



National Pg 3 TADB, UNDP discuss agriculture grants



National Pg 5 Rusumo project enters final stage



National Pg 6 NIDA distributes over 7 million IDs



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MPs: Govt must revise forex sales regulations

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Budget Standing Committee of the National Assembly yesterday recommended a review of the 2019 Foreign Exchange (Bureau de Change) Regulations to address challenges facing the sub-sector, including closure of bureaus by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) which affected transactions.

Tabling the committee's report on the state of the national economy and the

proposed budget for fiscal 2021/2022, the committee highlighted the change in 2019 which gave commercial banks the mandate to conduct bulk foreign currency trading.

Committee chairman Sillo Baran (Babati) said that challenges emerged because commercial banks do not operate 24 hours and on weekends, which brings discomfort to customers.

"Most banks have just a few branches and they are often far from areas where the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is on a three-day tour of Mwanza Region, pictured yesterday opening a tap to inaugurate a water project meant to benefit residents of Misungwi town and surrounding areas. Those witnessing the event include the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (4th-R). Photo: State House

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SGR section, water project unveiled

Samia: Mwanza future EAC business hub

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday reaffirmed the government's intention to improve financial and social services in Mwanza city to make it a business hub for the wider lake zone and East African Community (EAC) partner states.

She was addressing residents of Mkuyuni on the way to Misungwi District, saying that the construction of the 42bn/- Bank of Tanzania (BoT) building in Mwanza was part of various efforts undertaken by the government to transform Lake Zone regions and enable the city to emerge as an EAC business hub.

She said that a total of 39.7bn/- has been allocated for the construction of a modern main bus stand and a market in Nyegezi area.

"Our intention is to see Mwanza city becoming an EAC's business centre," she said, elaborating that the EAC has a market of up to 177.2m people and a combined GDP of \$200bn.

Inaugurating the 13.77bn/- clean water and sanitation project in the district, the president said water projects



Under the new leadership of President Samia, Huawei will continue to build ICT infrastructure in line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2025

require huge investments which investors can't undertake as they need to operate them profitably, so water shall be sold too expensively.

Funded by the government through a concessional loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (AFD), the project will benefit over 64,000 residents, officials said.

She urged the residents to protect the built water

infrastructures as the government has spent a lot of money to ensure access to clean and safe water. "If these projects are executed by the private sector, none of you could afford to buy a liter of water," she remarked.

The president said Tanzanians must protect natural resources especially water sources as environmental degradation contributes to drying up of water sources.

She said that at independence, the population stood at around 10m and access to clean water was 12,600 cubic meters per individual each year. "Currently, each Tanzanian gets an estimated 2,250 cubic meters of water. We need to protect our water sources to guarantee us with reliable clean and safe water services in the coming years," she urged.

Officials of the Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) must ensure that clients are provided with genuine monthly water bills, she emphasised.

Laying the foundation stone for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Mwanza to Isaka (341 kilometres), President Samia said that

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CTI hails industrial sugar duty waiver

Laments 'vitenge' duty cut, spirits, edible oil duty hike

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has commended the government decision to reform the tax structure, rectifying fees, levies and other revenue measures, saying that if executed properly the measures will significantly help to build a sustainable industrial economy.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI chairman Paul Makanza said

that the 2021/2022 budget estimates tabled in the legislature last Thursday had a balanced set of measures, noting that the government has shown strong commitment to further improve the business environment in the country.

The budget measures seek to balance between collecting revenues and putting in place measures geared at stimulating economic growth, he said.

CTI expresses support for the

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Dar RC 'shocked' by fuel theft at Kigamboni depot

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAN regional commissioner Amos Makalla yesterday made an impromptu tour of the fuel gauging meter facility at Kigamboni and discovered fuel theft by some people.

The RC was accompanied by District Commissioner Sarah Msaferi, Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Jumanne Muliro and members of the district defence and security committee.

The RC said he decided to make the visit following many complaints from fuel importers being supplied with less fuel than what they ordered, and had duly paid for the relevant quantity.

"We have satisfied ourselves that there is theft of fuel. Some people have connected themselves to the fuel infrastructures and steal the fuel that they sell secretly," he stated.

The RC has convened a meeting with fuel importers, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) to sit on Monday next week to discuss the matter.

It was unacceptable that some people can access fuel infrastructures inside huge oil installations without TPA being aware of such intrusion, he asserted, expressing clear dissatisfaction with TPA explanations, despite having

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SGR section, water project unveiled

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the construction of the remaining SGR sections of Makutupora to Tabora and then to Isaka will start at any moment.

The ongoing construction of new vessels and repairs at lakeside yards, construction of a new terminal at the airport aims at enhancing the region as a business hub in the East Africa region, she said.

The president affirmed that experience shows that poor transportation contribute to low production, at three percent of potential investments, while good transportation access enhances investment chances to about 40 percent of potential.

Efficient railway transport is expected to reduce costs of transporting goods from the port of Dar es Salaam to the rest of the country and neighboring countries, she said, noting further that research shows that the new railway will help the country to collect revenues from estimated 15,000 tonnes of cargo being transported annually to 25,000 tonnes, along with promoting tourism and agriculture.

Dr Leonard Chamuriho, the minister

for Works and Transportation, said the driving test for the long-awaited speed train was slated to start in August but shall now start in December, citing the Covid-19 challenge in the manufacturing country as the reason for postponing the start of that exercise.

He said that in this year budget, the government has set over two trillion shillings for infrastructure including SGR and building vessels at yards in Mwanza city.

Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) director general Masanja Kadogosa said that the construction of the Mwanza-Isaka (341-kilometre) section started on May 15 and will be completed mid-April 2024.

The 36 months project billed at \$1.326m (equivalent to over 3trn/-) will have nine stations including marshalling yards and workshops, listing the stations as Isaka, Bukene, Shinyanga Seke, Malampaka, Bukwimba, Mtale, Mwanza central and Fela.

"TRC is committed to ensuring that the construction of the SGR meets all recommended standards," he said, elaborating that the railway line will

have 44 underpasses and 23 overpasses, while it will be fenced to prevent people from rushing into accidents.

In the Mwanza/Isaka section, a 5.1 kilometers bridge will be constructed in the city to reduce interaction with road users, he said, noting that the overall project will create 11,000 direct job opportunities and 75,000 indirect employment chances. A total of 5.4m cement bags will be used.

Huawei Deputy CEO, Michael Zhang said currently the company is working with TRC to provide communication equipment and service for the SGR project.

The firm intends to use the Global System for Mobile Communications-Railway (GSM-R) which will evolve into LTE-R (described as long term (communications) evolution for railway), representing the next generation wireless communication system for high speed railway, basically designed in China. "Under the new leadership of President Samia, Huawei will continue to build ICT infrastructure in line with the Tanzania Development Vision 2025," the director underlined.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) bids farewell to Vice President Dr Philip Mpango, who had just paid him a visit at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

TIC: Budget will remove obstacles to investors in horticultural sub-sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

THE 2021/22 Government Budget has been cited to remove obstacles to investors in the horticultural sector, which, in one way or the other contributed in the sector's lacklustre performance.

The budget was tabled in parliament on Thursday last week by the finance and Planning Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba that saw some of levies removed thereby making the investment climate more friendly as opposed to what it was in the past.

This observation was given by the Northern Zone Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) Manager, Daudi Riganda, saying the Budget speech has managed to find a solution especially in regard to investors in the horticulture sector.

Riganda said the Budget has seen the reduction of import duty from 25 to 10 per cent on paper for manufacturing packaging (paper boxes) items.

"Even the increase of import duty from 25 per cent to 35 per cent on

imported horticultural products in order to protect locally produced products will spur investment in the sector," he added.

He mentioned other areas that will attract investment in the sector as including the reduction of the private sector contribution in the Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) from one to 0.6 per cent.

He further said the abolition of the 0.2 per cent fees on radio rays on cargo for export to countries that do not need identification certificate is another way in boosting the investment sector.

"We at the TIC have seen that even the abolition of fire levy on horticulture crops cultivation will reduce the pile up of fees that were being screamed by stakeholder," Riganda added.

For his part, the Moshi district Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Louis Mbuya, said the agricultural sector, in particular the horticulture sector is set to grow due to government efforts indicated in its 2021/2022 Budget.

CTI hails industrial sugar duty waiver

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government's vision of ensuring vibrant economic growth as stated in the second five year development plan 2021/2026 and Vision 2025, he asserted.

The tax measures will enable domestic industries to reduce costs of production, improve consumer welfare, promote the use of local materials, enhance competitiveness and stimulate economic initiative, he further noted.

CTI members are satisfied with Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba and the government in general for a very positive budget," he said.

"CTI is optimistic that the 2021/2022 budget if executed properly will enhance initiatives taken by the government to build a sustainable industrial economy," he elaborated, emphasizing that CTI members are committed to continue working hand in hand with the government to achieve the set social economic goals.

Laudable reforms include the removal of the requirement of a 15 percent refundable additional import

duty on sugar imported for industrial use, he said.

Also, the budget continues to grant duty remission at zero percent on raw materials and industrial inputs used to manufacture textiles and footwear, while continuing to grant duty remission at 10 percent instead of 35 percent on imported wheat grains, he said.

Areas that require further government consideration include reduction of duties on imported printed fabrics (vitenge type in particular) which stand at \$0.55 to \$1 for a meter of polyester printed fabric and \$0.60 to \$1 for a meter of cotton printed fabrics, he said.

The decision will affect the performance of textiles industries in the country, thus discouraging further investment in the textiles sector, he declared.

The CTI wishes that the government skips the measure to increase excise duty by 30 percent on spirits, which the minister said was intended to balance tax rates between spirits and beer. The measure will affect the local brewing

industries, the CTI leader noted.

He also objected to the measure to continue to "grant a stay of application" of the rate of 10 percent or 25 percent and instead apply 35 percent for one year on semi-refined and refined vegetable oil, saying the measure will affect the edible oil industry as they will be affected by increased imports.

"The measure will compel more industrialists to close their operations hence touching off unemployment and loss of revenue," he affirmed.

Tabling the budget for the fiscal year 2021/2022, the minister, Dr Nchemba said that a total of 36.4trn/- will be mobilized and spent

Total domestic revenues are projected to reach 20.33trn/- with non-tax revenues put at 2.92trn/- and revenue from local government authorities' own sources placed at around 815.0bn/-.

The current year's budget is an increase of four percent compared to last year's estimates where the government planned to collect 34.88trn/- from internal and external sources, the minister had indicated.



Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda makes remarks in Arusha city at the weekend during a dialogue with visiting European nationals interested in investing in agriculture in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MPs: Govt must revise forex sales regulations

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services are most needed," he said.

In 2019, the government tightened currency controls with new regulations on foreign exchange bureaus, as part of ongoing fight against money laundering and currency speculation.

The regulations came months after the government revoked the licenses of around 50 bureaus after an earlier announcement that BoT had licensed too many bureaus and some of them had breached laws.

BoT said after the reduction in the number of exchange bureaus, that transparency in the market increased and improved hard currency inflows.

Among other things, the regulations raised the minimum capital for forex bureaus three-fold, to one billion shillings and required bureaus to maintain working capital of 75 percent of the paid up capital, which MPs said is too restrictive.

The rules also require shareholders,

directors and heads of branches of exchange bureaus to pass a "fit and proper person test" from the central bank before being approved to assume their positions.

Bureaus were similarly required to establish procedures for identifying and reporting suspicious transactions to curb money laundering and financing of terrorism, while also requiring customers to provide information on the source or purpose of the foreign currency to be transacted.

MPs yesterday started debating the 2021/2022 national budget with the majority saying it was people centered, aiming at solving problems facing the country.

Dr Charles Kimei (Vunjo) said the sixth phase maiden budget was one of its own, and it had included views of parliamentarians and various stakeholders.

Joseph Kakunda (Sikonge) said that apart from helping the entire

nation it would assist residents in his constituency as the government allocated about 5bn/- for construction of a 172 kilometer road.

Sophia Mwakagenda (Special Seats, Chadema) said the 2021/2022 national budget has responded to people's problems. She however called for the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to conduct a countrywide identification of taxpayers to broaden the tax base.

Juliana Shonza (Special Seats) said that in the few months that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been in office she has demonstrated great leadership ability in solving people's problems.

The sixth phase government's maiden budget had come out with tangible solutions to several problems as apart from ordinary people, public servants also had a reason to smile after the government allocated in the next budget over 400bn/- for promoting them to new ranks, she added.

EAC dispatches team to verify DRC application

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is deploying a verification team to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to assess the country's suitability to be admitted into the bloc.

The 31st meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers of EAC Affairs and Planning (SCMEACP) held at the EAC headquarters at the weekend appointed a team comprised of three experts from each partner state to be funded by the EAC Secretariat and two other experts to be funded by the nominating partner state to carry out the Verification Mission from June 23 to July 3.

The EAC Summit at its 21st ordinary meeting February 27th considered the DRC application and directed the council to expeditiously undertake a verification mission in accordance with the EAC procedure for admission of new members into the EAC and report to the 22nd Summit.

If the application is approved and DRC becomes EAC partner state, the bloc shall add a tiny segment of the Atlantic Ocean into its list of regional water bodies, adding to the western rim of the Indian Ocean.

DRC is the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa but with a population of 105m, which compares with populations of at least two of the major EAC members states put together.

The council, chaired by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, Adan Mohamed, directed the Secretariat to submit the report of the verification mission to the council by end of November.

The team will, among other things,

Dar RC 'shocked' by fuel theft at Kigamboni depot

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listened to them.

"Next Monday at 9:00 am we shall meet to satisfy ourselves why and how this

theft came about. We must see where the negligence came up, but also we should decide on the steps to be taken to stop the theft," he vowed.



Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo (2nd-L) accompanied by Police and Immigration officers during a visit to Arusha Region's Namanga one-stop post on the Tanzania-Kenya border yesterday. The tour sought, among other things, to hold back illegal immigrants. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TADB, UNDP discuss funding of agriculture in the country

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) managing director Japhet Justine has outlined the financing challenges, procedures and opportunities in the agricultural sector in Tanzania.

Speaking during the European Investment in agricultural dialogue panel discussion Justine described the agricultural projects financing to require artistic conversations model for appraisals rather than subjecting them into checklists.

"TADB is a 'Development Financial Institution' (DFI) it is for that matter we have taken an innovative approach into enabling timely and efficiency in financing agricultural project proposals that we receive. While having a good project proposal is essential, an artistic conversation with a borrower is as well vital in the process," he said.

Justine commented on how

for example the coffee value chain in Kagera was deemed unbankable by commercial banks but TADB through conversations, research of the value chain and its application of blended financing was able to look beyond the checklist and balance sheets to unlock its potentials.

"We are proud to have supported the coffee cooperative unions and AMCOs in Kagera who were in deep debts and whose farmers before were paid about 400/- per Kg and now paid over 1,000/- per Kg. If this project was to be subjected into a 'commercial bank' checklist procedure, it wouldn't be bankable," he emphasized.

TADB through its products as a DFI, has been able to address among other things equity

support where commercial and community banks are enabled, debt component and guarantee/collateral component and of recent heading towards trade financing guarantee.

During the dialogue, the UNDP Program specialist Amon Manyama acknowledge the efforts done by TADB of whom the two Institutions have an MoU which they are working on about 12 projects in the country. "Agriculture indeed requires a different approach into its financing as well as its funding. While financial institutions have to look into blended financing approach, the government funding as well must look into the new opportunities. Agriculture as said by Prof Adolf Mkenda has employed more than 60%

of Tanzanians. This means if its potentials are well tapped, we can achieve the agenda 2030. My advice is for the government to tap the new funding opportunities and products the likes of Blue Bond and Green Bond," Manyama said.

The two institutions sat at a panel discussion on Innovative sources of funding for agricultural development capital market, private equity, and blending. The European Investors in Agricultural Dialogue was attended by different European Investors in Tanzania where by the chief guest was Prof Mkenda, Minister for Agriculture, Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Jeroen Verheul. The dialogue was organized by the European Business Group in Tanzania.

Dr Mwinyi stresses need to move jointly on environmental issues

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday underscored the need for environmental issues to be addressed jointly by both sides of the Union; a move he said would increase efficiency.

Dr Mwinyi made the statement at the State House in Zanzibar during his meeting with Vice President, Dr Phillip Mpango where they both insisted on the need to continue working jointly to further cement the Union.

Dr Mwinyi said following the various efforts and cooperation between Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar, a number of challenges have been resolved with the union strengthened further.

He said although environmental issues are not in the list of Union matters, there is a need for both governments to work on the matter jointly to be able to successfully control environmental destruction especially in Pemba and Unguja islands.

"We have been working together on a number of issues including the ones which are not in the list of Union matters, Zanzibar ministry officials have always been learning from their counterparts in mainland," said the President.

Vice President, Dr Philp Mpango said that he has chosen to start his first official tour in Zanzibar because wanted to meet Dr Mwinyi as well as government officials and leaders of public institutions dealing with Union matters.

Dr Mpango commended Dr Mwinyi for efforts in ensuring economic growth during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and controlling inflation.

He said Dr Mwinyi's intention to invest in the improvement of the blue economy would see Zanzibar's economy growing at a good speed. The commonwealth explains the blue economy or ocean-based economy as an emerging concept which encourages better stewardship of ocean or 'blue' resources, highlighting close linkages between the ocean, climate change, and the wellbeing of the people as par Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 14- 'life below water'.

The concept of the blue economy was first highlighted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

The Vice President also commended

Dr Mwinyi for ensuring the rule of law as well as embracing good governance saying the two are among key components for the country's development. He said Zanzibar has also been doing well in fighting corruption.


"Dr Mwinyi has managed to control public fund's expenditure; he has been working to improve provision of social services such as health, education and water services," asserted Dr Mpango.

He however praised the Zanzibar President for improving international cooperation with various stakeholders including development partners and the diaspora community.

"We are making efforts to further strengthen the Union. Despite some challenges, we will continue working on the remaining unsolved union matters to fasten development of our people," he noted, adding measures are being taken to promote tourism as well as investment.

KATIKA MAHAKAMA KUU YA TANZANIA DAR ES SALAAM
UTHIBITISHO WA USHAMIZI WA MIRATHI
MIRATHI Na. 91 YA MWAKA 2020
MAOMBI YA BARUA ZA USHAMIZI WA MIRATHI YA MAREHEMU
PATRICIA FORTUNATA MWANUKUZI
MWOMBALI/WAOMBIAJI
MARGARET MALWA BANDORA & ANOTHER
TAARIFA YA KAWAIDA
 (Kanuni ya 75)

Watu wote wanaodai kuwa na haki ya Marehemu aliyetawa hapo juu wanatahmiswa kulika na kuangalia mashauri haya katika jela kama wanana inafaa kabla ya kutolwa kwa utibitisho wa barua za ushamizi wa Mirathi kwa Waombaji/Mwombaji hapo juu. Mazingamizi yoyote kuhusu haya yawe yameandikishwa mnamo au kabla ya tarehe 29 Mwezi wa Juni, 2021.
 Inwasilishwa Dar es Salaam, leo tarehe 4 Mwezi wa Juni, 2021.





CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS

LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Belgian Development Agency/Enabel alongside the Lake Tanganyika Authority is implementing the Lake Tanganyika Water Management Project funded by the European Union in Burundi, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia and Rwanda. In Tanzania, the project is partnering with the Kigoma/Ujiji Municipal Council to improve the viability and coverage of its solid waste management service.

Enabel invites, by this Procurement Notice, the bidders admitted to compete, to present their bids for the **“Public supply contract of 20 Containers/Skip-buckets (4600mm long x 1900mm wide x 1800mm high) to the Municipality of Kigoma/Ujiji.** The tenderer is called upon to mention the delivery period of supplies in their offer. The duration of this assignment is of 45 calendar days maximum.

All offers must be sent electronically, exclusively to the address indicated in the tender specifications (mp.bdi@enabel.be), no later than **June 30, 2021 at 4 PM, Bujumbura time.**

The documents required in terms of qualifications are indicated in the tender specifications. The complete tender specifications can be downloaded free from the Enabel website: [www.enabel.be\(https://www.enabel.be/sites/default/files/tenders/tender_specificationsbdi_180971t-10037_-_public_supply_contract_of_20_containersskip-buckets.pdf\)](https://www.enabel.be/sites/default/files/tenders/tender_specificationsbdi_180971t-10037_-_public_supply_contract_of_20_containersskip-buckets.pdf), section "public contracts" or sent by e-mail on written request to mp.bdi@enabel.be

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Mr. Silvest Arumasi

Akiba Commercial Bank Plc.
New Managing Director

The Board of Directors of Akiba Commercial Bank Plc (Akiba) has appointed Mr. Silvest Arumasi as the new Managing Director (MD), effective 1st June 2021. This follows Akiba's strategic partnership with National Bank of Malawi (NBM) in January 2021 which will strengthen the Bank's capital position and enable it to expand its service offerings to its customers.

Mr. Arumasi, a certified public accountant, has vast experience in the banking sector for more than 17 years primarily in retail and business banking, digital banking, product development, card business, risk management and compliance. He previously worked as a regulator of banks at the Bank of Tanzania for 7 years before serving for more than 10 years as a senior executive at First National Bank (FNB) and National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

Mr. Arumasi, commenting on his appointment, said, "I am humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to lead Akiba, a Bank that has continued to contribute immensely in the country's financial inclusion agenda, serving micro, small and medium enterprises, companies and individuals for the past 24 years. It is an opportunity to leverage the strategic partnership with NBM to build a strong and sustainable Bank that will deliver improved and digital financial services to its current customers and explore new opportunities for growth in the market".

Mr. Ernest Massawe, Akiba Chairman, said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I congratulate Mr. Arumasi on his appointment following more than 1 year of searching for a new MD of the Bank. The Board is confident that the new MD with his diverse experience and knowledge of the banking industry and the support of our strategic investor, NBM, will steer the Bank into greater heights in the future".

Akiba Commercial Bank Plc (Akiba) commenced banking operations in August 1997 as an initiative of over 300 Tanzanian entrepreneurs who were inspired to move into micro-finance, spurred by the moral and economical

concern for the plight of millions under banked Tanzanians. These founding members were bound together by a strong conviction that in Akiba they will have the vehicle through which they would reach and help transform the lives of previously unbanked and commercially ill-equipped people around the country.

In order to strengthen the resource base of the bank, the founding members over time invited like-minded local and international investors to coalesce their resources, strengths, and expertise for the common vision of growing Akiba's services and reach. These institutions were also invited because they were willing to participate actively without being driven by profits as their main objective, but rather they were committed to uplifting the economic status of Tanzanians irrespective of their socio-economic positions in life provided they had entrepreneurial skills and ideas that can be nurtured.

