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National Pg 3
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Dar city awaits new structures

●Lack of representative area leads to wastage of funds, says Magufuli

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Magufuli yesterday expressed the government's intention of dissolving the Dar es Salaam

City Council and instead turn one of the municipalities into a city authority.

Speaking when he launched the newly constructed Ubungo Interchange which he has named after the

late Chief Secretary John Kijazi the president said he plans to upgrade one of the municipalities within the region to a city, then name it Dar es Salaam.

Ilala was the likely municipality to

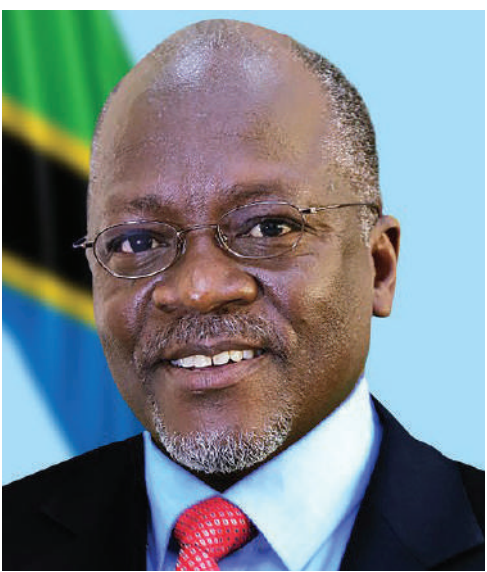
be upgraded to city status due to its density and geographical location, he stated

He said the city lacks a central operating unit and thus the situation should be changed, as "there is a lot going and that's where misuse of money comes from."

Without issuing a timeline, the president said the city must be a representative area, as when this lacks there is incessant misuse of public funds.

Ubungo interchange becomes Kijazi Interchange in a gesture to celebrate the life of the late engineer who rose to become Chief Secretary.

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JPM restores rights of petty traders at major bus terminal

By Guardian Reporter

OFFICIALS of Ubungo district and the Dar es Salaam City Council will be forced to go back to the drawing board and to come up with a plan to accommodate petty traders in the Mbezi Luis International Bus Terminal following President John Magufuli's directive.

The modern facility launched yesterday by the president was built at a cost of 55bn/- and can host 700 buses and 80 small vehicles a day, by official blueprint. It will also have an outside parking capacity for 1,000 cars.

"I have witnessed several times that after finalising such projects, vendors are usually harassed. This should not be the case in this facility; if soup will be sold in those hotels then even a woman selling Okra should also be accommodated the same to those selling juices and conducting small businesses," he said.

President Magufuli said at the launching of the facility that it has been constructed to serve the people and ordered that apart from the business people who were assigned stalls, petty traders and motorcycle riders have the right to conduct their activities there as well.

He then directed the responsible authorities to set space for parking for motorcycle riders waiting for passengers as well as women food vendors. They also have the right to conduct business in like manner as those operating hotels, the president de-

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President Dr. John Magufuli pulls a rope to inaugurate Kijazi Interchange at Ubungo in the city of Dar es Salaam, named after late Chief Secretary, Eng. John Kijazi. Photo: State House

'Peace crucial for investment flows'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has underscored the need to treasure and maintain peace for investments to keep flowing into the Isles.

Holding talks with Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene, Dr Mwinyi said peace is a major factor considered by investors before deciding to start a business.

"My government will work closely with your ministry to ensure that peace and tranquility continues for not only the good of Zan-

"My government will work closely with your ministry to ensure that peace and tranquility continues for not only the good of Zanzibar but Tanzania as a whole," he said.

zibar but Tanzania as a whole," he said.

President Mwinyi who came to office last year after the October General Election told the minister that efforts being made to strengthen peace in the Isles do not go to waste since a number of investors have already inked contracts with his government, and a number of investment deals are still being negotiated.

In January, Zanzibar and Oman signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the construction of Mangapwani multipur-

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Take 5pc of vaccines to Africa, France urges G7

By Guardian Reporter

FRANCE says it has allocated five per cent of its COVID-19 vaccines to Africa, challenging other rich countries to do the same.

A statement released yesterday by French Ambassador to Tanzania Frederic Clavier said wealthy countries have a moral obligation to share life-saving doses with lower and middle income countries.

"Handling the pandemic is a critical matter of public health, which can only be solved through a multilateral approach. Rich economies should show solidarity towards lower and middle income countries by ensuring a quick and efficient distribution of vaccine doses," the envoy said.

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Home Affairs minister George Boniface Simbachawene (L) pays a courtesy call on Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi at the State House yesterday. Second right is Zanzibar Chief Secretary Eng. Zena Ahmed Said and Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo. Photo: State House

JPM restores rights of petty traders at major bus terminal

FROM PAGE 1

clared.

"I have witnessed several times that after finalising such projects, vendors are usually harassed. This should not be the case in this facility; if soup will be sold in those hotels then even a woman selling Okra should also be accommodated the same to those selling juices and conducting small businesses," he said.

The directive by the president came after authorities had already finalized the allocation of stalls in the facility which means they will have to go back to the drawing board to accommodate petty traders, include food vendors, motorcycle riders and hawkers.

City director Sporah Rihana was quoted as saying business people who were supposed to own stalls in the facility were already vetted in collaboration with the National Identification Authority (NIDA) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

During the event, Dr Magufuli agreed to a proposal by the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo to name the facility after the president.

Jafo said the facility provided 600 job slots during construction and it is expected that about 10,000 people will be accommodated in its daily activities.

Earlier, the president said his job has its challenges because he sometimes wishes to drive around just like in the old days but the protocol does not allow him to do so.

Being around Ubungo evokes nostalgic memories as a young man where he used to double up as a taxi driver while studying at the University of Dar es Salaam, he added.

Dar city awaits new structures

FROM PAGE 1

Kijaji died on Wednesday last week at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma aged 65 and was buried at his home village in Korogwe District, Tanga Region, and.

He was until his death the Chancellor of University of Dodoma (UDOM) since last August, taking over from the deceased retired President Mkapa.

Kijaji Interchange has three levels is located at Ubungo where three major highways meet, namely Morogoro Road, Sam Nujoma Road and the Nelson Mandela Road.

The lower section of the interchange is five kilometers long and moves on the sidelines of the rising through-roads to the left and to the right depending on the direction of the vehicle approaching the meeting

point of the major roads.

Some vehicles also pass below the interchange when moving from one side to the other instead of driving straight ahead as with the interchange upper levels.

The through-roads include a middle section, Morogoro Road that is 260 metres long and stands 8.9 meters high, while the top level connects Nelson Mandela Road and Sam

Nujoma Road, standing 16.3m high and stretching 700 meters.

All the three levels are three lane roads on either side of the road, with the project being entrusted to the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC). It was launched in March 2017 by President Magufuli, accompanied by the head of the country mission of the World Bank, officials noted.



President Dr. John Magufuli cuts a ribbon to launch Mbezi Luis bus terminal in Dar es Salaam yesterday. From left are Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge, Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Selemani Jafo and CCM Ideology and Publicity secretary Humphrey Polepole. The terminal will serve over 3,000 buses daily. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Miraji Msala

Take 5pc of vaccines to Africa, France urges G7

FROM PAGE 1

"At the G7 and the European Council, President Macron advocates for generosity in the face of Covid-19, calling rich countries globally to allocate three to five per cent of their vaccine doses to Africa. Everyone must get involved: Europe and the United States should be mobilized in this multilateral initiative, as well as Russia and China, in order to protect the world's most fragile populations. This scheme would involve either donating vaccines or selling them at low prices."

The advisory noted that during an interview last week, French President Emmanuel

Macron underlined the need to ensure worldwide vaccine distribution to achieve global health.

"We are not an island, 10 millions of our people have family overseas," the French President had underlined, stressing that in a globalized world, vaccination should not be a race because 'we all lose if lower income countries are behind on vaccination.'

The key priority now should be strong acceleration of vaccine distribution in Africa at a time when global actors have centered their efforts on investment, with billions of dollars having been donated to

vaccine giants such as COVAX and the UN programme run by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to fight Covid-19, the statement noted.

The G7 meeting held virtually on February 19th for the first time since April 2020 increased these donations by 7.5 billion dollars.

"But President Macron highlights what should be our key priority: ensuring that the vaccine reaches Africa promptly. It isn't so much investment that is critical at this point, but rather efficient distribution of vaccine doses, as the President reminds: 'If we announce billions of dollars today, only

to distribute vaccine doses in six months from now, we will lose the trust of our African friends,'" reads the advisory.

"Indeed, vaccines that come too late might not be fit anymore to fight the spread of the disease. Therefore, President Macron called for a 3 to 5% allocation of European vaccine doses to Africa."

In these difficult times, the statement notes, some countries understandably prefer focusing on vaccinating their own population rather than sharing vaccine doses. But President Macron boldly emphasizes: "It is a lot more important today to be quick to

vaccinate a health worker in Dakar than hurrying to vaccinate a young French person in good health. I am saying so in full awareness."

That is why, the French President has presented a new initiative to the G7, asking for Europe and the United States to deliver 13 million vaccine doses specifically meant for the 6.5 million health care workers in Africa. On top of this, every rich country is welcome to allocate 3 to 5 per cent of their vaccine doses to Africa. German Chancellor Merkel has already communicated her interest for the initiative, which aims to protect Africa

from a dangerous trend: predatory selling of vaccine doses.

The statement underlined that currently, African countries are buying astronomically-priced vaccines from foreign labs in unbalanced bilateral negotiations. These labs are selling vaccines at prices two or three times higher than what they are offering European countries.

There is lack of information on some of these vaccines due to lack of international cooperation by some countries, and there is no certainty that they are effective against the new Covid-19 variant, hence the French President is invit-

ing every country to collaborate on several fields such as capacity building and technology transfer, so that African countries can produce their own vaccines.

Transparency and regulation of vaccine costs count, so that African countries do not overpay their vaccines, he urged, seeking support of African institutions and tools fighting Covid-19 like CDC Africa or the network of Instituts Pasteur, present across the continent.

The statement said President Macron advocates this collaborative approach to put an end to 'vaccine diplo-

macy', which pits countries against each other by creating competition on the pace and availability of vaccine doses. He calls for the adoption of a globalized, multilateral and humanised approach, benefiting lower and middle income countries as much as rich countries.

"As the French Ambassador in Tanzania, I am eager to work closely with the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, mainly through the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on our President's generosity," the statement added.

'Peace crucial for investment flows'

FROM PAGE 1

pose port in Unguja North.

The project inked between the government of Zanzibar and the Oman Investment Authority involves the construction of berths for liquid bulk ships, containers, fishing vessels, natural gas offshore activities as well as backup infrastructure for rehabilitation of marine vessels.

And early last month, the Zanzibar government and Spanish company Tangen & Intertorco Group sealed a pact for carrying out a feasibility study and construction of a joint fishing port at Mpagaduri in Unguja and another port at Mkoani in Pemba.

For his part, Simbachawene assured President Mwinyi that the ministry which is a Union docket will do everything in its power to maintain peace and tranquility in the islands that hugely depend on tourism, thanks to its historical scenery and beaches popular with sunbathers.

The minister also used the opportunity to extend his condolences to the president following the death last week of Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad.

The Isles' main opposition ACT-Wazalendo national chairman was early this month admitted at the Muhimbili National Hospital.

Hamad, popularly known as Maalim Seif, was a permanent fixture in Isles politics, contesting the presidency but narrowly and contentiously losing since the first multi party elections in 1995 until last year's General Election.

He joined the Government of National Unity (GNU) after the hotly contested 2010 General Election until the next polls late 2015. On 18th March 2019 he shifted from the Civic United Front (CUF) and joined ACT-Wazalendo, from which he contentiously lost the recent polls, then joined another GNU.

He first joined the Zitto Kabwe-led outfit as senior advisor and later elected national chairman, ready for endorsement to run in the Isles presidential contest last year.



Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (wearing a cap) talks to officials in Longido District, Arusha Region about the government's move to line up spray aircraft to hold back desert locusts. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

EAC set to get new Secretary General

By Guardian Reporter

EXPECTATIONS are high ahead of the East African Community heads of state summit scheduled for February 27, when leaders will make a decision on the new secretary general of the regional body.

The EAC SG runs daily affairs of the bloc's Secretariat, the executive organ of the community.

The secretary general is the principal executive and accounting officer of the Community as well as the Secretary of the summit.

The nominee for the top executive job will replace Liberat Mfumukeko, the Burundian national who has held the position for the past five years.

Mfumukeko assumed the office in 2016 replacing Rwanda's Dr. Richard Sezibera.

The position of SG is held on a rotational basis and this is expected to be Kenya's turn, meaning that according to protocol, President Uhuru Kenyatta would present the Kenyan candidate for the job for approval by the summit.

However, Manasseh Nshuti, Rwanda's Minister of State in charge of EAC affairs said on Tuesday that they have received an application from South Sudan.

"It will now be up to the heads of state to decide," said Nshuti.

South Sudan is the latest entrant into the regional body of six regional countries.

MP Aden Omar Abdikadir, a Kenyan member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) said that 'the new SG will have a big task ahead.'

Besides allegations of corruption scandals, Mfumukeko's tenure was often characterised by friction with other organs of the regional bloc including the regional assembly and the Council of Ministers, the policy-making organ of the community.

It is for this reason that Abdikadir believes whoever comes in now "will inherit an organisation that is functionally on its knees," considering low staff morale, conflict between organs and a community which is financially broke.

Abdikadir said that there is also a lot of mistrust between partner states because of the lack of a strong community organ to coordinate their cooperation.

"The new SG needs to move with speed to build trust and relationship between organs of the community and between partner states," Abdikadir noted.

"He or she will also need to bring in charisma and a good working relationship with employees of the community. He has to build the motivation of the team and rejuvenate the community."

Laws still restrict women's economic opportunities despite progress - report

By Guardian Reporter

A new World Bank report has shown that with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, women around the world continue to face laws and regulations that restrict their economic opportunities.

It said the pandemic has created new challenges to their health, safety, and economic security.

Reforms to remove obstacles to women's economic inclusion have been slow in many regions and uneven within them, according to Women, Business and the

Law 2021.

According to the report, on average, women have just three-quarters of the legal rights afforded to men. Women were already at a disadvantage before the pandemic, and government initiatives to buffer some of its effects, while innovative, have been limited in many countries.

David Malpass, World Bank Group President said: "Women need to be fully included in economies in order to achieve better development outcomes. Despite progress in many countries, there have been troubling reversals in

a few, including restricting women's travel without the permission of a male guardian."

He said the pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities that disadvantage girls and women, including barriers to attend school and maintain jobs.

"Women are also facing a rise in domestic violence and health and safety challenges. Women should have the same access to finance and the same rights to inheritance as men and must be at the center of our efforts toward an inclusive and resilient re-

covery from the COVID-19 pandemic," he stated.

The World Bank's Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, Mari Pangestu said: "While it is encouraging that many countries have proactively taken steps to help women navigate the pandemic, it's clear that more work is needed, especially in improving parental leave and equalizing pay."

Pangestu added: "Countries need to create a legal environment that enhances women's economic inclusion, so that they can make the best choices for themselves and their families."

The Women, Business and the Law 2021 report, measures the laws and regulations across 8 areas that affect women's economic opportunities in 190 countries, covering the period from September 2019 to October 2020.

From the basics of movement in the community to the challenges of working, parenting, and retiring, the data offers objective and measurable benchmarks for global progress toward gender equality.

Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the report also

looks at government responses to the COVID-19 crisis and how the pandemic has impacted women at work and at home, focusing on childcare, access to justice, and health and safety.



The report finds that many governments have put in place measures to address some of the impacts of the pandemic on working women.

The pandemic has also contributed to a rise in both the severity and frequency of gender-based violence.

Preliminary research shows that since early 2020,

governments introduced about 120 new measures including hotlines, psychological assistance, and shelters to protect women from violence.

Some governments also took steps to provide access to justice in several ways, including declaring family cases urgent during lockdown and allowing remote court proceedings for family matters. However, governments still have room to enact measures and policies aimed at addressing the root causes of this violence.

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Serengeti Breweries Ltd (SBL) Arusha regional manager Doreni Temba (L) and sales officer Nakunda Mbaga (C) brief the firm's officials during the launch of a new product in Arusha on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Contractor given 10-day ultimatum

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami, has instructed the contractor, Aee Power Epc S.A.U to start construction of power station in Ifakara town within ten days, to improve access to electricity in Kilombero and Ulanga districts in Morogoro Region.

Dr Kalemami made the directives on Tuesday in Kilombero District after visiting the site where the station will be built. He found out that construction was yet to start despite the fact that the contract was signed in April last year.

"It is not possible for the contract to be signed in April last year, but you have not even laid the groundwork. So, by March 5, I want to see the work started," he said.

Dr Kalemami said that Kilombero and Ulanga districts are facing frequent power outages because they are receiving electricity from Kihansi and Kidatu hydropower stations that are far away, leading

to poor access to electricity.

So far 23bn/- has been released by the government and European Union (EU) for construction of the Ifakara power station, which is to be completed by April next year.

Speaking in Ulanga District soon after inspecting a small-scale mining site in Epanko village Dr Kalemami called on residents living in villages to be connected with electricity at 27,000/- and not more. His visit was meant to see how power will be supplied in the mining site for productive mining.

The minister directed the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) to supply power to mines owned by small-scale miners by next week and the work should be done within one month from now.

He said that the cost of supplying power to the mines is about 400m/- which is available, ordering all local government leaders in the country to allocate funds for power connections to public institutions in their villages.

Women's Day should encourage more women to enter tourism industry - TTB

By Beatrice Philemon

IN marking International Women's Day, the government in collaboration with other stakeholders is set to engage women in the tourism business as part of recognising their contribution in promoting the country's cash earner.

Briefing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) managing director, Devota Mdachi said the day is cele-

brated every March 8th and this year is themed "Come Celebrate Women's Day with Women in Tourism." She said that in Tanzania, the IWD will be marked in a different style.

"We need to recognise and value their contribution because there are so many women who have made amazing things worthy in promoting and uplift the tourism sector, but are not recognised for what they are doing," she said.

She added that in honouring women's contribution, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will work in partnership with Tanzania National Parks, (TANAPA), TTB, Tanzania Business Women Association (TABWA), Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

According to her, government institutions and play-

ers in the tourism industry will mark the day by promoting domestic tourism to attract local visitors to visit various tourist attractions and witness what Tanzania has to offer in the sector.

"There will be different activities that will take place in Arusha, Mwanza, and Dar es Salaam regions in-terms of exhibitions and special tours to visit the tourist attractions."

"There will be a special tour for women to visit at

Saadani National Park on March 6th this year and Tarangire National Park on March 7th this year," she said.

TABWA executive director, Noreen Mawala said that so far the authority has organised a three-day exhibition for small and medium entrepreneurs engaged in tourism sector and other businesses to showcase what they offer and obtain a new market.

She said that the exhibi-

tion will take place in Dar es Salaam's Mlimani City between March 4th and 7th this year, calling on women from different areas across the country to use this opportunity to market what they have as well as find market for their products.

"Women keen to participate in this exhibition are invited to visit in our office to get information on how to participate so that can market what they have," she noted

"This is an ideal platform for meeting potential buyers, dealers, and end users of their products. This event will provide the unique opportunity to SMEs to interact with different people and even establishing joint ventures."

TABWA in collaboration with TTB will organise special tour for women to visit at Saadani National Park, she called on women keen to visit there to register their names.

Govt woos investors to explore opportunities in Singida Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

DEPUTY Minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato has urged investors around the world to come and invest in Singida Region as there is enough and reliable electricity.

Byabato made the call here on Tuesday when speaking during the launch of the Singida Regional Investment Guide. He said that so far the region produces 132 MW, but the actual demand is only 10.7 per cent, and the surplus is 122MW.

"Local and foreign investors, industrialists, mines, various traders and all activities that require electricity come to Singida, use this opportunity. We've enough power, which is the main pillar of all investments for every nation," he said.

The deputy minister said that 174 villages have access to electricity out of 298 villages in the entire Singida Region, where he promised that all the villages will be electrified in the second-phase of the Rural Energy Agency (REA III) which continues to be implemented from February this year this.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo said that the experts entrusted with overseeing investment matters should be careful during the investment negotiation process.

He said it was important for the experts to understand, consider and care for and respect the country's investment laws in the wider interests of the country and Tanzania as a whole.

Prof Mkumbo urged the experts to focus on patriotism and ensure that the relevant investment brings productivity and benefits to the nation in growing the economy instead of the investment benefiting only the investor.

He also asked the experts to value and respect investors in every sector in order to continue to attract investors.



Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (2nd R) during a visit to inspect a bridge linking Ilulu and Chagu villages which had been swept away by flood waters in Ileje District, Songwe Region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Siti Said

Manyara DC roots for more sugar cultivation

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI District Commissioner Lazaro Twange has tasked Manyara Sugar Factory to ensure that all sugarcane produced by out-growers are processed to encourage them to grow more and lure other farmers to venture into the sector to get out of the poverty trap.

DC Twange made the call here yesterday when he met with leaders of three Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS)—Kiru, Gichameda, and Matumairo whose members of the three AMCOS are embarking on cane cultivation.

"I want the factory to come to terms with sugarcane production so that more people can be encouraged to cultivate sugarcane and young people can find employment," said Twange.

The DC was interested in the request made by the secretary of Gichameda AMCOS, Godfrey Hicheks for the factory to produce 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day.

However, factory public relations officer, John Jeu turned down the request, saying the mill has a low sugar production capacity.

"The only person who wants the cane to be re-

duced is you. I'm surprised to hear that you can't process 600,000 tonnes.

This is to discourage farmers," the DC wondered, calling the factory to come up with a better strategy that will make them increase sugar production.

Factory director Devsh Odedra cited the difficulty of finding experts who specialise in sugar production from India, but we failed to get them because the government needs them to have certificates of that expertise.

In his response, DC Twange said the matter has been reported to the Commissioner of Labour so he

would make a follow-up, adding that if possible he would accompany the factory officials to Dodoma and contact the relevant authorities for help.

Registrar of Cooperative Unions in Manyara Region, Venance Msafiri pledged to work on the challenges.

He urged them to increase sugarcane production to curb sugar shortages in the country, saying: "If farmers will stop producing sugarcane the factory would run out of raw materials and the government would lose taxes."

Earlier, Jeu said that last farming season the factory issued 3.9bn/- to sugarcane growers.



Kinondoni and Ubungo paralegal officers follow a presentation by Legal Services Facility (LSF) chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala in a video conference about women and children rights held in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UN agency, IAEA deepen collaboration

ROME

THE Director-Generals of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), QU Dongyu, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, signed an updated collaboration arrangement, aimed at further strengthening and developing their joint activities.

The joint FAO/IAEA Nuclear Technologies Division, operating since the 1960s, will become a centre and continue its well-recognized and respected work whilst increasing synergy and expanding areas of common interest, in particular in relation to transboundary animal and plant diseases.

"I look forward to even more concrete and impactful collaboration," said the FAO Director-General at a joint event Tuesday, highlighting the potential contributions of innovative research and development activities, using nuclear techniques, to the transformation of agri-food systems.

The IAEA Director-General Grossi stated that the collaboration with FAO was not only exemplary, but also "changing, growing and adapting to the challenges."

The two agencies, which together run a campus of innovative science and development laboratories in Seibersdorf, Austria, and have plans to expand the existing technical infrastructure to include fit-for-purpose greenhouses for climate-smart agriculture as well as a high-level biosecurity BSL3 laboratory to support animal and zoonotic disease control,

have delivered numerous successful applications of nuclear technologies food and agriculture.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Joint Centre has provided technical support and laboratory training by using real-time PCR testing kits with necessary reagents and other biosafety equipment as well as expert backstopping services to 128 countries.

