said in a statement last week.

The special support system is meant to ensure for that Moroccans from the Diaspora travel better conditions when returning home for the holidays.

The Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity will thus facilitate, during the crossing, all administrative, customs and health formalities, so that the journey, arrival and stay back home ends in a safe, smooth and satisfactory manner.

"The other traditional methods of reception and assistance deployed

by the Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, in Morocco and abroad, will remain in force," the Royal Office said in the statement. The Sovereign also ordered Morocco's embassies and consulates to actively participate in this exercise by facilitating all the consular and administrative steps required by Moroccan citizens and foreigners wishing to visit Morocco during the summer.

Earlier on Sunday, King Mohammed VI urged all transportation companies and other stakeholders in the field to facilitate the journeys of Moroccan Diaspora's return home for the holidays by offering affordable travel fees.

"The king also urged all tourism operators, both in the field of transport and the hotel industry, to take the necessary measures to welcome the members of the Moroccan community living abroad in the best conditions with best prices," the Royal Office statement added.

The move has been applauded by all political and civil rights actors and coordinators of Moroccans living in Spain who have underlined



King Mohammed VI waving to the crowd in Rabat last week.

the importance of King Mohammed VI's directive, which has, once again, reflected the high solicitude

of the Sovereign towards the Moroccan community abroad. Hicham Chergui Mouhssine who is president of the

General Coordination of Moroccans in Spain, said that his organization welcomes the king's order with great pride.

"This royal decision will facilitate the return of Moroccans to the homeland, especially after an absence of two years due to the coronavirus pandemic," Mouhssine said while noting that the royal initiative takes place at the right time given the hiked prices of tickets.

Hilal Tarkou Lahlimi who is president of the Association of Lawyers of Moroccan origin in Spain also welcomed the government's initiative saying King Mohammed VI's intervention has come at the right time.

"The royal instructions show the unwavering love and support by the Sovereign towards Moroccans both at home and abroad," Lahlimi said.

President of the ALIF Intercultural Center for Coexistence in Madrid, Said El Harti also joined his peers in praising the king's directive saying,

"The royal instructions to facilitate the return of Moroccans to the country at affordable prices have been widely welcomed by the Moroccan community in Spain which expresses its gratitude and thanks to His Majesty for this noble gesture," Harti said adding that the king's decision confirms, once again, that he is always listening to the people and attaches particular interest to responding to their concerns.

WORLD

US Justice Dept rebuffed Donald Trump bid to overturn election

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump pressed the Justice Department during his waning weeks in office to join his failed effort to overturn his election defeat based on his false claims of voting fraud, but its leaders refused, with one decrying the "pure insanity" of the claims, documents released on Tuesday showed.

The records, obtained by the House of Representatives Oversight and Reform Committee, provided new insight into the actions of the Republican former president in trying to enlist the department to act on his claims. The documents showed a series of overtures made by Trump, then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and an outside private attorney, Kurt Olsen.

The department ultimately did not join the effort and numerous courts rejected lawsuits seeking to overturn election results in various states.

Congress also is investigating the deadly Jan 6 assault on the US Capitol by a mob of Trump supporters trying to stop the formal certification of Democratic President Joe Biden's election victory.

"These documents show that President Trump tried to corrupt our nation's chief law enforcement agency in a brazen at-

tempt to overturn an election that he lost," said Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat.

These actions were separate from the revelations that the Trump-era Justice Department secretly sought the phone records of at least two Democratic lawmakers, a move that led Biden's Attorney General Merrick Garland on Monday to vow to strengthen policies aiming to protect the department from political influence. The department under outgoing Attorney General William Barr, who left his post on Dec 23, and his short-term replacement Jeffrey Rosen decided not to act on the false claims of voting fraud. Biden took office on Jan 20.

The emails showed that Meadows asked Justice Department officials to investigate an unfounded conspiracy theory called "Italygate" alleging that US electoral data was changed in Italian facilities with the knowledge of the CIA.

On Jan 1, Meadows sent Rosen a link to a YouTube video detailing the theory. Rosen forwarded the email to then-acting Deputy Attorney General Richard Donoghue, who replied: "Pure insanity."

The documents also showed that Trump pressured Rosen when he was deputy attorney general to have the department take up the election fraud



Then US president Donald Trump

claims.

'Flatly refused'

The emails showed Rosen declined to arrange a meeting between Justice Department officials and Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani about his false claims that the November election was stolen. Meadows had asked Rosen to help arrange the proposed meeting with Giuliani, the emails showed.

"I flatly refused, said I would not be giving any special treatment to Giuliani or any of his 'witnesses,' and re-affirmed yet again that I will not talk to Giuliani about any of this," Rosen wrote to a Justice Department colleague on Jan 1.

Giuliani had played a prominent role in promoting Trump's false election claims. Trump, through an assistant, sent Rosen a Dec 14 email with documents purporting to show evidence of election fraud in northern Michigan - a debunked allegation that a federal judge had already rejected.

Two weeks later, on Dec 29, Trump's White House assistant emailed Rosen, who by then was the acting attorney general, and other Justice Department lawyers a draft legal brief that they were urged to file at the US Supreme Court.

The department never filed the brief.

Emails released by the House committee showed that Olsen, a Maryland lawyer involved in writing Trump's draft brief, repeatedly tried to meet with Rosen but was unsuccessful. The draft brief backed by Trump argued that changes made by the states of Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania to voting procedures amid the COVID-19 pandemic to expand mail-in voting were unlawful. Biden won all those states.

Similar arguments were made in a lawsuit filed by Ken Paxton, the Republican attorney general of Texas and a Trump ally. The US Supreme Court rejected that long-shot lawsuit in December.

Representatives for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The document release came ahead of a House Oversight Committee hearing on the Jan. 6 attack, which will include testimony from FBI director Christopher Wray and General Charles Flynn, a high-ranking Pentagon official involved in a key mid-riot phone call with police leaders.

Agencies

Sputnik V is more effective against Indian strain of COVID than other vaccines – RDIF

MOSCOW

THE Sputnik V vaccine is more effective against the Indian strain of the coronavirus than any other vaccine that published results on that strain, the Russian Direct Investment Fund said in a statement on the vaccine's Twitter account.

"Sputnik V is more efficient against the Delta variant of coronavirus, first detected in India, than any other vaccine that published results on this strain so far – the Gamaleya Center study submitted for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal," according to the statement.

In late April, Alexander Gintsburg, head of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology, which developed the vaccine, said that Sputnik V produces enough antibodies to battle the Indian strain of the coronavirus.

Russia was the world's first to register an anti-coronavirus vaccine on August 11, 2020. It also applied for registration of this drug in the EU, as well as with the World Health Organization.

The Sputnik V is now registered in about 60 countries with a total population of more than 1.5 billion people. More than 30 countries have begun mass vaccination with Sputnik V.

In early February, The Lancet, a world-acclaimed medical journal, published the results of the third phase of Sputnik V's clinical tests. The jab has proved to be among the world's safest and most efficient. Thus, its efficacy is estimated at 91.6%.

DPRK's Kim says food situation 'tense' due to typhoons

PYONGYANG

KIM Jong-un, the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), presided over a party plenary meeting Tuesday to review the execution of major state policies for the first half of this year under current international situation, the official Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday. Kim, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), said at the third Plenary Meeting of the 8th Central Committee of WPK that he highly appreciated the positive achievements by the party and the state work over the past six months.

He said that the country's economy has shown improvement as a whole by implementing its first half-year plan, as its total industrial output and the amount of goods increased largely from a year ago.