Akiba's target market is micro, small and medium enterprises, companies and individuals. Today Akiba has expanded its services to 18 branches of which 13 branches are in Dar es Salaam and 5 in strategic regional centers in Moshi, Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza and Mbeya.



Dora Saria

Head, Marketing & Communications,
 Akiba Commercial Bank Plc



Govt: We've raised TARI budget from 7.35bn/- to 11.63bn/-

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

THE government has increased the budget for Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) from 7.35bn/- in FY 2020/2021 to 11.63bn/- in FY 2021/2022.

In addition, the budget for the Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) has also been increased from 5.43bn/- in FY 2020/2021 to 10.58bn in FY 2021/2022 in order to increase the availability of quality seeds for edible oil crops.

This was disclosed by the Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda here at the weekend when welcoming the official guest, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the stakeholders meeting for the sunflower crop.

Prof Mkenda said his Ministry will continue to mobilise for the establishment of block farming in regions that cultivate edible oil crops by simplifying the provision of quality seeds, fertiliser, pesticides, training and better farming equipment for farmers.

"The government will continue to improve the investment environment by removing policy and legal obstacles to mobilise for investment. The areas on which we have started working is the availability of capital in the farming sector and tax issues on edible oil crops," he said.

He also said the government will improve extension services by providing extension officers with means of transport including buying 1,500 motorcycles, soil test kits, extension kits, smartphones and facilitating the establishment of demonstration farms for every extension officer.

"These services will enable

enabled because the Ministry has increased its budget for extension services from 603m/- in FY 2020/2021 to 11.5bn in FY 2021/2022. The government has selected three regions - Singida, Dodoma and Simiyu that hold great potential for the cultivation of edible oil crops including sunflower and cotton seeds," Prof Mkenda added.

He said the government was implementing the Sunflower Crop Development Strategy for 2016 to 2020, and mentioned the strategy's special aims as including boosting research on quality seeds and improving of the investment climate in the sunflower industry.

Some of the results realised include purification of quality sunflower seeds named Record the by the ministry through TARI.

Other government strategies is its okaying the use of 11 quality seeds including TARI-ILO2019, TARI-NA2019, Aguar4, Aguar6, Hysun33, Supersun64, Supersun66, Michel, Ancilla, Archeo and Soleado.

In addition, he said the government has continued to review the tax systems on the edible oil sector including increasing tax on imported edible oil from 10 to 25 per cent ad valorem.



The areas on which we have started working is the availability of capital in the farming sector and tax issues on edible oil crops



Kiteto legislator Edward ole Lekaita (3rd-R) holds the Uhuru Torch upon its arrival in the constituency yesterday ready to continue with its annual countrywide race. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

TADB issues 8.2bn/- loans to boost sunflower crop in Singida Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

TANZANIA development Bank (TADB) has so far provided loans amounting to 8.2bn/- to strengthen sunflower cultivation in Singida Region as well as instilling huge revolution in the country's farming, livestock and fishing sectors.

Addressing reporters here at the weekend after the meeting of sunflower crop stakeholders, TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said the bank has mobilised to make sure the sunflower crop contributes adequately including

the increased production of edible oil.

"As a bank we have mobilised ourselves, hence have provided 2.2bn/- to facilitate the purchase of the crop here in Singida," he said.

Earlier, giving a brief report before Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on the Bank's development and its efforts in the region Justine said TADB is bent on making sure sunflower farmers in Singida Region benefit from their crop including increased production for them and towards the national GDP.

"In collaboration with other associate banks we pledge for the facilitation in buying the crop to enable farmers benefit from huge quantities of edible oil in the country," added the TADB boss.

He added: "Here there a factory that we facilitated its construction and it will be producing 20 tonnes of sunflower oil per day, this is an opportunity to farmers and I appeal to you to use it to realise the benefits of its existence."

He further said his Bank also facilitates in the purchase of farming equipment in various

areas countrywide to spur achievements in the farming sector.

"in Simanjiro district, we facilitated loans for the purchase of 19 tractors to be used by farmers.

He said to ensure the Central Zone greatly benefits by the Bank, he urged district Commissioners in the zone to give them three projects - on livestock, farming and fishing.

He said among big challenges TADB faces include delay in loans repayment in time that holds back their well-intentioned efforts.



It's a cautious walk on a makeshift bridge across a river at Ngaranumbe in Kimandolu ward, Arusha region, as captured at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

'All extension officers must have demonstration farms'

By Guardian Reporter, Singida

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed the Agriculture Ministry to work together with the Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Government) to make sure all agriculture extension officers in the country own demonstration farms for teaching farmers in their areas.

"Any extension officer who will fail to show his farm is not fit to be extension officer," he stressed.

The PM issued the instruction here on Sunday when addressing sunflower crop stakeholders at a meeting.

He said people abandoned

farming the crop because the expertise was not reaching them, hence he directed District Commissioners in all areas growing sunflower to supervise the formation of sunflower farming groups, adding "such groups are the simplest way to reach farmers for training them or provision of loans."

He added: "make sure you have farmers' database in your areas that will enable to know the number of farmers, sizes of their farms and their requirements. You should also have the procedure to visit farmers to know the challenges they face and collaborate with them to solve them."

The PM also directed top officials in all regions countrywide to have strategic plans plan for developing oil seed crops and submit them to the Ministry for monitoring and follow up.

And when an official visits his district, a report should be read to him on steps reached in the implementation of these directives," he added.

He said district councils should set aside areas for growing quality sunflower seeds as well as starting block farms aimed at increasing crop production and simplify the provision of extension services.

Her also directed agricultural research institutions to

continue with soil research to find out which type of seeds are suitable to be grown in a particular area.

For his part, the Agriculture Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe said the Ministry has mobilised itself to increase quality sunflower seeds production from 344 tonnes at the moment to an average of 2,000 to 2,500 tonnes per year, and added that within the coming three years the country will be self-sufficient in quality seeds for farmers.

Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge appealed to the government to establish a board to supervise edible oil crops.

UNDP's and WHO staff donate blood

By Francis Kajubi

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) staff in Tanzania have jointly donated to save lives as Tanzania joins the globe to commemorate World Blood Donors Day.

Organised by the National Blood Transfusion Service, the blood donation by the UN agencies staff was held yesterday in Dar es Salaam at the United Nations headquarters.

Every year on the 14th of June the globe commemorates World Blood Donors Day to appreciate and honour blood donors because they volunteer an important substance for the living of many patients in need of blood.

Speaking at the donation exercise Zlatan Milisic, resident coordinator of the United Nations System said many countries Tanzania been the one struggles to maintain supply of enough safe and sufficient quantities of blood for various blood transfusions that are needed on a daily basis. Thanks to courageous people who give blood to save other people's lives.

"As you might know sometimes to save somebody's lifeblood transfusion is needed. Blood can not be produced rather donated by those who are willing. If there are not enough donors then that translates to loss of many people's lives;

Therefore today is an important day to commemorate. As part of our responsibility to save people's lives staff of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and that of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Tanzania are jointly donating blood to the national blood bank to save people's lives in hospitals," said

Milisic.

According to him, the general public should be encouraged to donate blood daily and not just sit and wait for the international day to come so that events are organized in search of blood. He said this year's theme is 'give blood and keep the world beating' meaning that gives blood and keeps the heart beating for somebody's lives.

On her part, Dr Tigest Mengestu, WHO Country Representative said that the main purpose of commemorating the day is to thank the voluntary unpaid blood donors across the world and increase awareness of people to donate blood regularly.

"This year's theme is coined due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 pandemic where blood donation has gradually slowed down by 17 percent with the demand decreasing at 13 percent. The demand decreased because many elective surgeries have been stopped because of the pandemic;

Blood donation has also been reduced as a way of containing the illness going to health facilities. As a matter of fact, the WHO in collaboration with member states needs to work hard to make sure that there is enough stock of blood in their national blood banks," said Mengestu.

She asserted that one of the things that WHO is more concerned about is unequal distribution of global blood donations because 112million are done on yearly basis but only 50 percent of these donations are in high income counties meaning that a population of less than 19 percent of the globe population from high income counties are getting adequate blood while the low income ones don't get the same.



Shule Direct content manager Berthasia Richard (in headscarf) briefs Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Nduguile (L, foreground) on a project focused on the empowerment of women when the minister visited the Dar es Salaam-based resource centre at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

THRDC expresses desire to cooperate with government

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

TANZANIA Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has expressed desire to maximise cooperation with the government in working towards the implementation and achievements of the five years development plan.

This collaboration between both parties will focus on areas including gender and balance, provision of social services, monitoring and evaluation of the plan, employment, and climate change.

THRDC National Director Onesmo Olungurumwa said during an interview over the phone with journalists of this paper that this initiative is a step forward to show the government that they are part of the development agenda and are supporting the government to meet the required results.

“Maximizing our relationship with the government will help to tear a kind of misconception about the Civil Society (CSO), because for many years CSOs have been viewed as not playing any role in development but rather as power mongers” he said. Adding that, through this collaboration the role of the CSOs will be recorded, accounted and documented.

Olungurumwa underscored that this will also ensure the protection of their services because the government will now understand that they are just partners in serving the nation and not enemies.

He also mentioned that working together with the government in various development plans like the SGGs, a five years development plan will help to add value and credit to the nation.

“This will project a good image of the country to other countries as CSOs represents the wider part of the community, so working together with the CSOs means working together with your

people in planning, developing and implementing various development plans,” he intoned.

Adding that this in such a way will create more confidence for foreign partners of the CSOs to provide more funds in supporting projects related to the development of the nation.

“By so doing we will be putting our nation in a better position to receive grants through two doors that’s the CSOs and the government thus developing our nation through the creation of investment from outside into the national territory,” he encouraged.

Moreover, coordinated efforts will come in through this coordinated relationship as it will be easier to reach what CSO and the government intent to reach because we will be well coordinated

“As a nation we have the private sector, government and the CSO so working together collaboratively as a nation will not only be beneficial to the CSOs but also to the citizens,” he emphasized while adding that this will now permit the contributions of the CSOs through its activities to be more visible.

THRDC boss appreciated President Samia’s high consideration of the role of every actor as he pointed out that she recently encouraged all actors to join her in building this nation. He added that this is very important as it makes everyone feel important and concerned in the nation’s development.

He added that CSO is a very key sector due to the role it plays in conducting developing projects in the country while lamenting that at a point in time they don’t see a very serious involvement from the government in this area.

“There’s a lot to learn, exploit from this sector for the benefit of the nation but this can be achieved only if we are coordinated and work together with the government,” he emphasized.

Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project to be ready in December, says Kalemari

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE Regional Rusumo Falls Hydroelectric Project (RRFP) has reached 80 percent of implementation and is scheduled to complete in December this year.

Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemari revealed this over the weekend during his working visit in Ngara District, in joint monitoring with his counterparts from Burundi and Rwanda, countries sharing the hydropower project in a Tripartite Agreement signed in February 2012.

He said the project started in 2017 and that each member country will get 27 MWs. When completed, it will be connected to the Tanzania National grid to capacitate the North-west regions of Kagera, Geita, and Kigoma.

While at Kagali village in Murukulazo ward, Kalemari issued an ultimatum of eighteen months for contractors to cover all remaining 27 villages out of 75 villages, to be electrified, the ultimatum which is to all villages in Tanzania which are not yet power connected.

“You have no power to grade the houses to be connected, the owners are very anxious to know

the fate of their houses. Our stand is that every house should be connected,” he said, insisting that electric poles are freely supplied, not for sale.

He said there are 1,010 people who are waiting for compensation after giving out their land for Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) service lines, and the assessment is in progress to find out who deserves to be compensated. When the exercise is over by December this year, the government will payout.

He ordered the TANESCO District Manager to build a small office in Murukulazo ward so that

residents need not make long safaris to Ngara headquarters for services.

“The laboring jobs such as digging the holes and fixing the poles to connect electricity in these 27 villages should be done by locals, so as to enable them to earn a living and feel the project is theirs to safeguard,” Dr Kalemari said.

Ngara MP, Ndaisaba George Ruhoro thanked the minister for the tour and assured all remaining villages of power, as during his campaign for the seat, he promised the electorates the installation of electricity in his constituency.

SRI benefits hundreds of farmers in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

HUNDREDS of farmers at the Mvumi, Msolwa Ujamaa and Njage irrigation schemes in Kilosa, Kilombero and Mlimba districts in Morogoro Region have started to benefit from a System of Rice Intensification (SRI) project supported by the World Bank.

The project also sought to enhance the adoption and sustain the use of improved rice varieties, support on-farm demonstrations to introduce the new varieties to farmers, the multiplication and distribution of preferred varieties, and improvements in quality assurance for rice seed.

Speaking to this paper at separate interviews, some rice farmers operating at the schemes said that they were previously facing a number of challenges including poor infrastructures.

They added that completion of the project has assured them of better irrigation infrastructures whereas they can now harvest between 20 and 30 sacks of rice per acre.

“We are sure of getting water throughout the year, we cultivate rice at different agricultural seasons,” said one of the rice farmers, Mwanaiha Kaluwa who conducts her agricultural activities at the Mvumi irrigation scheme.

She said: “We are grateful to the government and the World Bank for the beneficial project. We now call upon responsible ministry to connect us with local and international markets.”

According to her, most of the farmers are now selling their rice to middlemen at exploitative prices. Speaking at Njage irrigation scheme, Mlimba District Agricultural Officer, Wadara Kidata said farmers are now having access to water throughout the year with improved road networks to transport their products to warehouses.

“Improvement of road infrastructures has reduced transport costs,” she said.

Representing Morogoro Region’s Irrigation Engineer, Njanji Mole said the pilot project has proved efficient despite a few challenges including upgrading of some parts of the roads within the schemes and construction of culverts at Njage and Mlimba irrigation schemes.

Village water consumers community launches office building

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilosa

AS the world is facing challenges from climate change, there is need for joint protection of water sources to be given priority to rescue the essential resource used by human beings.

This observation was given recently by the Kilosa District Executive Director, Cheyo Nkelenge at the launching of the office of Water Consumers at Msowero Village whose construction was supervised by Wami-

Ruvu River Basin Board.

In addition to the climate change effects that threaten water sources, another challenge is the increase of human activities at the water sources that degrade the environment.

For his part, the Ruvu-Wami Rivers Basin Vice Chairman Norah Mamba said the aim to build the office in the village is to assist in sustainable conservation of water resources.

For their part, residents of Msowero Village explained how the water consumers community has been

helping to protect water sources in the area.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the project for the construction

of the office for Water Consumers Community for minor Wami/Msowero River Basin has cost 72m/- upon completion.



For their part, residents of Msowero Village explained how the water consumers community has been helping to protect water sources in the area

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- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 121000TZS5108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Assets can be inspected in the following locations: All vehicles are in Dar es Salaam, please contact 0746 969 693 for further details while the machine is located at Songea CBD, please contact 0767 210 979 for further details.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
- The bank reserves the right to accept any bid and is not obliged to explain the reasons thereto.
- All assets will be sold on the condition of “as is basis”.
- The highest bid is not necessarily considered as the winning bid. The bank’s decision is final.
- Bidding is open to the general public. Bidder may choose to bid for one lot or all lots.

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MAKE	MODEL	YEAR OF REG	REGISTRATION /SERIAL NUMBER	PLACE OF STORAGE	PRICE
ZHONGTONG	LCK6120A	2014	T 169 DCA	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	19,000,000.00
ZHONGTONG	LCK6120A	2014	T 161 DCC	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	25,000,000.00

Machine:

MAKE	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION /SERIAL NUMBER	PRICE
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TIC issued 401 derivative land rights to foreign investors in twenty years

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has managed to register and issue 401 derivative land rights to foreign investors in the last 20 years.

Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development William Lukuvi said in a written response to an additional question by Mafinga urban MP Cosato Chumi adding that this was from 1999 to May 2021.

The MP said in his question that the World Bank's ease of doing business report cites land ownership processes as one of the reasons for Tanzania to lag behind.

In response, the minister said the government has taken various initiatives to change the matter including directing land councils responsible for leasing land to investors to meet every month instead

of four which was stipulated earlier in a move to facilitate investment in the country.

The MP wanted to know if the government was ready to let the land councils meet every month instead of four months to ease the process and let investors get the rights faster.

The minister said in the last three months which the councils are meeting monthly, it has processed 173 derivative rights from 174 which were requested by investors.

In his preliminary question, Chumi wanted to know how many investors were given derivative rights via TIC.

In response, the Deputy Minister for investment William Ole Nasha said investors got the ownership title via TIC according to the law.

"The law stipulates that the land commissioner will issue Certificate of Right of Occupancy in the name of TIC to a foreign investor," he said.



SCARCITY: Residents of Negezi in Ukenyenge ward, Kishapu District, captured yesterday seeking to draw water for domestic use from a temporary well - but with little success, owing to drought. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF ADVANCED EXCEL TRAINING FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED AT GEITA MINE 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 Advanced Excel training and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01180	PROVISION OF ADVANCED EXCEL TRAINING FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED AT GEITA MINE

1. 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 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.7%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.7%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.7%
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)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME01180)	75%
Proof of certificate of registration as the Computer training service provider	20%
Proof of ability to provide training both online and/or classroom bases training on site	20%
Proof of ability to develop and supply training material	15%
Proof of technical competence of personnel involved in the Advanced Computer training Programs	20%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER 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 25th JUNE 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=

Agency distributes over 7 million IDs in 73 districts

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Identification Authority (NIDA) has so far produced and distributed 7,148,971 identity cards in 73 districts across the country even as production continues.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Khamis Chilo said this in Parliament in a written response to a question by special seats MP Martha Mariki.

The deputy minister said NIDA has also issued 11,737,021 National Identification Numbers (NIN) after harmonizing its systems with others countrywide.

The legislator asked when the government will finalize a process to give IDs to Tanzanians following concerns that there have been difficulties in getting the IDs.

In response the deputy minister said out of the mentioned

districts, 63 are from mainland and 10 from the other side of the union Zanzibar.

According to the deputy minister, the government has set targets that by August this year; every registered citizen will have an ID.

"The targets aims at producing IDs in phases in every district from 14 January to 31 September this year," he said.

The deputy minister called for calm and asked Tanzanians to continue receiving various services including opening bank accounts, passports application, land ownership application, sim card registration via NIN as they awaits to get their IDs.

The government recently purchased a new machine which will facilitate quick issuance of National Identity Cards after the previous one failed to operate and

caused long queues at National Identification Authority (NIDA) offices.

The machine to be operated by NIDA is worth 8.5bn/- and has the ability to print 9,000 identity cards per hour and is perceived as the solution to complaints against the country's identification agency.

In March, 2019, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) launched a pilot project to register Sim cards using the technology.

The exercise was conducted in Zanzibar and Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Coast Region, Singida, Tanga and Iringa regions.

According to the regulator, the move was meant to get rid of dishonest Sim card users and registration agents who harbored malicious intentions, including committing crimes.

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government yesterday admitted there is a huge shortage of health workers in the country whereby by May this year, only 41-percent of the total needs was met.

Following the development, local governments have been given the nod to employ health workers in their localities via internal revenues.

This was said by Minister of State, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) Dr Festo Ndugane when responding to question by Special Seats MP Mwantumu Zodo.

In her preliminary question the MP had wanted to know the government's plan to address shortage of health workers in the country which stood at 16,000.

In response the deputy minister admitted that there was a shortage adding that the country had only

Govt admits huge shortage of health workers in the country

41-percent workers in the sector out of the total needs.

"The shortage is a result of various reasons including retirement, deaths and increment in the number of health centres," he said.

Ndugane said from 2017 to 2020, the government in collaboration with stakeholders has employed 12,868 workers who have been deployed to various stations in the country.

He said the government was finalizing processes to employ 2,726 workers which were announced in May 2021.

"The workers will be deployed to areas where there are huge needs to address the shortages as the government strives to add more workers," he said.

The minister wanted to know

if the government strategy and if the rate of constructing health centres was going together with the employment rate.

In response, the deputy minister said the government was constructing various health centres to bring the services closer.

He said in doing this, the government will also ensure that the process goes together with the speed of recruiting more workers.

In his additional question, Mbozi legislator George Mwenisongole asked why was the government not giving permission to local authorities to directly employ workers using internal revenues.

In response, Dr Ndugane said they have directed local authorities to employ workers using local revenues.

Ministry to train villagers residing near reserves and parks on how to curb invasions by jumbos

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

THE government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has started to implement a five-year strategic plan to train villagers residing near national parks and game reserves on how to control elephants' invasion in their areas.

The Ministry's Principal Wildlife Officer, Antonia Raphael said this over the weekend when speaking during training to residents of Mheza village at Maore ward in Same District. She said the trainings are meant to educate residents countrywide on how to address the invasions of elephants and other wildlife species in their areas.

She said the government through the ministry is implementing the strategic plan

2020-2025 based on research findings conducted by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) on how to resolve the human/wildlife conflicts.

"These trainings are sustainable and will be provided countrywide, our aim is ensure safety among villagers," she added, noting that the training follows increased incidences of elephant's invasion in residential and farm areas in Morogoro and Mwanza District, Kilimanjaro Region.

Maore Ward Councillor, Rashid Gasper said that residents at the area have for three consecutive years witnessed elephants invading their farms. He said the destruction is serious, threatening food security to the villagers.

Gasper said the big animals have so far destroyed 600 acres of

various crops including rice and maize. He said that on May 17th this year, an elephant invaded Mheza village whereas they attacked and killed Daines Josephat (58).

A researcher from TAWIRI, Dr Emanuel Massenga said: "The motives of these trainings are to ensure people's safety by educating the public on various ways to prevent them from the elephants' invasions."

Dr Massenga said the training drew 40 participants from Mwanza and Same districts which he said had been subject to Jumbo's invasion.

"The 40 participants were subject to theory training on how to curb the challenges caused by the invasions; the participants will later on pass the findings of the training to other residents within the district," he stated.

Govt urges immigration dept to collect revenue effectively

By Guardian Correspondent, Namanga

HOME Affairs Deputy Minister Khamis Hamza Chilo has tasked the Immigration Department to honestly collect revenue from its activities in order to assist the nation in implementing various development projects.

Chilo made the call yesterday when he visited the Tanzania-Kenya border-Namanga One Stop Border Post. The visit was meant to inspect areas used as entry and exit of foreigners and locals with the aim of controlling the influx of illegal immigrants in the country.