The expanded collaboration framework agreed today will improve integration of the IAEA's capacities into FAO's work on OneHealth, while also contributing to IAEA's new Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), which focuses on innovative R&D activities, surveillance and diagnostics through the use of nuclear techniques.

ZODIAC will be crucial in filling in knowledge gaps and the Joint Centre's laboratories present a unique added-value in that respect, FAO Director-General QU noted and added that it will also benefit from FAO's worldwide network of veterinary laboratories operating at the field level.

The Joint FAO/IAEA Center has vastly up scaled the use of the Sterile Insect Technique, which operates by releasing mass-produced sterile insects to control livestock and plant pests such as tsetse flies, screwworm, fruit flies and other pests. Globally more than one trillion sterile insects have been released to help control major agricultural pest problems that lead to fruit production, animal diseases, trade restrictions and biodiversity risks.

Over 6 million people benefited from paralegal services in 2020

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MORE than 6 million people in the country have benefited from legal aid services provided by the paralegal aid organisations in the year 2020.

Legal Services Facility (LSF) Executive Chief Executive Officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala said through video conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday that out of those, 45 percent were

male and 55 percent were female.

Ng'wanakilala said the conference was attended by over 200 paralegal aid organisations across the country through an online platform.

She said the conference was part of the forum organised by the LSF every year to meet with heads of paralegals aid organizations to promote justices among the community especially women.

According to the CEO, the conference further aimed at setting strategic plans for 2021.

"I'm happy to inform you that in the last year, our stakeholders have done outstanding performance compared to the target set," she said.

"We have been tracing and monitoring all duties performed by stakeholders in order to reach more people and those who are in need

like mothers and children. Our target is to bring development saying that no there is development without justice." Bumbuli Paralegal Organisation (BPO) director Ramadhani Mtana, thanked the LSF for the subsidies especially paralegals aid organizations supporting day to day operation.

Mtana said lack of funds was one of the big challenges most paralegals organisa-

tions face in the country hence fail to implement some of the projects.

"LSF as stakeholders has been on the forefront to provide subsidies to enable the organisations to serve the people especially women who face different challenges including gender harassment, inheritance and other cases," he said. LSF is a basket fund established in 2011 as a non-profit organization that

strives to increase access to justice for all, in particular for women through a legal empowerment approach.

Promoting protection of human rights for all, with an emphasis on poor women, girls and other vulnerable groups. It enhances the availability, affordability, accessibility, and acceptability of quality legal aid services through paralegals and other legal aid providers.

It channels its funds on an equal opportunity basis to organisations which provide legal aid and paralegal services on Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

It works closely with the government of Tanzania at all levels, development partners, organisations involved in the provision of legal aid, including paralegal services and other like-minded stakeholders.

African Union eyes ambitious continental infrastructure fund

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union (AU) wants to tap into member countries' sovereign wealth funds to finance much-needed transport and power infrastructure to boost growth and offset rising national debts.

It says it is needed to capitalise on a new, continental free-trade agreement to get goods and services flowing around the continent.

As it stands, countries struggle to

fund big capital works on their own, the AU said.

The plan was revealed by Raila Odinga, the AU's high representative for infrastructure.

The AU wants to collect 5% of the money held by its 55 members in sovereign wealth, insurance and retirement funds. Odinga said it would be more lucrative than having funds "lie idle".

"Africa is financially starved as far as the need for infrastructure development is concerned," Odinga com-

mented. According to the AU, there is an annual shortfall of between \$60bn and \$90bn, which is preventing the continent from advancing its plans for economic integration.

The AU's vision for Africa rests on a \$3.4 trillion African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). An agreement setting up the area was signed in March 2018, and it came into force in May 2019.

This agreement aims to create the largest free trade area in the world. Al-

though the initial treaty only removed tariffs from 90% of goods crossing borders, the UN Economic Commission for Africa estimates that it could boost intra-African trade by 52% by 2022.

At present, African countries exchange just 15% of their goods with each other, compared with a figure of 70% in Europe.

"This infrastructure is urgent for the realisation of the AfCFTA, otherwise it is just going to remain on paper," Odinga said. "Africa needs to trade with itself."

Women leaders in Zanzibar challenged to inspire others

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN who are holding various political positions in Zanzibar were yesterday challenged to come up with a better strategy that will inspire their counterparts to follow their footsteps.

Zanzibar Minister for Information, Youth, Culture, and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwitwa threw the challenge when opening eight-day training to journalists from Unguja and Pemba islands. The training has been organised by Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) Zanzibar in collaboration with Zanzibar Female Lawyer Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environmental, Gender and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO) through 'Strengthening Women in Leadership Project (SWIL)' under the sponsorship of Norwegian embassy in Tanzania.

She said that there are more women who need support from their fellows who are in top political positions. "That's why I'm encouraging women leaders to come up with better ways of assisting those who are in need," the minister said.

Tabia also urged women not to give up on the humiliating challenges, saying: "For a woman to be a leader there are many things you will go through."

"I have personally gone through challenges that I cannot even mention here, but today I have seen my potential and finally I'm a minister," he added.

She however urged participants to use the training effectively including unveiling and documenting challenges that thwarts women's development in the society. TAMWA-Zanzibar Director, Dr Mzuri Issa said the training for journalists will bring change and be a catalyst for participants.

She said: "Media practitioners are key people in the society, who are being trusted and that is why we've seen the need to train them in a specific strategy that aims to encourage more women to decision-making positions." However, she said there was a need for society to focus on the rights and responsibilities of every woman and to realise that leadership positions should not be limited to men.

ZAFELA Director Jamila Mahmoud said through the project which will be implemented in various parts of Unguja and Pemba and will benefit 600 women.

She said that the women through the four-year project will go on and hold different leadership positions at various levels.

Jamila also said the project will build the capacity of 60 journalists from Unguja and Pemba who will work through the project throughout the implementation period.

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East African nations likely to contain locust swarms - FAO

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African nations are likely to contain new locust swarms emerging in the region because of continuing pest-control operations and the prospect of poor spring rains, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has said.

The potential of a new generation of breeding comes after the region faced its worst locust invasion in decades last year, threatening the food security of millions of people. At the height of the infestation, 39 of Kenya's 47 counties reported invasions of the insects that also spread to Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen.

The present situation in East Africa differs significantly from a year ago, the FAO said.

"The current swarms are smaller in size and less numerous," it said. "Very little rain has fallen since the end of the short rains last year. Intensive aerial control operations, supported by ground teams, are well established and making good progress in reducing locust infestations."

The Global Locust Initiative at Arizona State University expects locust outbreaks to become more frequent and severe because of climate change.

Recently, FAO reported immature swarms in Kenya's northern and central counties, and in Kilifi County in upper Coast region. There are a few small immature swarms formed from previous breeding in the Coast

region near Lamu and probably in adjacent areas of southern Somalia, the UN agency stated.

Swarms are highly mobile and the same swarm can be sighted several times, thus some locust concentrations were spotted in parts of the Rift Valley region, Kenya's bread basket.

The swarms of locusts now threaten the livelihoods of millions of people in Kenya as the conflicts in Yemen, Somalia and northern Ethiopia make it difficult for FAO to control the breeding and movement of the pests at the source. FAO attributes the upsurge of locusts to favourable breeding grounds in these countries.

"We are having a second wave because of the favourable breeding weather conditions in Ethiopia and Somalia," said Hamisi Williams, assistant FAO representative in Kenya.

"Yemen seems to be a gateway to the Horn of Africa because when the southerly winds begin to blow, locusts cross over the Red Sea to the Horn of Africa," he said.

"Control measures including aerial spraying and mapping out breeding areas have been hampered by the fighting in Yemen, which is the one of the largest breeding grounds of desert locusts," he pointed out.

Swarms can fly up to 150 kilometres a day with the wind, and a single square kilometre swarm can eat as much food in a day as 35,000 people, experts assert.



Deputy minister for Communications and Information Technology Eng. Andrea Mathew Kundo (R) accompanied by USCAF, TCRA-CCC, TCRA and the ministry's officials talk to Vodacom executive committee members led by the managing director Hisham Hendi during a familiarisation visit at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dr Tax directs SADC's private sector to invest in pharmaceuticals industries

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax has urged the region's private sector through the SADC Business Council, to enhance manufacturing capabilities through building a strong portfolio in pharmaceuticals and prioritizing industrialization.

Dr Tax made the remarks during a virtual meeting with the Chairperson of SADC

Business Council, Eduardo Sengo, and Chief Executive Officer of the Council, Peter Varndell early this week.

The SADC Business Council is an umbrella body for the private sector comprising national apex bodies of the private sectors of each of the 16 SADC member states.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss operationalization of the business council and progress on activities in support of SADC industrialization and regional

integration agenda.

Dr Tax said dialogue would result in huge progress in the operations of the Business Council and called upon the parties to concretize the partnership between the private and public sectors, effectively operationalize the council and build a strong network linkage with its affiliates.

She said that the specific objectives of the constitution of the Business Council will be guided and aligned to what is contained in the SADC

Treaty, including other statutory documents such as the SADC Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-30.

Sengo thanked the SADC Secretariat for the good work in supporting the SADC business council.

He said the council was poised to adopt a private agenda for the region which will ensure that all private members/associations, and chambers of commerce can

influence and advocate for discussions which will enhance their mandate.

He said that this will help Member States to deliberate on pertinent topics such as the free trade zones and industrialization agenda, including removal of trade barriers.

Sengo advocated for more engagement and dialogue with the political leadership to help the business world to eliminate business barriers, and for implementing con-

ducive legal instruments which will support the transformation of the economies of the region.

The meeting also discussed the status of preparations for the SADC industrialisation week, which the two parties jointly host annually, bringing together the public and private sectors, International Cooperating Partners (ICPs), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and policy makers in the region to forge wider understanding of the SADC

Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2020-2030, and facilitate its implementation.

The SADC industrialisation week is scheduled to take place in Maputo, Republic of Mozambique in May or June 2021 and Lilongwe, Republic of Malawi in August 2021.

Varndell thanked the SADC Secretariat, through the leadership of Dr Tax, for the cordial engagement and cooperation accorded to the Business Council.

He updated the meeting

Enabel
Belgian Development Agency

Logistics and Purchasing Officer (m/f/x) – Kigoma Region

Enabel is the Belgian development agency. It implements Belgium's governmental cooperation. The agency also implements actions for other national and international donors. With its partners in Belgium and abroad Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges: Climate Change, Urbanisation, Human Mobility, Peace and Security, Economic and Social Inequality, and Global Citizenship. With 1,500 staff, Enabel manages about 150 projects in twenty countries, in Belgium, Africa and the Middle East.

Background

The Sustainable Agriculture Kigoma Region Project (SAKIRP) is an agribusiness and value chain development project funded by the Belgian government through its implementing agency, Enabel. The project's specific objective is to increase and diversify smallholder farmer incomes in Kigoma region, especially for women, through pro-poor development of beans, cassava and sunflower value chains. The project aims to reach 20,000 smallholder farmers during the four-year implementation period.

The project has the following mutually reinforcing results:

- Value chains management and coordination mechanisms are installed and steer cassava and beans value chain development;
- Sound financial mechanisms are developed, and financial organisations are strengthened to support value chains development;
- Public and private chain supporters provide effective services to value chain actors;
- Stronger position of smallholders in the value chain through improved integration and empowerment;
- Improved market access and sustainable trade.

The Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) is a project focusing on water supply services sustainability in rural areas. In rural Tanzania and Kigoma region many water supply systems are mal functioning or out of order due to weak management, ageing infrastructures and lack of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) throughout time. As a consequence, a large part of the population is suffering from inadequate and intermittent water supply. For these reasons WASKIRP will be supporting the establishment of Community Owned Water Supply Organizations (COWSO) as well as improving existing infrastructures with a view of sustaining the water supply service in the long run. The project is aligned with national policies and strategies, contributing directly to the implementation of Tanzania Water & Sanitation Development Plan 2007-2020 (WSDP).

Job Description

Under the hierarchical authority of the International Finance and Administration Officer the Logistics and Purchasing Officer manages small purchases and is responsible for the logistical aspects such as the operational management of buildings and equipment, transportation of goods, exemptions...

As Logistics and Purchasing Officer:

- You are responsible to put in place procurement procedures and for the good application thereof in order to have equipment that is adapted to the needs of the users/projects safely available;
- You are responsible to verify/survey materials with the help

of an office inventory in order for equipment, including the communication systems, to function correctly and to guarantee a suitable working environment;

- You are responsible to submit registration requests to customs, etc. for the claiming of materials and equipment in order for the projects to be able to dispose of the goods as soon as possible and to avoid having to pay lateness fees or fines;
- You provide support to the projects, located in the Kigoma Region in Tanzania, in terms of protocol in order to ensure good execution of various tasks/procedures.

Your profile

Required qualifications and experience

- Bachelor degree in administration or procurement/logistics or any other relevant domain from a recognized academic institution (Minimum 3 years of professional experience in logistics and procurement);
- A professional experience in a Non-Governmental Organization/bilateral agency is an asset.

Required skills and knowledge

- Basic knowledge of transit/customs clearance and bookkeeping is an asset;
- Knowledge of public procurement procedures and basics of stocks management;
- Ability to read and understand technical specifications of procurement;
- Basic knowledge of quality and security standards;
- Good knowledge of Computer software skills such as (MS Word, Excel);
- You are fluent in spoken and written Swahili. Considering the international environment in which you work, excellent knowledge of English is required.

Applicants are also required to commit to the vision, mission and values of Enabel (<https://www.enabel.be/content/enabel-vision-mission-values>).

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Following this recruitment procedure a shortlist of successful applicants may be constituted which may be sourced in the next three years for similar job openings.

Enabel is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in its workforce. Recruitment is solely on the basis of capacity.

Are you interested?

Apply at the latest by 16/03/2021 and include your application letter and updated CV to recruitment.tza@enabel.be.

PCI A Global Communities Partner

Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Conducting a Program Sustainability and Self-replication Study in Mara Region

Project Concern International (PCI)'s integrated school feeding program, called Food for Education (FFE III), is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (MGD) program. These efforts are anchored on the Global PCI's commitment to empower people to enhance health, end hunger, overcome hardships and empower women and girls. Since 2016, the program has provided school meals for more than 200,000 students in the Mara Region, Tanzania. Project Concern International is a Global Communities Partner.

PCI is seeking a consultant, or firm, to conduct a quantitative and qualitative Sustainability and Self-replication Study for the Women Empowered (WE) Savings Groups Program which is part of the large FFE program. "WE" is a PCI global initiative which promotes the economic and social empowerment of women and girls through formation of self-managed and self-sustaining savings groups. The Study purpose is to analyze the current state of graduated "WE" formed groups beyond PCI support, determining the factors behind "WE" groups activeness and inactiveness.

Service Requirements:

The planned assignment would consist of the following activities:

- Define empowerment and give examples of women's empowerment in FFE program;
- Defining the biggest challenge/obstacle for "WE" groups in the future; and
- The "WE" groups perception on reinforcing networking among women entrepreneurs.

Company/Firm/Consultant Requirements should include:

- Previous and proofed experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis, and report writing.
- Ability to lead primary data collection in Kiswahili and strong English report writing skills.
- Strong familiarity with the social-economic environment of Mara region is an added advantage; and
- Good record of quality similar services.

Interested candidates are advised to submit their Expressions of Interest latest by 12th March 2021, as per below guidance:

- A letter of interest describing qualifications,
- Curriculum vitae of key team members, and
- A list of previous, relevant evaluations with the date and client contact information.

Please submit all the enclosed information to
Wilfred Donath: wdonath@globalcommunities.org
and copying
Hillary Dashina: hdashina@globalcommunities.org



Arusha Regional Medical Officer Dr. Wedson Sicalwe (3rd L) and Arumeru District Commissioner Jerry Muro (3rd R) launch 'Defend Me and My Mother' campaign held in Meru District yesterday. Right is Meru executive director Emmanuel Mkongo. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

TACAIDS launches resource packs to increase participation of clerics in fighting HIV/Aids

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) in collaboration with other implementing partners have partnered to launch faith-based leaders resource tools to encourage men and children on use of HIV/Aids services in the country.

The launch of the materials aim to enable religious leaders in various religious settings to have accurate HIV/Aids information including testing and treatment to improve the delivery of "new messages of hope" to their congregations with the motto 'Chaguo jipya, Matibabu Mpya, Wakati mpya, Tumaini jipya'.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam today during the launch of the resources, TACAIDS Executive Director Dr Leonard Maboko said that in Tanzania and many countries around the world look at faith-based structures as an integral part of the community, and have durable relationships built on trust and ministry. He added that studies across several sub-Saharan African countries have demonstrated how enhancing engagement with faith communities and faith leaders can significantly improve the attainment of the 95-95-95 HIV testing and treatment targets.

"With over 80 percent of the adult population in Tanzania being faith believers the adapted "new messages, represents a unique opportunity to accelerate the attainment of the 95-95-95 HIV/Aids target endeavors" said Dr Maboko.

He said that the purpose of the engagement of faith-based leader towards, the adapted "New Messages of Hope" is equipping faith leaders with the information and resources they need to break the silence, and help bridge the gaps in HIV testing, treatment, care and support for men and children.

TACAIDS recognizes the contribution made by religious leaders in the country in the fight against HIV and AIDS, by creating and enabling

good environment for Tanzanians to access HIV and AIDS services. He said according to the country's 2016/17 statistics, the HIV prevalence in Tanzania has dropped from 5.3 percent to 4.7 percent for people aged 15-49 years adding that religious leaders have played a significant role in this reduction.

Speaking at the same event, USAID PEPFAR Anathy Thambinagam said that religious leaders and faith based faith based organisations in delivering key messages and preventive measures to the community. They are key influencers and are much trusted by their believers and therefore are key in transforming attitudes and the way the society think about HIV.

She said the US government through USAID is strongly supporting the TACAIDS and its partners in rolling out and reaching the faith based organisations in delivering key issues and information to the community. I take this opportunity to comment the TACAIDS together with its partners in launching this important initiative which will give hope to millions of Tanzanians countrywide.

Speaking on the tool launched, The USAID Tulonge Afya HIV/AIDS and TB advisor Michael Luvanda said that the tools include "New Messages of Hope" guide for Christians and Muslims, devotional resource calendars for Muslims and Christians and faith and community posters focusing on both. The materials are aimed at addressing key behaviors on HIV testing, enrollment in care and treatment, ART adherence and retention in care community support, TB prevention therapy uptake and completion and the importance of viral load testing.

"The materials are a result of a consultative adaptation process which brought together various actors from TACAIDS, Ministry of Health Community development gender elderly and children, US-

AID Tanzania through PEPFAR, faith-based organization and other implementing partners" said Luvanda.

Speaking at the launch the BAKWATA general secretary Nuhu Jabir Mruma said that religious leaders recognize that these tools have come at a right time when the government aims to end the spread of HIV by 2030. "We are very happy to be part of this great imitative of ensuring that the nation achieves the 95-95-95 targets," he said.

Speaking on behalf of religious leaders at the launch the CCT general secretary Moses Matonya commended the government for continuing to recognize the contribution of religion leaders in addressing various social challenges and especially in the fight against this HIV and AIDS, he said that fight against HIV/AIDS an engagement of wider range of stakeholder religious leaders. "As religious leaders are committed on the implementation of this campaign. As people near and close to the community, we will use our platforms to deliver this message to our believers," he added.

Like many sub-Saharan countries in Africa, Tanzania still experiences high HIV related deaths, approximately 2/3 of the estimated AIDS related deaths in 2017 were among men and children with almost 41% of males aged 15 and older have never had an HIV test, this and many other factors require intensified strategies to engage men and children living with HIV and link them to testing, care and treatment services.

Faith Community Initiative (FCI) is an initiative that aims at bringing together faith-based organisations to address HIV/AIDS related issues. It is coordinated by TACAIDS and implemented by partners such as Pact, World Vision, Amref Tanzania, MDH, ICAP, AGPAHL, CRS, CSSC the initiative is funded by PEPFAR.

Bicycle donations help schoolgirls in rural Tanzania

Kenilworth, UK

THE local group 'Kenilworth-Uyogo Friendship Link' has expressed its thanks to the many people of Kenilworth who made donations to help enable female students cycle quickly and safely to school in rural Tanzania.

The 'Buy-A-Bike' alternative gift scheme was launched in November 2020 by this year's Mayor of Kenilworth, Cllr Richard Dickson.

In the three months since then, donations from individuals and organisations in Kenilworth, such as Kenilworth Rotary Club, have raised nearly £4,000. Donations arrived from beyond Kenilworth as well, as people were inspired by this practical way of making a difference to Uyogo schoolgirls' education, and transforming

their life chances.

As a result of fundraising, 66 bikes were presented to their new owners in Uyogo on Tuesday, February 16.

Each locally purchased bicycle, costing £50 delivered to Uyogo, will make a huge difference to the life of a secondary school girl, some of whom live up to 26km away from school; walking long distances to school means those in the furthest villages are struggling to attend.

The secondary school owns the bikes and allocates them to their female students, who often struggle more than boys to get schooling.

Each bike is numbered on the back mudguard so a record is kept of who has been allocated which bike; and each bike is marked 'KUFL' on their chain guard, for security. While the girls use the bikes

they and their families are responsible for their bike's security and for all maintenance.

There are many bicycle 'fundis' or experts in Uyogo, and the nearest town Urambo, so bike maintenance is no problem.

When the girls finish school, after their form four examinations, they will hand their bike back to the school, to be re-allocated to another student.

Kenilworth has had a friendship link with Uyogo in Tanzania for more than 40 years. When the new government secondary school opened in the village, with a very wide catchment area, staff and parents feared that girls walking to school from their homes in neighbouring communities were at significant risk of being attacked.



INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATIONS OF VENDORS

Africa Academy for Public Health (AAPH) is an independent non-profit, non-governmental organization registered in Tanzania with the mission to address public health priority challenges in sub-Saharan Africa through innovative scientific evidence, training & capacity building and knowledge translation. In addition to implementation science research, AAPH aims to contribute to the development of public health professionals who are equipped to address identified gaps in delivery of health care services, systems and inform change in practice and policy around public health.

Headquartered in Dar es Salaam – Tanzania, AAPH works with a range of individuals as well as organizations, allowing ample opportunities for professional collaborations and networks. To ensure AAPH provides meaningful contribution to the Government of Tanzania in supporting the efforts for improving the health of its people, AAPH collaborations with both state and non-state actors within and outside Tanzania to advance its mission. This network provides a range of technical expertise, capabilities and perspectives which provide a unique set of resources in advancing public health in Tanzania and the sub-Saharan African region.

AAPH with its rich team of staff is self-sufficient in research expertise including: research design and implementation, program design and planning, development and management of data systems, data analysis, and monitoring and evaluation, epidemiology, training and policy dialogue. With these AAPH has successfully consulted on and conducted a wide range of health-related research including hospital and community-based studies. The studies focused on maternal and child health interventions, nutrition, safety monitoring of medical products, mental health, population health and health systems. In close collaboration with higher learning institutions within and outside the country, AAPH periodically conducts diverse training programs in Research Methodology, Grant Writing and Management, and Implementation Science and Health Economic Evaluation among others.

