



National Pg 3



MBEYA TO HOLD PRAYERS FOLLOWING MAGUFULI'S DEATH

National Pg 4



MAGUFULI PICTORIAL

National Pg 8



HOW DO WE MOURN JPM?



PROPERTY WATCH
VENDORS, SMALL TRADERS AT MBEZI TERMINAL MOURN MAGUFULI'S SUDDEN DEMISE
Bank touts 'Kizimba Business Model' to smallholder farmers
KRA starts home seizures in Nairobi over land rate defaults

Tributes pouring in for strong, visionary leadership

By Guardian Reporters

MESSAGES of condolence from Tanzanians, African leaders and dignitaries from around the world were yesterday pouring in following the death of President John Magufuli.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced in a televised address close to midnight on Wednesday that the Head of State had passed on due to heart complications in a secluded hospital in Dar es Salaam, confirming the worst in what was already in the air as to the situation around the president for the past two weeks.

In a condolence message, National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai urged Tanzanians to honour the spirit of the departed leader by completing all development projects he has left in progress.

"We have summoned all MPs visiting various development projects in their constituencies to come back to Dodoma immediately in the wake of the sad news," he announced.

Ndogai described the late President as a strong and visionary leader who loved the country and her people.

"He supervised closely the implementation of several mega projects in all sectors including health, education, transport, water among others which are about to transform the nation's economy and help alleviate poverty among Tanzanians," he said.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi said: "This is a huge tragedy and a difficult moment for Tanzanians, I have received this sad news with

shock; I appeal for all of us to remain patient and calm during this time."

Dr Mwinyi extended condolences to First Lady Janeth Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the public following the loss.



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In his message, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said he was saddened by the untimely passing of a friend and fellow leader, who took interest in his family and made a point of visiting first phase First Lady Mama Ngina Kenyatta, and President Kenyatta reciprocally visited the late Dr Magufuli's home and spoke to his mother.

He said he was an illustrious leader and a champion of pan-Africanism. "Africa and the world has, indeed, lost an illustrious leader; whose vision, passion, and immense leadership pro-

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MAGUFULI

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Surprise awaited as VP selection process starts

By Guardian Reporter

AS TANZANIANS started a 14 days mourning period for departed President Dr John Magufuli, interest especially in social media switched to how the next vice president would be nominated.

In a situation that shocked many but the public had somewhat become accustomed to expecting the worst, Tanzanians learnt of the passing of the president at an hour to midnight on Wednesday March 17.

Those who picked up the matter in the print media immediately focused on provisions of the constitution, which states that the Vice President - Samia Suluhu Hassan - will be sworn in more or less rapidly.



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A legal consultant contacted by a leading daily newspaper affirmed that the new president needs to take over after 24 hours of the announcement of the president's death, but other sources were skeptical that the new president's swearing in could be done before the formal burial of the deceased leader.

What was not at issue was that the Vice President will serve the rest of the current second term of the fifth phase government as President of United Republic until new elections are held late 2025.

There was a buzz of speculation on social media after MPs were recalled to the inland capital for an emergency session, with word going around as to possible picks for the vice presidency.

One line that looks impressive was the likely selection of a relative newcomer to the cabinet, as such person would not be competing with the new president for the public estimation, or with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for that matter.

The quick succession at the presidency and flawless nomination of the vice-president, who only needs a 50 percent plus one vote margin of all MPs to become VP, shall be an indicator of the stabilization function of the current constitution.

An older version of the constitution, that which existed before the running mate formula came up in 1994 was that the vice president takes over for 90 days and then elections are held, which has been seen in various African countries as a recipe for chaos.

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JPM: From secondary school work to a dazzling presidency

By Guardian Reporters

THE LATE Dr John Magufuli—son of peasant parents—rose from being a humble secondary school teacher

to an elected member of Parliament, deputy minister, minister and finally President of the United Republic.

Dr Magufuli was first elected as MP for Biharamulo constituency in 1995 and went on to serve as Deputy Minister for Works from 1995 to 2000, Minister of Works, Transport and Communications from 2000 to 2005, Minister of Lands and Human Settlement from 2006 to 2008, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries from 2008 to 2010, and as Minister of

Works for a second time from 2010 to 2015.

As president he was chairman of the Southern African Development Community from mid 2019 to mid 2020, and his death has set a precedent in the country's political system, where the president meets with death at the start of his second term, and the vice president becomes actual president for the rest of the term.

The deceased president had just enough time for the composition of the Union Government,



Education-wise, John Magufuli started his education at Chato Primary School in 1967 up to 1974, joining Katoke Seminary in Biharamulo for his secondary education from 1975 to 1977, relocating to Lake Secondary School in 1977, up to 1978.

oversee the transition in Zanzibar and helping the two sides in the Government of National Unity put their heads together to build a new Zanzibar, welcoming them to his Chato country residence soon after they were sworn in.

Then First Vice President and junior partner in GNU left the scene after he was hospitalized for several days, and a former Attorney General will now serve out the GNU term of office until the next polls.

That same process is now re-



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JPM: From secondary school work to a dazzling presidency

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peated in the Union government as the president is hospitalized for a few days, succumbs to disease and the Vice President, who hails from the Isles, takes over as President of the United Republic.

Some observers anticipate that this situation shall bring the two sides of the Union even closer, as President Dr Hussein Mwinyi and incoming Head of State Samia Suluhu Hassan have worked for years together, and lately when Dr Mwinyi was Defence Minister in JPM's government.

Nominated as CCM candidate after a tumultuous elimination of top cabinet figures and well known presidential aspirants, Dr Magufuli won the October 2015 presidential election and was sworn in on 5 November 2015, and soon embarked on a blitzkrieg of changing how the government works. He worked that way nonstop until meeting with a fatal turn in his health condition, and was sacking corrupt officials even as he campaigned for the 2020 polls.

He ran on a platform of eradicating corruption and control profligacy in government expenditure, but at that time (2015 campaigns) scarcely anyone could map out the scale of the changes he would bring into how the country was being

run.

Education-wise, John Magufuli started his education at Chato Primary School in 1967 up to 1974, joining Katoke Seminary in Biharamulo for his secondary education from 1975 to 1977, relocating to Lake Secondary School in 1977, up to 1978.

He joined Mkwawa High School for his Advanced Level studies in 1979, finishing in 1981, shifting to the Mkwawa College of Education (a constituent college of the University of Dar es Salaam) for a Diploma in Education (Science), majoring in Chemistry, Mathematics and Education.

Dr Magufuli earned his Bachelor of Science in Education, majoring in chemistry and mathematics as teaching subjects from the University of Dar es Salaam in 1988. He also earned his master's and doctorate degrees in chemistry from the University of Dar es Salaam, in 1994 and 2009, respectively. In late 2019, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Dodoma for improving the economy of the country.

Dr Magufuli ventured into elective politics after a short period as a teacher at Sengerema Secondary School between 1982 and 1983. He taught chemistry and mathematics. Later on, he quit his teaching job and was employed by the Nyanza



Cooperative Union Ltd as an industrial chemist. He remained there from 1989 to 1995, when he was elected as member of Parliament (MP) representing Chato district.

He was appointed Deputy Minister for Works in his first term as MP, retaining his seat in the 2000 election and appointed full cabinet minister for the same docket. After President Jakaya Kikwete took office, he moved John Magufuli to the post of Minister of Lands and Human Settlement on 4 January 2006.

Subsequently, in the aftermath of the collapse of the fourth phase first cabinet due to the parliamentary wrangle on the Richmond power procurement dispute, he served as Minister for Livestock and Fisheries from 2008 to 2010 and again as Minister of Works from 2010 to 2015.

On 12th July 2015 Dr Magufuli was nominated as the CCM presidential candidate for the general election, as the most outstanding contender following the preliminary

removal from contention especially of former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa, easily brushing aside the challenge from outgoing Foreign Minister Bernard Membe.

He faced a strong challenge from Lowassa as he switched to the opposition as its polls flag bearer, but the public was captivated by overwhelming institutional support for Dr Magufuli as only some leading members of CCM in some regions followed Lowassa to the opposition.

It was at that time that Samia Suluhu Hassan came prominently to the public stage as running mate, even as she has served many years in the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government and as Minister of State in the Vice-President Office (Union Affairs) during the fourth phase presidency.

Cutting down all unnecessary government expenditure, Dr Magufuli's leadership was devoted to moving and implementing strategic projects changing the face of the country's economy, especially the Standard Gauge Railway, the Julius Nyerere Hydro-power Station, shifting the capital to Dodoma, overhauling the way the minerals sector was being run, and building a wall around the Mirerani tanzanite mining zone, for long a centre for ferrying precious stones to benefit other countries.



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy Coordination, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities) elaborates a point to members of the Parliamentary Constitution and Law committee who visited National Social Security Fund projects at Mtoni Kijichi and Toangoma in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is NSSF director general William Erio. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tributes pouring in for strong, visionary leader

FROM PAGE 1

pelled the nation of Tanzania forward, and also steered the East African Community to closer integration and cooperation. On the continental stage, the Late President Magufuli was a champion of pan-Africanism," he said.

"In the passing on of President Magufuli, I have lost a friend, a colleague, and a visionary ally; whom I worked with closely, particularly on our commitment to forge lasting bonds between Kenya and Tanzania."

Former Kenyan Prime Minister and opposition leader who is a close friend of the late Magufuli, Raila Odinga, eulogized the leader as a man who gave him a shoulder to lean during his difficult times.

"It is with deep sadness that I have learned of the passing of my friend, President John Magufuli. He and his family have been close friends for a long time. He has been by my side at my most difficult and painful moments," he posted on his twitter handle, directing his condolences to his family and the people of Tanzania.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni mourned Magufuli as a forthright leader who believed in and worked for the economic empower-

ment of East Africans.

"I have, with great sadness, learnt of the death of His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli," Museveni tweeted in the morning.

"We join Tanzania in mourning the passing of a great son of Africa," he said.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame said in a tweet that Magufuli made a leadership mark not only in Tanzania but within the East African region as well.

"We are saddened by the loss of my brother and friend, President Magufuli. His contribution to his country and to our region will not be forgotten," he wrote on twitter.

"My deepest condolences to his family and the people of Tanzania. The people of Rwanda stand with Tanzania during this difficult time."

A statement released by the East African Business Council (EABC) said President Magufuli was a patriotic, intellectual pan-African leader.

"H.E. Magufuli pioneered the vision of Tanzania ya Viwanda, Standard Gauge Railway, revived Air Tanzania, Julius Nyerere Hydropower among other landmark achievements that have delivered prosperity to the citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania and

the EAC region. His exemplary stewardship led to economic growth elevating the United Republic of Tanzania to middle-income status," reads the statement.

"President Magufuli in his tenure as the Chair of the Summit of EAC Heads of State launched and endorsed the East African Business Code of Conduct, calling for joint efforts in the fight against corruption in the EAC region. President Magufuli was at the forefront of promoting the socio-economic role of the private sector, an avid advocate for industrialization, infrastructure development and revitalization of the energy sector in the EAC. President Magufuli bolstered regional local content and value chains."

Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera who also announced the country would be mourning Magufuli for fourteen days said, "President Magufuli was a towering symbol of Africa's economic resurgence, and his passing is an incalculable loss to the continent. As Malawi joins Tanzania in mourning this loss over the next fourteen days, we pray for uncommon strength and fortitude for the people of Tanzania and their government as they forge ahead together in the spirit of unity and in

a manner that maintains peace and stability.

Toward that end, the Government of Malawi stands ready to render any support needed by the Government of Tanzania in the aftermath of President Magufuli's passing."

Hage Geingob, President of Namibia said, "Tanzania has lost a Dear Brother. Namibia joins the fraternal people of Tanzania in mourning the death of my Dear Brother, President John Magufuli. During this difficult period, I convey sincere condolences to the family and the people of Tanzania."

"On my behalf and on behalf of the Government and the nation of Somalia, I would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the United Republic of Tanzania for the loss of President John Magufuli. We wish the nation and the Government patience and stability in this period of prayer and mourning," said Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo, President of Somalia.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa conveyed his condolences, in his "personal capacity and on behalf of all South Africans", to Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan after it was confirmed that President John Magufuli had died.

Ramaphosa said: "South Africa is united in grief with the government and people of Tanzania as they go through this difficult moment."

In a statement released yesterday morning, Ramaphosa's office said he had spoken to VP Samia on telephone.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in a statement that President John Magufuli attached great importance to developing relations with China and made important contributions to bilateral cooperation in various fields. "We express deep condolences over his passing and sincere sympathies to his family and the government of Tanzania."

"President Magufuli was an outstanding leader and a staunch defender of national sovereignty against foreign interference. He led the Tanzanian people in advancing national economic and social development and enjoyed their strong support. China highly values its profound traditional friendship with Tanzania. At this moment of grief, the Chinese people's hearts are with our friends in Tanzania," he added.



We'll Remember You Always

Hon. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli
1959 -2021

The board and the entire staff of Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of H.E Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, the government and the people of Tanzania. May he Rest in Peace.



Absa Bank Tanzania Limited (Registered number 38557) is regulated by the Bank of Tanzania.

water mission

LEAD ENGINEER JOB ADVERT

Water Mission Tanzania (WMT), an affiliate of Water Mission International, is a nonprofit engineering organization that designs, builds, and implements Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas. Established in Tanzania in 2013, WMT is growing and now numbers about 46 staff with offices in two locations, the main office in Dar es Salaam and a regional office in Kasulu, Kigoma Region. Our mission is to provide sustainable access to safe water.

WMT is seeking for a suitable candidate to fill in the position of Lead Engineer with strong Project Management skills to be based in Dar es Salaam with frequent travels to the field. The person in this position must possess a heartfelt passion for our mission.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Conduct engineering field work and design according to established engineering principles and standards to a high degree of excellence and dependable accuracy.
2. Lead the technical team, oversight, review and assistance for technicians, volunteers, and other engineers to ensure quality of output and adherence to established standards.
3. Promote, encourage, and model Water Mission's mission, vision, and values to the technical team members.
4. Help train and facilitate a culture of capacity building for team members.
5. Perform Engineering tasks including water hydraulic design calculations, and development of plans, specifications, and structural drawings.
6. Provide onsite project management in support of approved projects.
7. Conduct field inspections and site assessments as needed to ensure that construction is in accordance with design and expectations.
8. Champion and ensure that WMT QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control standards and procedures) is upheld by the technical team.
9. Layout and design of water systems including source, pumping, treatment, storage and distribution.
10. Ensure that all work, including that of the Lead Engineer, is reviewed by another engineer as designated by the Country Director.
11. Perform assessments in communities, including water quality and quantity testing, survey measurements and other aspects as may be required.
12. Timely Project reporting, including monthly report, Assessment report, follow up report with accompanied photographs as per specific assignment guideline.
13. Provide disaster response support and work in other countries as needed.
14. Other tasks as may be assigned.

Qualification & Skills:

1. Bachelor's degree in engineering – Civil, Chemical, or Mechanical are preferred (Master's degree desirable, but can be offset with quality experience).
2. Experience of at least 5 to 10 years.
3. Registration as a professional engineer in Tanzania.
4. Driver's license.
5. Advanced skills with office computer (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) and drafting and modeling programs (AutoCAD, EPANET, PowerCADD, SolidWorks, ProE).
6. Excellent verbal and written communications skills (English).
7. Excellent analytical skills, process design skills and project planning and management skills.
8. A level of impeccable integrity and stewardship that demonstrates to those who invest in Water Mission Tanzania a sense of security and trust that their gifts are well used and invested.
9. Must be standards and detail-oriented with ability to plan ahead.
10. Should be willing to travel to remote places including occasional trips abroad.