“President Samia Suluhu Hassan relies heavily on you in protecting the country, citizens and their properties, and when we say Tanzania is at peace, you are the ones we’re referring to,” he said, urging them to be generous when it comes to revenue collection.

“I urge all revenues generated by immigration activities to be controlled so that it can be used to build this nation, and avoid

corruption,” the deputy minister stressed.

Chilo also called on immigration officials to speed up patrols for the security of our country so that the people can participate in their development activities peacefully and safely if it is the duty of the government to see the people carry out their activities in peace.

Immigration officer in charge of Namanga border post, Prolimina Tairo said there has been a decline in revenue caused by the Coronavirus pandemic where the number of visitors entering the country has also dropped.

According to her, from January to May the immigration department at Namanga Border Post has collected a total of US\$180,780, whereas during the same period last year the department collected US\$ 450,000.

“This decline is due to the Covid-19 epidemic, which affects flow of people and goods due to restrictions imposed on citizens of various countries passing through

the Namanga border post,” said Tairo.

She however revealed that 11 illegal immigrants have been arrested in Longido District during an ongoing crackdown on migrants in all regions bordering Tanzania and neighbouring countries.



I urge all revenues generated by immigration activities to be controlled so that it can be used to build this nation, and avoid corruption



Fruit vendors scramble for customers aboard a vehicle at Kiwira market in Rungwe Town, Mbeya Region, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Seed agency set to open exhibition centres in Dodoma, Tabora regions

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has said it is planning to establish special exhibition centres in the two regions of Dodoma and Tabora.

The envisaged facilities will be tailored for training the farmers and agricultural stakeholders in the central zone corridor over applications of improved and hybrid seed varieties for the food and economic cash crop that flourishing in abundance in the region.

According to the ASA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Sophia Kashenge, the state-owned agency has decided to venture into the project to fuel efforts by the sixth phase government to improve agronomic practices among the farmers in the country.

She expressed that ASA was strategizing to implement the series of intervention with an eye to heighten production and availability of the improved seeds varieties in the country.

Dr Kashenge unveiled that: “In the 2021/22 year, the agency is expecting to increase seeds production from between 1 and 1.8 tonnes to 1.8 and 2 and 1-8 per hectare.”

According to her, the agency's general production of improved seed varieties is projected also to improve from the current 1750 to 3750 tonnes by 2022.

“For instances, we’re targeting to produce at least 800,000 seedlings of improved palm oil by

June 2022,” she stated.

The other plans, according to her include construct and improve warehouses for the professional storages of seeds, the initiative to be implemented in tandem with installation of special seeds drying venues.

In efforts to push for the development of the vital economic sector, the CEO added that plans are afoot to construct an office and modern seed warehouse facilities at the Kilimi and Kilangali seed farms as well as renovating the warehouses at the agency's headquarters in Morogoro.

She added that ASA is planning to give special priority to increase seed production of the key economic cash crops, ranging from sunflower, oil palm and wheat.

“We’re also planning to install a modern seed drying area at ASA's headquarters,” she briefed.

Dr Kashenge informed that the agency was also planning to procure a modern seed package plant machine to be installed at the agency's Arusha based seed farm.

During the 2020/21 fiscal year the government injected the agency with 5.35bn/- to help implementation of numerous projects under the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II).

She said the amount was spent in some key projects implemented, according to her included production of sunflower seeds, sesame, palm oil, and wheat seedlings, procurement of

a modern tractor, boom sprayer.

“The budget enabled the agency to renovate and construct new warehouses, construct seedling buildings as well as installing a modern irrigation scheme,” she expressed.

During the 2019/20 fiscal year, the government mandated ASA to coordinate a strategic project for the production of improved seeds for the crop.

In a successful result, the state-owned agency (ASA) has so far managed to produce at least 8,270 tonnes of the crops' seeds. “The seedlings were produced in 38,000 hectares areas,” Dr Kashenge said.



The budget enabled the agency to renovate and construct new warehouses, construct seedling buildings as well as installing a modern irrigation scheme



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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES 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 the Car Hire and Passenger Transfer Services in Geita, Mwanza, Dar-es-salaam, Dodoma, Moshi and Arusha for GGML Employees and Visitors and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of the below service.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME0966	PROVISION OF CAR HIRE AND PASSENGER TRANSFER SERVICES in GEITA, MWANZA, DAR ES SALAAM, DODOMA, MOSHI, ARUSHA FOR GGML EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS.

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 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.7%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.7%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.7%
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)	1.7%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.7%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.7%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA (GGME0966)	75%
Proof of Vehicles availability	
- Age of the vehicles i.e mileage	20%
- Quality of the vehicle i.e interior and exterior	
- Type of vehicles available	
Ownership of the vehicles	
Proof of Compliance with the law(s) dealing with transport services and regulatory authorities (LATRA) in Tanzania.	10%
Proof of ability to keep vehicle Maintenance Plan and Records	15%
Organization Structure	
- Key contacts – Operation Drivers Quality i.e Qualifications and Smartness	5%
Proof of experience on car hire and passenger services.	15%
Communication	
- Issuance of key information on each transfer Visitor Notification Placard	5%
Proof of ability to keep Lead Service Level	
- Adhoc vehicle bookings	5%
- Planned vehicle bookings	
- VIP's vehicle bookings	
- Group vehicle bookings	
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest (“LOI”) by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER 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 25th JUNE 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=

TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

All African children merit special care and protection

THE Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the Organisation of African Unity. It honours those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children.

In Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976, about ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the poor quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their own language. Hundreds of young students were shot, the most famous of which being Hector Pieterse. More than a hundred people were killed in the protests of the following two weeks, and more than a thousand were injured.

On June 16 every year, governments, NGOs, international organisations and other stakeholders gather to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the full realisation of the rights of children in Africa. For 2014, the theme chosen returns to the roots of the movement: A child-friendly, quality, free, and compulsory education for all children in Africa.

The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (also called the ACRWC or Children's Charter) was adopted by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1990 (in 2001, the OAU legally became the African Union) and was entered into force in 1999. Like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Children's Charter is a comprehensive instrument that sets out rights and defines

universal principles and norms for the status of children. The ACRWC and the CRC are the only international and regional human rights treaties that cover the whole spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

It calls for the creation of an African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Committee of Experts). Its mission is to promote and protect the rights established by the ACRWC, to practice applying these rights, and to interpret the disposition of the ACRWC as required of party states, African Union (AU) institutions, or all other institutions recognised by AU or by a member state.

Children in Africa are affected by many different types of abuse, including economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination in education and access to health, and their involvement in armed conflict. Other factors affecting African children include migration, early marriage, differences between urban and rural areas, child-headed households, street children and poverty. Furthermore, child workers in sub-Saharan Africa account for about 80 million children or 4 out of every 10 children under 14 years old which is the highest child labour rate in the world.

The ACRWC defines a 'child' as a human being below the age of 18 years. It recognises the child's unique and privileged place in African society and that African children need protection and special care. It also acknowledges that children are entitled to the enjoyment of freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, thought, religion, and conscience.

We need proper land management to stem desertification and drought

THE World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance celebrated each year on 17 June. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought. Each year's global celebration has a unique, novel emphasis that had not been developed previously.

This day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on January 30, 1995, after the day when United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is drafted.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development declares that "we are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations". Specifically, SDG Goal 15: Life on Land states the resolve of the United Nations and the SDG signatory nations to halt and reverse land degradation.

Desertification is a type of land degradation in dry lands in which biological productivity is lost due to natural processes or induced by human activities whereby fertile areas become increasingly arid. It is the spread of arid areas caused by a variety of factors, such as climate change (particularly the current global warming) and overexploitation of soil as a result of human activity.

Throughout geological history, the development of deserts has

occurred naturally. In recent times, the potential influences of human activity, improper land management, deforestation and climate change on desertification is the subject of many scientific investigations.

The world's most noted deserts have been formed by natural processes interacting over long intervals of time. During most of these times, deserts have grown and shrunk independent of human activities. Paleo deserts are large sand seas now inactive because they are stabilised by vegetation, some extending beyond the present margins of core deserts, such as the Sahara, the largest hot desert.

Historical evidence shows that the serious and extensive land deterioration occurring several centuries ago in arid regions had three epicenters: the Mediterranean, the Mesopotamian Valley, and the Loess Plateau of China, where population was dense.

A drought is an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric (below-average precipitation), surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few as 15 days. It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region and harm to the local economy.

Annual dry seasons in the tropics significantly increase the chances of a drought developing and subsequent bush fires. Periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening evaporation of water vapour.

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Mentoring will help youths seize opportunities

By Special Correspondent

FOR Zimbabwe to grow and for Zimbabweans to move out of poverty into at least middle income comfort, a lot of new businesses need to be established and a lot of Zimbabweans, especially younger Zimbabweans, need to think how they can become business people and employers rather than employees.

Obviously people need an opportunity to make start, and this is two-fold: education and skills on one hand and capital or credit on the other.

Of course there is a lot more, but that is up to those who grab the opportunity, to quote President Mnangagwa when he addressed this topic recently.

They have to work hard, very hard, and have to build their enterprise before they start tapping it for some rewards.

As the President noted, the Second Republic has been helping to create the conditions. Educations and skills training are being not just upgraded, but converted to a new emphasis on subjects and skills that can give school leavers and college-leavers a start, rather than expecting them to start all over again while their certificates are still drying in the sun and spending money and time on learning basic skills that they need to earn a living.

And schemes and programmes are being put in place. The huge switch in small-holder farming over the last couple of years, with a major acceleration from last season, is showing that just because someone has an activated land right in a communal land or a small AI farm they are not doomed to be a subsistence farmer for the rest of their life.

Already a lot are now looking forward to commercial sales this year, and having money in their bank account or mobile money wallet, and are starting to think how they can expand next year. We are already seeing energetic youngsters going further with their farming, and finding out that it pays better than a minimum wage job.

And with reallocation of land that is not being used now imminent, with go-ahead youths among the first in line for allocations, we are starting to build that rural economy we need to support a lot more enterprises.

As President Mnangagwa noted, we are now also seeing efforts in the mining world, moving from



environmentally-damaging gold panning and artisanal odd-job mining into something a bit more sustainable with proper rights and security.

But ever more people, and ever more youths, are going to have to move from the ultimate primary production, farming and mining, and start looking at other opportunities.

In effect they will be riding on the wealth created by primary production. We are now thinking about the small businesses that every community needs and needs down the road.

With the rising income in farming communities we suddenly start getting a requirement for businesses who can lay irrigation pipes, and fix the pipes.

We need people who can wire solar panels, who know how to clean them, and know how to position them to get maximum output. We need assorted handipeople and mechanics who can maintain and repair ever more complex machinery.

And this is besides the builders and carpenters and basic metal workers who are already in most communities.

But all of this requires besides the required level of skills some essential tools and while family profits from farming can help, many of these new businesses need extra help and this will require an expansion of the micro-finance and SME schemes that are being put in place and which are starting to work.

And somewhere along the line we need mentoring. Farmers are fortunate.

The Second Republic has

been bringing Agritex up to full strength, and the veterinary services under the same ministry, and even if they cannot visit every day they provide the required basic business training, starting with keeping proper records, and can be tracked down nearby even if they are on someone else's farm.

In urban areas, where the need to move away from ever more small shops or market stalls and start looking at selling skilled services is just as acute, mentoring is easier to find.

But in both rural and urban areas something more formal and organised is required, a bit more like what Agritex can offer farmers.

People talk airily about commercial courses, although a lot of these exam-orientated certificate factories do not provide a great deal of value for money and many of their graduates, hoping for a job with an established employer remain jobless.

What is needed is a basic introduction to business, something better than the blind leading the blind at a market, and then someone who can spend a couple of hours each month showing where new practical opportunities lie, checking progress and suggesting improvements.

Even knowing where to access funding, or what sort of licence is needed, is something that many need to know.

President Mnangagwa suggested established businesses could do more, and he mentioned the Affirmative Action Group as

one possibility, but it probably needs a more inclusive effort.

There is learning in the small retail trade, where an over-high percentage of new businesses are concentrated, but not enough advice and help for the productive and service sectors.

And there are openings for other sorts of business, like being able to link skilled people with their customers.

Any one who doubts this should try and find a competent plumber on how to run a business, and that their tap has come off a standpipe.

There is obviously one nearby, and one who will come out with a toolbox, but how do the two of you link up?

The one point to note, as people move away from subsistence farming, illegal gold panning and total urban poverty is that the economy gets more complex, with more people doing more things and more specialised things.

There are many who can do all this, but who need advice and help on how to run a business, and that includes reinvesting rather than trying to lead the good life with spending every cent in revenue on consumer goodies, and how to market. After a while putting a notice on a tree is not the best way forward.

This is why the President's suggestion for the more established to think a little about how they could help, even if just for a few hours a month is a good idea, and even something more formal through some sort of a programme that could co-ordinate such activity and even involve mentors such as retired people.

Charcoal production risks future of Zimbabwe's native forests

BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

ONCE a week a tonnage of fresh charcoal is dropped off at Sibangani Tshobe's rugged, pit-stop stall by a hired, battered old Bedford lorry. Small, makeshift trolleys – nicknamed Scania's – quickly cart off small loads and disappear into Old Pumula, the oldest suburb in the country's second-largest city of Bulawayo.

Electricity blackouts have temporarily stopped in Zimbabwe, but higher power costs and an occasional cold spell still offer Tshobe a chance to make a few dollars.

"I sell a bag of charcoal for \$7 and it is good business for me," Tshobe tells IPS, indicating to a 50 kg polythene bag from other traders that is split into smaller bundles that he sells for \$1.

High costs of electricity for cash-strapped Zimbabweans – the country has a poverty rate of just over 38 percent, according to the World Bank – means that the demand for firewood for cooking, lighting and heating has increased.

And so too has the destruction of Zimbabwe's fragile forests.

"With the high cost of electricity what does one do? This is a means to fend for my family. I am aware our business means destroying trees but we have to live," Tshobe says.

Felling forests to keep warm Each year, Zimbabwe loses

about 60 million trees – some 33,000 hectares of forests – thanks to illegal deforestation, according to the Forestry Commission, a body mandated to protect state forests.

Charcoal making is increasing the loss of indigenous forests and also increasing land degradation, says Violet Makoto, spokesperson for the Forestry Commission.

"Charcoal is happening and is a worrying trend necessitated by the energy challenges the country is facing. Yes, a few months back we had an issue of no electricity, so charcoal was coming in handy for cooking, especially in urban areas. Now, in most parts, electricity is available but beyond the reach of many due to the high tariffs," Makoto tells IPS.

Charcoal – favoured for burning hotter and longer than wood – is made from heating wood without oxygen. The practice is taking root across swathes of the country, dominated by native forest hardwoods such as the mopane hardwood species (Copaifera mopane J), Makoto says.

Charcoal sold in urban centres is usually illegally imported from Mozambique and Zambia, where charcoal has traditionally been produced. But this energy source is now being produced in Muzarabani District in Mashonaland Central Province close to the border with Mozambique, according to the Forestry Commission. The Midlands province, Mashonaland West



Charcoal from hard wood trees is wiping out forests in most part of Africa because of rising energy needs.

Province and Matabeleland North province were also hot spots for charcoal production, says Makoto.

In Matabeleland North province charcoal producing areas include Hwange Colliery Concession, Gwayi River Farms and resettlement villages along the Bubi-Nkayi boundary, says Armstone Tembo, the Forestry Commission Chief Conservator of Forests.

"We have been carrying out raids and confiscating the charcoal but our problem is that we are aware that even if we confiscate the charcoal people still go to those areas

and cut down more trees and produce charcoal," she says.

Last year, more than 30 people were arrested and fined for trading in charcoal with 1.9 tonnes of charcoal confiscated.

This year, more than 1,000 bags of charcoals were confiscated and 10 people arrested and charged for making and selling charcoal.

"We need a lasting solution that can completely eliminate charcoal making in the country. Maybe crafting new laws to directly address the issue of charcoal production in Zimbabwe would help."

The production, marketing and even consumption of charcoal are crimes, unless one is buying charcoal made from exotic trees, according to Abednego Marufu, the Forestry Commission's General Manager. Marufu says that there was an exception for timber companies who harvested exotic tree species, such as wattle, for charcoal making.

Tighter laws for culprits The Forestry Commission is pushing for tighter laws to curb the practice, proposing a mandatory jail term, instead of fines, which are proving not sufficient deterrent. Cur-

rently anyone caught selling firewood and charcoal can receive a Level 7 fine for \$59 or a year in jail.

"The Level 7 fine for people in communal areas is deterrent enough what is required by us is enforcement and we are working with the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the Rural District Councils and the Environmental Management Agency to curb this activity," Marufu says.

"We envisage a mandatory jail term rather than optional fines so that people can go to jail for three months. We feel it will be painful enough for people to understand that environmental crimes are serious."

However, stricter fines are not necessarily the answer to issue, some activists note.

"The constant rise of electricity is unsustainable not just for consumers who are poor and unemployed but also for businesses because electricity is a key component of both the domestic and household economy," Effie Ncube, a civil rights activist, tells IPS. He adds that high costs of electricity are also pushing up the costs of basic goods and services.

Last September, the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC), the holding company of the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), increased charges by 50 percent. These were increased by a further 30 percent in May. The increases were attributed

to the high costs of importing electricity.

Soaring prices of basic food stuffs, food, fuel and energy are driving Zimbabweans to poverty, says Comfort Muchekeza, Southern region Manager of the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe, arguing that government needs to restore economic production for consumers to afford electricity.

"Energy is a really a sensitive issue," Machemedza tells IPS by telephone. "It is high time the government comes up with alternative sources of energy and invites other players into the energy sector. The cost of electricity today has gone beyond the reach of not only the ordinary consumers but even the middle class. Since September last year we have seen more than three increases in electricity and that is worrying."

Wood fuels represent significant economic value in many countries, accounting for approximately \$ 6 billion for the whole of Africa, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). More than \$1 billion of this amount was made up by charcoal.

"Zimbabwe needs to invest in wide scale alternative energy sources like wind and solar so that people have access to affordable and clean energy at a time when firewood and charcoal are widely used but these have a serious environmental impact," says Ncube.

IPS

ARLINGTON, Virginia,

The real price of marriage in South Sudan

AUGUST of this year will mark the one-year anniversary of the end of South Sudan's civil war, yet recent surges of violence suggest that peace is far from being realized. These attacks by armed groups include instances of sexual violence against women and girls.

Sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a significant characteristic in South Sudan's conflict, threatening the livelihood and human rights of women and girls.

UNICEF reports approximately 65% of women and girls in South Sudan have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes. These forms of GBV can leave women and girls with severe mental and physical health problems.

Why is the rate of sexual violence so high in South Sudan? According to human rights experts, the answer can be found in a fundamental element of South Sudan's local economy – bride price.

In South Sudan, if a man would like to marry a woman, his family would have to pay for her, often in cows or goats, based on her negotiated value. Once women are married off, they are expected to bear many children, including daughters who are viewed as assets to acquire more cattle.

Therefore, early and forced marriages are common with more than 50 percent of girls married before the age of 18. Many young girls are married to elderly suitors because those men have more assets.

The objectification and commodification of women in South Sudanese society allow for a culture in which GBV is accepted and normalized. Traditional gender roles and conditions of poverty sustain the practice of paying bride price.

The lack of women's rights in South Sudan not only leads to suffering but also challenges efforts to promote peace. Cultural notions that women are homemakers and child-bearers drive inequity.

Only 7 percent of girls finish primary school and fewer than 2 percent go on to high school. Families may also worry that girls may be sexually assaulted on their journeys to school, lowering their value and bride price. GBV prevents girls from pursuing their dreams and keeps families trapped in genera-



tional poverty.

The return on education is worth re-evaluating the importance placed on paying bride price. Studies show that a single year of primary school education has been shown to increase women's wages by up to 20% later in life.

If South Sudan is to undergo significant economic development, women and girls must have access to education.

"Women have the opportunity to contribute in building this nation into a country that is stable and peaceful," said South Sudanese activist Rita Lopidia at the inaugural Women Building Peace Award.

Gender equity is intimately tied to achieving stability in South Sudan.

It is imperative that the govern-

ment of South Sudan takes steps to reduce the prevalence of GBV and increase access to education. Addressing the root of this issue, begins with regulating bride price.

Excessive bride prices are a burden on both men and women. Men who cannot afford bride prices experience feelings of inadequacy and social seclusion. Village youths put their life at risk during livestock raids in neighboring tribes to be able to afford marriage.

Women experience violence in the form of physical and sexual violence resulting from the valuation of their worth in terms of livestock.

By targeting social norms that perpetuate these levels of violence, South Sudan can inspire a movement towards rehabilitation and rebuilding.

Although commonly held perceptions will not change overnight, community-based efforts towards

GBV education and awareness-raising will lay the foundation for establishing lasting women's rights laws and policies. If women can become workshop leaders, teachers, and decision-makers in implementing the peace accords, South Sudan will be able to envision a country that serves the needs of all of its people.

The real price of marriage in South Sudan is the opportunity to realize peace and stability. Although bride price is commonly paid in cows and goats, families also sacrifice the well-being of their daughters and higher earning potentials.

The rise of physical and sexual violence in recent weeks indicates that South Sudan is at risk of falling back into large-scale conflict. If South Sudan is to continue on the path of peacemaking and change conditions of underdevelopment, regulating bride prices needs to be on the agenda.

IPS

BYRNECUT OFFSHORE TANZANIA LIMITED
(Incorporated in United Republic of Tanzania)
Registration No. 105147

CERTIFIED EXTRACT OF THE SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY ON 20TH DAY OF APRIL 2021

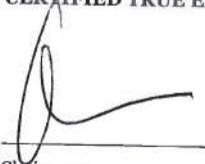
WHEREAS the Directors of the Company have presented Certificate of solvency and proposed cancellation of shares and reduction of the share capital of the company, the following special resolutions were passed at the duly constituted Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Company held on 20th day of April 2021:

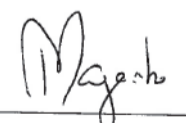
RESOLVED THAT 395,097,407 Shares of TZS 20 each held by Byrncut Offshore PTY Ltd be cancelled from the shares of the Company.


RESOLVED FURTHER THAT upon the cancellation of 395,097,407 shares of the company, the share capital of the company be accordingly reduced by TZS 7,901,948,140 which equivalent to 395,097,407 Shares of TZS 20 each to reflect the cancellation of shares therein and that the remaining shares of the company shall be reconstituted and shall form the full shares of the company.

RESOLVED FURTHER THAT the changes be filed with the relevant Authorities in compliance with the law.

CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT

Chairman: 
Name: GREGORY JACKSON

Secretary: 
Name: IBRAHIM MAGAMBA




TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOP ON HANDLING AND STORAGE OF DANGEROUS CARGO

The Management of Dar es Salaam Port wishes to inform the general public that all cargos which have been classified according to International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code as classes 1, 2.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1 and 7 will not be allowed to be stored into the Port premises and therefore will be treated under direct delivery procedures in order to safeguard the people, port infrastructures, properties and environment. However the rest of the classes falling under the IMDG Code classified cargos will be allowed to have temporary storage into the port premises under the guarding of TPA Fire and Safety Unit

Moreover, this step will be an important milestone for a port towards safety compliance to National regulatory bodies and International regulations and guidelines which regulate imports, exports, handling, storage and transport of dangerous goods in the ports and ships. In that regard, the Port Management envisages that, the implementation of these procedures will safeguard port from disasters, promote safety and health of its staff, port stakeholders, infrastructures, properties and environment.

In view of the above, the Port Management would like to inform the general public that, the implementation of this direct delivery procedures at Dar Es Salaam port effectively commence on 18th January, 2021.

Issue by:
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Tanzania Port Authority
P.O. Box 1130
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Germany's Scholz bets on experience in uphill election battle

BERLIN
GERMAN Finance Minister Olaf Scholz is hoping to overcome his party's poor ratings to win this summer's election by attacking Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives as a club for lobbyists while presenting himself as an experienced crisis manager.
 With Merkel not running in the Sept. 26 vote and centre-right candidate Armin Laschet struggling to unite the CDU/CSU alliance, Scholz sees a chance of ending 16 years of conservative rule.
 But public demand for change, personified by 40-year-old Annalena Baerbock from the Greens, and doubts about his credibility following two business scandals could prevent Scholz, 63, from becoming the next leader of Europe's biggest economy.
 His main challenge will be to translate good personal ratings into support for his centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), polling third behind the conservatives and Greens.
 Scholz told Reuters that opinion polls suggested the SPD was "within striking distance" of its rivals.
 "That's why we're confident that in the coming weeks and months, we'll

reach the strength needed to get the mandate and lead the next coalition government," he said.
 Polls put the SPD on 14-16%, behind the conservatives on 27-28% and the Greens on 20-22%. However, 48% of Germans view Scholz as the best candidate to become chancellor, clearly ahead of Laschet's 43% and Baerbock's 28%.
 So far, Scholz has avoided personal attacks on his rivals, though other SPD politicians have questioned Laschet's ability to make tough decisions and Baerbock's experience.
PANDEMIC
 As finance minister, Scholz's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was described as excellent by the International Monetary Fund.
 During his three-and-a-half years in the post, Scholz ditched balanced budgets at home and helped create the European Union's pandemic recovery fund, overcoming Merkel's resistance to the bloc's unprecedented debt plans.
 With France, Scholz drove efforts to introduce a global corporate minimum tax and new tax rules for tech giants.
 Scholz has denounced the CDU/CSU alliance, his current coalition



partner, as being too close to business groups such as the real estate industry.
 He said the coalition had agreed that landlords and tenants should share additional heating costs caused by an increase in a levy on carbon dioxide (CO2) this year.
 "But it was blocked by the real estate lobby which has the CDU/CSU parliamentary group firmly under its thumb," Scholz told Reuters.
 By casting himself as a level-headed man of action who is not only getting things done, but also promoting social justice more than the Greens, Scholz hopes to attract voters who fear being left behind in the shift towards a more carbon neutral economy following the pandemic.

"There is much at stake in the coming years. If we don't do this right now, we will jeopardize the foundations of our prosperity," Scholz told an audience in Berlin.
 Scholz has also lambasted the Greens for proposing more increases in the CO2 levy, which would mean higher fuel costs for motorists.
 "Anyone who just keeps pushing up fuel prices shows how indifferent he is to the needs of citizens," Scholz said.
 As chancellor, Scholz would increase the minimum wage, tighten rent controls and maintain high public investment in greener and more digital infrastructure.
FINAL SPRINT
 Scholz is counting on a final sprint which would see his party overtake

the Greens to become the second-strongest party, enabling a coalition with the Greens and the Free Democrats (FDP).
 "The closer the election comes, the more voters will look at who is actually running and who really brings the skills to lead this country through difficult times. And this is where Scholz can score against both Baerbock and Laschet," a close aide said.
 Some observers have their doubts.
 "This strategy is simply based on the principle of hope - namely hoping for the mistakes and weaknesses of the other candidates. And that probably won't be enough," said Albrecht von Lucke, a political analyst.
 By presenting himself as the candidate with the most experience and as a continuity figure, Scholz is positioning himself as Merkel's natural succes-

sor.
 "But that in itself won't work to attract centrist voters from the CDU as Laschet himself is far too much of a Merkel type," Lucke added.
 Scholz's attacks on the CDU/CSU alliance over its ties to lobby groups could backfire as it might remind voters of Scholz's role in the bankruptcy of payments company Wirecard and a tax avoidance scandal at the Warburg bank.
 Lawmakers grilled Scholz on both scandals, but failed to find a smoking gun. Scholz has denied any political interference or other wrongdoing.
 As the coronavirus crisis fades, unexpected events abroad - such as the Gaza conflict or the Belarus airliner hijacking - could influence the German election. **Agencies**

Advanced technologies playing decisive role in Guangzhou's response to Covid-19 resurgence

By Du Yifei
SINCE it found new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in late May, Guangzhou, capital city of south China's Guangdong province, has launched the most extensive nucleic acid testing campaign among all cities in the world. From June 4 to 6, the city collected nearly 18.7 million nucleic acid samples.
 Research institutes and sci-tech companies in Guangzhou have provided a vast quantity of advanced technological products and greatly supported the city in epidemic prevention and control, said Sun Xiang, deputy head of Guangzhou Municipal Science and Technology Bureau, at a news briefing on June 9.
 Guangzhou is home to more than 5,500 bio-pharmaceutical enterprises, ranking third among cities in China. Of these bio-pharmaceutical enterprises, over 1,000 are high-tech companies, and many are leading companies in niche markets of the biomedicine industry.
 KingMed Diagnostics, a Guangzhou-based medical diagnostic information services provider, is able to test over 350,000 tubes of nucleic acid samples in this city on a daily basis, setting a new record in the world.
 The company has accumulatively tested a total of over 80 million samples so far, becoming the world's highest ranked institution in terms of the number of tests completed.
 It has been confirmed that the recent resurgence of local COVID-19 infections in Guangzhou was triggered by mutated virus strains first found in India, which feature a shorter incuba-

tion period, faster transmission and higher viral load.
 For the mutated virus strains, Guangzhou sci-tech companies have efficiently completed the research and development of more accurate testing kits.
 Daan Gene, a biomedical high-tech enterprise in Guangzhou, developed a testing kit that can accurately identify the coronavirus variant first discovered in India based on point mutations in gene sequences with high sensitivity and specificity.
 Wondfo, a Guangzhou company focusing on the research and development, production, and sale of point-of-care testing products, has rolled out a testing kit which can detect a wide variety of COVID-19 variants, including the Alpha, Beta and Delta variants.
 To further improve the efficiency in nucleic acid testing, an air-inflated lab was put into operation at the Guangzhou Gymnasium in the city on June 1. It is the first of its kind in Guangdong province.
 Operated by KingMed Diagnostics, the air-inflated lab, together with mobile testing vans and other facilities, has formed a highly efficient testing model, with the daily testing capacity reaching 350,000 tubes.
 If employing a 10-in-1 mixed testing approach, which means put swab samples collected from 10 people in one tube for nucleic acid detection, and then inform the 10 people to undergo separate isolation and testings to further identify the carrier of the positive sample if a 10-in-1 sample is positive, the air-inflated lab and its complementary

facilities can test a maximum of 3.5 million samples on a daily basis.
 After the COVID-19 resurgence, Guangzhou has locked down many neighborhoods for epidemic prevention and control, which poses a challenge for guaranteeing the supply of daily necessities.
 As one of China's new generation of national AI innovative development pilot zones, the city has given full play to AI companies in supplying daily necessities.
 Many companies, including WeRide, Pony.ai, Baidu and JD.com, sent their autonomous vehicles to locked-down areas, effectively tackling problems in the transportation of supplies.
 Meanwhile, relevant government departments in Guangzhou have adopted robots that can take elevators to bring supplies upstairs to residents in time, thus solving the problem of manpower shortage in the delivery of living materials to residents.
 "This is the first time that China, and even the world, adopts autonomous driving technology in anti-epidemic emergency," said Chen Jianhua, chief economist at the Guangzhou Municipal Industry and Information Technology Bureau.
 Driverless vehicles have been used in Baihedong and Zhongnan subdistricts, both high-risk areas in Guangzhou.
 As of June 8, a total of 23 autonomous vehicles and 13 self-driving logistics vans had been used in the locked-down areas of Guangzhou, accumulatively transporting 64.2 tons of supplies.

People's Daily



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MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA (TCRA)

JANJARUKA, Hakiki Usajili wa Laini yako kwa... Kubofya namba *106#

17:02

1. Angalia Usajili
 2. Namba Zilizosajiliwa na NIDA yako
 3. Namba Zilizosajiliwa Mitandao Yote kwa NIDA yako
 4. Kufuta Usajili
 5. Maombi ya Kuongeza Namba

Dismiss Reply

"TUTUMIE MAWASILIANO KUJILETEA MAENDELEO"

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Youth in southern highlands urged to chip in, grab opportunities embedded in agribusiness

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Mbeya

SOKOINE University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) and partners have unlocked potentials in the southern highland regions, calling on the youth to come forward in big number and grab available opportunities on agribusiness.

The cooperative and partners said they are ready to groom up the youth, provide training, share information, link them with value chain actors and financial sources so that they can take up innovative ideas and venture into profitable agribusiness.

They made the call recently during Jijiri business dialogue and expo held at MATI Uyoile in Mbeya region. The discussion brought together youth from Southern highlands particularly Njombe, Iringa, Songwe, Mbeya, Rukwa and Katavi.

SUGECO Executive director Revocatus Kimario said that there is no reason why the youth in the Southern regions should not venture into agribusiness while the regions are endowed with plenty natural resource, good climatic condition and fertile land for fruitful agribusiness.

"We have opened SUGECO branch at MATI Uyoile in Mbeya region to serve for the Southern highland regions to change youth mindset that's why you see this event has brought together the youth and agribusiness value chain actors, stakeholders and partners to discuss on how the youth can create employment through agriculture and agribusiness value chain.

He said Jijiri business dialogue combined the ecosystem to dialogue, discuss and share information on what the agribusiness value chain actors, stakeholders and partners can offer in their projects and programs.

"The main objective is to show them the opportunities and room to grasp the opportunities. Seeing is believing, now they have seen for themselves from what practitioners are doing, we want them to go and venture into agribusiness," he said.

Operations Manager Joseph Masimba challenged the youth to stop wasting their time on unnecessary issues that will not help them, instead they should take advantage of the training and partners efforts to venture into agribusiness. "If you want to make substantial progress towards attaining your goal, it is important to shun from unnecessary issues and start agriculture and agribusiness," he said.

Iringa based Hadija Jabiry, founder and director of GBRI Business Solutions Limited, a horticultural export company branding European shelves with fresh produce from Tanzania said with commitment and determination to the course, the youth can successfully venture into agribusiness.

"I am here to inspired you nothing is impossible. Don't get discouraged. Start now, commit to agribusiness. There are challenges but you can over-come them easily if you stay focused, she said.

One of the beneficiaries of Jijiri business dialogue Suzan Lyimo, a third year student from Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) said that she has been inspired by speakers, acquired technical knowledge, skills and potential of agribusiness. "I have also learnt about competency, innovation potential of agribusiness and how to access funds from financial institutions," she said.



Youths groomed by SUGECO in jovial mood after successfully venturing into agribusiness. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Program Director for Helvetas Tanzania which is one of the main partners of SUGECO, Daniel Kalimbiya urged the youth and women to venture into horticulture production and marketing to increase food security and nutrition in the southern highlands.

Funded by European Union, Helvetas is implementing a project on empowering women and youth in horticulture production and marketing. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to inclusive economic growth, promote private sector development and job creation in the horticulture sector, and increase food security and nutrition in Tanzania's Southern highland regions particularly Songwe, Mbeya and Katavi.

"We are planning to reach and support a total of 75,000 people in smallholder farm households and 500 farmer groups, associations and processors in the southern highlands," he said.

The project is aims at improving income and nutrition in

the regions through targeted interventions in the horticulture sector by capacity building and training the farmers in good horticulture practices (GHP) and climate smart agriculture. The smallholder farmers are being trained on business development, promotion of innovative technologies, value addition and processing. Promotion of market research through visits, trade fairs and media and support to public-private partnership through the development of small-medium scale horticulture industrial parks.

He said the horticulture industry in Tanzania is the fastest growing sub-sector with a growth rate of 10 percent per year. It is mostly dominated by smallholder farmers including women and the youth.

Program Coordinator for Rikolto Tanzania Shukuru Tweve said women and the youth should venture in horticulture for quick returns.

"Many youth are completing schools and University but cannot all be absorbed by formal employment. Agricultural sector has proved to be one of the solutions.

Rikolto through funding from European Union and the government of Tanzania we are working on agri-connect project to translate their ideas into action," he said.

He said that agri-connect project is being implemented in five regions of Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya, Songwe and Katavi where the youth are being trained and groomed up through a special generation program.

Financial institutions such as NMB got an opportunity to discuss with women and the youth funding programs, opportunities and soft credits they offer in agribusiness.

Earlier on, Principal MATI Inyala, Eng. Fredrick Batakanwa who represented the director for training on services and research urged the youth and university graduates to change their mindset and start thinking self employment and creating jobs through agribusiness. He commended SUGECO and partners for organizing Jijiri business dialogue to inspire and equip the youth with hands-on skills useful for agribusiness.

He said that nowadays MATI has moved from theory based training to competent based training.

"When the students get in the class, he or she will spend 60 percent for practical and 40 percent for class. So, I recommend SUGECO and partners for coming up with this dialogue and they should conduct this in all MATI across Tanzania," he said.

In a move to promote agribusiness, groom up the youth and change their mindset, recently, SUGECO launched Kizimba Business Model (KBM) in Morogoro which is an entrepreneurial approach for agriculture sector development where a block of land is developed with all necessary infrastructure and facilities divided into small units called Kizimba and leased or transferred to individual farmers.

\$104m programme targets land degradation in African, central Asian countries

By Special Correspondent

THE global launch of a \$104 million initiative signals an ambitious effort by a range of partners to safeguard drylands in the context of climate change, fragile ecosystems, biodiversity loss, and deforestation in 11 African and Central Asian countries.

Funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes helps pave the way for initiatives linked to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The Program will be implemented in partnership with the International Union

for the Conservation of Nature, the World Bank, and the World Wildlife Fund.

The Program, launched last week at the Global Landscapes Forum's virtual event, Restoring Africa's Drylands, will involve work across three critical dryland biomes - the Miombo and Mopane ecosystems of Southern Africa, the savannas of East and West Africa, and temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands of Central Asia - to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation through sustainable land and forest management.

The 11 countries covered are: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

"As a multifocal and integrated initiative, the Program will support countries in addressing common dryland management challenges and result in numerous benefits in areas of land degradation, biodiversity and climate change and food security," said Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General, at the event.

The program will bring 12 million hectares of drylands under sustainable land management, of which 1.1 million hectares will primarily benefit biodiversity and avoid deforestation of 10,000 hectares of high conservation value forests. The program will also reach more than 1 million direct beneficiaries, improve the management effectiveness in 1.6 million hectares of protect-

ed areas, restore nearly 1 million hectares of degraded land in the drylands, and reduce 34.6 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Through the next five years, the Program sets the ground for accelerated action under the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and will advance the national and global efforts in supporting countries in meeting their commitments under several international accords, including the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Bonn Challenge, AFR100, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Drylands cover over 40 percent of the Earth's landmass and are home to

around two billion people, supply about 60 percent of the world's food production, and support a wide array of critical biodiversity.

Drylands face increasing and combined threats of climate change, population growth, global demands for livestock, and new difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Common management challenges, such as limited connections between local knowledge with global networks and fragmented approaches, hamper the ability for communities and countries to turn the tide on land degradation.

An integrated approach, across sectors and regions

The launch event featured participation from countries

and partners, linking local and national perspectives to regional and global representations, such as the Southern African Development Community and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The event reflected the Program's integrated approach by connecting land users to national governments and intergovernmental fora to elevate local action for impact at scale.

The Program takes a catalytic, country-driven approach to accelerating transformational and durable changes at scale by developing effective planning, management and governance systems, mobilizing national and international stakeholders to strengthen dryland value chains, and co-

producing knowledge based on innovative spatial assessment tools. It expressly accounts for the similar and transboundary nature of many of the challenges facing drylands.

The program will be implemented in consortium with the UN Environment Program and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies.

The Program will be expanded to involve additional countries through regional and global mechanisms, such as FAO's Committee on Forestry Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, to share knowledge and best practices on dryland ecosystems.

Conservation groups in Sadani wards plant 38,433 natural trees

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

CONSERVATION groups in Sadani and Igombavunu wards in Mufindi District, Iringa Region have planted 38,433 natural trees in 109 water sources across six villages in effort to restore the environment in the area.

WWF Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Matrida Simfukwe revealed this recently when speaking at the World Environment Day (WED) held at Utosi Village in Sadani Ward at the district level.

Simfukwe said that in commemoration of the day, the Care-WWF Alliance intends to join hands with other Tanzanians in helping to save the ecosystem by planting trees in water sources to refill water resources, and natural vegetation damaged by human activities.

She said that the CARE-WWF Alliance past one year has supported the six villages to plant 38,433 natural trees in 109 wetlands and water sources across the said villages.

She noted that the alliance is also introducing the new project to the new project villages in Iringa and Mufindi districts and also donated 180 beehives and fencing wires to six village communities in the area to support the restoration of wetlands and water flow in the Ndembera River.

Tanzania joins other nations in the world in celebrating World Environment Day which is celebrated every year on 5 June. This celebration is based on decisions made by the United Nations in 1972.

Internationally this celebration was held in Pakistan with the motto, "Ecosystem Restoration". And nationally this celebration was guided by the motto, "Use renewable energy, to guide the ecosystem."

The slogan encourages communities to use renewable energy to save water sources, forests and vegetation that continue to be degraded as massive use of charcoal energy continue to cause serious damage to the environment and water resources.

Simfukwe explained that the CARE-WWF Alliance has received funds from WWF US to implement the new three years project (2021-2023) namely "Saving and Credit Groups for Sustainable food and ecosystem".

This project builds on the previous Scaling Up Impacts in Southern Africa pro-



ject (2016-2020), in particular, Alliance work in SAGCOT, and the project goal is to increase household income of 5,000 farming families (at least 60% women), while improving the ecosystem services in the Great Ruaha catchment.

She said that the project seeks to improve the well-being of 22,500 individuals in the Great Ruaha watershed.

Specifically, the CARE-WWF Alliance project will support collaborative engagement in agricultural value chains in Iringa and Mufindi districts through Common beans, Irish potatoes, and nature-based value chains to strengthen market position, reduce transaction costs and risks, and create incentives for collective enterprise investments. "Group-wide and multi-group investments will enable VSLAs to make bulk purchases of ag-

ricultural inputs and capital equipment, support group training on good agricultural practices and conservation of natural resources, and build sustainable models of eco credit for smallholder farmers," said Simfukwe.

Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) are a key way to provide access to financial services for people living in areas which financial institutions typically ignore and where the cycle of poverty prevails. CARE-WWF Alliance will launch the Investment model within existing value chain interventions (including common beans, Irish potatoes and nature-based value chains) and then integrate it into future value chain projects.

Mufindi District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Joseph Mchina commended the CARE-WWF Alliance project for designing and setting up a sys-

tem to distribute beehives to the community conservation groups, where it said the hives will be a catalyst in caring for and valuing the environment.

He urged the people of those areas and other areas not to damage the environment by destroying water sources especially by cultivating and cutting down trees around water sources.

He noted explained that by doing so they would be committing a criminal offense and deserves to be severely punished in accordance with environmental laws, regulations and procedures.

"Be it our habit and culture to take care of the environment to avoid the scourge of climate change. Every citizen should be a protector of each other in improving the environment for our benefit," Mchina stressed.

Mchina also thanked the district for its great contribution in involving citizens, companies, organizations, and various institutions by encouraging mass tree planting to preserve the environment.

The Care-WWF Alliance project provided beehives to community groups in the six project villages located in Sadani and Igombavunu wards and each village received 30 beehives for the establishment of a beekeeping project which will increase their income from products of bees such as honey, beeswax and bee venom.

According to the Care-WWF project coordinator Dr Abubakary Kijoji, the current strategy is to continue to conserve 109 water sources by planting a lot of trees that are natural and environmentally friendly to restore natural vegetation.

He said that with great awareness of the people in caring for the water sources the CARE-WWF team has donated 180 beehives and fencing wires to six village communities in Mufindi to support the restoration of wetlands and water flow in Ndembera River.

Dr Kijoji also said that the Care-WWF project in collaboration with the Rufuji Basin Water Board (RBWB) has built a water monitoring centre on the Mkikifuku River in Utosi village to find out if the water level is rising or falling and if the water is declining to identify the challenges that cause water depletion.

Chinese firm operating Darwin port in Australia wins applause from locals

CANBERRA.

THE Chinese company Landbridge does much more than just running the Darwin Port in the Northern Territory (NT) of Australia, as it has been gradually engaged with local community at various levels, said local workers at the port.

Kerri Small, who is in charge of Work Health, Safety, and Partnerships at the port, told Xinhua recently that the company is also sponsor of the Darwin Festival and the Darwin Film Festival, as well as supporter of various local sporting events, and host to student excursions.

The company has also increased activities in the area of skill training for indigenous teenagers and school leavers.

"(Local) people recognize and understand Darwin Port and Landbridge well," she said.

LOCAL RECOGNITION

According to an announcement by the NT government in October 2015, the Darwin Port was leased for 99 years to the Landbridge Group, a private company based in Rizhao city in eastern China's Shandong province.

Landbridge has sponsored the Darwin Festival for the past four years, which falls in August when the country is in winter and people would travel to the warmer north to enjoy sunshine, as well as the Darwin Film Festival, which "supports local filmmakers and new Australian and international talent to spring-board and showcase their movies or short films for early preview and screening," she said.