REQUEST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION ON LISTED SERVICES BELOW:

SN.	Lot Number	Required services/materials
1.	MTS/2021	Moving and Transport Services.
2.	ATR/2021	Air Ticketing Reservation.
3.	CH/2021	Car Hire (Dar, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Rukwa, Mbeya, Tanga, Mara, Zanzibar)
4.	HCV/2021	Hotel Services i.e. accommodation (Dar, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Rukwa, Mbeya, Tanga, Mara, Zanzibar)
5.	COS/2021	Conferencing Services (Dar, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Rukwa, Mbeya, Tanga, Mara, Zanzibar)
6.	CAS/2021	Catering Services (Dar, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Rukwa, Mbeya, Tanga, Mara, Zanzibar)
7.	OS/2021	Supply of general Office Stationeries.
8.	PM /2021	Printing Services i.e. (T-shirts, reports, and booklets, flyers Banners, Brochures, Posters, Leaflets, ID cards, and Books/Documents etc).
9.	MDC/2021	Medical supplies, Drugs and Consumables.
11.	MVR/2021	Provision of motor vehicle repair and maintenance service.
12.	MVP/2021	Provision of motor vehicle parts such as tires, batteries, breaks
13.	FAM/2021	Provision of fixed assets and motor vehicle insurance.
14.	MCR/2021	Provision of motorcycle repair and maintenance service.
15.	MCP/2021	Provision of motorcycle parts such as tires, batteries, breaks
16.	MCI/2021	Provision of motorcycle insurance.
17.	DW/2021	Supply of Drinking water.
18.	D/2021	Supply of Drapers.
19.	CIT/2021	Provision and services for computer(s) and IT peripherals: printers, Laptops, Desktops, Computer hardware accessories.
20.	TCS/2021	Technical consultancy services on research and training or related activities.
21.	OS/2021	Provision of office sundries.
22.	OF/2021	Supply of Office Furniture and general office equipment.
23.	ITSS/2021	Provision of IT technical support services : software development and installation, upgrades, website development, domain and data hosting.
24.	IS/2021	Provision of Internet Services.
25.	VMG/2021	Visual Media and graphics designing services.
26.	LS/2021	Provision of Legal Services.

KEY REQUIREMENT CRITERIA FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION

- Legal Business compliance (VRN, TIN, Tax Clearance certificate, valid Business License Company's registration certificates, TFD certificate where applicable, company registration certificate membership/ authorization letter where applicable) should be attached.
- Minimum experience not less than 5 years in similar business.
- Recommendation letters from three main current customers, these should be address to, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Academy for Public Health, Plot. No. 82A Mikochoeni Light Industrial Area. P.O. Box 32273, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The letters should have contact information for reference check.
- Audited and certified Financial Statements for the recent twelve months.
- The vendor should indicate the lot number on the sealed envelope for easy identification, envelope(s) that will not indicate the lot number will not be considered.
- Submit no more than six pages of a well detailed company profile. The six-page limitation excludes legal business compliance certificates, recommendation letters, audited and certified Financial Statements.
- The company profile must accommodate the relevant information as per need being catered for, from the table above.
- Service providers for Hotel and Conference services need to indicate the number of the rooms and capacity of the conference venues.

All documents must be submitted in an enclosed plain sealed envelope and delivered to the address provided below by Thursday March 11th 2021 at 12:00 PM - EST.

Chief Executive Officer, Africa Academy for Public Health.
Plot 82A Mikochoeni Light Industrial Area, P.O. Box 32273.
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.



Minister of State in the Prime minister's Office for Investment Prof. Kitila Mkumbo (L) cuts a ribbon to launch 'Investment Guideline in Singida Region recently. Right is Singida Regional Commissioner Dr. Rehema Nchimbi. Looking on is Regional Administration Secretary Angelina Lutambi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The Guardian

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THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
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Seas at risk urges ending of overfishing to mitigate impacts of climate change

THE full relationship between fisheries and climate change is difficult to explore due to the context of each fishery and the many pathways that climate change affects. However, there is strong global evidence for these effects. Rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification are radically altering marine aquatic ecosystems, while freshwater ecosystems are being impacted by changes in water temperature, water flow, and fish habitat loss. Climate change is modifying fish distribution and the productivity of marine and freshwater species.

The impacts of climate change on ocean systems has impacts on the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, on the livelihoods of the communities that depend on fisheries, and on the ability of the oceans to capture and store carbon (biological pump). The effect of sea level rise means that coastal fishing communities are significantly impacted by climate change, while changing rainfall patterns and water use impact on inland freshwater fisheries and aquaculture.

The rising ocean acidity makes it more difficult for marine organisms such as shrimp, oysters, or corals to form their shells - a process known as calcification.

Fish catch of the global ocean is expected to decline by 6 per cent by 2100 and by 11 per cent in tropical zones. Diverse models predict that by 2050, the total global fish catch potential may vary by less than 10 percent depending on the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions, but with very sig-

nificant geographical variability. Decreases in both marine and terrestrial production in almost 85 percent of coastal countries analysed are predicted, varying widely in their national capacity to adapt.

The government has stressed on need to conduct more research on the impacts of climate change in the fishing sub-sector as well as to improve the sector's performance in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Rashid Tamatamah said this recently when addressing participants of a six-day training workshop on fisheries development, quality of water and the environment along the Indian Ocean, lakes and rivers.

He said the researches will be conducted by the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute, Dar es Salaam (TARIFI).

The training was funded by the Chinese government through Sino-Africa Joint Research Centre (SAJOREC) and East African Great Lakes Urban Ecology (EAGLU) in collaboration with TAFIRI.

Dr Tamatamah added that fisheries stakeholders were equipped with various skills and shared experience with their fellows from China and Tanzania universities. He said they also received a number of collected data from various lakes and rivers.

TAFIRI acting director general, Dr Semvua Mzighani said the government of China through SAJOREC and the EAGLU has donated research equipment worth 70m/- to the institute. He said the

Food security in Africa is an achievable goal

WIPING out hunger in Africa requires a bold new approach. Efforts to alleviate the constant cycle of droughts, poverty and war have caused new problems. The biggest of these is a crippling dependency on food aid that is undermining much of the continent's efforts to feed itself.

UN figures show that more than 250 million people in Africa - one in five - are undernourished, making them vulnerable to disease, deficiencies and developmental stunting that stops them reaching their full potential. It has to change.

Richer donor countries need to show they are serious about helping to eradicate malnutrition and hunger by ripping off the bandage of food aid.

This sounds counterintuitive, but donors need to invest in agriculture and local food manufacturing instead so that African countries can become self-sufficient. But this requires a bold new approach funded by public-private investment.

Local food projects exist, but few are capable of scale. The answer lies in initiatives such as Africa Improved Foods (AIF). Started two years ago in Rwanda, it is the first big public-private partnership in Africa to specifically address malnutrition and hidden hunger.

In one year of operation, and with an investment of only \$70m (£55m), it has already helped more than two million people to avert malnutrition.

AIF purchases locally grown maize and other crops from more than 24,000 smallholder farmers - mostly women - at set prices that guarantee a predictable income

for them. These crops are locally processed in a factory in Kigali, where a nutritious "super cereal" is produced for mothers and young kids in the region.

An independent study commissioned by the IFC (International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group) and conducted by the University of Chicago estimates that from 2016 to 2031, AIF will generate \$756m for the people of Rwanda. If this initiative was replicated just 75 times, we could achieve lasting food security in Africa.

Can we put a price on eradicating hunger? Based on the AIF example, it could cost as little as \$5bn. To put this in context, official aid to Africa was \$29bn in 2017, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Yet hunger is once again rising, wiping out almost a decade of progress. Millions remain in poverty and their prospects are poor.

Importing staple foods into the continent when 60% of the population still lives on the land is madness by any measure. We can do better. It is time for a new approach, one that creates locally produced food for a local population.

This is not about the world saving Africa. Real and profitable business opportunities exist, all the way along the supply chain from farmers to the market. Investing in Africa's food security is socially responsible. Governments must also play their part, committing to sourcing food locally and reducing costly imports.

Investing in agriculture would bring other benefits. Enhanced regional economic security would reduce the factors that trigger displacement and war.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

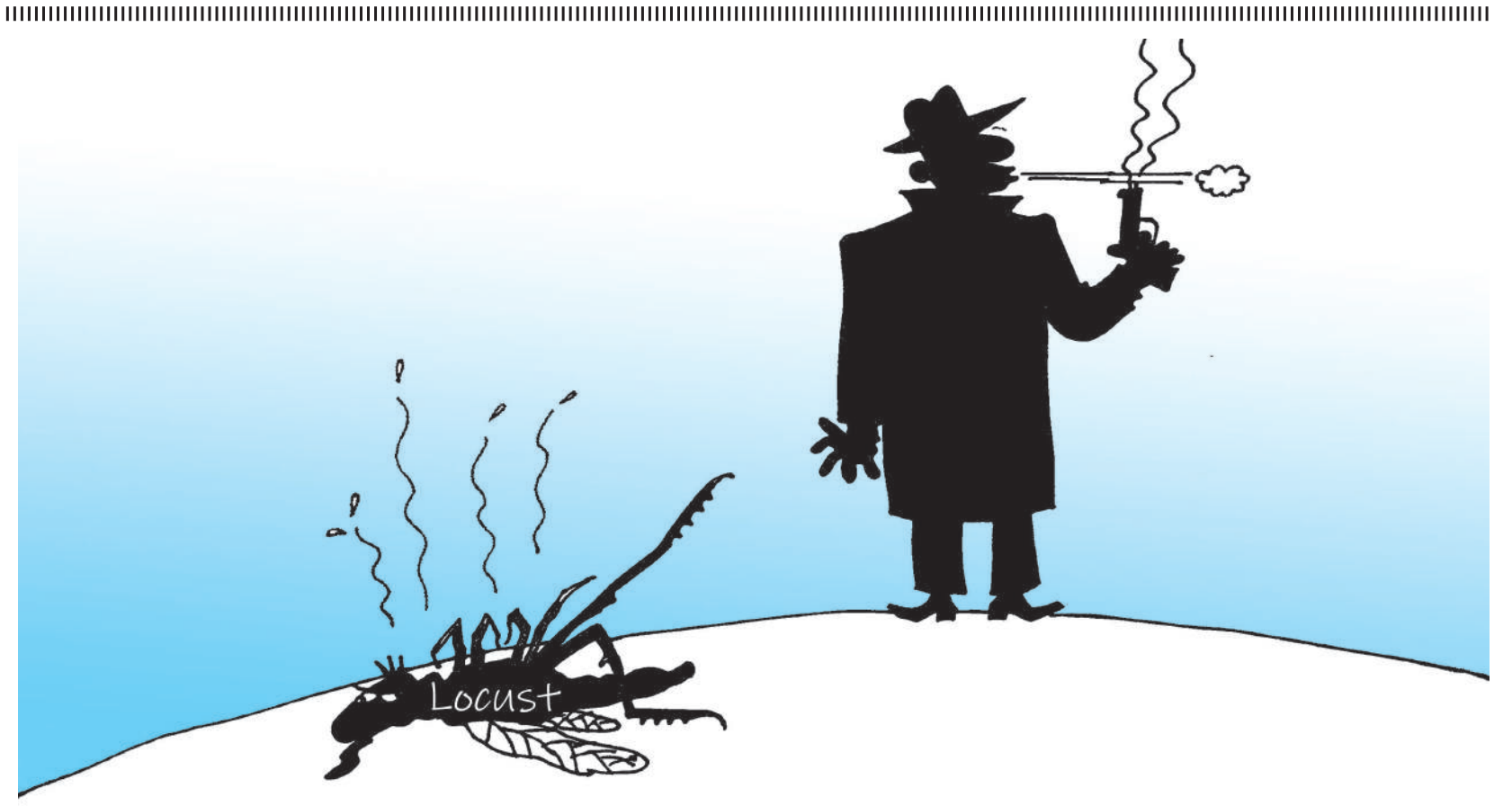
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A call for national unity and hard work

By Alex Willson and Togba Nah Tipoteh

THE best way for you to solve a problem is to correct your own mistake before trying to correct the mistake of another person or an organization or a government. Day na Break Mouth Open is the name of a popular junction near the Bardnerville entrance to Johnsonville, Montserrat County. You can tell that day has broken when you hear the plenty talking at the Junction.

What are the people talking about? "The hard time is too much and we are suffering", as the people continue to say. Then they say "Da Prexo Weah na bring all this suffering", People blame Presidents of Liberia for their suffering and go on to say that when a President is removed and the next one comes in the suffering would end because the new President would correct the mistakes of the old President. One President after the other comes and goes but the suffering continues. This continuous suffering means that it is not correct to blame the President for the suffering.

The main question remains: Who elected the President? The answer is that the people, the voters elected the President.

Therefore, it is not correct to blame the President for the suffering. Blame the people, the voters for the suffering. In the voting the people, the voters are driven by money and not driven by reason.

So, the people, the voters vote for the President and the Legislators without depending on the knowledge of the records of the persons whom they elected. Being money-driven, the voters elect persons with bad records of attending to the problems of the voters, especially the poor voters. The voters elect persons who have records of promoting poverty generation rather than poverty alleviation.

The Coalition for Democratic Change administration is not the only national leadership in today's world to face up hill battle in her national existence but the recognition of its share of responsibility of the current condition in the country will represent the rewriting of a new page in the annals of



President George Weah

history.

If I may assert, we must accept the condition we inherited and the one we created with renew national commitment to our people and country. The government must not schizo from forces be it real or imagined digressing from the national agenda, (pro poor agenda) by the incessant glorification of the past and current blame game amongst state actors.

Amidst the increasing criticism from the opposition which is a necessary component for democracy anyways is for our administration to encourage same once it guarantees nation building, but we should make much greater strides to foster development and create quality jobs, improve the economy, education, health, agriculture, (bread and butter issue), fight corruption amongst other pressing national priorities.

With limited available resources the challenge is Herculean needless to pretend that it will be easy-going to achieve but together as a prepared and committed popular government of the people with enduring work spirit can translate the current condition into a success story.

The administration should conform to durable reform measures compatible with politico, socio-economic stability to satisfy the expectation of not only the masses but the generality of the citizenry.

The government must monster unprecedented courage to make more

considerable gains for the benefit of our people. No doubt, if we unite more than ever we will greatly overcome all odds and clear the obstacles and absurdities that drives away national growth and prosperity. No formidable force can crush a united people.

CDC work now while it is day.

National Unity and Hard Work Should Form the Hallmark of Our AGENDA.

WE CAN MAKE IT!!!!

Monrovia is the capital city of the West African country of Liberia. Founded in 1822, Monrovia is named in honour of US President James Monroe, a prominent supporter of the colonisation of Liberia. Along with Washington, D.C., it is one of two national capitals to be named after a US President.

Liberia officially the Republic of Liberia, is a country on the West African coast. It is bordered by Sierra Leone to its northwest, Guinea to its north, Ivory Coast to its east, and the Atlantic Ocean to its south-southwest.

It covers an area of 111,369 square kilometers (43,000 sq mi) and has a population of around 4,900,000. English is the official language and over 20 indigenous languages are spoken, representing the numerous ethnic groups who make up more than 95 per cent of the population. The country's capital and largest city is Monrovia.

Liberia began as a settlement of the American Colonisation Society (ACS),

who believed black people would face better chances for freedom and prosperity in Africa than in the United States. The country declared its independence on July 26, 1847.

The U.S. did not recognise Liberia's independence until February 5, 1862, during the American Civil War. Between January 7, 1822, and the American Civil War, more than 15,000 freed and free-born black people who faced legislated limits in the U.S., and 3,198 Afro-Caribbeans, relocated to the settlement.

The settlers carried their culture and tradition with them. The Liberian constitution and flag were modeled after those of the U.S. On January 3, 1848, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, a wealthy, free-born African American from Virginia who settled in Liberia, was elected Liberia's first president after the people proclaimed independence.

Liberia was the first African republic to proclaim its independence, and is Africa's first and oldest modern republic. It retained its independence during the Scramble for Africa. During World War II, Liberia supported the United States war efforts against Germany and in turn, the U.S. invested in considerable infrastructure in Liberia to help its war effort, which also aided the country in modernizing and improving its major air transportation facilities. In addition, President William Tubman encouraged economic changes. Internationally, Liberia was a founding member of the League of Nations, United Nations, and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Americo-Liberian settlers did not relate well to the indigenous peoples they encountered, especially those in communities of the more isolated "bush". The colonial settlements were raided by the Kru and Grebo from their inland chiefdoms. Americo-Liberians developed as a small elite that held on to political power, and indigenous tribesmen were excluded from birthright citizenship in their own land until 1904, in an echo of the United States' treatment of Native Americans. Americo-Liberians promoted religious organizations to set up missions and schools to educate the indigenous peoples.

and political institutions from the Mali and Songhai empires. Shortly after the Mane conquered the region, the Vai people of the former Mali Empire immigrated into the Grand Cape Mount County region. The ethnic Kru opposed the influx of Vai, forming an alliance with the Mane to stop further influx of Vai.

People along the coast built canoes and traded with other West Africans from Cap-Vert to the Gold Coast. Arab traders entered the region from the north, and a long-established slave trade took captives to north and east Africa.

Civil society participation in sustainable energy for economic development crucial

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MEANINGFUL participation of civil society is key to the success of the sustainable energy for all initiative. Civil society organisations can act as trusted intermediaries between government, the private sector, and energy users on the ground, as well as having expertise in designing and delivering energy services, particularly for poor and vulnerable groups. To provide a 'snapshot' of the civil society experience of SE4ALL to date in order to understand the entry points for - and some of the challenges - of participation.

Energy stakeholders have urged the government to make sure that policies, strategies and programmes support renewable energy and modern energy cooking services which are crucial to human well-being and to Tanzania's economic development so that the technologies can be affordable to large section of the population.

Despite the recognised benefits of modern energy cooking services for health, local environment and climate change, large-scale adoption and sustained use of clean cooking solutions such as electricity and biogas is not succeeding.

Speaking during the launching of the catalogue for local sustainable energy and climate solutions in Dar es Salaam, they said high taxes imposed on these technologies limit people from buying and using them instead they resort to firewood and charcoal which end up destroying the environment.

TaTEDO's Resource Mobilization Manager Jensen Shuma said that at the moment there are some organizations and companies importing the technologies such as electric pressure cookers, and some other renewable energy technologies, some of which are for cooking technologies but at times, they are not affordable to the people not because they are sold or produced at high costs where they are manufactured but in actual sense it is because of tax imposed on such products.

"We call for the government to waive or reduce the tax so that big number of the population who are using charcoal and firewood can use them to conserve and protect the environment," he said.

Citing an example, he said importing highly efficient electric cooking appliances such as electric pressure cooker (EPC), from outside, you will find that more than fifty percent of the cost of importing these technologies comes from import duties and other income taxes. So if the government reduces these costs, the price will go down and large section of the general public will be able to afford them.

He said the modern energy cooking services are crucial to human well-being and to Tanzania's economic development. Cooking remains a central part of energy transition and core to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the Paris Agreement. In Tanzania over 55 million people are without clean cooking services, that is more than 85% of the population still depend on solid biomass fuels for cooking with 63.5% of households using firewood, and charcoal.

The country, initiatives for addressing the modern energy cooking services situation is compounded by weak institutional and policy frameworks, mainly poor consideration of cooking energy in the energy policy discussions and agendas. Often, electricity for lighting and other uses take precedence while cooking remains a marginalized agenda mainly driven by few NGOs and private actors with limited investment and working capitals. This has meant that clean cooking services is mostly left out in policy decisions that could open up both national and local market and non-market opportunities. It also means that the voices of the majority of the poor who engage in cooking on day to day basis mostly women and girls, are left out of the policy processes, further marginalizing opportunities for transitioning to more inclusive and gender sensitive clean cooking services.

Enhancing energy access through clean cooking services therefore requires supportive policies and innovative approaches that catalyze opportunities



A representative from the Ministry of Energy Emilian Nyanda (C) launches the catalogue for local sustainable energy and climate solutions in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

for sustained and inclusive use and development opportunities

Tanzania has implemented limited national level policies to accelerate the development and adoption of clean cooking services in line with the above efforts. There is the National Development Vision 2025, released in 2000, which envisages Tanzania becoming a middle-income country by 2025; huge achievement, the country has reached this target by 2020. The National Strategy for Economic Growth and Reduction of Poverty, adopted in 2005, proposes strategies for reduction of poverty and raising incomes and improving the quality of life and social well-being, governance, and accountability. The Government supports and encourages innovations, product development, quality and marketing strategies.

Due to such limited policy support for modern energy cooking services in Tanzania, the sector has been dominated by gradual and slow ascent on the energy ladder. However, overtime, as income increases, some people move upwards to modern energy sources (improved cook stoves and LPG) and a few to the use of electricity, in addition, fuel stacking is commonly practiced. Project manager Mary Swai said one of the challenges facing promotion of the technologies is that many of the target population do not know the technologies due to lack of information. She said that is one of the reasons TaTEDO has decided to come up with the catalogues of local technology solution.

The catalogue will described number of local technologies which are environmentally friendly and cheap such as the improved cook stoves, improved firewood stoves etc which are also used at institutional level and at home. "These local sustainable energy and climate solutions such as improved cooking stoves have been widely distributed but some communities and stakeholders were not aware, that's why we have decided to launch this catalogue so that many people can understand and use them," she said.

Sharif Issa from Microsafi explained that besides traditional methods of promoting them, currently many people use social media such as twitter, Facebook and Instagram to promote the local sustainable energy and climate solutions.

"So I would like to advice organizations and companies to use both mainstream media and social media to inform the general about the importance of local sustainable energy and climate solutions," he said.

Ipyana Suleiman, one of the mass communication students from University of Dar es Salaam who attended the launching emphasized on the importance of sharing the local sustainable energy solutions with young generation who are good at social media. At the end of the launching exercise, students from Mass Communities from the University of Dar es Salaam and other participants from Civil Society organizations had an opportunity to participate in the demonstration on sustainable energy technologies and services.

"Young generation is used to these twitter, Facebook and Instagram, therefore when they understand these technologies, it is easier for them to share quickly and spread the information to the end users and

therefore by so doing we may conserve and protect the environment," he said.

Earlier on, presenting the ongoing initiatives to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency, opportunities and challenges, Emilian Nyanda from the Ministry of Energy said the government understands the importance of renewable energy and that 'why there is energy policy that supports renewable energy. Citing an example, he said Energy Policy, 2015 provides comprehensive legal, regulatory and Institutional frameworks for development of the energy sector including renewable energies. With regard to renewable energy, the Policy aims at enhancing utilization of Renewable Energy resources so as to increase its contribution in diversifying resources for energy provision. It focuses on promotion of renewable energy sources and sustainable use of biomass; facilitate integration of renewable energy technologies in buildings and industrial designs; establish appropriate frameworks for renewable energy integration into the national and isolated grids. The energy Policy, 2015 provides comprehensive legal, regulatory and Institutional frameworks for development of the energy sector including renewable energies. With regard to renewable energy, the Policy aims at enhancing utilization of Renewable energy resources so as to increase its contribution in diversifying resources for energy provision; It focuses on promotion of renewable energy sources and sustainable use of biomass; facilitate integration of renewable energy technologies in buildings and industrial designs.

Establish appropriate frameworks for renewable energy integration into the national and isolated grids and it also recognise the importance of energy efficiency (Building, transport, etc)

Energy efficiency (EE) Development initiatives and plans Nyanda explained that through energy sector reform programme under EU support renewable Energy Strategies development; and biomass energy strategy development and support its implementation.

It also support implementation of gender action plan - GAP for implementation sustainable energy for all initiatives; improvement of regulatory framework for EWURA and support development of statistical system for energy data collection and management. Inclusion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in local climate change mitigation and adaptations initiatives such as NDCs. Re mapping up all renewable energy resources and Potential for better planning and liaising with local governments in identifying potential sites for renewable energy investments and LGAs integrating renewable energy into their land use plans.

Status of plans

Commenting on the status of plans, Nyanda said Tanzania has Energy Efficiency Action Plan in Place. Implementation will be supported by EU. Draft Energy Efficiency Strategy is in place, the Ministry is reviewing the draft document - The process was consultative (relevant stakeholders were involved)-review is internal procedure. He further explained that clean cooking solu-

tions will be rolled out in 2021/22 FY. New Power System Master Plan, 2020 has been finalized and highly considered RE into power sector

Challenges for the development of Renewable Energy.

