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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8047 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER, 2020

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BUSINESS Facebook, Twitter, Google in soup for Kenyans' personal data breach



Egypt entrepreneur Alaa Moatamed (21) emerges top in tenth Anzisha competition



Leather shoes made from mushrooms are next on the menu



Mattel's efforts to make Barbie more inclusive paying off in record-breaking sales

Provisional results show a landslide for Magufuli

IN 231 constituencies out of 264 whose results had been verified by the electoral body late yesterday, President Dr John Magufuli was leading by 84.96 per cent in the presidential tally, followed distantly by Tundu Lissu at 12.39 per cent of the vote, Bernard Membe with 0.57 per cent and Leopold Mahona with 0.54 per cent of the total provisional vote.

By Guardian Reporter

PROVISIONAL results of Wednesday's General Election show that incumbent President Dr John Magufuli is headed for a landslide.

The partial results released by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) at its Dar es Salaam tallying centre since Thursday indicates that Dr Magufuli was well ahead of his challengers in virtually all constituencies, including perennial opposition strongholds.

Dr Magufuli is seeking re-election to another five year term after serving the first term from late 2015 to 2020.

In Serengeti Constituency in Mara Region, John Magufuli of CCM scooped 51,910 votes, Tundu Lissu 12,286 votes, John Shibuda of Ada Tadea got 134 votes and Hashim Rungwe of CHAUMA 112 votes.

In Buyungu constituency, Magufuli got 30,899 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 321, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 149, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 128, Cecilia Mwangi (Demokrasia Makini) 101, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 104, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 38, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 28, Bernard Membe (ACT-



National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (retired) Semistocles Kaijage (L) and director of elections Dr Charles Mahera share a light moment at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre vote tallying centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the release of the results of Wednesday's General Election. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Regional observers outline poll hiccups

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) yesterday gave its report on Tanzania's just ended General Election, pointing out a number of shortcomings.

The report, unveiled in Dar es Salaam, noted among other things, limited access to information and arrest of opposition leaders as areas of weakness in the polls held on Wednesday.

In its preliminary findings, conclusions and recommendations the EISA International Election Observer Mission (EIOM) was concerned with limited public access to information, which is not in line with regional and international standards and best practices in regard to freedom of informa-

“While every individual has the responsibility to respect and uphold the laws of Tanzania within its sovereign borders, it is important for the state to ensure that lawful procedures ...

tion. This is the fourth time IEOM is deployed by EISA to oversee elections in Tanzania. For the 2020 elections, EISA deployed 14 international observers

Presenting the findings in Dar es Salaam, head of the mission and former chairperson of the Electoral Commission of South Africa, advocate Pansy Tlakula noted that as the poll was being held, some leaders of political parties were in police confinement facing various charges.

The report indicated that the political environment in which the 2020 election took place was less open and less tolerant than previous elections held in the country.

“While every individual has the responsibility to respect and uphold the

laws of Tanzania within its sovereign borders, it is important for the state to ensure that lawful procedures are conducted in a manner that enhances trust in electoral system,” she said.

Tlakulasaid that while some nations opted to either postpone or delay upcoming elections, Tanzania has conducted its elections as scheduled. The country was declared Covid-19-free with the last public report of cases being as far back as April 29.

The mission further noted that there are no legal provisions for dispute resolution following announcement of presidential election results. The Constitution prohibits enquiry by the courts into a Presidential election

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HOSPITALS

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FOOD SECURITY

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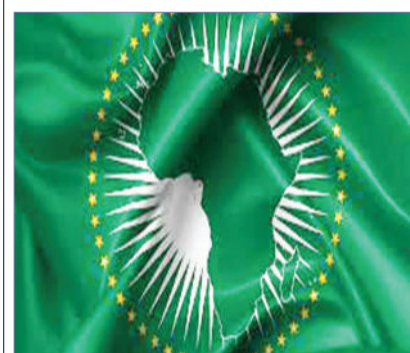
POWER

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AFRICAN UNION

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ACT: Some of our leaders detained or missing

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo, the main opposition party in Zanzibar, yesterday said its top cadres have been arrested and other members missing.

The party's director of communications, Salum Bimani, told reporters here that those who are being held by the police include Ismail Jussa, hitherto the party's candidate for Malindi constituency.



Others as the vice chairman Juma Duni Haji (pictured), secretary to the party national chairman Issa Kheri, the party's candidate for Shaurimoyo constituency, Maua Muhammed and Prof Omar Fakihi, also a parliamentary contestant.

Bimani stated that even party national chairman Seif Sharif Hamad who was released on

Thursday is not yet a free man as his release was conditional—he is required to report to the police regularly.

He said members whose whereabouts are not known include the party's deputy secretary general Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, “who disappeared on Thursday”.

“He was last seen at his Man-

son Hotel in Vuga area. He left the establishment at night for home but he did not reach there,” he said.

“Over 100 of our party officials and members are detained in various police stations; some were arrested before the general election,” Bimani said, elaborating that the party's lawyers

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Provisional results show a landslide for Magufuli

FROM PAGE 1

Wazalendo) 68 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 2.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 24, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 126, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 17, Seif Seif (AAFP) 19 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 9,694.

In Rufiji, Coast Region, John Magufuli of CCM got 25,140 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 306, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 144, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 79, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 48, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 69, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 131, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 37, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 655, and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 28 votes.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 40, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 85, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 16, Seif Seif (AAFP) II, Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 3886.

In Muleba North, John Magufuli (CCM) 39,446 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 419, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 130, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 37, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 50, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 71, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 32, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 19, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 43, and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 11.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 16, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 108, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 4, Seif Seif (AAFP) 49, Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 8,037 votes.

In Muleba South, John Magufuli (CCM) 73,080, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 828, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 240, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 98, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 61, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 110, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 138, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 26, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 73, and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 37.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 24, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 202, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 13, Seif Seif (AAFP) 38 votes.

In Babati Rural Constituency, John Magufuli (CCM) 73, 777 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 558, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 58, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 51, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 58, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 68, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 25, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 29, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 50 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 28.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 14, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 134, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 8, Seif Seif (AAFP) II, Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 10,698.

In Mbulu Rural, John Magufuli (CCM) 44,328 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 490, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 160, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 35, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 53, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 61, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 18, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 20, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 38, and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 32 votes. Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 22, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 93, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 3, Seif Seif (AAFP) 7, Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 7,703 votes.

In Nanyumbu, John Magufuli (CCM) 33, 702 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 747, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 320, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 128, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 84, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 111, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 717, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 53, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 115 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 28 votes.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 34 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 201, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 22, Seif Seif (AAFP) 20 and Tundu Lissu (CHADE-

MA) 9,728 votes.

In Kilwa North, John Magufuli (CCM) 22,380 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 361, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 144, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 52, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 21, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 55, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 2850, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 60, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 405, Queen Sendiga (ADC) 33 votes.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 38, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 96, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 15, Seif Seif (AAFP) 28 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 3938.

In Musoma Urban, John Magufuli (CCM) 343,000 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 679, John Shibuda (ADA Tadea) 269, Mutamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 132, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 91, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 148, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 77, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 29, Bernard Membe (ACT) 52, Queen Sendiga (ADC) 26, Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 2, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 218, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 13, Seif Seif (AAFP) 28 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 8341.

In Sumve, John Magufuli (CCM) 42,103 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 12, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 64, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 12, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 44, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) II, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 97, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 5, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 23 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 21.

In the same constituency, Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 15 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 21, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 15, Seif Seif (AAFP) 15 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 900.

In Ludewa, John Magufuli (CCM) 38, 949 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 268, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 97, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 38, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 33, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 56, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 28, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 19, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 26 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 15.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 12, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 53, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 4, Seif Seif (AAFP) 8 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 4,257.

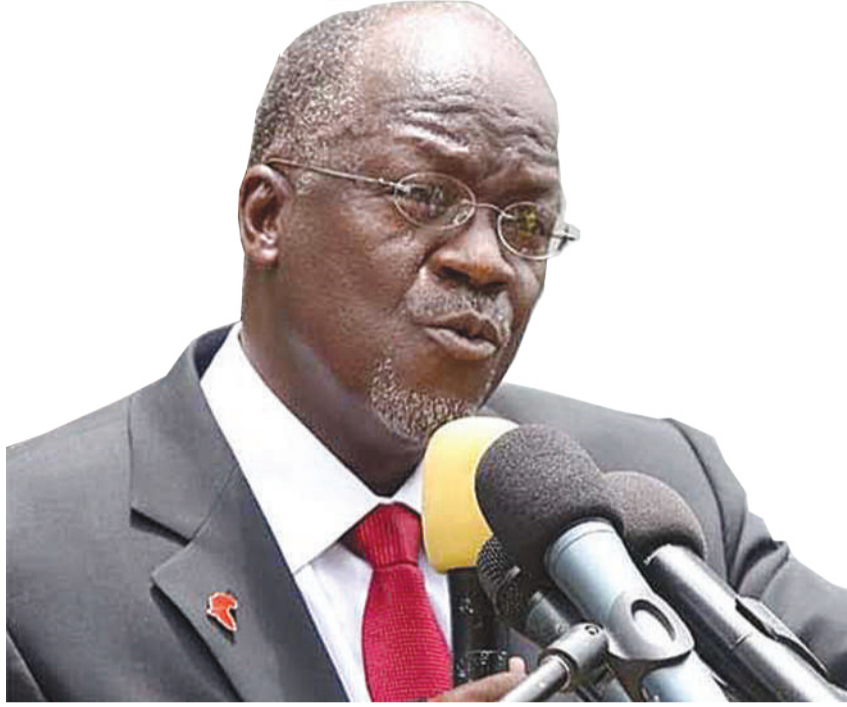
In Kibaha Rural, John Magufuli (CCM) 21,655 Leopold Mahona (NRA) III, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 53, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 21, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 17, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 35, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 131, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 13, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 25 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 8 votes.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 8 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 97, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 12, Seif Seif (AAFP) 3 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 2,450.

In Kibakwe, John Magufuli (CCM) 38,349 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 285, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 87, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 38, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 27, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 34, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 20, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 19, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 29 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 15.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 14, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 50, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 12, Seif Seif (AAFP) II and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 2,065.

In Muheza, John Magufuli (CCM) 5,509 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 337, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 186, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 77, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 74, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 109, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 305, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 41, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 67 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 31.



Twalib Kadege of (UPDP) got 27 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 256, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 16, Seif Seif (AAFP) 17 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 9,364.

In Ngorongoro, John Magufuli (CCM) got 63,476 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 246, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 48, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 15, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 21, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 10, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 17, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 7, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 145 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 14.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 3 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 49, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 3, Seif Seif (AAFP) 10 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 9,405.

In Kinondoni, John Magufuli (CCM) 172, 371 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 92, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 77, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 28, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 91, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 193, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 903, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 22, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 383 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 28 votes.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 13 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 271, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 9, Seif Seif (AAFP) 5 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 18,752.

In Segerea, John Magufuli (CCM) 88,909 Leopold Mahona (NRA) , John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 100, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 35, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 67, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 75, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 12,777, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 5, and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 77.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 15, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 365, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 16, Seif Seif (AAFP) 12 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 21, 151 votes.

In Bukoba Rural, John Magufuli (CCM) 66,237, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 481, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 190, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 103, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 209, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 103, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 245, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 51, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 139 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 36.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 31 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 191, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 19, Seif Seif (AAFP) II and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 9,227.

In Buchosa, John Magufuli (CCM) 84,000 Leopold Mahona (NRA) 318, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 127, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 46, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 12, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 41, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 92, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 17, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 93 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 12

votes.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 12, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 123, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 9, Seif Seif (AAFP) 9 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 10,939 votes.

In Ukerewe, John Magufuli (CCM) 58,099 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 350, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 232, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 107, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 82, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 100, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 101, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 38, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 252 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 36 votes.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 40, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 264, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 4, Seif Seif (AAFP) II and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 18,683 votes.

In Bunda Urban, John Magufuli (CCM) 34,556 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 345, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 129, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 64, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 67, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 248, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 104, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 32, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 34 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 20.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 11, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 159, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 9, Seif Seif (AAFP) 14 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 9,998.

In Chemba, John Magufuli (CCM) 47,261, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 883, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 362, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 201, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 149, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 135, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 640, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 74, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 89 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 52.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 52, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 277, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 46, Seif Seif (AAFP) 34 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 8,881 votes.

In Kasulu Urban, John Magufuli (CCM) 63,673 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 402, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 176, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 87, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 53, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 175, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 76, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 56, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 248 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 40 votes.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 16 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 135, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 8, Seif Seif (AAFP) 25 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 5,675 votes.

In Kilindi, John Magufuli (CCM) 78,320 Leopold Mahona (NRA) 436, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 194, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 128, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 79, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 74, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 223, Philipo

Fumbo (DP) 35, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 77 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 210.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) got 33 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 98, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 36, Seif Seif (AAFP) 19 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 2,983 votes.

In Kikwajuni, West Urban District in Unguja, John Magufuli (CCM) 9,862 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 22, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 10, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 2, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 0, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 14, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 29, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 7, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 563 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 16.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 3, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 34, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 2, Seif Seif (AAFP) 26 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 1,411.

In Ilala constituency, John Magufuli (CCM) 27,151 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 41, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 46, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 16, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 19, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 43, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 215, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 15, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 207 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 23.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 12 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 173, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 12, Seif Seif (AAFP) 1 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 8,562 votes.

In Tunduru South, John Magufuli (CCM) 28,473 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 1,359, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 383, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 184, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 40, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 145, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 1,102, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 67, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 1,885 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 57.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 66 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 138, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 27, Seif Seif (AAFP) 67 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 10,144 votes.

In Maswa West, John Magufuli (CCM) 34,004 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 462, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 476, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 93, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 68, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 55, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 91, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 26, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 46 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 18.

Others are Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 138 votes, Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 25, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 13, Seif Seif (AAFP) 14 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 3,335 votes.

In Rorya, John Magufuli (CCM) 61,849, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 402, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 370, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 169, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 130, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 294, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 44, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 56, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 96 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 45.

Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) got 473 votes, Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 15, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 27, Seif Seif (AAFP) 23 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 21,324 votes.

In Kigoma South, John Magufuli (CCM) 47,641 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 527, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 277, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 109, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 90, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 542, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 341, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 929, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 947 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 58.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 57 votes,

Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 194, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 28, Seif Seif (AAFP) 49 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 22,144 votes.

In Temeke, John Magufuli (CCM) 324, 310 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 65, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 40, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 25, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 16, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 65, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 453, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 9, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 613 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 20 votes.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 63, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 21, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 15, Seif Seif (AAFP) 15 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 24,120.

In Mikumi constituency, John Magufuli (CCM) 39,398 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 464, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 119, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 44, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 39, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 46, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 137, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 82, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 44 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 14.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 15, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 226, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 6, Seif Seif (AAFP) 5 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 8,436 votes.

In Amani constituency, West Urban District in Unguja, John Magufuli (CCM) 6,340 Leopold Mahona (NRA) 17, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 12, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 8, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 6, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 18, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 49, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 9, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 693 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 25.

Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 20 votes, Seif Seif (AAFP) 7 na Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 1,09, Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 5 and Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 43 votes.

In Ukonga, John Magufuli (CCM) 126,427 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 201, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 102, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 39, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 50, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 72, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 458, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 24, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 279 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 32.

Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 18 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 293, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 7, Seif Seif (AAFP) II and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 20,288 votes.

In Kwereza, John Magufuli (CCM) 9,309 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 47, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 36, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 15, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 10, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 12, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 51, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 24, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 1,064 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 38.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 15, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 54, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 15, Seif Seif (AAFP) 5 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 1,314 votes.

In Mpwapa, John Magufuli (CCM) 31,758 votes, Leopold Mahona (NRA) 273, John Shibuda (ADA TADEA) 81, Muttamwega Mgaywa (SAU) 29, Cecilia Mwanga (Demokrasia Makini) 25, Yerima Maganja (NCCR-Mageuzi) 26, Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) 13, Philipo Fumbo (DP) 13, Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo) 23 and Queen Sendiga (ADC) 9 votes.

Others are Twalib Kadege (UPDP) 10 votes, Hashim Rungwe (CHAUMMA) 58, Khalfan Mazrui (UMD) 8, Seif Seif (AAFP) 7 and Tundu Lissu (CHADEMA) 3,336 votes.

ACT leaders detained or missing, declares official

FROM PAGE 1

are working on the matter.

Chaos broke out in Zanzibar after ACT-Wazalendo protested absence of its agents at polling stations for the early voting on Tuesday which was reserved for members of security forces and staff of the Isles elections management body.

Urban West Regional Police Commander Awadhi Juma

told reporters that 72 people were arrested for allegedly causing chaos by burning tyres and throwing stones at police officers.

Other demos took place on Thursday after preliminary results indicated that CCM had won all 32 constituencies in Unguja and was headed for a win in the presidency poll.

The CCM candidate for the Zanzibar presidency was on Thursday evening declared president-elect, having col-

lected 76 per cent of the votes.

ACT-Wazalendo presidential candidate Hamad was among those who were arrested but he was conditionally released.

On Thursday, Hamad and Chadema union presidential candidate Tundu Lissu rejected the results, citing irregularities. The candidates said their parties' agents were not allowed to access polling stations where they allege rigging took place.

Regional observers outline poll hiccups

FROM PAGE 1

result declared by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

"No court shall have power to inquire into anything done by the commission in discharging its functions. Limitation of the role of the courts during the electoral process has serious potential to undermine the rights of citizens enjoyed under the Constitution of Tanzania," observers said in their preliminary report.

The EISA teams observed that polling station environment was reported as orderly and mostly peaceful. Security personnel were present at all stations, and their

presence was mostly professional and discreet.

The mission noted an average of five polling agents per polling station, with varying levels of competence and vigilance from polling agents "likely indicating uneven levels of training."

On the voting process, the mission noted the presence of citizen observers in 26 percent of polling stations visited. The presence of citizen observers and polling agents is important to enhance confidence in the electoral process.

On the closing and counting process, the EIOM teams were present at eight polling stations during clo-

sure of the polls where the closing and counting process environment was reported as peaceful.

All polling stations were closed on time and voters in the queues at the time of closing were allowed to vote before the counting process began.

"The counting took place in the polling stations, immediately after the conclusion of voting and closing procedures. Observers also witnessed counting errors that consistently prejudiced specific political parties and are concerned about the recurrence of these errors," said Tlakula.

She however specified that the

guidelines for local and international election observers, 2020 placed several obligations on observer groups that impacted their ability to conduct a full and proper observation.

"To enhance transparency, NEC should consider timely and comprehensive consultation with all electoral stakeholders," the observers recommended.

NEC should consider reviewing the accreditation procedures for citizen observers to ensure timely and efficient consideration of accreditation requests, the report added.

Interns stationed at various hospitals across the country face practical learning crisis

By Guardian Reporter, Kisarawe

THE Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Selemani Jafo, yesterday ordered the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Joseph Nyamhanga, to direct regional medical doctors to ensure cooperation with the interns posted at various hospitals across the country.

The minister was speaking shortly laying a foundation stone for construction of a City College of Health and Allied Sciences at Chanika in Kisarawe District, Coast Region.

Jafo gave the directive after receiving complaints from the management of City College of Health and Allied Sciences that their students posted at various health facilities for practical learning have been facing difficulties in implementing their duties due to poor cooperation from host doctors.

He ordered the PS to deliver the directives on time to facilitate student's practical learning at health

centres and hospitals.

"You should cooperate with the interns so that they become competent in both theory and practical. Allowing practices makes the students more competent," he noted.

He promised to work on the claims that some students were forced to pay a certain amount of money to be allowed to do their practical learning at some health facilities. Principal, City College of Health and Allied Sciences, Fei Diwani said they were forced to establish a branch in Chanika to meet the increased demand of students who want to be enrolled for various courses.

Diwani said the Chanika branch will offer Diploma on medical and pharmaceutical courses.

He mentioned some challenges facing their daily operations as denial of students at some hospitals and health centers despite the fact that they have been paying for the service. He said each of the students are supposed to pay 50,000/-.



Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo (L) exchanges greetings with Bishop Ambele Mwaipopo of the Lake Tanganyika Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, who doubles as chairman of the region's Peace Committee. It was at a meeting where members of the committee commended the National Electoral Commission for the way it coordinated the just-ended General Election. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN Secretary General launches UN comprehensive response to COVID-19 to save lives, protect societies

By Guardian Reporter

SECRETARY General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has called upon countries to prepare for future infectious disease outbreaks following increased urban populations.

Urban areas are already home to 55 per cent of the world's population, and that figure is expected to grow to 68 per cent by 2050.

In his message on the World Cities Day the Secretary General said: "We recognize the extraordinary contribution made by grassroots communities in our cities and towns. The value of communities has been brought into sharp focus during the response to Covid-19. Cities have

borne the brunt of the pandemic."

With the pandemic often overwhelming public health and support services, communities have organized to keep their neighborhoods safe and functioning, engaging with local and national governments to support the official response.

"We have seen neighbours

shopping and cooking for the sick and elderly, residents cheering health workers, and local volunteer and faith-based groups supporting the vulnerable," he stated.

He added: "Communities are innovative, resilient and proactive. They play a vital role in building economically, socially and environmentally sustainable

cities. Let us maintain this recognition of their value."

Guterres said that nations rebuild from the pandemic and engage in the decade of action for sustainable development, we have an opportunity to reset how we live and interact.

He said that when urban communities are engaged in policy, decision making, and empow-

ered with financial resources, the results are more inclusive and durable.

The World Cities Day seeks to promote global interest in urbanization and engender international cooperation to address the challenges of urbanization, thereby contributing to sustainable urban development. Over half the world's population lives

in cities and this figure is expected to increase by three billion by 2050.

The United Nations system, in particular UN-Habitat, relevant international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders observe and raise awareness of the Day. The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life. The theme



Some balancing act - and extra vigilance - must have come in handy for these police officers as they travelled along the Mbezi Mwisho stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Construction of oil pipeline lined up to start in February

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

CONSTRUCTION of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project is set to start in February next year.

This follows the signing of implementation agreement here yesterday between the government and Total East Africa which will undertake the work of building the infrastructure from Uganda's oils fields of Hoima to the port of Tanga.

The implementation of the US\$3.5 billion (equivalent to 8trn/-) project is scheduled to last for three and a half years, according to the agreement.

In the signing event, Attorney General Adelardus Kilangi signed the Host Government Agreement (HGA) for the Tanzania government while Nicolas Terraz represented Total oil.

Speaking soon after the signing ceremony, AG Kilangi the signing followed three weeks of intensive negotiations between senior government technocrats.

"This is an important milestone towards the implementation, it represents yet another successful step in the process," Prof Kilangi said.

According to him, negotiations for the Tanzanian HGA covered, among others, project authorizations, land rights, local content, health safety and environment and labour standards.

Dr Kilangi said that earlier, on September 13, this year, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met President John Magufuli in Chato, Geita Region and they both agreed that each country should make an immediate agreement with the EACOP project side so as to immediately commence the implementation process.

He explained that the crude oil pipeline project will provide an enormous number of business opportunities to various companies, enterprises and individuals.

It will also generate at least 10,000 jobs and tax revenue and non-tax revenues amounting to billions of shillings.

Earlier, chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Angelina Ngalula commended both governments for the process calling on Tanzanians to get ready to grab the opportunities.

Tanzania and Uganda agreed in March 2016 that a pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert basin in west Uganda to the markets overseas be routed through the Tanga port. An agreement to the letter was signed by the two neighbouring countries in May 2017 followed by the laying of a foundation stone at the Tanga port by presidents John Pombe Magufuli and Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in August the same year.

EACOP is expected to unlock East Africa's potential by attracting investors to explore opportunities in the region.

It is projected the project will result in over 60 per cent increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Tanzania and Uganda during the construction phase.

TCU now opens third round of applications for university studies

By Getrude Mbago

TANZANIA Commission for Universities (TCU) opened the third round of application for university studies saying that a total of 98,935 candidates have applied in the past two windows.