The food situation is getting tense as the agricultural sector failed to fulfill its grain production plan due to the damage by typhoon last year, he said, urging the plenary meeting to take a positive measure for settling the food shortage problem.

Israel-Gaza violence erupts for 1st time since last month's fighting

GAZA

ISRAEL mounted air strikes in the Gaza Strip yesterday, the first since the end of 11 days of cross-border fighting last month, in response to incendiary balloons launched from the Palestinian territory.

The flare-up, a first test for Israel's new government, followed a march in East Jerusalem on Tuesday by Jewish nationalists that had drawn threats of action by Hamas, the ruling militant group in Gaza.

The Israeli military said its aircraft attacked Hamas armed compounds in Gaza City and the southern town of Khan Younis and was "ready for all scenarios, including renewed fighting in the face of continued terrorist acts emanating from Gaza".

The strikes, the military said, came in response to the launching of the balloons, which the Israeli fire brigade reported caused 20 blazes in open fields in communities near the Gaza border.

A Hamas spokesman, confirming the Israeli attacks, said Palestinians would continue to pursue their "brave resistance and defend their rights and sacred sites" in Jerusalem.

Hours earlier, thousands of flag-waving Israelis congregated around the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem's Old City before heading to Judaism's holy Western Wall, drawing Palestinian anger and condemnation.

Israel, which occupied East Jerusalem in a 1967 war and later annexed it in a move that has not won international recognition, regards the entire city as its capital. Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future state that would include the West Bank and Gaza.

Prior to Tuesday's march, Israel beefed up its deployment of the Iron Dome anti-missile system in anticipation of possible rocket attacks from Gaza.

But as the marchers began to disperse after nightfall in Jerusalem, there was no sign of rocket fire from the enclave.

The procession was originally scheduled for May 10 as part of "Jerusalem Day" festivities that celebrate Israel's capture of East Jerusalem.

Agencies

West can learn from most 'formidable' CPC - Foreign experts

HONG KONG

FOREIGN experts and scholars yesterday said the achievements made by China under the leadership of the Communist Party of China are of great significance to other economies and the West should learn more about the most "formidable" political party in the world.

Making a keynote video speech at an international symposium in Hong Kong on the centenary of the party, veteran political scholar Martin Jacques said the CPC is undoubtedly the most "formidable" political party of modern times, citing the remarkable achievements of lifting a poverty-stricken country into becoming the world's second largest economy. Jacques is former senior

fellow of politics and international studies at Cambridge University.

"In fact, what the test the West has to address is they don't understand the Communist Party of China," Jacques said.

The scholar called on Western countries to better understand how the CPC operates, and to take a leaf from its success.

Also speaking at the full-day symposium, Jim O'Neill, former chief economist of Goldman Sachs, noted that China's economic achievement under the leadership of the CPC has many lessons for all sorts of economies and societies around the world.

China also has much experience to offer with regard to reducing poverty and promoting equality, two key issues



The International Symposium On The Communist Party of China's History of 100 Years is held in Wan Chai, Hong Kong yesterday.

which are expected to be highlighted in the post-pandemic world, O'Neill added.

Grenville Cross, former director of public prosecutions of Hong Kong, said the "one country, two systems" principle devised by the central

authorities has retained Hong Kong and Macao's distinctive features, including long-established legal arrangements.

Cross noted that with the nation's help, Hong Kong has been able to solve problems which emerged during the im-

plementation of "one country, two systems".

After local fanatics encouraged by hostile forces created chaos in the city and damaged the nation's overall interests, the central authorities enacted the National Security Law for Hong Kong. Cross said it was done in a constitutional, minimalist way that was respectful of Hong Kong's legal norms.

The full-day international symposium, held online and offline, is part of an array of activities to mark the upcoming 100th anniversary of the CPC, which falls on July 1.

It was jointly organized by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and Bauhinia Culture, a Hong Kong-based media group.

Xinhua

US speeds visas for vulnerable Afghans as pullout looms

WASHINGTON

AS the US military completes its withdrawal from Afghanistan in the coming weeks, the Biden administration says it is adding staff to hurry up the visa process for Afghans who worked for the US government and want to flee to avoid Taliban reprisals.

But for refugee advocates and members of Congress, the effort still isn't enough to ensure that Afghans who worked as US military translators, guides and in other roles aren't persecuted in large numbers in the months ahead.

"I want the White House's hair on fire," said Maine Senator An-

drus King, an independent who caucuses with President Joe Biden's Democratic Party.

"What do I want them to do next? I want them to do everything within their power to solve this problem."

Fighting has increased across Afghanistan ahead of the Sept 11 deadline for withdrawal, which will end a two-decade US-led NATO troop presence since the Taliban were forced from power in the wake of the 2001 attacks on the United States.

Afghans who worked for the United States during America's longest war fear the insurgency will target them and their families, retribution for helping for-

eign forces.

With the final pullout expected as early as mid-July, there appears to be a mismatch between the expectations of refugee advocates and what the Biden administration says is realistic given the legal and practical requirements to process special immigrant visas.

The administration says it has already doubled the number of staff processing cases in Kabul and tripled personnel reviewing petitions at US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

It also plans a five-fold increase in the number of staff in the State Department working on the visas in Washington, a se-

nior administration official told Reuters.

"All of these changes have resulted in, over the last couple of months, the largest number of cases processed in the history of the program in any 60-day period," the official said, speaking about the plans on condition of anonymity.

The plan is to process at least 1,000-1,400 visa applications for Afghans who worked for the United States, not including their families, every month. By contrast, the US government says, it issued only 237 such visas in the last three months of 2020.

But even with the new effort, the administration says there's a

Agencies

Iran-China cooperation under BRI mutually beneficial -- Iranian business leader

TEHRAN

IT is mutually beneficial to advance Iran-China cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which could accelerate both Iran's development and the China-proposed initiative's implementation, a senior Iranian business leader told Xinhua in a recent interview.

The deepening of cooperation between Iran and China under the BRI could help promote "the country's infrastructure, particularly in the transportation sector, such as roads, railways, ports, airports and means of transportation," said

Majidreza Hariri, president of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCCI).

"Such collaborations would also help boost employment in Iran, which is among the problems faced by the country's youths as well as educated and skilled workforce," he added.

In addition, Iran's participation in the BRI helps develop the country's mining sector, thus increasing their share in the domestic economy, he said.

"Iran's ideal geographical position is the first and most important advantage," which makes the coun-



People visit the booth of Iran at the Consumer Goods exhibition area during the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, Nov. 8, 2020. (File photo)

try's participation in the BRI beneficial for the China-proposed ini-

tiative, as it appropriately connects West Asia to East Asia through land

and sea, Hariri said.

Among Iran's other advantages include the country's good political and economic relations with its Eastern and Western neighbors, he said.

"If these advantages are used appropriately and maximally, they can help accelerate the BRI's implementation," Hariri added.

Despite the shadow cast by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICCCI has gradually learned to take part in online exhibitions and hold virtual meetings with their Chinese partners to increase its presence in the Chinese market, he said.

The Iranian business leader, who has interacted with the Chinese people for roughly 40 years and visited China regularly for almost three decades before the pandemic, said that "the Iranian and Chinese people, owing to their behaviors and characteristics, can work together" and make friends with each other.

As this year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), he said that the Chinese ruling party "has helped considerably improve the quality of people's lives in China." Xinhua

Agencies

'Russia, China negotiate with many partners on lunar station project'

ST. PETERSBURG

RUSSIA and China are negotiating participation in the international scientific lunar station project with many partners, Roscosmos Director General Dmitry Rogozin told reporters during the Global Space Exploration Conference-2021 (GLEX-2021).