Nyanda explained that there are several challenges that include climate variability impacts on hydro resources; inadequate human capacity with technology know-how and inadequate awareness for some decision makers, local financial institutions.

Also in the lit are high initial investment capital costs; inability to afford to pay for electricity services; lack of proper infrastructures, limited local manufacturing capacity and mobilization of the private sector.

The launching of the catalogue for local sustainable energy and climate solutions in Dar es Salaam follows similar exercise conducted in other East Africa countries.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SCANNING AND INDEXING SOFTWARE FOR SHAREPOINT TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Scanning and Indexing Software for Share Point and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below listed service.

Scope of work:

	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01154	Supply and Installation of Scanning and Indexing Software for SharePoint

ii. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	75%
Software must be capable of document scanning and importing; forms processing; data capture; OCR/ICR; data extraction and the ability to migrate the information into a SharePoint document repository.	50%
Software supplied needs to be an AGA 'On-Premise' solution (license and maintenance costs to be supplied).	10%
Software must be easily configurable to meet AGA's metadata and numbering conventions.	15%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the **SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01154)** of the service they intend to express interest on **THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL** together with supporting information to **GGML**, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the **GGML** Office via e-mail at **geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com** not later than **0830 A.M 11 March 2021** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Is USA fit to rejoin the UN human rights council?

TORONTO
A month into Joe Biden's presidency, the U.S. has rejoined nearly all the multilateral institutions and international commitments that it withdrew from under Trump. These include the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accords.

Most recently, on February 8th, the U.S. announced it would also rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) as an observer. The U.S.' role in the human rights forum looks different than it did four years ago in light of its recent track record on civil liberties.

The HRC has two primary functions: to draft and adopt new standards for human rights and to conduct investigations into specific human rights issues. In 2018, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the U.S. would be leaving the HRC, claiming that it was a barrier to any genuine global human rights protection. The U.S. had two primary grievances.

First, that the HRC has an "unconscionable" and "chronic bias" against Israel. And second, that the HRC's membership criteria allows chronic human rights abusers to have a seat on the Council. Neither of

which are entirely baseless claims.

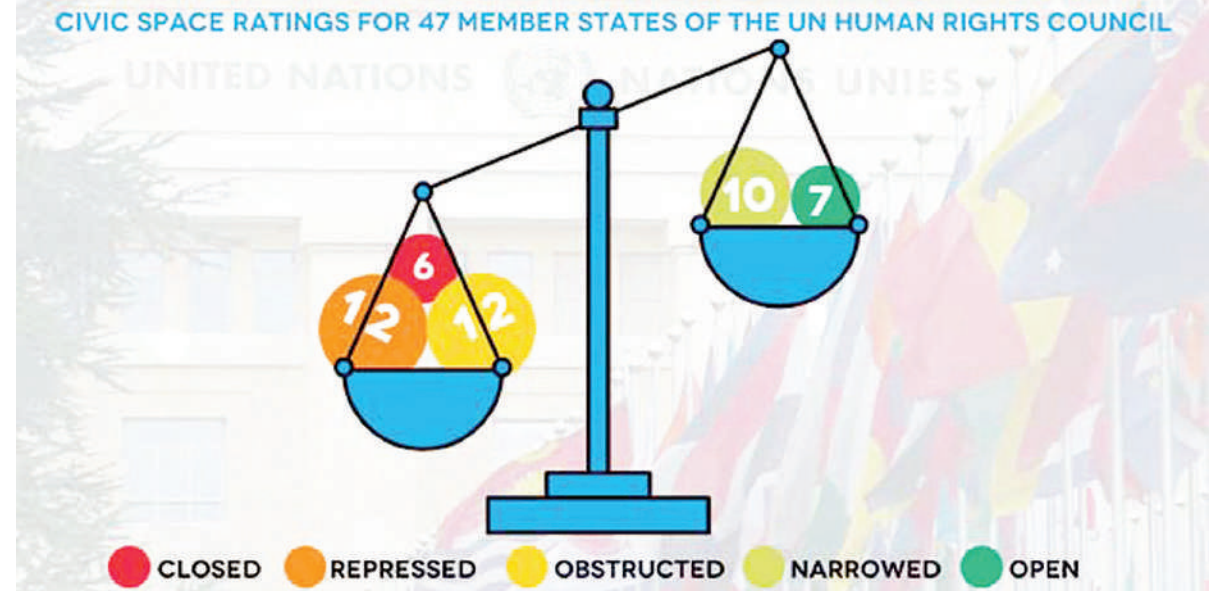
Israel remains the only country-specific agenda item covered at every HRC meeting and Russia, China, and Eritrea – to name a few – all currently hold seats on the Council and have some of the worst human rights records in the world.

On Monday, the HRC's 47 member states met for its 46th session, it's third time meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. The further decline of political and civil rights as enshrined in international law will be an unavoidable hot topic.

The CIVICUS Monitor which rates UN member states' track records of upholding the legal tenets of freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association finds that 30 of the Council's full member states routinely and severely restrict these rights.

And in the case of its newest observer state, the USA was recently downgraded to the Monitor's third worst civic space rating of 'Obstructed'. The body is a long way off from adequately representing its values.

In the case of the USA, the rating change and decline in rights is reflected by the police response to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) protest movement. Dur-



ing protests in 2020, law enforcement detained thousands of demonstrators, used teargas and projectiles to disperse crowds, and attacked journalists, despite the fact that most wore media credentials.

President Trump and other authority figures encouraged police officers to respond forcefully and, in some cases, requested such violent actions for their own benefit. In a perfect example of this, the Attorney General ordered the use of teargas against peaceful protesters so that President Trump could have a photo-op in front of a church.

While the BLM protests may have made the decline in civic freedoms abundantly clear, this rating change represents a longer deterioration of political and civil rights.

In response, in June the HRC unanimously passed a mandate that called for a report on 'systemic racism' targeted at individuals of African descent. Philonise Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, whose murder at the hands of white police officers began the mass protests, called on the human rights body to examine the U.S.' history of racial injustice and police brutality.

In the end, the final resolution passed by the HRC called for an investigation of systemic racism globally and regrettably did not single out the U.S.

While Biden has rejoined the HRC as an observer, the U.S. must win elections in October 2021 if it wants to regain its seat on the Council. In 2019, Biden said, "American leadership on human rights must begin at home" and – in some ways – it has.

The BLM protests have sparked a degree of state and local level police reform, and Biden has made a commitment to achieving racial equity. While the U.S. should focus on improving freedoms within its borders, it should also not exempt itself from becoming a full member of the HRC again in October.

Former President Barack Obama ran for a seat on

the Council because he believed the U.S. could do more to advance human rights as a member of the body. This turned out to be true – the U.S. supported the creation of several important international commissions of inquiry to investigate human rights violations.

If the rationale by Trump was that leaving the council would do more for human rights than holding a seat, it's clear that this has not come to fruition. Whether it is freedom of speech or the right to peacefully protest, today more of the world's population lives in 'Closed', 'Repressed' or 'Obstructed' countries as compared to four years ago, finds the CIVICUS Monitor.

Leadership is needed at the UN Human Rights Council on these issues, but it must come from those that have a full seat at the table and have a demonstrated track record of upholding their commitments. The U.S. is currently disqualified on both accounts. Credibility and moral leadership must come from somewhere else.

Instead, the U.S. must support other member states that are leading by example on these issues. Seven members of the HRC – Denmark, Germany, Uruguay, Netherlands, Marshall Islands, and Czechia – are rated 'Open' by the CIVICUS Monitor, the highest civic space rating a country can achieve.

These countries are adequately representing the values that the HRC is committed to defending. While there are surely other issues at the HRC that the U.S. will prove influential, the country is far from the inspirational example it often likes to present itself on these world stages.

At the current session of the HRC, which began on February 22nd, the U.S. should champion these members who have made meaningful progress on civil liberties and be prepared to take a backseat on issues that it so obviously falls short on. **IPS**

China's self-developed third-gen nuclear reactor put into commercial operation

By Yan Ke, Liu Xiaoyu

CHINA'S first nuclear power unit using Hualong One, a domestically designed third-generation nuclear reactor, has entered commercial operation on Jan. 30.

The No. 5 unit of Fujian Fuqing Nuclear Plant, marks that China has made it into the world's top rank of the third-generation nuclear technology, becoming another country that masters the technology after the U.S., France and Russia.

In nearly 20 years of research and development, the research team of Hualong One conducted a total of 54 research projects, and the reactor holds independent intellectual property rights in multiple fields. Core technologies have been tackled in reactor core design, active and passive safety, fuel, and computational analysis software.

The independent technological innovation propelled the upgrading of high-end equipment manufacturing. Hualong One has over 5,300 suppliers across the country for its more than 60,000 equipments. All core equipments, as well as 88 percent of all equipments were built by China.

Through the demonstration project of Hualong One, China has completely grasped the core technologies and experiences of building third-generation nuclear power plants. The country is now able to manufacture major equipment for 8 to 10 third-generation nuclear power plants.

According to Zhao Hao, general manager of Fujian Fuqing Nuclear Power Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), the commercial operation of Hualong One will likely generate nearly 10 billion kWh of electricity each year, potentially



Photo shows the No. 5 unit of Fujian Fuqing Nuclear Plant. (File photo)

reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 8.16 million tonnes and standard coal consumption by 3.12 million tonnes in annual terms. It is also an equivalent to plantation of over 70 million trees annually. The reactor has a profound significance for China to improve its energy structure, peak carbon dioxide emissions, and achieve carbon neutrality.

From being commenced in Fuqing on May 7, 2015, to the commercial operation on Jan. 30 this year, the No. 5 unit saves 20 to 30 percent of cost compared with similar projects abroad. This makes Hualong One one of the most popular third-generation reactors in the world. Two Hualong One projects are currently under construction in Karachi, Pakistan, and Chile and the UK also expressed their interest in introducing the reactor, Zhao noted.

Based on current market situations, each Hualong One unit is able to create an output of over 200 billion yuan (\$31.01 billion) and create more than 150,000 jobs in China during its designed life. Besides, each exported unit will also generate revenue of nearly 20 billion yuan in the mechanical and material industries

Hualong One is a signboard of China's equipment manufacturing, just like high-speed trains, said Xu Ligen, chairman of board of the Fujian Fuqing Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. The most central part of a nuclear power plant is the reactor core in which a minor fault could trigger gigantic problems. "Hualong One is the world's most advanced third-generation nuclear technology, and safety is its major highlight," Zhao told People's Daily.

"We placed three super large tanks above the reactor core, each holding a thousand tonnes of water. Once the active system fails, the water will go down automatically and cool down the reactor," Zhao said. The combination of passive and active safety system has largely lowered the risk of meltdown and release of radioactive materials, he added.

Besides, the nuclear power plant is covered by a two-layer concrete "shell" with a total thickness of over 3 meters. The shell can not only lock radioactive materials inside, but also resist the impacts from large aircraft and earthquakes of 9 magnitude.

People's Daily



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES 80Mbps FOR GEITA GOLD MINING AT MCHAURU VILLAGE, TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Internet Service and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below listed service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01150	PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES 80Mbps FOR GEITA GOLD MINING AT MCHAURU VILLAGE

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	75%
Should be registered with Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) as authorized ISP (Internet Services Provider)	10%
Proof of having valid operating license as an ISP (Internet Services Provider)	10%
Proof of having Minimum 5 years experience in provision of Dedicated Internet Services	10%
The provider should have backup backbone internet line (provide topology details indicating clearly the source of all backbone lines and capacity along with connectivity media.	10%
Should provide 24x7 hours connectivity with minimum assurance of 98% services availability	15%
Should provide a 24x7 support	5%
Proof of ability to provide On-line monitoring tools/platform (MTRG, PRTG etc.) for both on-site technical team and provider side.	5%
Availability of technical support personnel in Geita	10%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01150) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 11 March 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Tanzanian female entrepreneur Nizari transforms tea industry

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

BUILDING a relationship with 250 farmers and setting up a factory employing local women, Tahira Nizari, 33, is transforming Tanzania's tea industry.

Born in Canada, raised in Dubai, educated in London, and worked in Afghanistan, she returned to the country of her grandparents a few years ago, along with her German-born husband Hendrik Buermann to introduce processing, blending, packaging, branding, and labeling of tea for export.

Mostly Tanzania is known just exporting raw tea in bulk, as the country lacked post-harvest value chain facilities.

"We decided to bring it back to Tanzania and let us create a facility in which we can hire workers all locally and have a product that is 100% made in Tanzania," said Nizari, while cracking jokes with a group of young women in her factory.

Dressed in aprons and supporting polyethylene caps, the women are seen briskly blending, packaging, and labeling tea brands for export.

After migrating to Tanzania in 2018, where her grandfather used to live in Moshi, on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, Nizari set up a firm Kazi Yetu, to create jobs especially for women, and increase value addition to locally produced agricultural products notably tea.

Armed with the rich entrepreneurial experience that she has accrued through working in multinational development organizations, she created a unique sustainable investment concept unique to Tanzania.

"The reason we chose this name [Kazi Yetu is Swahili meaning Our Work] is that our main goal is to create jobs and improve the agricultural sector," she said.

Business skills

Armed with refined business skills and exquisite creativity honed over the years Nizari is working to create a sustainable investment that is uniquely Tanzanian.

"I am blessed to have been exposed to different countries in the East and West. We used to visit our family in East Africa almost every year," she said.

The tea industry employs around 30,000 farmers in East African country, in which women represent about 50%.

She convinced her German husband and business partner, whom she had met in Afghanistan to move to Tanzania with an ambitious vision. Since then she has deployed an army of skilled young women, who have improved the economic conditions of their families.

"I am passionate to reduce the gender gap in Tanzania and across Africa where many women still have lower education levels, less access to land, capital, and fewer market opportunities," Nizari added.

She recalls that her grandfather was also a businessman a smaller one, who owned a farm and a shop in a northern Kilimanjaro region.

In just four years, many believe that she has emerged as a formidable force in the country's tea industry with her first-hand global experience and her exposure to the complexities of modern-day trade realities.

Nizari had started her career as an intern, a consultant, and eventually project manager for several international organizations.



"Being an entrepreneur is an empowering experience, whose impact is widely felt beyond economic development," she said.

Challenging agrarian business

According to her, running an agrarian business is more challenging due to the vagaries of weather that affect the supply chain. But she has learned to cushion the risks by building strong partnerships.

After graduating in economics and management in Canada, she pursued a master's program in London, focusing on social policy and development. She later moved to war-torn Afghanistan to work with local communities.

"I loved working with rural communities and support them to solve their problems. But it was also an emotionally and physically traumatizing experience, but it built resilience and courage with me," she said, recalling how she

lost colleagues, who were attacked in Kabul.

Born to Tanzania Mother and an Iraq father, she has carved a niche for her agrarian ingenuity, expertise, and experience in international development after having worked with World Food Programme and other reputable organizations.

An avid book reader, Nizari enjoys learning about arduous journeys, successes, and failures of other entrepreneurs across the world.

"I recently read Shoe Dog, a memoir by Nike co-founder Phil Knight. It is an authentic and inspiring story," she added.

Busy with ideating to find ways to expand the business, she finds time to relax by engaging in different yoga exercises. "You can perform these exercises anywhere at any time without any equipment," she said.

Asked about the secret of her success, the globetrotter young entrepreneur said it is resilience.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF LABOUR FOR CRANE MAINTENANCE TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of procuring Labour for Crane Maintenance and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various goods and or services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01123	PROVISION OF LABOUR FOR CRANE MAINTENANCE

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	75%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON LOAD TESTING AND INSPECTION SERVICE	8.3%
PROOF OF EXPERIENCE ON REPAIRS AND PROVIDE REPORT	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON HYDRAULIC PRESSURE TEST AND MAINTANCE	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON AUTORIGGER ADJUSTMENT AND REPAIRS	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON CRANE SAFETY INSP, CRANE EQUIP SAFETY&RIGGING SAFETY EQUIP INSP.	8.3%
MULTI SKILLED CRANE TECHNICIAN BOTH ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON BRAKE INSPECTION AND CHASSIS INSPECTION	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON WIRE ROPE INSPECTION & REPLACEMENT IF REQUIRED (full experience)	8.3%
PROOF OF HAVING EXPERIENCE ON DIFFERENT TYPES CRANES: such as. ---GROVE CRANE ---TELEX CRANE ---TADANO CRANE ---CRAWLER CRANES	8.3%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01123) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 11 March 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=

Africa faces hard choice on SDGs under COVID-19

By Kasirim Nwuke

COVID-19 has made it extremely difficult to mobilize the resources needed for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the time left to their target date of 2030.

Indeed, as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) reported in July 2020, the current rate of progress on the SDGs in Africa is insufficient to meet the targets. Several other recent reports echo UNECA's view.

Given these difficulties and the new challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, African countries should consider reducing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the current set of 17 to a smaller much more manageable set that fully recognizes this new world, and redirect many of those efforts to fighting the crisis at hand. To be clear, African countries should not abandon the SDGs altogether. However, given the significant overlap between the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," I argue that efforts should be more focused on achieving Agenda 2063, which has a longer time horizon than the SDGs, which end in nine years.

Meeting the targets of the SDGs was a great challenge for African countries right from their adoption in 2015. Since March of 2020, the implementation challenge has been made even more difficult by the pandemic, given COVID-related lockdowns resulting in slowed economic growth—including an estimated 3 percent contraction of sub-Saharan Africa's economy in 2020. Already, major economies such as Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt are either in recession or experiencing very slow growth. Continued poor export performance limits the possibilities of growth, although the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) could provide new growth impetus. Assistance promised by the G-20 and multilateral and regional financial institutions has not materialized to the extent hoped for.

Thankfully, many COVID-19 vaccines have been approved. Some



have even been designed with a lower price point in mind to encourage their accessibility in the developing world. As vaccine administration has commenced in a number of countries, the world may be on the cusp of emerging from the pandemic. Africa's priority now must be to inoculate all her citizens and "build back better." Building back better demands pragmatism and realism. Realism requires a careful review of all commitments, separating "desires" from "achievable." Pragmatism requires a rethink of the SDGs to reduce them from the current 17 goals with 169 targets to a much more achievable set.

A smaller set of achievable goals will enable policymakers in Africa and elsewhere to protect, to the greatest extent possible, the successes of the recent past in health, education, food security, and poverty. Leaders should then redirect these efforts and consider different priorities to ensure better livelihoods in the long run to fighting the immediate crisis.

Thus, African policymakers should limit borrowing, expand fiscal space through enhanced domestic resource mobilization (including aggressive blocking of leakages), and redirect a reasonable share of available own resources to COVID-19 and managing out its economic impacts. While helpful, aid will not be enough to fill investment gaps in health, education, and poverty reduction. Fortunately, African countries have a roadmap for strengthening their

health sector in the 2001 Abuja Declaration wherein they committed to allocate no less than 15 percent of their annual budget to the health sector, and progress is ongoing.

Importantly, COVID-19 revealed as never before the grave consequences of Africa's scientific and technological dependence, although the technological gap has been long-known. Building back better will require African countries to increase domestic spending on science, technology, and innovation (STI) and aggressively expand STI partnerships. Success in this area will place African countries in a good position to successfully confront the next pandemic.

Finally, African countries must, as a matter of urgency, develop their own pharmaceutical manufacturing sector before the next pandemic arrives. The African Union's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa provides a good framework to achieve this goal if it can be operationalized.

Thus, while progress towards the SDGs has been laudable, African governments and their peoples might be better served with a reconsideration of the SDGs under COVID-19. Indeed, focusing on the issues noted above will continue momentum towards them in the long term, creating jobs, improving health outcomes, reducing poverty, and, ultimately, placing Africa on a footing from which it can achieve the Aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Developing countries struggling to cope with COVID-19

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

THE ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is adversely impacting most developing countries disproportionately, especially the United Nations' least developed countries (LDCs) and the World Bank's low-income countries (LICs).

Years of implementing neoliberal policy conditionalities and advice have made most developing countries much more vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic by undermining their health systems and fiscal capacities to respond adequately.

Less taxes

Four decades of 'neoliberal' policy influence has resulted in a 'race to the bottom' to cut direct taxes, particularly corporate tax rates, ostensibly to promote investments and spur growth.

But most LDCs and LICs were left high and dry as foreign direct investment (FDI) seeks profitable locations considering various relevant criteria besides tax rates. Thus, tax cuts have not induced the promised investments, but also resulted in net revenue losses.

Revenue loss due to such tax competition could be five times that due to illicit financial flows seeking to evade taxes. Low and middle-income countries lose US\$167-200 billion annually, around 1.2-1.5% of their national incomes, to corporate tax competition.

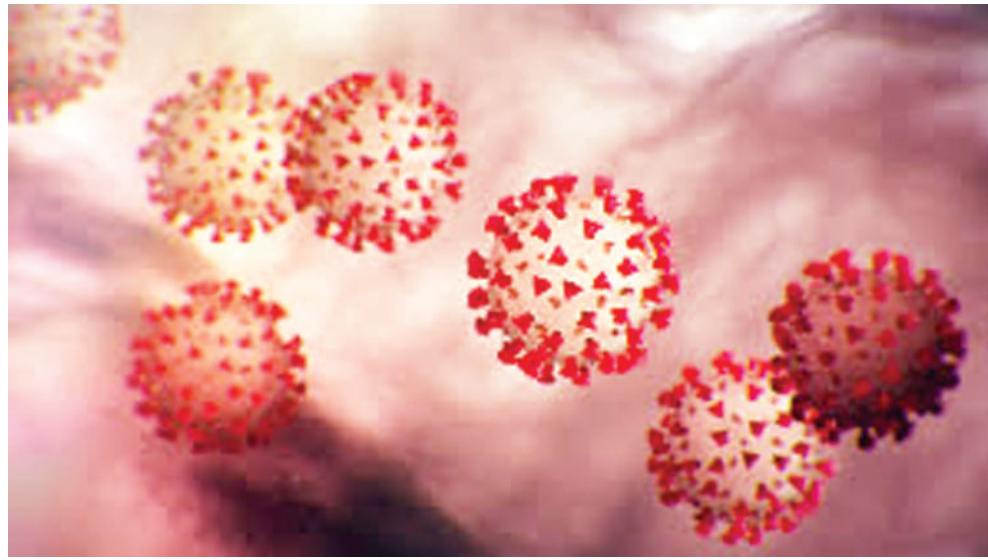
Poor countries' tax bases have narrowed since the 1990s, with Sub Saharan African countries suffering the highest revenue losses as a share of national incomes. More indirect taxes have not compensated for less direct tax revenues.

Less government spending

As the tax system became less progressive, tax cuts also depleted the public coffers in most developing countries. Pressures on governments to pursue fiscal consolidation and austerity grew, with devastating impacts for public health.

Implementing IMF-World Bank structural adjustment program conditionalities, most sub-Saharan African countries drastically reduced their healthcare budgets. Per capita public spending on health in LICs fell during 2004-2012, while their shares of national income declined during 2004-2015.

oration demonstrates the advantages of security



Years of public sector underinvestment seriously undermined public health systems in most developing countries, especially LDCs and LICs. Government provision was deliberately reduced to promote for-profit private healthcare, adversely affecting public service quality, effectiveness, costs and access.

Unsurprisingly, these economies not only lacked fiscal resources to cope with the pandemic, but their fiscal systems had also been made incapable of responding to the challenge. Thus, these poorly funded, inadequate health systems were grossly unprepared for the pandemic.

Uneven impacts

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres cautioned last July that COVID-19 was making achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) "even more challenging" as many developing countries were already "off track" in 2019, before the pandemic.

On 3rd April, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned that the worst recession since the Great Depression would hit developing coun-

tries hardest, as they have "less resources to protect themselves". World Bank President David Malpass also acknowledged that it would "hurt world's poorest countries the most".