According to the Commission, there is a total of 157,961 university opportunities for

the 2020/21 academic year, something which shows that there are still thousands of opportunities for eligible applicants to grab.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Commission's Executive Secretary, Prof Charles Kihampa said that the admission window for undergraduate programmes will run from October 30 to November 4, this year.

According to him, the extended time will

also facilitate enrolment of more candidates who missed the opportunity in the previous two windows.

"The Commission decided to extend the admission schedule after receiving several requests from the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organization (TAHLISO) and some universities," he said

He said a total of 18,143 candidates who

have already sent their applications are yet to be enrolled due to various challenges.

"In the past two admission windows, a total of 98,935 applicants sent their applications in various universities. Among them, 80,792 candidates (81.6 per cent) were admitted into the available and qualified 74 universities in the country," he said.

Prof Kihampa wanted those who have sent ap-

plicants and enrolled in multiple universities to ensure that they confirm only to one university before November 16, his year.

"Among those who have sent their applications, 41,921 applicants have been admitted to more than one university, this hinders opportunities for other eligible candidates to be admitted. So we emphasize on these candidates to confirm in one university," he explained.

Some scenes to remember from the just-ended General Election



Zanzibar's President-elect, Dr Hussein Mwinyi (2nd-L), greets his supporters on Thursday night shortly after the Zanzibar Electoral Commission announced that he had won the race. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame



Dodoma Urban constituency legislator-elect Anthony Mavunde of CCM waves to his supporters on Thursday shortly after being announced the winner. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



CCM's Abbas Tarimba (L, in striped shirt), MP-elect for Dar Salaam's Kinondoni constituency, acknowledges congratulations from his supporters shortly after being announced winner on Thursday evening. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Arusha Urban MP-elect Mrisho Gambo of CCM displays his election confirmation certificate on Thursday shortly after receiving it from the constituency's electoral supervisor, John Pima (L, with microphone). Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



Chadema's Tanga regional Youth Council secretary, Hemed Bakari (R), briefs journalists in Tanga city yesterday on the conduct of the just-ended General Election in the region. The party has complained of "sabotage". Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon



Monduli MP-elect Fredy Lowassa (L) of CCM receives his election confirmation certificate on Thursday from the constituency's electoral supervisor, Steven Ulaya. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



Ummy Mwalimu, CCM's Tanga MP-elect celebrates shortly after being declared the winner on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri



Simanjiro (Manyara Region) electoral supervisor Yefred Myenzi (L) presents election confirmation certificate to the constituency's parliamentary race winner, Christopher ole Sendeka, on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Covid-19: Kenya reports 17 more deaths as cases increase by 1,185

NAIROBI

KENYA yesterday recorded its highest number of new Covid-19 infections, with Health Cabinet Secretary (CS) Mutahi Kagwe sounding yet another warning amid a resurgence of cases.

Addressing a press conference in Mombasa County, CS Kagwe announced 1,185 new infections following the testing of 9,851 samples in the last 24 hours. This raised the country's caseload to 53,797 and the total number of samples tested so far to 687,462.

CS Kagwe also reported that 17 more patients had succumbed to the virus, raising the death toll in Kenya to 981.

Of all the reported patients in the country, 1,119 had been hospitalised, 41 of them in intensive care units (ICU) and 26 on ventilator support, as of Friday.

Mr Kagwe said 45 were on supplementary oxygen (not in ICU) and 15 in high dependency units (HDU).

He further said 4,440 of them were in the home-based care programme and that the youngest of the new patients was 11 months old and the oldest 93. Kenyans numbered 1,145 while the rest were foreigners.

In his plea for the public to exercise utmost caution, the minister said, "People are still falling sick. We are witnessing a huge upsurge of cases. It is disheartening to note that counties that were flattening the curve are experiencing a surge. We need to reverse the situation by encouraging people to adhere to containment measures," he said.

He announced that Nairobi remained the county with the highest number of infections - 25,226. Mombasa was second with 4,194 cases, Kiambu third with 3,203, Nakuru fourth with 2,530 and Kajiado fifth with 2,175 cases.

Of the 1,185 new cases, the capital city accounted for 373, Nakuru 157, Mombasa 118, Kiambu 94, Kisumu 61, Uasin Gishu 51, Kericho 39 and Kakamega 38.

And then came Kisii with 27, Narok 25, Trans Nzoia and Bomet 22 each, Kajiado 20, Siaya 19, Machakos 17, Bungoma 16, Meru 15, Busia 14 and Makueni 10.

Kilifi and Nyandarua counties both recorded eight new cases, Vihiga and Nyamira six each, Elgeyo Marakwet and Laikipia three each, Homa Bay, Nandi, Embu and Murang'a two each, and Garissa, Kitui, Taita Taveta, Kirinyaga and Kwale one each.



A truck loaded with gas cylinders lies by its side near Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday after skidding off the road as the driver fought to avoid being involved in a collision with another vehicle. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

UN calls for bold, urgent action to reduce risks environmental degradation and climate change

By Guardian Reporter

AS countries mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres has said approximately one in every five people is living in an area affected by fragility, conflict or violence.

"If we are to achieve the Sustain-

able Development Goals (SDGs), we need to act boldly and urgently to reduce the risks that environmental degradation and climate change present for conflict and commit to protecting our planet from the debilitating effects of war," said the SG in his message on the day which is marked on November 6.

He said: "This requires collaboration among governments, civil

society, the private sector and specialized institutions; building local capacity and resilience; harnessing data and digital technologies for risk analysis and collaborative management; investing in women as change agents and strengthening legal and policy discussions within a coherent framework of international actors."

According to him, conflict and the environment are deeply inter-

linked. Around the world, at least 40 percent of all intrastate conflicts have had an important natural resource dimension.

Rising temperatures due to climate change now threaten to further amplify environmental stresses and tensions. The environment is among the casualties of war, through deliberate acts of destruction or collateral damage, or because, during conflicts, gov-

ernments fail to control and manage natural resources.

While climate disruption and environmental degradation are not the direct cause of conflict, they can exacerbate conflict risks.

Their combined impacts undermine livelihoods, food security, confidence in government, health and education, and social equality.

Degradation of natural resources and ecosystems adds to the

challenges faced by communities who are already vulnerable in the short and long term. Women and girls are disproportionately affected.

The SDGs are inspired by the idea that no one should be left behind. But violent conflict prevents many countries from moving forward.

Conflict-affected states are less likely to reach their SDG targets;

and, by 2030, more than 80 percent of the world's poorest populations may be concentrated in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

Better management of natural resources and ecosystems could pave a path for peace in war-torn societies, helping crisis-affected countries move a step closer to achieving the SDGs.

Six Tanzanian students win Huawei's ICT competition

By Guardian Reporter

SIX Tanzanian students from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) have qualified for the Huawei Global ICT competition following an excellent performance in the recently ended Huawei sub-Saharan Africa ICT competition finals. The competition online award ceremony was held on Wednesday.

The competition aims at providing a platform for global ICT talents to showcase their ability, compete and communicate, encouraging ICT-related study, and drive the growth of a robust ICT talent ecosystem.

13 winning teams from Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Zambia and other Regions including America will compete to be the champion in November's global final.

Among the winning teams that received awards during the ceremony, 10 teams come from Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Lesotho entered the global final after a fierce competition in network track; while the cloud track sees the victories of 3 teams who are from Nigeria, Mauritius, and Zambia.

Team Tanzania had 9 students grouped into three teams. Two Tanzanian teams made it to the global final, one of the two teams being the first winner among the 40+ teams that participated in the competition, and the second team finished in 4th place and therefore won the second prize.

The two teams are made up of students from UDSM's College of Information and Communication Technologies (COICT). First Prize Winners were Mpoki Abel Mwaisela, Hongo Kelvin, and Henry Kihanga while Second Prize Winners were Aghatus Biro, John Lazaro, and Elisante Akaro.

The awards ceremony marks Sub-Saharan Africa's five consecutive years of active participation in the Huawei ICT Competition, which attracted more than 50,000 students from 14 countries in Africa with its slogan of "Connection, Glory, and the Future" and the latest ICT knowledge such as cloud computing, AI, mobile networks, and big data.

During the awards ceremony attended by high-rank government officials, industry leaders, and students, Huawei Middle East and Africa VP, Hou Tao highlighted the impressive enthusiasm of the students, which is much needed for Africa's digital inclusion in the era when the gravity of workplace skills is already shifting online.

"International experience suggests that this is a key area where public-private partnerships can have a substantial impact," Hou said in a statement.

"As a private company serving the African market for over 20 years, Huawei has dedicated itself to and will always remain a trusted partner of governments and academia in building ICT talent pool, strengthening capacity building and increasing people's digital competence."

Speaking as the representative of the University educators, Prof. Funso Falade, President of African Engineering Education Association (AEEA) identified several challenges militating against the training of engineers in Africa such as



Dar es Salaam regional education officer Abdul Maulid (2nd-R) presents a certificate to Mbezi Beach Secondary School Form Four student Jonathan Urjo for outstanding performance. This was at a graduation ceremony held earlier this week. Looking on are the school's headmaster, Kiramuu Mbowe (R), and academic master Amiri Joho (3rd-R). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

African ministers call for accelerating actions towards achieving food security

By Kiran Pandey

THE transformation of African agriculture and agri-food systems must be accelerated if the continent is to achieve food security, ministers of the continent's countries said at the end of a recent conference.

Innovation and digital technologies would be key to growth of the agriculture sector, ministers of 48 African members of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) noted at the close of the first-ever virtual FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

The conference, hosted by Zimbabwe from October 26-28 2020, focused on rising food insecurity and malnutrition as impacts of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The ministers also called for main-

streaming cross-cutting issues such as gender, nutrition and climate change post-COVID-19.

A report released by them October 28 recognised the need for including gender equality and rural women's empowerment as priorities for the region.

They also called upon the FAO to ensure support and leadership to African countries despite limited financial and human resources. With 250 million people, Africa is the second-most undernourished continent after Asia (381 million). Undernourishment in Africa is further projected to increase by up to 40 million people in 2020 because of COVID-19. Healthy diets have become simply unaffordable for close to a billion people in Africa, especially a basic meal in sub-Saharan Africa.

The continent has the highest prevalence of undernourishment (more than twice the global average), compared to other regions and the second-highest number of undernourished people, according to FAO.

If recent trends persist, Africa will overtake Asia to become the region with the highest number of undernourished people by 2030, the FAO has warned.

The continent is off track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030, even without considering the impacts of COVID-19, the delegates noted.

Considering this, the conference also addressed other existing crisis, including climate change, transboundary pests and diseases, conflict and economic downturns.

In 2019 alone, 26 million people were in

need of urgent food assistance due to climate shocks in Africa according to the FAO Regional Office for Africa.

One-fourth of around 90 conflicts were in Africa. In 2019, nearly 37 million were in need of urgent food assistance, due to conflicts. FAO has already launched a comprehensive COVID-19 response and recovery programme, with 7 key pillars including reinforcing the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, improving data for decision-making, ensuring economic inclusion and social protection to reduce poverty, bolstering trade and food safety standards, boosting smallholder resilience for recovery, preventing the next zoonotic pandemic through a strengthened 'One Health' approach and triggering food systems transformation.

Farmers and pastoralists call for government intervention

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

FARMERS in Leganga village, Kongwa District, Dodoma Region have appealed to the government to resolve the long lasting conflict between them and Maasai pastoralists.

The farmers were concerned that Maasai pastoralists have been cutting down their cashew nut trees, the thing that derails their efforts in improving cultivation of the cash crop.

Speaking on behalf of fellow farmers, Mashaka Chiloa told journalists that they are forced to call for government intervention since there are no hopes of reaching consensus. He said destruction of their farms also affects their development because most of them depend on the crops to generate income.

"The Maasai pastoralists have been grazing on our farms, cutting our cashew but trees. We want the government to intervene the matter because things are getting worse due to the ongoing fights which also threatens peace in our village," he said.

A farmer, Jackson Makochi expressed dismay over poor response by village leaders. He said despite reporting the matter to the village government, no action has been taken to resolve the conflict.

"We have tolerated the Maasai pastoralists for a long period; we want the matter to be resolved in a peaceful way,"

said Makochi noting the district government stands a better chance to end the dispute. Leganga Village Chairman, Anderson Chilingo admitted to have been informed on the farmers, pastoralist conflict saying their working to find a permanent solution. He linked the dispute with the regular habit of Maasai pastoralists to feed their cattle in the farms.

Chilingo informed that one the farmers; Mashaka Chiloa was recently attacked by the pastoralists who also destroyed his three acres farm.

The government through the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) is working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to enhance the use of village land use guidelines to reduce the human-wildlife conflicts in communities surrounding national parks.

The village land use plan guidelines prepared by NLUPC is meant to address sectoral land management statutory requirements and engage civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in protection of biodiversity ecosystem as well as improvement of human conditions to control destruction of biodiversity.

The 20 years village land use plan program under NLUPC will enable demarcate areas for livestock keeping, commercial farming, forest areas, national parks, water resources, wildlife conservation areas and game reserves.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (R) presents to district administrative secretary Faraja Msigwa over 2.2m/- worth of Mbulumbulu village office property recovered by the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau from dishonest village officials. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Study reveals hope of leprosy-free generation

By Guardian Reporter

A STUDY involving 150,000 people from across seven countries, including Tanzania explains an approach that could massively reduce the global burden of leprosy.

Tanzania is the only African country; other countries are Brazil, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The international multicenter study, initiated by the Novartis Foundation with the leprosy control programmes of those countries, was published yesterday in Lancet Global Health.

The National TB and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) official from Tanzania who co-authored the study is Dr Deusdedit Kamara.

The Leprosy Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (LPEP) program traced 170,000 people who had been in contact with individuals newly diagnosed with

leprosy, and treated 150,000 of them with a single dose of anti-TB drug known as rifampicin to prevent disease.

Findings show that when individuals who have been in contact with leprosy patients are traced (through contact tracing) and are put on preventive medication (prophylaxis treatment), this can largely interrupt transmission of the bacteria that causes leprosy.

The use of the drug, administered to those who have been in contact with the patients, is therefore expected to interrupt transmission of the bacteria causing leprosy, meaning that if this approach is scaled up globally near-elimination of the disease could become a reality in a single generation.

Dr. Ann Aerts, Head of the Novartis Foundation, commented: "These results mean we can finally imagine a world

without leprosy. By using contact-tracing and prophylactic treatment in combination with widespread availability of multi-drug therapy and other tools, we can cover the last mile in the elimination of this disease. We would like to thank the governments, NGOs and investigators who worked with us to make this landmark initiative a reality, enabling postexposure prophylaxis to be translated into global health policy."

Use of post-exposure prophylaxis has already been shown to reduce the risk of leprosy in contacts of leprosy patients by nearly 60%. As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended the intervention in their 2018 Guidelines for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Leprosy.

The LPEP program demonstrated that once contact tracing has been established, in-

cluding prophylactic treatment can be achieved with minimal additional effort. Professor Jan Hendrik Richardus of Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, and lead author of the paper, said: "LPEP has demonstrated that this approach to transmission reduction is safe, and feasible through national leprosy programs. Our research shows that contact-tracing and prophylactic treatment is generally well accepted by patients, their contacts, and health-care workers. The next step is to ensure that prophylactic treatment is rolled out in all settings where contact tracing and screening have been established."

Access to medicines is only half of the challenge in eliminating leprosy: the disease often occurs in hard-to-reach communities, and diagnosis is frequently delayed because patients fear discrimination and social stig-

ma. If left untreated, patients can develop irreversible neurological damage and associated disabilities, the major cause of stigma, and the infection can continue to spread.

That is why interrupting disease transmission is so critical. Jan van Berkel, President of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) commented on how post-exposure prophylaxis could help patients manage the impact of the disease.

"With this new approach, there is a much lower chance people with leprosy can pass on disease to neighbors and friends, preventing avoidable disability and stigma, in turn helping us to progress towards zero leprosy. We need to see this prophylactic approach applied everywhere."

For over 30 years, Novartis

and the Novartis Foundation have been working with partners around the world on innovative approaches to leprosy elimination.

Since 2000, Novartis has donated its multidrug therapy for leprosy free of charge through the World Health Organization, reaching over seven million patients and contributing to a 95% reduction in the global leprosy burden. Leprosy is now part of the Novartis Global Health unit, which brings together the company's flagship global health priorities.

It drives end-to-end strategies for the elimination or control of four diseases where there has been little investment in R&D: malaria, leprosy, sickle cell disease and Chagas disease. "Leprosy is one of Novartis' four flagship programs fighting diseases in poor countries, where we aim to work with partners in making

a transformative impact," said Rosanne Rotondo, Head of Global Health Flagship Programs at Novartis. "Scaling up LPEP globally will have challenges, particularly as additional resources will be required. But we have to think how much the world will save - financially and in terms of avoidable disability, stigma and discrimination - by ending the tragedy of leprosy."

In Sri Lanka and Tanzania, only household contacts were targeted. In Sri Lanka and Tanzania, where only household contacts were targeted, a mean of two contacts per index patient was listed for Sri Lanka and a mean of ten contacts per index patient was listed for Tanzania. In the other five countries, where neighbours (Myanmar) and social contacts (other countries) were also targeted, the mean number of contacts was 23 per index patient

UK student uses pedal power to fund future trip to help communities in Tanzania

By Katy Griffin

A RINGWOOD school student has used pedal power to help raise funds so she can travel to help communities in Tanzania.

Teah Bannister has been given the opportunity to go to Tanzania with Ringwood School and Camps International for a month next summer to help with activities like elephant conservation and beach cleans.

To do this Teah has to raise £4,500 and has been doing jobs such as cleaning, gardening and fence painting to raise the money but Covid-19 put a stop to this.

Her mum Gail set herself a challenge to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats this summer so that she could help her raise money. Although Teah, who is in Year 11, is not a keen cyclist she joined her mum and completed the 1212 miles from Lands End to John O'Groats in 28 days.

Gail said: "Teah enjoyed the experience as we cycled at a slow pace, stopping for lots of hot chocolate and cakes and we cycled all of it off of the main roads enjoying the canal paths and national parks, following the Sustrans routes.

"Teah is over the moon about raising over £2,000 towards her Tanzania trip and we both have everything crossed that the trip doesn't now get cancelled due to Covid."



It's - as always - roaring business for small traders at Msamvu main bus stand in Morogoro municipality, as captured by Correspondent Sabato Kasika's roving camera on Thursday.

LAGOS

THE Lagos state government has approved the full re-opening of schools for all classes in public and private schools across the state from Monday, 2nd of November, 2020.

Boarding house students in public schools are to resume on Sunday, November 1.

Lagos approves full reopening of schools

Lagos state education commissioner, Folasade Adefisayo while announcing the approval said 2020 has been an unprecedented year "with the recent happenings that have regrettably led to frequent closure of schools with attendant learning disruptions faced by all children."

Public and private schools in the state have been shut for the most part of the year.

The government shut all schools in March due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the state.

Adefisayo announced reopening of the schools on October 12. She said the decision was taken after careful deliberations and

consultations with relevant stakeholders including safety professionals and nursery school providers.

The education commissioner said the disruptions in academic activities were unavoidable and taken for safety reasons.

"We pray and hope that there will be no

more disruptions in the academic calendar. However, the State Government will always regard the safety of pupils/students, parents and all staff as a matter of priority," Adefisayo stated.

"We recommend that when schools resume on Monday, teaching and learning should continue unhindered till the end of the term.



Smallholder farmer Jackson Makochi (R) of Leganga in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, briefs journalists in the village earlier this week. He talked of pastoralists grazing their livestock deep inside farms. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

SADC holds virtual joint meeting of ministers for energy and water

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTERS responsible for energy and water in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met virtually yesterday under the chairmanship of the Republic of Mozambique.

The ministers deliberated on programmes of regional dimensions in support to the implementation of the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30 and the SADC Vision 2050 particularly programmes for infrastructure development of the two sectors.

In the energy sector, the deliberations focused on security of energy supply, energy infrastructure development, progress on targets from the previous ministerial meeting decisions.

The ministerial meeting reviewed the initiatives aimed to support implementation of the regional power programmes and projects, petroleum and gas sub-programmes, promotion of new and renewable energy sources and energy efficiency issues, and the status on the establishment of energy regulators and modalities of strengthening the Regional Energy Regulators Association.

Ministers also reviewed the progress on the directives from the Council of Ministers on regional gas sub-programme and the ongoing regional infrastructure development initiatives in support of the regional integration.

The Ministers further discussed and reviewed the draft agreement amending the SADC Protocol on Energy of 1996; and con-

sider the revised Regional Energy Access and Strategic Action Plan that aims to increase access to energy sources.

In the water sector, the Ministers reviewed progress on the implementation of the Groundwater Management Programme; the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) Supported Projects and receive updates on the Development of the Fifth Water Regional Strategic Action Plan

They also deliberated on cross-cutting issues such as water, Energy and Food Security (WEF) Nexus Programme, and consider outcomes of assessments by the Energy/Power and Water Sectors of the impact of Covid-19.

Ahead of the Ministers meeting, the SADC Senior Officials responsible for energy and water held their meeting on 26th and 27th October, 2020 to clear documents and consider issues for deliberation by the Ministers.



In the water sector, the Ministers reviewed progress on the implementation of the Groundwater Management Programme; the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) Supported Projects and receive

FAO and African Union launch regional outlook on gender and agrifood systems

ROME/HARARE

AGRIFOOD systems cannot be transformed unless there is gender equality. That was the simple message underlying the launch today of a new report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Union that puts the spotlight on women's role in agrifood systems.

The report, Leaving no one behind: A Regional Outlook on Gender and Agrifood Systems, was launched by FAO Director-General QU Dongyu and African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture Josefa Sacko at the 31st Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa.

"Rural women are the

pillars of our food systems and agents of change for food security and climate justice. But they're also disproportionately affected by poverty, inequality, exclusion and the effects of climate change," UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said by video message at the launch.

"This excellent report will make an important contribution to the (2021 UN) Food Systems Summit and to policies and strategies that empower rural women and girls in Africa," she said.

"According to the findings of the report we are launching today, we must step up our efforts to create an enabling environment for rural women's empowerment and entrepreneurship in the agri-food sector,"

Director-General QU said. "I am confident that our joint efforts will pave the way for a more empowered future for rural women and girls in Africa."

Leaving no one behind Commissioner Sacko commended the Director-General for the solid partnership and joint efforts to contribute to the evidence base for women's empowerment.

"When we talk about empowerment, we have to have a scientific evidence base to advise policy makers, and this report contributes to that effort," Commissioner Sacko said. "Women play a substantial role in African agriculture, but it is not sufficiently appreciated or documented."

Based on a review of 40 country gender assessments of agriculture and rural livelihoods, the report provides an in-depth review of the challenges and best practices to empower women in priority areas of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Malabo Declaration.

The ways forward

The report makes recommendations to promote gender equality and women's empowerment to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, including:

Developing gender-sensitive and gender-targeted activities in food security, nutrition, and resilience. For example, programs that deliver money to beneficiaries through mobile phones help close gender gaps by overcoming mobility constraints and decreasing re-

liance on official documentation that women may find difficult to obtain.

Scaling up female entrepreneurship and women's empowerment in agribusiness. Several countries have set up specific funds for women-owned agribusinesses. For example, the Imbita Eswatini Women's Finance Trust provides microloans for rural women with no collateral requirements and no requirement for a husband's approval. To date, the fund has distributed EU 15 million.

Ensuring public-private partnership is inclusive to women to enhance their participation in value chains.

The challenges

In Africa, women are the backbone of their households, communities and rural economies, as food producers, processors, and marketers. They usually lead nu-

trition decisions for the family.

The dramatic effects of climate change coupled with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic mean women face multiple challenges. The number of people suffering from hunger is rising, and women are more likely than men to be food insecure.

Improving women's status and harnessing their potential as "food heroes" will be critical to ending hunger in Africa, the report argues.