"We are actively negotiating with many participants. This is what we are doing, along with the Chinese colleagues," Rogozin said.

In his words, the European Space Agency (ESA) is the largest partner engaged in these talks.

On March 9, Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) announced that they had signed a memorandum of mutual understanding on behalf of their governments on cooperation in creating an international scientific lunar station (ISLS). The signing ceremony was held via a video conference.

Russia and China are planning to use their joint experience and scientific technologies to create a roadmap for building a station on the Moon.

Bilateral cooperation in this sphere envisages both studying the lunar surface and implementing joint projects in the orbit of the Earth's natural satellite.

Biden and Putin look for detente in summit after rising tensions

By Bloomberg

JOE Biden and Vladimir Putin kicked off what could be more than four hours of meetings yesterday afternoon in Geneva, with officials from both countries keeping expectations low for any breakthrough agreement.

The meeting with Putin, the first of Biden's presidency, is intended for the two leaders to set expectations in what's become an adversarial relationship, and to take each other's measure.

They'll look to reach agreement on starting a new round of arms-control talks and perhaps on steps toward restoring diplomatic channels severed as relations tumbled over the last several years.

The two men last met in 2011, when Biden was vice president and Putin had not yet cemented his grip on power in Russia. Since then, the US has imposed round after round of sanctions in retaliation for acts including Russia's annexation of Crimea, interference in US elections, cyberattacks and the killings of opposition leaders and journalists.

Putin has been undeterred, remaining an obstacle to US foreign policy in eastern Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere.

"I'm not looking for conflict with Russia," Biden said at a news conference following a NATO summit on Monday. But he said he'll convey to Putin that the US will respond "if Russia continues these harmful activities. And we will not fail to defend the transatlantic alliance or stand up for democratic values."

Putin and Biden will first meet accompanied only by their top diplomats, Sergei Lavrov and Antony Blinken. A larger meeting with more staff will follow.

They are expected to discuss a renewal of the New START nuclear arms pact that is set to expire in 2026, according to White House officials who briefed reporters traveling with Biden on Tuesday.

The US president believes human rights and Putin's crack down on jailed opposition leader Alexey Navalny's political movement are on the table for talks, though Putin has said they are internal issues.

The two leaders aren't planning to share a meal. Ahead of the meeting, Biden dined Tuesday evening in Geneva with Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

"I'm looking at this meeting with practical, but not much, optimism," Putin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters this week. "This is the first meeting under such strained conditions that have developed in bilateral relations, and I think that both sides understand they need to clean up the rubble."

They plan to hold separate news conferences after the summit rather than appearing on stage together, as Putin and former President Donald Trump did in Helsinki in 2018 -- a strong indication of how little expectation there is for any kind of breakthrough in the relationship.

Trump's joint news conference with Putin in 2018 led to a US embarrassment after he said he accepted the Russian leader's word that he hadn't interfered in the 2016 election, dismissing the conclusion of US intelligence agencies. US politicians in both parties excoriated Trump for the incident, which was seen as a major victory for Putin.

Biden has fended off criticism that he's rewarding Putin by proposing a meeting so early in his presidency, with aides arguing the relationship is best managed face-to-face due to the Russian leader's singular authority in his country.

Nonetheless, the summit also represents a win for Putin, as it shows that however grudgingly, the Kremlin remains a priority for the new US president.

The summit with Putin was purposefully scheduled to follow Biden's meetings with Group of Seven nations in the UK as well as NATO and EU leaders in Brussels, where the US president said he consulted allies on his agenda for the Russian leader.

All of them, Biden said, thanked him for planning the Geneva meeting.



I'm looking at this meeting with practical, but not much, optimism," Putin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters this week

Ghanaian innovator contributes to affordable houses through recycled plastic waste

ACCRA

AS A teenager, Nelson Boateng, a resident of Ashaiman near Ghana's capital Accra, needed to earn some income to support his education as well as aid his underprivileged parents to cater for his siblings in school.

Boateng, therefore, found a job with Zenith Plastics, a Chinese plastic recycling company in Tema, Ghana's eastern port city, and was attached to the recycling department where he learned to operate, repair, and build extruders.

"These Chinese managers saw my potentials, even though I was still young, anytime they went out to repair broken machines, they made me carry the tools, be with them as they repaired, and they taught me how to fix and build extruders and other equipment," he told Xinhua.

After working with the Chinese firm for 18 years, Boateng established Nelplast Eco Ghana Ltd, a plastic recycling plant at Katamanso, a community near the Ghanaian capital in 2019.

With the skills and experience acquired over the years from the Chinese company, he builds extruders that his company uses to produce sand and plastic-based paving blocks and interlocking bricks for housing.

"We crush, wash and semi-dry the plastic waste and mix it with sand at the proportion of 70 percent of sand and 30 percent of plastic, and feed them into an extruder to make pastes, then feed the paste into molds to produce paving blocks or interlocking bricks under hydraulic pressure," he said in an interview at his company's plastic waste recycling site.

Boateng said what motivated him to venture into plastic waste recycling was his passion to help Ghana to solve its plastic waste problems by using plastic waste as a solution to the shortage of housing units, schools under trees, and unemployment in the country.

According to official data, Ghana generates over one million tons of plastic waste annually, but only five percent is recycled, making landfill sites continually choked and the streets besieged by plastic waste.

"So, we are turning this plastic waste into building materials that the ordinary Ghanaians can afford. We also want to use recycled plastic waste to build homes for those who cannot afford the expensive houses," he told Xinhua.

"Using this kind of bricks for affordable housing has great potentials to help Ghana to bridge its housing deficit and at the same time rid the towns and cities of the menace of plastic waste and create more jobs," he said.

"This is our prototype plastic house built this year from 13,400 kilos of plastic waste, retrieved from our gutters and beaches. With 11,000 U.S. dollars you can afford a one-bedroom house like this, which is more durable but more affordable than building with cement blocks,"



A worker is busy at the plastic recycling company established by Nelson Boateng in a suburb of Accra, Ghana, May 27, 2021. (Xinhua)

he added.

The base and the columns of the one-bedroom apartment are made of the normal mortar concreting. But the walls are built with dark-brown bricks made from sand with plastic waste acting as the binding material.

The bricks are interlocked horizontally and vertically by the plugs and sockets designed at their edges, eliminating the use of mortar as the binding material in erecting the walls.

The compound is also tiled with colorful pavement blocks made from sand and plastic waste.

Looking at the increasing cost of cement and other building materials in Ghana and a housing deficit of two million housing units, having affordable houses becomes a mere dream, but the innovator said plastic waste becomes the

sure way of making affordable housing a dream come true for the underprivileged and low-income earners.

Compared to brick and mortar buildings, Boateng suggested that houses built with the sand-plastic interlocking bricks had a great advantage, as "these bricks will never crack, and dampness is avoided."

"When there is an earthquake or shakes and cracks on the earth, these bricks can expand, and contract when the earth becomes stable, unlike concrete blocks that either crack or collapse," he added.

In addition to the cost-efficiency, Boateng said the sand-plastic brick houses are also energy-efficient as the rooms cool naturally due to the hollows in the bricks to prevent heat transfer from outside into the rooms, reducing the cost of power consumption.

Nelplast currently employs 64 persons directly and 300 indirectly, 98 percent of whom are females who collect 20,000 kilos of plastic waste daily, "but the company can only recycle 3,000 kilos of the plastic waste collected in a day, leaving 17,000 kilos unused, so we need support to scale up production."