Application Procedure:

Candidates who meet the above requirements should e-mail their application letters and attach a copy of current CV including daytime contact phone numbers; and names and contact information of three references. PLEASE SPECIFY THE NET SALARY YOU EXPECT. E-mail your application to tanzania@watermission.org by 26th March 2021. Please Title your e-mail: **Application – Lead Engineer – Your name**



Arusha District Council chairman Ojung'u Salekwa administers tablets to a Naurei Primary School pupil at the inauguration of a schistosomiasis vaccination campaign yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Mwanza politician calls on Tanzanians to maintain peace

By Guardian Correspondents

MWANZA politician Hussen Mashimba has called on Tanzanians to maintain the existing peace and stand by the country's constitution to ensure its security.

Mashimba, who was once a member of CCM National executive Committee (CCM-NEC) during Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's leadership, and DC during Benjamin Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete presidencies issued the appeal when giving his views following the death of President John Magufuli on Wednesday this week.

He said good things implanted

by the late Magufuli should be sustained to spur the country's development.

"Magufuli's leadership has improved many things including the fight against corruption, respect among the people, discipline in the government, banditry and other crimes," he said.

He added that he knew Magufuli since he was a young man as an ex-university graduate when he was teaching at Sengerema Secondary School where he intermingled with ordinary citizens, adding that this was the reason for him to abandon his profession to serve the people.

"I plead with you Tanzanians to maintain the existing peace and solidarity and we should work together with the government during this difficult period, including continuing with the strategic projects initiated by the late President that were going on.

He said the ongoing big projects include the Kigongo-Busisi 'Magufuli Bridge,' the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project, the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP) on Rufiji River and others.

Meanwhile residents of Bariadi District in Simiyu Region have said they received with great shock news

of the death of president Magufuli and appealed to national leaders to emulate his exemplary work and other accomplishments.

They said his death was a huge loss to them and to all Tanzanians as he was a leader that worked for their development.

Felister Joseph, resident of Bariadi Town said Magufuli was in a position to change people's lives and achievements to all Tanzanians, as he cared for all people, especially the poor.

"We have lost an important leader in the country and the African continent in general... when he assumed power he was able to control theft and loss on the country's resources in order to benefit all Tanzanians," she added.

Authorities in Mbeya Region organise mass prayers following President Magufuli's death

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FOLLOWING the death of President John Magufuli on Wednesday, authorities in Mbeya Region have organised prayers which will bring together members of the public from various religious denominations.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila made the remarks when he addressed journalists saying the prayers will be held at the Sokoine Memorial Stadium in the city.

RC Chalamila said apart from praying for President Magufuli, mourners will also pray for top government officials including Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan so that she becomes able to handle the funerals.

"I call upon people of Mbeya to remain calm as we wait for burial date details, but let me inform you that we have prepared prayers for our departed Head of State," he said.

He called upon the residents to follow the announcement by VP Suluhu that there will be 14 days of mourning and flags would fly at half mast.

Interviewed, one of the traders in Mbeya city, Amani Mwangupili said President Magufuli was a leader who was very concerned with hawkers and petty traders conducting business at bus stops and other open spaces.

He said the former President wanted petty traders to be allowed to conduct business in restricted areas to earn a living. "We thank God for his life; he was a good man," he said, calling upon other leaders to embrace all the good things Magufuli did during his tenure in office.

President Magufuli died aged 61 due to heart complications at Mzena hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The former president had not been seen in public for more than two weeks, and rumours had been circulating about his health.

Announcing his death, VP Suluhu said: "It is with deep regret that I inform you that today... we lost our brave leader, the president of the Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli."



I call upon people of Mbeya to remain calm as we wait for burial date details, but let me inform you that we have prepared

CLOSURE OF THE COMPANY
REGISTERED COMPANY'S
NUMBER:137702940
DIRECTORS CONTACTS :
0754369405 (DAVID A. KABUNGO)
:0754457833 (CATHERINE D.KABUNGO)
BOARD RESOLUTION
SHAREHOLDERS' RESOLUTION
APPROVING DISSOLUTION OF THE COMPANY.
Name of the company : DAKAMWA AGROVET INPUT CO.LTD
Registered Address : P.O.Box 400,Mbeya.
At a meeting of the Directors and Shareholders held on 20/12/2020 at 10:00 am the following resolution was passed;
The shareholders of the company hereby dissolved the company since Feb 02,2021 as also notified in other newspapers,therefore company directors are asking shareholders to forward their claims if any at the office's headquarters in Uyoile-Mbeya via the above contacts.

BANK OF AFRICA
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REST IN PEACE

H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli

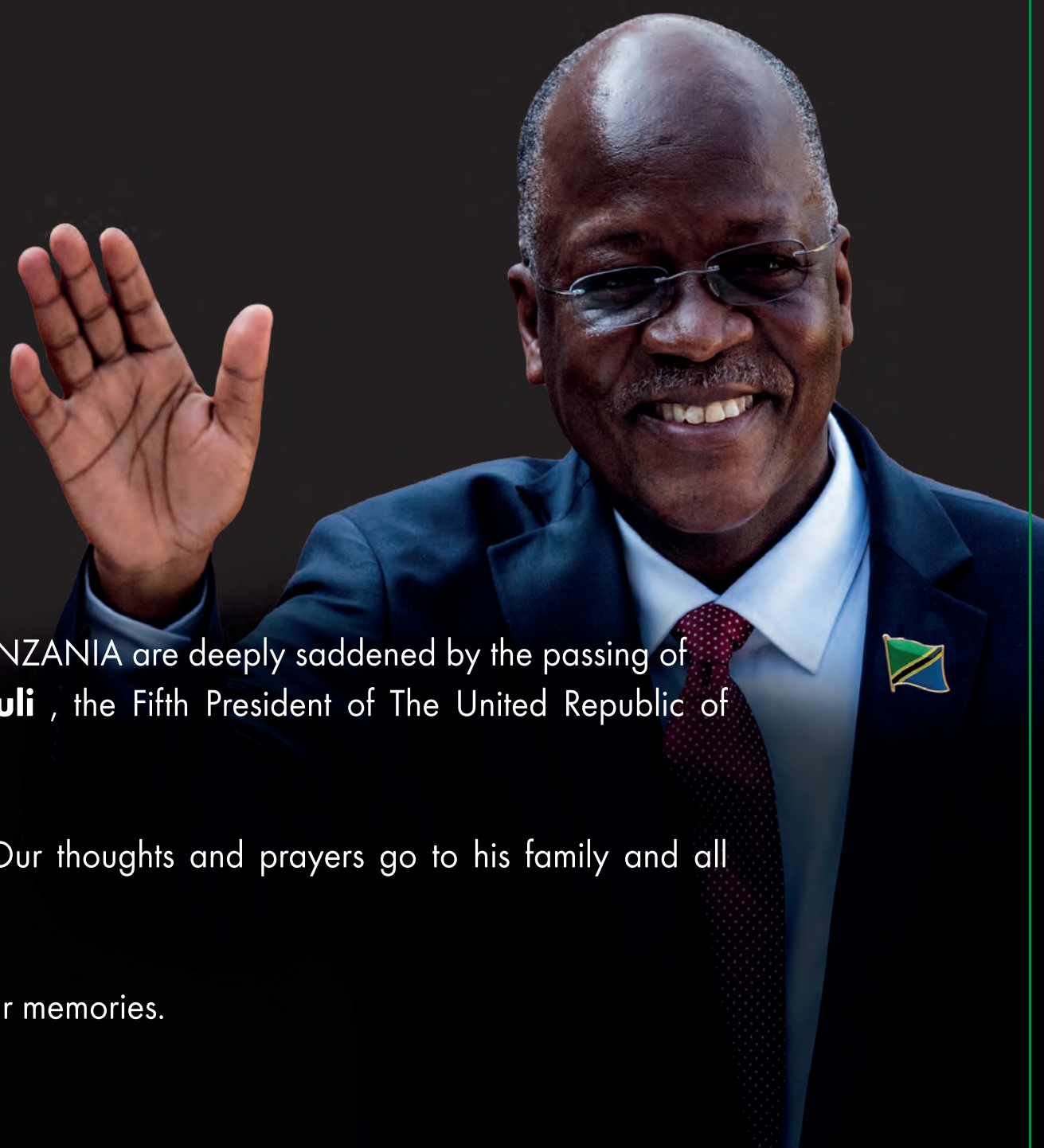
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The Board of Directors and staff of BANK OF AFRICA TANZANIA are deeply saddened by the passing of **His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli**, the Fifth President of The United Republic of Tanzania.

We extend our sympathy and heartfelt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and all Tanzanians.

His legacy and fruits of his hard work will always be in our memories.

May He Rest in Eternal Peace. Amen



President John Magufuli - In Focus



President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli welcomes his visiting Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport August 9, 2018. File photos



President Magufuli welcomes his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, at Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport on January 14, 2018.



Namibia President Hage Gottfried Geingob hands over the Southern African Development Community (SADC) rotating chairmanship to Dr Magufuli in Dar es Salaam on August 17, 2019. With them is SADC Secretary General Dr Stergomena L. Tax, a Tanzanian national.



President Magufuli participates in environmental cleanliness along the Dar es Salaam coastline on Independence Day (December 9) in 2015.



Dr Magufuli holds a cockerel he was gifted by a resident of Somanga in Coast Region during one of his many tours in Tanzania.



The president draws the curtain alongside China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, to inaugurate a vocational education and training college in Kagera Region on January 18, 2021.



The head of state draws the curtain to launch work on the Standard Gauge Railway tunnel in Kilosa, Morogoro Region.



President Magufuli exchanges greetings with James Mbatia, national chairman of the opposition NCCR Mageuzi, as he welcomed him in style - with Covid-19-related caution - to State House in Dar es Salaam.



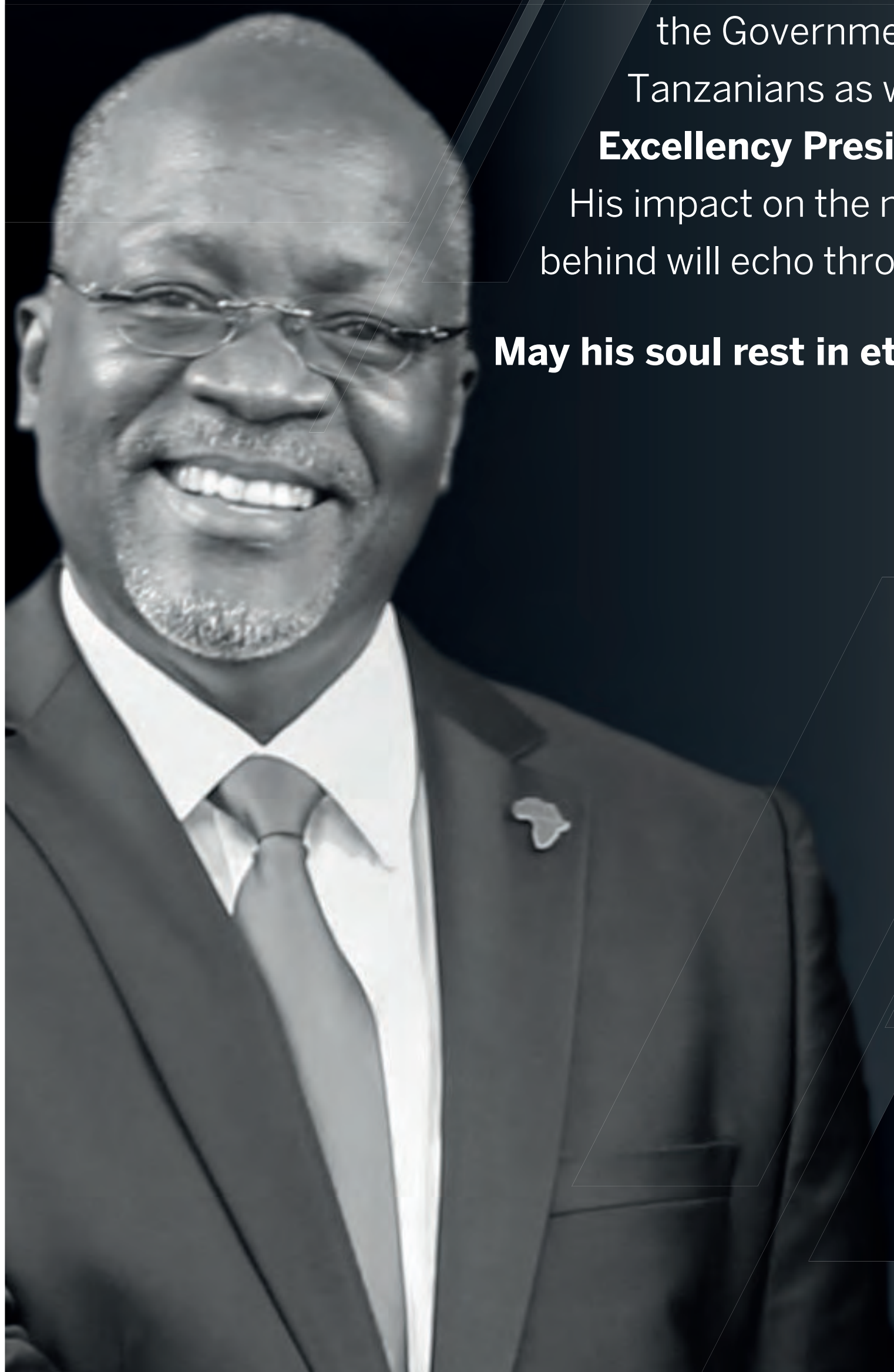
1959 - 2021

DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI

President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Stanbic Bank Tanzania, join the Government, family and fellow Tanzanians as we mourn the passing of **His Excellency President John Pombe Magufuli**. His impact on the nation and the legacy he leaves behind will echo through the ages.

May his soul rest in eternal peace





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Bids must be submitted via e-mail at the following address: salestender@saramac-consulting.com no later than Monday, March 29th, 2021, at 16:00 hours (Dar Es Salaam/Nairobi time). Late bids will not be accepted.

Minister roots for soft bank loans to youths out to reform farming

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

YOUNG people, who have plunged in the battle to reform Tanzania's traditional farming, deserve soft loans from banks and other financial institutions to allow them to engage in profitable commercial agriculture.

This plea was made here by Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda, after attending the launch of Kizimba Business Model at SUA.

He told the press that enterprising young people who have chosen to go into serious profitable farming in order to turn round Tanzania's agriculture sec-

tor deserve soft loans banks and other financial institutions.

Kizimba Business Model project has been conceived by the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in a concerted bid to use SUA finalists to lead the way to inclusive and organised commercial farming that will feed raw materials to Tanzania's budding agro-industries and steadily improve small farmers' livelihood.

The project is coordinated by the Sokone University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) and it is in its early execution stages in Nzega, Kibiti and Liwale Districts.

Saluting SUA, Prof Mkenda said: "This innovative drive that led to conceiving Kizimba Business Model is something to be emulated by other institution in our effort to make real reforms in the agriculture sector. Agriculture contributes 28 percent to gross domestic profit (GDP)."

The minister called on Tanzanians to value and seized training opportunities offered by SUA and SUGECO to be able to take part fully and successfully in reforming Tanzania's agriculture.

Retired Permanent Secretary to the Agriculture Ministry, Peniel Lyimo, also praised the initiative championed by SUGECO and said the nation now should look at the agriculture sector in a 'unique vision'. "Agriculture needs funding like other economic sectors. However, compared with other sectors, agriculture has inherent risks more than other sectors. Agriculture calls for huge funding in order to succeed; that is the reason why the government has started the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB)," he said.

SUA Vice-Chancellor Professor Raphael Chibunda, pledged unreserved cooperation with the ministry of agriculture in reforming Tanzania's traditional farming so that Tanzanian farmers gradually embrace business farming initiatives.