"These festivals are really important for Darwin," Small continued. "They attract a lot of local interest and promote tourism."

Each year the port also receives about 12 schools for excursions, some of the students are from indigenous communities as remote as in Katherine or Tennant Creek, and some are even from New South Wales and Victoria.

"They've chosen Landbridge Darwin Port as a work place of interest to come and visit us," Small said. "Our aim is to give these students some exposure to what we do as a port operator and the types of roles and responsibilities you can have within the organization," she added.

For some young people, Landbridge has provided employment opportunities in the form of apprenticeships.

Three years ago, two new apprentices commenced with Darwin Port, including a young indigenous boy from the community of Jabiru who wanted to come to the city, get a job and build his grandmother a house later.

He won the position in metal fabrication out of 30 applicants, and was awarded 2020 Northern Territory Young Aboriginal Apprentice of the Year. He will complete his four-year apprenticeship next year.

"When he finishes his apprenticeship he will be a fully qualified metal fabricator, and he'll have the opportunity to perhaps remain with Darwin Port, or go and get a job anywhere and continue to earn quite good money as a qualified tradesman," Small said.

She said it was important "in a very competitive world where employment is not that easy, especially at the moment with COVID-19."

"Our intention is to continually grow these career prospects and training ground opportunities for local people," she said.

Small noted that Landbridge enjoyed a good reputation among the locals during the past six years. "I have been raised here locally all my life, and I have a lot of family and friends here. I have not been approached with negative comments about Landbridge Darwin Port. It's always been very positive," she said.

The woman, who has worked at the port for 27 years, said she's happy to see the successful transition

of Darwin Port from the NT government to Landbridge.

"Landbridge has provided a lot of opportunities for its workforce, a lot of growth in skill including the chance to multi skill and cross-over into other operations and departments," she said.

Workers feel connected here and happy with workplace culture here, which in turn helps improve operational efficiencies for the business, she added.

DEVELOPMENT ENGINE

Her view was shared by Darren Lambourn, CEO at the Darwin Port Operations Pty Ltd, which is part of Landbridge.

Having worked at different ports, Lambourn told Xinhua that he likes his job at Darwin Port.

Talking about the transition, he said: "It's about getting out the old government mindset and getting more commercial, about productivity and getting more efficient at what we do and also investing in our people's careers, so giving them skills they may not had before."

According to Lambourn, from 2015 to 2020, the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of Darwin Port increased about 71 percent, from 17.48 million to 30 million, while the LNG/LPG (Liquefied natural gas/petroleum gas) vessel visits increased 261.67 percent from 60 to 217.

Landbridge upgraded infrastructure at the port, and the development of the Darwin Port could benefit the city and even the entire territory, he said.

"Through...the growth of the port, people want to invest in the territory and want to invest in Darwin. That means more containers, more people, more food, more clothing, more furniture...It's just a growth place," said Lambourn.



File photo taken in August 2020 shows the local festivals and activities in Darwin supported by Darwin Port in the Northern Territory, Australia. (Xinhua)

UNWARRANTED SCRUTINY

However, the lease of Darwin Port has come under renewed scrutiny with the Australian government. Not long ago, the Australian government canceled cooperation agreements under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) between the government of Victoria state and the Chinese side.

Mike Hughes, vice president of Landbridge in Australia, said in an opinion piece published on the Australian Financial Review last month that after spending most of his career working for multinationals investing in different parts of the world, he has never seen "a company as badly treated as Landbridge Group in Australia".

"In the months and years...sideline critics have continued to carp about the lease. That is despite a Senate inquiry in which senior officials from Defence and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), both clearly said they had no issue with Landbridge," he said.

"In almost six years I have yet to hear a single concern about Landbridge operating the port that has merit," he said.

He said that noises about the Darwin Port could send a worrying message.

"Having observed the past five years of treatment meted out to Landbridge, other prospective investors might consider putting their money elsewhere," he said. This is not something that people like Kerri Small would like to see, who said that her colleagues enjoyed work at the Landbridge.

"They come and join the port, and they like what they're doing with Landbridge, and they feel valued," she said. "I am very very happy as an employee of Landbridge Darwin Port," she added. **Xinhua**



Aerial photo taken in September 2017 shows the Darwin Port in the Northern Territory, Australia. (Xinhua)

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



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TanGold chief applauds dry stack tailings, non-acidic discharge at Buckreef Mine

By Smart Money Reporter

RESULTS of tested metallurgical samples from Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita have shown non acidic generating hence justifying dry stack tailings development which is more environmentally friendly.

Tanzania Gold Corporation CEO, Stephen Mallowney said in a recent report that testing done by SGS Canada Inc., have shown that three diamond core samples taken from the fresh rock of the Buckreef Gold are positive.

"The final initial metallurgical report confirms and adds to the positive metallurgical findings disclosed in February. We were very pleased with the recommended straightforward flowsheet and the fact that the samples tested did not exhibit any preg-robbing or other refractory characteristics," Mallowney said.

"The samples were also not acid generating, confirming our approach of dry stack tailings going forward, which is much more environmentally friendly versus wet tailings. We look forward to working with SGS on variability testing for the sulphide feasibility study," he added.

TanGold which operating through its wholly owned subsidiary, Tanzam2000 Limited is developing Buckreef Mine jointly with State Mining Corporation (STAMICO), said the SGS study results shown highly favourable metallurgical test results from the sulphide component of the Buckreef Gold Mine mineral resource.

He said SGS Canada Inc. was retained to complete initial metallurgical test work at their Lakefield, Ontario facility on the sulphide component of the mineral resource and that the work had been completed.

SGS will now be commissioned to undertake the metallurgical variability

phase for Buckreef Gold which will encompass the first 5-7 years of produc-

tion from the sulphide operation at the mine, the company stated.



Stephen Mallowney.

Meanwhile, TanGold has appointed Tanzanian Khalaf Rashid as Senior Vice President, Tanzania and as Managing Director of Tanzam2000.

Commenting on Rashid's appointment, Mallowney said, "Establishing a successful business requires a multitude of skill sets, Khalaf exhibits a strong business acumen and awareness of Government policy."

"He will work closely with our joint venture partner STAMICO, and our exceptional technical team in Tanzania, including our COO, Andrew Cheatle and Co-General Managers at Buckreef, Isaac and Gaston, in the development of Buckreef," he added.

He said Rashid joins the TanGold executive team bringing a wealth of experience and family history in Tanzanian business, politics and government that dates back many years. He described him as being highly respected and recognized in the business community having held senior executive positions in multiple sectors including industrials, education and marketing communications.

Audit flags Sh4.4bn Konza Data Centre's job payment

NAIROBI

THE Auditor-General has raised the red flag over direct payments of Sh4.4 billion from a Chinese lender to telecoms giant Huawei for the construction of the Konza Data Centre.

Nancy Gathungu says the lender could not produce documents to validate the payments to Huawei, raising concerns that taxpayers could lose billions of shillings through unsubstantiated payment demands.

The Konza project, conceived in 2017 by the ICT ministry and Huawei, entails the development of core infrastructure including a national cloud data centre, a smart ICT network, a public safe city

and smart traffic solution, and a government cloud and enterprise service. The Chinese tech giant Huawei was picked to develop the Konza Data Centre and Smart City.

"Annexes to the contract containing the terms and conditions of the contract including timelines, deliverables, and payment schedules in support of the payments were not provided," Ms Gathungu said in the latest audit of the State Department for ICT tabled in Parliament last week.

"Consequently, the validity of Sh4,393,499,464 included in the reported proceeds from foreign borrowings totaling Sh11,273,229,015 for the year ended June 30, 2020 could not be ascertained," Ms Gathungu said in the report dated May 12, 2021. Article 206 of

the Constitution requires that all money raised or received by or on behalf of the national government shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

"Money may be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund only in accordance with an appropriation by an Act of Parliament, in accordance with Article 222 or 223 or as a charge against the Fund as authorised by this Constitution or an Act of Parliament," the Constitution states.

It also bars the withdrawal of money from the Consolidated Fund unless the Controller of Budget has approved the transaction. Ms Gathungu said the financing agreement for the Konza Data Centre was signed on April 19, 2019, which was almost two years



Kenya's Auditor-General, Nancy Gathungu.

after the contract award date of June 22, 2017.

Kenya and China signed project delivery agreements worth Sh67.5 billion for the Konza Data Centre and Smart Cities Project by Huawei and the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport-James Gichuru expressway, the 27 kilometre double-decker road which is under construction in Nairobi.

President Uhuru Kenyatta, who

was in China for the second Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) forum in April 2019, witnessed the signing of the Konza and Expressway deals that were to be fulfilled through concessional financing and Public-Private-Partnership (PPP).

According to a dispatch from State House, the Konza project deal is worth Sh17.5 billion while the expressway project, by the China Road and Bridge Corporation, is worth Sh50 billion. Konza City is part of the Konza Techno City, a Vision 2030 flagship project started in 2008 and aimed at developing technology-intensive and high-tech industries in ICT, biotechnology, and e-commerce.

It is estimated that Phase I of the project will create more than 17,000 jobs and contribute Sh90 billion to the Kenyan economy. This phase, which sits on 410 acres of land, is distributed into mixed-use (89 acres), university (39 acres), residential (26 acres), and life science (26 acres). Others include office space (11 acres), retail (eight acres), cultural commu-

nity (one acre), parks (79 acres), and transportation and public space (130 acres).

The Konza Technopolis Development Authority (KOTDA) in February this year revealed that laying of 500 kilometres of ICT cabling in Konza city had been completed, boosting efforts to open up the technopolis for private companies seeking to set up in the greenfield city.

The infrastructure is meant to attract investment by providing a ready-to-plug backbone ICT network. The project has also done 40 kilometres of powerlines, one main electrical station plus 50 substations.

By February 2022, the technology city plans to complete horizontal infrastructure including design and construction of roads, parks, sub-services, water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants, and an automatic waste collection system. Others are a police station and fire station, a security feature as well as a transit hub covering 600 acres.

IMF to explore options to reallocate US \$100 billion to poorest countries

LONDON

THE International Monetary Fund welcomed the support extended by the Group of Seven in expanding the fund's emergency reserves by \$650 billion and said it would work with the group to re-allocate \$100bn to aid post-pandemic recovery in some of the world's poorest countries.

The G7's support for the IMF's special drawing rights (SDRs) will help boost global reserves and will provide more space for necessary fiscal expenditures to recover sustainably, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement on Sunday.

"Leaders also expressed a willingness to magnify its impact including through voluntarily channelling SDRs and/or budget loans to reach a total global ambition of \$100bn for the most vulnerable countries," she said.

"In the coming months, I will be exploring with our membership options on how, together, we can get this done." The G7 meeting was a "consequential summit," Ms Georgieva said, noting the group was stepping up efforts to exit the crisis. "I can assure you that the IMF is playing its part."

The coronavirus pandemic, which shuttered borders and disrupted trade, has tipped the world economy into its

worst recession since the 1930s.

However, the health crisis has disproportionately affected the poor countries that are lagging behind while the developed nations recover on the back of vaccinations.

The world's biggest 20 economies rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021, according to a recent report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. However, the pandemic has reversed poverty reduction gains in many low-income countries, further aggravating the inequality between the developing and developed countries, the World Bank said last week in its economic forecast.

The fund's \$650bn SDRs is one of the largest issuance and will be channelled to help some of the world's poorest countries free up resources to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is seen as an integral tool to avoid an uneven global recovery, where poor countries languish from the impact of the pandemic while richer countries recover at a much faster pace.

The fund last issued SDRs during the 2009 global financial crisis but Ms Georgieva said earlier this year in a blog post that repeating the move could help the world economy now.



The IMF's managing director Kristalina Georgieva arrives to attend the G7 Finance ministers' meeting in the UK.

Official at European Medicines Agency suggests ditching AstraZeneca vaccine

BRUSSELS

A top official in the European Medicines Agency said it might be worth abandoning AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine for all age groups where alternatives were available. Marco Cavaleri, the EMA's head of vaccine strategy, also told Italy's La Stampa newspaper that Johnson & Johnson's vaccine should be preferred for those aged over 60.

The so-called viral vector vaccines are authorised for everyone over 18 but have been put in doubt by reports of rare blood clots. The EU has also authorised the messenger RNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Italy on Saturday restricted AstraZeneca vaccines to people aged 60 and over after concerns about the health risks for younger people.

Mr Cavaleri said it would be better to ban AstraZeneca, including for the over 60s. "Yes, and it is an option that many countries, such as France and Germany, are considering in the light of the increased availability of mRNA vaccines," he said.

"However, incidents were very rare and after the first dose. It is true that there is less data on the second dose, but in the United Kingdom, it is going well. Among young people, the risks of illness decrease, and the message for them could be to use preferentially the mRNA vaccines but the choice is left to individual states."

Mr Cavaleri said the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine has "fewer problems than AstraZeneca", but it had been less widely used. "With one dose it is useful for some categories that are difficult to reach, but it remains an adenovirus [vaccine] and it is preferable to reserve it for the over-60s," he said. The EMA later tweeted: "Misinformation is making the rounds today."

TBS official counsels commodity traders, customs officers on aflatoxin monitoring



Maize badly damaged by aflatoxins.

By Smart Money Reporter

COMMODITY traders and customs officials have been advised to understand well the subject of aflatoxins so that they can safeguard safety of crops being exported to other countries.

Tanzania Bureau of Standards marketing Officer Rhoda Mayungu told the traders and customs officials that their knowledge of the substance will also help safeguard quality of crops such as maize sold to other countries in the region.

"Customs officers and traders of maize and other cereals are facing a challenge of shipments being refused by other countries due to poor quality caused by aflatoxins," said Mayungu adding that often, border officials and the traders don't have laboratory information relating to their consignments hence face regulatory blockades by authorities in importing countries.

She said the traders and customs officers should ensure that commodities such as

maize and cereals meant for exporting to other countries need to be hygienically safe without elements of aflatoxins such as rotteness and bad smell.

She told them that if they see rotten maize with bad smell then its signs that its contaminated by aflatoxins hence unfit for human consumption. The TBS Marketing Officer further noted that fungal toxins cannot be easily seen by naked eyes except laboratory testing. "If maize or other grains were found to be contaminated with toxins, consumption may harm consumers," Mayungu warned.

She said when one eats aflatoxins contaminated maize, they are likely to suffer from stomach pains, jaundice, vomiting and convulsions in the short term while long-term effects may include liver cancer, decreased immunity, stunted growth in children and loss of life.

"We call upon commodity cross border traders and customs officials to ensure that they get technical advice from TBS officials to avoid rejection of consignments by authorities in importing countries," she advised.

Mayungu said TBS is mandated with testing of such commodities which are issued with clearance documents to qualify for exporting to other countries without any blockade by authorities. Recently, Kenya blocked a convoy of trucks loaded with maize which was being exported because of concerns of aflatoxins presence.

Authorities in Nairobi argued that the Tanzanian maize had high levels of aflatoxins hence unfit for consumption. President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to Nairobi ended the blockaded when President Uhuru Kenyatta ordered his appointees to allow the truck into the country.

Internet Society pens an agreement to reinforce Ethiopia's digital aspirations

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MINT) of Ethiopia and the Internet Society announced a new collaboration agreement to help advance the digital economy and drive economic transformation.

The Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy was officially introduced last year by the Ethiopian government with the central goal to leverage digital technologies to bolster socio-economic development. The Internet Society has now pledged its support for the implementation of this strategy and help the country roll out digital services to advance key sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, services, and tourism. "The agreement will also help expand connectivity to rural areas, build Internet infrastructure, and strengthen Internet governance," reads a statement released to the media.

The agreement was signed at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology during the Advanced Data Science and Visualisation training by Dr Ahmedin Mohammed, State Minister for Innovation and Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and Dr Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President - Africa, Internet Society.

Dr Mohammed said, "The Ethiopian government has set the digital transformation of the national economy as one of its strategic priorities. For the realisation of this, the government introduced the first ever digital transformation strategy which is a visionary umbrella strategy from which sectors and institutions can then design or align their efforts."

"The Digital 2025 strategy has a goal to see digital transformation playing a key role for inclusive prosperity; innovating and applying the culture, practices, processes and technologies of the digital era to respond to citizens raised expectations." He added, "This strategy shall be realised through collaboration and commitment of everyone including government, non-governmental, development partners and societies. The strategy demands aggressive commitment to increase infrastructure, enabling systems, digital applications, and enabling ecosystem."

Dr Bekele said: "This collaboration comes at a time when Ethiopia is liberalising its telecommunications sector which is in line with the increasing the infrastructure. We sign this



Dr Dawit Bekele, Regional Vice President - Africa, Internet Society.

agreement to increase rural connectivity and make sure that everyone in Ethiopia benefits from the digital transformation." The Internet Society recently partnered with the Ministry to organise Ethiopia's first Internet Development conference and the school of Internet Governance for Ethiopia.

Currently, the internet society working with the Ministry in Ethiopia's preparation to host the World Telecommunication Development Conference and organising trainings on advanced topics such as data science, blockchain and IOT. The organisation is also working with authorities to support the development of community networks in the Awi zone, Amhara Regional State, "and helping young men and women learn how to design, deploy, and maintain local area networks in Bahr Dar."

SupPlant looks to bring agritech solutions to SA

JOHANNESBURG

ISRAELI-BASED agritech firm SupPlant has received \$10 million (R137 million) funding and is looking to use some of the funds to expand into SA. The round is co-led by Boresight Capital, Menomadin Foundation, Smart-Agro Fund and Mivtah Shamir, and brings SupPlant's total funding to more than \$19 million.

In a statement, SupPlant says the round comes as global warming impacts South African farmers, who are dealing daily with the climate that is changing rapidly, causing tropical storms, cold spells, heat waves and constant lack of irrigation water.

SupPlant notes it is helping farmers to cope with climate change by making its technology, which changes the basic concepts of irrigation, more available in the South African market. According to the company, the technology saves water, reduces costs, improves productivity and yield. SupPlant uses agronomic algorithms, artificial intelligence and cloud-based technology to help farmers achieve these goals.

It measures the stress of the plant and monitors water content, alongside plant and fruit growth patterns, with sensors located on four parts of the plant. This data is then combined with

real-time and forecasted climatic data and creates a plant-based monitoring tool for farmers to follow their crops in real-time.

The company explains that this info is uploaded every 10 minutes to an algorithm in the cloud, which provides simple, precise irrigation recommendations to farmers based on the integration of all this data. SupPlant's database holds the combined expertise of 31 crops across 14 countries, covering growing conditions from dry arid regions of the Middle East, to tropical conditions in central America.

SupPlant's vision is that its technology will be integrated into every irrigation command given on earth. The company experienced a growth of 1 200% in 2020, and its technology is widely used in Mexico, Australia and Argentina. SupPlant is represented and distributed in SA by AECI Plant Health.

"The funds raised in this round will allow us to speed up implementation of our technology in South Africa with the support of our partners AECI Plant Health," says Ori Ben Ner, CEO of SupPlant. "We aim to reach as many South African farmers as possible and help them use less water and produce more and better fruit."



Ori Ben Ner, CEO of SupPlant.

Luno taps into Africa's ongoing flirtation with cryptocurrency

JOHANNESBURG

CRYPTOCURRENCY company Luno, founded in South Africa in 2013 by Marcus Swanepoel and Timothy Stranex, said this week it now reaches eight million customers (e-wallets), with 30% of its customer base in South Africa - and rising interest in Nigeria.

In February this year ITWeb reported that the company, along with other cryptocurrency firms, halted deposits in naira after the Nigerian government moved to restrict operators in the country. The report included a statement from the company: "Nigeria's regulators have taken a pragmatic and forward-looking approach to crypto-currency in the past and we're confident this issue can be resolved quickly, so Nigeria can continue to play a central role in the growth of crypto-currency."

Luno's leadership attributes the company's growth to general ongoing interest in cryptocurrencies and what it describes as the simplicity of its online and mobile platforms, as well as its proactive engagement with regulators and banks regarding secure access to cryptocurrencies. While much of the focus elsewhere has been on investment, speculation, and trading, in Africa the utility of cryptocurrencies is attractive says Marius Reitz, GM for Africa at Luno.

"About 30% of Luno's customer base is in South Africa and we have added over 300,000 new wallets in the country over the past three months. We were the first company to enable South Africans and Nigerians to buy crypto with their local currency, which made access safe and easy. Although we operate in over 40 countries, Luno views Africa as one of - if not the most promising region for the adoption of cryptocurrencies due to its particular combination of economics and demographics," said Reitz. The company is targeting a billion customers by 2030.

Regulatory bodies need better coordination to facilitate investments in financial sector

By Petrus Mare

THERE is currently a lot of restructuring in the insurance and investment sector. Even though Rome was not built in a day, communication was certainly more effective compared to what we are seeing between the Tanzanian government and the insurance and investment regulatory authorities.

"Asterix and Obelix" would know that strategies, without an effective way to measure and overview them, are akin to the expectation that skyscrapers would stand strong on beach sand despite the flow. Before I bring down the hammer, I want to make it known that a majority of the regulatory authorities have been nothing but helpful to me, being co-operative and understanding in working together to see how we can find the means to keep "the money" in Tanzania.

Unfortunately, others have not been so welcoming. Slapping their 2018 'Institutions' magazine in my hand to study in my private time, politely yet clearly conveys that I should see myself out, as historical prejudice gets the better of the day. Barely the inclusive attitude one would expect when these regulators have all come together to outlay their vision for 2030 dubbed 'Financial Sector Development Master Plan- Life Insurance Sub Sector.'

Although their intentions might have started off well, it doesn't take a prior Melrose financial planner to figure out that if these were the guidelines for future insurance companies to manifest their dreams in Tanzania, the local ombudsman would be the only institution growing faster than KFC in the Transkei region of the rainbow nation. Don't say what I'm not saying-as a father I wouldn't consider becoming a Tanzanian resident if I haven't done my due diligence. There are two ends of the sword, always. In this laid back, peaceful environment one has to take the good with the bad. I would rather have these restriction issues, yet a foundation built on peace, than live a fearful yet luxurious Johannesburg lifestyle.

A relaxed environment, however, does not excuse government of the responsibility to find measurable methods to progress the finance sector. Out of more than 300 participants in a 2018 survey, 12 companies indicated their readiness to pursue plans to raise capital through Initial Public Offering (IPO) and subsequently list on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

As one of the interventions to help bridge the gap for the SMEs sector in the context of the observed hindrances, the DSE has brought in a new program dubbed 'DSE Enterprises Acceleration Program.' The objective, amongst others, is



to provide capacity building to identify and enhance their capacities in key areas of their business growth ecosystem and ease their access to various sustainable funding options, both locally and globally.