Besides the need for collaboration from both the state and private sector to scale up the production, Boateng also underscored the need for some subsidy in electricity charges which constitute about 70 percent of the company's

China plans to bring back samples from Mars around 2030

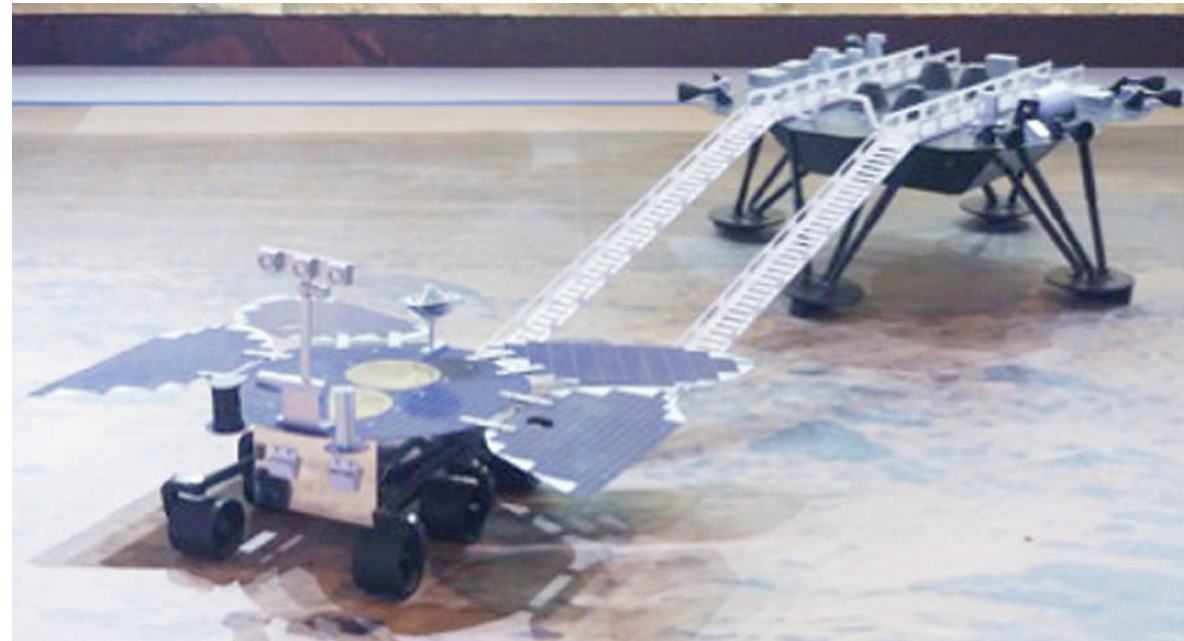


Photo taken on Oct. 30, 2020, shows models of the lander and rover of China's first Mars probe Tianwen-1 exhibited at the 2020 Global Technology Transfer Fair held in east China's Shanghai. (File photo)

CHINA plans to launch a mission around 2030 to bring back samples from Mars, according to a press conference held by the China National Space Administration (CNSA) on June 12 in Beijing following the complete success of China's first Mars exploration mission of orbiting, landing, and roving the red planet in one mission by Tianwen-1.

Besides, the country intends to launch a mission around 2025 to send a probe to fly around, land on, collect and return samples from a near-Earth asteroid and then orbit a main-belt comet for exploration. A Jovian system exploration mission and interplanetary exploration mission will also be launched in the near future, said officials from the CNSA.

The success of Tianwen-1 represents a symbolic achievement in the independent innovation and leapfrog development of China's space exploration cause, and marks six firsts in the history of the country's aerospace industry, said Xu Hongliang, spokesperson of the CNSA, at the press conference.

According to Xu, the Tianwen-1 probe symbolizes the first time China sent a probe into an Earth-Mars transfer orbit, the country's first interplanetary flight, the first time China's probe realized soft landing on a planet other than Earth, the first time China had a probe rove on the surface of an extraterrestrial planet for exploration, the first time China realized data measurement and control as well as com-

munication over a distance of 400 million kilometers, and the first time China obtained first-hand scientific data from Mars.

Tianwen-1 not only left China's footprints on Mars for the first time, but completed orbiting, landing and roving on the red planet in one mission, which fully demonstrated the wisdom of Chinese aerospace engineers and indicated that the country has come to the forefront of the world in planetary exploration, Xu said.

Featuring a high starting point, great difficulty, and a multitude of challenges, China's first Mars exploration mission has faced many problems since the demonstration stage, such as new environment, long distance, long time delay and a huge number of links in the mission, Xu noted.

The probe's descent from its parking orbit to the surface of Mars is the link with the highest risk in the Tianwen-1 mission, said Sun Zezhou, chief designer of the Tianwen-1 probe, who explained that during the link, the spacecraft not only had to deal with the unfamiliar and capricious atmospheric environment of the red planet, but needed to complete a dozen of key operations independently.

The CNSA also unveiled key plans of China's aerospace industry during the country's 14th Five-

Year Plan period (2021-2025) and the next years at the press conference.

According to decisions and arrangements made for building China's strength in aerospace, the country will advance comprehensive development of space technology, space science, and space application, in a bid to mainly enhance aerospace science and technology's role in driving innovation and supporting economic and social development, and actively carry out more extensive international exchanges and cooperation, said the CNSA.

China's planetary exploration missions will adhere to the basic principle of overall planning, step-by-step implementation, and continuous development, and give overall consideration to the development of engineering technologies and needs of research on hot-spot scientific problems, said Zhang Rongqiao, chief designer of China's first Mars exploration mission.

The country will, with Mars exploration as the focus and main line, push forward with its planetary exploration missions along the path designed to realize orbiting, landing, and roving in step one, and complete collection and return of samples in step two by 2030, Zhang added.

People's Daily

Sydney records first local virus case in more than a month

SYDNEY / SUVA / TOKYO

AUSTRALIA'S most populous city Sydney has recorded its first locally acquired case of COVID-19 in more than a month, stoking concerns of a fresh wave of infections yesterday.

New South Wales (NSW) state said it is not clear how the unnamed man in his 60s acquired the virus, but he was a driver who occasionally transported overseas airline crew.

While authorities urgently try and determine the source of the infection, NSW warned the unnamed man went to the cinema and more than a dozen cafes and shops in Sydney's eastern suburbs, which include Bondi Beach, while potentially infectious.

Australia's second largest city will allow its five millions residents to travel more than 25 kms from home and end mandatory masks wearing outdoors from Friday, despite the city fighting a stubborn COVID-19 outbreak. Melbourne exited a two-week hard lockdown late last week, its fourth since the pandemic began, after an outbreak that has seen about 100 cases since May 24.

"Victoria is at its best when we are all together ... the state will come back together from tomorrow night", Victoria state Acting Premier James Merlino told reporters yesterday.

Although cases linked to a fresh cluster in a residential townhouse complex rose slightly on Wednesday, Melbourne will gradually ease restrictions.

Public gatherings will increase to 20 people while the ban on home gatherings will be lifted. Gyms can open across Melbourne but must comply to strict distancing rules and salon services can operate without masks during service.

Victoria reported five new local cases on Wednesday, all linked to the townhouse cluster, taking total infections there to eight. Wednesday's data includes two cases announced on Tuesday which were recorded after the midnight cut-off deadline.

Fiji

Fiji reported the fifth death from COVID-19 while the Ministry of Health Wednesday pleaded with the public to adhere to the protocols as the country moves into day 59 of the second COVID-19 wave.

The deceased was a 73-year-old patient who tested positive 12 days ago after he was admitted at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, capital of Fiji, for almost a month for a severe non-COVID related illness.

A total of 116 new COVID-19 cases with one death were recorded in the last 24 hours. Of the 116 new cases, 93 are connected to existing clusters.