The President of the Panafrican Farmers Organization (PAFO) Elizabeth Nsimadala agrees. She urged greater partnerships to address inequality. "In Africa, inequalities between women and men are among the greatest in the world," she said via video message at the launch. "Together, we can improve the status of rural women."

Barriers we can remove together Women often have only tenuous access to land - farming with short-

term agreements from family or traditional authorities. These fragile rights can disappear overnight, preventing women from planning ahead or engaging in long term conservation farming.

Women benefit less from advanced agricultural processes and tools, agricultural services and training, and have less access to rural financing. They tend to use manual equipment, and purchase fertilizer less often.

Women face barriers to participate in larger-scale and more remunerative value chains.

They often lack knowledge on trade standards needed to expand their business, especially phytosanitary standards which involve specialized knowledge.

With lower education rates and discriminatory legal environments, women lack access to opportunity, affecting the food security of themselves and their children.

Rains in Tanga Region disrupt General Election results -NEC

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) in Tanga Region has attributed the delays in announcing election results at some constituencies with the ongoing rainfall which has affected transportation services.

According to the electoral body, election supervisors especially those in remoteness rural areas were supposed to transport the ballot boxes to poll counting centres, but due to the rains, most of them failed to submit the ballot boxes on time.

NEC Coordinator in Tanga Region, Sebastian Masanja told journalists here yesterday that geographical position of the region has also contributed to the delays at some areas. "The delay in announcing election results for some of the constituencies was caused by poor transport services associated with the rains. We are yet to announce results of four constituencies—Mkinga, Kilindi, Lushoto and Korogwe Rural.

He noted that due to the rains, returning officers were forced to announce the results during night or on the following day.

According to Masanja, there are procedures to be followed before announcing the results. He said election supervisors are also required to submit them through an electronic system for further verification before they are announced.



A fallen tree has rendered part of downtown Dar es Salaam's Lumumba Street impassable, giving motorists and other people a hard time moving along the all-important road. Correspondent Jumanne Juma's roving camera captured the scene yesterday.

Ugandan MPs want govt to bail out collapsing businesses

By Mary Karug

MEMBERS of Parliament have appealed to the government to expedite plans for a stimulus package for Ugandans whose businesses have either collapsed or are about to close.

The MPs said several Ugandan businesses were affected during the over three months of partial lockdown and as a result, some have either collapsed or are struggling to keep afloat.

They also said the situation has been worsened by commercial banks and moneylenders who have confiscated people's property.

"We have seen cases where President Yoweri Museveni has intervened, asking banks not to take over people's houses and businesses. But they are so many Ugandans whose properties have been taken over by commercial banks after they failed to pay their loans," MP Muhamad Nserere (Kampala Central) said.

Maurice Kibalya (Bugabula South) said many Ugandans,

especially school proprietors, clinic and shops owners up-country are suffering and need urgent intervention.

"The executive is being insensitive to Ugandans that are suffering. The Government has left them in the hands of commercial banks and moneylenders," he said.

MP Ibrahim Kasozi (Makindye East) said: "The President had directed Bank of Uganda - which supervises commercial banks - to take action, but banks are confiscating people's properties and auctioning them. It is our appeal to the Government to intervene," he said.

Addressing the nation on April 14, President Museveni said the Government would speak to banks not to confiscate people's collateral during the Covid-19 lockdown.

"We are going to discuss with the banks. I cannot support that bank to confiscate people's property. They should see a way of stretching out that loan repayment period," the president said. Traders had asked banks to ease loan repayment conditions to borrowers whose income streams have been affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic.

Country-driven national forestry action programmes can prevent deforestation and restore natural forests

AFRICA is richly endowed with vast tropical forests, ranging from areas with the least forest cover in northern Africa to the Congo basin in Central Africa, which houses the world's second largest continuous block of tropical forest. African forests host a wide spectrum of biodiversity, with many species endemic to the continent. The per capita forest cover in Africa is 0.8 ha per person compared with the global 0.6 ha per person.

In the last century, these forests have been faced with increasing degradation due to unsustainable consumption and production patterns, yet forests provide a livelihood for significant human populations and contribute on average 6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa. BirdLife International established the Forests of Hope Programme to prevent deforestation and restore natural forest.

BirdLife is working in forest-rich African countries to identify and pilot innovative management, financing and governance systems for forest and biodiversity conservation and restoration, generating local and national economic benefits for sustainable development, and combating climate change.

East and southern Africa are home to a wide variety of forests - from tropical and sub-tropical forests, to savannah, acacia and miombo woodlands - which provide livelihoods for millions of people, and significantly contribute to regional socioeconomic development.

Apart from providing wood fuel for energy, timber for construction, medicine and food, they also protect soil from erosion, regulate rain patterns and offer recreational opportunities for tourists and locals alike.

To protect these valuable forests, many African countries have signed onto international conservation programs, such as REDD+ (Reducing Emissions caused by Deforestation and forest Degradation) and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRI00). However, these efforts are sometimes undermined by a lack of

clear information and monitoring systems at the regional level, according to Paolo Cerutti, a Nairobi-based forester with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

"Current forest information and monitoring systems in East and Southern Africa are hampered by the lack of regional data and standardized methodologies to produce it, especially on forest use and cover trends," said Cerutti.

"Lack of up to date and comparable data makes it difficult to establish baselines for monitoring and reporting on the regional state of the forest, hence also helping countries report on their own pledges to international processes such as REDD+ and other climate-related targets and obligations."

To address these issues, in 2017 CIFOR and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) developed a prototype for a regional forest observatory, which they named the East and Southern Africa Forest Observatory (OFESA).

Their goal was to produce a comprehensive and harmonized regional dataset on the latest trends and threats to forests, and to make information useful and easily accessible to policymakers, funders, forestry practitioners and citizens.

Following a positive reception from users, this initiative just received new support to move on to the next stage. With funding from the European Union, CIFOR and RCMRD are launching a new project to consolidate the observatory, increase its reach, and improve its capacity to produce much-needed regional data.

One of OFESA's main goals is to contribute to cross-border integration of forest and natural resources management. As regional integration advances through bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a growing need exists for streamlined data to support collaboration in forest management and address common issues.

We ought to address challenges of urbanisation all our in cities

THE 31st of October is celebrated as World Cities Day. The aim is to promote the international community's interest in global urbanisation, enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanisation, and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is Better City, Better Life.

As an outcome of the Shanghai International Expo 2010, the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution of 27 December 2013, designated every 31 October as World Cities Day.

The theme for 2019 is Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations.

Sustainable Development Goal 11, which formulates the ambition to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - underlying the relevance of UN-Habitat's mission. Inequalities in cities have grown since 1980. The world largest cities are also often the most unequal, and this year's theme is embraced by the action and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which is putting the topic of inclusive cities as one of the main pillars for the urban shift.

The general theme of World Cities Day is Better City, Better Life, while each year a different sub-theme is selected, to either promote successes of urbanisation, or address specific challenges resulting from urbanisation.

This year, the United Nations has selected the theme "Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations" to discuss how urbanisation can be used to achieve sustainable development. It aims to promote the

international community's interest in implementing the New Urban Agenda globally and in enhancing cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanisation in cities.

Over half the world's population now live in cities. With the number expected to double by 2050, urbanization is one of the world's most transformative trends. Urbanization poses several sustainability challenges related to housing, environment, climate change, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety, and natural resources. Urbanization can also present great opportunities and is a critical tool for sustainable development if it is done right.

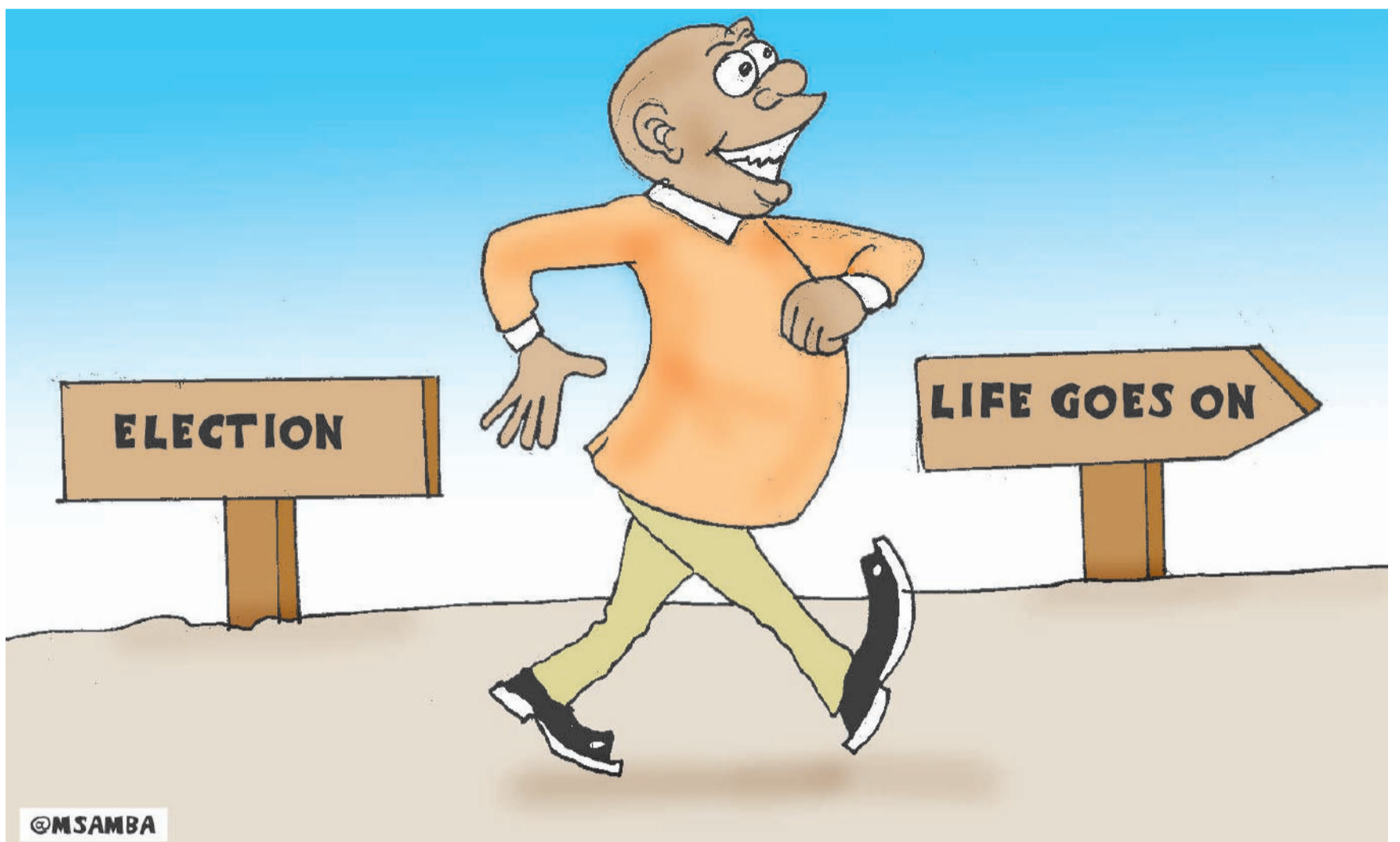
With over half of the population living in urban areas and the numbers increasing daily, cities are facing unprecedented demographic, environmental, economic, social and spatial challenges. Cities are centres of innovation and investment and are pivotal for economic growth and development. At the same time, cities are vulnerable to severe impacts from a range of challenges, shocks and stresses that can be both natural and human made.

Urban resilience is the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability. A resilient city assesses, plans and acts to prepare and respond to hazards - natural and human-made, sudden and slow-onset, expected and unexpected - in order to protect and enhance people's lives, secure development gains, foster an environment for investment, and drive positive change.

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Ghanaian enterprises should be frontline actors in AfCFTA

By Special Correspondent

THE President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, has reiterated Government's commitment to assisting Ghanaian enterprises to take advantage of the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Speaking at the 2nd National Conference on the African Continental Free Trade Area, held on Tuesday, 20th October 2020, at the Accra International Conference Centre, President Akufo-Addo explained that the AfCFTA will ensure that trading amongst Member States on the continent will be duty-free and quota-free.

According to the President, the AfCFTA, which is a market of some 1.2 billion people, will boost significantly intra-African trade, stimulate investment and innovation, diversify exports, improve food security, foster structural transformation, enhance economic growth, unleash the entrepreneurial dynamism of the African peoples, and create jobs for Africa's youth.

"We, in Ghana, cannot afford to let this window of opportunity slip. We hope that the private sector, facilitated and actively supported by Government, will be at the forefront of trying to take advantage of the vast possibilities presented by the AfCFTA," he said.

President Akufo-Addo continued, "Ghana, like many African countries, is blessed with an abundance of re-



sources. However, over the years, we have not been able to translate our resource wealth into the much-needed growth and development we desire, leaving our economy, still, in a fragile and unfulfilled state.

The AfCFTA provides an enormous potential for trade and investments across various sectors which we must exploit."

To take advantage of these opportunities, he explained that Government has, since his assumption of office in 2017, implemented various innovative and strategic interventions to

promote and expand production and value addition.

These, he said, include the "One District One Factory" initiative; the development of new, strategic, anchor industries such as garments and textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobile assembly and component manufacturing; the programme for Planting for Food and Jobs; the Planting for Exports and Rural Development (PERD) initiative; the establishment of sixty-seven (67) Business Resource Centres, and thirty-one (31) Technology Solution Centres; and the development of Industrial

Parks and Special Economic Zones.

Underpinning all these initiatives, the President stressed, is the development of a robust and resilient macro-economy, which will establish a strong foundation for the structural transformation of the Ghanaian economy.

"I draw attention to these programmes and projects to reiterate the point that, in Ghana, we have already laid the building blocks for our private sector to harness the benefits of AfCFTA," he added.

President Akufo-Addo, thus, reaffirmed Government's determination "to assist Ghanaian businesses to take full advantage of AfCFTA, and to ensure that the required financial and human resources are mobilised and developed to make Ghana a new manufacturing hub and financial services centre for the African continent."

With the collective desire for shared prosperity, he was confident that the AfCFTA will succeed, and generate a new impetus and dynamism for the rapid growth of Africa's economies, and deepen the process of integration in Africa.

"Empowered Ghanaian enterprises should be frontline actors of this new, exciting journey in Africa's economic history. We owe it to generations unborn to ensure that the biggest trading bloc on the globe, whose outcomes will be rewarding to all Africans, and which will assist in attaining the 'Africa We Want, does not falter," he added.

There's a price to pay for looting state coffers

yet another company - this time Kgotso Manyeki's Ori Group - to do the actual job. Evidence shows that some work was done by Manyeki. But the bottom line is that there was no value for money derived by the taxpayer in the exercise.

What this points to is blatant corruption where the state was used as a cash cow for politicians and dodgy individuals masquerading as businessmen.

The meticulous work done by Daily Maverick investigative journalist Pieter-Louis Myburgh in his book, Gangster State, shows the web of inexplicable payments and transfers of large sums of money to politically connected individuals as soon as Sodi's and Mpambani's Blackhead/Diamond Hill Trading received payments from the Free State government.

These revelations prompted Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize to distance himself from Sodi. Mkhize explained that the over R6-million listed in Sodi's bank statements as having been paid to him were donations to the ANC during his tenure as Treasurer-General of the ruling party.

While seeking to distance himself from Sodi's sordid affairs, Mkhize inadvertently admitted to the ANC's dubious relationship with tenderpreneurs who rely on state contracts to amass wealth.

ANC Secretary-General Ace Magashule is shown to have solicited favours from Mpambani by asking him to make several payments on his behalf.

This happened while Magashule was Premier of the Free State.

Soliciting "donations" from the likes of Sodi and the

late Mpambani is no different to the ANC effectively asking for a reward for the government contracts that his businesses have scored.

And so the circle of corruption and looting continues where businesses with close proximity to power get away with murder - all because they have powerful people in their pockets. After all, he who pays the piper calls the tune.

Others who received payments from Sodi include his "friend", deputy State Security minister Zizi Kodwa, when he was an ANC spokesperson.

Current ANC Treasurer-General Paul Mashatile and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi are also listed as beneficiaries.

The toxic relationship between politics and money is not new to post-democratic South Africa.

Apartheid South Africa was propped up by white businesses who benefited from its racist laws. Generous donations to the National Party by businesses who continue to enjoy massive profits in a democratic South Africa are well recorded.

Nor is this toxic relationship between private interest and politics unique to the ANC. While the governing party and the DA are political opponents in Parliament and ideologically, both parties have previously opposed moves to legislate political party funding from private interests. It is a no-brainer as to why these parties would revel in such secrecy.

But the groundswell of support for transparency and efforts by civil society to have private party funding regulated prompted the two parties to change

their stance on the disclosure of their funders.

The Political Party Funding Act (PPFA) was signed into law in January 2019 by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Through this act, donations to political parties of over R100,000 will have to be declared publicly.

Also, companies can contribute towards the Multi-Party Democracy Fund where the funds can be distributed proportionally to the parties represented in Parliament.

The IEC, which is meant to implement the law and police its implementation, must move with speed to do so.

This law will go a long way in strengthening our democracy and keeping the wolves at bay.

However, the limitation to act is that it deals with public and private funding towards political parties. But it is silent on internal party contests and elections. By now it is part of the public record that millions of rand exchanges hands in internal party campaigns in the pursuit of power. The "buying" of delegates to influence their voting is common practice at elective congresses. Another grey area which requires further scrutiny.

But one thing at a time. For now, the IEC must ensure that the PPFA is implemented, the sooner the better.

In the meantime, those who have corrupted the state and looted its coffers must face the full might of the law. South Africans are gatvol of corruption and are fully behind all efforts to strengthen our democracy and ensure the rule of law.

Building rural women's resilience the UN way in the wake of COVID-19

STATEMENT by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, on the International Day of Rural Women (October 15, 2020)

In rural Xiaruoyao, China, 45-year-old pig farmer Yan Shenglian is part of her village's Covid-19 management team, giving temperature checks and recording vehicle information at local checkpoints to help reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

In Tanzania's Iringa region, the outbreak of Covid-19 prompted 28-year-old Stella Nziku to join the Mufindi Women's Network to raise awareness of gender-based violence. And in Itá, Paraguay, 50-year-old Mirian Cáceres is coping with the pandemic's impact on her livelihood as a potter by organising soup kitchens to alleviate hunger.

The vital roles of rural women as farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, community leaders and first responders during crises are key to building peaceful, prosperous and sustainable societies. The Covid-19 pandemic threatens to roll back these significant contributions, which is why we must double our efforts to build rural women's resilience to current and future shocks.

Discriminatory gender norms and resource constraints compound the negative effects of Covid-19 on rural women's lives. Already, before the pandemic, women across the world did more than three times the unpaid care and domestic work as men. In rural areas, this is exacerbated by lack of infrastructure and insufficient access to clean and safe water, sanitation and energy. Something as essential to hygiene and safety as frequent handwashing with soap, is no simple matter in many locations.

The gender digital divide in rural areas has magnified women's and girls' marginalisation, limiting their access to distance education, essential services, digital finance and life-saving information during the crisis.

The shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls, which has been rising in situations of lockdown, must also be overcome as a matter of urgency. Rural women and girls are even more at risk of experiencing violence, yet less likely to receive the support they need due to lack of essential services, legal remedies and justice.

To address these gaps and respond to the pandemic, millions of rural women

worldwide have organised protection, support and relief.

In Liberia, the National Rural Women Association, with the support of UN Women, is communicating vital Covid-19 information in rural communities. Through the Rural Women's Economic Empowerment joint programme, run by FAO, IFAD, UN Women and WFP, rural and indigenous women in Guatemala, Nepal and Kyrgyzstan are producing masks as a community service and to earn an income, and disseminating health information, preventative measures and essential goods.

To sustain the livelihoods and food security of rural women and their families during the crisis, social protection must be expanded in ways that intentionally respond to women's needs. But this is not yet happening to the extent needed.

UN Women and UNDP's Covid-19 Global Gender Response Tracker shows that only 10 per cent of social protection and labour market measures are aimed at women - for example, cash transfers or food assistance that directly target women, support to women entrepreneurs and informal traders with grants and subsidised credits, or keeping child-care services open during lockdown to help relieve unpaid care burdens. It is critical that economic stimulus and recovery packages reach rural areas as well as urban settings to keep rural women and their households afloat.

On this International Day of Rural Women, our commitment to leave no one behind has never been more urgent. We must use this crisis as an opportunity to direct attention and resources to empower rural women and eliminate the long-standing obstacles to their progress, so that we can emerge from Covid-19 as a stronger, better balanced, resilient and caring society.

***** The experience in Kenya

Data recently published by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics highlights the disparity between those living in rural and urban settings. The data further shows that women in rural settings are significantly less empowered when it comes to education, employment and health.

Increasing the empowerment of rural women is a priority at the international level, and it is why institutions like the United Nations (UN) place primacy on supporting women in agriculture.



Following are some examples of how rural women can be empowered and their value to the country's society as a whole.

Daily sales grew from Ksh2,000 to Ksh30,000

Lenah Mwangi of Nakuru County began as a trainer of trainers (TOT) when she joined the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) in 2018. The alliance was set up by six agri-focussed organisations, including the UN World Food Programme, to build resilient value chains and link up public and private sectors.

"I started by buying pesticides, which I would sell to my neighbours and my mother's friends. I got my customers by word of mouth. I also introduced my mother to the modern way of farming. Though it was difficult at first because she was used to the traditional methods, she began embracing it as she saw my yield was better. This increased my customer base as neighbours also wanted to learn modern farming methods as they had seen the benefits from my farm."

A gleeful Lenah continues to narrate: "In March 2020, I entered into a co-financing partnership to refurbish and restock my agrovet shop. I contributed Ksh20,000 to the required Ksh120,000, and the rest came from FtMA.

"In 2019, my best daily sales would range from Ksh2,000 to Ksh5,000, and I would feel I had really achieved a lot. However, after the training and credit support, my

daily sales grew and today I clock in around Ksh30,000. This grows to Ksh40,000 during peak planting seasons.

"This year has actually been the best for me, especially in the planting seasons of April and May, as I earned a profit of Ksh40,000."

Raising awareness

Last year, UN Women partnered with the Agricultural Finance Corporation in Kenya to deliver a series of training sessions around the country, for grassroots women farmers.

The lack of information available to women, coupled with traditional norms, severely limit their ability to own land and enjoy economic independence.

Flomena Tendet lives in Uasin Gishu, operating a small farm which produces avocados, eucalyptus and pine nuts. She is married, and although her husband's name is on the title deed of the land, the ownership of the business is shared. She explains that this kind of partnership is not common in the region.

She says: "Women traditionally do not own titles here, which causes problems. I was renting land, but I had to give it back to the landowner.

"I used to train women in Mount Elgon, but here, they are not so receptive. Traditions do not allow for it.

Cape Town City Council approves 'game-changer' report that could help ease housing backlog

By Karabo Mafolo

THE Cape Town City Council has adopted recommendations from a report that could help solve the city's housing crisis. Councillors praised the recommendations, while housing activists said they would perpetuate spatial inequalities.

The Cape Town City Council on Thursday approved a report that recommends incentives such as subsidies for private property owners to provide affordable small-scale rental units.

Councillors said the recommendations would provide much-needed housing opportunities, while also bringing in income for unemployed property owners.

Housing activists, however, said the recommendations would perpetuate spatial inequalities.

The city has also asked the national government to provide subsidies to incentivise homeowners to provide small-scale rental units.

In favour of the plan

DA councillor Eddie Andrews said the recommendations "would economically empower unemployed property owners while providing housing opportunities".

The majority of councillors, including those from the EFF, the ANC and COPE, supported the recommendations, which Marian Nieuwoudt, the Mayoral Committee Member for Spatial Planning and Environment, has previously described as a "game-changer".

The report, which comes from the city's Spatial Planning and Environment Committee, looked at small-scale rental units in the Khayelitsha suburbs of Mandela Park, Graceland, Khaya, Eyethu and Ilitha Park.