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- Ability to repair to component Level/PCB.
- Experience in testing of PCBs and electronic assemblies.
- Experiences on Apple MacBook's and other High-End Laptops.
- Strong interest and experience with electronics.
- Up-to-date knowledge of modern technology.
- 3 years directly relevant work experience in a commercial environment of repairing high end mobile devices and gadgets.
- At least 12 months consecutive work experience in a similar senior role with good to excellent performance reviews or at least two years in an insurance product division
- Pro-active, self-driven with sound communication, interpersonal skills desired
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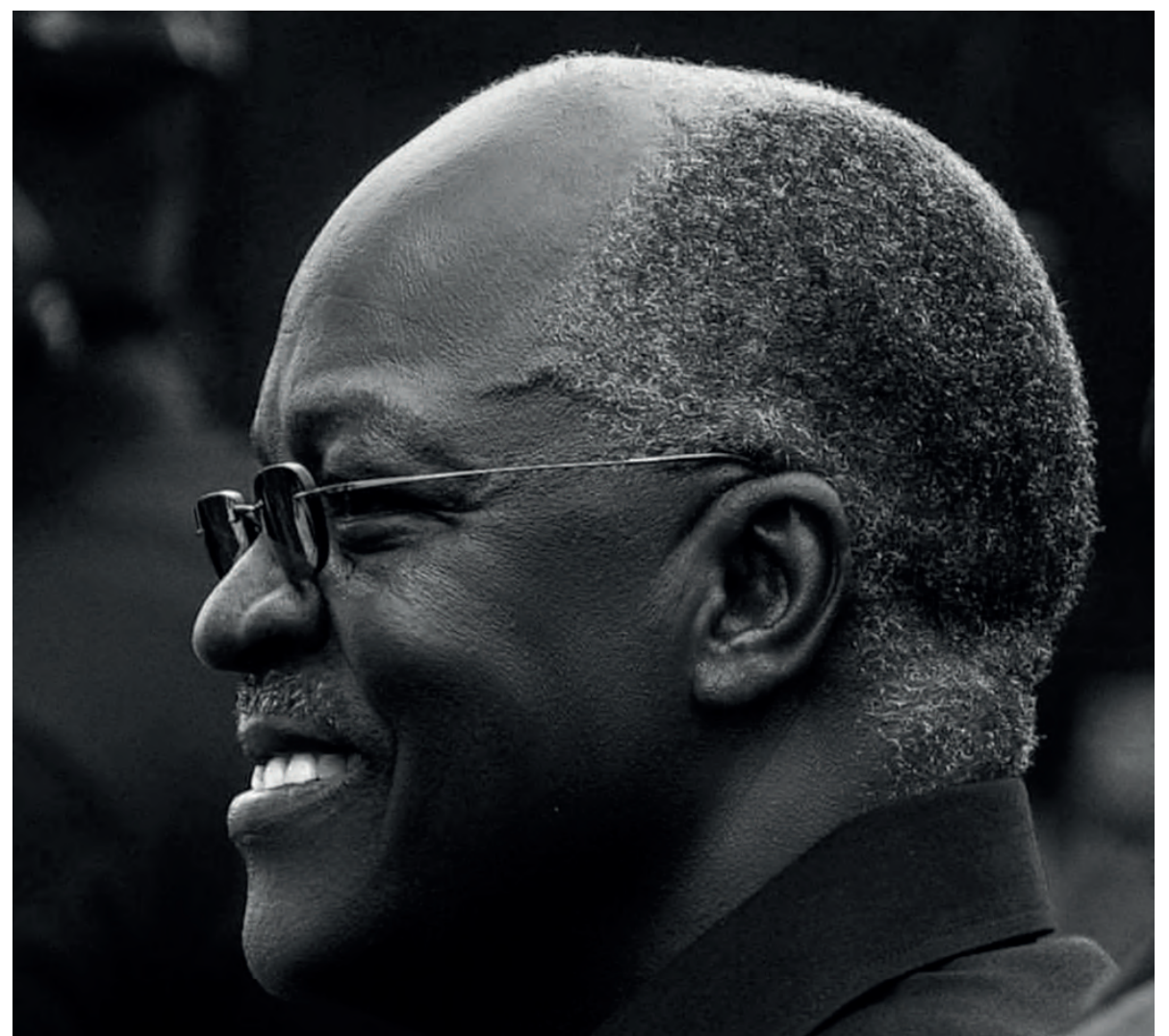


HON. Dr. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI
1959 - 2021

CONDOLLENCE

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Akiba Commercial bank join all Tanzanians in mourning the death of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania **His excellence Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.**

May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace



CONDOLLENCE MESSAGE FROM YAPI MERKEZI

The Board of Directors, management, and all staff of the construction company for the Standard Gauge Railway in Tanzania - Yapi Merkezi, has received with shock the news of the death of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Vice President Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mama Janeth Magufuli, family, relatives and the people of Tanzania. We join you in mourning this great tragedy.

REST IN POWER
DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI
1959 - 2021

yapi merkezi



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

for the Supply of "Volvo L120F WHEEL LOADER" for year 2021 to AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Supply of Volvo Wheel Loaders to AUMS (T) Ltd.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 25/03/2021 quoting "EOI Supply of Volvo L120F Wheel Loaders" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Current supply contracts/agreements for the supply of Volvo L120F Wheel Loaders.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 25/03/2021 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS (T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsg.com.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

for the Supply of "SANDVIK UNDERGROUND DRILL RIGS" FOR YEAR 2021 to AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

- Sandvik DD 421-60 Development Drill
- Sandvik DD 421-15C Production Drill

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Supply of Sandvik Underground Drill Rigs to AUMS (T) Ltd.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 25/03/2021 quoting "EOI Supply of Sandvik Underground Drill Rigs" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Current supply contracts/agreements for the supply of Sandvik Underground Drill Rigs.
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
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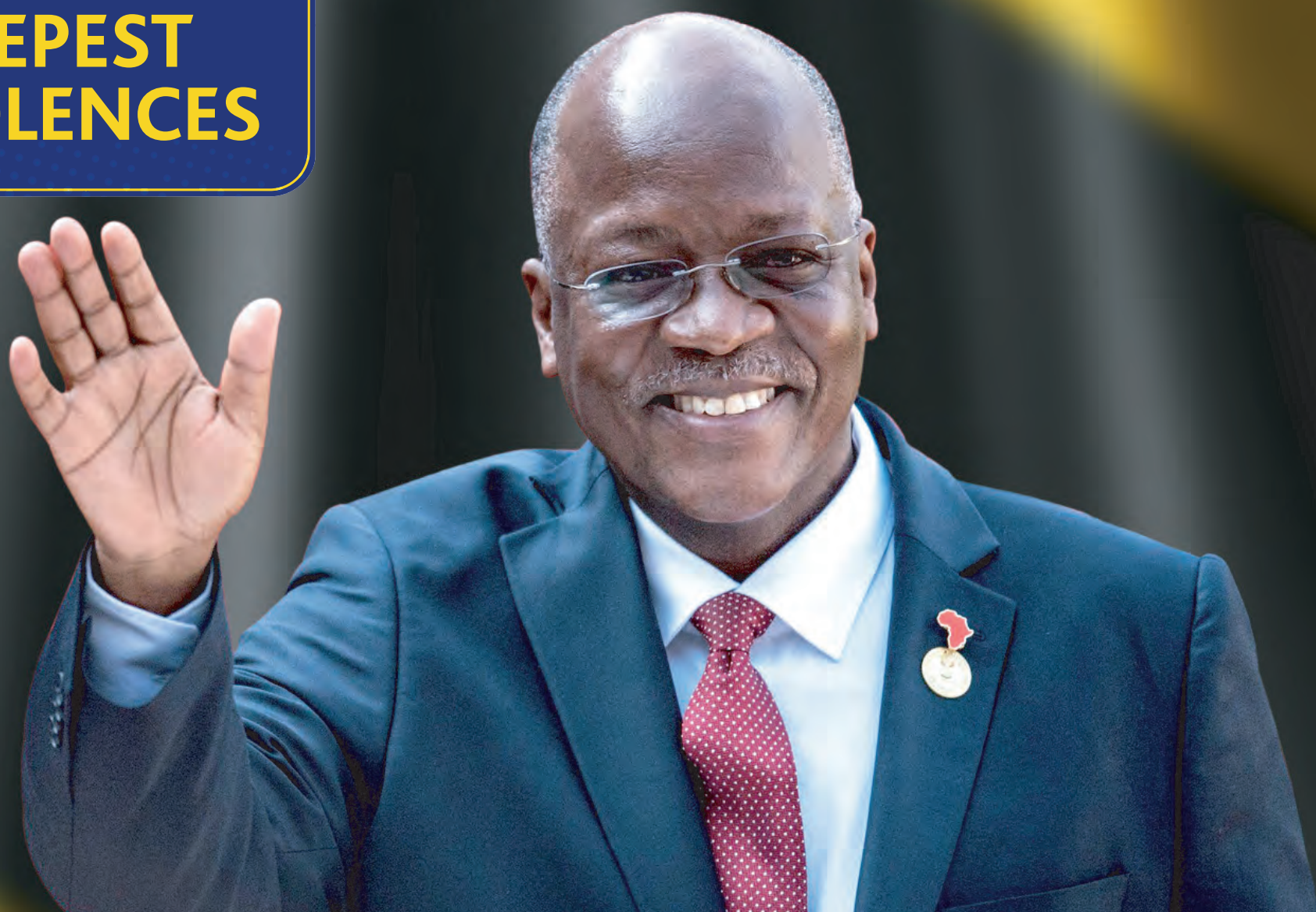
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For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsg.com.



OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES



Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire nation, friends, and family of our beloved leader **H.E Dr. John Pombe Magufuli**. His legacy of steadfast progress will forever be part of this great nation's soul.



EXIM BANK

Innovation is life

FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

How will we mourn President Magufuli?

WITH the nation deep in mourning following Wednesday's passing on of President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli at 61, this should not translate into unqualified despondency or loss of hope.

Rather, the sad development ought to spur us into stepped-up vigour to lead ourselves into a position where whatever sweet dreams, aspirations and thoughts he had with respect to the future of our country and nation, come true.

In this, we should find lasting comfort in the words of whoever it is who said: "A thousand words can't bring you back; I know because I've tried. And neither would a million tears; I know because I've cried... Indeed, there are things that death cannot touch."

An immense lot has been said in tribute to the president, who woke up one fine morning only to find that he had acquired a 'JPM' addition to his name.

Most of this was understandably positively induced by the magnitude and quality of what stands as his personal and official contribution to the development of Tanzania, eastern Africa, Africa's Great Lakes region and the larger community of nations.

Much, much more will be said on the matter - at various occasions and in different forms - and most very justifiably, considering that the person at the centre of it all was a public figure of many years' standing.

Though it is more a matter for other people to comment on, JPM never fell short of declaring the intensity of his commitment to Tanzania's development.

He did as much throughout his years in the public service, including when he served as a cabinet minister but most pronouncedly during his time as President, with his proud track record speaking for itself and there for all and sundry to see and appreciate.

The is no doubting whatsoever that JPM was an out-and-out optimist who unwaveringly believed that - come sun, come rain - Tanzania and Africa would weather whatever storms would come their way and witness times much more rewarding than the ones they are going through.

He had few illusions; rather, he always stared at all manner

of problems and challenges in the face and hardly ever shied away from joining efforts to devise ways towards dignified breakthroughs.

Those who care for facts know for certain that he guided other people, his fellow Tanzanians, into covering. The evidence is self-revealing and hardly calls for the expensive extended services of world-acclaimed sales teams or PR gurus.

But with the JPM we are busy discussing no longer physically with us, a cruel fact we have completely no power to change, the most we can do is to pray that his soul rests in eternal peace - and then continue to wage the war he spent his life waging for the benefit of Tanzanians and humankind generally.

His is surely a rather short-lived legacy but nonetheless a legacy as proud as any can and could be. He has left us Tanzanians debts we have no option but to pay back, including the obligation to ensure that the ambitious and therefore expensive infrastructure and other projects whose implementation he has not managed to witness are completed to satisfaction.

There is also the need to ensure that he is survived by a nation, an eastern Africa region, an African Great Lakes region, and Africa and a world that, whatever the odds, knows and prizes true harmony, solidarity, human dignity and peace.

Should that indeed be what will come to pass, we all shall have every reason to celebrate JPM's life and death by chanting in the style of legendary warrior-diplomat Tecumseh.

Hear how: "When your time comes to die, be not like those whose hearts are filled with fear of death so that when their time comes they weep and pray for a little more time to live their lives over again in a different way. Sing your death song, and die like a hero going home."

Fare Thee Well, President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli. We mourn you - but in the belief that whatever dreams, aspirations and plans you had for us will continue to inspire, motivate and comfort us while helping us to add meaning and value to our lives and the development of our country.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

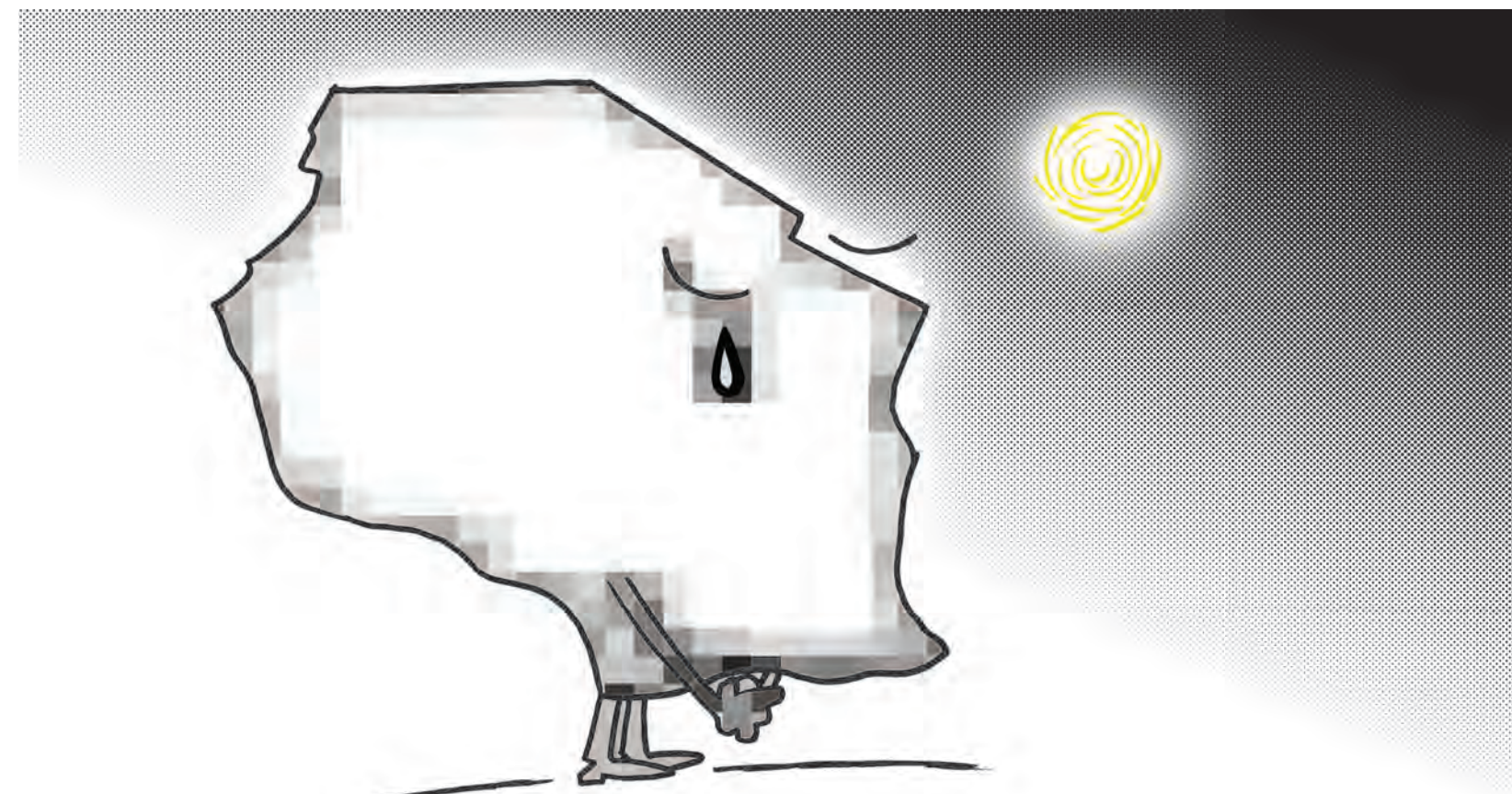
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



Magufuli: The passing of a hugely assertive leader



By Correspondent Mohammed Khelef

TANZANIAN President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli has died after weeks out of the public eye. He will be remembered for a range of reasons.