India

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 29,633,105 on Wednesday, with as many as 62,224 new cases recorded in the past 24 hours, said the health ministry. Besides, 2,542 COVID-19 patients died since Tuesday morning, taking the death toll to 379,573. This was the ninth consecutive day when less than 100,000 cases were registered across the country, after peaking to over 400,000 for several days in April-May which is the pandemic's second wave in India.

SPORT



Mbeya's CCM-owned Sokoine Stadium.

CCM now urged to renovate stadiums

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has asked the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), who are the owners of many stadiums in Tanzania, to lay artificial turf in the venues.

The head of state made the call on Tuesday while addressing the youths of the Lake Zone on behalf of the country's youths at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza.

She said that many of the stadiums owned by CCM are in deplorable condition, so the ruling party should use the opportunity to vouch for the elimination of the Value Added Tax (VAT) for artificial grass to improve the stadiums.

"As you have heard in the next financial year we have abolished VAT for artificial grass to improve our stadiums," she said.

"Here I am talking to my party, CCM, many of these stadiums are owned by CCM but they are not satisfactory".

President Samia moreover instructed the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports to prepare a program to improve the stadiums.

"So I want the CCM Deputy Secretary-General who is here to prepare a program to improve the stadiums, you ought to seek investors that will come in to renovate," she instructed.

The President responded to a request made a few weeks ago by Makete MP Festo Sanga who stood in Parliament to ask the President to intervene in the issue of CCM-owned football stadiums in the country.

The legislator revealed the facilities are plagued by challenges, thus, the situation calls for the facilities' renovation.

The MP moreover asked the President to abolish taxes on artificial grass to improve stadiums.

"We are asking the President to help us make sure these stadiums get artificial grass to help the country develop sports in the country," Sanga stated.

President Samia asks ministry to form sports academies

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, to initiate the establishment of sports academies in the country for up-and-coming athletes.

The President made the directive in Mwanza on Tuesday when she was addressing youths.

Samia said her government is committed to seeing that the country has many athletes who can compete at both local and international events.

She said the government appreciates arts and sports as a source of income hence the investment which her government is doing in the sector.

Samia (pictured) also informed the youths that her government has a special fund to cater for national teams to compete at international events.

She disclosed: "We are committed to developing arts and sports in the country, we want our youths to earn a living through the sector."

She noted: "In the recent budget we proposed for incentives like duty waiver on artificial turf, nearly all stadia in the country are owned by Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and are in bad shape, we hope with the duty waiver the stadia will improve."



"We will also renovate the Bagamoyo College of Arts (TaSuBa) and the minister is here, you should think of starting academies, they should be in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, and here," she said.

The President also mentioned the ongoing primary school games (Umitashumta) in Mtwara, saying they help in identifying young talents.

Academies offer athletes specialized training over a long period, while also taking care of their educational, psychological, and nutrition needs.

The coming of the government-owned academies will greatly help sports development as, apart from Azam FC academy, many other local academies are not in the standard.

The centers do not have all the requirements like qualified teaching staff, equipment, and other essentials.

Academies help in producing great players for elite league teams. Others go to play for the national football team.

They are attributed to immensely contributing to the development of sports in any country as it is believed that sports success at the top level does not come on a silver platter as there is a need for serious investment at the grassroots level.

SPORTS

Yanga's complicated goalkeeper situation

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WE are about to enter an important offseason leading into a crucial 2021/22 season, there are plenty of areas to address for Yanga.

Whether it is contract extensions, free-agent targets, or statement purchases, the Yanga front office has a lot of things on its tray.

Big decisions are coming for the Green and Yellow. One area that is going to be bolstered is the goalkeeping department as we head to the pre-season.

In football, most clubs follow a formula with their three goalkeepers.

There will be the first choice, then usually an older but very capable backup, and then there will either be a much older player or a youth player.

However, for Yanga, this formula has remained more or less broken in the past three seasons.

They have three goalkeepers, Metacha Mnata, Faroukh Shikalo, and Ramadhan Kabwili.

Neither Mnata nor Shikalo can claim to be the outright number one amid a strange rotation policy.

In two years, Shikalo has made 31 appearances for Yanga, including nine this season while his rival has 48 games under his belt.

Youngster Kabwili has not played a match this season and that is unlikely to change.

The season is almost at an end and the Yanga goalkeeping situation remains unresolved.

Perhaps one of the more confusing elements of Yanga's next season plans is what they choose to do with the goalkeepers.

Both Metacha Mnata and Faroukh Shikalo are out of contract at the end of this campaign.

Like the team in general, both have not enjoyed the best 2020/21 season and there are lingering doubts over their future at the club.

Yanga will have one of two options on the table. They can retain both goalkeepers, a highly unlikely situation.

The other option is to buy a new goalkeeper who can challenge Mnata more directly as Shikalo is allowed to go as a



Yanga's goalkeeper, Metacha Mnata. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

free agent.

Each goalkeeper has a status and a salary that demands they are recognized as number one.

Mnata is a national team player for Tanzania while Shikalo feels he did not cross the border from Kenya to come and be a cover-up for a local player.

Common sense suggested that Mnata would be the best bet to be given a new deal, given he is a local player and has made more appearances than Shikalo.

The expectation was for Shikalo to be the first choice when both were signed in the 2019/20 season but many fans remain unconvinced by the Kenyan goalkeeper and have seen Mnata perform at levels that have him considered by some as the best at the club.

For now, the chances of Mnata leaving are slim, so Shikalo will have to look elsewhere.

It is easy to imagine Yanga has started looking for potential replacements.

Mnata might have the upper hand on Shikalo but he also has a significant number of doubters which means the club could be realistically looking for a new high-profile option that can be relied on long-term.

There is a strong feeling, though, that any signing of a goalkeeper would not be for huge money, as they would be keen to open up funds for positions further up the field.

The verdict here is that there is evidence to suggest Yanga will sign a new goalkeeper to replace or challenge Mnata who is likely to stay or in the unlikely scenario, Shikalo is retained.

However it pans out, it is clear Yanga are facing many questions and uncertainties in the coming transfer window, but perhaps none are as complicated as those regarding their goalkeeping situation.

Yanga needs one goalkeeper and perhaps two, depending on who they retain among the three choices in that position.

Their recruitment plans for the position are not simple either.

Abbas Tarimba and TFF polls: Lack of popularity or systemic problem?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHILE office bearers for the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s next term of office are about to go through the final rites of having been elected, a section of stakeholders was expressing doubts as to the validity of the forthcoming polls, on account of some strong contenders failing to return nomination forms.

Some contributors to the discussion on the issue over some FM radios were saying they had not heard of the 'endorsement' element earlier, and it in a sense remained somewhat troubling that a strong candidate like the Kinondoni MP, Abbas Tarimba, could not return forms.

The issue that arises is whether this was a personal problem or it was systemic as some maintain.

One such individual, and he ought to know as he served as TFF secretary general for years is Angetile Osiah, a veteran editor with top-level experience in TFF, who went as far as saying that the polls have been impaired, virtually ruling that they will be held as invalid.

Even serving secretary general Wilfred Kidau went as far as cautioning those in charge of organizing the polls to beware that the international federation (FIFA) could intervene and invalidate the polls afterward.

It is thus hard to ignore voices expressing deep concern on what is happening, but at the same time, it does not show the polls' invalidity.

It is unclear how far those who failed to obtain endorsement from eligible regional leaders forming part of the football organization apex, like membership of its general meeting or electoral conclave make a difference in how the polls are being organized.