The report found that 7,425 additional housing opportunities had been provided on 5,294 properties, out of a total of 9,007 properties. Of the 7,425 opportunities, nearly 40% are formal additional housing structures.



According to Urban LandMark, which researches tenure security, small-scale rentals are "different types of housing units built by a private landowner for rental to one or a few households".

Urban LandMark found that 35% of South Africans who rent property live in small-scale rental units. "Contrary to popular belief, 53% of all small-scale rental units are formally constructed houses, flats or rooms, while 47% are shacks in backyards."

The city will require that these small-scale rental units comply with national building regulations.

Sibusiso Zitha, the CEO of iBuild Home Loans, a company that provides innovative lending solutions to low-income workers looking to build small-scale rental units, said one of the biggest issues was that "getting [building] plans approved by the city could take up to three months, which slows the process of building".

To address this, the report recommends that the Spatial Planning and Environment executive director "be authorised to introduce similar arrangements in the submission of building plans for small-scale

rental units as the current arrangement for Atlantis Industrial Area, where building plans are prioritised and building plan fees are not charged, subject to the participation property's rates and services payments to the city being up to date".

As to when the report's recommendations will be implemented, Nieuwoudt told Daily Maverick: "The report highlights a number of actions which need to be taken to assist with the implementation of the programme. There is currently nothing preventing property owners [from making] the necessary application to the city to have additional units built on their properties."

According to the City of Cape Town's Human Settlement Strategy, 230,000 households in Cape Town live in informal dwellings. By 2028 it is estimated that more than 500,000 households in the city will require additional housing.

Against the plan

While councillors praised the report and voted to adopt it, the Social Justice Coalition (SJC), an NGO that

advocates for the constitutional rights of people in informal settlements, has described the proposal as a move to "preserve apartheid segregationist laws".

The city is insistent on keeping the most disadvantaged people on the peripheries of the city, said Nomathemba Masemula, SJC's communications officer.

But Zitha said: "The reality is that migrants are coming to Cape Town and they won't always have enough money to rent in the city centre. There definitely is a need for affordable housing in townships, that's the reality."

There are 600,000 people on the housing waiting list in the Western Cape. About 65% of those people are from Cape Town.

According to the report: "If this form of housing delivery is encouraged across the city, it can make a significant contribution to address the housing backlog at little cost to the city."

"The city is trying to do away with building social and affordable housing in the CBD. If they were doing this, then people wouldn't feel the need to rent out their backyards," said Axolile Notywala, an activist

and member of the Khayelitsha Community Action Network.

The report recommends that "the Chief Financial Officer be authorised to petition Central Government to consider making housing subsidies available to individual property owners who develop small-scale rental units on their properties, on the same basis as the current social housing subsidies or a variation thereof".

Lauren Royston, who does research and advocacy on housing at the Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (Seri), said that the city also had to consider the unintended consequences of providing homeowners with subsidies.

"The unintended consequences could be property owners increasing rent, which would push out poor tenants. The other question is, will the city monitor how the subsidy given to homeowners is used? How will we be sure that the subsidy is used for its intended use? The city has to consider that as well," said Royston.

How many more people must die before President Weah acts to stop the killings?

By Special Correspondent

JUST how many more people must die before President Weah acts to bring things in check, realizing that the killings of innocent people for political reasons have gone way too far. Reports reaching this newspaper speak of additional deaths to follow. All of those killed so far have been connected in one way or the other to ongoing audits of government revenue.

Further, sources have told this newspaper that four (4) more individuals from the Ministry of Finance, LRA, and RIA have been handed the death sentence and will shortly suffer a similar fate to those of the others.

Informed sources (identities withheld) have told this newspaper that those individuals have been killed because they had reportedly observed questionable transactions involving the wholesale diversion of government revenues into ghost accounts allegedly owned by top officials of this government.

Revenue paid by the LRA to the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) intended for deposits into official government consolidated accounts have allegedly been finding their way elsewhere, which auditors were trying to determine.

And according to informed sources, it was discovered that certain top of-

ficials are allegedly linked to the disappearance of government revenue. This discovery, according to sources, sent alarm bells ringing and inevitably placed the auditors involved on a list for elimination.

Meanwhile, news of the unexplained and suspicious deaths of these auditors, which are suspected to have been sanctioned by top individuals in government, have spread like wildfire on social media and, according to diplomatic sources, appear likely to attract the attention of the International Criminal Court.

This may be because many of those ex-rebel generals and fighters absorbed in the official state security apparatus were named as perpetrators in the TRC report and are now being linked to the current wave of unexplained killings of government auditors.

Some of those notorious characters have been identified as Augustine Nagbe (a.k.a. General Power) and Ofori Diah (a.k.a. Iron Jacket).

Ofori Diah was identified as an ex-ULIMO J fighter who was reportedly involved in the killing of UN Peacekeepers in the Ivory Coast, including hit and run attacks on Ivorian security forces, killing some. He reportedly fled to Liberia, was arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned, where he spent some time before being amnestied by this government.



Both individuals including the notorious gang leader known as "Man Devil", and two other alleged notorious armed robbers, according to local residents, were reportedly seen together on Coleman Avenue in Sinkor near 21 Street on the night before the suspicious death of the Director-General of the Internal Audit Agency (IAA).

According to residents, the sight of Man Devil in tow with this group of strange looking individuals aroused their concern. According to a local resident and former LNP officer (name withheld) who retired recently, he recognized Man Devil, an armed robber called Kezele and the self-styled

General Power that night.

As for the gang leader "Man Devil", he has been reported wanted by the Police for the murder of a rival gang leader known as Pharaoh, who was abducted from his Red Light hideout by Man Devil's men and taken to Man Devil's base in Fiahmah where he was killed and his body dumped on the street near the Fiahmah market.

"Pharaoh's" death at the hands of "Man Devil" sparked an angry reaction from his followers. Armed with machetes and other dangerous instruments they drove in a convoy consisting of motorbikes and Kekehs to Fiahma, Sinkor, where they invaded the Fiahmah market terrorizing, looting and sending marketeers running helter-skelter.

They attacked Man Devil's hideout and burned it to the ground but Man Devil had been forewarned and fled the area before the arrival of the Pharaoh gang. However, according to residents, the very next day, Man Devil was seen bodily parading the area with a gang of individuals armed with machetes in what was clearly an act of defiance.

This is the cast of individuals who have allegedly been openly courted by Minister of State Nathaniel McGill. It can be recalled that on April 18, 2019, court activities at the Temple of Justice were disrupted by a group of ex-rebel generals from three (3) defunct factions who stormed the court yard in two jeeps bearing markings of the Ministry of State.

They claimed to have gone there at the invitation of Montserrado County attorney Edward Martin to clarify threatening statements made against Representative Yekhe Kolubah. The threats were issued at a press conference said to have been sponsored by Minister of State, Nathaniel McGill.

At the press conference they issued an ultimatum to Representative Kolubah to apologize to President Weah else he would face their wrath. But the wave of public condemnation of their act apparently forced them to backtrack.

But even then, storming the Temple of Justice in Ministry of State assigned vehicles was simply to send home the message that their actions intended to frighten political op-

position and flout the rule of law were officially endorsed.

Now it appears from all indications that these elements have upped the ante from mere statements of threats. It appears they have swung into assassin mode, tracking down and eliminating perceived enemies.

LRA insider sources have told the Daily Observer the auditors met their fate because they had apparently conveyed the impression that they were strongly opposed to the fraud and malpractices which they had uncovered.

And also, because those officials involved, fearing public exposure, have resorted to the foulest and most evil means – mafia-type slayings to ensure that the secrets remain far from the eyes and ears of the public.

But their killings have instead drawn not only the ire of the public but also heightened their suspicions of official involvement in the killings. And it is not only reverberating with devastating effect on the public image of this government, but it is also painting a very ugly image of President Weah, which casts him as a greedy despot with blood-stained hands.

And so, we ask just how many more deaths will it take before he realizes that valued human capital, precious lives are being taken away needlessly, leaving their families and the nation feeling helplessly distraught.

As long as men turn a blind eye to the hyenas in our midst, the GBV plague will continue

By Omphemetse Sibanda

WHAT are we men and boys doing to combat gender-based violence? Come on, rise up. Stop talking, singing and marching. Do something tangible. Call perpetrators out - at home, at work, church, school, and your social circle.

A protest action led by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) early in October highlighted once more the problem of gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa. Narratives of the suffering of women in South Africa and the yearly escalation of GBV can make even a stone weep. In 2018, for example, the Crime Against Women in South Africa report by Statistics SA (Report No 03-40-05 of June 2018), showed that femicide in South Africa is five times higher than the global average.

In August 2019, the Constitutional Court in the case of Tshabalala versus the State heard of a group of heartless men who went on a late-night reign of terror in Umthambeka in Tembisa, which included the gang-raping of a visibly pregnant woman and a 14-year-old girl. Justice Rammaka Mathopo noted in this case that women in South Africa have been relegated to second-class citizens through acts of GBV, by men who think they are entitled to have control over women and who suffer from "the social construction of masculinity in South Africa".

As a man, husband, father, brother and uncle of dandelions, I am lost for words in writing about GBV. Luckily I have found a solution by trouble-shooting my writer's block through musical lyrics to write this opinion dedicated to women and children in South Africa suffering from GBV.

Normally, the perception - and rightly so - is that men just stand by as attacks on human rights, life and limb, and bodily integrity take place. Murders, abusers, rapists, paedophiles and other perpetrators of GBV thrive in contexts of complacency, disregard for the rule of law, continuing discriminatory practices, other occupational segregation practices, and the use of women's suffering for political expediency. Those close to women have been their deadliest predators. Every protest in South Africa is marked by people singing their lungs out and followed by little or no action at all.

Why not express my continuing contribution to the movement against GBV with reference to musical tapestry? As eloquently said by the late Busi Mhlongo in her song ukuThula, "Bantu bakith' kummand' uk'hala ngok'thul' ezweni". (My people, "people of our land", it's nice to live in peace in our nation.) However, living in peace will never be nice if made the preserve of men only. Women deserve peace too. "Nom' ungang'bulala ngek' uwathol' amandl' ami... Kummandi ukuhlala ngokuthula." (...It's nice to live in peace.) Women have the right to live in peace and harmony too. As the legendary Caiphus Semenya said: "Woman got a right to be."

The strength of our sisters, mothers and grandmothers who are gruesomely killed at the hands of men does not have to be gone with the wind. It is for us as a society to take it into our hearts and continue the fight

against GBV. The lyrics of Mhlongo's song further say: "Noma ungang'bulala ngek' uwathole amandlel' ami." (Though you may kill me, you will never gain my strength.) This truth is explicated by Siphokazi in her song Ubuntu Bam (meaning, My Humanity), which should be shared with every man and boy, particularly the lyrics that: "My humanity is in my rhythm, my view of life and nature can't be taken away. It's engraved in my soul."

Another lyrical masterpiece by Mhlongo, "We Baba Omncane" (meaning, father's younger brother ["small father" or uncle]) illustrates what women and children have to go through for the rest of their lives. They are chased from their homes, with no good reason. "We bab'omncane, Wang'xosha kabuhlungu" (You chased me away so sorely.) "Kodwa yini na?" (What's the matter?/But what is it?) The behaviour of men, particularly those whom girl children call uncles or "small fathers" is far from exemplary of what being a father means.

We are a society with the hyena-like behaviour of men steeped in the culture of patriarchal behaviour. A society where girl children are subjected almost daily to every imaginable form of GBV, including rape, femicide, sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. A non-profit organisation called Matla A Bana - A Voice Against Child Abuse once estimated that 50% of South Africa's children will be abused before the age of 18 and that 85% of them will be by perpetrators known to them. Matla A Bana reports that every three minutes a child is raped in South Africa, most being girls between three and 12 years of age, and by men known to them.

Nobody can deny the truth in Siphokazi's 2007 song Amacala, that women always have to explain themselves nonstop ("Seng' thetha amacala ekuze kuse"), so much so that her home has turned into a courtroom ("Usephenduk' inkantolo umuzi wam"), and she has no way but to go back home ("Ndiibuyel' ekhaya"). Unfortunately, a society that is ready to always excuse GBV will mock and shun a woman as a "returnee" when in fact her parents' house should be her fortress.

The scourge of GBV in South Africa has been highlighted over many years, but it is not abating. Although we recognise the need to do something to safeguard the rights of women and children and eradicate the harms and dangers they are faced with daily, our efforts are often meaningless. We are like empty tins making the loudest of noise and promises, but carrying nothing to show for it.

In Africa, the elephant in the room is the endless promises that things are about to change, and governments not delivering on their promises to end GBV. Can we trust what we are being told by governments across Africa to end or combat GBV? I do not have an answer to this question. However, I am inclined to borrow from the lyrical prowess of the late Brenda Fassie in her song Promises, when the Queen of Pop sang: "Standing back I can't believe how you've led me on... Your promises have never been anything you made them seem."



You will pardon me using the lyrics of musical greats to drive my point home. I love music that is lyrically meaningful, and listening to the likes of women such as Busi Mhlongo, Brenda Fassie, Miriam Makeba, Siphokazi, and other contemporary artists such as Kanyi Mavi is listening to artists who sang back at GBV.

... African Union must lead the continental fight against GBV. Already there are best practices continentally and globally that have paved the way for something to be done.

I also marvel at the artistic creations of women who depict in some way women suffering, including artists like Lungiswa Gqunta who has the audacity to tackle issues of the postcolonial cultural landscape regarding inequality and patriarchy; Zanele Mhlozi, whose portraits form an important part of the discourse on black lesbian, gay, transgender and intersex people; and the fabulous holder of The Order of Ikhamanga in Silver, Dr Esther Mahlangu, one of whose works adorns the walls of a New York boulevard.

In the same way, music and other artistic creations can plant the seeds of negative attitudes towards women and children, it is through music that we can start challenging the widely held attitudes and beliefs that provide fertile germination ground for GBV. Young artists like Liricas del Caos, a feminist rap group from Colombia, have succeeded in promoting a hip-hop scene free of sexist violence and profanities against women

through the composition of anti-patriarchal lyrics. As did the musical offering of Andy Mkosi following the rape and murder of another dandelion, Uyinene Mrwetyana in 2019.

The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, officially launched the 365 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) on 10 December 2019 in partnership with UN Women and First for Women Insurance. At the time the minister uttered comforting words, giving a commitment that "enough is enough" and that "together, we need to play our part, not just for 16 days but for 365 days a year, every year".

On a different perspective, I am reminded of a colleague who said to me that society is always willing to excuse the predatory behaviour of men. And further, that the plight of women and children has been worsened by having to work from home amid Covid-19 with the general workplace protections and basic conditions of work not equally extended to the "work-from-home" environment. What has the government done to ensure that working from home is not a GBV trap for many women?

What I know is that governments have a much bigger role to play in the fight against GBV. In 2013 the World Health Organisation reported that about 35% of women worldwide had experienced GBV in their lifetimes, and that the highest proportion of GBV incidents happened in Africa.

This brings me to my next point: the African Union must lead the continental fight against GBV. Already there are best practices continentally and globally that have paved the way for something to be done. For instance, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on its 100th anniversary on 21 June 2019 adopted the first legally binding Violence and Harassment Convention. Notable is that article 4(2) of the convention states that, "Each Member shall adopt, in accordance with national law and circumstances and in consultation with representative employers' and workers' organisations, an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach for the prevention and elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work."

The ILO took this bold step to answer the call by millions of women around the world to be protected from the sharp claws of GBV in the workplace, and so should African governments and the AU take the lead.

What are we men and boys doing to combat GBV? In the words of Minister Nkoana-Mashabane:

"Men can do this by calling out other men who insult, denigrate, abuse, or treat women like objects."

Having started and pitched this opinion against the backdrop of some lyrical foundations by some of the best musicians of all time, I should conclude with the call to men taken from the song My City of Ruins by Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band - "My city of ruins. Dear men and boys, come on, rise up" against GBV. Stop talking, singing and marching. Do something tangible. Call perpetrators out. You know who they are - at home, at work, church, school, and your social circle.

To the African Union leadership: if the Council of Europe could establish a convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, why cannot you? What have you done since the ILO established a binding GBV convention?

Merck Foundation partners with Burundi first lady to build healthcare capacity, empower girls

BUJUMBURA

FIRST Lady of Burundi, Madam Angeline Ndayishimiye has been appointed as the Ambassador of Merck More Than a Mother project which seeks to build healthcare capacity, empower girls in education and breaks the infertility stigma in Burundi.

She was appointed during a high-level meeting held between her and Dr Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation.

During the meeting, Merck Foundation underscored their

long-term commitment to continue their efforts to build healthcare capacity and empowering girls in education.

"I am very happy to partner with Merck Foundation and excited to capitalize on their valuable programs in our country. These programs will create a very significant impact on our people's advancement, as health is very critical to our social and economic development", said the First Lady.

She added: "As the Ambassador of Merck More than a Mother, I will work closely with Merck

Foundation to sensitize our communities to better understand infertility and empower women through access to education, information, health and change of mindset and also empower our girls through education."

CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck More Than a Mother, Dr Rasha Kelej said: "I am very proud of our partnership with Burundi First Lady and welcome her as the Ambassador of Merck More Than a Mother and new member of Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative-MFFLI.

We have discussed our long-term collaboration and partnership with her Foundation and Ministry of Health & Ministry of Education to build healthcare capacity in Burundi, by providing training to doctors in the fields of Cancer, Fertility, and Diabetes care."

Dr Kelej said that with the outbreak of the global pandemic, building healthcare capacity is more significant than ever, and through its long-term partnership the foundation is looking forward to creating a strong medical army in Burundi.

The Burundi First Lady had also attended Merck Foundation's first Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative (MFFLI) VC Summit held last month, which was attended by a total of 13 African First Ladies and introduced her development programs in Burundi".

Merck Foundation has conducted their capacity building programs in Burundi for the past three years through their partnership with Burundi government and Former First Lady of Burundi, Denise Nkurunziza.

Merck Foundation has provided

specialty training to more than 31 doctors from Burundi and will continue doing so for the next 10 years plan.

Merck Foundation made history by providing training to the first oncologist and fertility specialists and embryologists in Burundi.

So far 10 doctors have completed the fertility and embryology training, and together with Burundi First Lady, more doctors will be trained to improve access to quality and equitable fertility care in the country.

Merck Foundation has also trained the first Oncologist in Burundi and will continue enrolling doctors for oncology fellowship program as a contribution to improve cancer care in the country.

The foundation has provided diabetes care training to twenty doctors and is going to train more doctors, one from each province. After completion of the training, the doctors were able to establish a diabetes clinic at their specific health centres or hospital with the aim to help prevent and manage the disease.

Water shortage in Zimbabwe threatens thousands

By Nyasha Chingono

IT is 6am on a Saturday and residents of Sizinda, a poor suburb in Bulawayo, have begun their desperate hunt for water. The taps at home dried up three months ago.

Water has become a daily struggle in Zimbabwe's second biggest city, largely the result of a severe drought last year which has dried up the reservoirs. The poor rains expected this year will bring more hardship.

The city has recorded 2,600 cases of diarrhoea since June - 600 in the past month, according to health service figures. The majority of cases are among children under five.

A drive along the streets of Sizinda follows a trail of desperation, as women and children clutching water buckets search for water.

At a railway line, hundreds of people try to collect muddy water pouring from a broken water pipe. People have little choice but to drink from unprotected water sources, despite the risks.

"It has been three months without water. While we hear that supplies have been restored in some other areas, there is nothing here. This is where we get water for household use, we have no choice," says Sibusisiwe Moyo, 40, a rail worker.

"I work the night shift, but there is no time to rest because I have to come here early to fetch water. I had to come earlier when the water was cleaner and before the queue grew longer. This is a desperate situation, we need help."

Omphile Masuka, 34, who has two children, says she feared the water from the burst water pipe could be contaminated.

"We are drinking sewage water and we are all going to get sick. The city council should respect us. What is surprising is that we have been paying bills every month without a drop of water. How is that fair when my children have to drink this dirty water?"

It's difficult to fight Covid-19 without water, she adds. "We have the right to water. What do they want us to do? We do not have boreholes, seriously we cannot survive like this."

Some of Sizinda's more affluent residents have sunk their own boreholes and installed water pumps. The less fortunate are forced to queue at community boreholes.

Others have taken advantage of the water shortages to make money, selling 25 litres of water from boreholes for \$2 (£1.50).

Zimbabwe is in the grip of a nationwide water crisis due to poor rains and drought. Most local authorities have been forced to ration water. But Bulawayo, 450km south of Harare, is facing the worst crisis.

Edwin Sibanda, the Bulawayo health services director, says the council is distributing water through the city using bowlers "where possible". But it's not enough.

He confirmed outbreaks of diarrhoea in Bulawayo's highly populated suburbs, and at Bulawayo Polytechnic College.

We have the right to water. What do they want us to do? We don't have boreholes

Sibanda says stool samples from those taken ill had also showed salmonella, shigella and pseudomonas bacteria, which could have come from unprotected water sources.

Nearly 2,000 cases of diarrhoea and 13 deaths were recorded in the neighbourhood of Luveve in June, says Sibanda. Mzilikazi, east of Bulawayo's central business district, has recorded 397 cases over the past month.

A drive through the neighbourhood finds men pulling water carts, while women carry buckets of water in the sweltering heat.

The Guardian spoke to people outside a clinic, who pleaded for the government to help.

"My neighbour has two children who have diarrhoea, it is a desperate situation," says Kind Maphosa, 56. "They drank water from the nearby borehole and started complaining of stomach pains."

Buhle Mazibuko, 30, says: "Our young ones are in grave danger. We need help urgently. The council can start by delivering clean water to us, until the water situation improves."

In Tshabalala, another neighbourhood of Bulawayo, a police officer bellows instructions to a line of women queueing for water. None of the residents are wearing face masks and there is no social distancing.

The officer orders those without face masks to go home, but no one moves.

The Covid-19 taskforce in Tshabalala fears more cases if regulations are not followed.

A local church has provided a water pump and residents are helping to pay the electricity to keep it running. But the water it provides is not adequate.

Jennifer Ncube, a member of the Covid-19 taskforce, says women have reported abuse at water points; some of the people manning the pumps have demanded money or other sexual favours in exchange for water.



Women and children fetch water in the township of Luveve in Bulawayo.

"This water crisis is affecting women and the girl child. We have reports of abuse at boreholes ... some take advantage of their desperation by charging \$1 per bucket. This is unacceptable as everyone has the right to water," she says.

Sibanda says the council is struggling to deal with Covid-19 and diarrhoea outbreaks at the same time.

"The precautions for diarrhoea are the same as those for Covid-19. How do you tell people to wash hands when there is no water?" he says.

"The absence of water in the city is the greatest risk for diarrhoea outbreaks. People think with their hearts when they do not have water. Safety and health are their

least worries," he says

A team from his department is trying to spread the message to only drink from safe water sources, but Sibanda says it is falling on closed ears.

Last week Zimbabwe's auditor general, Mildred Chiri, warned of a looming nationwide diarrhoea outbreak.

"The raw sewage flowing on the ground will mix with potable water, thereby resulting in waterborne diseases," Chiri said.

The water challenges have added to Zimbabwe's deteriorating economic situation. Inflation is running at more than 800%, and basic foods are often hard to find.

Africa must prepare for second COVID wave and disease control group says

ADDIS ABABA

COVID-19 cases are accelerating in some parts of Africa and governments should step up preparations for a second wave, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

Over the past four weeks, cases have increased by 45 percent per week on average in Kenya, by 19 percent in Democratic Republic of Congo and by 8 percent in Egypt, the African Union-run organisation's head John Nkengasong said.

"The time to prepare for a second wave is truly now," he said, urging governments "not to get into prevention fatigue mode."

The continent of 1.3 billion people has so far managed better than widely expected in terms of containing the epidemic, with a lower percentage of deaths than other regions, partly due to strict lockdown measures imposed in March.