According to the Tanzanian government, Magufuli died as a result of a heart condition. Whatever the cause of death, though, his passing highlights some differences that run through the heart of Tanzania.

Many people sincerely believe President Magufuli was truly the best leader Tanzania ever had, tackling issues at every imaginable level of government. But there are those who think to the contrary, particularly when viewing him with respect the observance of human rights and the handling of those who spoke against him.

Riding these two extremes was a talent that Magufuli knew how to use to his ad-

vantage.

Magufuli came to power in late 2015 following a campaign in which he had declared a no-nonsense war on corruption. Upon his victory, his supporters were quick to elevate him to the level of some sort of saviour sent to save their nation.

This was despite the fact that the election win did not exactly come as a surprise in that his Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), or its political predecessor, has been ruling Tanzania since the country's independence in the early 1960s.

But part of the reason Magufuli attracted so much attention was the fact that he managed to quickly establish his own brand of governance.

Magufuli used the country's constitution repeatedly to achieve what he was out to achieve. He ultimately built the Tanzania he wanted.

The chemistry guru was so influential as president that his appointees within the government and his party even took to using the term "Magufuli's Tanzania".

To his credit, his system worked - to some extent: there were several occasions on which he proved that he could solve challenges big and small in almost an instant.

Magufuli also knew very well how to sell that brand to the people: he was once seen handing money to a woman

whose pastry business had reportedly gone bankrupt.

On other occasions, he would have directors of public bodies fired if those on the lower echelons of the ladder had filed complaints. His every move was an extension of his election and reelection campaign, making him a uniquely hands-on leader in the African context.

Within a few short years, he had become the problem-solver-in-chief, with people from all backgrounds approaching him to sort issues out for them. Some of critics say he took his popularity and turned it into populism.

Not only did Magufuli appear to distrust some of those working for him and under him, he also got much of the populace to follow his leadership style.

Directives issued in public became common methods in dealing to those that Magufuli deemed to be in the wrong - and many citizens believed him and followed their leader, as true to his brand, everything was reportedly done for them.

Despite his questionable leadership, Magufuli will be associated with the implementation of major infrastructural projects in Tanzania - such as the Central (standard gauge) Railway Project, the Stiegler's Gorge (hydroelectric power) Dam, and the completion of some projects that had been started during

past administrations.

His aggressive way of getting things done was frequently applauded.

In the immediate aftermath of Magufuli's death, there will be public mourning and grief for the president; but as far as his longer-term legacy goes, there will likely be tears for entirely different reasons - from his political foes, obviously.

As President, Magufuli presided over the last two elections - local council elections in 2019 and the October 2020 General Elections. And in six short years, he turned Tanzania into little more than a single political party state, where his ruling CCM party dominated more than 90 per cent of seats in public offices - and the legislative assembly.

As only human, he was admired by some and disliked by others - and naturally leaves a behind a country that has to find its identity again in the absence of its hugely powerful and assertive leader. Judging by his legacy, this might not be a bad thing.

Mohammed Khelef reports for Deutsche Welle (DW-Kiswahili), a German public state-owned international broadcaster.



Eyeing 2022 elections, Republicans jockey for Trump's blessing

KELSO

SPEAKING before a crowd of mostly maskless, white and older voters in this rural Washington county south of Seattle, four Republicans last week made their case for trying to unseat Jaime Herrera Beutler, a Republican congresswoman who voted to impeach Donald Trump for inciting a mob that attacked the Capitol.

One after another, the candidates used their 15-minute pitches to tout their unshakable loyalty to Trump. Off the stage, the candidates said in interviews they all want his blessing to replace Herrera Beutler, a 10-year incumbent, in Washington's third congressional district next year.

Trump is "still in charge" of the Republican Party and his endorsement would be "very important," Joe Kent, a military veteran and one of the challengers, told Reuters. Kent said he was considering hiring a well-connected consultant to help him land the former president's support.

More than a year before party primaries begin for congressional and state elections in 2022, Republicans are in a mad scramble to secure Trump's approval. Dozens of hopefuls have already reached out to Trump or plan to do so to seek his endorsement, according to more than a dozen candidates and two Trump advisers who spoke to Reuters.

Advisers say Trump has been so inundated with requests that he has set up a formal process for considering whom he should support. His son Donald Trump Jr. and long-time campaign aides such as Justin Clark and Jason Miller are involved in the vetting, the sources say. A Trump spokesperson declined to comment on the process and the people involved.

The emerging competition for Trump's nod underscores the influence he continues to wield over the Republican Party, even after it lost the White House and both chambers of Congress on his watch.

Mainstream Republicans worry that the race to appeal to the former president could lead to primary victories for extremist, pro-Trump candidates who will repel moderates and independent voters in general elections. Such voters played a key role in Trump's November defeat by Democrat Joe Biden.

"The danger is... that we nominate people who will say things and do things that turn off suburban voters while also not having that magic sauce that Trump had to increase turnout," said Doug Heye, a former top Republican National Committee official.

Trump has vowed to campaign against the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach him on a charge of inciting the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. Also targeted is Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, the only U.S. senator facing re-election next year among the seven Republicans who voted to convict him in a Senate trial.

"Get rid of 'em all," Trump said last month in a grievance-fueled address at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando. He also wants to hand-pick favorites in open Senate and gubernatorial races, advisers say. A spokesman for Herrera Beutler - the House incumbent facing the onslaught of pro-Trump challengers in Washington state - said the congresswoman is "still a Republican and a conservative, and she's not going anywhere."

Political experts said Trump's attempts to interfere in intraparty contests were unprecedented for a former president. Most, they said, stay above the fray and endorse only in a general election.

"We've never seen anything like this," said Marc Hetherington, a professor of political science at the University of North Carolina.

Hetherington said Trump's endorsement matters because it can drive turnout among the former president's fans, the most energized segment of the Republican Party. Still, he said Trump's targeting of Republicans seen as disloyal to him creates division that could ultimately benefit Democrats.

"That saps your strength," Hetherington said. "It's all spilling out into the public."

MAR-A-LAGO PILGRIMAGE

A senior Trump adviser involved in the vetting process rejected the notion that Trump-backed candidates could be less competitive in general elections. With Trump at the top of the ticket in November, the party picked up seats in the House, elected a record number of Republican women to that body, and made inroads with Latino voters.

Party officials have said they like their chances of flipping both chambers in 2022.

Trump "is not going to allow himself to be ridden out of the party," said Sam Nunberg, who served as a political adviser to Trump's 2016 campaign.

Tom Emmer, a Minnesota congressman who chairs the National Republican Congressional Committee, the chief strategic and fundraising arm for House races, declined to comment on the divisions within the party over support for Trump, saying his organization stays neutral in primary fights.

Trump has already waded into a handful of contests. He endorsed former White House aide Max Miller, who is challenging Ohio Representative Anthony Gonzalez, one of the 10 Republicans who voted for impeachment in January.

Miller reached out to Trump to secure his endorsement before launching his candidacy, the senior Trump adviser told Reuters. Miller did not respond to a request for comment. Gonzalez's office declined to comment.

Elsewhere in Ohio, Josh Mandel and Jane Timken, battling for the Republican nomination to succeed retiring Senator Rob Portman, are trying to one-up each other over their fealty to Trump.

On Monday, Timken said she supported a local legislative effort to rename Mosquito Lake State Park in northeast Ohio after Trump. A former chair of the state Republican Party, Timken earlier called on Gonzalez to resign for supporting Trump's impeachment.



Heidi St. John, a Republican who has joined the race to unseat U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler in 2022 in Washington's third congressional district, speaks to voters at the Cowlitz County Republican Party headquarters in Kelso, Washington, U.S., March 9, 2021.

Mandel's campaign manager, Scott Guthrie, said his candidate likes Trump even more, calling Mandel "the only unabashedly pro-Trump candidate in this race."

Meanwhile, Trump's luxury Florida residence, Mar-a-Lago, has become a magnet for party

hopefuls seeking his blessing. Former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell recently dined there with his former boss. The men discussed the possibility of Grenell seeking the Republican nomination for governor of California, among other topics, a source familiar with the

matter told Reuters. Grenell declined to comment.

COUNTING ON TRUMP

Back in Washington state's Cowlitz County, Trump's grip on the party was evident at last week's forum for Republican hopefuls looking to represent the third congressional district.

A life-size cutout of Donald and Melania Trump greeted voters entering the room. Midway through the forum, a member of the audience asked the candidates: "During the 2016 and 2020 elections, what did the candidates actually do to contribute to Donald Trump's campaign?"

Republican presidential candidates have carried the sprawling district in the past three presidential elections. Still, its fastest growing population center - Clark County, which abuts liberal Portland, Oregon - went for Biden over Trump. In 2016, Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the third district by seven percentage points. But his margin of victory there shrank to four points last November, underscoring the risk to the Republican Party in an increasingly competitive district.

Herrera Beutler, the district's Republican incumbent, vastly outperformed Trump, winning the district by 13 points in November, suggesting she won the votes of moderate Republicans and independents that he didn't get.

Herrera Beutler declined an interview request.

Rivals have called her impeachment vote a "treasonous act" and peddled Trump's false claims of voter fraud that were rejected by multiple courts and election officials around the country. Herrera Beutler's campaign spokesperson, Parker Truax, said of her challengers that "telling tall tales to explain a lost election is not a winning campaign platform for Southwest Washington, no matter how many people try to run on it." In Pennsylvania, U.S. Representative Mike Kelly says he could leverage his relationship with Trump if he makes a run to replace Democratic Governor Tom Wolf, who is term limited, or if he decides to campaign for the seat of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, who is retiring.


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CONDOLENCES



Hon Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli

1959 - 2021

It is with profound grief and sadness that we received the news of the death of the 5th President of the United Republic of Tanzania
Hon Dr John Pombe Magufuli.

President Magufuli was a true patriot who steered the country through turbulent times with wisdom and foresight.

At this time of great pain and loss, we at TPB Bank Plc, wish to express our deepest condolences to the Government and the whole country. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to the family of the President.
May God grant them the fortitude to bear the loss.

May His Soul Rest In Peace

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Why children are prime targets of armed groups in northern Nigeria

DUE to growing insecurity, Nigeria is gradually becoming one of the most dangerous places to live. The 2020 Global Terrorism Index identified the country as the third most affected by terrorism. There was a sharp increase in Boko Haram's targeting of civilians by 25%, and killings by herdsmen increased by 26%, compared with the previous year. The two countries higher on the index are Iraq and Afghanistan.

According to the Nigeria Security Tracker, 2,769 violent deaths were recorded between February 2020 and February 2021 in Borno State alone. Similarly, ransom-kidnapping by armed groups has increased substantially in the past five years. Over \$18 million was paid as ransom for kidnapped victims between 2011 and 2020.

While insecurity is common in Nigeria, the northern region has been most affected. This is due to Boko Haram attacks, banditry, farmers-herdsmen conflicts, kidnappings and ethno-religious conflicts. Sadly, children have not been spared.

In the northeast, children have been murdered, abducted and used as sex slaves, forcefully recruited as child soldiers, and suffer from diseases and malnutrition at the Internally Displaced Persons camps. The United Nations says almost 4,000 children were killed in just a year, 2015 to 2016. UNICEF reported that an estimated 1.9 million people are displaced - and about 60% of them are children; many under the age of five.

The rising phenomenon has further manifested in the recent wave of attacks on schools and kidnapping of students. My research published last year highlights why children have become targets for the armed groups in northern Nigeria. This paper focuses on children in the Boko Haram conflict, which has for over 10



years ravaged the northeastern part of Nigeria and around Lake Chad.

Despite the reality that children have increasingly become the face of insecurity in northern Nigeria, the literature has been silent on issues related to child security. My study therefore aimed to address the perspective of children in the conflict.

I found that children were of strategic interest to both the terrorists and the state security forces. I concluded that child security had not been given sufficient attention in Nigeria, and that child security should be included in peace-building efforts in northeastern Nigeria.

Children and conflict in northern Nigeria

The dimension of children in violent conflicts in northern Nigeria gained momentum in 2013 when Boko Haram adopted the strategy of direct attacks on schools, hospitals and centres for internally displaced people.

It started with the midnight raid of a dormitory in Gujba, Yobe State, leading to the murder of 44 schoolboys by the terrorist group in September 2013. Five months later, another boarding school was attacked, and 59 boys were murdered in the same state. In April 2014, 276 schoolgirls were abducted in Chibok in Borno State.

UNICEF in its 2018 report said that the group had kidnapped over 1,000 children since 2013. Between 2015 and 2016, the UN estimated that 3,909 children were killed.

In the past five years, the rise of banditry added a new and dangerous dimension to attacks on children. On December 11 2020, 333 students were kidnapped in Kankara, Katsina State. On December 20 2020, 80 students at an Islamic school were kidnapped in Mahuta, Katsina State. Twenty seven students were abducted in Kagara, Niger State, on February 17 2021.

The latest occurred on February 25 with the abduction of 317 schoolgirls in Jangebe, Talata-Mafara local government, Zamfara State.

Why children are prime targets

Our study used a qualitative approach, relying on data from institutional reports of intergovernmental agencies like the United Nations, United Nations Children's Fund, and International Organisation for Migration; non-governmental agencies like Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, Mercy Corps, Open Doors and media reports. The research showed that children were of strategic interest to the armed groups for many reasons. First, targeting children proved effective as a tool to negotiate for the release of members of the group in prison and receive huge ransoms to purchase weapons and fund their operations.

Second, the armed groups were interested in children to gain local and international attention to show their strength, seek international collaborations with similar groups, and amplify their demands on the state authorities.

Third, children were useful for their military operations, especially for terrorist groups. They could plant explosives, act as human shields or suicide bombers, and spy on the other parties because they didn't arouse suspicion.

Fourth, the attack on schools corresponded with the central ideology driving terrorism in the region, which was based on opposition to Western education. The increased attacks showed the plan was to make the region insecure for teaching and learning.

Fifth, girls were of interest to the armed groups for sexual exploitation. Abducted girls were sometimes raped or forced into marriages in the camps.

Nigeria must safeguard its children more

Child security has not been given sufficient attention in Nigeria. This explains the successful attacks on children in recent times. Child security underscores the essence of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, which Nigeria is a party to.

The government must show serious commitment to children's security by tackling the rising problem of insecurity ravaging the country. The paper underscores the need for specialised programmes that can address the peculiar challenges of children involved in the conflict zones and not merely incorporate them into adult-focused or general programmes.

The international community, including important nongovernmental organisations promoting children's rights and welfare, must also compel the authorities to secure the children and internationalise the problem of child insecurity in Nigeria. The Conversation

Hakeem Onapajo, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Nile University of Nigeria

IPS



The international community, including important nongovernmental organisations promoting children's rights and welfare, must also compel the authorities to secure the children and internationalise the problem of child insecurity in Nigeria.



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA
ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED



BURIANI



Dkt. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI

Rais wa Awamu ya Tano wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania

PUMZIKA KWA AMANI

1959 - 2021



tcr_a_tanzania



Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania

Global Recycling Day calls for collaborative initiatives to put in place world free of waste

By Felister Peter

THE world yesterday celebrated Global Recycling Day with stakeholders insisting on how to advance the prosperity of Africa by growing an inclusive economy and reducing the impact of packaging waste on the environment.

The day which is celebrated on every March 18th is dedicated to recognizing the role recycling plays in promoting a more circular economy that reduces reliance on finite natural resources.

This year's theme is 'Recognizing recycling as an essential industry'.