For once, of those who failed to return forms, there is only Abbas Tarimba as the notable absence, and in the discussions, this name topped the list of those who most commentators appeared to be concerned about.

The others who returned forms and are also looking for the top post did not



Abbas Tarimba

seem to elicit much interest, outside incumbent, Wallace Karia, and ex-Yanga midfielder, Ally Mayay, who is well known in broadcasting circles as a top analyst of the game, at present.

Based on a write-up available online, four other contenders returned forms to seek for the president slot, including former MP, Ally Saleh, who is also a veteran journalist and current affairs analyst.

He was not as much involved in sports in a professional capacity as Ally Mayay but there is an aspect of the organization where he may have more to show off, to the public or the electoral body when it convenes.

The other three who also seek the top post aren't familiar at least to this reviewer, which may indicate not being media savvy, acknowledged public personalities but get solid followings, constituency.

Still, Ally Saleh faced hardship as a Zanzibari, who have their association, another league, separately.

That is how one begins to pierce into some weaknesses of the camp that says the polls risk becoming sort of invalid, as there is only one significant case of failing to return forms because those who are expected to sign are seemingly obedient to the incumbent.

That may explain the lack of endorsements in the sense that of the two those who were asked to endorse think that the current holder is more

suited to the office, and in any case, that argument is easy to prolong without being a stakeholder in the TFF polls.

In a routine way of putting it, the Kinondoni MP is blessed as a businessman and politician, he does not need the post.

It is this very sufficiency of the contender which both raises a furor as well as resolve a priori, since there was no movement on the part of the incumbent or organizing committee to stop him picking forms, saying for instance that he is an elected MP and could mix 'politics with sports.'

Nor is there a running battle with the incumbent at an organizational level, way for instance there is a battle between Yanga and TFF on account of some differences on pinpricks like Bernard Morrison and rescheduling of the city rivals' duel at which Yanga refused to field the team.

Still, it is not the club as a whole that is mindful of the tensions but portions of it, so Ally Mayay picked forms and returned them, Tarimba poses a different sort of issue.

As none of those talking on one or two FM radios ventured to say why Tarimba did not get endorsement votes - and then proceeded to question the very need for those votes, ignoring the fact that nobody else failed the test, as it were - it cannot be speculated what TFF contentions relate to the businessman at present.

But plenty of water has passed under the TFF bridge in the two last years, and if this bridge is extended to include wider national issues, universal disdain for the TFF contender may arise not just from friends of the TFF incumbent but from wider society.

He may be representing an aspect of electoral contentions that many in soccer organizations do not like, or he may be overly identified with such issues.

If he is the face of what they dislike, those who gained by heavy-handedness, he encounters stony faces.

No action needed over Rudiger 'nibble' - Pogba

MUNICH

PAUL Pogba accused Antonio Rudiger of "nibbling" him on the shoulder during France's 1-0 win on Tuesday, but said he was not looking for the Germany defender to face punishment.

The two players clashed towards the end of the first half, with Rudiger caught on camera putting his face close to Pogba's back before reaching his arms around the Frenchman's chest.

"I'm not crying for cards, yellow, red cards because of such actions," Pogba said after the match. "He nibbled, I think, a little bit on me. But we have known each other for a long time.

"I told the referee and he takes decisions and he took a decision. It's over.

"It was a great match for us ... and I didn't want him to be suspended because of such a situation. It was towards the end of the match. We hugged each other and that's it."

France coach Didier Deschamps was happy with his team's commitment in the win but said the world champions must look to retain possession better through the rest of the tournament.

France handed a sluggish-looking Germany their first opening-game defeat in the Euros, courtesy of an own goal by Mats Hummels in the 20th minute.

Stats showed that France had just over 40% possession and only four attempts on goal but Deschamps said they were more clinical than Joachim Loew's side.

"I wouldn't say that we did dominate them because we played against a good team in Germany who caused us problems," Deschamps said.

"They had a lot of ball possession, more than us. We were defending very well. It was a match played on a very high level, two titans facing each other.

"We could have done things better, especially in ball possession, and looking at the attitude to show this dominance, to suffer all together, when we showed this commitment on the pitch today against the very strong German side."

Meanwhile, UEFA has said "several people" are being treated in the hospital for injuries caused by a protestor who parachuted into Mu-

nich's Allianz Arena before France's 1-0 victory over Germany at Euro 2020.

Debris fell on the field and main grandstand, narrowly missing France coach Didier Deschamps, when the parachutist struck wires for an overhead camera attached to the stadium roof.

UEFA called it a "reckless and dangerous" act and said "law authorities will take the necessary action."

"This inconsiderate act ... caused injuries to several people attending the game who are now in hospital," UEFA said.

The incident happened just before the start of the Euro 2020 match between the last two World Cup champions. Deschamps was shown ducking into the team dug-out to avoid falling debris.

"We as the German football federation condemn it of course, because it wasn't just him, but others that he endangered and injured. It's unacceptable from our point of view," German team spokesman Jens Gritter said. "And the incident is being checked by the police, the authorities here in Munich and at UEFA. But of course we also condemn what happened there. It could probably have turned out much worse."

The protestor's parachute had the slogan "KICK OUT OIL!" and "Greenpeace" written on it. He glided into the stadium and seemed to lose control after connecting with the wires. He veered away from the playing area toward the main grandstand and barely cleared the heads of spectators.

The parachutist managed to land on the field, and Germany players Antonio Rudiger and Robin Gosens were the first to approach him. He was led away by security stewards and given medical attention on the side of the field.

UEFA and one of its top-tier tournament sponsors, Russian state energy firm Gazprom, have previously been targeted by Greenpeace protests. In 2013, a Champions League game at FC Basel was disrupted when Greenpeace activists abseiled from the roof of the stadium to unfurl a banner protesting Russian oil and Gazprom, which sponsored the visiting team, German club Schalke 04.

(Agencies)

Germany must 'crank it up' against Portugal, says Loew

MUNICH

GERMANY head coach Joachim Loew says his side must "crank things up" ahead of Saturday's Euro 2020 clash against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal after an opening defeat against France.

The Germans lost 1-0 to the world champions in their Group F opener in Munich on Tuesday, courtesy of a Mats Hummels own goal.

The scoreline flattered the home side as Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema had second-half goals disallowed, while Adrien Rabiot hit the post for the French.

Germany's defence showed signs of improvement, having leaked 20 goals in their previous 13 games, but the main concern is up front, where Thomas Mueller, Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz mustered just one shot between them.

"It's up to us to crank things up in the next two or three days," said Loew. "We have to look to improve, because we need a goal or two."

Hummels said on Instagram the defeat "hurts us a lot and me especially, because my own goal decided the game," but the centre-back said the focus was now on beating holders Portugal in Munich.

Despite having more possession, running four kilometres more than the French as a team and completing nearly twice as many passes, Germany came up short.

The second-half introduction of Timo Werner and Leroy Sane was not enough to turn the tide.

"The substitutes didn't get into the game as well as we had hoped," said Loew. "But France are strong. They

sat very deep after the lead and didn't give us much space."

Midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, Manchester City's top-scorer last season, said it was important for Germany to create more chances against Portugal, who won their opener against Hungary 3-0.

There is talk of the Germans abandoning their three-man defence, with two wing-backs, in favour of a back four to push forward with an extra player in midfield.

"We have two systems that we can both play well," said Gundogan.

- World Cup trauma -

Loew's Germany team are still haunted by the trauma of finishing bottom of their group at the 2018 World Cup and fans fear a similar outcome at Euro 2020.

Beating Portugal would ease the pressure and provide a much-needed confidence boost.

"When you lose the first game, and have three group matches, the pressure is high - there is no need to discuss it," Toni Kroos said bluntly.