The program looks for all the traits one would imagine from a company showcasing real potential. It's spearheaded by another acronym: FSDT. There is a price of 5m/- to be paid before joining this illustrious program, after which you will be facilitated through an 18-month curriculum. And although I would prefer to turn to a multi-million-dollar company's owner for mentorship when looking to enlist in a stock exchange, I don't conclude the institution bears no function whatsoever.

But where are the actual numbers of company's about to list and the tracking of the governmental overview to pressurize these implementers to get a move on? If I had sensed a rush to get into the door at the stock exchange, I would have thought twice before sharing my conclusions with you. This is disappointing, because everyone in the office were nothing shy of friendly, professional and forthcoming. This office needs to be bursting at the seams!

Fundamentals need to shift in place, and quick! The GDP almost fully recovered from last year's "mis-fire" due to the coronavirus crisis.

Many financial sector business owners in Dar es Salaam share my consent that if regulators find common ground with outside experts and leave the victim mindset in the past, we could be closing in on South Africa's economy by the year 2060.

The IMF estimated the year's growth at only 3.6 percent. With barely any pandemic restrictions in place we should be expecting 2019 figures again soon. At the financial planning company where I started my career, we could only invest in

local (South African) companies. They don't operate under what is known as a CAT 2 license, which enables you to create share portfolios abroad.

The issue with the latter is that regardless of how many times the money circulates, the holding company usually sits in Europe, holding the profits. We want to create portfolios here. I am hopeful that we can pull it together with local companies so that the structure is set for future generations.

I envision the day I invest my clients' money in a local only balanced fund with allocation in local bonds, equity, cash and property. Amongst about one million professionals in the corporate world, and awareness is finally rising that investing isn't only a means to secure your own future, but, that through investing, you are securing future health care, infrastructure and overall societal wellbeing.

Petrus Mare (pictured) is an investment and finance adviser based in Dar es Salaam. He can be contacted through: HYPERLINK "mailto:realpetrusplanning@gmail.com" "blank" realpetrusplanning@gmail.com

VIEW FROM THE TOP

G7 summit puts its weight behind drive to vaccinate the world by the end of 2022

LONDON

BORIS Johnson hailed "a big step" towards vaccinating the world on Sunday as the G7 made new commitments to provide one billion doses to poorest countries and the richest nations promised a great global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"There has been a fantastic degree of harmony," Mr Johnson said after the discussions in Cornwall, England, which marked the first official overseas visit by US President Joe Biden. "We set a target to vaccinate the world by the end of next year."

At the heart of the three-day meeting was the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The group said it would fund or redirect the supply of one billion doses in 2021 to less advantaged countries, having secured 870 extra jabs at the summit. "Total G7 commitments since the start of the pandemic provide for a total of over two billion vaccine doses, with the commitments since we last met in February 2021, including here in Carbis Bay, providing for one billion doses over the next year," the official communique of the meeting said.

Dr Seth Berkley, ceo of the vaccine alliance Gavi, welcomed the announcement with campaigners calling it a watershed moment. "As we strive towards our goal of ending the acute phase of the pandemic, we look forward to working with countries to ensure these doses pledged are quickly turned into doses delivered," he said.

The group increased pressure on China to ensure a full explanation on the origins of Covid-19. "We also call for a timely, transparent, expert-led and science-based, WHO-convened, Phase 2 Covid-19 origins study including, as recommended by the experts' report in China," it said.

Mr Johnson said the World Health Organisation should have inspection powers comparable to those of the chemical weapons inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. China was a major focus of the G7 deliberations with the White House pushing hard in public and private for co-ordination between the countries on "supply chain resilience and technology standards so that democracies are aligned."

The communique said the members of the group were particularly concerned about parts of the Chinese economy that were underwritten by western consumer demand. "The US and our G7 partners remain deeply concerned by the use of all forms of forced labour in global supply chains, including state-sponsored forced labour of vulnerable groups and minorities and supply chains of the agricultural, solar and garment sectors - the main supply chains of concern in Xinjiang."

China said a small group of countries don't rule the world. "We always believe that countries, big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich, are equals and that world affairs should be handled through consultation by all countries," a spokesman for the Chinese embassy in London said.

Mario Draghi, the Italian prime minister, said the group was ready to accept American thinking but still wanted to keep lines open to China.

"We need to cooperate but we also need to be frank about things that we do not share and do not accept," he added. A commitment to reach net zero emissions by the group, which represents 40 per cent of the global economy, as soon as possible was included in the text, making good on a pledge first proposed in 2008.

"We commit to net zero no later than 2050, halving our collective emissions over the two decades to 2030, increasing climate finance to 2025, and to protect or conserve at least 30 per cent of our land and oceans by 2030," the statement said.

The G7 agenda on climate change would "drive a global green Industrial Revolution to transform the way we live," Mr Johnson said. The UK Prime Minister said the group would ask all developed countries to make major commitments to fund green infrastructures.

"We reaffirm the collective developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise \$100 billion a year from public and private sources, through to 2025, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation," the communique said.

"Towards this end, we commit to each increase and improve our overall international public climate finance contributions for this period and call on other developed countries to join and enhance their contributions to this effort." Campaigners described the summit's conclusions as having made little progress, given the need for the drive towards carbon neutrality.

Wall Street asks if Bitcoin can ever replace fiat currencies

NEW YORK

EL Salvador's bold move to accept Bitcoin as legal tender has Wall Street once again wondering whether a cryptocurrency could really ever replace the old-school dollar.

It's a question that appeared, at least to some, to already be nearly answered after a handful of trailblazing companies - including Tesla Inc., MicroStrategy Inc. and Square Inc. - incorporated Bitcoin into their balance sheets without igniting a broader corporate revolution. Now, the focus is turning to governments.

El Salvador, which started using the US dollar as its currency more than 20 years ago, last week became the first country in the world to pass legislation allowing use of Bitcoin in any transaction. President Nayib Bukele says the point is to counter the fact that relatively few citizens have bank accounts and to cut the cost of sending remittances, or money that workers ship back to their families in El Salvador from other countries.

Some observers wonder whether a bigger movement is afoot: replacing a conventional currency - the dollar, the titan of global commerce and finance - on a national scale and then beyond. The answer, at least for Julian Sawyer, chief executive officer of

Bitstamp, one of the world's longest-running crypto exchanges, is not quite yet.

"There's been a lot of people who have sat in the crypto world who've said, 'Oh, crypto is going to take over the world and traditional banks and central banks will go away,'" he said in a telephone interview from London. "That's not going to happen."

While the technology itself may be used increasingly in the behind-the-scenes plumbing of financial services, such as money being sent across borders, Sawyer said Bitcoin is still too volatile to fully replace the dollar, though it may become part of the mix.

"Will there still be the dollar? Yes," he said. "Will there still be Visa and Mastercard? Absolutely. It will just be we'll have alternatives for using plastic, or paper, or coins or checks." El Salvador's central bank president also said on state television that Bitcoin would not replace the greenback in the nation.

The dollar is stable, especially when compared with Bitcoin's explosive price moves. And whereas the dollar usually fluctuates for mundane reasons, crypto can be swayed by tweets, memes and Elon Musk - not a great fit for a national or global currency. Bitcoin quadrupled last year, while the Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index slipped



5.5% - a fairly big number for the greenback. Since mid-April, Bitcoin has lost nearly half of its value. Bank of America Corp. research shows Bitcoin is about four times as volatile as the Brazilian real and Turkish lira - and neither of those is anyone's model of stability.

"Bitcoin injects extra volatility," which is counterproductive for countries looking for stability, said Marc Chandler, chief market strategist at Bannockburn Global Forex. "Why do countries peg their currency to another currency or have a currency board or have a dollarised economy? It's because their currency has become too volatile or lost credence in the market and become out of control, very inflationary."

Test case

That doesn't mean other countries won't look to El Salvador as a test case for what can happen, especially those that benefit from remittance flows or have central banks already researching or

piloting cryptocurrencies of their own. "Countries can't just look away from this option now," said Valkyrie Investments CEO Leah Wald, who previously worked for the World Bank. "For the longevity and health and well-being of Bitcoin, and the Bitcoin network, this is the dawn of a new day."

Nations from Haiti to Guatemala, South Sudan and Liberia could be next to adopt Bitcoin given their dependence on remittance inflows, high poverty and low financial inclusion, according to Rahul Shah, Tellimer Ltd.'s head of financials equity research.

Other dollarised economies - those, like El Salvador, that are based on the greenback - are also candidates to officially adopt Bitcoin and become less dependent on the Federal Reserve and US policies. "It potentially gives the ability to not be as beholden to the dollar over the long term, and be more independent of the existing financial system," said Brad Bechtel, global head of currencies at Jefferies. "Once you see one country go that way, it wouldn't surprise me to see more."

WORLD

Israel's new government begins, Netanyahu era ends

JERUSALEM

The first Israeli government in 12 years not led by Benjamin Netanyahu got down to business yesterday, with the former prime minister shying away from a hand-over ceremony with successor Naftali Bennett.

The right-wing leader's record run in office ended on Sunday with parliament approving, by a razor-thin majority of 60-59, a new administration led by Bennett, a nationalist whose views mirror Netanyahu's on many issues.

In Tel Aviv, thousands turned out to welcome the result, after four inconclusive elections in two years.

"I am here celebrating the end of an era in Israel," said Erez Biezuner in Rabin Square.

"We want them to succeed and to unite us again," he added, as flag-waving supporters of the new government sang and danced around him.

A combative Netanyahu, 71, said he would be back sooner than expected.

"If we are destined to go into the opposition, we will do so with our heads held high until we can topple it," he told parliament before Bennett was sworn in.

The traditional handover ceremony

was not scheduled at the prime minister's office, where Netanyahu was expected to meet Bennett later on Monday to brief him on state matters.

The last time Netanyahu was unseated as Israel's leader, in 1999, he ended his first term in office with a glass of wine in his hand and affable words of welcome to then-Labour party leader Ehud Barak, who defeated him at the polls.

"Sour, grumpy, not stately - Trump-like until the final moment," Yossi Verter, a political affairs commentator, wrote in the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper.

Asked why there would be no such scene now, Topaz Luk, a senior aide to Netanyahu, told Army Radio: "That's just what happens."

Netanyahu, he said, was "filled with motivation to topple this dangerous government as quickly as possible". Luk declined to disclose Netanyahu's comeback strategy, pointing only to the new administration's slim margin of support in parliament. Luk said the incoming government was receiving briefings from Netanyahu's diplomatic and security advisers to ensure an orderly handover.

After holding its first meeting late on Sunday, Bennett's new cabinet was invited for a traditional group photograph,



Israel's President Reuven Rivlin sits next to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid as they pose for a group photo with ministers of the new Israeli government, in Jerusalem yesterday. REUTERS

showcasing incoming governments, at the official residence of President Reuven Rivlin.

UNSEATING NETANYAHU

With little in common other than a desire to unseat Netanyahu, the patchwork coalition of right-wing, centrist, left-wing and Arab parties largely plans to avoid sweeping moves on hot-button issues such as policy towards the Palestinians, and to focus instead on domestic reforms.

Palestinians were unmoved by the change of administration, predicting that Bennett, a former defence chief who advocates annexing parts of the occupied West Bank, would pursue the same right-wing agenda as Netanyahu.

Under the coalition deal, Bennett, a 49-year-old Orthodox Jew and high-tech millionaire, will be replaced as prime minister in 2023 by centrist Yair Lapid, 57, a popular former television host.

U.S. President Joe Biden congratulated Bennett and Lapid, saying he looked forward to strengthening the "close and en-

during" relationship between the two countries.

Addressing parliament on Sunday, Bennett put Biden on notice that he would follow in Netanyahu's footsteps in opposing any U.S. return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal abrogated by former President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu was Israel's longest-serving leader, and had served consecutive terms as prime minister since 2009.

He used his global stature to resist calls for Palestinian statehood, describing it as a danger to Israel's security. He sought to bypass the Palestinian issue by forging diplomatic deals with regional Arab states, on the back of shared fears of Iran and its nuclear programme.

But he was a divisive figure at home and abroad, weakened by repeated failure to clinch a decisive election victory, and by a corruption trial in which he has denied any wrongdoing. **Agencies**

China's achievements under CPC impressive, says Bangladeshi party leader

DHAKA

UNDER the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China's anti-pandemic performance and achievements in poverty eradication are highly impressive, said Dilip Barua, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist).

He said that the Communist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist-Leninist) has a fraternal relation with the CPC since 1976, and the two parties have exchanged delegations and views on Marxism.

The CPC's drive to build a socialism with Chinese char-

acteristics is "very impressive to us," he said, adding that history has proven that the CPC has successfully integrated Marxism into the building of the Chinese society.

He also spoke highly of China's fight against the COVID-19.

"The calamities of COVID-19 would drag individuals into poverty. So we want to say due to COVID-19, the poverty level of the world is very, very alarming," he said.

"But we saw in China, the Chinese people, under the leadership of comrade Xi Jinping, fought against COVID-19 through their concerted efforts, and the Chinese gov-



ernment has succeeded in controlling the pandemic," he noted, adding that the world is impressed with the outstanding job.

"This has been possible because the Chinese people

have a strong understanding (in fighting the pandemic). And China has a good governance system and institutional functioning," Barua said.

He highlighted that the CPC has been striving for the well-

being of the Chinese people and the progress of mankind, which will make a great contribution to the welfare of people around the world.

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can be greatly helpful for promoting global economy and improving the interconnectivity of the world, according to Barua.

"In Bangladesh, our people have a strong feeling regarding the Belt and Road Initiative," he said, adding that he looks forward to the greater development of the BRI.

Xinhua

BEIJING

AT their just concluded gathering, an exclusive club of wealthy developed economies has once again shown to the whole world their so-called "common values" are no more than deeply-entrenched ideological prejudice and sense of arrogance.

In a joint communique issued Sunday by the leaders of Group of Seven (G7) after their three-day meeting in Cornwall, Britain, they grossly interfered with the internal affairs of China on issues concerning Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan and others.

And for some parts of the statement in which they elaborated on so-called initiatives to boost global development, for example a special infrastructure plan, the end goal is still to counter China.

It turns out that this group

G7, living embodiment of Cold War thinking



of developed countries is hardly developed in its way of thinking.

The age of Cold War has already gone 30 years. Yet it seems that such a zero-sum mentality still prevails in the capitals of some nations. And it seems that some of the decision-makers of those countries still refuse to wake up from their imperial colonial

dreams.

As some of the world's wealthiest countries, what they should have done in this utterly challenging era is to rally consensus globally for ending the still-raging pandemic as soon as possible and sustaining a steadfast global economic recovery.

However, it seems that the G7 members are only inter-

ested in highlighting differences, and prompting conflicts among members of the international community.

So instead of unabashedly pointing an accusing finger at China, the group could have put more time and energy into addressing its own problems at home, for the sake of the well-being of its own people.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the 48-year-old club, which touts itself as a high-profile venue for discussing solutions to major global challenges, could have added some real actions to its ballyhoo.

The world will see whether the group's pledge on vaccines, on more economic support for developing countries, and on climate change, can be put into practice, or are mere-

ly lip services.

The world will also find out whether the group's promise on infrastructure investment to low- and middle-income countries involves sincerity in helping those countries, or is simply geopolitics at play.

Considering their disappointing track records of keeping promises, it does not look promising this time either.

This is an age of collaboration. The era when a small number of countries can control the destiny of the world and dictate global agenda is just history now.

If the club really cares for securing a better future for the planet, as it claimed in the joint communique, it should start by discarding its China-bashing clichés, and thinking about what best suits the developing interests of the world at large.

Xinhua

Iran says outline agreed with US to lift energy sanctions

BY BLOOMBERG



IRAN said it has reached a broad agreement with the US over the lifting of sanctions on its industrial sectors, including energy, but warned there was "very little time left" for world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, didn't give more detail on the potential easing of trade restrictions, which have all but prevented the Islamic Republic from exporting oil and battered its economy.

The landmark accord was being delayed because there are still sticking points, he told reporters in Tehran yesterday.

Oil markets are closely watching the negotiations, which are taking place in Vienna, for any clues as to when the OPEC member will be able to resume crude sales and how quickly Washington will allow it to ramp up production.

"Some minute technical, political, legal and practical issues remain," Khatibzadeh said. "No task was impossible for negotiators" and there's no impasse, he said.

Brent crude rose 1 percent to US\$73.43 a barrel at 8:50 am in London, extending its gain this year to 42 percent. Traders have pushed back their estimates for Iran's oil comeback as the talks drag on.

World powers are trying to revive the 2015 agreement that the US abandoned three years ago. It restricted Tehran's atomic activities in return for sanctions relief.

On Saturday, Iran's lead envoy in Vienna, Abbas Araghchi, said a deal was unlikely before presidential elections in his country this Friday.

President Hassan Rouhani -- who negotiated the original deal in 2015 -- is due to leave office in August after serving two terms. He is widely expected to be replaced by Ebrahim Raisi, a cleric generally seen as hostile to engaging with the US.

Still, a government spokesman said last week that the decision to try to resuscitate the accord was made by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and won't be affected by Rouhani's departure.

Meanwhile, Iran does not expect Israeli foreign and security policy to change under its new government, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday, according to ISNA news agency, a day after Israel's parliament ended Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year run as prime minister.

"Iran's enemies are gone and powerful Iran is still here. I don't think Israel's policies will change with the new government," Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

US wants to cooperate with Russia on strategic stability, Syria and Arctic, says White House

WASHINGTON

THE United States believes it could work with Russia on strategic stability, humanitarian access in Syria, issues related to Arctic, and a number of other areas, Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor to the US President, told reporters on Sunday. The transcript of the conversation was published by the White House press service.

According to him, the United States is considering the possibility of interaction with Russia in a number of areas, if this is in the interests of both sides. At the same time, Washington reserves the right to "send a clear message" to Moscow about "those harmful actions" of the Russian side, Sullivan (pictured) said.

"We will see where we get. There's the question of strategic stability. There's the question of Syria and humanitarian access. There are issues related to the Arctic. There are other places where it would be in our interest to find a basis to work with Russia," Sullivan said.

Earlier, Kremlin and the White House reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Joe Biden will meet in Geneva on June 16.

According to the Kremlin press service, the two presidents will discuss the current state of Russian-US relations and their prospects for development, strategic stability, as well as current issues of the international agenda, including cooperation in combating the coronavirus pandemic. It will be the first personal meeting between the two leaders since Biden took office. **Agencies**



THE combination of China's Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship and a Long March-2F Y12 carrier rocket was transferred to the launching area of Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on June 9, 2021 Beijing time.

According to the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO), the facilities and equipment at the launch site are all in good condition, and that subsequent pre-launch function checks and joint tests will be carried out as planned, which means China's space station Tiangong will meet its first batch of astronauts before long.

Hao Chun, director of the CMSEO, told media in a previous interview that according to plans for the first three missions in the construction

China's space station Tiangong to greet first batch of astronauts in June

of China's space station, the country would transport support materials, necessary spare parts and equipment first, and then crew.

The country would first send Tianhe into space, which is the core module of the Tiangong space station, according to Hao, who disclosed that Tianhe will function as the space station's control hub and energy provider, among other roles.

After the launch of the core module, China would launch a cargo spacecraft to deliver supplies for astronauts and space-science equipment, and then launch a manned spaceship to send astronauts into the space station for the verification of key technologies

and other tasks, Hao said, adding that the same pattern will be followed in subsequent missions. So far, the core module Tianhe and the cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-2 have been successfully launched and docked. According to relevant schedule, the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship with 3 astronauts will be sent into space in June.

The crews participating in the construction of the space station face heavy tasks and higher requirements, according to Hao, who disclosed that the first 11 astronauts sent by the country into space have conducted 14 space flights in orbit and accumulated a lot of experience.

At present, China's four spaceship

crews undertaking relevant missions for the construction of the space station are trained simultaneously as planned, Hao said, noting that the crew of the Shenzhou-12 manned spaceship have finished most of their training activities and are about to enter a stage of intensive training for their tasks.

The fundamental part of China's space station Tiangong consists of the core module Tianhe and two lab capsules named Wentian and Mengtian, respectively, according to Zhu Guangchen, deputy chief designer of the Tiangong space station from China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).

The core module and lab capsules were carried into space by the coun-

try's Long March-5B Y2 carrier rocket in three separate launches and will complete in-orbit assembly and construction through space rendezvous and docking as well as transposition, Zhu said, noting that the space station Tiangong can accommodate three astronauts for long-term stay in normal circumstances and up to six during a crew replacement, and is able to support manned space science experiments, medical experiments, and tests on new technologies.

According to Zhu, the Tianhe core module of the space station is 16.6 meters in length, with its maximum diameter being 4.2 meters. Its sealed cabin has an astronaut activity space

three times the size of China's space lab Tiangong-2, and is equipped with three separate bedrooms and a washroom to ensure the daily life of astronauts. The dining zone has equipment to heat or refrigerate food, and supply drinking water, as well as a retractable dining table. Besides, with a space treadmill and a space bike in the exercise zone, astronauts can also take exercises in the space station.

In an effort to provide a convenient and comfortable living and working environment for astronauts, a scene-based lighting system and Wi-Fi technology have been adopted to help astronauts control cabin lighting and check the inventory in the station easily.

People's Daily

2 Americans plead guilty to helping ex-Nissan chief Ghosn flee Japan

TOKYO

TWO Americans, charged with helping former Nissan Motor Co. Chairman Carlos Ghosn flee Japan in 2019 while on bail awaiting his trial, pleaded guilty to their first hearing in court yesterday.

Michael Taylor, a 60-year-old former Green Beret, and his son Peter, 28, have already admitted to helping Ghosn, 67, flee Japan so the former auto tycoon could avoid trial for charges of financial misconduct.

The pair replied "no" when the judge asked them if there was anything incorrect about the charges submitted by the Tokyo Prosecutors' office, local media reported yesterday.

Sources close to the case, as reported by local media, said the father and son team were initially asked by Ghosn's wife to smuggle the once-revered Nissan bigwig out of Japan while he was awaiting trial.

Prosecutors here said the two Americans were paid 1.3 million U.S. dollars to help Ghosn with the audacious escape and could be facing jail terms of up to three years.

Ghosn was initially released on bail in April 2019 on strict conditions that included a ban on foreign travel, limited access to telephones and computers and ensured he must stay restricted to a surveilled residence.