The pandemic has already set back decades of modest and uneven progress in developing countries. The World Bank recently estimated those falling into extreme poverty worldwide in 2020 at between 119 and 124 million people, i.e., by around 15%.

And the situation is getting worse. Rich country resistance to the developing countries' request for a TRIPS waiver, vaccine imperialism and the flawed COVAX arrangements are deepening the crisis in poor countries as most remain far behind in the vaccine queue.

To boost their profits, vaccine developers restrict greater output. Despite having received various generous government subsidies, they refuse to share research findings needed to massively scale up generic production. Meanwhile, rich countries have secured many times more vaccines than they need.

Limited fiscal space

Government expects a third wave of the

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, low income countries already had the largest deficits, higher borrowing costs and more debt relative to government revenue than high-income countries. Thus, they devote ever larger shares of their modest revenues to pay interest.

The pandemic has undoubtedly worsened public finances. Average deficits in LICs increased from -4.0% of GDP in 2019 to -5.7% in 2020, with debt rising from 43.3% to 48.5% of GDP.

Fiscal responses have been influenced by access to financing. Global fiscal support reached nearly US\$14 trillion in 2020, comprising US\$7.8 trillion in additional spending or foregone revenue, and US\$6 trillion in equity injections, loans and guarantees.

Nearly US\$12 trillion (about a fifth of GDP) was deployed in advanced economies to address the pandemic and its economic fallout. Meanwhile, LICs could only afford US\$26.6 billion (1.2% of GDP), as emerging market economies deployed around 5%.

Declining fiscal space

Countries relying on primary commodity production, tourism or manufacturing for transnational supply chains have been most disrupted by the pandemic. More open to the outside world, their government revenue and fiscal space have been more severely affected.

Revenue shortfalls from output drops, concurrent commodity price drops and debt demands have limited many LICs' fiscal capacities. The pandemic is thus more likely to leave lasting impacts, including worse poverty and malnutrition.

The IMF head urged countries not to hesitate to "spend, but keep the receipts", suggesting a major U-turn in IMF fiscal policy advice. Likewise, despite her earlier reputation as a 'debt hawk', World Bank Chief Economist Carmen Reinhart advised "First fight the war, then figure out how to pay for it".

But most LICs have little alternative but to rely heavily on foreign aid. Even before the pandemic, aid from the OECD countries only reached 0.31% of their gross national income (GNI), less than half the 0.7% of national income target agreed to more than half a century ago.

IPS

Covid-19 triggering surge of absenteeism in SA schools

DUBAI

THE impacts of Covid-19 on Africa's long-term development have been devastating. The Institute for Security Studies reports that probably up to a decade's worth of human development has been wiped out.

Of particular concern is how children's education might suffer in this bizarre new normal. South Africa's 5% decrease in Grade 12 pass rates shows that education has been a casualty of the pandemic. According to the forecast presented here, however, the worst impacts may still be coming, unless the surge in dropouts caused by Covid-19 can be addressed.

In 2020, South African schools were closed between March and June, and again in August. While partial reopenings provided additional days of schooling for key grades, particularly 7 and 12, the closures cost children between 30 and 59 school days.

Schools serving wealthier communities offered online learning but this wasn't an option for those in the poorest areas, particularly no-fee schools that accommodate upwards of 66% of South Africa's learners. Parents of these children cannot afford school fees, let alone IT equipment, data costs or private tutors.

But even after lockdowns and closures ended, many haven't returned to class. In November 2020, South Africa's Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga reported that up to 300,000 learners were missing from public primary schools after they reopened. She said her department had encouraged students to return via "SMS, local radio stations, and home visits" as well as a "demerit system" for absent students.

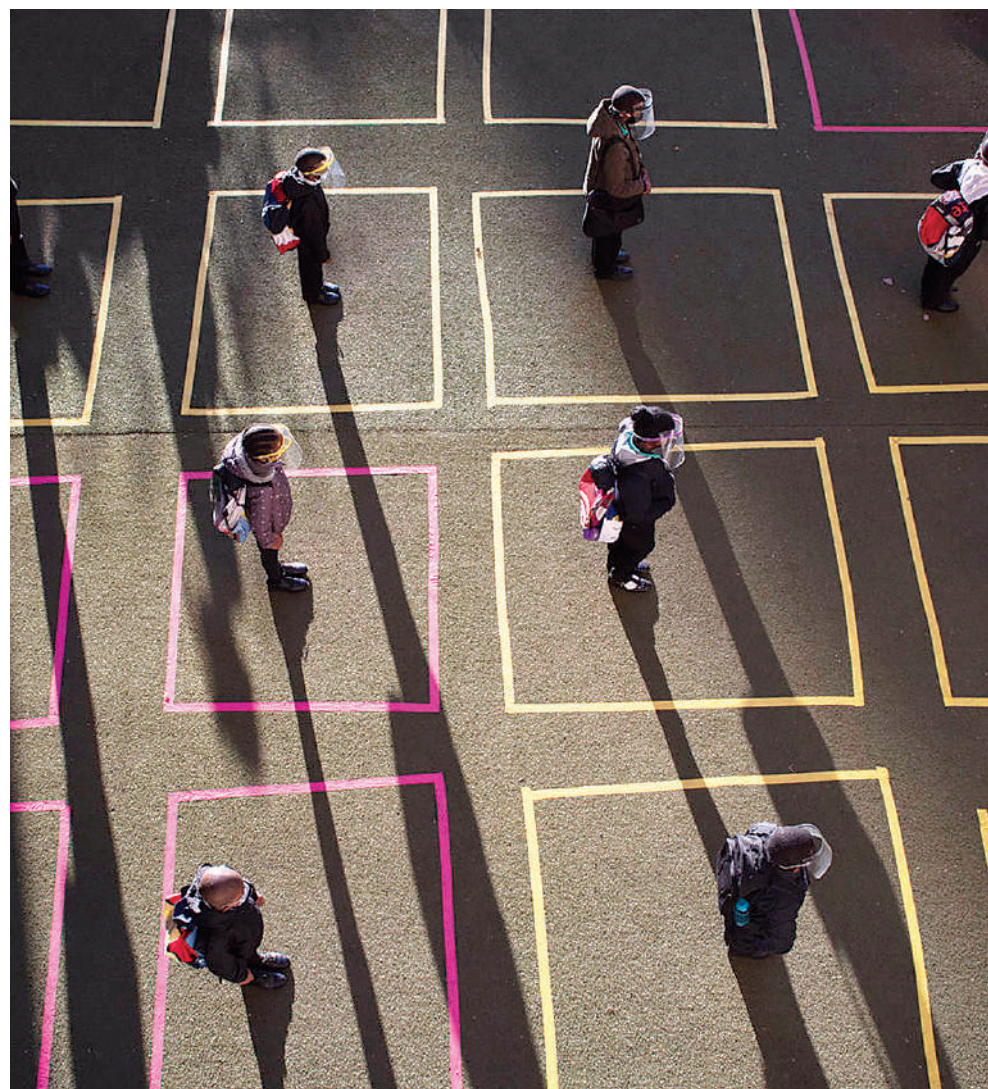
By January 2021, the department's director-general Mathanzima Mveli reported that about 15% of public-school students (both primary and secondary), almost two million children, hadn't returned after lockdowns in 2020. Education experts expect many of the absentees to become dropouts. Perhaps hardest hit will be those in the upper grades of secondary school.

Stellenbosch University's Prof Servaas van der Berg last year referred to survey data indicating that matric students had lost about a quarter of their final year, while 88% hadn't returned to school by July. Education quality is also likely to be impacted, with less interaction time, fewer teaching days and the loss of over 2,000 teachers to Covid-19 itself.

Using the University of Denver's International Futures forecasting platform (IFs), we can estimate some of the effects of the dropout surge. In a Covid-19 Absenteeism Scenario, we adjusted primary school enrolment and survival rates (the percentage of students who complete primary education relative to the number who started Grade 1), so there were about 300,000 fewer children enrolled in 2020.

Then from 2021, we increased primary school enrolment rates over the next three years to absorb the many missing learners. The increase was based on the assumption that most parents will send their children back to school as the pandemic subsides, and government's campaign to get learners into the classroom will deliver positive results.

If the Covid-19 Absenteeism Scenario is compared to the Current Path trend (what we could have expected before the increase in dropouts), enrolment figures only return to the Current Path trajectory by 2027.



After 2027, enrolments are higher than they would have been before the dropout surge scenario. This is likely as schools deal with inflated numbers to catch up grade repeaters and students left behind during the pandemic, putting further strain on an overstretched public education system.

For secondary school students in the Covid-19 Absenteeism Scenario, we decreased graduation rates of lower secondary school by approximately 5%, and upper secondary school by 3% in 2020 compared to the Current Path.

This is important, as mean years of education impact human capital, which in turn affects an economy's productivity as more educated workers tend to be more productive economically. A fall in educational attainment means the Covid-19-related surge in dropout rates alone could reduce South Africa's 2032 GDP by approximately \$2.6-billion.

That's in addition to all the other economic blows Covid-19 has inflicted. The scenario also results in an additional 115,000 South Africans classified as extremely poor (using a threshold of living on less than \$5.50 in 2011 US dollars per day).

Government expects a third wave of the

pandemic to hit this winter. Without decisive action, the negative impact on schooling, especially for the poor, can be expected only to compound. South Africa needs to get its children and teachers safely back into the classroom. Personal protective equipment must be provided in schools and teachers, as essential workers, should be vaccinated.

The Basic Education Department also needs better data on why students are absent. It may be because parents cannot afford transport, the financial or social strain of losing loved ones to Covid-19, or because they worry that they've fallen too far behind.

These underlying issues must be addressed. Programmes such as expanded school transport or tutoring could be more effective than reminders and demerits alone. Online learning also needs to be more accessible to the poor.

Interventions may be difficult to fund considering that basic education received a 5.3% decrease due to Covid-19-related budget cuts last year. We'll see on Wednesday 24 February if Finance Minister Tito Mboweni intends to give the sector much-needed relief in his Budget speech.

DM

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



THURSDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05:00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06:00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06:30 AM	NIPASHE
06:50 AM	MATANGAZO
07:00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07:15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07:25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07:40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08:00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08:10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09:00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09:10 AM	MATANGAZO
09:20 AM	BRAND TALK
09:30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI
10:00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10:03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10:10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13:00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13:10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16:00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16:03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16:30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18:30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19:30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20:00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20:10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21:00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21:05 HRS	MALUMBANO YA HOJA
23:00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23:03 HRS	AFRO TIZII

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



THURSDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	SPORTS
21:00-23:00HRS	MALUMBANO YA HOJA
23:00-01:00HRS	MUSIC & JINGLES
01:00-05:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)



Thursday 25 February 2021

Maize farmers cry foul over "fake" seeds

KIGALI

WHEN over 300 farmers planted maize seeds in October last year on 45 hectares in Rugende wetland, they were expecting a rebound from previous losses.

The wetland connects the sectors of Nyakariro, Muyumbo of Rwamagana District and Masaka sector of Kicukiro District as well as part of Gasabo District.

In 2018, Rwf2.5 billion was invested by the government to the wetland and used for local seed multiplication for maize and other crops to reduce seeds imports. However, according to farmers, the seeds have failed to germinate for two consecutive seasons.

"In season A that started in October last year we planted maize on 45 hectares but we are counting losses. In the previous season, the seeds did not yield. We appropriate support," Jean Damour Niyonsaba, a farmer said.

Farmers say that when the seeds failed to germinate in the previous season, Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) agreed to compensate them. However, the seeds that were distributed as part of the compensation also failed to germinate.

"It is the second time we are counting losses due to seeds problem," Niyonsaba said.

He disclosed that RAB also still owes them Rwf62 million in unpaid arrears stemming from the products it bought last year.

"We have entered into another harvesting season without being paid for the products we sold to RAB. RAB tells us that the ministry of finance has not yet released the money yet," he said.

Germaine Mukabaziga, another farmer with 59 acres added, "I still have a bank loan to pay. Some of us got loans from savings groups, others from banks expecting to harvest and pay but with these losses, interest rates keep increasing as we fail to pay back."

Farmers say they had not been given proper guidelines on planting the new seed variety.



In season A that started in October last year we planted maize on 45 hectares but we are counting losses. In the previous season, the seeds did not yield. We appropriate support," Jean Damour Niyonsaba, a farmer said.

Industrialists to meet with Mwambe next week in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MEMBERS of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) are next Monday expected to meet with the Industry and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwambe to discuss pertinent issues in the sector.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI executive director Leodegar Tenga said that the meeting is one of the key platforms that will provide room for industrialists to mingle with the government and air their views on how to improve the sector.

According to Tenga, CTI has been working tirelessly to provide its members with opportunities for engaging the government to improve the performance of the industrial sector in the country.

He said they have been as-



CTI executive director Leodegar Tenga. File Photo.

sisting the government to address some of the macro and microeconomic challenges and said they are happy that CTI's recommendations have helped to improve the business environment for its members and other industries as they exploit exist-

ing opportunities, expand and establish new ventures.

He commended the government for its readiness to listen and dialogue with industries on issues that affect industries' development in the country.

Tenga said on Monday CTI

members and non-members are expected to meet the minister responsible for Industrial and Trade and other government officials for a consultative meeting which will be used as an avenue to exchange ideas and views with the government and reach consensus on

some essential issues that enhance the pace of industrial development in the country.

"On Monday next week CIT we will have a breakfast meeting with Industry and Trade Minister Geoffrey Mwambe, the meeting will provide an opportunity for the manufactures to meet and discuss with the minister and other government officials to deliberate on pertinent issues affecting the industrial sector ranging from the necessary infrastructure to the required regulatory framework that enables local manufactures to be competitive in the domestic and international markets," he said.

He further said, for the country to transform into an industrial state, it needs to continue working closely with the private sector in creating a business environment that is conducive for investment and industrial production.

Tenga thanked Dar es Salaam Serena Hotel and German development arm GIZ for supporting CTI to host the meeting with the minister.

Bank of Africa, KCB fight over ex-Nakumatt boss assets

NAIROBI

BANK of Africa has been allowed to auction a prime property belonging to the CEO of fallen retail giant Nakumatt, triggering a fight with KCB Group that last November sold the asset for Sh1.04 billion.

High Court judge Alfred Mabeya directed Bank of Africa to auction the property in Industrial Area, Nairobi, to recover Sh460 million advanced to Nakumatt on condition that it notifies other lenders of the forced sale.

But earlier court disclosures showed that KCB pressed for a speedy auction last year and sold the property to Furniture Palace International Ltd for Sh1.04 billion, taking a loss of about Sh1 billion.

Justice Mabeya's ruling sets the stage for a battle for the right over the property between KCB and Bank of Africa. The asset had also been charged to DTB Bank

and Standard Chartered, raising questions how multiple lenders would offer loans in excess of Sh4 billion based on a single security valued at less than Sh2 billion.

Justice Mabeya said Bank of Africa was free to auction the property because both Nakumatt and Mr Shah's firm, Collogne Investments, had admitted to defaulting on the Sh460 million



Nakumatt managing director Atul Shah. File Photo.

loan.

"For avoidance of doubt, no new notice of sale ought to be issued since all the other parties, including Nakumatt and Collogne Investments, have acknowledged receipt of the same. All that the bank has to do is to serve the other charges (lenders) with the said notice," Justice Mabeya ruled last Thursday.

The ruling followed an application by Nakumatt Holdings

Limited (under administration) protesting that if the intended sale proceeded, it would suffer irreparable loss because other lenders would pursue it for the recovery of unpaid loans.

Interestingly, the same judge had on November 24 cleared KCB to auction the same property. This allowed the bank to press for a speedy auction, fearing an appeal would open the window for rival lenders to scut-

tle its claim on the asset.

KCB revealed to court in November that Furniture Palace International had emerged the best bidder for the property and that the sale was set to be completed on November 25.

The banks offered Nakumatt billions of shillings on the strength of the retail chain's cash flow. But Mr Shah used his company, Collogne Investments, which owned the Sh2 bil-

lion property in Nairobi, as Nakumatt's guarantor to offer additional comfort for the multiple bank loans.

The banks have been battling to seize assets linked to Mr Shah and his family to recover the billions of shillings lent to Nakumatt.

The former Nakumatt CEO had sought orders stopping the auction after KCB revealed that it had already entered into a sale deal with a third party and that the transaction would be frustrated if the application was not determined before November 25.

The Nakumatt owners said efforts to get a clarification from KCB's advocates on the auction failed. KCB in reply said Collogne Investments had guaranteed Nakumatt facilities to the tune of Sh1 billion and used the property as security.

The lender said Nakumatt defaulted, and that on March 15 it sent a demand for payment of Sh2.07 billion.

Nakumatt closed shop in January last year with debts estimated at Sh30 billion – including Sh18 billion to suppliers, Sh4 billion to commercial paper holders and the rest to banks, who are more aggressive in pursuing their unpaid loans.

Regulatory filings indicate that Nakumatt owed DTB Bank Sh3.6 billion, Stanchart Sh900 million, KCB Sh1.9 billion, Bank of Africa Sh328 million, UBA Sh126 million and GT Bank Sh104 million.

Kenya banks on global health accreditation to revive aviation

NAIROBI

KENYA is now banking on a global health accreditation of its airports to rekindle the performance of the aviation sector that has been badly shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Airports Council International's (ACI) Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) on Covid-19's health and procedure preparedness will be a boost to global airlines in their push to recover from the economic woes inflicted by the pandemic.

The ACI's AHA programme provides airports with an assessment of how aligned their health measures are with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations along with industry best practices.

Areas covered by the accreditation include cleaning and disinfection, physical distancing (where feasible and practical), staff protection, physical layout, passen-

ger communications and passenger facilities.

We are also in the process of attaining ACI's Airport Health Accreditation (AHA); a global benchmark, independently assessing an airport's alignment with ACI Aviation Business Restart and Recovery Guidelines and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council's Aviation Restart Task Force recommendations, as well as industry best practices, in the fight against the spread of COVID-19," Kenya Airport Authority (KPA) said in a statement.

The ACI also recognised Jomo Kenyatta and Moi International airports for prioritising customers' needs during the Covid-19's crisis.

ACI's Airport Service Quality (ASQ) is a world-renowned and globally established global benchmarking programme which measures passengers' satisfaction whilst they are travelling through an airport. The two airports have participated in the ASQ programme for over 10 years.

"Your airports have made significant efforts in gathering passenger feedback through ACI's Airport Service Quality program and this will help you better understand your customers and will inform your commitment to delivering a superior customer experience under trying circumstances," said ACI World Director General Felipe de Oliveira.

KPA acting Managing Director Alex Gitari noted that the recognition comes at a time when the two airports are undergoing major rehabilitation to improve passenger experience.

"We are employing the industry's best practice as we seek to adapt a seamless passenger experience at our airports - to provide a safer, smoother and more streamlined airport journey, from check-in to boarding," KPA boss noted.

"ACI's Customer Experience Accreditation program offers a structured path for us to hone the knowledge and skills to ensure that we achieve our vision to provide stress free travel to our customers; this is

vital as travel recovers."

ACI is the only global trade representative of the world's airports. This comes at a time when Kenya is expected to receive its first Covid-19 vaccine this week.

In an interview with Reuters, Mitchell Cotts Managing Director Daniel Tanui said the country is well positioned to store vaccine under its extensive cold-storage facility at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

The country boasts modern cold facilities primarily used for the storage and transportation of export fresh farm produce such as fruits and vegetables.

Countries and companies are racing against time to install cold-chain facilities and delivery systems as the Covid-19 vaccine needs to be stored in ultra-cold facilities.

"The fortunate thing about Jomo Kenyatta is that it has the biggest capacity within the East Africa region because of the nature of our trade," Mr Tanui told Reuters last week.



Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. File Photo.

The gas pipeline benefits go beyond fiscal gains

By Anael Samuel

Energy security means access to a reasonable supply of energy and energy resources at affordable prices and are essential for a country's growth and development. Over the centuries, human kind has worked on finding ways to develop technology for more efficient and sustainable sources of energy.

Although renewable energy sources such as solar PV and battery energy storage technologies are making huge strides and costs are coming down, many still feel a mix of generation solutions is a necessity for Africa and gas can be a more realistic solution than other higher emitting technologies such as coal, diesel and HFO.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), gas accounted for nearly half of the global increase in energy demand in 2018. IEA data shows that the United States, China, and large parts of Asia and Europe incorporate gas as a core component of their energy sources. As such, it seems fair to ask why should Africa, and specifically Tanzania, be left behind with its rich natural gas resources?

Tanzania has natural gas reserves of 57 trillion cubic feet which provide opportunities for the country to increase its use for power generation, fueling motor vehicles, domestic use, and providing industries with alternative energy for their various mechanical processes. All these while ensuring the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the projects.

Exploration of natural gas comes with socio-economic gains to Tanzania, a key one being preserving foreign currency in importing fuel to operate the industries.

The use of natural gas has gained popularity in recent years due to its reduced environmental impacts and efficiency compared to other fossil fuel generation which produce a lot of carbon emissions to the environment.

Additionally, natural gas is particularly well-suited to energy-intensive adaptation technologies, such as the production of steel and concrete used in the construction of resilient infrastructure, desalination for expanded freshwater supply, and cold storage. Because of its versatility, natural gas has been used extensively in the industrial sector by enabling reliable and affordable

access to energy.

It is also worth noting that large thermal power infrastructure incur huge upfront capital investments. By contrast, gas turbine generation plants are more affordable and much easier to construct, thereby enabling investors and governments to make huge savings on costs compared to coal or geothermal plants which requires expensive capital, especially during the exploration stage. Natural gas plants also use technology which increases efficiency and reduces emissions than the traditional thermal plants.

In this regard, natural gas discovery has enabled Tanzania to reduce energy costs and has diversified the sector. For example, Songas uses gas to generate electricity supplying 180MW - approximately 20% of the country's demand - to the national grid. According to TPDC estimates, this has led to a saving of more than TZS 11 trillion to the Tanzanian economy since Songas began operations in 2004. The company is looking to continue complementing the efforts of the Government of Tanzania to provide a sufficient and appropriate energy mix which the country would need to sustainably power

its industrialization agenda.

To this end, the initiatives undertaken to extend the gas pipeline from Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo acknowledges the increased need for the safe transport of natural gas and efficient delivery to the consumer. At a time when there is an increased need for cost-effective energy for both domestic and commercial use, natural gas continues to offer affordable and environmentally friendly alternatives. This helps to establish the energy security of the country through a mix of reliable energy sources that enhance our developmental trajectory in competing at a global level and achieving internally accepted standards of energy production.

The demand for gas has been projected to increase over the next decade. It is projected that global gas consumption will double between now and 2030 to the extent that it will most likely replace coal as the world's second most important energy resource.

Natural gas is an important resource in Tanzania and is one of the key options for energy benefitting the environment, communities and boosting government revenue.



Anael Samuel Managing Director of Songas Tanzania.



Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg takes part in a climate strike protest during the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. File Photo.

Investors push companies to come clean on climate

BOSTON

In the past, shareholder votes on the environment were rare and easily brushed aside. Things could look different in the annual meeting season starting next month, when companies are set to face the most investor resolutions tied to climate change in years.

Those votes are likely to win more support than in previous years from large asset managers seeking clarity on how executives plan to adapt and prosper in a low-carbon world, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen activist investors and fund managers.

In the United States, shareholders have filed 79 climate-related resolutions so far, compared with 72 for all of last year and 67 in 2019, according to data compiled by the Sustainable Investments Institute and shared with Reuters. The institute estimated the count could reach 90 this year.

Topics to be put to a vote at annual general meetings (AGMs) include calls for emissions limits, pollution reports and "climate audits" that show the financial impact of climate change on their businesses.

A broad theme is to press corporations across sectors, from oil and transport to food and drink, to detail how they plan to reduce their carbon footprints in coming years, in line with government pledges to cut emissions to net zero by 2050.