Coca-Cola Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, James Quincey said: "Coca-Cola Beverages Africa (CCBA) made its ambitious recycling targets a top business priority, alongside key performance metrics for growth and profitability."

Quincey added: "We measure our business success not only according to growth and profits, but also by doing business the right way - following our values and working toward solutions that benefit not only us all but also future generations. Profitability is important, but not at any cost. We don't believe there's another way of doing business the right way."

He said the company's commitment is to invest in the planet and packaging, to help make the world's packaging problem a thing of the past.

"Coca-Cola and its bottling partners are leading the industry with a bold, ambitious goal which is to help collect and recycle a bottle for every one we sell by 2030. We want to support local governments' waste management objectives by making recycling more accessible and to achieve 100 percent collection and recycling by 2030," he said.

He said the company's goals also include making all its consumer packaging 100 percent recyclable globally by 2025 and use at least 50 percent recycled material in its packaging by 2030.

"This is part of our larger strategy to grow with conscience as we become a total beverage company," Quincey said adding that in the 14 markets where CCBA operates, the company is on track to meet the set targets well ahead of schedule.

According to him, holistic solutions to challenges like packaging waste require partnerships, and it is important that stakeholders work together to ensure transformation, inclusion and sustainability of the circular economy across the continent.

He said: "What we need is for communities, countries, governments and regulators to accelerate the shift towards circular or closed-

loop business models. High levels of collaboration are required for it to be implemented successfully."

He said the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is the most efficient means to support the circular economy through payment of EPR fees and striving to increasingly use recycled plastic.

He said although the EPR costs more than virgin plastic, it ultimately enables the circular economy.

He gave an example of PETCO, a model which was initiated in South Africa in 2004 as an industry-led initiative for collection and recycling of PET bottles. It has since been established in Kenya and Ethiopia.

In Tanzania, apart from facilitating recycling of more PET bottles than sold in the market in 2020, Coca-Cola Kwanza partnered with other soft drink producers in registering a local PET Recycle Company (T) Limited (PETCO Tanzania).



Regent honeyeater: Endangered bird 'has forgotten its song'

By Victoria Gill

A RARE songbird has become so threatened that it has started to lose its song, say scientists.

The regent honeyeater, once abundant in south-eastern Australia, is now listed as critically endangered; just 300 individuals remain in the world.

"They don't get the chance to hang around with other honeyeaters and learn what they're supposed to sound like," explained Dr Ross Crates.

Dr Crates, a member of the Difficult Bird Research Group at the Australian National University in Canberra, is now trying to preserve the birds' song by teaching captive honeyeaters the songs of their wild relatives.

The researchers had not set out to study the song of the regent honeyeater, but simply to find the birds. "They're so rare and the area they could occupy is so big - probably 10 times the size of the UK - that we were looking for a needle in a haystack," said Dr Crates.

During this painstaking search, he started to notice birds that were "singing weird songs".

He recalled: "They didn't sound anything like a regent honeyeater - they sounded like different species."

Songbirds learn their songs the same way that humans learn how to speak.

"As young birds, when they leave the nest and go out into the big wide world, they need to associate with other, older males so they can listen to them sing and repeat that song over time," said Dr Crates.

The regent honeyeater, which has lost about 90% of its habitat, now has such a small, sparsely distributed population that young males are simply unable to find other males and hear their songs.

"So they end up learning the songs of other species," Dr Crates explained.

The natural song of the regent honeyeater has essentially "disappeared" in 12% of the population, the research revealed.

Dr Sue Anne Zollinger, an expert in animal communication from Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK, said the research demonstrated how songbirds need the chance to listen to and learn from others, "the same way that human child needs a rich linguistic experience when young in order to speak fluently as adults".

"This study shows how damaging population declines and habitat fragmentation might be to this critical process in the life of songbirds," she commented. In a note of conservation hope, the scientists are using their recordings of wild birds to teach captive honeyeaters their own song.

There is already a project to release captive-bred regent honeyeaters into the wild every few years, to boost the population.

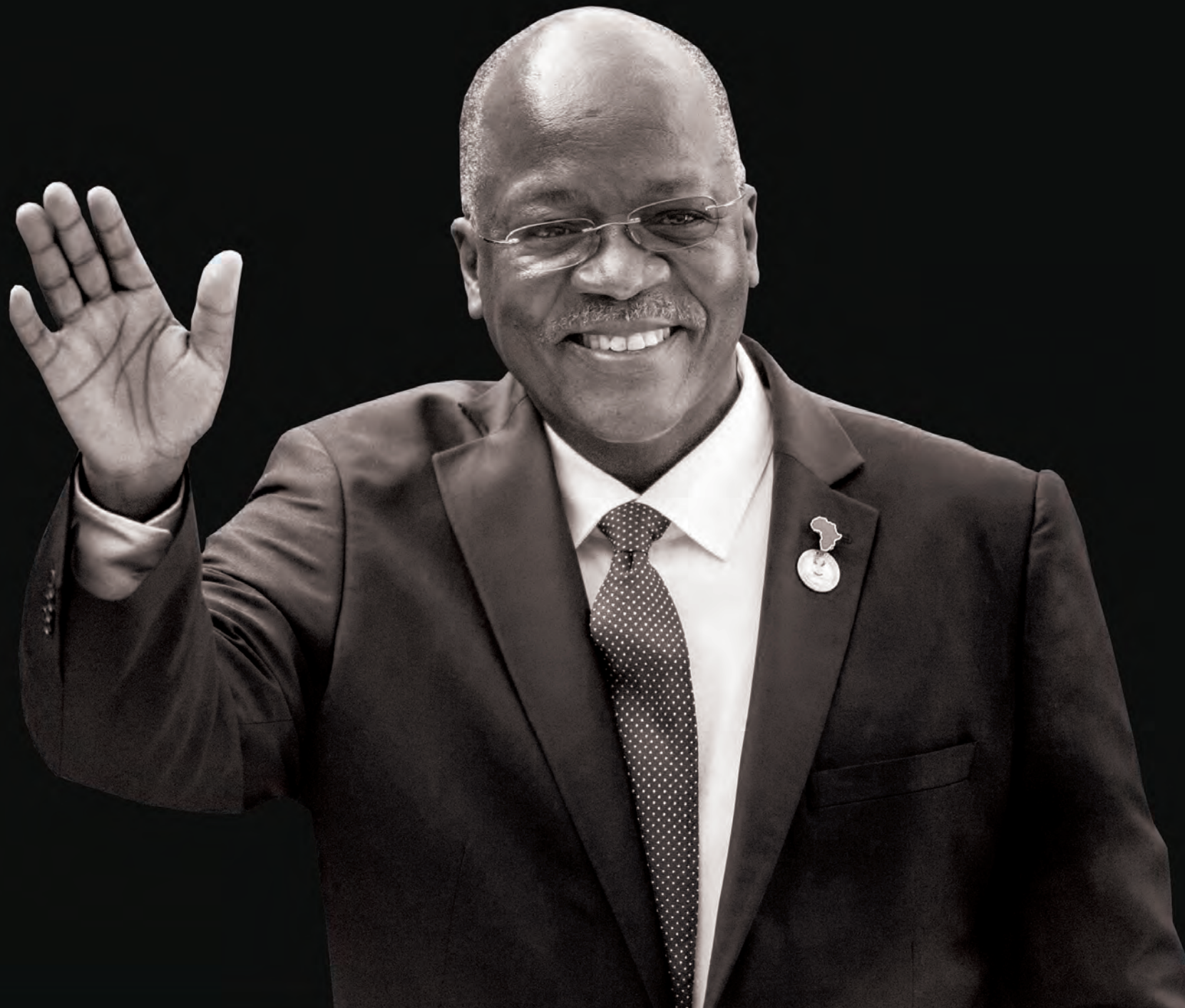
"But if those male birds are singing a weird song, the females might not mate with them," explained Dr Crates. "So we hope that if they hear what they should be singing, they will learn to sing it themselves."

The scientist added that, in trying to conserve species, we have to think of these "cultural traits" like birdsong and other natural behaviours that are essential for animals to survive and thrive in the wild.

Rest in Eternal Peace
Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
 An Outstanding Son of Africa

(1959 - 2021)

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of National Bank of Commerce Limited join fellow Tanzanians in mourning the death of His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, The President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Your visionary and passionate leadership will be remembered always. Rest in Peace.



HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI (1959 - 2021)

The Management and Staff of IPP Group of Companies have received with profound grief news of the passing of the President of United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

We convey our heartfelt condolences to the Vice President, Honourable Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Government, the First Lady Janeth Magufuli, the entire Magufuli Family and our fellow Tanzanians

May our Almighty God grant us patience during this mourning period

GOD BLESS TANZANIA.

#RIPMagufuli



VENDORS, SMALL TRADERS AT MBEZI TERMINAL MOURN MAGUFULI'S SUDDEN DEMISE

HONORING THE LIFE OF
 HIS EXCELLENCY
 DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI
 1959-2021



WaterAid Tanzania would like to express our sincere condolences to Tanzanians for the passing of H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli.

REST IN ETERNAL PEACE DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI

The Senior Management Team and Staff of **Water Aid Tanzania** have received with great sadness the news of the passing of **H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli**. Our prayers go out to all Tanzanians during this challenging time

By Property Watch Reporter

AMONG food vendors and petty traders doing their activities at Mbezi International Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam, a sombre mood was prevalent yesterday as many of them contemplated what the future holds with President John Pombe Magufuli.

"We just hope that the next president will sustain the late President Magufuli's way of embracing petty traders, he was really our saviour," said Fatuma Mohammed, a food vendor at the ultra-modern bus complex which was inaugurated by the late president in February.

She said, Magufuli had regularly sought to incorporate them in the mainstream formal business sector by first giving them identification cards but also ensuring that they do their business activities anywhere so long as they abide by the laws.

"We had no place at this terminal because authorities said we can't afford the rent but when he came to open the terminal, he ordered that space be made available to 'Machingas' and 'Mama lishes' in line with regulations," she argued. Mohammed's observation was backed by Samuel Mrisho who said Magufuli's death has robbed them of a valuable and trusted leader who always defended rights of small business owners.



Buses parked at Mbezi International Bus Terminal in Dar es Salaam.

"Wherever he went in the country he talked in defence of 'Machingas' but also made decisions in our favour, as a group we are left as orphans and only hope that Mama Samia will carry on his legacy," said Mrisho.

He argued that for a long time in the country when world class facilities such as Mbezi International Bus Terminal are built by the government, small business owners are sidelined through hiked rent or simply corruption among public officials. "When he came to open the terminal last month,

President Magufuli ordered that there should be space for 'Machingas' and 'Mama lishes' and that's why we are here today," he argued.

In his inaugural address of the bus terminal during the end of February, President Magufuli ordered city officials to make sure that there is space for petty traders and food vendors. "If there is space for a hotel or restaurant offering services to customers, then certainly there should be some shelter for 'Mama lishes' to offer services to low income people," he ordered saying huge government

investments in infrastructure are aimed at benefiting the majority poor. "The government has invested billions of shillings at this terminal so that everyone should benefit from it and not only high end income people. My government is for the majority ordinary people who voted me overwhelmingly during last October elections," Dr Magufuli noted. He ordered Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge to ensure that the majority petty traders have room to do their businesses and earn a living in the area.

INVITATION FOR QUOTATIONS/BIDS

Contractor for the construction of community water scheme at Sangara village in Babati District.



WaterAid is an International Non-Governmental Organization, with a vision of ensuring Safe Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for Everyone, Everywhere by 2030. WaterAid has had its operations in Tanzania since 1983 under the name "WaterAid Tanzania" which is registered as Non-Governmental Organization in The Republic of Tanzania (NO.SO.7557).

WaterAid in Tanzania operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK; within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

1.0 Background

WaterAid Tanzania has been funded by PPL and Coca-Cola to undertake the execution of water supply project to the community of Sangara village in Babati District. This fund is intending on supporting the community to have water for domestic purposes and improving hygiene and sanitation situation in their society.

2:0 Execute Summary: -

The project scheme construction is the task of building the full functional water infrastructure as per proposed design. WaterAid Tanzania, aims to search for the contractor who can construct the whole functional scheme, that will enable water to flow in the community of Sangara Village in Babati District. The full proposed scheme designed, drawing and layout are available for interested bidder towards bidding.

All eligible interested bidders should write to ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org requesting ToR with Bills of Quantity and other related documents. The deadline for submitting the dully filled BOQ is on **7th April 2021**.

Bidders should provide documents to evidence their qualifications including but not limited to:

- A duly completed and signed priced offer as per the Bills of Quantities (BoQ).
- Valid licenses and legal documentation to operate in Tanzania e.g. incorporation certificate, business license and relevant tax certificates, licenses from CRB and MoW
- Major equipment(s) for carrying out the works, a list of recent performed contracts of similar nature including the names and addresses of the employers for verification.
- The company profiles. Recent financial statements of the bidder/bank statement
- Three references' contacts you have worked with in the last 2 years.

Eligible interested bidders should send their original bids in PDF format to WaterAid Tanzania Office before 7th April 2021 at **10:00am** East Africa Time; through ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org, Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org. Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director – WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsula Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked "Bid for construction of community water scheme at Sangara village in Babati District."

The virtual opening and evaluation will be on 7th April 2021 at 11:00am through Teams Meeting

All enquiries relating to this advertisement should be sent via e-mail to ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org, Cc NicombolweKidagho@wateraid.org



CONDOLENCES



Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

1959 - 2021

National Housing Corporation (NHC) is deeply saddened by the loss of the Fifth phase President of the United Republic of Tanzania,

Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Mama Janeth Magufuli, family, Government and all Tanzanians genuinely touched by the loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.



By Property Watch Reporter

SBL TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN TARGETS TURNING COUNTRY GREEN IN FUTURE

In a bid to ensure that Tanzania's future turns green to curb desertification and climate change, Serengeti Breweries Limited has embarked on a nationwide tree planting campaign which was kick-started by House Speaker Job Ndogai earlier this week in Kongwa District.

Speaking Kongwa district of Dodoma Region last week when the campaign was launched, SBL Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said thousands of trees were planted the district thanks to the brewer's partnership with an NGO called Habari Development Association.

Ocitti told Kongwa lawmaker who is also Speaker of National Assembly, Job Ndogai that the campaign will be held countrywide. He said the tree planting exercise started in 2019 in Same and Moshi Districts of Kilimanjaro Region with a purpose of environmental conservation.

"SBL considers trees as an essential part of the ecosystem because they filter water bodies, provide habitat to terrestrial biodiversity, absorb harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and are useful for medicinal purposes," he said.

"Our business and the community at large are part and parcel of this ecosystem which makes it a shared responsibility by all of us to conserve and protect the environment," the SBL chief noted. On his part, Ndogai commended the brewer for supporting the initiative noting that plants have a special relationship with people hence the society cannot thrive without them.

The House Speaker decried ongoing wanton deforestation taking place throughout the country saying such actions cause of climate change that has posed the most destructive environmental challenge facing humanity today.

"I believe that this tree-planting exercise today will inspire people in Kongwa and other parts of the country to plant

more trees at every given opportunity. I also appeal to other organizations to start thinking about our planet and how they can contribute to its protection," the House Speaker urged.

Government's official reports suggest that the country has between 33.7 and 48.1 million hectares of forest cover, which accounts for 55 percent of the total land area. But environmental degradation have severely made lands barren and caused drought in some parts.

Apart from helping in mitigation of climate change effects, forest cover is also critical for land preservation by reducing soil erosion; provide timber, medicine, food and other plant based products need for people and animals to survive.

Tanzania is amongst few countries affected by the adverse effects of climate change hence has joined the noble course to combat adversity. The government has taken different measures including enacting legislation to make environmental conservation a top priority across its activities. In that regard, the government has put in place the National Environmental Policy (1997) and the Environmental Management Act (2004) to protect the environment. In support of such initiatives, SBL has backed such state efforts by coming up with the tree planting campaign to ensure a safe green future by preserving the natural habitat. The activity falls in line with Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan's call in 2017 to stakeholders including the public and corporations to play their role.