The Taylors are charged with providing Ghosn illegal passage to Lebanon, one of three countries he is a national of, by smuggling him out of his residence in Tokyo and to Kansai International Airport via two hotels in late December 2019.

The father and son team, in full knowledge that Ghosn was prohibited from leaving the country as part of his bail terms, hid Ghosn in a large box, which cleared Kansai airport security, and the illicit cargo was flown to Turkey on a private jet.

At the request of Japanese prosecutors, the Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in 2020 by U.S. authorities.

They had fought extradition to Japan in U.S. courts but ultimately lost their battle when their appeal was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in February this year.

Once extradited, they were arrested and charged in Japan in March and have since been detained at the same jail in Tokyo where Ghosn was held.

Ghosn, who holds Brazilian, French and Lebanese nationality, is accused of under-reporting his remuneration for years and for embezzling company funds. He has denied all the charges, claiming company insiders conspired against him.

His lengthy detention in Tokyo after being initially arrested in November 2018 had been the center of controversy in a scandal that rocked Japan and saw the international community criticize Japan's justice system, with those close to his case likening his detention to a form of "hostage justice."

Japan has since been trying to detain Ghosn with the help of Interpol as Lebanon does not have an extradition treaty with Japan. This means that Ghosn cannot be legally handed over to Japan without Lebanon first agreeing to it.

WTO chief says pandemic-related trade barriers rising

GENEVA / KYIV



THE head of the World Trade Organization said yesterday that trade barriers related to medical supplies used against COVID-19 had risen and urged member states to drop them, as it intensified efforts to reach a deal on vaccine-sharing.

"The trend is going in the wrong direction," WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told a virtual UN forum, referring to barriers on goods trade related to the pandemic.

"We need to bring those restrictions down so we can move...medical goods and supplies and vaccines (faster)."

She said the number of trade restrictions was 109 at the start of the pandemic early last year, and had later fallen to 51 but had since risen again to 53.

At the same event, she called on WTO members to reach a deal by July on improving access to COVID-19 vaccines after months of talks on waiving drug firms' intellectual property rights.

Most developing countries support the waiver but several wealthy countries remain strongly opposed, saying it will deter research that allowed COVID-19 vaccines to be produced so quickly.

"It's going to be tough because there are still differences but we hope we can get to a pragmatic approach," Okonjo-Iweala (pictured) said.

"I'm in a hurry and I want us to get some agreement by July because lives are important."

The former Nigerian finance minister also commented on a WTO ministerial conference next month that will aim to strike a deal on cutting fisheries subsidies, saying she still saw "serious differences" between countries.

Ukraine

Ukraine registered yesterday the lowest daily number of new COVID-19 infections over the past 24 hours for nearly a year, health ministry data showed.

The ministry reported 420 new coronavirus cases as of June 14, the lowest since June 8, 2020, when it registered 394 cases.

The number of recorded new infections usually dips on Mondays due to fewer registrations over the weekend.

Ukraine, which has a population of 41 million, has been among the most affected European countries so far, with around 2.22 million COVID-19 cases and 51,692 deaths as of June 14.

The data showed Ukraine had registered a record low 13 deaths in the past day.

Agencies

Carlos Ghosn escape accomplices plead guilty in Tokyo court

By Bloomberg

THE American father-son duo charged with helping former Nissan Motor Co Chairman Carlos Ghosn flee trial in Japan a year and a half ago pleaded guilty in a Tokyo court yesterday.

Appearing for the first time since they were extradited to Japan from the US earlier this year, Michael Taylor, 60, and Peter Taylor, 28, listened as the prosecutor read out the charges. Asked by the judge whether there was anything wrong with the charges, Michael replied "No, your Honor" while Peter said "No, ma'am."

The duo, dressed similarly in dark jacket and pants, white shirt with no tie and plastic slippers, arrived in handcuffs.

Michael appeared frail, his hair thinning and voice raspy. His son appeared stronger and spoke with confidence. Both have spent time in solitary confinement.

The Taylors were brought to Japan in March to face charges related to their involvement in Ghosn's escape in late 2019 from Japan, where he was facing charges of financial misconduct.

After smuggling himself in a case for audio equipment and boarding a private jet, the former auto executive made his way to Beirut, where he currently resides.

The pair face a maximum of three years in prison on charges of harboring or enabling the escape of a criminal.

They had already served time in the U.S. before being extradited, and it's not clear whether that time will be factored into their sentencing in Japan.

The State Department said it would inform the Japanese government of the amount of time the Taylors had served so that it could be factored into any sentence imposed, according to a letter seen by Bloomberg News. A former Green Beret, Michael has never denied his involvement in Ghosn's escape, even describing how he executed the operation in an interview with Vanity Fair before he was arrested.

A longtime security consultant, Michael said he had been planning the operation for months, though he had maintained that his son, Peter, had no role in the escape.

Upon entering the courtroom at the Tokyo District



A bus believed to be carrying former US special forces member Michael Taylor and his son Peter, who allegedly staged the operation to help fly former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn out of Japan in 2019, arrives at the Tokyo district court in Tokyo yesterday. (AFP)

Court yesterday afternoon around 2 pm local time, the Taylors, represented by five lawyers, were handed earphones to listen to the translation, asked their particulars by one of the judges and then read details of their indictment by one of two prosecutors.

The prosecutor outlined how Ghosn was facing a trial for falsifying financial reports and breach of trust, and "knowing

that he was supposed to face this trial and he should not hide or go abroad, knowing all that, you helped him avoid the trial by helping him escape via Turkey to Lebanon?" The prosecutor then read from a statement that said the Taylors hid Ghosn in some luggage and then took him to a hotel in Osaka and then onto Kansai airport, still hidden. The box with Ghosn was then moved to the international airport

past the premium gate, past security and placed on a jet that left Japanese territory.

Both Michael and Peter, who appeared calm throughout and briefly looked at reporters in the audience box, said there was no problem with those allegations.

Participants of EU-US summit to take decision on start of dialogue with Russia, says EU

BRUSSELS

LEADERS of the European Union and the United States plan to announce the start of bilateral dialogue on the policy regarding Russia at the summit

on June 15, a high-ranked representative of the EU told reporters yesterday.

"Leaders are expected to announce the start of a high-level policy dialogue on Russia," he said, adding that this format will

enable the EU and US to hold an in-depth discussion on Russia. Asked whether the leaders will discuss the issue of construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, he said that there is no such an issue on the sum-

mit's agenda. The EU-US summit will be held on June 15 in Brussels with participation of Joe Biden who is visiting the European capital for the first time as US President. The EU will be represented

at the summit by heads of the European Commission and European Council, Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel, as well as EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrel.

Agencies

Who is responsible for American democracy disorder?

A country's democratic institutions are supposed to be established for social stability, and the effect of governance is the criterion for assessing the practice of democracy. In the U.S., obviously, the American-style democracy has been proven rather incapable of delivering stability to the society.

The American society has long been haunted by polarization and division, and frequently witnessed rampant chaos. The country's governance system hasn't delivered much good performance even when its people were confronted with major risks and challenges.

For decades, scenes of the dysfunctional state of the American governance have never ceased to shock the world.

The U.S. government has been shut down again and again. From the end of 2018 to January 2019, it even underwent a 35-day shutdown, the longest one in U.S. history. When the raging COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc across the world, U.S. politicians were arguing about whether people should wear face masks in public, and the U.S. federal government was wresting medical supplies from state governments of the country and implementing anti-epidemic policies completely opposite to those of state governments.

While protests like "Black Lives Matter" and "Stop Asian Hate" have swept the country, racial equality is still unreachable in reality for the American society. Although shooting incidents frequently happen in the U.S., the country's gun control legislation is still trapped in the political maelstrom in Washington, D.C.

Such endless governance failures have reflected structural problems in the American-style democracy.

The disorder in the U.S. has driven many Americans to despair. On Jan. 6, more than ten thousand demonstrators violently stormed the U.S. Capitol complex. The riot triggered by the disputed U.S. presidential election astonished the world.

American media called it the first time in modern American history that the power transfer has turned into a real combat in the Washington corridor of power. They blamed that violence, chaos and vandalism had shaken the American democracy to the core, dealing a heavy blow to America's image as a democratic beacon.

"The nature of the U.S. political crisis has been greatly underestimated, its causes very profound. The country is di-

vided down the middle, hopelessly polarized and its system of government paralysed," British academic Martin Jacques wrote on Twitter.

Some politicians in the U.S. often brag about the "ingenious design" of American democracy. However, the fact is the "ingenious design" has incubated the freak of vetocracy for the country. The ferocious battles between the Republican Party and Democratic Party escalate constantly, leading to government shutdown, paralysis of the Congress, and deadlocked decision-making.

It is well known that there has been an increasingly stark disagreement between Democrats and Republicans on economy, racial justice, climate change, law enforcement, international engagement and a long list of other issues. Members of the U.S. Congress vote more along party lines on many important and major public matters, while disagreement between Democrats and Republicans has gradually changed from policy differences to identity battles. Ceaseless battles between the two parties have plunged the governance of the country into a mire of inefficiency and incompetency.

A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center found that majorities of Americans describe both parties as "too extreme".

Voters supporting different parties are at loggerheads under the instigation of extreme politicians. "Political hatred" sparked by political fanaticism has raged through the country like a plague and become the root cause of constant social unrest and division in the U.S.

Who on earth is responsible for state governance failure? Surprisingly, the answer to the question is not easy to find in the U.S.

As the COVID-19 ravaged the country, U.S. officials criticized others harshly to shift blame, with the president blaming state governor and the latter blaming the federal government. While politicians were busy finding scapegoats for consequences of their own mistakes, the U.S. people couldn't find timely and adequate guarantee of their safety.

Clearly the evil consequences of the disorder in American democ-

cracy are eventually suffered by the American people.

Faced with various chaotic phenomena cause by disorder in the American democratic institutions, the U.S. society has already been filled with voices expressing disappointment and calling for self-examination.

"The U.S. government is still captured by powerful elite groups that distort policy to their own benefit and undermine the legitimacy of the regime as a whole. And the system is still too rigid to reform itself," pointed out U.S. political scientist Francis Fukuyama in his article "Rotten to the Core?" published on the website of American magazine Foreign Affairs on Jan. 18.

Forty-five percent of the respondents believe democracy is not working well in the U.S., 29 percent more than the surveyed Americans who believe democracy is working well or extremely well, according to an opinion poll conducted by the AP-NORC Center, a public affairs research center co-founded by the Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago, from late January to early February.

"Americans are losing faith in their democracy, as most believe its survival is dependent on fully overhauling the process," said a recent article published on U.S. newspaper The Hill.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that 65 percent of Americans believe the political system of democracy in this country needs to go through major changes or be totally overhauled to endure, according to the article.

"Our current system offers no stable solutions and no consensus of ideas," the article continued.

A society where effective governance can be realized must be one that has the ability to purify, improve, and reform itself. Apparently, the vicious cycle of the American politics is not able to cultivate such ability.

Contradictions accumulate in prolonged polarization and division in the U.S. society and evolve into confrontations as they intensify. It's only a matter of time before the disorder in the American democratic institutions go from bad to worse for different reasons.

Major breakthroughs unlikely, Biden-Putin summit still holds meaning, experts say

GENEVA

WHILE the upcoming meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin is unlikely to lead to a significant detente in the two countries' strained relations, the resumption of dialogue between the two carries significance, analysts have said.

As scheduled, Biden and Putin are set to meet in the Swiss city of Geneva on Wednesday, which will be the two leaders' first face-to-face meeting since the Biden administration took office on Jan. 20.

Although the summit to take place at the 18th-century Villa La Grange offers an opportunity for the two countries to reduce tensions, find common ground and facilitate cooperation between the White House and the Kremlin, a real rapprochement is unlikely to happen from one day to the next.

"We are today experiencing a level of unprecedented polarization since the Cold War. Relations between Russia and the West have been steadily deteriorating and the levels of mutual trust are at their lowest," Thomas Greminger, director of the Geneva Center for Security Policy, told reporters at a virtual press briefing.

"It is therefore high time to resume the dialogue between the two leaders, particularly considering all the global challenges that cannot be addressed successfully in a unilateral manner," he added.

"I believe, this summit presents indeed an opportunity to resume a sober dialogue," said Greminger, who is also a Swiss ambassador and held numerous senior positions in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

"During June's bilateral summit, President Joe Biden has an opportunity to set down markers on critical issues with his Russian counterpart," Mathieu Boulegue, research fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House, a London-based think tank, wrote in an article published on the website of the Center for European Policy Analysis.

"There is little hope the summit will achieve tangible results. Having low expectations and preparing to be disappointed is sound statecraft," the article reads.

Such a prediction came as in March, the United States announced fresh sanctions and restrictions against Russian individuals and entities. U.S. actions against Russia also included export and visa restrictions.

"Still, I would argue that the fact this summit is taking place and that Presidents Biden and Putin will speak with each other is already a positive outcome," Greminger said.

"At the same time, it is premature to expect a normalization of relations. I would expect co-existence of dialogue and selective cooperation against the backdrop of a continued confrontation," he added.

The summit would take place amid sharp divisions and disagreements between the two countries over election interference, cyberattacks, human rights and Ukraine.

Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, professor of international history and politics and chair of the International History and Politics Department at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, said there could be "a period of de-escalation in which the two sides realize their inevitability and potential cooperation on some of these aspects. But we should really hold our breath."

SPORT



Edward Charles

Why Azam FC had to sign left-back Manyama instead of promoting

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FORMER Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson is renowned for his adherence to the principle that success in football begins at the back. A good coach builds from the back.

It starts with finding a reliable goalkeeper. Once that is taken care of, one can move onto the back four.

There must be stability in those positions, and there must also be consistency.

When Azam FC's Zambian tactician, George Lwandamina, took charge late last year he brought in a new goalkeeper.

Ugandan keeper Mathias Kigonya was signed as a replacement to the error-prone David Kissu.

The next area was always going to be the full-back positions. At first glance, the situation would appear to be safe with Bruce Kangwa and Nicholas Wadada as the two dependable fullbacks.

However, internally, there has been much discussion regarding Azam FC's left-back options for next season, and there have been some suggestions that it would be preferable for one of the club's existing youngsters to provide backup to Kangwa.

For four consecutive seasons, the Zimbabwe international has hardly rested.

Last season he only missed two league games. For a player on the wrong side of 30, he needs to be rested.

The problem was that there isn't an outstanding option ready to step up who has proven himself at the top-flight level.

Paschal Msindo is progressing through the ranks from the side's U-17 squad to the reserves, there was always a feeling that he would be the club's first-choice left-back eventually.

He has not looked out of depth when Azam was forced to throw him into action in two consecutive league matches this season.

The 19-year-old will likely achieve success at Azam, but he is in desperate need of a loan spell to improve his positional sense and also

develop him physically.

It is risky for a big team with title ambitions to rely on a teenager fullback.

Msindo needs greater experience at the top flight level before he can be considered for regular first-team action.

Because of this, Azam FC's hierarchy realize signing a left-back is of the utmost importance.

And that is where their main focus has been since as early as last year.

On Thursday, Azam FC made a big announcement confirming the signing of left fullback Edward Charles Manyama from Ruwu Shooting on a three-year deal.

This was a coup for Azam FC after it was rumoured Manyama was on his way to Simba.

Initially, it was believed he had a pre-contract with his former outfit, Yanga, before Simba was reported to have hijacked the deal.

Manyama is part of the national side 'Taifa Stars' latest squad, has also played for JKT Ruwu, Namungo FC, and Yanga.

In signing Manyama, Azam FC swiftly addressed the need for dependable cover at the left full-back position.

They have brought in a player who will push Kangwa. Someone to remind Kangwa 'if you're not playing well, if you're not concentrating, working hard, you're going to lose your place.'

One hundred percent, this is what makes players compete for their place and improve.

This season it appears, Kangwa who plays every game and has no competition is either tired or is in a comfort zone.

His performances have been a bit flat, neither bad nor exemplary.

Azam is hoping Kangwa will enjoy a rivalry with Manyama next season.

It might be a win-win situation for Azam FC in the sense that even if Manyama fails to make himself a regular in Lwandamina's team, he can prompt a major revival in form from incumbent left-back Kangwa.

When you have got players of the highest quality in the squad, then the thing that ends up benefiting is the team.

Azam FC will reap from the stiff competition for a place at left-back.

Temeke Jogging Association election set for next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TEMEKE Jogging Association (TEJA) goes to polls next month to elect new office bearers, the association announced recently.

The TEJA interim chairman, Ramadhan Namkoveka, said the election will be held on July 25.

Namkoveka said the association's interim committee was formed by Temeke District's Sports, Culture, and Arts Office on April 25 this year and it was given 90 days to organize election and amend its constitution.

Other interim officials of the committee are secretary general, Halima Mwalimu, treasurer-general, Amina Muhunzi, while members are Hamis Rhai and Selemani Juma.

He said the elections will be held following a resolution which the executive committee of TEJA made recently.

The interim chairman said Temeke District Sports, Culture, and Arts Office gave the interim committee 90 days to hold the election and amend its constitution.

He said TEJA has 32 member clubs and mentioned the clubs, which attended the meeting, as Dar Jogging Club, Temeke Jogging Club, Temeke Family, Kaiju Jogging, Kwetu Tua Ngoma Jogging, Kongowe Jogging, Namanga Jogging, Kidagaa Jogging, Chamazi Fitness, Dovyva Jogging, Kwanyoka Jogging, Wasafi

Jogging, and Aggrey Jogging.

Namkoveka also said Temeke District's Sports, Culture and Arts Office's secretary Ingrid Kimario was in attendance at the meeting.

"The Temeke Jogging Association (TEJA) which is made up of 32 jogging clubs recently had a meeting that saw us agree to have our elections on July 25, the meeting also passed the amendment of the constitution and acting committee was formed...all preparations for the election are going on very smoothly," he said.

Namkoveka said at the election, interested people will compete for the post of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary general, assistant secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer, and executive committee members.

He asked members of the jogging clubs, especially women to come forward and contest at the elections.

"We asked all those who are interested to come forward and contest, we want to see more women take up leadership positions," he disclosed. Namkoveka said collecting forms will start soon.

The TEJA is the first district sports association to be registered by the Registrar of Sports Associations and Clubs, the association's previous committee was elected in August 2016.

SPORTS

In uplifting municipal pitches, and build more courts, minister has the taxes right, not agents

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

ONE thing that could be gleaned from this year's fiscal outlook presented to the legislature is that there is a concern for the uplifting of sports activity, though the needed intensity may not sufficiently have been recognized.

For one thing, Tanzania has shifted from being a remarkable country in Africa when it comes to athletics - though it never was near the top - to an also-ran, and now to the periphery, or outside the Olympic movement globally.

A country of 60m people had scarcely a handful of athletes for the Tokyo Games, though the chances are that the pandemic is too intense to allow holding the festival at present.

Budget proposals lately proposed to the legislature addressed the situation concerning sports capacity by removing taxes on artificial grass, mostly targeting improving soccer pitches around the country, which also polishes our sporting image.

It was unclear what other sports this measure may assist to uplift, as not many games need grass patches, so the problem of uplifting sports isn't synonymous with uplifting soccer, meanwhile as enhancing soccer standards isn't just having good pitches.

At the same time, having good pitches doesn't boil down to reducing, eliminating import taxes on grasses, it's a lot more complex.

Since the spirit of reducing taxes to boost economic activity was noticed across the board, it can roughly be expected that conditions for importing equipment for other sports gear or construction requirements have also been softened.

More appropriately, all the same is to have local investors manufacturing such equipment locally, as hardly anything that is used on the sports field can't be locally sourced in terms of raw materials.

Responsible organizations could sound out local investors who could then move to obtain patents from the relevant producers, which implies a measure of quality control, to reach wider markets.

There is hence a paradoxical situation of the proverbial half empty and half-full glass of water, where an optimist looking



Kagera's Kaitaba Stadium.

at the budget proposals may say that is the first step, and the government (the sports ministry or department specifically) may now start looking at other aspects of the problem.

The other kind of interpretation is to say that the minister is standing at the top of the ladder, awaiting artificial grass to be imported (and probably other technical inputs) but must start climbing back one ladder at a time.

It is to prepare conditions for grasses to be imported and pitches improved, so it boils down to the same thing

The problem with the lowering or elimination of taxes on some key imports and then expecting miracles in the aftermath - as no other measures were sketched out, nor heard earlier in ministerial estimates - is that it presumes that there are agents at the ready to make use of the tax measure.

This is an illustration of how tax instruments often fail to work in our environment because of a lack of sensitivity to the measure on the part of those who have the resources to do the work, take the relevant initiatives that were implicitly beefed up by lowering or eliminating taxes. There is no fusion or possible transfer of the factors involved.

Building a stadium needs two factors, 'the owners of land and the owners of a club,' and in between there is a monetary agent, who converts the land into a sporting field, properly equipped to train youngsters to become Olympic material ten years from now, or slightly.

That is where the snag is located, namely linking land conversion to club organization, as one must belong with the other for any work to be done.

What we have is a traditional organization, where all these are public facilities, used in a raw manner - thus sporting pitches are continually converted into building plots or car parks as few stakeholders exist.

That is why the minister's tax initiatives could easily be met by an Ernest Hemingway quip, 'For whom the

bell tolls,' where the usual answer is 'it tolls for thee,' but definitely, it needs to target real agents who can convert the tax rollback into opportunity.

But when they are not running (owning) clubs, who invests in a field? Municipal bodies owning pitches, or other public organizations, aren't the right agents there.

It means that unlike in the past, the country is no longer taking sports for granted as 'inborn talent,' where the fiction was that this is natural to Africans, unlike Europeans who need a training regime from the earliest.

Those among our neighbours who have had such facilities all the time have maintained their international athletics prowess while at the beginning we could compare in several areas, while talent here is nipped in the bud, it is increasingly harder to take notice of it due to innumerable drawbacks.

Rolling back taxes ought to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to think out what else needs to be done, now.

Azam FC ropes in player from youth squad

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Ismail

Tano

VODACOM Premier League side, Azam FC, has signed its youth squad's left fullback, Paschal Msindo, on a three-year contract, the club disclosed.

Information from the club, signed by the team's information officer Thabit Zacharia, said the player has shown rapid development to earn his first-team promotion.

He said the player first caught the attention of head coach George Lwandamina and was used in three first-team matches.

"The club is convinced with the qualities and the potential of the young defender who was in our reserve side, he is a promising player," the team said on its official Facebook page.

Azam FC is the only local club with a full and well-organized youth team, the outfit's management also believes in promoting its reserve team players to the senior team.

Azam FC youth team has produced great players for top-flight clubs. The players have gone on to play for the national football team.