Portugal are top of the table after Ronaldo scored twice in Tuesday's win over Hungary to become the all-time top-scorer at Euro finals, with 11 goals.

All three goals in Budapest came in the last 10 minutes, testimony to Hungary's dogged defending, but the holders expect an even tougher match against the Germans.

"Now it's about Germany and we must keep improving," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos. "Kill or be killed," as (ex-Brazil and Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari used to say."

AFP

France start Euro 2020 with tactical masterclass

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent

HOW some things change in football. Back at the 2014 World Cup when Germany knocked out France in the quarterfinals, Mats Hummels was the game's lone goal scorer. On that night in Rio de Janeiro, it was the German defender who broke French hearts despite Les Bleus dominating the game and creating the best chances.

Seven years later in Munich, the German centre-back scored again, this time in his own goal, gifting France the 1-0 win this time in the two countries' Euro 2020 opener on Tuesday.

However, some things stay the same in football, too. To start, this 2021 France side looks very much like the World Cup-winning one from 2018. And this performance against Germany was a very similar display to their semifinal win against Die Mannschaft at Euro 2016 in Marseille.

While this time the scoreline was just 1-0 compared to 2-0 in Marseille, as they were in 2016 and 2018, this French side is so disciplined tactically and defensively (kudos to Antoine Griezmann for practically finishing this game at right-back), controls matches with a dominant midfield, and as they did in 2018, has the ultimate X factor in forward Kylian Mbappe, who consistently ripped open Joachim Low's side on Tuesday night.

If we didn't really know what to expect from this Germany before kick-off, we knew what France would deliver. They did exactly what's written on the tin. They suffered at times, and make no mistake, this is a good German team, but they never broke. In fact, they never even looked like breaking. The world champions are like a predator waiting for their prey, and

France also got a big helping hand



Didier Deschamps got his tactics spot on, and thanks to a little help from Germany, France controlled their group stage opener. (Agencies)

as we have seen over the past few years, the predator knows precisely when to attack.

"This was such a strong performance," said Didier Deschamps after the game. "We fought hard. We could have done better with the ball, in our buildup, but it was a very solid display." Deschamps was ecstatic in the dressing room afterward, warmly congratulating his players for an impressive win, which will make France even bigger favourites to win this tournament.

Delivering performances like this are so much easier when you have a midfield like France's. There has been much talk, and rightfully so, about France's front three of Mbappe, Karim Benzema and Griezmann, which is undoubtedly a scary proposition for any defence. But what about the trio of Paul Pogba-N'Golo Kante-Adrien Rabiot? There has not been a better midfield so far in this competition. They are so good at everything they do, complement each other so well, and each plays his part so perfectly.

France also got a big helping hand

from Germany. Deschamps was hoping that Low would play Joshua Kimmich at right wing-back and not in midfield because it would be easier then for his players to control the game like they did. The French could not believe that the best holding midfielder in the world was not playing as a holding midfielder for his country at the Euros!

So the midfield belonged to France, and that's where they won this game. Kante was everywhere again. Rabiot so astute and intelligent tactically, and precious under pressure. And then, you have Pogba. This was vintage Pogba, 2018 Pogba, or maybe even a better Pogba. What a performance!

"This is such a strong collective victory. We are so focused and so efficient. We all work hard for each other. We are humble on the pitch and we suffer together," said the Manchester United star, who complained to the referee after it appeared he was bitten in the back by defender Antonio Rudiger at the end of the first half.

Pogba was rightly so named man

Netherlands captain Wijnaldum is the type of player every team needs

By Tom Hamilton, ESPN Senior Writer

AS the madness of the Netherlands' opening Euro 2020 match against Ukraine played out on Sunday, Georginio Wijnaldum was one of the Dutch players trying to bring some order to the wonderful chaos. He put in a captain's performance, too, scoring their opener with a wonderfully taken strike 15 yards out and later, as the match looked to be slipping away from them as Ukraine came back from two goals down to draw the game level, he slowed the play down, helped refocus his team and was in the thick of the action before Denzel Dumfries headed in the game-winning goal.

Wijnaldum looked exhausted after the 3-2 win, but he'd put in the sort of performance that showed why Barcelona and Bayern Munich inquired about signing the midfielder before he announced he'd join another super-club, Paris Saint-Germain, after his Liverpool contract expires this summer.

Wijnaldum is an understated captain. He leads by example with a relentless workrate, an incredible ability to read passes and a quiet, consistent leadership. But he's also the sort of player every successful team needs: he's the glue who can cover all three facets of the modern central midfielder, comfortable as the holder, the presser or the attacking No.10. That's why Liverpool desperately wanted to keep him and why, for all the hype over his future, it wouldn't have affected his focus on Oranje duties at all.

If you looked at Frank de Boer's inbox before the Euros, any concerns over Wijnaldum weren't high on his pre-tournament panic list. Instead, he dealt with Matthijs de Ligt's groin injury suffered in training, the absence of Virgil van Dijk and the criticism of his preferred 5-3-2 formation over the traditional Dutch 4-3-3. There were question marks over who'd start in goal and what combination of forwards would be used up front, but the ever-dependable Wijnaldum was never a concern. His importance is further told through his stats: in his last eight Netherlands matches, he's scored five and has two assists.

Wijnaldum has already bid farewell to Liverpool, too, receiving a guard of honour in their final home match against Crystal Palace on



Wijnaldum scored the Netherlands' first goal at Euro 2020 and his all-round performance in the win vs. Ukraine showed why every top club in Europe has been offering him a contract after his Liverpool deal expires on June 30. (Agencies)

May 23 and a plaque recognising his success with the Reds, including the Champions League and Premier League title he helped win in his five-year spell at the club.

"It was very emotional," Wijnaldum told ESPN. "I didn't think I would get this kind of goodbye. Players that left before me did not get something like this.

"Of course, it's a pity I left Liverpool. I had a lot of beautiful memories with the team. My relationship with the fans is really good. It is what it is. One day I'll tell my story about how it all went. In that way, the fans will understand why I left the club."

Wijnaldum, 30, was unwilling to expand further, but in an interview with Voetbal International, he said "things happen behind the scenes that are beyond your control as a player." That can wait.

Growing up, Wijnaldum wanted to be an acrobat, but it was in football where he found his calling. Having come through Sparta Rotterdam's system, he moved to Feyenoord's academy in 2004. He still

holds the record as the youngest-ever Feyenoord player, debuting aged 16 years old and 148 days in their Eredivisie match against Groningen on April 8, 2007. He was named Man of the Match.

From talking to those who have watched Wijnaldum develop, the consensus is that he was never one to cause controversy, instead staying close to his grandmother, Francina, who raised him.

Gertjan Verbeek managed Feyenoord for part of the 2008-09 season, and remembers Wijnaldum at 17.

"It was early in his career," Verbeek tells ESPN. "He was a great talent. He was always smiling, even in the hardest training sessions. He was so young, but he already had a lot of responsibility.

The influence of his grandmother was very important for him, too. He took care of his grandmother, and his grandmother took care of him and his brothers."

Verbeek remembers what Wijnaldum was like around the older pros in a Feyenoord team that had re-

spected Dutch internationals. "He was very stable in thinking and in what he wanted to achieve, and how to do it. We had big names in that squad like Roy Makaay and Giovanni van Bronckhorst, but even though he was 17, when he spoke, they listened. Great players understand the young talented players as they respect each other."

At Feyenoord he was used both as an attacking midfielder and a makeshift striker. He eventually settled into central midfield, where his performances led to PSV securing a £5m transfer in 2011.