As a subsidiary of global brewing conglomerate, Diageo Plc, SBL has a 10-year roadmap to limit and completely eradicate greenhouse gas emissions from its operations across the world by 2030.

Therefore, the initiative is significant to also back worldwide efforts to curb emissions regionally and globally thus combating climate change and invigorate a safe green future for the next generations of Tanzanians.



Speaker of Parliament Job Ndogai watering a tree he had planted during the launch of a tree planting exercise sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited held in Kongwa District of Dodoma Region earlier this week. Photo courtesy of SBL.

Geothermal power firm gets Sh500m grant for Baringo wells

NAIROBI

Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has received a Sh500 million (\$5 million) grant from the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) to drill two wells in Baringo County.

The grant will be used to fund 40 per cent of the costs for drilling and testing at the Paka Geothermal Project, one of three geothermal prospects in the area. The others are Silali and Korosi. About 20 per cent of the total costs will fund infrastructure development.

"The funding will go towards the cost of the exploration drilling programme for the Paka Geothermal Project in Baringo," GDC managing director and chief executive Jared Othieno said on Wednesday. GRMF is a risk mitigation facility set up in 2012 by the African Union Commission (AUC).

The other members of the facility include the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund (EU ITF) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The GRMF's key mandate is to encourage the development of geothermal energy sources in East Africa by removing the high upfront costs associated with infrastructure development in green-fields and initial exploratory drilling in geothermal fields. GDC is looking to produce 1,065 megawatts by 2030 with the Paka project targeted to generate 100MW.

The agreement was signed by the AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, the National Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani and Mr Othieno. GDC is the first public developer to sign the grant contract with AUC.

Under the agreement, GDC will drill two deep geothermal wells and upgrade the existing infrastructure to allow further development of the geothermal resource. The Baringo-Silali Geothermal Project, consisting of the Silali, Paka and Korosi geothermal works, is situated about 25km north of Lake Baringo.

The East Africa rift system has a geothermal potential of 15,000MW - of which Kenya boasts an estimated 10,000MW of that. Currently, the country's energy mix comprises geothermal (29 per cent), hydro (29 per cent), wind (12 per cent), solar and others (two per cent) and thermal (28 per cent).

Govt makes U-turn on property tax

KIGALI

The government has suspended the increase of land taxes (immovable properties) until further assessment, according to the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana. The decision is one of the March 15, cabinet resolutions in which the government also eased Covid-19 restrictions as new infections drop and more Rwandans get vaccinated.

The government had raised land taxes from Rwf80 per square meter to Rwf300 per square meter - an increase of approximately 257 per cent.

In an interview with the national broadcaster, Ndagijimana attributed the government U-turn on the decision to the current economic situation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic has affected many taxpayers.

"This means that taxpayers will consider the previous charges while paying land taxes," he said. In addition, Ndagijimana noted that government has also extended the tax deadline to allow more citizens the opportunity to pay for their land.

Sun International pummelled to R1bn+ headline loss by pandemic

JOHANNESBURG

Gaming group Sun International - owner of landmark casino complexes in South Africa such as Sun City, GrandWest and Boardwalk - has been pummelled by the Covid-19 pandemic, with income from continuing operations plunging by almost half to R6.1 billion for its full-year to the end of December 2020.

The drastic drop in income, largely driven by government-instituted lockdown measures to curb the spread of the virus, saw the group reporting a R1.1 billion headline loss for the year on Monday. Sun International, along with other gaming and hospitality groups, was forced to shut operations for just more than three months (late March to June) in 2020, but faced ongoing trade restrictions (domestic and international travel bans, liquor bans, curfews, capacity limits due social distancing rules and so on).

This led to the value of the resort, which is home to the Palace of the Lost City and other landmark tourist attractions, being impaired by around R900 million at year-end.

'Significant impact'

"The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the group, with all operations being closed for three months or longer and the March 2020 trading significantly disrupted. Income from continuing operations declined by 49% from R11.8 billion to R6.1 billion and adjusted Ebitda [earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation] reduced by 72% from R3.2 billion to R897 million," Sun International says in its JSE results Sens statement.

"Our total group adjusted headline earnings declined from R763 million to a loss of R1.1 billion with an adjusted headline loss of 633 cents per share," it adds.

First half takes biggest hit

Unsurprisingly, the group took its biggest hit in the first half of the year to June 2020, when South Africa was under its hardest lockdowns (between late March and June). Income from its main South African business declined 55% to R2.5 billion for the half-year compared with its corresponding half year to end-June 2019. This led to a 95% plunge in adjusted Ebitda for its 2020 half-year, to R80 million.

With the resumption of trading of most operations from July 1, 2020, Sun International

notes that income and adjusted Ebitda improved steadily throughout the remaining six months until the move to adjusted Level 3 lockdown, coupled with the imposition of the 8pm curfew and alcohol sales ban in mid-December 2020.

"As a result of the extended lockdown and anticipated slow recovery we incurred impairment charges of R1.3 billion - being Sun City [R900 million], Boardwalk [R180 million], the Maslow Sandton [R96 million] and intangible assets of R72 million," it adds.

Key steps

Commenting on the results in a separate media statement, Sun International CEO Anthony Leeming said the group took key steps during the year to manage the impact of the pandemic on the business.

"[This] ensured that the group was in a strong position to deal with the lockdown and the restrictions imposed on its operations, but more importantly, they have placed the group on a solid footing for a post Covid-19 sustainable recovery," he noted.

"We worked hard to reduce costs, optimise working capital, prioritise capital investment and negotiate with lenders, service providers and suppliers for either a waiver, reduction or deferral of payments. We formulated and implemented plans to achieve operational efficiencies and restructured certain parts of the business," he added.

Critical assessment

Leeming said Sun International also used the lockdown period to critically assess the group's operational practices, systems, marketing and guest experience. "Several initiatives were undertaken which are having and will have a positive impact on the group's future results," he stressed.

Measures Sun International took in responding to the pandemic included: Addressing short-term liquidity risks, including an up to 60% reduction in payroll costs during lockdown, deferring all capital investment other than critical spend and announcing the closure of the Naledi Sun and Carousel casinos; Accelerating the disposal of certain non-core assets; The successful conclusion of a R1.2 billion rights offer; and, Disposing of the group's interest in Sun Dreams in Latin America, which became effective on October 31, 2020.

"The capital raise as a result of the rights



A bird's eye view of Sun City, which is home to the Palace of the Lost City.

offer and the proceeds from the disposal of Sun Dreams has improved our liquidity position and significantly strengthened the group's balance sheet," Leeming said.

"These actions and the various operational initiatives which we have undertaken and implemented

in the last 12 months have ensured that the group remains well placed to be able to deal with the current and future Covid-19 challenges and has strongly positioned the group to recover and grow into the future."

CONSTRUCTION

Asking prices for UK houses rise again, says Rightmove

LONDON

Growth in asking prices for homes in Britain was accelerating even before Finance Minister Rishi Sunak announced new measures to bolster the market, property website Rightmove said on Monday.

Asking prices rose by 0.8 per cent in the four weeks to March 6 following a 0.5 per cent increase in the previous four-week period, according to the survey of homes of properties put on sale by estate agents. On March 3 Mr Sunak extended a temporary tax break for buyers and announced a new mortgage guarantee scheme for first-time buyers who cannot afford large deposits.

The tax break was introduced last year to counter the coronavirus hit to Britain's economy and, along with demand for bigger homes caused by the experience of lockdown for many families, it helped spur a mini-boom in the housing market.

Rightmove's findings contrasted with other surveys that are based on selling prices of homes and which mostly showed a slowdown in house price inflation before the original March 31 expiry date of the tax cut.

"Concerns of a cliff edge for the housing market at the end of March have dissipated, partly due to the tax deadline extensions in all of the UK bar Scotland, but also because the already high level of buyer demand caused by the lockdowns has continued to surge since the start of the year," said Tim Bannister, director of property data at Rightmove. The number of buyers enquiring about each property for sale on its website hit a new record, which Bannister attributed to a "serious shortage of homes available for sale."

66

"Concerns of a cliff edge for the housing market at the end of March have dissipated, partly due to the tax deadline extensions in all of the UK bar Scotland, but also because the already high level of buyer demand caused by the lockdowns has continued to surge since the start of the year," said Tim Bannister, director of property data at Rightmove. The number of buyers enquiring about each property for sale on its website hit a new record, which Bannister attributed to a "serious shortage of homes available for sale."

INDIA'S PROPERTY MARKET IS RECOVERING BUT IT NEEDS A HELPING HAND



An aerial view of Mumbai central business district.

MUMBAI

India's residential property market is showing signs of a recovery amid low borrowing costs, reduced duties and attractive offers from developers, but the sector needs more government support to overcome the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Government support in terms of reduction of stamp duty and historic low interest rates have set the sales momentum with end-users making the most of this opportunity," says Manju Yagnik, vice chairperson at Nahar Group, a Mumbai developer. "We expect a good 2021 in terms of new project launches, sales ... [more people] becoming homeowners for the first time, and the industry achieving some sort of stability."

India's property sector, the second-biggest employer after the agriculture sector, will account for about 13 per cent of the country's gross domestic product by 2025, according to data from India Brand Equity Foundation.

The industry, which was struggling even before the pandemic due to liquidity issues and weak sales amid a slowing economy, was hit hard as construction came to a grinding halt for several months at the peak of India's strict Covid-19 lockdown last year.

Unemployment in Asia's third-largest economy climbed and GDP nose-dived, drying up the pipeline of potential customers. However, as India's economy recovers, property demand is picking up. The revival is being led by the country's financial capital, Mumbai, which has recorded a surge in home sales this year.

Last month, properties worth more than 117 billion rupees (\$1.59bn) were sold in Mumbai, up 34 per cent from a year earlier and 15 per cent higher compared to January, according to data from Indian analytics and research platform Propstack.

"We posted a 45 per cent growth in terms of value of transactions till January 2021 [from the start of the financial year

in April 2020] as against the same period last year," says Percy Chowdhry, director at the Rustomjee Group. Mr Chowdhry, whose company has a portfolio of 16.6 million square feet of completed projects in Mumbai, expects the value of sales to rise about 60 per cent by the end of the current financial year.

"The record number of property registrations [in Mumbai] for the month of February 2021 is a cumulative outcome of government fiscal stimulus, resumption of sectoral output, rise in investment to boost infrastructure, pent up demand and festive season consumption tailwinds," says Niranjan Hiranandani, the national president of the industry group National Real Estate Development Council, or Naredco as it is known.

Maharashtra, where Mumbai is located, is among the states that reduced the stamp duty on properties, cutting it to 2 per cent from 5 per cent between October and December and to 3 per cent from January until the end of this month.

"The booster dose by the government and regulatory bodies in form of reduced stamp duty, low interest rates, deal sweeteners by the developers, and [a huge] choice of apartments available [to customers] has induced fence-sitters to convert into homebuyers across markets," says Mr Hiranandani, who is also managing director of Hiranandani Group. The marked improvement in economic activity has boosted investor confidence, he says. The latest official GDP numbers for the quarter to December showed a return to growth, with the economy expanding by 0.4 per cent on the year. This came after India entered a recession last year. Moody's Investors Service now forecasts India's economy to grow by 13.7 per cent in the financial year beginning in April.

Lower borrowing costs are also stimulating the market. In its pandemic policy response, the Reserve Bank of India implemented two emergency interest rate cuts that have made home loans in the country more affordable for buyers.

"Interest rates are [at] the lowest and

developers have been sensible about the pricing," according to Renu Sud Karnad, managing director of HDFC, one of India's biggest private banks. "People are venturing out and buying homes," she added, speaking at a virtual event on the property market this month.

Government initiatives to cushion the impact of the pandemic are "not going to be there forever," she cautions. Nevertheless, developers remain upbeat about the sector's outlook. The Covid-19 crisis, they say, has spurred new interest in home ownership.

"There's demand coming in from first-time homeowners," Aditya Kushwaha, chief executive at Axis Ecorp, a developer in the coastal state of Goa, says. "Due to the pandemic and the uncertainty that followed, many people living in rental homes are now striving to get a home of their own." Being a Goa developer, business for Axis has boomed as "the work from anywhere lifestyle has encouraged many to look for a second home that is away from the hustle and bustle of city life."

"The positive sentiment has returned ... and the trend is expected to continue in the future," says Mr Kushwaha. "Buoyed by the demand that we have been getting, we [have] launched a project in the premium smart villa space", and the firm is also working on plans for new projects in Mumbai and the north Indian hill station Shimla, he adds.

Dhiraj Jain, the director at Mahagun India, a real estate developer in the Delhi National Capital Region, says one of the consequences of the pandemic is that buyers are looking for larger homes to live "king-size lives with enough room." "One of the best indicators of growth is new launches in the market, which [indicates] that there is demand for property," explains Mr Jain.

For the past few months, developers have been "gearing up" for more launches in 2021, which is a good sign for the market, he adds. Another trend that is helping the sector is a rise in demand for homes from non-resident Indians, or NRIs.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has increased NRIs' emotional association of long-term security with physical assets," says Prashant Thakur, director and head of research at Anarock Property Consultants. About 63 per cent of NRIs cited Covid-19 as the prime reason for buying homes in India, according to a survey by Anarock.

"They are also driven by uncertainties posed by Covid-19," adds Mr Thakur. "Luxury properties ... [are] hot-favourite with NRIs because of the depreciating rupee value translating into greater buying power, coupled with ongoing developer discounts and offers." The IT hubs of Bangalore and Pune have seen the highest NRI demand, Anarock's research shows. Nearly 68 per cent of NRIs considered real estate to be the best asset class in India, according to the survey.

Home prices in the second half of 2020 remained largely stable across seven major cities in India compared to the previous year, according to Anarock data. "We expect that the prices will go up soon as the cost of raw material has gone up substantially," says Ashok Gupta, the managing director of Ajnara India.

Though a revival in sales bodes well for the market, developers say there are several factors that are slowing the sector's recovery. "There is strong demand in the market but there are certain challenges that are throttling the growth" including the goods and services tax (GST) rate in India, says Mr Kushwaha.

"NRIs investing in Indian real estate have to pay GST even if the property that they purchase is still under construction. Offering incentives and relaxation on tax to this segment will encourage better investments in the sector," he adds.

Developers argue that more help from the government and the central bank can accelerate the revival of the sector. "We want the government to continue the benefits [for the sector] be it stamp duty reductions, lower interest rates bank loans, [or] income tax relief, to attract more buyers to invest in real estate," says Ms Yagnik.

Norwegian Cruise Line bookings up 40pc since start of 2021

OSLO

Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings said bookings have jumped about 40 per cent in the first two months of the year, but that a restart for the beleaguered industry remains months away.

More than 80 per cent of the reservations were new, cash bookings, the company said on Thursday. However, regulatory clearance for the industry to resume operations, which shut down almost a year ago due to Covid-19, still isn't in sight, and Norwegian indicated it would like up to three months to prepare for cruising again.

Norwegian is the second operator to report signs of pent-up demand for holidays, following similar comments on February 22 by Royal Caribbean Cruises. All of the cruise companies, including market leader Carnival Corporation, are awaiting approval to resume sailing from the US by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. "This remains the biggest unknown/overhang," Steven Wiczynski, an analyst with Stifel Nicolaus & Company said in a note.

Shares of Norwegian fell as much as 7.1 per cent to \$29.05 in New York on Thursday. Carnival and Royal Caribbean, the second-biggest operator, were also lower. Norwegian shares were up 23 per cent this year at the market's close on Wednesday.

"The company is experiencing robust future demand across all brands with the overall cumulative booked position for the first half of 2022 significantly ahead of 2019's record levels," Norwegian said. Excluding future cruise credits, prices were in line with historical levels.