"Net-zero targets for 2050 without a credible plan including short-term targets is greenwashing, and shareholders must hold them to account," said

billionaire British hedge fund manager Chris Hohn, who is pushing companies worldwide to hold a recurring shareholder vote on their climate plans.

Many companies say they already provide plenty of information about climate issues. Yet some activists say they see signs more executives are in a deal-making mood this year.

Royal Dutch Shell said on Feb. 11 it would become the first oil and gas major to offer such a vote, following similar announcements from Spanish airports operator Aena, UK consumer goods company Unilever and U.S. rating agency Moody's.

While most resolutions are non-binding, they often spur changes with even 30 percent or more support as executives look to satisfy as many investors as possible.

"The demands for increased disclosure and target-setting are much more pointed than they were in 2020," said Daniele Vitale, the London-based head of governance for Georgeson, which advises corporations on shareholder views. While more and more companies are issuing net-zero targets for 2050, in line with goals set out in the 2015 Paris climate accord, few have published interim targets. A study from sustainability consultancy South Pole showed just 10% of 120 firms it polled, from varied sectors, had done so.

"There's too much ambiguity and lack of clarity on the exact journey and route that companies are going to take, and how quickly we can actually expect movement," said Mirza Baig, head of investment stewardship at Aviva Investors.

Data analysis from Swiss bank J Safran Sarasin, shared with Reuters, shows the scale of the collective challenge.

Sarasin studied the emissions of the roughly 1,500 firms in the MSCI World Index, a broad proxy for the world's listed companies. It calculated that if companies globally did not curb their emissions rate, they would raise global temperatures by more than 3 degrees Celsius by 2050.

That is well short of the Paris accord goal of limiting warming to "well below" 2C, preferably 1.5C. At an industry level, there are large differences, the study found: If every company emitted at the same level as the energy sector, for example, the temperature rise would be 5.8C, with the materials sector - including metals and mining - on course for 5.5C and consumer staples - including food and drink - 4.7C.

The calculations are mostly based on companies' reported emissions levels in 2019, the latest full year analysed, and cover Scope 1 and 2 emissions - those caused directly by a company, plus the production of the electricity it buys and uses. Sectors with high carbon emissions are likely to face the most investor pressure for clarity.

In January, for example, ExxonMobil - long an energy industry laggard in setting climate goals - disclosed its Scope 3 emissions, those connected to use of its products.

This prompted the California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers) to withdraw a shareholder resolution seeking the information.

Calpers' Simiso Nzima, head of corporate governance for the \$444 bil-

lion pension fund, said he saw 2021 as a promising year for climate concerns, with a higher likelihood of other companies also reaching agreements with activist investors.

However, Exxon has asked the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for permission to skip votes on four other shareholder proposals, three related to climate matters, according to filings to the SEC. They cite reasons such as the company having already "substantially implemented" reforms.

An Exxon spokesman said it had ongoing discussions with its stakeholders, which led to the emissions disclosure. He declined to comment on the requests to skip votes, as did the SEC, which had not yet ruled on Exxon's requests as of late Tuesday.

Given the influence of large shareholders, activists are hoping for more from BlackRock, the world's biggest investor with \$8.7 trillion under management, which has promised a tougher approach to climate issues.

Last week, BlackRock called for boards to come up with a climate plan, release emissions data and make robust short-term reduction targets, or risk seeing directors voted down at the AGM.

It backed a resolution at Procter & Gamble's AGM, unusually held in October, which asked the company to report on efforts to eliminate deforestation in its supply chains, helping it pass with 68% support.

"It's a crumb but we hope it's a sign of things to come" from BlackRock, said Kyle Kempf, spokesman for resolution sponsor Green Century Capital Management in Boston.

Sovereign wealth funds pull \$16.3 billion from market strategies in fourth quarter

LONDON

SOVEREIGN wealth funds pulled \$16.3 billion from public market investment strategies, largely equities, in the fourth quarter, the most in almost four years, driven largely by redemptions, according to data and research firm eVestment.

The move followed a year in which some funds, including those from Norway, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, planned withdrawals to help their governments cope with the coronavirus crisis.

Net outflows from equity strategies managed by third-party fund managers reached \$18.5 billion in the final three months of 2020, eVestment data showed. Global equity markets closed 2020 around record highs after a stimulus-charged rebound helped stocks surge more than 60% from their March lows.

Across all asset classes, net outflows from long-only managers handling sovereign wealth investments were \$16.3 billion, the largest amount since the first quarter of 2017, the data showed. But the significance of the data was disputed by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF).

"According to our research, these figures don't appear to be indicative of the behaviour of our members that invest in global markets," said Victoria Barbary, director of strategy and communications at the IFSWF. "For most major sovereign wealth funds, pooled vehicles are not the main vehicles for their investment, with the exception of ETFs."

The net outflows identified within eVestment's data were driven largely by redemptions from passive equities, noted eVestment's senior research analyst Mike Cho. "We did see evidence from last year where export earnings were down and the need for additional expenditure by some governments meant some sovereign wealth funds having to tap into some of the more liquid parts of their portfolio," said Rod Ringrow, head of official institutions at asset manager Invesco.

"We're not seeing any immediate pressures since then and a lot of clients are looking to add new asset classes to their investment portfolios."

There were some "isolated bright spots" in the eVestment data, with positive net flows for active global equity strategies and active emerging market large capitalisation equity funds, said Cho.

The latter drew net inflows of \$1.4 billion during the quarter, the most in at least several years. Some sovereign funds also poured some of their investments into fixed income.

Across all fixed-income classes, strategies sucked in a net \$2.1 billion, the most since the first quarter of 2018, the data showed. For the second consecutive quarter, U.S. fixed income drew net inflows, adding \$1.3 billion during the fourth quarter.

Also for the second quarter running, sovereign funds moved into U.S. mortgage-backed securities and U.S. short-duration instruments, while they also snapped up U.S. enhanced cash management strategies.

Hopes of an economic boost provided by a huge fiscal stimulus under the new U.S. administration of President Joe Biden have tempted investors into bond funds in recent months.

The global debt bubbles: What vaccine?

By Zainul Chandoo

WHILST the world is breathing sigh of relief since the good news rolled in on success of COVID-19 trials and eventual roll out of vaccinations globally. The hope, and it remains a hope at this juncture, is that the biggest vaccination in human history will eventually relieve us from a virus that led to the greatest recession the world has experienced.

While we are celebrating the C-19 success, the big question on the other side of the coin is on the growing global debt - what is the vaccination if at all we have found one?

As the pandemic ravaged economies, leading to lower revenues, increased investment in public health and relief measures, governments had to act.

The monetary policy reaction has been unprecedented in different countries, many have cut policy rates and introduced quantitative easing (QE) programs weighing on currency (depreciation) and a sizable retrenchment in portfolio inflows.

These synchronized policy measures have helped fuel a massive wave of borrowing, particularly by nations and corporates leading to record level debt. The pace of global debt accumulation has been unprecedented since 2016, increasing by over USD 52 trillion. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic,

2020 recorded a USD 15 trillion surge, by far surpassing the rise over the previous four years amounting to USD 6 trillion.

On aggregate basis, the debt hit an all-time record of over USD 272trillion by end Q3 2020. The expectation, by end 2020 is, for the debt to hit USD 277trillion, which is 365% of GDP.

Imagine you owe someone 365 times of the output you are able to generate.... Flip it the other way - average debt per global citizen is USD 35,000 whilst average per capita GDP per global citizen is USD 11,000.

The clock is ticking, every second, it seems, someone in the world takes on more debt. It gets even more exciting, if we seek to understand what was the global growth as a result of debt build-up. It appears to have contributed marginally to global growth - average of 2.8% between 2014 to 16 vs 2.9% in 2017 to 19.

The message is simple, the GDP-generating capacity of global debt is waning in an environment of corporate zombification, subdued investment and weak productivity gains.

Thus far, the world has managed to avoid a systemic debt crisis, mainly for two reasons:

Very low interest rates and massive monetary policy support. Central banks throughout the world lowered interest rates and supplied liquidity, quickly established swap lines helping many emerging countries maintain



Zainul Chandoo Stanbic Bank head of Treasury.

market access. The IMF estimates these measures injected USD 7.3 trillion.

Extraordinary direct financial support, including:

IMF emergency financing. Over 75 countries have sought this option

World Bank debt service relief to over 44 most vulnerable economies through the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)

IMF's Catastrophe Containment and

Relief Trust (CCRT) to over 29 members

Is a vaccine in sight?

In the words of Dr. Dambisa Moyo, Zambian born economist - The global picture has become even more complicated because many of the conventional ways to manage excess debt no longer look like credible options.

She has a case, and her argument

takes into account interest rates, which in most developed economies are already historically low and even negative in certain jurisdictions (Euro Zone & Japan), central banks' balance sheets are stretched from the expansionist policy since Global Financial Crisis in 2008 and the pandemic led expansion is the final nail in the coffin. Piling debt on top of debt seems to have reached a dead end.

Way forward (not exhaustive list) -

It is quite clear countries will require continuous support. The DSSI will need to be extended, I suspect for additional 12 months or even more given the recovery patterns across different geographies. Resuming debt service will come at the expense of fighting the pandemic and its economic fallout. This would increase the human suffering and make a recovery even harder

Countries with unsustainable debts should not delay restructuring and open negotiations with creditors before the situation worsens. Delaying only increases the costs- economic and human.

Use of the assistance approved by the IMF since late March 2020 under its various lending facilities and debt service relief financed by the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT). Overall, the IMF is making available \$1 trillion over a year

Primary budget surplus: Govern-

ments can also attempt to reduce the overall size of their debt by running a primary budget surplus. This will increase revenue through tax hikes or decrease spending through cuts. Policy makers favour this method of reducing debt loads, therefore some governments are likely to explore this option post current debt pile up. Ultimately, tax increase is a question of political will - a fine balance to achieve for elected officials whose tenure is often marked in years rather than decades.

In conclusion, in the height of Africa's debt crisis in the mid-1980s, Baba wa Taifa, late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, asked the country's creditors a blunt question: "Should we really let our people starve so that we can pay our debts?" It took another 20 years to agree to a comprehensive debt reduction program, effectively consigning Africa to a lost decade of development.

Mwalimu's question resonates powerfully today. The economic crisis triggered by COVID-19 has devastated many of the world's poorest countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is heading for its deepest recession in 50 years. Declining exports, plummeting revenues, and capital flight have left many countries struggling to pay creditors. With poverty rising and budgets for health, education, and safety nets under pressure, will countries be able to put the lives of vulnerable people before their debt obligations?



The logo of Boyu Capital is seen at the company's office in Hong Kong. File Photo.

Boyu Capital targets \$6 billion for new private equity fund

HONG KONG

CHINESE private equity firm Boyu Capital, an investor in Chinese technology titans including billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Group, is raising a new, China-focused fund targeting as much as \$6 billion, three people with knowledge of the matter said.

Its fifth and largest U.S. dollar-denominated fund is likely to close in the near term, said one of the people, who declined to be identified as the information is confidential. Boyu did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The fundraising by a firm widely associated with tech startups amounts to a high-profile test of investor appetite at a time when heightened oversight of China's tech giants clouds the near-term outlook of those companies.

It follows authorities' November suspension of Ant's Shanghai and Hong Kong dual listing, which delayed the hefty returns early investors such as Boyu could have expected from the world's biggest initial public offering (IPO).

The financial technology giant was set to raise \$37 billion at a valuation

of \$315 billion. Since the suspension, China has sharpened oversight of its home-grown champions which has also exposed their investors to more public scrutiny.

A central bank official said Ant's IPO was suspended to safeguard consumers and investors. Ant has since agreed a restructuring plan with regulators, Reuters reported this month.

Boyu was founded in 2010 by, among others, Alvin Jiang, grandson of former President Jiang Zemin. The firm has offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore, and invests in consumer and retail, financial services, healthcare and media and technology sectors, its website showed.

It is known for its 2012 investment in Alibaba Group Holding Ltd which helped Ma buy back half of Yahoo! Inc's 40 percent stake in the e-commerce firm, Reuters has reported. At \$6 billion, Boyu's new fund would be one of the region's largest focusing on China. It last raised \$3.6 billion in 2019.

Past investors include Hong Kong's richest man Li Ka-shing and Singapore state investors Temasek Holdings Ltd and GIC Pte Ltd, Reuters has

reported. The New York Common Retirement Fund has also been an investor, showed the website of the state comptroller.

Private equity managers in Asia raised \$108 billion for 481 new funds last year, down 45 percent by dollar value from 2019, showed Preqin data, as the COVID-19 pandemic dampened fundraising. Activity has picked up in 2021 with \$21 billion raised via 56 funds so far, the data showed.

Boyu invested in Ant's \$4.5 billion fundraising in 2016 and \$14 billion funding round two years later. In the interim, Ant's valuation leapt from \$60 billion to \$150 billion. The private equity firm has invested in other booming Chinese tech and healthcare startups in recent years that generated lucrative returns two of the people said.

Portfolio firms include ride-hailer Didi Chuxing, artificial intelligence (AI) firm Megvii and live-streaming app operator Kuaishou Technology, according to media reports and public information.

In January, it participated in a \$700 million fundraising by AI firm 4Paradigm, Dealogic data showed.

Lloyds bank targets wealth push and office cuts as profits fall

LONDON

LLOYDS Banking Group's outgoing Chief Executive António Horta-Osório set out fresh targets to expand the lender's insurance and wealth business and further cut costs, as the bank resumed a dividend despite a sharp fall in profits for 2020.

Britain's biggest domestic lender reported pretax profits of 1.2 billion pounds (\$1.7 billion), well down on 4.4 billion pounds the previous year, after pandemic lockdowns shrank household spending and drove up provisions for bad loans. But it still beat the average of analyst forecasts of 905 million pounds.

Horta-Osório, who is leaving Lloyds after a decade running the bank to stand for election as chairman of Credit Suisse in April, said the bank would in-

crease funds from insurance and wealth customers by 25 billion pounds by 2023.

Lloyds will also cut office space by 20 percent within three years, the second British lender to unveil such plans this week after HSBC announced a 40% cut to its footprint as banks look to capitalise on remote working habits brought on by the pandemic.

Lloyds said its overall costs would be trimmed below 7.5 billion pounds by the end of this year. HSBC executive Charlie Nunn is set to replace Horta-Osório, and will start in August, the bank said.

Similar to rivals HSBC, NatWest and Barclays, Lloyds' profits were dented by a dip in customer spending and wafer thin central bank interest rates.

Lloyds set aside 4.2 billion pounds to cover loans expected

to sour, which was less than the 4.5 billion to 5.5 billion pound range previously given.

The bank said it would pay a 0.57 pence dividend per share, the maximum allowed by the Bank of England and above a forecast of 0.53 pence.

Like other banks, Lloyds was forced by the Bank of England to suspend payouts last year to shore up its finances in the pandemic.

The bank's core capital ratio, a key measure of financial resilience, increased to 16.2 percent compared to 15.2 percent in September.

Horta-Osório's pay package for 2020 fell to 3.4 million pound, after he and other executives waived bonuses for the year due to the pandemic. He was paid 4.7 million pounds the previous year.



A sign hangs outside a Lloyds Bank branch in London, Britain. File Photo.

WORLD

Roadmap set out for UK to exit lockdown

LONDON

SCHOOLS across England will reopen on March 8 as part of the government's so-called roadmap out of lockdown, which aims to have something like normal life back again for the whole of the United Kingdom by early summer.

Speaking in the House of Commons on Monday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the measures "a one-way road to freedom".

Scientific evidence, he said, "shows we cannot escape the fact that lifting lockdown will result in more cases, more hospitalizations and sadly, more deaths and this would happen whenever a lockdown is lifted."

"Whether now or in six or nine months, because there will always be some vulnerable people who are not protected by the vaccines."

However, he said, the "resolve of the British public and the extraordinary success of our (National Health Service)" meant gradual changes could be made.

At the same time as schools reopen, outdoor recreation will also be allowed again. At the end of March, when the school Easter holidays begin, outdoor sporting facilities will be reopened.

Groups of up to six people, or two households, will be allowed to mix outside.

If that works, the second phase of reopening would be on April 12. They will include nonessential retail, and places such as hairdressers, libraries, zoos and indoor leisure facilities, including swimming pools and gyms, and self-contained holiday facilities.

There will be five-week gaps between the easing stages, allowing four weeks to examine the latest data, and an additional week of notice for businesses that will be permitted to reopen.

The newly-announced measures are only applicable to England. The devolved authorities in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will oversee their own reopening.

The BBC reported that Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, will announce her plan on Tuesday, but it would not include hard and fast dates, and there may be localized restrictions.

Mark Drakeford, first minister of Wales, tweeted: "Here in Wales, we announced last week that we're using the next 3 weeks to get more students back to school/college, and looking at options for reopening shops and hairdressers."

Vaccination for adults



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

If things go according to plan, it is hoped that the roadmap might be completed by late June, and by the end of July, every adult in the UK should have been offered a COVID-19 vaccine.

Speaking on Sky News before Johnson's announcement, Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said the decisions were being taken with a degree of cautious optimism.

"Suffice to say, the evidence looks good," he said. "We wouldn't be in this place this morning to be able to say that we're going to reopen schools... if

we're not confident that actually the vaccine program is beginning to really bear fruit."

There are fears that coming out of lockdown could see an increase in violent crime, as the closure of schools and youth facilities for so long have put many vulnerable youngsters at greater risk of being drawn into a life of crime.

Recently published figures reveal that last year, threats to kill involving a knife rose 20 percent, and violence increased significantly when restrictions were eased last summer.

Somalia, AMISOM release rules to guide management of weapons

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have released detailed guidelines and procedures for the management of stockpiles of seized weapons.



Francisco Madeira, special representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to Somalia and head of AMISOM Tuesday said the guidelines contained in a document titled Harmonized Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the management of recovered small arms and light weapons were jointly developed by the government and AMISOM.

"The collection of these weapons ensures that our troops – both AMISOM and Somalia National Army (SNA) – are not harmed by these weapons when we collect them, yet they go back to the hands of the enemy," Mander (pictured) said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

"Faced with these facts, the government and AMISOM will continue to work jointly on preventing recovered weapons from reaching the wrong hands," he added.

The document is a culmination of months of hard work in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2444 (2018) which called on the government and Federal Member States and AMISOM to document and register all military equipment captured as part of offensive operations or in the course of carrying out their mandates.

"This is also in line with efforts of the Somali government to enhance its processes and management of small arms and light weapons," Madeira said and noted that the need to come up with guidelines was informed by earlier challenges faced by both AMISOM and the government on the need for a coordinated approach to better manage stockpiles of seized weapons, and also to prevent them from falling into the hands of enemy combatants.

Somalia's National Security Advisor, Abdisaid M. Ali, emphasized that the effective management of small arms and light weapons has implications for Somalia and regional peace and stability.

"The proper management of recovered weapons, especially through this harmonized SOPs will ensure that we have transparency on how to integrate the national stockpiles on everything that is happening, especially on weapons and arms management. This will help strengthen the capacity of the security sector," Ali said. **Xinhua**

China lodges representations with Canada over Xinjiang act

BEIJING

CHINA strongly condemns and firmly opposes a Xinjiang-related motion of Canada's House of Commons, and has lodged stern representations with Canada, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a press briefing when commenting on reports that Canada's House of Commons adopted a motion calling on the Trudeau government to declare that China has committed "genocide" in Xinjiang and calling for a countermeasure to the 2022 Winter Olympics.

The relevant motion disregarded facts and common sense and deliberately denigrated and smeared China. It seriously violated international law and basic norms of international relations and grossly interfered in China's

internal affairs, Wang told the press briefing.

Pointing out that the essence of Xinjiang-related issues is counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, Wang said China's Xinjiang is faithfully implementing the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. It also draws lessons from similar practices in other countries to carry out de-radicalization in accordance with the law. It is in full compliance with the principles and the spirit of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Thanks to the efforts of people of all ethnic groups, Xinjiang has reported no violent terrorist cases for more than four consecutive years, Wang said, adding that the region enjoys social stability and steady progress, and people enjoy their lives and work.

According to Wang, the Uygur population in Xinjiang grew from 10.17 million in



Wang Wenbin

2010 to 12.72 million in 2018, an increase of 25.04 percent, which is higher than that of Xinjiang's total population and that of all ethnic minority groups, as well as the growth of the Han population.

"Facts have proved that there has never been any genocide in Xinjiang," Wang said, adding that it is a lie of the century, deliberately concocted by extreme anti-China forces, and a ridiculous farce to smear China.

He said some Canadian poli-

ticians openly politicize sport, which runs counter to the spirit of the Olympic Charter and harms the interests of the international Olympic movement and athletes of various countries.

Wang said some people in Canada should abandon anti-China paranoia and treat China objectively instead of indulging in the outdated thinking of ideological confrontation. They should not put domestic political battles or their party interests above

the overall China-Canada relations. "Canada has always claimed to defend values, but one of the most important values is to respect facts," Wang said.

"Relevant Canadian politicians who engage in political manipulation on Xinjiang-related issues under the guise of human rights and openly spread false information and lies have never been to Xinjiang or even China. It is precisely trampling on the values Canada has always touted," he added.

Wang stressed that Xinjiang-related issues are purely China's internal affairs, and Canada has no rights to interfere in. China's determination to defend national sovereignty, security, and development interests is unwavering.

"China will respond resolutely to any actions that harm China's interests," the spokesperson said. **Xinhua**

Putin, Lukashenko agree to boost work between economic agencies

MOSCOW

THE Russian and Belarusian presidents, Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko, agreed at talks to step up work between the two countries' economic agencies and tax services, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

The two leaders held a meeting in Sochi on February 22 and had a phone conversation on

February 23. "The meeting was very fruitful, timely, constructive and candid. Certainly, they mostly discussed expanding and improving cooperation between the economic agencies," Peskov said, noting that there was some decline in the trade turnover and in economic terms amid the pandemic.

The presidents came to a conclusion that now it is necessary to take very energetic steps to compensate for this decline

and "bring all key indicators to the growth trajectory." "So the two presidents discussed that there is the need to step up efforts in the framework of economic agencies and especially focus on cooperation in the tax area," he said.

To this aim, consultations will be held between the two countries' tax services and the heads of government. "And then bilateral measures will be specified on deepening cooperation in

these areas," he noted.

When asked to comment whether the two leaders had discussed the issue of selling Belarusian assets to Russian companies, Peskov noted that "joint investment cooperation is included in the agenda all the time." "This is part and parcel of our Union State and the entire trade and economic relations. In particular, there cannot be any lists, because all this is the issue of economic feasibility

and a beneficial economic offer," he stressed.

Putin and Lukashenko also discussed coordinating efforts between the law enforcement agencies, including the Defense Ministry. "These agencies will also hold consultations rather soon and the defense ministers will contact," he noted. The Russian president is very positive about the outcome of the meeting, Peskov said. **Agencies**

Russia to start state trials of latest heavy flamethrower

MOSCOW

THE Tosochka latest heavy flamethrower system will enter state trials in the immediate future, the state tech corporation Rostec announced yesterday.

"Rostec subsidiaries have started preparing the TOS-2 Tosochka combat vehicle for state trials. The work is ongoing under the 2021 defense procurement plan," the corporation said.

Following the results of the trials, "a decision will be made on the schedule of accepting the flamethrower system for service," Rostec stressed.

The TOS-2 Tosochka heavy flamethrower differs from the operational TOS-1 Buratino and TOS-1A Solntsepyok flamethrowers by its improved performance characteristics. The system is mounted on the wheeled chassis of a Ural cross-country truck and features an increased fire range capability, automated sight, firing and fire control systems. The heavy flamethrower is also outfitted with a special crane and needs no transporter-loader vehicle.