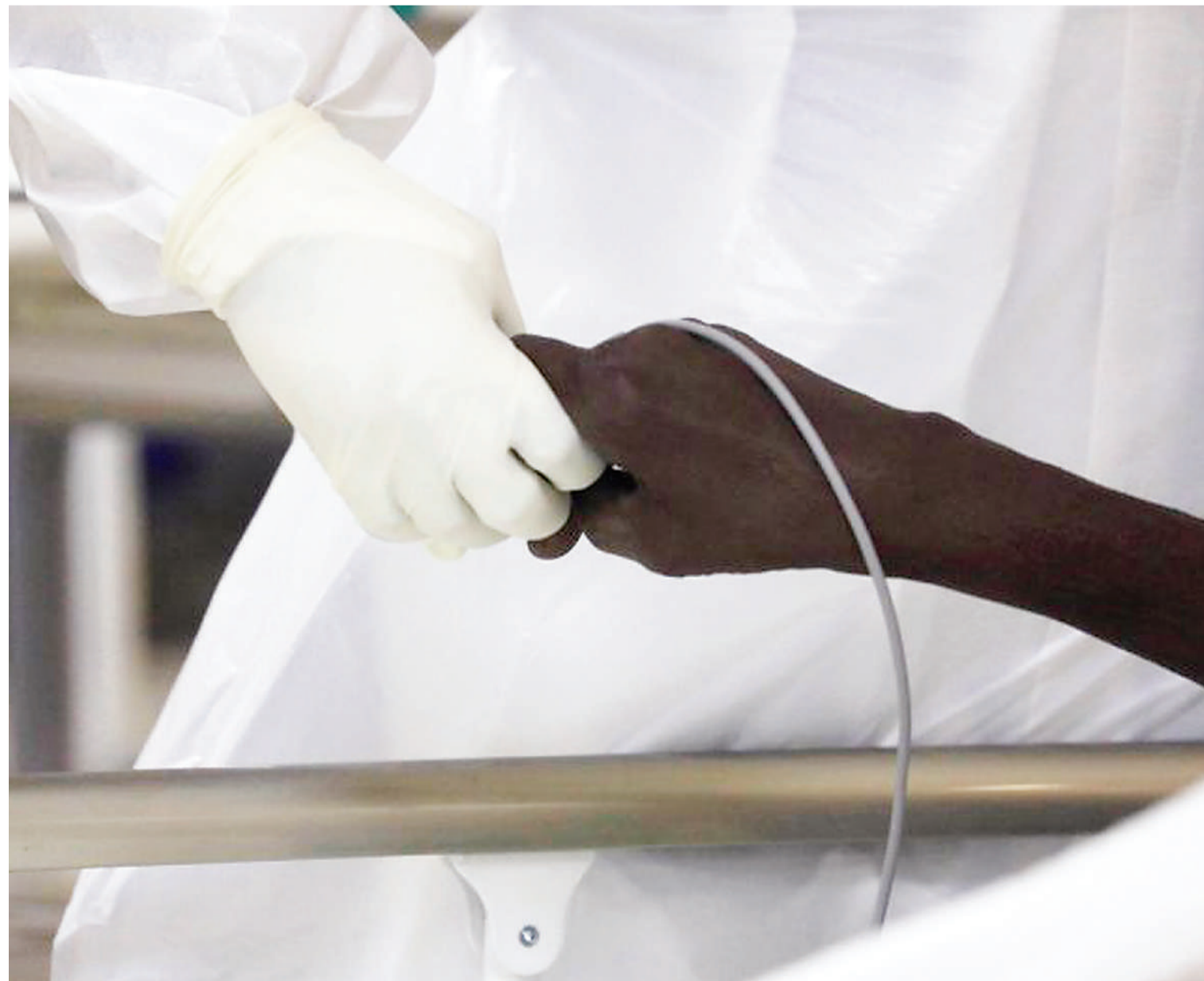
There have been 41,776 deaths among the 1.74 million people reported infected with the virus, according to a Reuters tally based on official data as of Thursday morning.

Beginning in August, many governments eased restrictions, however, and a trend of decreasing cases has flattened, Matshidiso Moeti, Africa director for the WHO said in an online press conference on Thursday.

In Kenya, the government allowed bars to reopen on Sept. 28 and cut the nightly curfew by two hours. Schools partially reopened on Oct. 12.

Some easing was justified to help economies in the region to start recovering, Moeti said.

However, "we will need to be dealing



with some of these upticks. What is important is to contain them."

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on

Wednesday announced a Nov 4 summit to review the surge in infections, and urged Kenyans to wear face masks properly and

practice social distancing to avoid "losing hard-fought for ground" in the fight against the disease.

FAO, OIE kickstart global initiative to stop the spread of African swine fever

By Special Correspondent

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) are calling on all nations and partners to join forces to keep this deadly pig disease at bay under a new initiative

The Global Control of ASF Initiative, launched under the GF-TADS umbrella, supports actors at every level to coordinate and strengthen control measures to minimise the impact of this complex and challenging disease.

Bringing together governments, industry and specialists, FAO and OIE will present the initiative for the first time on a global stage as part of a Call to Action event (26-30 October).

The spread of ASF shows no signs of slowing down. The contagious disease has led to the loss of over seven million pigs in Asia alone, since sweeping into this region. More than 50 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe are currently affected, and the Americas are trying to prevent incursion into their territory.

"Our goal is to prevent the spread - and ultimately eradicate - this disease, leveraging the latest science, best practices and international standards," said FAO director-general QU Dongyu in his video message to the participants.

"If not controlled, this disease will jeopardise progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," he continued calling on all stakeholders to take action to stop the spread of ASF, promote animal health and welfare, and safeguard the livelihoods of farmers.

The disease causes up to 100 percent fatality in wild and domestic pigs, and there is no effective vaccine. Although not infectious to humans, pig production is critical for many economies, and to the food security and livelihoods of millions of people.

The fatal disease continues to extend its reach, causing further damage in the socioeconomic fallout from COVID-19.

As part of a week-long online event, government representatives, veterinarians, and specialists from around the world will share knowledge and experiences on tools, approaches and state of the art research.

Coordinated actions as part of the initiative will build resilience utilising practical guidance, appropriate to specific needs and contexts.

Key CPC session draws 15-year roadmap for China's modernisation

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) has charted the course for China's development in the next 15 years to guide the country's march towards modernization.

Details of the blueprint were unveiled in a communique issued after the conclusion of the four-day fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee on Thursday. The roles of innovation, real economy, a strong domestic market, rural vitalization and green development were underscored for China's growth.

The session adopted the Party leadership's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

Noting that "a victory is in sight" in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the communique stresses that fully building a modern socialist China is part of the four-pronged comprehensive strategy for the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made an important speech at the session. He also delivered a work report of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee to the session.

The work of the Political Bureau was fully acknowledged, says the communique, adding that China has seen its economic growth beat expectations, people's living standards ensured, and the overall situation of society maintained stable over the past year.

Progress made in the past five years was highlighted: China's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to cross the 100-trillion-yuan mark in 2020; 55.75 million rural residents were lifted out of poverty; the annual grain output has remained above 650 million tonnes for five consecu-

tive years; China has built the world's largest social security system, etc.

The communique says China is still in an important period of strategic opportunity for development at present and for the foreseeable future, but there are new developments in both opportunities and challenges.

TARGETS THROUGH 2035

The session raised a set of long-range objectives for China to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035.

- China's economic and technological strength, and composite national strength will increase significantly. A new stride will be made in the growth of the economy and the per capita income of urban and rural residents. Making major breakthroughs in core technologies in key areas, China will become a global leader in innovation;

- New industrialization, IT application, urbanization, and agricultural modernization will be basically achieved. China will finish building a modernized economy;

- The modernization of China's system and capacity for governance will be basically achieved. The people's rights to participate and to develop as equals will be adequately protected. The rule of law for the country, the government, and society will be basically in place;

- China will become a strong country in culture, education, talent, sports and health. The well-rounded development of all people and social etiquette and civility will be significantly enhanced. China's cultural soft power will grow much stronger;

- Eco-friendly ways of work and life will be advanced to cover all areas of society. Carbon emission will steadily decline after reaching a peak, and there will be a fundamental improvement in the environment with the goal of building a Beautiful China basically reached;

- The opening-up will reach a new



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, makes an important speech at the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, China. (Xinhua)

stage with substantial growth of the country's strengths for participating in international economic cooperation and competition;

- The per capita GDP will reach the level of moderately developed countries. The size of the middle-income group will be significantly expanded. Equitable access to basic public services will be ensured. Disparities in urban-rural development, in development between regions, and in living standards will be significantly reduced;

- The implementation of the Peaceful China initiative will be promoted to a higher level. The modernization of national defense and the military will be basically achieved;

- People will lead a better life, and more notable and substantial progress will be achieved in promoting well-rounded human development and achieving common prosperity for everyone.

TARGETS FOR 14TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The session also laid down a set of guiding principles to be followed, and major economic and social development targets for the next five years.

For the 14th Five-Year Plan period, China will speed up fostering a new development pattern where domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, the communique says.

China will strive to make new strides in economic development during the period. It aims to realize sustained and healthy economic development on the basis of a marked improvement in quality and efficiency.

With new steps to be taken in reform and opening up, China will further improve its socialist market economy and basically complete the building of a high-standard market system.

China's social etiquette and civility shall be further

enhanced, while the core socialist values shall be embraced by the people. The country aims to make new progress in building an ecological civilization, boost the well-being of people, and enhance governance capacity.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Several development priorities were highlighted. Placed at the top of the priorities is upholding the central role of innovation in the modernization drive and implementing the innovation-driven development strategy.

The country must also continue to take the real economy as the focus of its economic development, unwaveringly build itself into a manufacturer of quality and enhance its strength in cyberspace and digital technology.

It must nurture a strong domestic market and establish a new development pattern, comprehensively deepen reform in pursuit of a high-level socialist market economy, prioritize the development of agriculture and rural areas, fully advance rural vitalization, and push forward coordinated regional development and a new type of urbanization, among others.

The communique stresses that the overall leadership of the CPC must be upheld to realize the 14th Five-Year Plan and achieve the long-range objectives set for 2035.

It also says that China is committed to maintaining lasting prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and Macao as well as advancing the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and national reunification.

China will hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, and strive to create a favorable external environment and promote the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for humanity, it adds.

Why the US military would welcome a decisive 2020 election win

WASHINGTON

POLITICS aside, there is one outcome of the 2020 U.S. presidential election that could bring some relief to Pentagon planners: a clear-cut victory. By either candidate.

In the months preceding the election on Tuesday, U.S. military officials have been forced to contemplate the possible fallout from a contested election, including protests like those in June over racial injustice that brought the National Guard to the streets.

A contested vote could stir the kind of wild speculation that forced America's top general to assure lawmakers the military would have no role in settling any election dispute between Republican President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger Joe Biden.

A decisive result could allay such concerns by lowering the risk of a prolonged political crisis and the protests it could generate, say current and former officials as well as experts.

"The best thing for us (the military), would be a landslide one way or another," said a U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, voicing a sentiment shared by multiple officials.

"It does sort of give the military a 'Get Out of Jail Free' card," said Risa Brooks, a professor at Marquette University focusing on civil-military relations.

A week before the election, a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll showed Biden leading Trump nationally by 10 percentage points, but the numbers are tighter in battleground states that will decide the election and gave Trump his surprise 2016 win. The coronavirus pandemic has added an element of uncertainty this year, changing how and when Americans vote.

As one of America's most respected institutions - rating far higher than Congress, the presidency and the Supreme Court in opinion polls - the U.S. military has had trouble staying on the political sidelines during a year marked by the pandemic, social unrest and actions by both presidential candidates suggesting they had the support of U.S. armed forces.

The president, who boasts about his broad support within military ranks, has declined to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he decides Tuesday's results are fraudulent and has proposed mobilizing troops under the 200-year-old Insurrection Act to put down unrest if he won.

"Look, it's called insurrection. We just send them in and wedo it very easy," Trump told Fox News in September.

For his part, Biden has suggested the military would ensure a peaceful transfer of power if Trump refuses to leave office after the election.

U.S. Army General Mark Milley, selected last year by Trump as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been adamant about the military staying out of the way if there is a contested ballot.

"If there is, it'll be handled appropriately by the courts and by the U.S. Congress," he told National Public Radio this month. "There's no role for the U.S. military in determining the outcome of a U.S. election. Zero. There is no role there."

MILITARY: AN OPTION OF FIRST RESORT?

Trump has regularly turned to the military throughout his term in office for such tasks as helping to secure the southern



DC National Guard military police officers look on as demonstrators rally near the White House against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in Washington, D.C., U.S., June 1, 2020. File Photo

U.S. border with Mexico and showing resolve in his response to the coronavirus, even putting an Army general at the helm of a future vaccine distribution effort.

Peter Fever, a national security expert at Duke University, cautioned that America's willingness to look to the military when there is a crisis could create a public expectation, however misguided, that it could also help resolve an electoral crisis.

"If things go poorly and it's Nov.

30th and we still have no idea who the president is... that's when the pressure on the military will grow," Fever said, imagining a scenario where street protests escalate as faith in democratic process erodes.

Speculation has centered on Trump's potential deployment of active duty troops to quell protests - something the military recommended against doing in June, but which Trump can lawfully do if he chooses by invoking the 1807

Insurrection Act.

Steve Abbot, a retired Navy admiral who has endorsed Biden, said the danger that Trump would invoke the Insurrection Act "undoubtedly concerns those who are in uniform and in the Pentagon."

Mike Smith, a retired rear admiral who is leading a group of national security experts backing Biden, said he was concerned Trump could easily turn to the military to show strength in a post-election crisis.

"There is a significant potential for the abuse of the military," Smith said.

National Guard officials in a number of states have said they are in contact with police departments about what they may need in case the security situation deteriorates,

but added that such planning was a part of what the military does.

"We've had a number of planning meetings, just so we have the multitude of options that might be available," said Army Major General Jeff Holmes, the Adjutant General of the Tennessee National Guard.

Air Force Major General Daryl Bohac, head of the Nebraska National Guard, stressed, however: "This is not new, this is what we do year in and year out for a variety of events."

BUSINESS

RECOGNITION

Egypt entrepreneur Alaa Moatamed (21) emerges top in tenth Anzisha competition

CAIRO

21-year-old Alaa Moatamed has clinched the top spot at the 10th edition of the Anzisha Prize competition. She alongside Matina Razafimahefa an ed-tech entrepreneur from Madagascar and Mohamed Bah from Sierra Leone landed the award at the programme's virtual ceremony awards.

Moatamed was awarded a cash prize of USD\$25,000 while Razafimahefa and Bah won USD\$15,000 and USD\$12,500 respectively. The prestigious award has competed from a pool of young innovative entrepreneurs across 30 African countries. Out of 1000 shortlisted applicants, 20 finalists were then arrived at before the final determination was made.

The 20 finalists received USD\$2,500 for the opportunity to be admitted into a 122 member fellowship who will benefit from mentorship and venture building support. Moatamed's invention is Presto, an automated delivery system that connects vendors with suppliers and customers. This platform provides a crowd-sourced network for delivery company agents

targeting small businesses. Since its founding in 2019, Presto is serving 300 stores, and merchants spread across two major cities.

Here are the other runners up:

Razafimahefa - Runner's up is an innovative EdTech venture, a business that sources trains while producing highly equipped young Africans with digital skills that are industry-specific. Since its inception, the venture has expanded its training to Benin, Comoros, Ivory Coast, and Senegal.

Bah - is the founder of Information for All (IFA), ventures that construct drills, repair toilets, and wells that ensure water sustainability and hygiene at communities deprived of water. Thus far the IFA has drilled 20 wells providing clean water to thousands of people.

The Anzisha Prize is a joint partnership between The MasterCard Foundation and the African Leadership Academy. Thus far, the programme has created over 2000 jobs - 56% of which touch on those aged below 25 years. You can apply for the 2021 Anzisha Prize on February 15th, 2021.



Egypt entrepreneur Alaa Moatamed is seen on television screen after being declared winner of Anzisha Prize 2020.

DIVERSITY

Mattel's efforts to make Barbie more inclusive paying off in record-breaking sales

NEW YORK

Barbie helped boost Mattel's net sales by 10 percent, its biggest quarterly jump in a decade. The maker of brands such as Hot Wheels, Fisher-Price and American Girl has benefited as parents turned to playsets and games to entertain their kids.

The health crisis has radically changed U.S. shopping habits as consumers snap up everything from Barbie's to disinfectant wipes to robot vacuum cleaners and recreational vehicles. As for Mattel, the toymaker is forecasting more in the holiday season. Investors drove its shares up more than 13 percent on Friday, 23 October 2020.

The company created the Barbie Fashionistas line in 2015 after years of drawing criticism for promoting a slim, white, domestic image. Mattel then expanded its range last year by adding a doll with a prosthetic limb and another in a wheelchair. The line also introduced the first Barbie to wear a hijab in 2017.

The Fashionistas line now features over 170 "diverse dolls." Over the past five years, the line has evolved to be more reflective of the world



The Barbie Fashionistas line.

girls see around them by introducing more than 170 new looks, including: More skin tones, hair colours and textures, eye colours and facial structures (sculpt); Body diversity

including Tall, Petite, Curvy and a doll with a smaller bust, less defined waist and more defined arms; Dolls reflecting permanent disabilities, including a doll with a prosthetic

limb and doll with a wheelchair and ramp; Updated Ken looks with a variety of skin tones, bodies, eye colours and hairstyles; and Mattel now offers Barbie dolls that come in five body

CENSURE

Facebook, Twitter, Google in soup for Kenyans' personal data breach

NAIROBI

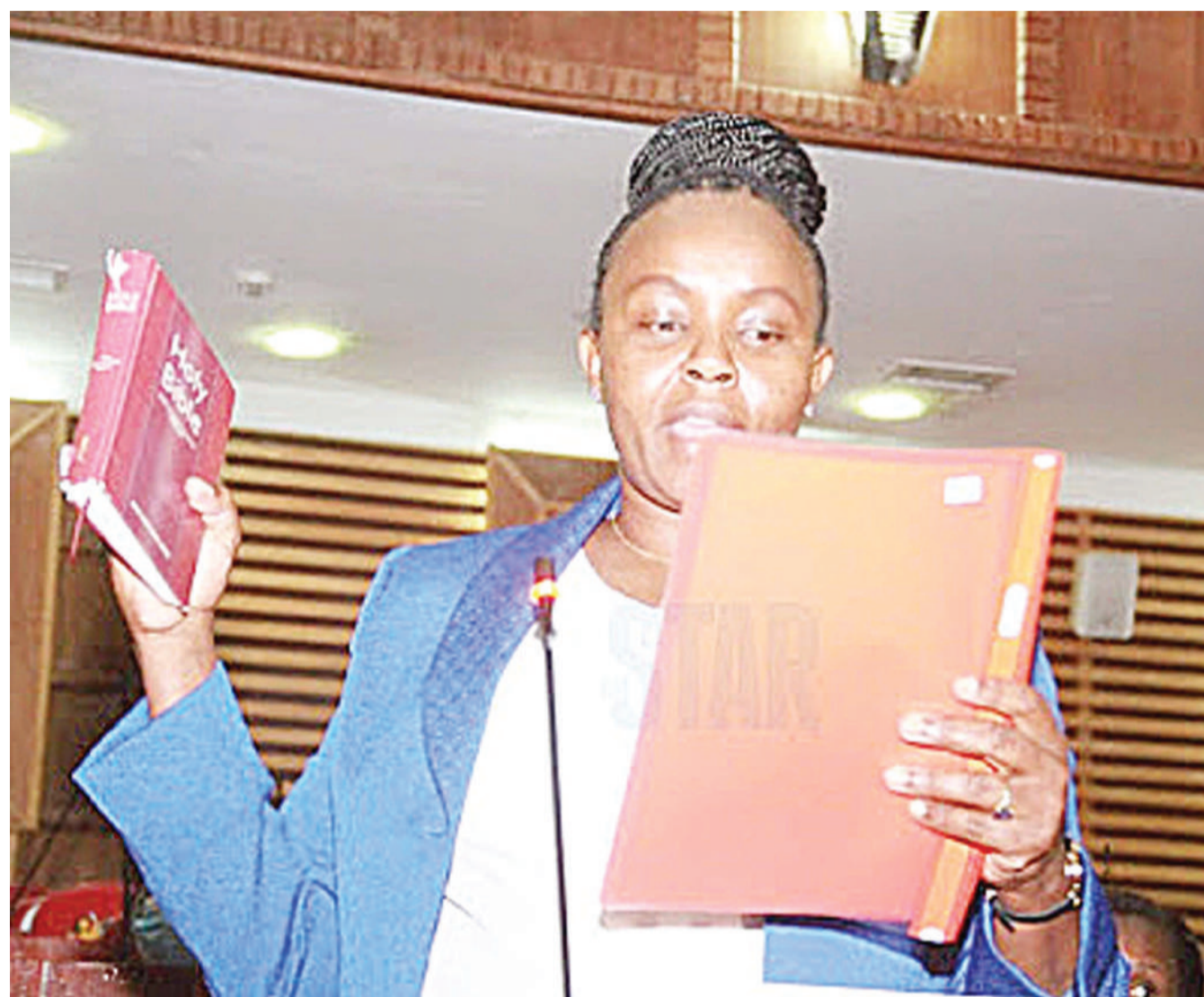
Technology giants like Twitter, Facebook and Google will soon come under government scrutiny for their handling of personal information belonging to Kenyans, the nominee for the position of Data Protection Commissioner told Parliament Wednesday.

Appearing before the National Assembly's ICT committee for vetting, Immaculate Kassait said the multinational technology companies will be held liable for the use of data belonging to Kenya or Kenyans whether they operate locally or outside the country.

The data protection law, approved in November last year, sets out restrictions on how personally identifiable data obtained by firms and government entities can be handled, stored and shared. The Data Protection Act 2019 gives the commissioner sweeping powers on the investigation of data breaches. These include powers of entry and search and issuing administrative fines.

"Even if they are internationally based companies and as long as they have data about Kenya, they have responsibility to adhere to laws of Kenya," Ms Kassait, the current director of voter education at the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), said. Facebook said in 2018 the personal information of up to 87 million users may have been improperly shared with political consultancy Cambridge Analytica.

Best known for helping Donald Trump's presidential bid in the 2016 US elections, the London-based Cambridge Analytica was also involved in the campaigns for Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in the 2013 and 2017 elections. The Kenyan data protection law demands that a data controller or a technology firm notify the commissioner where personal records have been accessed or acquired by an un-



Kenya's Data Commissioner, Immaculate Kassait.

authorised persons.

Offences under the Act attract a fine of up to Sh5 million and or imprisonment for a term not exceeding to 10 years or both. The commissioner establishes and maintains a register of data controllers for oversight.

Ms Kassait told MPs that multinational tech companies such as Twitter, Facebook and would have to adhere to the law. "We will investigate and give penalties where necessary. The Data Commissioner is supposed to enforce the law and it will be my role to

do that," she told the vetting panel.

Ms Kassait said Kenyans have rights to portability where they can move, copy or transfer personal data easily from one IT environment to another, adding that they can ask firms like mobile phone-based lenders and others how their data is stored or used. "You can ask Google how much information they hold about you, where they store and whether it is accurate," she said.

Data protection
"If convicted of an offence

and you are cleared, you have a right to ask Google to correct that information, that the information be forgotten, erased or updated. The multinational technology firms must give you data in a manner that is readable. This is what the new law says."

Ms Kassait said if appointed the first Data Commissioner, she will put a regulatory framework in place to ensure that all data, including Huduma Namba data, is secured. A lack of data protection legislation derailed the government's efforts to digitise iden-

tity records for citizens.

The registration, which the government said would boost its provision of services, suffered a setback last year when the exercise was challenged in court. "The government and the private sector will have to adopt a risk analysis approach. They must know the process of data collection, retrieval and destructions. Under the new law, a Kenyan can request that their data be updated, object its use or be deleted," Ms Kassait told the committee.