There, he helped them to the 2015 Eredivisie title, forming a wonderful understanding with Memphis Depay; the pair will hopefully lead the Dutch to success this summer. When he won the Golden Boot in 2015, the prize given award for the Dutch Player of the Year, he tearfully paid tribute to his grandma, who presented him with the trophy.

In July 2015, he made the switch to Newcastle United for £14.5m. After an impressive individual season in which Newcastle were relegated, Liverpool brought him in the following summer for £23m. He quickly became a key cog in the Reds' midfield under Jurgen Klopp, scoring two essential goals from the bench in their remarkable Champions League semifinal win over Barcelona in 2019.

Like all of Wijnaldum's coaches through the years, Klopp trusted him in the big occasions: he started their 2018 Champions League final which ended in defeat against Real Madrid, but made up for it when he was again in the starting XI in their 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in 2019.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

France start Euro 2020
with tactical masterclass

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Director of Sports from the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Alex Nkenyenge (2nd R), presents sports kits to Tanzania Kabaddi Association's chairman, Abdallah Nyoni, during a sports seminar for journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (C) is Adarsh Sharma, Demeter Company's Managing Director, patron of the sport, who donated the kits. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Shot in the arm for Kabaddi Association

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS to develop Kabaddi in Tanzania has gained a boost, with the Tanzania Kabaddi Association being presented with sports kits ahead of Africa Championship to be held in Dar es Salaam from June 29 to July 5.

The association was presented with 30 pairs of shoes in a brief ceremony, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city yesterday.

The association used the day to also conduct a seminar for journalists from different media houses, aiming at equipping them with skills on the rules and regulations governing the sport, which is not quite popular in the country.

The association's chairman, Abdallah Nyoni, disclosed 48 other pairs of shoes are on the way.

He thanked, among others sponsors, Demeter Insurance and Motisun, producers of Sayona drink, for their timely donation.

Adarsh Sharma, Demeter's Managing Director, handed over the kits to the Deputy Director of Sports from the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Alex Nkenyenge, who later handed them to Nyoni.

Nyoni said that members of the national teams (men and women) will use the kits during the competition.

He also thanked the sponsors including Phoenix Assurance for supporting the media seminar for journalists from electronic, print, and social media platforms.

During the seminar, sports journalists were enlightened on how the sport is played and how to properly report it.

Earlier, Nkenyenge thanked the well-wishers, calling upon individuals, other firms, companies, and institutions to support the sport that promotes the country.

"I thank all those involved in the promotion of the sport that needs our focus as well to produce competent sportsmen for their good representation of the country," he said.

About six countries namely Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya, and Zimbabwe will bring teams to compete for the continental glory.

Nyoni said that other countries including Ghana, Tunisia, and Algeria will also send their delegation to attend Kabaddi's international conferences.

"It is high time for us to promote our country's tourism sector since many countries will send their teams and officials for the first-ever event to be held in the country," he said.

Tanzania officially introduced the sport in 2013 and has had positive participation in various international events, among others, World Cup held in India and the African Championship held in Nairobi Kenya in 2017 after finishing second behind Iraq.

Kabaddi is a contact team sport that is played between two teams of seven players.

The objective of the game is for a single player on offense, referred to as a 'raider', to run into the opposing team's half of a court, tag out as many of their defenders as possible, and return to their half of the court, all without being tackled by the defenders, and in a single breath, according to Nyoni.

Points are scored for each player tagged by the raider, while the opposing team earns a point for stopping the raider.

Yanga's head coach reveals players he wants to sign

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has finally submitted a report of the new players he wants to be signed and areas to improve ahead of the new Mainland Premier League season.

The Tunisian tactician, who replaced Burundian Cedric Kaze at the Jangwani Street giants, has shortlisted eight players he wants to be brought on board to strengthen the current squad for the league and CAF Champions League if they qualify.

In his report, Nabi has listed the areas he wants to be beefed up, the goalkeeping department, three defenders (left, center, and right), attacking midfielder, one winger, and two strikers, out of the new signings.

He further stipulated it should be five foreigners and three local players.

The coach has also recommended that the team should drop four foreign players and five local players to pave way for the new signings.

"Nabi has given out his transfer list to the technical department and it is being worked on," a source, who chose to be anonymous, said.

He disclosed: "He wants new eight players signed and a similar number dropped."

Already Yanga has reportedly sealed the signing of left-footed AS Vita Club defender Djuma Shaban from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kaizer Chiefs' Zambian forward Lazarous Kambole, who has also reportedly signed a one-year loan deal, and they are talking to more prospective signings.

Apart from Kambole and Shaban, AS Vita's Jean-Marc Makusu Mundele is another primary transfer target for the record Tanzanian champions.

Yanga is expected to prioritize the signing of forwards after Fiston Abdul Razak and Michael Sarpong failed to live up to expectations.

Sarpong was signed before the season began and so far does not feature among the top five best scorers.

Razak came during the mid-season transfer window but has been unable to successfully challenge compatriot, Said Ntibazonkiza, and Burkinabe Yacouba Sogone for a starting berth.

Makusu is expected to return to AS Vita after he failed to replicate his previous goalscoring form while at South Africa Premier Soccer League side Orlando Pirates on loan.

Ruvu Shooting now in high spirit ahead of Yanga clash



Ruvu Shooting

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

STRUGGLING Vodacom Premier League side, Ruvu Shooting FC, says they are ready to cause an upset when they meet giants, Yanga, in a top-flight match that will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The Coast Region squad's assistant coach, Rajab Mohammed, said his side is determined to beat Yanga to have good chances of remaining in the Premier League.

He said during the recess, the team intensified its preparations for the encounter.

"We are aware though that it won't be that easy because Yanga always comes hard on us... but we are ready. We have faith in all our players," he said.

In the first round game bringing together the squads, which took place in Dar es Salaam, Yanga won 2-1.

The Charles Boniface Mkwasa-coached side has 37 points and remains with four games.

After today's clash, Ruvu Shooting will host Polisi Tanzania, Namungo FC, and Azam FC.

He stated: "We aim at remaining in the Premier League next season and I'm hopeful that we will achieve this."

He said: "I have said so as all of my players are ready to fight for their team."

Yanga, through its information officer Hassan Bumbuli, said the team has targeted to come out victorious in all remaining games.

"We want to collect 15 points in remaining games, I'm sure we will do that, we will start that with a win against Ruvu Shooting tomorrow (today)," he said.

Meanwhile, league leader, Simba, departed for Mwanza yesterday where they will face Polisi Tanzania at CCM Kirumba Stadium on Saturday.

Simba has what it takes to with the Premier League's silverware for the fourth time in a row and the side's head coach, Didier Gomes, said the focus now is the 2021/22 season.

He, however, said they will make sure that they win all of their remaining seven games.

"We are very much prepared to win all of our remaining league matches. The Saturday

game and other games will be different games but we are confident of getting positive results," the French coach said.

Polisi Tanzania head coach Malale Hamsini is reported to have said he has a strong side that can beat defending champions Simba SC on Saturday.

The Kilimanjaro-based side has a score to settle against Simba after conceding a 2-0 loss to the Premier League leaders in the first round at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

He said the team is in Mwanza to prepare well for the encounter and he is confident of helping the outfit notch good results on Saturday.

The coach said it will be a tricky match but they want to get maximum points.

"We lost to them in the first round, but this time around, the team arrived in Mwanza early so that we can have enough time to prepare for the game and I'm sure of notching good results," he said.

Polisi Tanzania sits sixth in the league table with 41 points while Simba is leading the league.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kifaani (r)
13:30 Kafi Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA!
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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