The TOS-2 heavy flamethrower has been developed by the Splay Research and Production Association. As Splay CEO Alexander Smirnov said, the Tosochka is capable of firing both shells used for the Solntsepyok flamethrower and some new munitions.

The Tosochka heavy flamethrower was unveiled at the Victory Day Parade on Moscow's Red Square in June 2020. Four combat vehicles rolled through Red Square as part of the Parade's mechanized column. The system underwent its operational evaluation during the Kavkaz-2020 strategic command and staff drills last year. **Agencies**



TOS-2 combat vehicles

China to double agricultural imports from CEE countries over next five years

CHINA needs to deepen agricultural cooperation with Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in a bid to double CEE countries' agricultural exports to China and raise two-way agricultural trade by 50 percent over the next five years, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Tuesday in a keynote speech to the China-CEEC Summit via video link.

China intends to import, in the coming five years, more than \$170 billion of goods from CEE countries, Xi said while chairing the summit in Beijing. The summit was originally scheduled for last April but was postponed due to pandemic.

China proposes setting up a farm produce wholesale market in the CEE

region and introducing an exchange program for young agricultural professionals, Xi said.

With a high dependence on agriculture, CEE countries are set to see farm produce trade account for a bigger part of two-way trade with China, experts said, believing that the import target, especially a substantial rise set for agricultural trade, points to a much brighter picture for bilateral trade ties despite lingering concerns over the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.

"It's reasonable for China to expand goods imports from CEE countries over the next few years, especially agricultural products, given the need to narrow trade surplus with CEE coun-

tries to deepen cooperation." Zhang Hong, a research fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

He said that by expanding farm produce imports from CEE region is expected to help CEE countries recover their economies and walk out of recession, which reflects China's willingness to shoulder responsibility.

China's farm produce trade with 17 CEE countries - mostly comprised of livestock products, aquatic items, fruits and vegetables - hit roughly \$1.46 billion in 2019, making up only 0.63 percent of China's total farm pro-

duce trade, according to statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Indeed, this will likely lead to competition between CEE countries and US agricultural products as China has pledged to increase imports of US agricultural and energy products in the phase one trade deal, but this is benign competition and will offer more choices for Chinese consumers, Zhang said.

China's imports of farm produce from the US soared 66.9 percent year-on-year to 162.74 billion yuan (\$25.29 billion) in 2020, per Chinese customs data. The country's soybean imports from the US were up 56.3 percent over the past year; its pork imports from the US posted a surge of 223.8 percent,

while cotton imports rose 121.7 percent and its crude oil imports jumped 88 percent.

Zhang said China and CEE countries should remove non-trade barriers and improve customs clearance convenience to boost bilateral trade.

China's trade with CEE countries topped \$100 billion for the first time in 2020, with an average annual growth of 8 percent since 2012, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

"To enhance green development, we may take the China-CEEC Year of Green Development and Environmental Protection as an opportunity to deepen exchange and cooperation in green economy, clean energy and

other related areas," Xi said.

He also called for China and CEE countries to capitalize on various emerging business forms to widen bilateral cooperation on the digital economy, e-commerce and the health sector. China supports setting up a China-CEEC dialogue mechanism on e-commerce cooperation and a China-CEEC alliance in the public health industry.

By the end of 2020, Chinese cumulative foreign direct investment in CEE countries in sectors including energy, infrastructure and logistics totaled \$31.4 billion, while those countries' cumulative investments in China reached \$1.72 billion, according to MOFCOM. **Global Times**

South African president calls for global COVID-19 vaccine equity

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa backed a call by French President Emmanuel Macron and European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for wealthy countries to donate 5 percent of their vaccines to poorer nations.

"We need to pool our resources, capabilities, knowledge and intellectual property" to ensure equitable access to vaccines and medical supplies across the globe, Ramaphosa said Tuesday.

South Africa and India have urged the World Trade Organization to suspend intellectual-property rights related to COVID-19 to ensure access to vaccines and medication for all.

South Africa's health minister said government advisers had organized COVID-19 vaccines into three groups and those considered for "immediate use" were the Johnson & Johnson (J&J), Pfizer and Moderna shots.

Mkhize said the next batch of 80,000 J&J doses for a research study targeting healthcare workers would arrive on Saturday.

Mkhize said the Ministerial Advisory Committee on vaccines had placed Russia's Sputnik V vaccine and alternatives from China's Sinopharm and Sinovac in a second group where South Africa is interested but requires more technical information.

A third group where vaccines "may not be suitable for immediate use in South Africa" includes the AstraZeneca and Novavax vaccines.

Mkhize said that South Africa would be selling, not donating, its stock of AstraZeneca shots to the African Union.



Lies over Xinjiang won't stop China's progress

BEIJING

SOME anti-China forces in the West have fabricated and mongered a string of lies about China's Xinjiang, ignoring facts on the ground and continuing their vain attempt to contain China's development.

They have invented these lies through methods including, but not limited to, data abuse, distortion of information, fabrication of cases, cherry-picking of source materials, and logical contradictions.

For example, the claim that "nearly one million Uyghurs are detained," an outright rumor based on two highly dubious "studies."

The first "study" was done by the U.S. government-backed Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) with interviews from only eight people.

The CHRD applied the estimated ratio shown in this absurdly small sample to the whole of Xinjiang, drawing a crude conclusion that one million people were detained in the "re-education detention camps" and two million were "forced to attend day/evening re-education sessions."

The second "study" was authored by far-right fundamentalist Christian Adrian Zenz, who based his "just over one million" estimate on a single report by Istiqlal TV, a Uyghur exile media organization based in Turkey that instigates separatism while playing host to an assortment of extremist figures. It is also noteworthy that Zenz is a religious fanatic who has said he is "led by God" to crusade against the Chinese government.

His many so-called sources of information, including three women who had claimed to be under "unlawful detention" and forced to undergo compulsory sterilization by the government, have been debunked.

In its latest fiasco alleging "systematic rape" in Xin-



Children have fun on Dove Lane in Hotan City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, May 27, 2020. (Xinhua)

ang, the BBC sourced only dubious, one-sided oral claims, including from some people who have given contradictory statements, without any credible confirmation or corroborating evidence.

The so-called "genocide" in Xinjiang is another lie concocted by anti-China forces.

According to official figures, from 2010 to 2018, the Uyghur population in Xinjiang rose from 10.17 million to 12.72 million, an increase of 25 percent, higher than the growth rate of 22 percent for all ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and much higher

than that of the Han population, which is 2 percent.

By fabricating lies and building a false narrative, anti-China forces in the West, including in the United States, have smeared China's image, slandered its policies on Xinjiang, interfered in China's internal affairs, and attempted to deceive the international community and disrupt the stability and development of Xinjiang. They can fool some of the people some of the time, but cannot fool all the people all the time.

Inflammatory accusations fabricated

out of ignorance and prejudice are not difficult to debunk, especially since China has presented a convincing case. That some Western politicians chose to ignore facts and embrace lies, if not out of misunderstanding, can only be explained by their intention to use Xinjiang as a "card" against China.

However, these efforts will be in vain, as China's Xinjiang policy serves the best interests of Xinjiang and China, and have been proved effective by Xinjiang's socio-economic achievements over the years, as witnessed by more than 1,200 diplomats, UN officials, foreign journalists and others from over 100 countries who have visited Xinjiang since 2018.

China including Xinjiang will continue to follow its proven path of development. The attempt to contain China's development through lies over Xinjiang will not succeed.

Xinhua

Russia's military exports to Middle East and North Africa hit \$6 bn

ABU DHABI

RUSSIA'S military exports to the Middle East and North Africa have reached at least \$6 billion per year, the country's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation told reporters at the International Defense Exhibition (IDEX) 2021 on Sunday.

The export of Russian weapons to the Middle East and North Africa Region is quite stable, the service said.

"Over the past five years, military exports to the region have not plunged below \$6 billion per year, amounting to nearly 50% of total exports. The region's share in the Russian military products' portfolio is also stable and hits from 40% to 50% of the total volume of orders," Russia's federal service stated.

According to the service, exports to any regions see upward and downward trends from time to time due to a cyclical nature of the demand for such specific products, as well as a range of other factors.

"However, over the past 15 years, cooperation with the region's countries has not stopped. <...>

The Middle East states have remained Russia's reliable partners in terms of military-technical cooperation for many years, and our countries' relations have great prospects," the federal service said, noting that in recent years Russia managed to sign several major contracts with the states of this region. **Agencies**

South Korea's fertility rate falls to lowest in the world

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's fertility rate fell to the lowest in the world last year, data showed yesterday, as uncertainty over the coronavirus discouraged couples from marrying and having children.

The number of expected babies per South Korean woman fell to 0.84 in 2020, dropping further from the country's previous record low of 0.92 a year earlier, the official annual reading from the Statistics Korea showed.

That is the lowest among over 180 member countries of the World Bank, and far below 1.73 in the United States and 1.42 in Japan.

The grim milestone comes after the population fell for the first time ever last year.

Asia's fourth-largest economy is the fastest aging country in the OECD. The government has failed to reverse the falling birth rate despite spending billions of dollars each year on childcare subsidies and maternity leave support.

The nation's capital Seoul logged the lowest birth rate of 0.64.

Agencies



A spectator holds her baby as she waits for the start of the men's 10km sprint biathlon event during the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympic Games on Feb 11, 2018, in Pyeongchang. (AFP)

WHO stresses need for equity on vaccines

LONDON

THE head of the World Health Organization, or WHO, has called on richer countries not to undermine the United Nations-led COVAX program, which aims to ensure COVID-19 vaccines reach people in poorer countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said some high-income countries are entering into contracts with vaccine manufacturers that undermine the deals COVAX has in place. Such deals reduce the number of doses that can be bought under the program.

On Friday, leaders from several G7 countries and the European Union committed US\$4.3 billion in new funding to finance the equitable distribution of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics for COVID-19.

Tedros thanked them for the contributions but warned that "money is not the only challenge we face".

"If there are no vaccines to buy, money is irrelevant," the WHO chief said. "Even if we have the funds, we can only deliver vaccines to poorer countries if high-income countries cooperate in respecting the deals COVAX has done, and the new deals it is doing."

Tedros urged wealthy nations to check whether their own deals with pharmaceutical companies were undermining COVAX, which poorer countries were relying on as they await their first



A nurse injects a dose of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine to a tourist resort employee at the north of Port Louis, Mauritius, Feb 10, 2021. (AP)

doses.

He pointed out that it is in the interest of all countries "to ensure that health workers, older people and other at-risk groups are first in line for vaccines globally".

"To achieve this, we need more funding, we need countries to share doses immediately, we need manufacturers to prioritize contracts with COVAX, and we also need a significant increase in the production of vaccines," Tedros said.

'There will be enough'

He also commented on a pledge by

French President Emmanuel Macron to share 5 percent of the country's doses with COVAX, and added that "more vaccines are being developed, approved and produced. There will be enough for everyone".

The first wave of COVAX vaccines is to be shipped out between late February and the end of June.

Some 145 participating economies are set to receive 337.2 million doses enough to vaccinate a little over 3 percent of their combined populations.

COVAX has said it hopes to raise the figure to up to 27 percent in lower-in-

come countries by the end of December. "But for now and for the rest of this year, vaccines will be a limited resource," Tedros said. "We must use them as strategically as we can."

Beyond the distribution of the vaccines, the agency and its partners have also agreed to launch a program to help people in relation to claims of serious side effects arising from the vaccines. It will cover 92 poorer countries.

The program, No-Fault Compensation, will offer eligible individuals "a fast, fair, robust and transparent process to receive compensation for rare but serious adverse events associated with COVAX-distributed vaccines until June 30 2022", the WHO said on Monday in a statement.

This agreement could offer further protection and confidence in the life-saving power of vaccines, Tedros said.

According to the WHO's statistics, the COVID-19 pandemic has infected more than 110 million people and claimed nearly 2.5 million lives so far. That's aside from the loss of livelihoods and school closures with the global economy having been thrown into turmoil.

"It has exposed and exploited the fault lines, inequalities, injustices and contradictions of our world, within and between countries," Tedros said at another meeting on Monday.

He said that vaccine equity is "our highest priority, and we will not stop until we get it". **Agencies**

Experts confident for Tianwen-1's upcoming Mars orbital insertion despite unprecedented challenges

CARRYING high hopes of stargazers from around the world, Tianwen-1, China's first Mars probe, is expected to soon arrive in the scope of Mars and carry out an orbital insertion, which is a key yet challenging maneuver to conclude its seven-month interstellar cruise to the Red Planet.

Such exciting moment could come as soon as on Wednesday night, according to sources close to the matter, a day before the Chinese New Year's Eve, and the success of which, without any doubt, would bring tremendous joy and pride to Chinese people who are celebrating the Chinese New Year on home planet Earth.

As the five-ton spacecraft will burn of its engines to slow the vehicle down enough to be captured by Mars' gravitational pull, Chinese space experts contacted by the Global Times on Tuesday expressed high confidence over the upcoming Tianwen-1 mission milestone of Mars orbital insertion, saying that the country's repeated success of Chang'e lunar probe missions that include similar orbital insertion stage has provided valuable experience.

However, there are many factors that would add to the high stakes of the Tianwen-1 near-Mars maneuver.

The distance between the moon and Earth is about 360,000 to 400,000 kilometers, while the distance between Mars and Earth is 56 million to 400 million kilometers. The longest distance between Earth and Mars is 1,000 times that between Earth and moon. The much longer distance equates to a considerably delay in communication, which could be as long



China successfully launched its first Mars probe, named Tianwen-1, via a Long March-5 Y4 carrier rocket from Wenchang Space Launch Center in South China's Hainan Province into planned orbit on July 23, 2020. (File photo)

as 10 minutes, meaning that the spacecraft will need to carry out commands to start the braking burn by itself, with instructions sent in advance from the Beijing Aerospace Control Center, to clear tasks including adjustment of attitude, Pang Zhihao, a former researcher at the China Academy of Space Technology and space science author, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The largely automatic braking burn will be a deciding step for Tianwen-1's Mars orbital insertion, as if it is too slow it will slum crash to the Mars, and if it is too fast, it fly pass and miss its target, Pang explained.

As the Mars orbits more distant from Sun than the Earth does, the solar energy supply to the spacecraft will be another issue,

adding complexity to the maneuver, Pang added. As of June 2020, there have been 44 attempts of human Mars exploration and more than half of them failed. Countries including the former Soviet Union, the US and Japan all experienced failure experiences in their attempts to enter the Mars orbit, experts said on Wednesday, highlighting the difficulty of Mars rendezvous.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) on Friday released the first image of Mars that Tianwen-1 snapped from a distance of 2.2 million kilometers from Mars. And according to the CNSA, the probe conducted its fourth orbital correction at 8 pm on Friday, aiming to ensure that the probe achieves a sound planned

rendezvous with Mars.

All probe systems are in good condition, the space agency said.

China launched the Mars probe on July 23, 2020, which was designed to complete orbiting, landing and roving in one single mission. Taking on the same Earth-Mars marathon after launching last year, spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates, China and US will reach Mars one after another in February.

The UAE car-sized Hope orbiter is expected to arrive in Mars orbit on Tuesday and will spend nearly two years surveying the planet's atmosphere to study daily changes in Martian weather.

If successful, UAE will be the first Arab nation to deploy an interplanetary probe.

After orbiting the Mars for about three months, China's Tianwen-1 will deploy a lander and rover bundled together for a landing at Utopia Planitia around May.

Global Times learned from China's space authority that the Tianwen-1 sets out to achieve a slew of scientific goals including study the morphology and geology of the planet and Mars atmosphere ionized layer, surface climate and environment.

In another development, the US NASA's Perseverance rover is expected to touch down on February 18 at the Jezero Crater, the site of an ancient river delta believed to bear traces of past life. Its touchdown location is some 1,600 miles away from China's rover. American technology news website The Verge reported. This is NASA's ninth mission to the Martian surface.

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT

Zanzibar stadium project suspended

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

THE Permanent Secretary of Zanzibar's Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Fatma Hamad Rajab, has suspended the construction of a football stadium in Kama, following some shortcomings witnessed in the project including the lack of a contract for the project.

Fatma issued the decision once she went to inspect the construction projects of stadiums in Mkokotoni and Kama North Region in Unguja.

She said the construction was unsatisfactory as there was no implementation plan in line with the huge budget deficit.

She therefore said the project will be suspended until the completion of a meeting with other officials including the District Commissioner to see the government can oversee the construction of the facility at the required level.

Fatma also advised that the funds for the Kama venue project must be used to complete

the Mkokotoni venue project which is in a satisfactory stage.

The decision, she disclosed, aims at seeing to it the project is completed on time and at the best level.

Head of Surveys from the Roads Agency who is responsible for the facilities' construction stated they are facing many problems including environmental and financial, which make the task difficult.

The venue construction's General Manager, Mohammed Nahoda Mohammed from the Real Estate Agency (ZBA), said the construction of the Mkokotoni Stadium will include six sports venues for hosting disciplines including basketball, handball, football and athletics.

The two stadiums are among the implementation of a project initiated by the seventh phase government to build sports stadiums in all of Zanzibar's districts.



Namungo FC head coach, Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco'.

Namungo FC players should not rest on their laurels, says

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

FOLLOWING a 6-2 blitz over Primeiro de Agosto Angola in this season's CAF Confederation Cup play offs' first leg, which took place in Dar es Salaam last Sunday, Namungo FC head coach, Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', has urged his players not to celebrate now, saying they still have a reverse game to play.

The Lindi-based club, Tanzania's envoys in the CAF Confederation Cup, smashed the Angolan outfit in the first leg tie, which took place at Azam Complex, to stay in pole position heading into the second leg clash, slated to take place today at the same venue.

Both legs were approved to be played in the country by the con-

tinental football body hence it has been an advantage for the home side who have created a good path towards reaching the group stage of the showpiece.

For a long time, the country has not had a team competing in the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup but, it seems that the long wait is finally over, courtesy of the outfit.

Morocco stated: "I think we shouldn't celebrate yet because we have one more match to play against them."

He disclosed: "They are a good team not to be written off as such, we need to get back to correct our shortfalls prior to the return match."

"Even though we have won today (Sunday), there are many mis-

takes we made hence this is the time to correct them," said him.

He continued that playing both games at home is an advantage to them as such, winning the first encounter has opened a new chapter for his side.

"What I can say is that my game plan worked successfully as we managed to get back into the game fast enough despite conceding an ear goal which otherwise could have transferred our focus," he noted.

Morocco appealed to local soccer fanatics to put their weight behind Namungo FC, saying they are representing the entire country.

The gaffer was adamant they will do all they can to win the second leg match and make it to the group stage.

Hassan Zidadu, Namungo FC's chairman, assured supporters that in the next game, they will be allowed to access Azam Complex to watch the game.

"Today (Sunday), our colleagues (Primeiro de Agosto) were the home club in the match and banned fans from attending but in the next encounter, we will be the hosts hence people should start preparations to come and support us," he noted.

Namungo, who are making their debut in the continental showdown, won the privilege to take part in it after finishing as runners-up in the last season's Azam Sports Federation Cup

(ASFC).



Soccer enthusiasts, including those who support Simba SC, pictured outside the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday as they were accessing the facility to witness this season's CAF Champions League's group stage clash between Simba SC and Egypt's Al Ahly, which took place at the venue. Simba registered 1-0 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Woods faces hard recovery from serious injuries in car crash

LOS ANGELES

IN a career filled with remarkable comebacks, Tiger Woods faces his toughest recovery of all.

Woods was driving through a sweeping, downhill stretch of road through coastal suburbs of Los Angeles when his SUV struck a sign, crossed over a raised median and two oncoming lanes before it toppled down an embankment, coming to a halt on its side.

The airbags deployed. A sheriff's deputy poked his head through a hole in the windshield to see Woods, still wearing his seatbelt, sitting in the driver's seat.

The crash caused "significant" injuries all down his right leg that featured rods, pins and screws during what was described as a "long surgical procedure" at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

Anish Mahajan, the chief medical officer, said Woods shattered tibia and fibula bones on his right leg in multiple locations. Those were stabilized by a rod in the tibia. He said a combination of screws and pins were used to stabilize additional injuries in the ankle and foot.

A statement on his Twitter account said he was awake, responsive and recovering.

"I will say that it's very fortunate that Mr. Woods was able to come out of this alive," said Carlos Gonzalez, the deputy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who was the first on the scene after a neighbor called 911.

"As if his body hasn't endured enough," Jon Rahm, the No. 2 player in the world, said from the Workday Championship in Florida. "I just hope he can get out of the hospital after recovery and he can still play with his kids and have a normal life."

The single-car crash was the latest setback for Woods, who at times has looked unstoppable on the golf course with his 15 major championships and record-tying 82 victories on the PGA Tour. He is among the most recognizable sports figures in the world, and at 45 with a reduced schedule from nine previous surgeries, remains golf's biggest draw.

He won the 2008 U.S. Open with shredded knee ligaments and two stress fractures in his left leg. His personal life imploded on Thanksgiving weekend in 2009 when he was caught having multiple extramarital affairs, and he returned to win his 11th award as PGA Tour player of the year and reach No. 1.

And then after four back surgeries that kept him out of golf for the better part of two years, he won the Masters in April 2019 for the fifth time, a victory that ranks among the great comebacks in the sport.

Now it's no longer a matter of when he plays again – the Masters is seven weeks away – but if he plays again.

No charges were filed, and police said there was no evidence he was impaired.

Woods was in Los Angeles over the weekend as the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club. Monday and Tuesday had been set aside for Discovery-owned GOLFTV for Woods to give playing tips to celebrities. A tweet Monday showed him in a cart at Rolling Hills Country Club with comedian David Spade. He also worked with NBA great Dwyane Wade, who posted a video to his Instagram account.

Woods was headed to Rolling Hills on Tuesday when the accident happened.

"It was a great day," Wade said Tuesday night on Turner Sports, where he is a studio analyst. "And I woke up today so proud to be able to post that moment for the world, like a little snippet of our moment together. And I took a nap, and I woke up to the news. So, you know, just like everybody out there, my thoughts and prayers are all to his loved ones."

Thoughts and prayers have come from everywhere – Jack Nicklaus and Michael Jordan, Mike Tyson, and former Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump. Woods played golf with both of them, and Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019 after perhaps his great triumph – the Masters after he had gone through four back surgeries. AP

Yanga players fell short of confidence in VPL outings, says coach

BY CORRESPONDENTS ISMAIL

TANO & NASSIR NCHIMBI

YANGA'S head coach, Cedric Kaze, has said his players were initially lacking confidence, a situation which led them to register draw in two consecutive second round outings in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL).

The VPL leaders posted 1-1 draw with Mbeya City FC in a fixture, which took place at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, and they then settled for 3-3 draw with Kagera Sugar at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The club then notched 1-0 victory over Mtwara Sugar to collect three points.

Yanga, for that matter, hold on to the top spot in the domestic top flight after collecting 49 points from a total of 21 matches.

Mtwara Sugar have been in a state of disarray, given they are placed 12th in the VPL table with 23 points after taking part in 20 matches.

Kaze said: "It was not easy for our outfit to win because I realized that my players were not confident especially after the results we recorded in two consecutive weeks."

He noted: "What I did was talk to the players and build their confidence which has

given us positive results."

"We are still fighting because the work is not over," he said.

The winning goal in the last weekend tie with Mtwara Sugar was scored by offensive midfielder, Carlos Fernandes, on the 72nd minute, making the most of an assist by winger Tuisila Kisinda.

Angolan Carlos has been involved in five goals in just six games for Yanga in Premier League this season.

The player had, since signing for Yanga in this season's main transfer period, failed to play many games due to recurring injuries he has sustained.

The midfielder has scored three goals and executed two assists in six league games he has played for the club since he joined Yanga.

With the mentioned figures it is clear that the player has become more dangerous when he is given the opportunity to play, as in the six games he has played, he has contributed a total of five goals.