The robust comparisons may reflect particularly weak November and December bookings, given the surge in Covid-19 cases in the US during those months. The industry has been virtually shut down by the global pandemic, with the vast majority of sailings suspended since mid-March 2020.

Norwegian, and others, have cancelled cruises through to the end of May, and it appears the industry's suspension may last even longer. Sailings to Alaska, a big summer market for the industry, are also suspended.

Speaking on a call with investors, chief executive Frank Del Rio said Norwegian would like about 90 days to prepare to sail again once it gets the green light from the CDC, the gatekeeper for the industry's return. It's possible the agency may soon have guidance on the "next phase" of the path to returning to the seas, he said, adding he doesn't believe the CDC is close to giving full approval.

US investigators probe second Tesla crash in Michigan

MICHIGAN

For the second time in a week, the US government's road-safety agency is sending a team to investigate a Tesla crash in Michigan. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is getting involved because a car using the company's Autopilot system collided with a State Police cruiser with flashing lights along a freeway.

It's another sign that the safety agency under President Joe Biden may be taking a stronger look at regulating driver-assist systems, as well as self-driving cars. Previously, it had taken a hands-off approach to the

new technologies, favouring voluntary safety compliance so it wouldn't interfere with development.

In the freeway incident, the police car was parked on Interstate 96 in Eaton County near the state capital of Lansing while a trooper investigated a car-deer crash early on Wednesday. WLNS-TV reported. Neither the trooper nor the 22-year-old Tesla driver were injured in the 1.10am crash. The officer issued citations for failure to move over and driving with a suspended licence.

In a statement, NHTSA said it would send the team to investigate "consistent with NHTSA's vigilant oversight and robust authority over the

safety of all motor vehicles and equipment, including automated technologies." An email message seeking comment on Wednesday night from Tesla was not immediately returned. The manufacturer has disbanded its press office and has not returned messages for months.

Earlier this week NHTSA sent a special crash investigation team to Detroit for a crash that involved a Tesla that drove beneath a semitrailer. Two people in the car were hurt in the incident last Thursday on the city's southwest side. WJBK-TV quoted a Detroit police deputy chief as saying all indications are that the car



was not in Autopilot mode.

The circumstances of the Detroit crash were similar to two others in Florida in which Teslas drove beneath tractor-trailers, causing two deaths. In both crashes, in

2016 and 2019, the cars were being driven while using Tesla's Autopilot system, which can steer a car to keep it in a lane and stop it from hitting vehicles in front of it.

NHTSA's moves to send

teams to both crashes indicates that it may be taking a different stance on automated driving systems, said Sam Abuelsamid, principal analyst for Guidehouse Insights. "It seems that under the new administration, NHTSA has finally started to take a serious look at this," he said. NHTSA has previously investigated more than a dozen Tesla crashes, but hasn't made public any action. In January, before Mr Biden took office, it threatened a public hearing and possible legal action to get the Palo Alto, California-based company to recall vehicles for a touch screen problem. Tesla has

said previously that its Autopilot and its "full self-driving" software are driver-assistance systems and that the driver must be ready to intervene at all times.

Tesla has been criticised by the National Transportation Safety Board for failing to adequately monitor drivers to make sure they are paying attention. The NTSB, which investigates crashes and makes recommendations, also criticised Tesla for allowing the system to work on roads that it can't handle.

Mr Abuelsamid said a February letter to NHTSA from NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt urging regulation of the new systems may have prodded NHTSA into taking

more action. "Hopefully we will finally see NHTSA establish standards" for driver assist systems, he said.

Jason Levine, executive director of the non-profit Center for Auto Safety, said it's about time NHTSA starts to get serious about the risks posed to all motorists by companies such as Tesla, "who are intentionally misleading the public regarding the capabilities and shortcomings of their technology." Under President Donald Trump, NHTSA either could not or would not take action, Mr Levine said. "We can only hope the era of vehicle safety being an afterthought is over."

WORLD

UK vaccine roll-out to be slower than hoped, deliveries to pick up from May

LONDON

BRITAIN said yesterday that global supply bumps meant its vaccine roll-out would be slower than hoped in coming weeks but it expected deliveries to increase again in May, June and July.

British Health officials warned on Wednesday that the world's fastest big economy roll-out of the vaccine would face a significant reduction in supplies from March 29.

Pfizer Inc and AstraZeneca Plc said their delivery schedules had not been impacted, and Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick refused to be drawn on whether the issue was due to a problem with supply from India.

"We have less supply than we might have hoped for the coming weeks but we expect it to increase again later," Jenrick told the BBC.

"The vaccine roll-out will be slightly slower than we might have hoped but not slower than the target," he said. "We have every rea-

son to believe that supply will increase in the months of May, June and July."

Britain is on track to have given a first COVID-19 shot to half of all adults in the next few days, making it one of the fastest countries to roll out a vaccine.

So far 25.27 million people in the United Kingdom have had a vaccine, around 48% of adults.

"We always said right from the beginning that a new manufacturing process would have its lumps and bumps and that has been the case in the past and I'm sure it will be in the future," Jenrick told Sky.

"We're sourcing vaccines from all over the world and we are experiencing occasionally some issues and that's led to this, this issue with some supply in the coming weeks," he said.

Asked if the issue was supply from India, Jenrick declined to discuss specific contracts. He said Britain remained on track to have



COVID-19 vaccinations in Bradford

vaccinated priority groups by April 15 and all adults by the end of July.

The European Union threatened on Wednesday to ban exports of COVID-19 vaccines to Britain to safeguard scarce doses for its own citizens facing a third wave of the pandemic that would jeopardise plans to restart travel this summer.

The threat from European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen was disappointing, Jenrick said.

"I was surprised and disappointed by those comments but the prime minister had spoken earlier in the year to Ursula von der Leyen and she gave a very clear commitment, which was that the EU would not engage in this sort of activity, that contractual responsibilities would be honoured.

"And that's exactly what we intend to do and I hope and expect the EU to stick to their side of the bargain."

Agencies

Outcry against anti-Asian violence erupts amid ongoing investigation into Atlanta shootings

WASHINGTON

THE Joe Biden administration and congressional Democrats on Wednesday condemned the exacerbating anti-Asian violence in the United States in the wake of a series of shooting incidents in Atlanta on Tuesday that killed eight people, many of whom were Asians.

Rodney Bryant, acting chief of the Atlanta Police Department, told a news briefing that the investigation was still in the "very early" stage, and that investigators cannot determine at the moment that the shooting spree was a hate crime, although multiple calls received by the police department sought to confirm that conclusion.

Police on Tuesday evening arrested the suspect, 21-year-old white man from Georgia, Robert Aaron Long, who during an interview with law enforcement at the night claimed responsibility for the shooting incidents at three massage parlors in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Eight people, six Asians and two Whites, were killed.

Long claimed that the attacks were not racially motivated, and that he had a "sexual addiction" and saw the massage parlors as a

"temptation" that he wanted to "eliminate," according to authorities, adding that Long, when caught, was on the way to Florida, where he planned to commit similar crimes.

The carnage added to the already high tensions around violence and discrimination targeting the Asian American community during the coronavirus pandemic.

President Biden told reporters on Tuesday that he has been briefed on the shootings by the attorney general and the FBI director, and that even as he reserved his comments on the possible motive behind the acts due to an ongoing probe, he found anti-Asian violence in the country "very troubling."

"The investigation is ongoing and the question of motivation is still to be determined. But whatever the motivation here, I know Asian Americans ... are very concerned, because as you know I have been speaking about the brutality against Asian Americans for the last couple of months and I think it is very, very troubling," the president said in the Oval Office before meeting virtually with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin.

"I'll have more to say when the investigation is complet-



People take part in a rally against anti-Asian hate crimes in San Mateo, California, the United States, on Feb. 27, 2021. (Xinhua)

ed," Biden added.

Vice President Kamala Harris offered her support for and solidarity with the Asian American community in light of the tragedy. "But knowing the increasing level of hate crime against our Asian American brothers and sisters, we also want to speak out in solidarity with them and acknowledge that none of us should ever be silent in the face of any form of hate."

Democratic lawmakers in both the House and the Sen-

ate condemned anti-Asian violence in the aftermath of Tuesday's shootings while warning of a surge in similar crimes.

Congresswoman Judy Chu and Congressman Ted Lieu, both of whom are of Asian origins, accused the Donald Trump administration of stoking racial discrimination and fanning the flame of hatred toward Asian Americans by using ethnic identifiers like "China virus," "Wuhan virus" and "Kung Flu" in describing the coronavirus.

"As a result, the anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents increased exponentially," said Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. She said research has found that the amount of anti-Asian Twitter traffic increased by 900 percent in the first few months of Trump's usage of the slurs. "And what we saw yesterday, is the result of that."

The House has scheduled a hearing for Thursday on rising incidents of hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans.

Meanwhile, Richard Blumenthal, senator from Connecticut, tweeted that the shooting on Tuesday "reflects a sickening trend that must be stopped."

"America must unite to fight the stomach-turning surge in violence against the Asian-American community," he said.

In a series of morning tweets on Wednesday, former President Barack Obama said the identity of those killed in Tuesday's shooting rampage "underscores an alarming rise in anti-Asian violence that must end." He called for ridding the country of gun violence, which he said is a "longer-lasting epidemic" compared to the coronavirus pandemic. Xinhua

Ethiopian Airlines joins Africa CDC in launching COVID-19 test, vaccine passport

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA'S national flag carrier Ethiopian Airlines on Wednesday announced partnership with the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) for the implementation of the African Union (AU) Trusted Travel Pass to make continental travel easier and safer amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Trusted Travel Pass program will ensure country regulations regarding COVID-19 travel requirements are met with mini-

mal room for error and hassle to the travelling public, the Ethiopian Airlines said in a press statement.

The Africa CDC, the specialized healthcare agency of the AU, has mobilized a broad multi-stakeholder public private partnership with the help of its strategic partners, with the objective of addressing current challenges in accessing accurate health information, high costs and inconvenience in cross border travel, and poor data for health policy and biosecurity planning.

Getinet Tadesse, the chief information officer at Ethiopian Airlines, said the Ethiopian flag carrier is offering new digital opportunities to its passengers so as to fully and safely restore air travel. The newly introduced initiative is said to be capable of addressing passengers' travel needs during COVID-19 pandemic as it helps them validate their test and vaccination documents before departure, it was noted. "As a safety first airline, we are striving to make travel safe and seamless especially with regard

to the implementation of COVID-19 prevention strategies," Tadesse said.

The Trusted Travel Pass solution is expected to validate test and vaccination certificates and verify that they are sufficient for their route and share testing or vaccination certificates with airlines and authorities to facilitate travel. The initiative also envisaged avoiding fraudulent documentation and making air travel more convenient, it was noted.

John Nkengasong, the director of the Africa CDC, stressed

the crucial importance of such partnerships in the present context. "The scale of the challenge presented by COVID-19 demands an unprecedented level of both innovation and co-operation, which is why Ethiopia's laudable decision to come on board Trusted Travel marks a watershed in the continent's ongoing fightback against this pandemic's quest to suppress the Africa's development ambitions," an Ethiopian Airlines statement quoted Nkengasong as saying. Xinhua

UN chief appoints Jean Arnault as personal envoy on Afghanistan

NEW YORK

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday appointed veteran French diplomat Jean Arnault as his personal envoy on Afghanistan and regional issues.



The appointment comes a day before Russia, China, the United States, Pakistan, a delegation of top Afghan officials and opposition leaders and Taliban negotiators meet in Moscow in an attempt to kickstart deadlocked peace talks.

"The Secretary-General has asked Arnault (pictured) to assist in the achievement of a political solution to the conflict, working closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and regional partners," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

Dujarric said earlier on Wednesday that the United Nations was not sending anyone to the talks in Moscow.

US special envoy on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad has been trying to drum up support for a written proposal that includes an interim government and ceasefire, as US President Joe Biden reviews plans for Afghanistan ahead of a May 1 troop withdrawal deadline agreed with the Taliban by the Trump administration.

The Moscow gathering will be followed by a meeting of regional players in the first week of April in Turkey and a summit that Khalilzad has asked the United Nations to organise, styled on a 2001 conference in the Germany city of Bonn.

"Our aim is to best support the people in Afghanistan in reaching peace and in ensuring that the gains that have been obtained ... especially on the rights of women, are not lost in any political discussion. But I don't have any firm dates or meetings to announce for you as of yet," Dujarric said. Agencies

Chinese embassy refutes rumours about 'take-over' of S.Sudan airport

JUBA

THE Chinese Embassy in South Sudan has refuted rumours claiming that China will take over the newly renovated international airport in capital Juba if the loan repayment defaults.

"The rumours have been made up to exaggerate the amount of China's loan to South Sudan, so as to blame China for creating a 'debt trap'," said a statement issued Tuesday by the embassy.

Statistics from the International Monetary Fund indicate that the Chinese loan accounts for about 10 percent of South Sudan's total loans and the bulk of them are commercial ones issued by other foreign financial institutions.

The fabricated story insinuated that the amount of Chinese loans to South Sudan is several times higher than the country's total external debts, the Chinese embassy said.

China, at the request of the South Sudan government, extended a preferential buyer credit loan to support the renovation and expansion of the Juba International Airport (JIA) that was previously in disrepair.

The airport's reconstruction and expansion started in March 2014 and finished in March 2017. Then the airport was handed over to South Sudan.

The refurbished airport has been instrumental in socio-economic development of the world's youngest nation, besides facilitating humanitarian assistance.

"JIA has always been managed by the South Sudanese side in the past, present and future," said the statement, adding that its renovation and expansion have led to more than a 60-percent increase in passenger flow while its international flights have tripled.

"Considering the remarkable revenue generated by the project, there will be no difficulty in repaying the loan for South Sudan, nor will it increase the debt burden of the country so long as both sides comply with the agreement faithfully," said the statement.

China has over the years provided humanitarian assistance to South Sudan, supported construction of critical amenities like hospitals, schools and clean water systems.

Committed to the country's long-term development through infrastructure development, "China supports South Sudan's infrastructure construction through the combination of both government grants and preferential loans," said the statement. Xinhua



Hong Kong's patriotic societies launch activities to support decision on improving Hong Kong's electoral system

A DRAFT decision on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) was submitted to the 4th session of the 13th National People's Congress for deliberation, which inspired all walks of life in Hong Kong.

Since March 5, Hong Kong's patriotic societies have launched petition activities and symposiums in all 18 districts of the HKSAR, which were actively joined by citizens.

Hong Kong citizens believe that it's perfectly justifiable to implement the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong," and to improve the electoral system will bring

a prosperous future to the special administrative region.

On March 6, 36 booths were set up in Eastern District of Hong Kong to explain to the citizens the importance of improving Hong Kong's electoral system for the region's stability and prosperity, and collect signatures from supporters.

"We collected over 500 signatures in just an hour," said a volunteer surnamed Peng offering services at one of the booths. She believes that the fundamental reason for Hong Kong's social disturbance are those who want to destabilize Hong Kong and have seeped into the HKSAR's governance system through institutional loopholes.

"Therefore I strongly support the im-

provement on Hong Kong's electoral system, which is expected to eliminate the destroyers and select those who really want to serve the Hong Kong citizens," she said.

According to Li Guanhua, head of the residents' association in Sha Tin District, many residents joined the activities even in rains, and they were of different ages and from different jobs. He hopes that the electoral system can be improved as soon as possible, so as to return a happy and stable environment for Hong Kong citizens.

"We must stop allowing the 'burn with us' tactics. Only the patriots love their homes and the society, and genuinely protect the interests of citizens," said a citizen surnamed Cheng, adding that the Pearl of

the Orient will be shining again after governance issues are improved.

Cheung Kwok Kwan, vice-chairperson of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, and member of the Legislative Council, introduced that he talked with many citizens during the activities, and found that almost every one of them hoped to improve the electoral system and stop the actions disturbing Hong Kong's rule of law and orders. "To bring orders to the society and a happy life back to citizens is a common aspiration of the people," he said.