The club is attributed to immensely contributing to the development of football in the country.

It is believed that football's success at the top level does not come on a silver platter as there is a need for serious investment at the grassroots level.

In another development, Vodacom Premier League's leading goal scorer, Azam FC's Prince Dube, has said he has no plans to focus on winning the competition's golden boot prize.

According to the attacker, he has concentrated on seeing to it his outfit notches positive results.

Dube has scored a total of 14 goals followed by a local, Simba's John Bocco with 13 goals.

The second-placed attacker is so far the only local player with the most goals.

The top flight's last season's top goal scorer, Meddie Kagere, has this season posted 11 goals and he seemingly struggles to replicate his past achievement.



Paschal Msindo. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Under head coach, George Lwandamina, Dube has been the first choice attacker at Azam FC, an aspect that allows him to score more goals this season, which is his first at the outfit.

The forward revealed: "I am very happy to see that the team is getting past the idea of clinching the top flight's title at the moment, but it is important to see that we are achieving the goals we have set for ourselves."

"If the team wins then that is fun for me and if I either score or create a scoring position it is OK to see we win our matches," he said.

In the league standings, Azam FC has been placed third with 60 points after playing 30 matches.

Defending champions Simba is now leading the top flight having posted 67 points after playing 27 matches.

Doc: Eriksen suffered cardiac arrest, 'was gone'

COPENHAGEN

ENMARK midfielder Christian Eriksen was "gone" before he was resuscitated after suffering a cardiac arrest, the team's doctor, Morten Boesen, said in a news conference Sunday.

Eriksen, 29, is in a stable condition after he was taken to a hospital in Copenhagen on Saturday after he collapsed on the pitch during Denmark's Euro 2020 opener against Finland.

"He was gone, and we did cardiac resuscitation. It was a cardiac arrest," Boesen said. "How close were we [to losing Eriksen]? I don't know."

"We got him back after one defibrillator, so that's quite fast. I'm not a cardiologist, so the details I will leave to the experts at the hospital."

The game between Denmark and Finland was halted in the 43rd minute following the incident and was resumed later Saturday, resulting in a 1-0 victory for the Fins with Eriksen being named star of the match.

Denmark boss Kasper Hjulmand said he thought it was wrong for players to be asked if they wanted to continue the match following the incident.

"I know it's very difficult," Hjulmand said. "But looking back it was the wrong thing to make the decision between the two scenarios to the players in this case."

"Players were in a shock condition. Players who didn't really know yet if they had lost their best friend. And they have to decide between these two things. And I have a sense that we shouldn't have played."

"I know it's difficult. It's just a feeling I have. Maybe we should have just gone on to the bus and gone home and let's see what the next days would have brought."

"That's just my feeling now, but I think it was a very, very tough decision that the players had to try to make a decision. I know it's difficult, but I have a sense that it was wrong for the players to be given this situation."

Eriksen had just played a short pass when he fell facedown onto

the ground and was given urgent medical attention for around 10 minutes. UEFA announced shortly after that the game had been suspended.

The midfielder was eventually carried off to a loud ovation, with his teammates walking next to the stretcher.

UEFA said both teams had held an emergency meeting before deciding to continue playing, with Mathias Jensen replacing Eriksen in the lineup for the resumption of the fixture.

Hjulmand said the team spoke to Eriksen before resuming the game, adding that the Inter Milan midfielder was more focused on his teammates.

"Typically, Christian he was concerned about us and, of course, his family. He said 'I don't remember much' and 'I'm more concerned about you guys, how are you doing?' That's typical Christian. That just shows that these big players and their generosity. He's a hell of a player, but what a person he is as well."

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said in a statement on Saturday: "Moments like this put everything in life into perspective. I wish Christian a full and speedy recovery and pray his family has strength and faith."

Hjulmand said he will assess his players' readiness to play again before their Group B game against Belgium on Thursday. "We will try tomorrow to establish normality as much as is possible," Hjulmand added. "Players have different kinds of shocks and traumas and emotions."

"We will try to use the next couple of days as good as possible. I will try to get a feeling of the players. Maybe for some, the time is too short to be able to play football again."

"We will try to use it as a force to get even closer together and do our best in the next match. And I have a sense that we will be able to really get together and do our best. So try to reach normality in the training and do our best against Belgium."

(Agencies)

Maradona's doctor, six others, to be questioned in his death

BUENOS AIRES

DIEGO Maradona's personal physician and six other caregivers accused of neglecting the football icon in his final days, were to be questioned by Argentine prosecutors from Monday.

The seven were placed under investigation for manslaughter after a board of experts looking into Maradona's death found he had received inadequate care and was abandoned to his fate for a "prolonged, agonizing period".

The football legend died of a heart attack last November at the age of 60, just weeks after undergoing brain surgery for a blood clot.

An investigation was opened following a complaint filed by two of Maradona's five children against neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, whom they blame for their father's deteriorating condition after the operation.

A panel of 20 medical experts convened by Argentina's public prosecutor said last month that Maradona's treatment was rife with "deficiencies and irregularities" and the medical team had left his survival "to fate".

The panel concluded he "would have had a better chance of survival" with adequate treatment in an appropriate medical facility.

Instead, he died in his bed in a rented house in an exclusive Buenos Aires neighborhood, where he was receiving home care.

- 'I did my best' -

The others under investigation are Maradona's psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov, 35, psychologist Carlos Diaz, 29, nurses Ricardo Almiron, 37, and Dahiana Madrid, 36, nursing coordinator Mariano Perroni, 40, and medical coordinator Nancy Forlini,

52.

Over two weeks from Monday, they will appear one by one before prosecutors, accompanied by defense lawyers, to reply to the allegations against them.

The hearings, postponed from last month due to a spike in Coronavirus cases in Argentina, will end with Luque, 39, on June 28.

A judge will then decide whether the matter should go to trial in a process expected to last months, even years.

All seven accused are prohibited from leaving the country, and risk detention for eight and 25 years in prison if convicted.

Luque has repeatedly defended his actions, saying "I did my best. I offered Diego everything I could: some things he accepted, others not."

The doctor is seeking a dismissal of the case, and says Maradona had been depressed in his final days.

"I know that the (coronavirus) quarantine hit him very hard," Luque has said.

Maradona had battled cocaine and alcohol addictions during his life.

The former Boca Juniors, Barcelona and Napoli star was suffering from liver, kidney and cardiovascular disorders when he died.

Maradona is an idol to millions of Argentines after he inspired the South American country to only their second World Cup triumph in 1986.

His death shocked fans around the world, and tens of thousands queued to file past his coffin, draped in the Argentine flag, at the presidential palace in Buenos Aires amid three days of national mourning.

AFP

Germany with questions to answer ahead of France clash at Euro 2020

MUNICH

WORLD champions France open their Euro 2020 campaign today against an embattled Germany team eager to rediscover their best form in the first clash of two traditional European heavyweights in this year's tournament.

Didier Deschamps' France head to Munich for the Group F game with a feud brewing between forwards Kylian Mbappe and Olivier Giroud but are still the title favourites, while the Germans are struggling and under pressure.

After 15 years in charge, their coach Joachim Loew will step down after the European Championship and wants to forge a mentality "like 2014" when his squad "pulled together" to win the World Cup.

The French need no reminding of Brazil, where they bowed out in the quarter-finals when a Mats Hummels header sealed victory for Germany at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

The French got their revenge when Antoine Griezmann scored both goals in a 2-0 semi-final win at Euro 2016 before the hosts lost to Portugal in the final.

France won the last meeting between the neighbouring countries in 2018 when Griezmann again scored both goals to seal a 2-1 Nations League win in Paris.

Germany face a tough start to Euro 2020, with a match against holders Portugal four days after the France game before finishing their group campaign against Hungary.

Tension is already bubbling in the French squad after Giroud, who scored twice off the bench in a 3-0 friendly warm-up win over Bulgaria, complained about the passes he received, which Mbappe took to



Kylian Mbappe

Olivier Giroud

heart.

It promises to be a heated match after Chelsea defender Antonio Ruediger admitted Germany may need to be a "little dirty" to counter the French attack.

"Germany have good, young players and I don't believe they are as weak as they were," said France's Bayern Munich defender Benjamin Pavard.

- Germany wary of France front three -

Loew, 61, is desperate to land Germany a record fourth European title and enhance his reputation, dented after his side failed to get out of their 2018 World Cup group.

Three years after that debacle in Russia, Loew must hope his shaky defence can cope with France, who could name a fearsome front three of Mbappe, Griezmann and the recalled Karim Benzema.

The Germans are expected to play with a 3-5-2 formation in an attempt to counter France's obvious threat.

But Germany have conceded 20 goals, keeping just three clean sheets, in their last 13 matches.

Loew has assured fans that his players will wear the shirt "with pride".

"(We will) have to go through hell and be capable of suffering if we want to achieve something. We will give everything," he said.

Germany reached at least the semi-finals of every major tournament from the 2006 World Cup to Euro 2016, but the last three years have been bleak.

After the World Cup disaster, they finished bottom of their 2018-19 Nations League group, were thrashed 6-0 by Spain last November and slumped to a 2-1 home defeat by

minnows North Macedonia in World Cup qualifying in March.

"The blows of the last three years have left their mark," admitted centre-back Hummels, who along with Thomas Mueller has been recalled after Loew reversed his 2019 decision to axe the pair.

Bayern's Joshua Kimmich says the team are seeking redemption from their own fans.

"We have only disappointed people over the last few years," he conceded. "We can't always hide and say that we have a lot of quality. Now it's up to us."

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe admitted he was "affected" by public comments perceived as criticism from fellow forward Olivier Giroud following a friendly against Bulgaria, but insisted he did not want it to become a distraction for France at Euro 2020.

Netherlands can be Euro 2020 entertainers but De Boer questions persist

AMSTERDAM

NETHERLANDS are a great footballing nation looking for their next great era. It hasn't arrived in time for Euro 2020, but judging by their 3-2 win over Ukraine on Sunday night, they will be fun to watch until someone says it's time to go home.

On Sunday, they had to win the game twice -- first leading 2-0, then conceding two goals in four minutes and eventually needing a header from defender Denzel Dumfries five minutes from time to ensure they began with a victory in Amsterdam. In control of Group C, which also includes Austria and North Macedonia, they will be expected to reach the knockout rounds. What happens beyond that is anyone's guess.

For now, manager Frank de Boer has eased some of the pressure that has built up since he replaced Ronald Koeman in September. Although questions will still be asked about why, with his team two goals to the good, he decided to throw on Nathan Ake and Owen Wijndal and invite the pressure that allowed Ukraine to lift themselves from the canvas and get to within touching distance of a point.

"I am relieved," said Georginio Wijnaldum, who opened the scoring for Netherlands. "Overall, we played a good game, but we gave them two chances in 10 minutes, which were two goals."

"We need to learn that if we play such a match, we need to finish it off well. We let them get back into the game, and that needs to improve."

It had been seven years since the Oranje played a game in a major tournament, after missing out on Euro 2016 and the World Cup in 2018. Louis van Gaal led them to a third-place finish at the 2014 World Cup, but at Euro 2012 -- their last appearance in this competition -- they lost all three group games and were on the beach before the serious stuff started.

The buildup this time has been less than ideal, with De Boer having to deal with, among other criticisms, planes flying over their training base urging him to play 4-3-3 rather and with five at the back. He has not convinced everyone since



The Netherlands won a thrilling 3-2 contest over Ukraine, but the pressure on Peter de Boer will only increase due to some questionable decision-making. (Agencies)

stepping in for Koeman, when he left for Barcelona, and while victory here will not silence many of the doubters. Ukraine have not arrived to make up the numbers.

The seeded team in Group C after qualifying ahead of Portugal, they beat Spain in the Nations League in October and drew their World Cup qualifier with France in March. With three teams qualifying from four of the six groups, Andriy Shevchenko will have seen enough in his team's fight back to believe they can make it out of the first stage.

"It was a very quick and interesting game with loads of opportunities for both teams," said the former Milan and Chelsea striker.

"I would like to thank my team for the reaction they showed, especially after going 2-0 down. We could have lost the game at that point. We found energy to change and attack. We switched the formation and balanced it. The team gave a very good

account of themselves."

On a different night, Netherlands could have scored six, and it says everything about the way they attacked that Dumfries, playing as a wing-back, probably should have already scored twice before his late winner. And there were fears De Boer has made them boring.

"We played a pretty good match, but we almost gave everything away in five minutes," said the 51-year-old manager. "We should have scored more goals in the first half. But all in all, this is a pretty good start."

Memphis Depay needed just 90 seconds to pick up the ball in his own half, nutmeg Illia Zabarnyi and force Georgiy Bushchan into a low save to his right. Wijnaldum, who showed why Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona have spent the last month fighting over his signature, then set up Dumfries' first chance with a clever flick, but Bushchan was equal to it.

"I am a proud captain, because we have won this match," Wijnaldum said. "We gave away two chances; which turned into two goals. I think everybody was angry and disappointed, especially after the second goal of Ukraine. It was a great night for Denzel Dumfries; very nice for him the head home the decisive goal."

Dumfries fizzed in a cross that needed a Ruud van Nistelrooy or a Robin van Persie poaching in the box. And then Bushchan produced one of the saves of the tournament so far with a strong left hand to keep out Wijnaldum's volley despite his weight taking him in the wrong direction. Then it was Dumfries again, heading wide at the back post when it seemed easier to score.

The PSV Eindhoven defender was a menace all night and played a part in second-half goals for Wijnaldum and Wout Weghorst with barreling runs down the right. West Ham winger Andriy Yarmolenko pulled a goal back with a beautifully guided finish after cutting in from the right, and when Roman Yaremchuk headed in an equaliser with 11 minutes to go, Netherlands looked on the verge of a spectacular collapse.

Working as a pundit on English television, former midfielder Nigel de Jong said he could "see the headlines" about De Boer when Ukraine's second goal went in, but Dumfries made sure they were quickly rewritten with his first international goal.

The story of Netherlands' return to tournament football should be a thriller.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Germany with questions to answer
ahead of France clash at Euro 2020

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Caravans Cricket Club's players pictured when they participated in one of this season's regional tournaments which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

Caravans Cricket Club eases into Gymkhana Cup's Div A last four

By Guardian Reporter

CARAVANS cricketers have sailed through t this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup's Division A's last four with a 10-run victory over Gymkhana Cricket Club in the quarterfinal clash, which took place in the city last weekend.

Experienced cricketers, led by skipper Sreejit Kumar, made their presence count as Caravans batted first in the clash, notching Caravans 140 runs, dropping six wickets in 20 overs.

Opening batsman, Manoj Kumar, gave the squad a good start, given the cricketer posted 27 runs which included three fours and a six.

All-rounder Hamisi Abdallah, slotted in at number five, managed to stop what turned out to be a skid, which had three top order batsmen facing dismissal in quick succession, with his 31 runs which consisted of two fours.

The experienced performer took the crease once his outfit had reached 61 runs after 9.4 overs with four wickets taken.

Abdallah pushed Caravans Cricket Club's total to 85 runs after 14.1 overs, he made his way back to the pavilion once he was caught by Gymkhana Cricket Club's Harshel Shah from Trushant Patel's delivery.

Skipper Kumar made his presence felt with equally impressive displays, given the senior cricketer notched 39 runs consisting of two fours and two sixes.

He eventually turned out to be the top run-getter. Safvan Annarathodika ended the innings with the bat in hand, posting 20 runs not out, which included a four and a six.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's Ashish Shah recorded three wickets, he was, for that matter, the bowler with most wickets.

Needing 141 runs to register a victory, Gymkhana Cricket Club batsmen put spirited showing, they eventually lost steam, recording 130 runs all out in 19.5 overs.

Opening batsman, Amit Raghuvanshi, was 10 runs short of a half-century in the unsuccessful chase, cracking eight fours.

He had his outfit successfully dealing with fellow opener Amar Shangvi's early dismissal, pushing the club's score to 63 runs after 9.1 overs.

Shangvi's efforts to flex his muscles ended in vain as he could merely notch four runs.

He succumbed to the early exit as he was stumped by Safvan Annarathodika from Manoj's delivery.

Skipper Harshel, deployed as top order batsman, did all he could to keep within reach of a successful chase with his 21 runs which included a boundary and a six.

The other senior performers, Ashish Nagewadia and Gourav Choudhary, ended with double-digit figures, notching 11 runs apiece. Ashish cleared the boundary once in his stint which was ended by Anand Ram.

Hamisi Lyimo, a key player, had a brief stint, he ended one run short of a two-digit score as he was dismissed by Nandakishan Pottachira.

Caravans Cricket Club's Nandakishan Pottachira led his squad's bowling onslaught with his impressive three-wicket haul, giving away 19 runs in four overs.

Fellow bowlers, Gerald Dzun-guza, Anand Ram, and Manoj took two wickets each.

TFF election now reported to FIFA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE coming Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) election has taken a new twist after a member of the board of the trustees of the federation Abdallah Bulembo opted to take it to the world soccer governing body (FIFA) seeking its interference on the biased rules he alleged are being imposed by TFF.

The federation's election is slated for August 7 in Tanga.

Bulembo, who has been in football administration for many years, yesterday said he, through his advocate, Stephen Moshia of Neptune Law Attorneys, wrote to FIFA last Friday to order and call upon TFF to review articles he said contravene FIFA and CAF rules and statutes.

But the world football governing body had by yesterday not responded.

He, however, said he is optimistic that FIFA will respond to his letter soon.

In his letter to FIFA copied to the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and TFF, he complains that TFF is imposing oppressive rules against people with experience in football, those who played football, those who help football develop, and others from being elected as the federation's president, vice-president, and executive committee members.

"I'm a member of the board of trustees of TFF, I'm writing to complain to you on the ongoing unconstitutional affairs within TFF, which in many ways violate the articles of the FIFA statutes June 2019 edition," he noted.

"I'm writing to you today seeking your interference in the currently intended general election for the reason that the same violates the articles of the FIFA statutes," said part of Bulembo's letter.

He quoted some of the specific rules and articles from the said instruments he alleged to have been violated by TFF.

Bulembo quoted articles 30(4), 5 of the TFF constitution as being in total contravention of the FIFA statutes and CAF constitution which he said in their operations has never been a requirement for a leader in the football federation.

He also said TFF rule 9(2) and (8) code, saying it violates the FIFA and CAF rules, that education qualification is not a mandate.

Bulembo, who explained that he has no either personal feelings or grudges against the incumbent TFF president Wallace Kalia as they have been close for many years, reasoned that unlike in Europe, Africa (especially Tanzania) has no sufficient number of academies where they teach both football and education.

He said emphasizing contestants having education (Bachelor Degree) as a requirement for one to hold TFF top position will hinder people like Mbwana Ally Samata, who plays in one of Europe's top leagues, from being a leader of the local football governing body.

"The above contravenes FIFA and CAF rules and statutes. In the circumstances, I'm calling you (FIFA) to order and call upon TFF to review such articles and rules to accommodate other members to qualify for positions of president and first vice-president before this coming elections."

"This shall help the people with great experience in football activities to contest and lead the Tanzania Football Federation," he said.

WTC winners to take home USD 1.6 million

MUMBAI

THE winners of the India vs New Zealand World Test Championship (WTC) final will take home USD 1.6 million, as well as the Test Championship Mace, while the losing team will get USD 800,000, the ICC has announced.

In case there is a stalemate, or weather prevents a winner from being identified despite the reserve day, the two teams will split the total prize money of USD 2.4 million.

It will be the first time the sport will have official world champions in the format.

"It (the WTC) has come to symbolise the best team in Test cricket, and with the Test championship now being used as the vehicle to identify the best team in Test cricket, the mace is on offer," Geoff Allardice, the ICC chief executive, said in an interaction with members of the media.

In a statement, the ICC explained that the Test mace, which was earlier awarded every year to the teams topping the Test team rankings, will be given to the WTC winners from now on.

In case of a draw or a tie, India and New Zealand will share possession of the mace during the time they remain champions.

The WTC final is available in the US on ESPN+. Subscribe to ESPN+ and tune in to the match.

Australia, who finished third on the points table, England, who were fourth, and Pakistan, the fifth-placed side, will receive USD 450,000, USD 350,000 and USD 200,000 respectively, while the remaining teams that were a part of the competition - West Indies, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - will get USD 100,000 each.

The final between India and New Zealand will be played in Southampton, and will be played from June 18 to 22, with June 23 slotted as a reserve day, to be used only if any time lost during regulation play on each day is not made up on the same day.

It will comprise a maximum of 330 minutes or 83 overs plus the actual last hour.

AGENCIES

Poulsen pleased with Stars progress after Malawi win



Taifa Stars' players celebrate a goal netted by skipper John Bocco when the squad faced Malawi in an international friendly duel in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football team "Taifa Stars" head coach, Kim Poulsen, says he has been pleased with his new-looking side in the 2-0 win over Malawi in a friendly clash, claiming his players implemented what they have been training.

Captain John Bocco came through for Taifa Stars after he scored in the 69th minute, and substitute Israel Mwenda made it 2-0 from a beautifully taken free-kick in the 75th minute to earn coach Kim Poulsen his second win in his second spell as Taifa Stars' head coach.

Speaking after the weekend international friendly, Kim said: "I hope you enjoyed the game. I was excited to see how much from the training ground has been transferred into the game. We have been training very well for one week. I have to congratulate the boys because they have been highly motivated to train."

He added: "As a coach, I was very happy to see some of the things that we now have started working on training are implemented in the game. That was one part, the other part was that I announced before the game that I want to see as many players as possible."

He revealed: "I wanted to see how Abdul can do, how Israel can do, how Kibu can do, and so on. It is always a question mark when you change four players at halftime, will you continue to be in control or lose momentum? I think we saw some good quality from the players coming in."

"For me, it is a good signal, that we have many players who are quite even, with one sick or injured another one can step up. This is just the first part of the journey. There are many things ahead."

"It is important to have this camp. I know some people were asking why we have this camp because there are no World Cup qualifiers."

"But In football, we need to prepare, it is very beneficial for our players to have this camp. They have enjoyed it and are looking forward to coming together again in August."

"And also remember today some of our biggest names from outside were not here today. In many ways, I was pleased with what I saw today and it gives hope for the future we can build for the next step."

The international friendly game was part of Stars' preparations for World Cup qualifiers slated for September, October, and November.

Taifa Stars have been pooled in qualifiers' Group J alongside DR Congo, Benin, and Madagascar.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

PEOPLE WHO FRAME OTHERS
MALICIOUSLY SHOULD BE
PROSECUTED....