His side is positioned first with 49 points after playing 21 matches in the league.

Kaze, moreover, recently lashed out at domestic football analysts who mock the tactics he deploys after coming from three draws in the VPL.

The VPL leaders had as

well registered 1-1 draw with Prisons in the first phase clash, which took place in Rukwa.

Yanga, before winning the previous match 1-0 against Mtwara Sugar last weekend, went through a difficult period which saw them lose six points by posting draw with Prisons, Mbeya City and Kagera Sugar.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam after the end of the game against Mtwara Sugar, Kaze said he was unaware of the football culture in Tanzania but he last week learned a lot.

He stated: "In that one week I have learned a lot more than the many months I spent here in Tanzania, when my team is going through a difficult period as a person the sufferer is unable to breathe people are happy and want to go and attack him."

He disclosed: "People call themselves football analysts and criticize my tactics. If you mock me, I have no problem, but I want to tell you that I learned this week and I did not come here to change my culture or the attitude of the people."

The coach said the previous game between Yanga and Mtwara Sugar was very competitive and boosted his players' morale.

He was of the opinion



Cedric Kaze

they will be calm because they have come out of a difficult period.

"Mtwara are a competitive team, before the game we knew the results would be available in the second half after the players got tired, the most important thing is I thank my players. These three points will give them strength to prepare for the next games," the tactician noted.

Yanga's all-important goal in the clash was scored by midfielder Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos', who had replaced Deus Kaseke.

He scored the goal on the 73rd minute, finishing off a pass by Tuisila Kisinda, a goal that made coach Kaze happy.

Kaze also commended his players for continuing to stand on the basis of self-defense discipline and not allowing too many goals to be scored against Yanga in all three games they notched draw.

Mtwara Sugar's head coach Thierry Hitimana acknowledged the outcome of the game and pointed out that his players made mistakes that gave their opponents chance to create chances and score the winning goal.

"I accept the results and I congratulate the opponents for playing objectively, we created opportunities we could not use but our opponents seemed better using the one chance they got," the gaffer stated.

Khaka: Social media abusers not real Arsenal fans

LONDON

ARSENAL midfielder Granit Khaka said social media abuse is killing football but that he is "not scared" to play in front of fans again despite being targeted for online abuse.

The 28-year-old has endured a stormy relationship with Gunners supporters ever since arriving from Borussia Monchengladbach for £34 million in May 2016.

Khaka has often been singled out for criticism and the midfielder reacted furiously when his substitution was cheered by the Emirates Stadium crowd during a Premier League game against Crystal Palace in October 2019. He threw his shirt to the ground and told supporters to "f-- off" in an incident which led to him being stripped of the captaincy by then boss Unai Emery.

"It is one of many [examples], if I am honest," Khaka, speaking ahead of Arsenal's Europa League round-of-32 second leg against Benfica said. "If I showed the others what they write, I think I have to close my social media, everyone has to close social media. I say that before and I will say that now and in the future as well, it is only about me."

"They are not supporters of my club. I do not see them as supporters of my club -- to support the club they have to be here if we lose, we draw or we win... But if one guy is a ticket holder at the club and speaks like this about his own players I don't think he needs respect from our side or other people."

"I am the guy who is on the pitch. It is not my wife, it is not my little one, it is not my family. So if you want to criticise someone, no problem to criticise me like a person, like a player. But don't make the other people involved because they have nothing to do with my job."

"So you have to open your eyes and to look after this a lot, because I think you kill the football like this if the people start to speak about a player or their families or things like this."

"Secondly, I have a lot of help from the club because this is something we have to speak very openly about. You don't have to be quiet and say: 'Yeah, I keep it with me,' because it is not always

easy.

"I wish I could meet the people who write me the things, to sit with them, eyes by eyes and to ask them, why are you writing things like this? Not only for me personally, because it happens a lot in the last few weeks, but only to know what he is feeling in this moment when he writes things like this. This is not acceptable."

The British government this week outlined plans for supporters to return to stadia in time for the end of the league season in May and when asked whether he has been happy to play behind closed doors given his history, Khaka replied: "Not really, I'm not a guy who is scared or afraid to play in front of our fans -- never, ever."

"I love the club and I respect the people around the team as well. I wish we could play with the fans because they would push us more and more and more."

"But the situation is what it is and hopefully things will change as quickly as possible to have the fans back and work together, to see we are improving and we want to take the next step as a club -- this is what I wish."

An Arsenal spokesperson said in a statement the club provides psychological and legal support for players suffering online abuse, and continues to celebrate diversity as well as enforcing a zero tolerance approach to discrimination.

"As a club we are committing to using our voice and network to strengthen measures and action taken by relevant authorities to punish those responsible for this abuse which affects us all. Where any individual is found to have an Arsenal membership, they will be banned. We are working with the authorities to report abuse to the police. We cannot and will not let hateful abuse become a normalised part of the game," the statement added.

"We all need to work together to drive this behaviour out. This includes clubs, governing bodies, fans, media and politicians; but requires the help and commitment of social media companies. We cannot underestimate the impact abuse has on individuals and the recent spate of abuse needs to be a wake-up call."

(Agencies)

Atletico not in 'crisis' after Chelsea loss - Oblak

MADRID

GOALKEEPER Jan Oblak has denied Atletico Madrid are facing a "crisis" after a 1-0 Champions League defeat to Chelsea on Tuesday saw the La Liga leaders lose back-to-back games for the first time this season.

The round-of-16 first leg result in Bucharest -- which saw Olivier Giroud's overhead kick give the Premier League team the advantage ahead of the second leg at Stamford Bridge on March 17 -- followed Atletico's domestic loss to Levante on Saturday.

"I don't think it's a crisis," Oblak said. "Yes it's different to what we've experienced over the rest of the season, but [football] is like that. This team is strong. We'll get through this. We weren't perfect in December and January and we aren't bad now."

Atletico have now failed to keep a clean sheet in their last eight games in all competitions, their worst defensive run during coach Diego Simeone's decade in charge.

"We'll work on it," Simeone said. "We have an important game with Villarreal on Sunday. We aren't getting the results... Seeing the effort of the team, and knowing the explanation for the moment we're

in, I feel good. I trust in the team that we have."

"If you'd said to me in September that we'd lose this first leg 1-0 and be top of the league, I'd have taken it for sure. We'll deal with it. It's clear that this isn't a good moment."

Atletico's lead over Real Madrid at the top of the La Liga table was cut to three points -- with a game in hand -- when they were beaten by Levante, and the Chelsea loss is another blow to morale.

"Defeats are difficult, but we always get back up," captain Koke said. "We're the same team that went on a run of eight wins in the league... We've had a bad week, that's the reality, but we have to keep fighting. Atletico Madrid always get back up. We have to go out to win the second leg."

He refused to blame Atletico's need to play their "home" leg in Bucharest -- due to restrictions on UK flights arriving in Spain -- for the performance, which saw the team fail to land a single shot on target.

"We know how the world is right now," he said. "We didn't get to play at home, but it doesn't matter. We have to adapt. We have to go to London and win. If we score twice, we'll go through."

(Agencies)

The fight for fourth: Will Liverpool miss out on the Champions League?

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

MANCHESTER City are running away with the Premier League title race and seemingly on course to be crowned champions for the third time in four seasons, but while the biggest prize appears destined for the Etihad again, the battle for Champions League qualification is intensifying with every round of fixtures.

West Ham are the surprise occupants of the fourth and final Champions League spot right now, with nine points separating David Moyes' team and Tottenham down in ninth position. While Manchester United and Leicester -- both four points clear of fourth in second and third, respectively -- could still be dragged into the fight, the race is beginning to look like six clubs slugging it out for one position, with Arsenal now surely too far off the pace in tenth, 11 points behind West Ham.

Chelsea, Liverpool, Everton, Aston Villa and Spurs will all believe, or hope, they can overtake West Ham in fourth, but for some teams, the task is more challenging than others due to the ground they have to make up between now and the end of the season on May 23.

So how will it play out, and who is most likely to claim fourth spot this season?

WEST HAM: Fourth place, 45 points (25 games)

STATE OF PLAY: The surprise team of the season so far. Two points clear of fifth-placed Chelsea and exceeding all expectations under David Moyes.

THE ROAD TO FOURTH: West Ham's next two away games, at Manchester City and Manchester United, will test Moyes and his players to the limit, but if they remain in contention after those fixtures, the schedule to the end of the season will boost their confidence, with games against seven teams currently in the bottom half still to come.

Key clashes against rivals for fourth are all at home, with Leicester, Chelsea and Everton all yet to visit the London Stadium.

KEY MAN: Thomas Soucek is one of four West Ham players who have played in all 25 Premier League games so far and his eight goals from midfield have been crucial, but Michail Antonio is the player who gives Moyes' team the X factor -- keeping the forward fit will be hugely important. Declan Rice, goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski and on-loan Jesse Lingard are also important characters down the stretch.

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER? West Ham are a club with big ambitions to become London's top team, and their move to the London Stadium in 2016 was designed to propel them into the same bracket as Chelsea, Spurs and Arsenal. Inconsistency on the pitch and poor decisions by the owners have held them back so far, but Moyes has brought stability, and Champions League qualification would give them the opportunity to make a giant leap. Yet nothing is certain when it comes to West Ham, and adding Champions League football to next year's schedule could be a problem if they over-stretch after getting there.

CHELSEA: Fifth place, 43 points (25 games)

STATE OF PLAY: Frank Lampard was sacked as manager in January with Chelsea in ninth position, five points adrift of fourth. New boss Thomas Tuchel has revived the team's prospects, however, with four wins and two draws in his six games in charge to move them up to fifth, two points behind West Ham.

ROAD TO FOURTH: Chelsea have a tough road ahead, starting with Manchester United's visit to Stamford Bridge on Sunday before facing Liverpool at Anfield and Everton at home. Chelsea also travel to West Ham, City and Aston Villa, with home games to come against Arsenal and Leicester. The next three games -- against United, Liverpool and Everton -- will tell us whether the Tuchel bounce is short-term or sustainable.

KEY MAN: Timo Werner has been a major disappointment this season after arriving in a £48m deal from RB Leipzig last summer, scoring just five Premier League goals. The 24-year-old was signed to score at least 20 league goals each season, but if he can rediscover his form under fellow German Tuchel, Werner can still be the man to shoot Chelsea into the Champions League.



Liverpool's dismal run of form in 2021, with a string of league defeats at Anfield, has them in danger of missing out on Europe entirely next season. (Agencies)

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER?

Chelsea have become accustomed to feast or famine in the Champions League, missing out on qualification twice in the last four seasons, but the financial hit from failing to be among Europe's elite is in the region of £80m a year, so it would mean a substantial hole in the club's budget for next season.

Chelsea can cope without Champions League football thanks to the backing of owner Roman Abramovich, but make no mistake: being on the outside hurts the club's finances and prestige.

LIVERPOOL: Sixth place, 40 points (25 games)

STATE OF PLAY: The defending Premier League champions have seen their title slip away due to critical, long-term injuries and a disastrous run of form. Jurgen Klopp's team are sixth, five points behind West Ham, having lost four straight Premier League games. They have taken two points from a possible 18 at Anfield and suffered four successive home league defeats for the first time in 98 years.

ROAD TO FOURTH: The next three fixtures -- Sheff United (a), Chelsea (h), Fulham (h) -- are now must-win games, both for points and confidence. Any failure to collect maximum points against Sheff United and Fulham, who are both in the bottom three, will be hugely damaging, but the Anfield clash against Chelsea has become the biggest game of Liverpool's season due to their respective battle for fourth. If they beat Chelsea, Liverpool will believe they are back on track.

KEY MAN: Most of Liverpool's key men are injured, with Virgil van Dijk and Jordan Henderson the biggest losses right now. But despite a seemingly disappointing season, Mohamed Salah is still the Premier League's leading scorer with 17 goals, so it is vital for Liverpool that the Egyptian remains fit and available. If Salah joins the injury list, they can forget about the top four.

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER? Despite winning the Champions League, Premier League and FIFA Club World Cup during the past two years, Liverpool have been unable to capitalise on the financial upside of their success because of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prize money has been swallowed up by running costs that have been hit hard by the absence of fans in stadiums, so a year out of the Champions League would be a massive blow for Liverpool as it will leave Klopp will little money to spend on new players.

EVERTON: Seventh place, 40 points (24 games)

STATE OF PLAY: Carlo Ancelotti's team have been inconsistent this season, with wins against Chelsea, Liverpool and Tottenham diminished by defeats against struggling Newcastle (twice), Fulham and Southampton. But Sunday's win at Liverpool has put them firmly in the hunt for fourth. If they win their game in hand, Everton will be just two points behind West Ham.

ROAD TO FOURTH: Everton's fate rests on their away form, especially in crucial games against Chelsea and West Ham. Their trip to Stamford Bridge on March 8 already has the feel of an eliminator, with both sides needing to avoid defeat in that one, but the clash with West Ham at the London Stadium on May 8 also has the potential to be a decider if both teams remain in the chase that long. Everton also have important home games against Spurs and Villa to come, but with Man City away in the final game, Ancelotti will want top four to be sealed by then.

KEY MAN: Jordan Pickford was outstanding in Sunday's 2-0 win at Liverpool, but the England goalkeeper has also been culpable with costly mistakes this season. If Everton are going to qualify for the Champions League, they need their number one to eradicate the errors for the remainder of the season.

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER? Everton are a club with a proud history -- only United, Liverpool and Arsenal have won more league titles -- and they are desperate to recreate their glory days. Qualifying for the Champions League would give them a big financial boost, but it would also help the club emerge from Liverpool's shadow, especially if they beat their neighbours to fourth.

With plans afoot to move to a new stadium, Champions League qualification would help Everton accelerate their bid to become a major force again.

ASTON VILLA: Eighth place, 36 points (23 games)

STATE OF PLAY: Villa have won just three of their past 10 Premier League games, but having played two games fewer than most of their rivals, they can climb to sixth by winning those outstanding fixtures. Dean Smith's team appear to be running out of steam, but early season wins against Liverpool, Leicester and Arsenal highlight their ability to perform against the big clubs.

ROAD TO FOURTH: Villa's next four games are against teams in the bottom half, so they have the opportunity to re-ignite their season before a run that sees them take on Spurs, Liverpool and Man City in their next four fixtures. Vil-

la also face Man United and Chelsea in the run-in, so a top four finish looks to be a tall order for a team that narrowly avoided relegation last season.

KEY MAN: Aston Villa are all about Jack Grealish, and it did not go unnoticed that the team lost against Leicester on Sunday with the midfielder sidelined due to injury. Opponents have worked out that stopping Grealish largely stops Villa, but the England international can still cause problems against any opposition. He just needs others to share the burden.

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER? Aston Villa were European champions in 1982 and the club will always harbour ambitions to return to the elite, but qualification for the Champions League would be an unexpected bonus this season. Avoiding relegation was the number one priority. But if they do clinch fourth, Villa would have the finances to build themselves into an established Premier League club once again.

TOTTENHAM: Ninth place, 36 points (24 games)

STATE OF PLAY: Tottenham were Premier League leaders in mid-December, with manager Jose Mourinho eyeing a title challenge. But since reaching top spot, it's all gone wrong for Spurs, and a run of five defeats in their last six league games have pushed them down to ninth and Mourinho is under growing pressure. They are nine points off fourth, albeit with a game in hand.

ROAD TO FOURTH: On paper, Spurs have a good run of fixtures in the weeks ahead, with five of their next six games against teams below them in the table. Win those and Mourinho's side will be back in mix for a top-four finish. With games against Everton, Villa and Leicester in their final six fixtures, they can still mount a late surge up the table, but they simply have to start winning again, and quickly.

KEY MAN: While Harry Kane is fit, Spurs have a chance of getting the points they need to get back into the race. The England forward has scored 13 league goals and tops the assists table with 11, so his influence is obvious. Kane also brings out of the best in Heung-Min Son, who also has 13 goals so far. Kane will always deliver, but he needs others to help him out. Gareth Bale was signed to do that, but we're still waiting for the on-loan Real Madrid winger to deliver.

HOW MUCH DOES FOURTH MATTER? With the final bill for their new stadium passing £1 billion, Spurs desperately need to be in the Champions League every year, simply to keep on top of their finances. Missing out for a second successive season would be hugely damaging, especially in the midst of a pandemic, and could lead to key players being sold. The stakes are high.

FINAL PREDICTION

West Ham are in fourth right now, but with the pressure on, can they hold their nerve and also avoid injuries to key players? With such a formidable pack of clubs behind them, it is difficult to see the Hammers holding on. Equally, with Villa and Spurs struggling for form, it is looking like a three-way fight between Chelsea, Liverpool and Everton.

There seems to be no end in sight to Liverpool's injury problems and Everton's inconsistency threatens to haunt them in the weeks ahead, so at this stage of the race, Chelsea are the team most likely to finish fourth. They are in form, have a manager who has made an immediate impact and enough attacking talent to win when it matters.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

The fight for fourth: Will Liverpool miss out on the Champions League?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Paralympic athletes to feature in Tokyo Paralympics' qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Paralympic athletes are to attend Tokyo Paralympics' qualification events at various competitions.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC)'s Secretary General, in an interview, said the athletes slated to attend the qualifying events are from Para athletics, Para Powerlifting and Para swimming.

The Tokyo Paralympics are slated for August 24 to September 5 this year. He said Para athletes are Sauda Njopeka and Ignas Mtweve Madumla.

Namkoveka said Mtweve, who was accompanied by coach Saleh Hussein from Zanzibar, competed at the just ended Dubai 2021 World Para Athletics Grand Prix 12th Fazza International Athletics meet from February 6-1 but he failed to reach the qualifying time.

He said Sauda is expected to attend the Tunis 2021 World Para Athletics Grand Prix slated for March 14-21 in Tunisia.

The TPC boss said currently the athletes are attending extensive training at JMK Youth Park under coach Bahati Mgunda.

Namkoveka said before competing in Tunisia, Sauda is set to attend classification at the date and country to be announced later.

"Current preparations for Sauda's trip to Tunisia are going on very well, we are in the process of obtaining her visas, the challenge is that we don't have a permanent embassy of Tunisia here but we are doing our best to secure the visas," he said.

Namkoveka hailed the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) leaders who sponsored Mtweve's trip to Dubai and they will also foot Sauda's participation costs for qualifying event in Tunisia.

He also disclosed that there are other five events which will be used as Tokyo Paralympics' qualification.

They will be held in Colombia, England, Thailand, Georgia and United Arab Emirates. However TPC has opted for Dubai where it will send three power lifters and coach for the qualification event which is expected to take place from June 16-21.

The TPC official pointed out his committee is looking for sponsors to help the athletes financially and materially so they can travel to Dubai.

He noted the sponsorship will cater for air fare to and from Dubai, accommodation and Covid-19 testing in the city.

Namkoveka said three Para swimmers will attend classification and qualification. He said there are two events in Sheffield, United Kingdom from April 8-11 and four days later there will be a two-day event in the United States of America (USA) Lewisville, Dallas Texas.

He said TPC is waiting for confirmation from IPC on the World Para Swimming Championships, which will take place in Australia.

The TPC official, however, lamented on lack of resources to enable domestic Paralympic athletes to attend the qualifying and classification events.

He noted: "Our aim is to see to it that we are sending our qualified Para athletes to Tokyo Paralympics, we don't want to depend on wildcard, but the challenge is that we don't have financial powers to send our athletes to qualifying and classification events."

"We are appealing to companies, organizations, stakeholders and individuals of goodwill to support us so as we can realize our dream of having many Para athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics on qualification card, not wildcard," he said.



Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) Secretary General, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

Government calls for investment in youth soccer development program



A section of players making national U-17 soccer squad 'Serengeti Boys' feature in a recent training in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has said that unless Tanzania paid attention to detail on youth football, it will never become a big football force.

Alex Mkeyenge, who was the government official at the ongoing U-20 African Cup of Nations' finals in Mauritania, which had the country's team 'Ngorongoro Heroes' taking part, made the call on Tuesday.

The Tanzania U-20 squad was eliminated in group stage of the U-20 African Cup of Nations' finals, suffering two defeats and register-

ing draw in one outing.

In a monitored radio interview, the official said the country has abundant players with individual talents, but they cannot rise to the occasion due to their background as most of them did not go through football academies.

He said academies are the surest way for the country to groom its talent capable of rising to the country's flag in Europe and improve local football.

"We have been eliminated from the U-20 African Cup of Nations tournament but that does not mean we have bad players, the country

has many talented players," he disclosed.

"They are good with a bright future, but the problem I observed at the Mauritania tournament is that most of our players did not go through the required development structures, nearly all teams who competed there have players who have been to academies either local or international," he said.

He said the government will have discussions with local academy owners to see how the latter can cooperate with the former for the development of football in the country.

"Football academies the world over have proved to be the surest way to the development of talent. Gone are the days when talent could be picked from the streets and disorganised youth football leagues," he stated.

"We will discuss with academy owners to see how we can work together to improve football in the country," he said.

He said when they meet with academy owners, emphasis will be on seeing to it that the academies have qualified coaches, nutritionists and physical trainers. He stated the three are vital for youth football development.

The government official said he is confident that the national U-17 soccer squad 'Serengeti Boys', which is preparing for the 2021 Africa U-17 Cup of Nation, which is slated for July this year in Cameroon, will perform well as almost all players making the team have been together since 2015.

"The U-17 national team 'Serengeti Boys' will perform well at the Morocco tournament, the boys have been together since 2015 and they are from academies," he said.

Proponents of academies say the old football generation, unlike current young players who are exposed to modern technological demands, had lesser distractions given soccer was the only preoccupation, apart from school.

It is not for the sake of it that most African countries aspire to have their best players in Europe.

Most successful national teams draw their players from top leagues and clubs. Europe is home to most top clubs.

Lions Castilla cricketers boost pursuit of 2021 DC T20 tournament's trophy

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Castilla's cricketers have tightened their grip on 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup Division B's Group A top position, commanding a 10-wicket victory over TCA Women side in a match, which took place in the city last weekend.

Monica Paschal was by far the batter that chipped in with notable contribution, when TCA Women had gone in to bat first and were bowled out for 77 runs in 20 overs.

The experienced batter had impressive 35 runs, which consisted of four fours.

Fellow opener, Mwanaidi Ibrahim, did not last long at the crease, as Lions Castilla sought to foil efforts by the TCA Women to amass an imposing score from early on.

Mwanaidi, who is also an experienced performer, could only notch fours, which included a four, and she was later sent back to the pavilion by Lions Castilla's Imran Khan.

Nasra Hamza, Zena Hassan and Irene chipped in with five runs each to slightly boost TCA Women squad's total.

Lions Castilla side's Pramod Shetty put stellar showing with the ball, posting three wickets and leaking 16 runs in four overs.

Lions Castilla's other bowlers Shani Moidu and Khan took two wickets apiece to effectively keep TCA Women batters in check.

In response, Lions Castilla, having been presented with a modest target of 80 runs, easily got down to successful chase for no loss of wickets in 10.5 overs.

Skipper Mubin Hassan and Chetan Borkhataria forged a first wicket stand to steer their club to the win, ferociously cracking balls all over the pitch.



Lions Castilla cricket team's batsman (R) showcases his virtuosity against Dar Combine outfit in this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup Division B tie, which was played in the city early this month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Hassan happened to be more aggressive, recording 43 runs not out, which included seven fours, to repel TCA Women's challenge.

Borkhataria put solid knocks, ending with 34 runs not out, clearing the boundary six times.

Lions Castilla squad currently are enjoying the Group A's driver's seat with eight points, given they have posted victory in four outings.

They have posted 449 runs and leaked 353 runs in their fixtures.

Second-placed Patel Brotherhood B team have recorded victory in two matches and loss in one to amass four points.

Caravans B, Dar Combine and TCA Women team come third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