CREATIVITY

Leather shoes made from mushrooms are next on the menu

BERLIN

Mycelium has properties similar to real leather, but toxic chemicals are not needed to produce it. Small companies around the world have begun to use this vegan leather, as the material is breathable, flexible, robust, and lasts a few years. Mycotech co-founder

Adi Reza Nugroho, says: "The process consumes less water, we don't have to kill animals, and it has less carbon emissions."

To create the shoes, mushroom spores are mixed with sawdust to generate the leather-like fabric. After just a few days, the tightly-woven mycelium membrane forms on the outside of the

blocks. It can then be harvested and turned. This requires just a fraction of the water needed in traditional leather production (less than one tenth).

This innovation has caught the attention of shoe retailer Yukka Harlanda, who says they came to the realisation that they needed a "sustainable solution" to the production

of their leather shoes. However, costs for fungal leather shoes are higher than those of traditional leather shoes, but Adi Reza is optimistic, as his order books are filled up to the year 2027. Whether the mushroom shoes can compete with real leather in terms of longevity, remains to be seen.

types, 22 skin tones, 76 hair styles, 94 hair colours, and 13 eye colours.

New Barbie dolls feature vitiligo and hairless models

Mattel, the maker of Barbie dolls, hopes to highlight a "multi-dimensional view of beauty and fashion" with the new dolls. Ken dolls are available in four body types, 18 sculpts, 13 skin tones, nine eye colours, and 22 hair colours.

In 2020, Barbie is continuing to represent global diversity and inclusivity in the fashion doll space by showcasing a multi-dimensional view of beauty and fashion by adding the following dolls: A doll with no hair
Reflective of hair trends seen from catwalks to the sidewalks. If a girl is experiencing hair loss for any reason, she can see herself reflected in the line.

A doll with a darker skin tone that uses a gold prosthetic limb

In 2019, Barbie introduced

dolls reflecting permanent disabilities, including a doll with a prosthetic limb, by collaborating with then 12-year-old Jordan Reeves, who is on a mission to build creative solutions that help kids with disabilities, to create a play experience that is as representative as possible. This year, they have expanded the offering to include a second doll with a darker skin tone that uses a prosthetic limb.

A Barbie doll with vitiligo
As the company continues to redefine what it means to be a "Barbie" or look like Barbie, offering a doll with vitiligo in its main doll line allows kids to play out even more stories they see in the world around them.

To design this doll, Mattel worked with a dermatologist to ensure vitiligo was accurately represented. A prototype was debuted on Barbie's Instagram account @BarbieStyle last year, becoming the handle's most 'liked' post ever.

SVP Barbie & Global Head of Dolls, Lisa McKnight says, "We are proud that Barbie is the most diverse doll line on the market that continues to evolve to better reflect the world girls see around them. Our commitment to better reflect the world drives a powerful conversation, and we know our efforts are resonating with eight consecutive quarters of growth and the Fashionistas category up double digits in 2019."

Barbie's efforts on broader diversity and inclusivity is resonating; over half of all the dolls sold worldwide last year were diverse dolls. Of the top ten best sellers, seven were diverse, including the doll that uses a wheelchair.

In the UK, both of the Barbie dolls with wheelchairs were the #1 and #2 bestselling individual Fashionista dolls while globally, the #1 bestselling individual Fashionista doll of 2019 was a curvy black doll with afro hair.

EXCITEMENT

Students express delight upon their return to school after seven months

KIGALI

On Thursday, October 29, the first group of boarding students returning to school departed from the Kigali Stadium in Nyamirambo at exactly 8:00 am.

The move is part of the government's plan to help boarding students get buses in a bid to facilitate them as they return to their respective schools to resume physical classrooms after more than seven months of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Education, the exercise of returning back to school will end on Sunday, November 1. And on Monday, November 2, lessons are expected to begin. As part of the phased reopening, only students in the two candidate classes, (S6 and S3), senior five students, and those in Level 3-5 for the TVET program are expected to return to their schools.

Also to resume in-person class sessions on Monday, are primary five and six students in all schools. The New Times sought to get reactions from the returning students who expressed happiness but also talked about the preparedness of the Covid-19 situation at school.

To me, this is an exciting moment. Previously most of us thought that this was going to become a dead year. So we are happy that we are going back to school. Some students were challenged by digital learning because of the lack of digital tools and even those that had the tools were distracted.

But when we are at school, we tend to care more about studying. As a candidate, going to school will boost my performance because there is nothing to distract me. Also, going to school during the pandemic means that we have been entrusted with the responsibility of fighting this pandemic.

Of course, the coronavirus is still there. But we have been taught how to prevent it by wearing a face mask, washing hands regularly, and keeping our distance from large crowds. If we stick to this, we will defeat it. Spending more than six months at home, while studying remotely was not good for most of the students. On my



A student returning to school from Kigali Stadium in Nyamirambo being sanitized.

behalf, it was not good.

As we go back to school, we understand that Covid-19 is still in our midst, it is actually the same thing that made us stay home for all these months. We also know what it is capable of. Even though it is an exciting moment, as students we should aspire to protect ourselves as we also protect our colleagues in order to fight this pandemic.

For me homeschooling was impossible. This is why I am

among the happiest. However like we have been told for the past six months, the current situation is not one to play with. Much as it is exciting, the coronavirus is also around and of course, the message is clear for us the students. But I am confident that if we observe the guidelines, there is nothing to be afraid of.

For TVET students who are always in practical lessons, more vigilance is needed because a

fellow student could easily infect the whole school. This is nice because it will take us back in the mood of learning. However, going back to school during the pandemic means that every student has a role to play in strengthening the fight against the coronavirus. Another thing is that we should avoid things like jumping school fences among others. We should also wash our hands, and make sure that we

observe all the guidelines.

Most of us thought we may not be able to return to school and others have started dropping out. I am happy and am happy to see my friends again. As a student, my role is to sensitize my friends about the measures which we were taught and ensure that they are not forgotten. This way, we are sure that at least we will contribute towards the country's plan to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

STIMULATING

Our hearts melted when we saw this Spur waitress getting a surprise proposal during her shift

OHANNESBURG

Refilwe tells us she was born in Bloemfontein, while Mangaliso was born in Bophelong, Vaal. The two met at work, and although they didn't hit it off immediately, soon enough, they started communicating and became close friends.

During this time, Mangaliso was involved with someone, and Refilwe just came out of a breakup. They'd ask each other for advice about general things and they jokingly share that Refilwe would even ask Mangaliso for advice about guys as he would about women.

"It was not love at first sight, but as soon as we started talking, the feelings started developing," says Mangaliso, who eventually expressed his feelings to Refilwe. After he got out of his relationship, they started seeing each other, and last October, they made things official.

Oddly enough, when asked about the highlights of their relationship, Mangaliso says, "The fights we have because they build us. The more we fight, the more we become closer and get to know each other's differences. And now I am sure that I am with the right person as I know her in and out".

On the other hand, Refilwe says, "It's Mangaliso's commitment to our relationship because I thought he was just another guy trying his luck. Also, he was in a sticky situation when we started talking, so I didn't think we would get to this point. The other two highlights were finding out that we are going to have a baby, and the biggest was the engagement." Sharing more about her pregnancy, Refilwe says she would always tell Mangaliso that she is pregnant every month since they started dating and would take a pregnancy test.

This time around, she mentioned once again that she's pregnant, but he didn't believe it, so she took yet another pregnancy test, but it came back negative. Three days later, she took another one, and to her surprise, it came back positive.

Refilwe says she didn't see the engagement coming. "We were fighting a lot of days leading up to the engagement because I was still hiding the pregnancy from my family. I told him that he knows my granny is a pastor, and she would be furious that I am pregnant and I am not married. I thought he should propose. I was initiating it because my family was already angry with me, especially my grandmother," she says.

The fights were so bad that she thought they weren't going to make it, and she would be raising her child alone. Meanwhile, Mangaliso had long been planning the proposal with a bit of help from his friends.

"On the day I proposed, she had already left early for work as she had an early shift. I said to myself, 'this is it as we have been planning and planning, but nothing seems to be happening, so I think I should do this today when we met'. I got ready quickly, got a taxi, and went to Sterns at Vaal Mall," he says.

He bought the ring on the proposal's day because he didn't want her to find it since they live together. His manager helped with the planning. "When I first knelt with the ring, she didn't believe it," he says.

Both families are happy about their engagement and the news of the baby. The couple is very close to Mangaliso's mother as she advises them on many things and can talk to her. There isn't a date for the wedding yet. Instead, Refilwe and Mangaliso have decided that they must save money for the lobola first. Photo supplied by Mangaliso Kamnqa



Refilwe Mashego and Mangaliso Kamnqa are newly engaged.

DRAWBACK

Secondhand fashion market has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic

NAIROBI

There's a multi-billion dollar trade in secondhand clothing and recycled clothes, which help keep it out of landfills while keeping the wardrobes of the fashion savvy cleared for next season's designs.

Now though - because of the pandemic - exporters, traders and customers - who rely on a steady supply of used clothes - are struggling. It's not that there aren't enough clothes. Ironically, there's too many, which has plummeted their value and led to huge backlogs in warehouses and thrift shops. It's often those in poorer nations who are hit the hardest.

This is an issue Antonio De Carvalho knows too well as the boss at a textile recycling firm. He says: "We keep going, but we couldn't sell any clothes during this lockdown, so the secondhand market in Europe and the rest of the world collapsed, it closed down, so we have been store, store, store - we have four warehouses in the UK, so it means we have full warehouses during the time."

Recyclers and exporters have had to cut their prices to shift stock, as lockdown measures restrict movement and business slows in end markets abroad. For many, it's no longer commercially viable - they simply can't afford to move the merchandise.

Meanwhile, recyclers are also removing clothes banks from streets, reducing collections and laying off workers to conserve cash - while stuck at home con-



Models in secondhand clothes doing the catwalk.

sumers clear out their wardrobes - adding to the pile-up.

In the United States, for example, the value of exports from March to July fell 45 percent compared with the same period last year, so says government data. Up to a third of clothes

donated in the U.S. ends up for sale in markets in the developing world. The consequences of the decline are reflected in open-air markets like this one in Kenya.

Traders have been hit with shrinking supply, exacerbated by the gov-

ernment banning the import of used textiles in March over concerns they could carry coronavirus and a drop in footfall due to people staying home. Second-hand clothes dealers like Nicholas Mutisya are finding business sluggish, to say the least.

"Before coronavirus came in, I would manage to sell at least 50 trousers a day. But now with coronavirus, even selling one a day has become difficult. You open in the morning, and close in the evening in the same state, without selling," says Nicolas.

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020:
Biden's clean-energy 'revolution' faces
challenge to match fossil-fuel jobs, pay

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK

DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Joe Biden, seeking to allay concerns that his plan to fight climate change would harm the economy, has promised a "clean energy revolution that creates millions of unionized middle-class jobs" if he's elected.

That vision, however, would require policy makers and clean-energy companies to overcome some major challenges in replacing the number and quality of fossil-fuel jobs that could be lost in a transition away from coal and oil.

Union representation, pay and benefits in the fast-growing wind and solar power industries at the center of a clean energy transition lag those in oil, gas and coal, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, academic studies and interviews with labor experts and industry officials.

Solar and wind energy installations, once built, also tend to require fewer workers to run than oil and gas infrastructure. And both industries rely heavily on imported components to keep costs down, potentially limiting their U.S. job creation.

Biden's \$2 trillion climate plan envi-

sions a massive shift to cleaner energy sources such as solar and wind over the next three decades. It would also aim to create jobs across a variety of other sectors, including construction, power transmission and electric vehicle manufacturing and charging infrastructure.

The Biden campaign acknowledges the prospect of short-term economic pain as the nation builds a cleaner energy infrastructure.

"There is no doubt we will suffer some job loss because of this transition, but there will be opportunity," said Lonny Stephenson, a member of Biden's transition team and president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, a labor union.

Biden campaign spokesman Matt Hill said the candidate would work with labor leaders to "ensure that clean energy investments are creating jobs with the opportunity to join a union across all energy sectors."

If elected, Biden plans to issue executive orders to boost demand for U.S.-made products and push legislation to help workers unionize, his campaign said. His plan also calls for retraining and other support for traditional energy workers caught up in the transition.



Joe Biden

President Donald Trump, throughout his campaign, has called Biden's focus on climate change a recipe for economic devastation. "Biden's 'clean energy' plan is nothing more than him risking millions of American jobs," said campaign spokeswoman Samantha Zager.

Selling clean-energy as an economic boon is critical to gaining union support in fossil-fuel sectors, said Jason Walsh, president of the Blue Green Alliance, an association of labor unions and environmental groups, which supports Biden.

"Labor will only fully endorse this shift to a clean energy economy if their rank and file members are getting jobs," he said.

While Biden has been leading Trump in most national opinion polls heading into the Nov. 3 election, the contest is tight in swing states crucial to an electoral victory.

TOUGH TO ORGANIZE

In North Dakota, where oil-field workers can often make six-figure annual pay, the oil market crash during the coronavirus pandemic has

made the prospect of wind jobs more appealing.

Gerard Tessier, 25, moved from Pennsylvania to North Dakota to study to become a wind technician at Lake Region State College. He's eager to avoid oil's boom-and-bust cycles but worries about pay in the wind business.

"My hope would be that the industry becomes more unionized," he said.

The United Steelworkers represented nearly 18% of U.S. petroleum refining, pipeline transportation and pipeline construction workers in 2018, according to calculations of data from the U.S. Department of Labor. By contrast, solar workers are unionized at a rate of 4% and wind sector workers at 6%, according to the 2020 U.S. Energy and Employment Report, produced by a consortium of researchers and state energy officials using government statistics.

Fossil fuel workers also get better pay. Jobs in fossil-fuel power generation range from \$70,310 to \$81,460, compared with \$46,850 to \$64,330 for jobs in solar and wind generation, according to the consortium's reports and 2019 figures from

Africa CDC Chief urges African
countries to prepare for second
wave of COVID-19 infections

ADDIS ABABA

JOHN Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), urged African countries to prepare for a second wave of COVID-19 infections on Thursday.

Speaking during a virtual press conference, he said the continent has to prepare for a second wave of COVID-19 infections, as the number of new cases in several African countries is showing a slight increase.

"The time for the continent to prepare for the second wave is now," said Nkengasong (pictured).

"The continent has done very well in bending the curve, where most infections peak around July and then decline steadily, but now we are beginning to see some stagnation and even slight increase in some African countries," he said.

The Africa CDC chief called on African countries to strengthen surveillance systems, increase testing, engage communities in response and promote mask-wearing in order to effectively fight the pandemic.

"If we do those things together then we are preparing the continent effectively for the second wave which undoubtedly will be there. I mean that we have seen what is going on in Europe. We want to be sure that we protect against the gains that we've achieved over the last 10 months," said Nkengasong.

"The continent finds itself at a very pivotal period, a trying moment for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. We have made so many gains, but the time is now to really prepare for the second wave. We should see what is happening in Europe and observe that with concern, but we can do something about it and the time for that is now," he said.

The Africa CDC, a specialized healthcare agency of African Union Commission, disclosed the total number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases across the African continent has reached 1,748, 335 with a death toll of 42,151 as of Thursday.

Xinhua

UN chief calls for women's
participation in peace processes

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for efforts to boost women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

"Women's meaningful and effective participation in mediation matters. It broadens the prospects for peace, stability, social cohesion and economic advancement," Guterres (pictured) told a Security Council open debate on women, peace and security.

But gender equality is first and foremost a question of power, and power structures are dominated by men, he said. Women lead only 7 percent of countries. Three-quarters of the members of COVID-19 task forces and committees are men.

Decisions about international peace and security are still overwhelmingly made by men, and women remain largely excluded from delegations to peace talks and negotiations.

Guterres asked a series of questions on women's roles in their countries. Are women fairly represented in the rooms where the future of Afghanistan is being discussed between the Taliban and the government, or in Mali, as it embarks on a political transition?

Is Sudan on track to meet the 40 percent quota for women's representation in parliament, set out in the new Constitutional Declaration? Will South Sudan meet the 35 percent quota for women's representation across the executive arm, included in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution to the Conflict?

Are political actors and conflict parties in Yemen including women at the negotiating table? "If the answer to these questions is no, then clearly, we face serious obstacles in the task before us," he said.

Ensuring that women play their full part in peace processes requires stronger partnerships between the United Nations, regional organizations, member states and civil society, he said.

"We must use the full range of tools at our disposal, and find innovative solutions that have a rapid and decisive impact on women's representation." Temporary special measures including quotas can make a huge difference.

It is time that the United Nations and member states consider how they can create conditions for women's equal representation and participation in peace talks, he said.

Women's full participation is also relevant for uniformed personnel in peacekeeping. The numbers of women deployed are still too low, although they have increased significantly in the past five years, he said.

One of the foundational tenets of the women, peace and security agenda is that weapons do not make the world safer. This has been proven once again by the COVID-19 pandemic, said Guterres.

Xinhua



EU leaders condemn 'terrorist attacks' in France

BRUSSELS

THE leaders of the European Union (EU) issued a joint statement on Thursday condemning "terrorist attacks" in France, after the latest one in Nice left at least three dead and several injured.

"We, European Leaders, are shocked and saddened by the terrorist attacks in France. We condemn in the strongest possible terms these attacks which represent attacks on our shared values,"

read the statement.

Vowing to continue the "fight against terrorism and violent extremism," the leaders called on their counterparts around the world to "work towards dialogue and understanding among communities and religions rather than division."

The statement was issued by the European Council, which comprises heads of state or government of the 27 EU member states, along with the President of the European

Council and the President of the European Commission.

On Thursday afternoon, European Council President Charles Michel and his European Commission counterpart Ursula von der Leyen expressed solidarity with France at a press conference following their video meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"Once again, these are attacks against democracy, against liberty. We need to stand together to de-

fend democracy, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms," said Michel.

"No one should doubt Europe's solidarity with France. We are united and determined in the face of fanaticism and barbarism," said von der Leyen.

Trudeau also offered condolences to France. "There is no place for violence and intolerance in our society. We wish to demonstrate our solidarity with France and its people in the face of these unjustified

and unjustifiable acts," he said.

An investigation has been opened into the knife attack that took place on Thursday morning at the Notre-Dame basilica in the heart of the city of Nice, southeastern France.

The French national anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said it would investigate the incident under "attempted assassination in connection with a terrorist enterprise."

Agencies

It's wait and watch for WTO as leadership dilemma continues

BRUSSELS/WASHINGTON

FACED with a veto from the United States, the World Trade Organization has two unpalatable options for selecting its next leader - override its biggest paymaster with a vote or hope for a change of US president and wait until he takes charge.

With just days to go before the US election, President Donald Trump's administration struck another blow to the global trade watchdog on Wednesday by rejecting Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the woman proposed by a nomination "troika" to be the WTO's next director-general.

Okonjo-Iweala, who would be the first African WTO leader, is also a US citizen.

In a short statement, the office of the US Trade Representative said it supported a rival candidate, South Korean Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee, as someone with hands-on experience in international trade.

One Geneva-based diplomat said Washington changed direction "in a chaotic" way in the very last throes of the leadership race to

support Yoo, blocking the process.

"It seems like they were improvising," the diplomat said.

Okonjo-Iweala's spokeswoman Molly Toomey rejected any suggestion that the former Nigerian finance minister was not qualified for the job: "Needless to say, WTO members wouldn't have selected a DG who is missing any skills or qualifications."

William Reinsch, a former senior US Commerce Department official now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, predicted furious discussions behind the scenes to get the United States to change its position.

Trump has described the WTO as "horrible" and threatened to leave, and it is difficult to imagine his administration would acquiesce by Nov 9, when the WTO will hold a meeting designed to appoint its new leader.

Even if Trump loses the election, he will remain in office until Jan 20, inauguration day, making any early resolution even less likely.

It would not be the first time the WTO has faced a roadblock over its leadership. In the past it has found



ways round them.

In 1999, two candidates divided as WTO members, with a compromise finally found to give each a term. New rules were then put in place to avoid a repeat. Candidates least likely to attract a consensus "shall withdraw", the 2003 rules say, with a vote to be taken "as a last resort". Korea's Yoo could withdraw, but her team did not respond on Thursday to questions about her future intentions.

Humiliation

A vote may appear an easy fix,

but is more a nuclear option.

Simon Evenett, trade professor at Switzerland's University of St Gallen, said large WTO members would see this as an unwelcome precedent.

"Big players like subtle vetoes. Publicly losing a vote is humiliating," he said.

Washington might see recourse to a vote almost as an act of war and an excuse to make good Trump's threat to quit the WTO. It is not even clear how WTO members would decide to hold a vote.

This leaves a final possibility, relying on a change of US president. Rufus Yerxa, a former senior US trade official who now heads the National Foreign Trade Council, said the result of the US election would be decisive.

"For the people in Geneva that are trying to make this decision, the election will determine if they're going to be in another showdown fight... or whether they can afford to wait him out and deal with the Biden administration," he said.

One senior US trade official said that if Democratic challenger Joe

Nigeria rejects Amnesty International report on police action as untrue, misleading

LAGOS

NIGERIAN police has condemned as untrue and misleading a recent Amnesty International report that accused its personnel of human rights violations during recent protests against police brutality in some parts of the country.

In a statement sent to Xinhua in Lagos on Friday, Nigerian Police Inspector General Mohammed Adamu said police officers acted professionally, exercised commendable restraints and some "paid the supreme price" for peace in Nigeria.

An Amnesty International report on Wednesday accused

Nigerian police of shooting at peaceful protesters.

That report was misleading and contrary to all available empirical evidence, the police chief said.

Adamu said police officers used legitimate means to ensure that the protests were carried out peacefully and in most cases, physically protect-

ed and walked side-by-side with the protesters.

Even when the protests turned violent in some parts of the country, the officers still maintained utmost restraint and did not use excessive force in managing the situation, he said.

The police chief said 22 police personnel were killed by

some rampaging protesters and scores of others were injured, some critically, during the protests.

He said 205 police stations and some private and public infrastructure were damaged in the protests.

"Despite these unprovoked attacks, our police officers never resorted to the use of

unlawful force or shooting at the protesters as alleged in the report," the police chief said.

Violence has been reported in several cities in the country as suspected "hoodlums" blamed by the government reportedly took control of the otherwise peaceful protests by citizens calling for extensive reform of the police since

early October.

A total of 69 people, including civilians, policemen, and soldiers, were killed during protests across the country, a government spokesperson told Xinhua last Friday after President Muhammadu Buhari held an emergency meeting aimed at finding ways to end the unrest.

Xinhua

Spillover effects of CIIE continue to expand

By Tian Hong

As more companies get ready for the debut of their products, services, and technologies at the upcoming 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) scheduled to kick off on Nov. 5, the spillover effects of the event continue expanding.

Exhibits at the previous expos are becoming commodities, exhibitors are turning into investors and a great number of outcomes are implemented at a faster pace.

In January, a new-generation cardiac cryoablation catheter exhibited by Medtronic, a medical technology and services company headquartered in Ireland, at the 2nd CIIE was successfully used in the surgical treatment for atrial fibrillation for the first time in Boao Super Hospital in south China's Hainan province with the help of the green channel of Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone in Hainan.

At the 1st CIIE, Medtronic showcased its star product—the smallest pacemaker, Micra. A month later, the product was placed inside the body of a patient in China for the first time.

Since it was officially launched into the market during the 2nd CIIE, Micra has been implanted into the chests of more than 500 patients. The second-generation Micra, dual-chamber pacemaker,



Photo taken on July 25 shows the festive decorations outside the venue for the 3rd China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. (Photo by Yan Daming/People's Daily Online)

is going to be exhibited at the 3rd CIIE.

According to Alex Gu, Medtronic's senior vice president and president of Medtronic Greater China, before they took part in the 1st CIIE, they weren't quite sure of what the expo was, and when the 2nd CIIE started to enroll participants, they raced to sign up for it.

The company is going to search the bottom of its treasure chest for the best and latest products to send to the 3rd CIIE, Gu said.

What the CIIE has brought to Medtronic are not only rocketing number of orders and the opportunity to get better understanding of

clients in third-and fourth-tier cities, but also a good reputation that the company didn't quite acquire in 30 years since it entered the Chinese market, according to Gu.

The CIIE has become an indispensable platform for Medtronic's development and cooperation with Chinese partners, Gu noted.

The contracted area of the registered enterprises for the 3rd CIIE has exceeded the planned area, and the number of Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders that have signed up for the upcoming event has reached the level of the previous expos, according to the China International Import

Expo Bureau.

Most of the world's well-known top ten enterprises in such industries as pharmaceutical, medical device, high-end consumer goods, and automobile have registered for the event, with dozens of enterprises applying to take part in the expo in the next three consecutive years, said the bureau.

In February, the Estee Lauder Companies Inc. announced that it would invest in China to build a world-class research and development center. The group's net sales in the Chinese market returned to double-digit growth in March.

Over the past 27 years since its



Photo taken on Nov. 10, 2019, shows visitors watch a robot exhibited at the 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE). (Photo by Sun Zhifang/People's Daily Online)

entry into the Chinese market, China has become the most important international market for Estee Lauder, said Joy Fan, president of the Estee Lauder Companies China.

The holding of the CIIE as scheduled is a vivid demonstration of China's success in becoming the first country in the world to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control and the general trend of the Chinese economy towards long-term growth, said Fan, adding that the company is optimistic about China's development prospects.

Estee Lauder is ramping up efforts to prepare for the 3rd CIIE.

In addition to expanding its exhibition area by about 100 square meters and bringing its 14 brands to the expo, the group is going to unveil multiple high-end products at the 3rd CIIE for the first time in the world.

Multinational pharmaceutical giant Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) recently announced in Shanghai that it planned to add 451 million euros (about \$534.3 million) into its investment in China to speed up research, development and innovation in the next five years.

The next decade is expected to witness the approval of 71 new products of the company in China,

according to BI.

According to Felix Gutsche, president and CEO of Boehringer Ingelheim Greater China, during the 2nd CIIE, the company not only received high-value tentative deals on the purchase of drugs, but saw the approval process of multiple innovative drugs in China further accelerated.

In the end of 2019, Baize'an, a new anticancer drug jointly developed by BI and Chinese biotechnology company BeiGene, was approved to market, becoming the first innovative biological drug that was licensed in China through the model of sub-contract production.

Greenland Group to contribute more to 3rd CIIE

By Tian Hong

GREENLAND Global Commodity Trading Hub, as a permanent trading platform of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), has attracted 160 enterprises and organizations from 64 countries, established 39 country pavilions, and introduced over 80,000 imported commodities, said Zhang Yuliang, chairman and president of Greenland Group, the parent company of the trading hub.

The trading hub, just a street away from CIIE's venue - the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), was established in Nov. 2018 and combines multiple functions such as exhibition, deal-making, consumer guidance, as well as investment and incubation. It has grown into one of the major distributing centers for imported commodities in China.

Under the support of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC), General Administration of Customs (GAC) and the municipal government of Shanghai, relying on the resources of the Greenland Group in over 50 countries and regions, and depending on the commerce circulation network of the group that covers hundreds of Chinese cities, the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub has rapidly gathered overseas enterprises, brands and commodities, becoming an important carrier to expand the spillover effect of the CIIE, and a trading center that covers the Yangtze River delta, serves the nation and radiates the Asian-Pacific region, Zhang told People's Daily.

Over 90 percent of the merchants in the hub had exhibited their products in the first and second CIIE, or will join the third, Zhang said.

So far, the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub has created a total trading volume of over 50 billion yuan (\$7.52 billion) and received more than 5.6 million visitors, according to the chairman. It has more than 6,500 groups of professional buyers,



A model of LEAP aircraft engine is displayed at the booth of GE Appliances during the second 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE), Nov. 6, 2019. (Photo by Xu Congjun/People's Daily Online)

and has held over 300 commercial activities, introducing nearly 5,000 kinds of products in over 50 categories exhibited at the CIIE to 22 Chinese provinces, he added.

Zhang said the Greenland Group also plans to replicate the success of trading hub in other parts of China, and has already built such hubs in 12 major cities including Tianjin and Xi'an. In July this year, the Hangzhou Bay Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub was opened, and 90 of the 100 merchants in the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub agreed to set their businesses there.

The Northern Europe Center of the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub in Shanghai has been replicated by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Greenland Group's other trading

hubs in Harbin, Jinan and Ningbo. The one in Harbin has achieved revenue of over 2.8 million yuan in the first month since it opened.

In recent years, the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub has fully exploited the country's policies and measures to expand opening-up, and actively explored the new business forms of foreign trade such as cross-border e-commerce, bonded goods and tariff exemption.

Last October, the hub built the first bonded exhibition and sales venue in the Yangtze River delta relying on the favorable policies rolled out for Shanghai Qingpu Comprehensive Bonded Zone. The venue, covering over 10,000 square meters, exhibits and sells garments, bags, shoes and leather products of famous brands from Europe and the U.S. All the products are bond-



Visitors watch automobiles displayed at the 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE), Nov. 6, 2019. (Photo by Chen Bin/People's Daily Online)

ed and directly purchased from the suppliers, so their prices are lower than the average retail price in other parts of the country. The price of most of these commodities is equivalent to that in overseas market, and the annual sales volume is expected to hit 150 million yuan. Nearly 1,500 products from France and other countries or regions finished their China debut in the bonded exhibition and sales venue, Zhang noted.

In September this year, the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub, as extended areas under special customs supervision, has launched flash sale services for cross-border e-commerce by introducing technical support such as facial recognition, thus making regular the exhibition and sales of bonded products.

The Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub is working to make exhibits into commodities, and turn exhibitors into merchants and investors, Zhang said. The group will connect domestic and overseas markets and integrate domestic and overseas resources, he added.

The group will show up at the third CIIE with over 200 products manufactured by 16 brands from the UK, Portugal, and other countries and regions, and all of these brands are entering the Chinese market for the first time. In addition, country pavilions of the Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub have already put 1,200 commodities to be exhibited at the third CIIE onto the shelves in advance, and many brands have launched "Made for China" products.

China promotes common development through high-level opening-up

By He Yin

CHINA'S tourism sector witnessed a robust rebound during the combined Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holiday that lasted from October 1 to 8.

More than 600 million Chinese made domestic trips during the eight-day holiday, when the sales of key retail and catering firms monitored by China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) totaled 1.6 trillion yuan (about \$239 billion), with average daily sales rising 4.9 percent compared with the National Day holiday last year, data from the MOC showed.

Such figures mirrored the strong vitality of the domestic circulation of the country.

While global tourism is estimated to suffer from a loss of over \$1 trillion this year, China's tourism industry has almost returned to normal, said an article published on Hamburger Morgenpost, a daily German newspaper.

The whole country was on the move as hundreds of millions of Chinese visited their relatives and friends or took trips to tourist destinations during the past eight-day Golden Week holiday, a scene that was seen only 9 months after the

global outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, the article described.

Many international media outlets have also made similar comments about China recently.

China has injected dynamism into economic development by making efforts to facilitate the movement of people and goods. The experience could also be helpful for other countries.

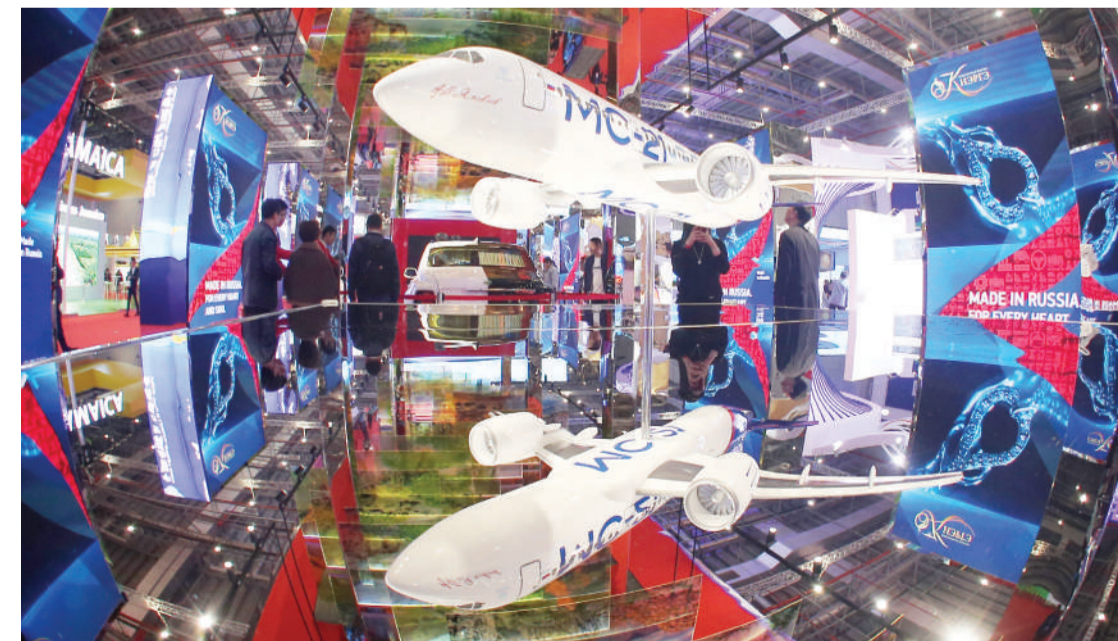
China has speeded up creating a "dual circulation" development pattern whereby domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

It is a strategic decision made by the country in accordance with its development stage, environment, and conditions.

Facts have shown that China has continuously unleashed the potential of domestic demand and witnessed growing vitality of the domestic circulation. Meanwhile, international circulation has constantly gained new momentum as China has continued to expand opening-up.

China's foreign trade rose 6 percent year on year in August, registering an increase for the fifth consecutive month.

The country has recently released a master plan for three new



People visit Russia's country pavilion during the 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE), Nov. 10, 2019. (Photo by Xu Congjun/People's Daily Online)

pilot free trade zones (FTZs) in Beijing, Hunan province and Anhui province, and adopted a plan to expand the pilot FTZ in Zhejiang province, bringing the number of its pilot FTZs to 21.

On October 11, China issued a plan on implementing pilot reforms in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, intending to develop the city into a demonstration area of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the next five

years.

By granting the city with greater autonomy in the reform of important areas and key links, China aims to advance higher-level reform and opening-up towards higher goals in Shenzhen.

Although economic globalization has been struck by headwinds, the world will never return to isolation, and no one can sever the ties between countries.

"We should pursue open and

inclusive development, remain committed to building an open world economy, and uphold the multilateral trading regime with the World Trade Organization as the cornerstone. We should say no to unilateralism and protectionism, and work to ensure the stable and smooth functioning of global industrial and supply chains," said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the General Debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General As-

sembly.

China has made it clear to the world that its sincerity and determination to cooperate with other countries for mutual benefits and common development have always remained the same.

By promoting high-quality development through high-level opening-up, China has brought new opportunities to the common development of China and the rest of the world, thus winning wide recognition and trust from the international community.

The country has continuously shortened its negative list for foreign investment and that in pilot free trade zones and officially cleared the negative list for foreign investment in financial sector.

The 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) has yielded rich fruits and the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) to be held in November is attracting more and more foreign enterprises.

It is widely acknowledged by the international community that joining hands with China means bright prospects for development.

It should be noted that despite the sharp decline in cross-border trade and investment, most multinational companies are still op-

timistic about China, and their strategy to secure long-term development in China has not changed.

From January to July, 18,838 new foreign-funded enterprises were established on the Chinese mainland, among which 415 were funded by Japanese, 860 by Americans, 849 by South Koreans, 584 by Singaporeans, 296 by British, and 245 by Germans.

About 92 percent of the respondents said that they would continue to operate in China, according to a survey conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai on more than 340 member companies.

Data from the European Business in China—Business Confidence Survey 2020 launched by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China suggest that about half of the members will invest 5 percent to 10 percent more of their annual revenue in China.

Nearly one-third will add more than 10 percent of their annual revenue to their investments in China, according to the survey.



Tanzanian boxer Hassan Mwakinyo.

Hassan Mwakinyo leads Super Welterweight division in Tanzania

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

PROMINENT Tanzanian Super Welterweight boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, has moved to the top spot in the division's ranking in the country, as per recent statistics released by Boxrec, a network which keeps records for professional boxers from all over the world.

He is the top ranked boxer in the division at the local level, with the division consisting of 24 boxers.

The network has further ranked Mwakinyo 71st in the list of 2012 professional boxers in the division at the international level.

Mwakinyo has featured in a total of 19 bouts, winning 17 and losing two.

He has recorded 11 knockouts in the 17 wins and has had one knockout loss in two defeats.

The boxer had previously held the 86th spot in the Super Welterweight division rating in the world.

Mwakinyo has moreover entered the top 50 in the best pound for pound rating list for African boxers.

The rating has DR Congo boxer, Junior Makabu, and Ghana's Richard Commye, both fighting in the Cruiserweight division, placed first and second respectively.

South African Lightweight boxer Kevin Lerena concludes the top three in the rating.

Mwakinyo he has risen to become the number one boxer in pound for pound rating in Tanzania while compatriot Ibrahim Mgendera 'Class', fighting in Super Featherweight division, has dropped to the second spot.

Tanzanian Super Middleweight boxer Abdallah Pazi wraps up the top three in the rating in the country.

Mexican Saul Alvarez, fighting in Middleweight division, is number one boxer in the best pound for pound rating in the world, British Heavyweight boxer, Tyson Fury, has been placed second.

American Welterweight boxer Errol Spence Jr wraps up the top three in the rating.

Other prominent professional boxers, Manny Pacquiao (eighth) and Anthony Joshua (seventh) have as well entered the top 10 list of the best pound for pound boxers in the world.

In the best pound for pound rating in Tanzania, Twaha Kassim 'Kiduku', Tony Rashid, Fadhil Majiha, Salim Mtango, Hamis Maya, Muhsin Kizota and Iddi Pialari have been placed in the rating's top 10 list.

Commenting on the record, Mwakinyo pointed out he believes he will scale great heights and improve the record he set last year.

Mwakinyo is currently camping in Lushoto, Tanga, preparing to defend his title in the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Super Welterweight fight against Argentinian Jose Carlos Paz, to be held at the Next Door Arena at Masaki, Dar es Salaam on November 13.

Apart from defending the WBF Super Welterweight title, Mwakinyo will be aiming at lifting the International Boxing Association (IBA) Super Welterweight title, held by Paz, in the same fight.

The fight has been organized by Tanzania's firm, Jackson Group (Sports).

'Theatre of the absurd' makes its way into city radios, TV

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

A genre of drama where the characters make all effort to appear silly or untutored, and in our specific environment, tribesmen and women unable to talk Kiswahili fluently, and picking up habits of repetitive questioning of things that are supposed to be grasped immediately, has either emerged in the country or it is performing a specific role for a while, and then fold up.

That much cannot be said at the start as it is still early days yet, but it has gradually emerged as the easiest way to talk about big issues without pricking the ear of a regulator somewhere, since that sort of interaction can be costly. And it is making progress.

The reason for the presence of a 'theatre of the absurd' is by and large much less than absurd, that this is a recurring phenomenon in history but it takes different characteristics depending on circumstances, so artistes also take varying forms of reaction to such situations.

For instance those who have attended drama performances at the University of Dar es Salaam in the past, for instance 'Ayubu' in the late 1970s or early 1980s would clearly have a feeling that there was plenty of irony in what was being presented, such that it becomes a bit of a comedy while very much a tragedy.

The latter is a straightforward representation of hard to accept faces of reality and it is precisely what artistes must avoid, as there can be penalties, etc.

Looking at the way drama has developed in various environments, countries that had fewer restrictions in expression, where their monarchies were already based in 'common law,' working by consensus with representative bodies of one kind or another, had fewer expressions of 'absurd' forms of drama, literature.

Where 'absolute' monarchies prevailed, which in later language would be called authoritarian systems, this kind of literature proliferated, as artistes sought to avoid talking to authorities directly in the face.

In the modern era that sort of mood is less directed at governments as at society, as in a 'nihilist' movement.

A 'nihilist' attitude is one where the writer wishes to break up ev-



Prominent Tanzanian comedian Silvery Mujuni 'Mpoki'.

everything because it does not make sense, and has only a vague if any idea of what should replace it.

Thought movements of that kind refuse to bring out a solution - as many solutions, for instance a revolution, at times lead to grotesque, unforeseen bloodshed that makes its supporters either ashamed - or dead - and thus unable to come

to terms with what happened.

Absurdity is like letting off steam, marginally trying to grapple with issues, but not really interested in finding solutions because the underlying mood is that life itself is absurd, a silly theatre.

There are various ways in which 'absurd' moods are represented in radios and television shows, one being changing

the presenter's voice in a dramatic manner so that the presentation, mood or manner of how the program pundit is talking becomes the focal point, not really what the person is saying.

But one does not need to be too skilled to understand that the issues being raised are actually important, and touch on this or that facet of public administration, but the presenter is not in the mood to direct fingers at anyone and the medium of his participation merely wishes to inform - and entertain - in audiences. So it passes.

There are indeed some 'absurd' areas where this supposed absurdity is really the content, a sort of 'joking relationship' that is plentiful in traditional society, between clans and especially between tribes, and at times reserved for serious situations.

For instance in May 2018 in a city neighbourhood there was an event of death of the family head, who also owned a bar rented to someone, and his own house was adjacent, and there are family members and tenants.

Bar service staff were there at a night vigil, but some tenants and family members slept soundly inside, where one young lady was irritated by the situation.

She said she cannot burst out to tell them pointedly what she thinks of them as she was of the same tribe like the deceased elder and family members, if she had been of the next door tribe she could then have opened up.

In that case opening up is possible under certain circumstances, and there are rules for being able to open up, as if one belongs to the same clan or tribe (which ever is applicable) to open up may be interpreted as not just an insult but betrayal, or in political language 'sedition,' debasing clan or family authority.

In old Europe as in many parts of Africa, the 'theatre of the absurd' was a channel of democracy under vicious patriarchal rule, where a village idiot, a man known to be somewhat deranged would go around telling people, after some sort of incentive like being offered a mug of some local brew, the hot, latest 'news' on the chief's family, for instance if some differences had arisen in the household, or adultery suspicions.

Why being Barcelona president might be an impossible job

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

JOSEP Maria Bartomeu is no longer president of Barcelona. He resigned Tuesday after facing tons of public pressure -- including, he says, "threats and insults" -- and a de facto impeachment vote he would almost certainly have lost.

One, perhaps superficial, reading is that this is a triumph for democracy -- or, at least, the version that governs Futbol Club Barcelona. Bartomeu was elected, his actions displeased voters, and there was a mechanism in place for him to be recalled. Enough public pressure was exerted from both within (Gerard Pique, Lionel Messi) and without (parts of the media, former presidents) that voters took action.

This is an option that fans of other clubs with unpopular leaders do not have, and however imperfect Barcelona's setup might be, there's a voice for supporters beyond the usual boycotts and voting with your wallet.

The old maxim is that democracy is the fairest system of government, but dictatorship is the most efficient. There's some truth to that in football. If you have absolute power indefinitely (or until you decide to sell up), you can do what you like. If you're continually freaking out about polls or reelections, your natural tendency will be to think short-term.

Bartomeu will be remembered for many things, perhaps chiefly for the fact that the greatest player in the club's history tried to leave the club this past summer, slamming the door behind him. But, in fact, the Lionel Messi crisis is nothing more than another example of the difficulties encountered when trying to balance short-term and long-term thinking.

Under Bartomeu's watch, the club came within a whisker of becoming the first sports franchise to break the one billion Euro (\$1.17 billion) mark in revenue, something made possible in part by taking their merchandising, re-

tail and licensing activities in-house and pursuing an aggressive and successful sponsorship strategy. That was the sort of short-term move that took guts and foresight: You sacrifice short-term guaranteed cash from partners for long-term growth and revenue.

The problem is that a football club isn't a retail brand; it gets judged every week by what happens on the pitch, and in the department of weekly, short-term results, Bartomeu came up desperately short. That's not so much when it comes to results on the pitch, which were mixed -- in his nearly seven seasons at the helm, they won four Liga titles (good) and four Copas del Rey (also good), but they advanced past the quarterfinals of the Champions League just twice (not so good) -- but, rather, in the actions he took to keep the team competitive.

Bartomeu made, or enabled those around him to make, a raft of poor decisions, most of them reacting to short-term needs. Neymar accepts



Josep Maria Bartomeu

Paris Saint-Germain's offer and walks out after exercising his €222m buy-out clause? Let's blow the whole fee (and then some) on Ousmane Dembele and Philippe Coutinho, gambling that one or the other will fill the superstar gap.

Dembele is injured all the time? Cool, let's blow another €41m on Malcom and then give him only six league starts because, well, he's not good.

Coutinho doesn't live up to his €145m superstar price tag? No problem! Let's spend another €120m on Antoine Griezmann, even though he has zero chemistry with Messi and Luis Suarez and made us look silly the year before, when he did a 180-degree turn after all but agreeing to join us.

We need a backup center-forward? Let's sign Kevin-Prince Boateng, who is

31 years old, has scored 10 or more league goals just once in his career and, perhaps most importantly, is not a center-forward.

Obviously, Bartomeu wasn't making footballing decisions, but the buck stopped with him, and the spending had consequences.

The wage bill continuously ballooned under his watch. In 2018-19, it stood at €529m (\$620m), which was already more than twice as much as all but eight other clubs in the world and €98m (\$114m) more than the second-highest wage bill in football (Real Madrid). Last season, it was set to rise by another €100m (\$117m) before wage deferrals and cuts as a result of the coronavirus pandemic took out some of the sting.

One of the side effects of all this is that debt also grew significantly before the pandemic and then, obviously, grew even further after the pandemic, to the point that it's now close to half a billion Euros. It's also worth noting that in cash terms, the situation

is far from rosy: According to the financial blogger @Swissramble, Barcelona's habit of paying for transfers in installments means they'll need to fork out a further €168m (\$197m) in net terms over the next few years.

Most will remember Bartomeu for the fact that the unthinkable -- Messi announcing he wanted to leave the club -- happened under his watch. We're not privy to the details of their relationship, so apportioning blame would be unfair. What we do know is that most of what Bartomeu did in his handling of Messi backfired badly, whether it was facilitating the Eric Abidal interview calling out the dressing room (which prompted a rare Messi statement) or the salary-cut negotiation (another Messi riposte) or simply saying that he was 100 percent certain Messi would stay, which culminated in the burofax and Messi telling the club he wanted to leave.

All of the above were short-term reactions to short-term issues. All of

them he got badly wrong.

That's the downside of Barca's "democratic" model. You want to think long-term for the good of the club, but you end up acting short-term to react to immediate concerns -- or what you think are immediate concerns. It's hard to be good at both, and Bartomeu certainly came up short in the latter.

What's next? Elections in a few months, of course, but most of all, a chance for those who starred on the pitch in Barcelona's latest golden era -- and who, directly or indirectly, had a hand in Bartomeu's departure -- to make their mark.

I'm referring to Messi, of course, but also Pique, Xavi, possibly Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets. Some will continue playing, for a while longer anyway, some will not, and others have already quit. But they defined the most glorious period of Barcelona's history (from Pep Guardiola onward), and they are the descendants of the second-most glorious period (the Johan Cruyff years).

Pirlo's faltering Juve look for Ronaldo return, Lukaku blow for Inter

MILAN

ANDREA Pirlo's Juventus head to promoted Spezia on Sunday hoping to have coronavirus-hit Cristiano Ronaldo back to boost their campaign days after their Champions League flop against Barcelona.

But rivals Inter Milan will be without star striker Romelu Lukaku against Parma after the Belgian picked up a thigh strain which also puts him at risk for next week's Champions League game at Real Madrid.

Ronaldo missed Juventus' 2-0 defeat against Lionel Messi's Barcelona, more than two weeks after testing positive for Covid-19, as Pirlo fell to his first coaching defeat.

The champions have had a stuttering start to a campaign they hope will reap a 10th consecutive league title, and a first elite European title in quarter of a century.

The Turin giants are fifth -- four points behind Zlatan Ibrahimovic's AC Milan -- and take on the minnows from Liguria, who are 14th in the table.

The nine-time reigning champions won their opener against Sampdoria in September, their only victory on the pitch in Serie A this season, before three draws.

Between those matches they were awarded a 3-0 victory after Napoli refused to travel to Turin on October 4 because of coronavirus cases.

"Our results are not up to our standards," said defender Leonardo Bonucci.

"It is time to grit our teeth, unite, and bring out the best in ourselves.

"We miss important players, it's not an excuse, it's reality, but in four days we'll be back on the pitch and we'll try to do better."

- 'Spoil for choice' -

Unbeaten AC Milan travel to Udinese after their 3-0 Europa League win against Sparta Prague at the San Siro, with coach Stefano Pioli saying his side this season were spoil for choice.

"The more we go on, the harder it will be to choose, if they all play so well," said Pioli.

Second-placed Napoli, two points behind AC Milan, have won all the league games they played this season, and next take on Sassuolo, third but equal on points.

Gennaro Gattuso's southerners won their Europa League game at Real Sociedad this week, but captain Lorenzo Insigne pulled up

with a thigh injury.

Inter Milan, a further point adrift in fourth, warm up for next week's trip to Real Madrid after their goalless draw against Shakhtar Donetsk, against 16th-placed Parma.

Lukaku, who has scored seven goals this season for Inter, is being monitored daily.

Atalanta travel to rock-bottom Crotona on Saturday, ahead of their Champions League home game against Liverpool.

The Bergamo club were held 2-2 at home against Ajax after a 3-1 loss to Sampdoria as Gian Piero Gasperini conceded his attempt at "a bit of experimenting" in the squad backfired.

Claudio Ranieri's Sampdoria -- equal on points with Juventus and Atalanta -- take on city rivals Genoa, looking to push their winning streak to four games.

One to watch

Inter Milan forward Lautaro Martinez has been frustrated at his failure to score in recent games, furiously punching his seat in the dugout after his substitution in last week's win against Genoa.

The Argentine was again replaced by coach Antonio Conte against Shakhtar Donetsk after missing a great chance for the winner in the goalless draw this week.

"I got angry with myself because I didn't play the match I wanted," said Martinez.

The Argentine scored in three consecutive league games before drawing a blank in four, and will want to impress in Lukaku's absence.

Key stats

9 - Juve's points after five games, three of which were awarded after Napoli's forfeit

7 - Atalanta's goals conceded in their last two games

6 - Zlatan Ibrahimovic's goals in three games

2 - Cristiano Ronaldo's league games played this season

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today
Crotona v Atalanta (1400), Inter Milan v Parma (1700), Bologna v Cagliari (1945)

Tomorrow
Udinese v AC Milan (1130), Spezia v Juventus, Torino v Lazio (both 1400), Napoli v Sassuolo, Roma v Fiorentina (both 1700), Sampdoria v Genoa (1945)

Monday

Hellas Verona v Benevento (1945)

French season soldiers on as country hunkers down again amid health crisis

PARIS

FRANCE is back in lockdown, for at least a month, amid a surge in coronavirus cases across the country, but the Ligue 1 season will this time carry on, unlike earlier this year when the action stopped and never resumed.

President Emmanuel Macron announced the second nationwide shutdown on Wednesday, but the country's sports minister, Roxana Maracineanu, quickly clarified that "professional athletes will be able...to continue to compete since travel for professional reasons is allowed."

All games will however now be behind closed doors, with the lockdown in place until at least December 1, and there is still the danger that more matches will be postponed because of Covid-19 outbreaks.

Last weekend the match between Lens and Nantes was called off when 11 members of the home squad tested positive, and this Friday's encounter between Marseille and Lens has gone the same way.

French league (LFP) protocols state that games can go ahead as long as at least 20 players from a pre-determined list of 30 are available for selection.

But clubs are still reeling from the economic impact of the decision to end last season early, with 10 rounds of matches unplayed, at the height of the pandemic's first wave.

Throw in the added problem of

main domestic TV rights holder Mediapro not meeting a scheduled 172 million-euro (\$203m) payment due this month, and now trying to renegotiate the record deal it agreed for four seasons starting this year, and these are worrying times for French clubs.

However, it is business as usual in many respects on the field, with reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain moving top of the table after claiming a sixth straight league win last weekend.

On Saturday they head to Nantes where they will be expected to make it seven in a row, after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in the Champions League in midweek.

However, Neymar will miss that game after coming off with an adductor injury in Istanbul.

PSG coach Thomas Tuchel has been forced to defend his team's record this season despite often underwhelming displays.

"We are top of Ligue 1 and we have won away in the Champions League. It's not perfect but we can't be too critical," Tuchel said after the match in Turkey.

The weekend's standout fixture, though, is on Sunday, when Lille put their unbeaten start to the campaign on the line at home to a resurgent Lyon.

Player to watch: Burak Yilmaz

Centre-forward Yilmaz is one of four Turks in the Lille squad and is without doubt the biggest star among them. Now 35, the Turkey captain is known as "Kral Burak"

Premier League strikers looking for more net gains

LONDON

EVERTON top the Premier League standings by virtue of better goal difference than city rivals and champions Liverpool heading into this weekend's matches.

Attack being the best form of defence has certainly seemed the mantra so far this season with a torrent of goals.

Here, AFP Sport picks out three games featuring the Premier League's in-form hotshots:

Man of the moment Rashford targets Gunners

Marcus Rashford turns 23 on Saturday but he is showing a maturity beyond that both on and off the pitch.

This week a petition supporting his campaign to persuade the UK Government to provide free meals for Britain's poorest children during school holidays has attracted over a million signatures.

On the pitch he has been just as effective with a quickfire hat-trick after coming on as a substitute in the 5-0 Champions League demolition of RB Leipzig on Wednesday.

He will hope this sparks a similar sharpness in front of goal in the Premier League -- he has just two to his name this term -- starting with 15th-placed United's hosting of Arsenal, who are four places above them but having played a game more, on Sunday.

United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer -- the only other United player to come off the bench and score a hat-trick -- has no doubt Rashford can handle the pressures on and off the pitch.

"Marcus has showed he can keep focusing on what's important on and off the pitch at the moment," said Solskjaer.



Marcus Rashford is attracting attention on and off the pitch. (Agencies)

Bamford taking his chances, old fox Vardy lies in wait

Patrick Bamford's decision to decline a scholarship to Harvard University is finally paying dividends at the top level.

The 27-year-old Leeds United striker has proved the doubters wrong, scoring six goals in their opening six games.

French great Eric Cantona is the only other Leeds player to have hit six goals after the club's first six games in the top flight.

With just one goal in 27 previous appearances in the Premier League, it was easy to see why Bamford did have an army of sceptics arguing for Bielsa to bring in a proven striker at this level.

"The last time (I was in the Premier League), maybe people said I wasn't ready -- but I didn't have a proper go at it," said Bamford after he scored a hat-trick to inflict Aston Villa's first defeat of the season last Friday.

"This time I have a manager who believes in me and, as long as I keep working hard, he will keep trusting me," said Bamford. Leeds could leapfrog Monday's visitors fourth-placed Leicester -- who are two points better off than Marcelo Bielsa's side -- if they beat them but their own defence must hold off Jamie Vardy.

The 33-year-old former England international, like Bamford, came good at this level in his late 20s,

primarily in the Foxes fairytale title-winning season in 2016.

Vardy comes into the game after also scoring his sixth goal of the campaign in the 1-0 win over Arsenal last Sunday.

"He is always a huge threat and brings great confidence to the team," said Foxes manager Brendan Rodgers.

"He is a world-class striker and an incredible talent."

Son shining thanks to Kane

Jose Mourinho has dismissed talk of Tottenham Hotspur ending their league title drought dating back to 1961.

However, if Korean Son Heung-min and England captain Harry Kane keep fit

then the wily Portuguese will be hard-pressed to keep on brushing off such suggestions.

Spurs -- who are just two points off table-toppers Everton -- host fifth from bottom Brighton on Sunday as top scorers in the division, with 16 goals thanks in the main to Son's eight and Kane's five.

Their partnership has become even more potent thanks to Mourinho adapting Kane's style of play.

This has been so effective that Kane has already equalled his best-ever season in assists with eight.

"When the gaffer came in he said when I drop deep the wingers have to run in behind," said Kane.

"It's something I have been doing for a while but I think we are seeing the final product now."

Fixtures (kick-offs GMT)

Today
Sheffield United v Manchester City (1230), Burnley v Chelsea (1500), Liverpool v West Ham (1730)

Tomorrow
Aston Villa v Southampton (1200), Newcastle v Everton (1400), Manchester United v Arsenal (1630), Tottenham v Brighton (1915)

Monday
Fulham v West Brom (1730), Leeds v Leicester (2000)

AFP

'Can't praise him enough': Mueller marvels at Lewandowski

BERLIN

THOMAS Mueller is backing Bayern Munich team-mate Robert Lewandowski to break Gerd Mueller's phenomenal record of 40 goals in a Bundesliga season after the Poland striker's red-hot start to the campaign.

Lewandowski has scored 10 goals in Bayern's first five league games.

"When you see how consistently he scores, it's definitely within the realm of possibility," Thomas Mueller said when asked if Lewandowski can topple Gerd Mueller's mark, set in 1971/72.

Bayern on Saturday visit third-from-bottom Cologne, against whom Lewandowski has scored 12 goals in 13 matches.

All Bundesliga games this weekend will be behind closed doors ahead of new measures announced by the German government to curb rising numbers of the coronavirus.

Having scored all four goals in a 4-3 win over Hertha Berlin, Lewandowski netted a hat-trick in last weekend's 5-0 rout of Eintracht Frankfurt.

Mueller praised Lewandowski for also adding assists to his game.

"(Lewandowski) has always wanted to score lots of goals, now he wants to make them as well. You can't praise that highly enough," Mueller told DAZN.

Lewandowski, who scored 55 goals in all competitions last term, also has four assists this season.

"What he has been doing now for over a year is something special," added Mueller.

Bayern travel over the Alps to face Salzburg in the Champions League on Tuesday and Lewandowski could be rested on Saturday.

However, Cologne coach Markus Gisdol insists Bayern are currently "the world's best team" regardless of who plays.

"They hardly make any passing mistakes, you can't afford to just worry about Lewandowski," said Gisdol, with Cologne chasing a first win over Bayern in nine years.

Bayern are second in the table, a point behind leaders RB Leipzig whose coach Julian Nagelsmann insisted they must learn from Wednesday's 5-0 drubbing at Manchester United.

Leipzig face fellow Champions



Thomas Mueller (L) is backing Lewandowski (R) to break Gerd Mueller's record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga season. (agencies)

League side Borussia Muenchengladbach on Saturday.

Nagelsmann wants a reaction from his side after admitting the 15 minutes of football Leipzig played after going 2-0 down at Old Trafford was "some of the worst we have played in a long time".

One to watch: Marco Reus

The 31-year-old Dortmund captain is one of the most talented German

players of his generation, but is struggling to regain form after a six-month injury lay-off.

The playmaker was annoyed to be substituted after an average display before Jadon Sancho and Erling Braut Haaland scored late goals in Wednesday's 2-0 win over Zenit Saint Petersburg.

Sky pundit Dietmar Hamann has suggested Mats Hummels replace Reus as Dortmund captain to take some pressure off the Ger-

many winger as he refinds his form.

Third-placed Dortmund take on Arminia Bielefeld on Saturday with Reus expected to wear the captain's armband after Hamann's suggestion was rebuffed by Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke.

"Hamann often analyses very accurately, but here he is completely wrong," insisted Watzke. "How can he judge what goes on within the team internally?"

Key stats

1 - Goals Bayern legend Gerd Mueller had scored after the first five games of 1971/72 when he went on to set the league record of 40. At the same stage, Lewandowski has scored 10.

11 - Defeats Cologne have suffered in 12 games against Bayern since a shock 3-2 home win in February 2011.

14 - League games Reus missed at the end of the disrupted 2019/20 season after suffering a groin injury in February, which he aggravated in July, ruling him out until September.

Fixtures (all times 1430 GMT unless stated)

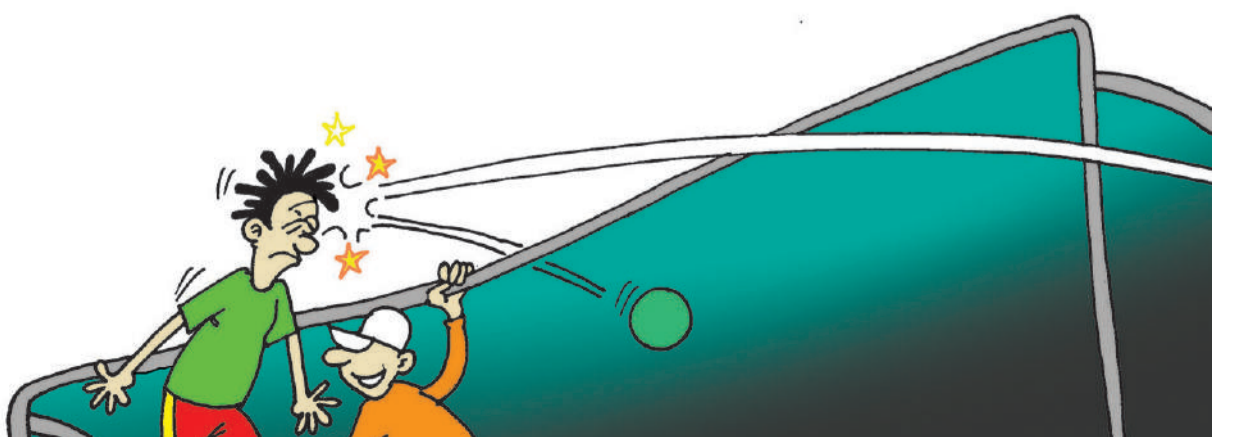
Today
Eintracht Frankfurt v Werder Bremen, Cologne v Bayern Munich, Augsburg v Mainz 05, Arminia Bielefeld v Borussia Dortmund (1430), Borussia Muenchengladbach v RB Leipzig (1730)

Tomorrow
Freiburg v Bayer Leverkusen, Hertha Berlin v VfL Wolfsburg (1700)

Monday
Hoffenheim v Union Berlin (1930)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Premier League strikers looking for more net gains

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Conghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor
And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus
It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika 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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



Fountain Gate FC players take part in training in Dodoma recently to prepare for this year's First Division League (FDL).

Fountain Gate FC in pursuit of promotion to Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA's Fountain Gate FC, which battles it out in this season's First Division League (FDL), has managed to record three wins out of three matches in the league's Group B and turn into one of serious contenders for promotion to the next season's Mainland Premier League.

Fountain Gate FC is currently leading the rest of the pack in Group B after cruising to victory over Alliance FC, Transit Camp FC and Rhino Rangers.

Fountain Gate FC thumped Alliance FC 3-0 and later edged Rhino Rangers 1-0.

In the third clash, which took place on October 24, Fountain Gate FC cruised to 2-0 victory over Transit Camp FC, amassing nine points in the process.

Fountain Gate FC's Information Officer, Juma Ayo, said promotion to the domestic top flight has been motivating them to post good results in the ongoing FDL.

Ayo said acquisition of competent players, who know what is expected of them on the pitch, has as well helped the team achieve success.

He disclosed: "Fountain Gate FC was founded in 2018 and overall, what makes the team post good results this season is that we have a big goal of seeking to participate in the Mainland Premier League, that's why our players are working hard to achieve that goal."

He stated: "In terms of players, I can boast that Fountain Gate FC is made up of players who are good at carrying out their main mission when they are on the field."

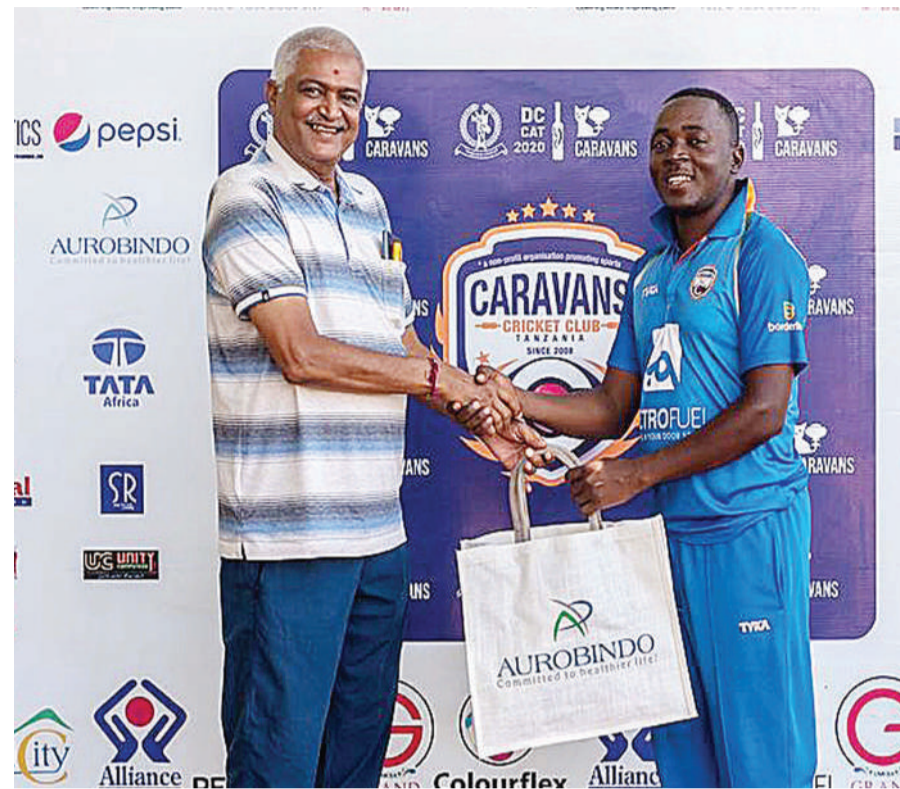
"Our players are also cooperative, which has helped the team get victory in previous games."

The Dodoma club, formed in 2018, has, in two years, managed to be among the best teams in both Second Division League and the FDL.

Fountain Gate FC featured in the Second Division League last season after replacing Kumuyange FC of Kagera by personal agreement.

The team went on to lift the league's top honour and won promotion to this season's FDL, which now sees them top Group B.

Caravans Club faces Gymkhana side test in DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament



Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Premji Pindoria (L), hands over the Game Changer award to Caravans Club all-rounder, Kassim Nassor, shortly after completion of a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Group B game between the outfit and Annadil Burhani Club, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

GYMKHANA Club has a chance to knock Caravans Club off the top spot in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Group B, given the former will lock horns with the latter in the city today.

Caravans Club, also the competition's hosts, leads the rest of the pack in the group having notched victory in three matches the squad has taken part in.

They are level with Gymkhana Club, now placed

second, on six points but they are separated by net run rate.

Caravans Club has posted 382 runs and leaked 331 runs in the three games to register net run rate of 2.4694.

The group leaders'

closest challengers, despite being placed second, seem to have been made up of a more aggressive batting unit, given they have registered 443 runs and leaked 367 runs, posting a net run rate of 1.4560.

Strikers A team, positioned third, are two points below the top two clubs. They have notched victory in one match and lost two matches.

Annadil Burhani and Dar Cricket Club (DCC) are placed fourth and last

respectively in Group B.

Gymkhana cricketers will move to the top spot in the group and set up a two-point margin with Caravans Club, should the former get the better of the latter tomorrow.

Both sides boast of impressive results in their respective previous games, an aspect which will likely make tomorrow's duel quite exciting.

Caravans Club thrashed DCC by eight wickets mid this month, Gymkhana cricketers notched four-wicket victory over Annadil Burhani last weekend. The day's only duel, which will take place at Leaders Club, is set to start at 14pm.

Three games have been slated for the following day at the same venue.

Two of the games will be Group A fixtures whereas the other will be a Group B tie.

In an early duel, Aces Club will lock horns with GP Pak Stars in a Group A clash which will present the former with an opportunity to put pressure on the group leaders, Aga Khan SC, if they will come out victorious.

Aces Club, now placed

second in Group A, is level with Aga Khan SC on four points, but they are separated by net run rate.

The GP Pak Stars, currently placed third in Group A, will also savour clinging on to their serious contenders' tag by getting the better of Aces Club.

Sunday will also see Strikers A side take on DCC in Group B duel from 11.15am.

Aces Club will later get back to action in evening to lock horns with Aga Khan SC in Group A's top of the table clash.

The day's last clash stands to be the most interesting matchup, given the duel's winners will undoubtedly be entitled to the top spot in Group A.

Caravans Club has organized the tournament, which is an annual, in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

Union SC, Aga Khan B team battle for 2020 Kazim Nasser Div A1 cricket tourney trophy

By Guardian Reporter

UNION SC cricketers will be out to lift their first silverware this year as they take on Aga Khan SC B team in the Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A1 final at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Union SC stormed in the KNML Division A1 final impressively, cruising to 92 run victory over GP Pak Stars B squad in the semi-final, which took place at Annadil Burhani oval in the city on October 11.

Aga Khan B outfit booked a place in the final after notching a 67-run victory over Gymkhana B team in the other semi-final, which took place the same day.

Tomorrow's final promises to be an entertaining clash, given both sides have had an impressive outing in the competition.

Union SC will be seeking to make full use of their seasoned performers including skipper Sameer Mussa, Athuman Kakonzi, Danish Unia, Hasnain Damji, Seif Khalifa, Sameer Zaidi and Shabbar Rattansi to keep Aga Khan B team in check and ultimately come out victorious.



Union SC's all-rounder, Athuman Kakonzi, celebrates after scoring half century against Jaat Blasters team in the previous season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's duel, held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Kakonzi and Rattansi were some of best performer for Union SC in the team's victory over GP Pak Stars B squad in the semi-final, they are, in this case, expected to replicate their

virtuosity in the Sunday final.

Kakonzi, a Union SC regular opener, showcased his batting heroics to notch 25 runs, Rattansi, slotted in as a low order batsman,

ended with 19 runs to help Union SC record an imposing score against GP Pak Stars B team.

Aga Khan B outfit will be banking on, among others, senior all-rounder

John Zablou, and youthful players, Sadiki Iddi, Alhaj Sadick, Dhurmit Mehta and Akbar Khan, to get the better of Union SC.

The KNML Division B final pitting Lions Cricket Club against Patel Brotherhood team has also been scheduled for tomorrow at the same venue.

Patel Brotherhood team booked a place in the KNML third tier final after commanding 46-run victory over Estim team in the last four clash.

Lions Cricket Club made no secret of their intention to inch closer to lifting the competition's top honour, cruising to a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over K&P Constructions team in the 1st four.

The Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized league is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

It is as well one of efforts by the DC, in cooperation with the national cricket governing body, to raise the standard of the sport domestically.

The TCA information officer, Atif Salim, stated:

"We are happy that we are concluding with KNML Division A1 and KNML Division B finals and we have already reached the knockout stages of KNML Division A and KNML Division C."

He noted the TCA looks forward to completing the season by the end of November, with the ongoing DC Caravans T20 Cup competition also coming close to the knockout stage.

"It was indeed race against time and we are happy we have managed to make all clubs participate amidst the break brought about by the coronavirus crisis," he disclosed.

He noted: "We have already started planning for next season and we are expecting more outfits next year in the league and that will expand the DC league structure."

Participating sides in the KNML Division A1 were placed in two groups. Gymkhana B side, Union SC, Annadil Burhani and Aga Khan B side were put in Group A.

Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), GP Pak Stars B outfit, Aces B squad, and Dar Cricket Club (DCC) were placed in Group B.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