"If you love your country, you shall be bold to express it." That was a common voice made by over 30 young representa-

tives attending a symposium jointly held by HK Federation of Fujian Associations and The Y. Elites Association on March 7.

Wong Chun-tat, Chairman of The Hong Kong Travel Industry Council, said no tourist likes to travel to a chaotic city, and to implement the principle of "patriots governing Hong Kong" is the only way for the HKSAR to maintain long-term stability and development.

The young generation is the future of Hong Kong, so patriotism education must be enhanced for this group, so as to cultivate new successors of the cause of "one country, two systems," said a representative from The Y. Elites Association.

People's Daily

AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine under investigation, safety review

TALLINN

AT least 20 European countries have fully or partially suspended the use of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine following reports of suspected deaths from blood clots after vaccination, which prompted the European Medicines Agency (EMA)'s investigation and the World Health Organization (WHO)'s safety review.

On Tuesday, Sweden joined countries like Bulgaria, Denmark, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, the Netherlands, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Cyprus and Portugal to suspend the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The Public Health Agency's move came out of concerns of potential serious side effects, including blood clots in combination with low levels of platelets that have been observed in a few younger individuals following vaccination, said Swedish epidemiologist Anders Tegnell.

"The decision is a precautionary measure," Tegnell said. "There is good knowledge about the vaccine, but it is still important that we now pause the vaccinations until the European Medicines Agency has investigated whether these events may be related to vaccination."

Having suspended the use of one particular batch of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines due to safety concerns,

Latvia and Lithuania on Tuesday also announced the temporary halt of the use of the vaccine.

Lithuanian Health Minister Arunas Dulkys described the decision as "a precaution" pending the EMA's final conclusions on the safety of the vaccine, adding that both the EMA and the WHO say that there is no evidence that the vaccine could cause blood clots.

Latvian Health Minister Daniels Pavluts said that experts' decision to suspend the use of the vaccine had been unexpected and it meant a pause in the immunization process.

Although there have been a small number of cases in Latvia where people have died a few days after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine, none of these cases involved thromboembolism and no evidence has been found to suggest that the deaths were caused by the vaccine, said the State Agency of Medicines of the Republic of Latvia.

Moreover, both Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa on Tuesday stressed "precaution" for the decision to at least temporarily ban the use of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine in their respective countries.

Estonian Minister of Health and Labor Tanel Kiik on Tuesday said on social media that the Estonian national expert committee on immunoprophylaxis supports continuing the use of



AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine.

"We decided that we will not stop vaccinations. For now, it is not clearly proven that the vaccine is related to thrombosis," immunoprophylaxis expert committee member Professor Irja Lutsar told Estonian TV.

Late on Monday, Romanian health authorities decided "to continue the vaccination campaign in Romania with all the vaccines against COVID-19 currently authorized at the European level."

Romania decided last Thursday to temporarily quarantine the 4,317 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine that had not been used among the 81,600 doses of the problematic batch received, but to continue the vaccination with the AstraZeneca serum from other batches.

In Austria, as of Monday evening, the head of the vaccination department in the Ministry of Health saw no reason to cancel the upcoming vaccinations.

There is currently no evidence of a causal connection between the AstraZeneca vaccine and the currently discussed health events "which can also occur in unvaccinated people," according to Austrian Health Minister Rudolf Anschober, who called for "a common pan-European approach."

In addition, the Greek authorities decided to continue to use the AstraZeneca vaccine in the country as originally scheduled, the of-

ficial news agency AMNA reported on Tuesday.

For his part, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday defended the safety of the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, saying regulators of his country's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) "see no reason at all to discontinue the vaccination program."

"We are closely reviewing reports but the evidence available does not suggest the vaccine is the cause," and "people should still go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when asked to do so," said Dr. Phil Bryan, head of vaccine safety at the MHRA, in a statement on Monday.

France has entered "a form of third wave (of the coronavirus pandemic) characterized by numerous virus variants," Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Tuesday, stressing that his government still considers vaccination a top priority in its strategy to stem the spread of the virus.

The suspension of the vaccine by several European states highlights the gap between an approach of the precautionary principle and the urgency of deploying strategies to fight the virus, said an editorial in Le Monde newspaper on Tuesday.

Xinhua

More Britons return to offices after schools reopen

LONDON

MORE British people returned to offices after schools in England reopened, but there were falls in consumer spending and ships calling at British ports, weekly official figures on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy showed yesterday.

Bank of England CHAPS payment data showed debit and credit transactions at 80% of their February 2020 level in the week to March 11, down from 83% of their pre-pandemic level the week before.

The Office for National Statistics, which published the data, said the fall reflected a drop in spending on 'staples' - such as food and utility bills - which typically peak around the turn of the month. The data is not seasonally adjusted.

The weekly figures are more volatile than the main monthly data published by the ONS - which showed economic output collapsed by 10% last year - but are intended to give a quicker sense of how the economy is performing.

Some 53% of British workers travelled to their place of work at least once during the week to March 14, up from 48% in the week before, while the proportion working solely from home fell to 30% from 36%. The ONS said the increase coincided with the reopening of schools in England on March 8.

The number of cargo ships calling at British ports - sometimes used as an indicator of disruption from COVID and Brexit - was 17% lower than the previous week and 15% below its year-ago level in the week to March 14.

This reversed an upward trend seen since the start of the year, and the ONS said it could reflect disruption caused at some ports by strong winds on March 11. **Agencies**

UK's imperial ambitions lack solid basis, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

IMPERIAL ambitions, which the United Kingdom is more often trying to show, don't have any solid basis, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in an interview with Solovoyov Live YouTube channel on Thursday.

"The problem of imperial ambi-

tions has not gone anywhere. There are ambitions, but there is no basis for them. Moreover, unfortunately the basis is rotten," Zakharova said.

According to the diplomat, the UK has been devising new steps in order to regain the status of a leading superpower. However, "decorations are ruined more and more."

On Tuesday, the UK authorities announced their intention to in-



crease nuclear potential to 260 warheads. The recently-published Integrated Review of Security, Defense,

Development and Foreign Policy underscores that the UK government makes this step due to "developing range of technological and doctrinal threats" from a number of states, which force London to react by strengthening its defensive

capability.

Besides, the review confirmed London's intent to "renew [its] nuclear deterrent," which will involve replacement of the Trident missile systems on Vanguard-class submarines; besides, the Vanguard-class submarines themselves will be replaced by Dreadnought-class submarines by the early 2030s.

Agencies

How China's democracy works

THE annual sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference kicked off on March 4. During the meetings, lawmakers and political advisers from all walks of life across the country gathered together to discuss China's development path. The two sessions are an important window to observe how the country's system of socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics works.

Zhang Xinying, a meteorologist, is also a member of the CPPCC, China's top political advisory body. He is using his expertise to help put the country on the path towards carbon neutrality.

"My proposals for this year's two sessions focus on pollution prevention and reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emission. Last year, I investigated the overall situation of climate change, covering a wide variety of carbon-related areas, such as science and technology, society, people's livelihood and economy. I have submitted two proposals. One is to strengthen the space-ground integrated network to monitor greenhouse gas emissions all year. The other one is to facilitate technological breakthroughs in building carbon data assimilation system," he said.

During the two sessions last



The fourth session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) kicked off at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 4. File Photo

year, Zhang submitted three proposals to the CPPCC, on the ecological environment and climate change. All three proposals were adopted and received positive responses from governmental agencies in charge of the ecological environment and emergency management.

Based on 100 kilometers from Beijing, Tianjin bus driver Wang Yan is also a National People's Congress deputy. Since resuming his duties three years ago, Wang Yan has continued to submit suggestions to the NPC every year.

"During the first session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) in 2018, I put forward a suggestion on removing all expressway toll booths at provincial borders in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province. I was delighted that my suggestion was

feasible. Now, all expressway toll booths at provincial borders in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province have been removed," Wang said. Wang's suggestions have covered a wide variety of areas, such as transportation, elder care, and education. As a bus driver, she makes the most of her job, listening to her passengers' opinions everyday, while formulating suggestions that can have an impact on government policies.

Internet has provided an important channel for Chinese people to have their voices heard. Li Dianbo is a grassroots village official in north China's Inner Mongolia. In August last year, he participated in the Chinese authorities' drive to solicit public opinions online for the compilation of the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

People's Daily

Moscow may do more than just invite Russian envoy to US for consultations, senator says

MOSCOW

US President Joe Biden's boorish remarks about Russian leader Vladimir Putin will inevitably have a negative impact on relations between the two countries, Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) Konstantin Kosachev wrote on Facebook yesterday.

"Such remarks cannot be tolerated under any circumstances and will inevitably rise tensions between our countries. The recall of the Russian ambassador to US for consultations is a prompt, adequate and the only sensible response in such a situation. I suspect that if the US fails to provide an explanation and apology, it won't end there," the senator pointed out.

Biden said earlier in an interview with ABC News that the Russian authorities would have to "pay a price" for their alleged interference in US elections. In addition, when asked if he considered Putin to be "a killer," Biden answered in the affirmative.

"This is a fault line. These boorish remarks have killed off all expectations that the new US administration will



US President Joe Biden (left) and Russian President Vladimir Putin

pursue a new policy towards Russia," Kosachev noted. According to him, "evaluations like these from a statesman of such a high rank are generally unacceptable."

The Russian senator stressed that the remarks had come from the president of the country "that drops a bomb somewhere in the world every 12 minutes, according to expert estimates."

"As a result, the death of more than 500,000 people has been linked to US actions since 2001. Could

you comment on that, Mr. Biden?" Kosachev said.

The Russian embassy in the US said on Facebook on Wednesday that "on March 20, Ambassador of Russia to the United States Anatoly Antonov is leaving for Moscow for consultations."

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement earlier that Antonov had been invited to Moscow for consultations on ways to mend Russia-US relations.

Agencies

Airlines get glimpse of new normal with EU's reopening plan

By Bloomberg

EUROPE'S battered airlines and hospitality industry were promised a gradual return to a semblance of normalcy on Wednesday, with a plan to ease coronavirus-induced restrictions on travel.

The European Union's executive arm proposed the introduction of digital certificates that will offer proof their holders have been vaccinated, recovered from the illness or recently tested negative, and thus pose no significant health risks. The passes are meant to facilitate leisure trips both within the EU and from outside the bloc, according to a statement on Wednesday.

The European Commission also unveiled a plan for a coordinated

lifting of lockdowns. The roadmap, which is explicitly meant to help restore tourism, will be based on a tier system "reflecting the epidemiological situation in each member state."

The effort is aimed at creating a unified policy as some tourism-dependent member states threaten to unilaterally reopen to outsiders. Even with wide agreement, it will take months to implement the technology. The goal is to have the vaccine pass system in place by the middle of June, according to a draft copy of the proposal seen by Bloomberg.

A gauge of European lei-

sure and travel stocks has recouped the losses suffered at the start of the pandemic and is hovering around record highs, on the expectation that vaccine rollouts and a gradual easing of lockdowns will boost holiday bookings. Deutsche Lufthansa AG and InterContinental Hotels Group Plc. have both gained 11 percent this year.

An EasyJet Plc spokeswoman said in an email the carrier welcomes the vaccine certificates plan. "Given the continued progress of the vaccine roll-out we must ensure there is a risk-based and data-driven approach to removing restrictions, with

the objective of returning to unrestricted travel where it is possible and safe to do so."

Adding to signs that the EU is shifting its focus on reopening, its leaders will declare next week that preparations should start "on a common approach to the gradual lifting of restrictions, to ensure that efforts are coordinated when the epidemiological situation allows for an easing of current measures," according to a draft of their joint statement seen by Bloomberg. The wording contrasts sharply with their communique from last month, when EU leaders said that tight restrictions must be upheld.

Excessive Optimism

Still, the optimism that has buoyed travel stocks may be short-lived as projections show that air traffic and tourism are nowhere near their pre-pandemic levels. The pace of vaccinations in the EU lags behind both the US and the UK, the spread of infections shows little signs of abating, and officials in Brussels have warned that new strains of the coronavirus that are resistant to existing vaccines may emerge.

Kristina Mamic, an official at the state-run Croatian Tourism Community, said that overnight stays this year

are expected at 60 percent of their pre-crisis levels. "People are eager to travel and we see an interest in bookings, but ultimately it will depend on epidemiological situation," she said.

About 30 percent of hotels in Portugal won't reopen for business in 2021 as bookings for the critical summer season remain weak, especially from foreign travelers, according to Portugal's Hotel Association.

"We thought the vaccine announcements would bolster reservations but there was no impact," Cristina Siza Vieira, head of the hotel association, said during a webcast

event on March 3. "It's going to be a very poor year in terms of the offer of accommodation because there will be very little demand."

Cash Burn

Reviving travel is crucial for airlines as well as tourism dependent southern European destinations such as Spain, Portugal and Greece, that have seen revenues wiped out after the COVID-19 pandemic decimated travel. The International Air Transport Association said that globally, airlines could burn through as much as US\$95 billion this year, almost double the industry body's previous forecast, as new coronavirus strains lead governments to extend travel restrictions.

Agencies

TPC out to improve women's participation in sports

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) says it plans to involve many women in sporting activities.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC Secretary General, stated in an interview they have started with Paralympic athlete Sauda Njopeka who is in Tunisia attending qualification competition for Tokyo Paralympics.

He said TPC is banking on Sauda to make it to the Tokyo Paralympics on qualifying ticket, not wild card.

Other sports women with disabilities who have represented the country at international events are Bedina Nyinyimbe and Bernadeta Kinyero.

"We have very few women with disabilities involved in sports, but with Sauda's achievements we hope many women will be motivated to be involved in sports as athletes and leaders," he said.

He said after the Tokyo Paralympics, TPC will start an awareness campaign on the involvement of women with disabilities in sports.

He stated: "The country has many women with disabilities both young and old, but they are not involved in sports as there is a misconception among many people that it is inhuman to involve women with disabilities in sports."

"We will create an awareness which will aim at informing the public that any person can take part in sports," he said.

He further said TPC believes that through civic education on the importance of sports to people with disabilities the mindset of many will change.

Namkoveka said some communities look down on people with disabilities and even parents and guardians of children with disabilities often see them as a burden and they are kept or left at home, denying them social engagement with their peers and, in most cases, sports events.

Recently, TPC announced that organizers of Tokyo Paralympics have asked the committee to prepare more female athletes with disabilities for the Games.

In a previous interview, the then TPC Secretary General Tuma Dandi said they were working closely with International Paralympic Committee (IPC) which is advocating for more

women with disabilities participating in sporting activities as stipulated on article 30 of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

He said sports are important to all human beings but they are more significant to people with disabilities as success gives them self-confidence.

Dandi said he is aware of the challenges which hinder women with disabilities from participating in sports, but TPC is ready to change those mind set.

He added sports play a major role in rehabilitating people with disabilities into society.

He asked the society to embrace inclusive sports programs as it is essential that everyone that makes up a community is equally important regardless of gender, race, physical or mental disability.

"We strongly believe that everyone has something to contribute to society what is need to do is give them the space, opportunity and platform to show their talents," he noted.

"With support from German based Agitos Foundation and National Sports Council (NSC) we have been organizing seminars and meeting which are aimed at sensitizing disabled women on the importance of sports," he added.

"The aim of those seminars and meetings are to encourage women to be involved in sporting activities," he noted.

Dandi who is now TPC president further said they will start with schools before reaching family level and he is hopeful that the civic education will make many female disabled people love sports.

He pleaded with the public not to discourage or frustrate women with disabilities from engaging in sporting activities, saying nowadays sports are a source of income.

"We know that there are cultural and mindset barriers which hinder people with disabilities, especially women from engaging in sports, we are geared to change that mindset," he disclosed.

"Sports have a rehabilitative influence, not only on the physical body, but the mind as well. Moreover, sport teaches independence while encouraging team work," he revealed.

"They can be a space where those with and without disabilities can equally participate, demonstrating what real inclusion looks like to those who would try and keep them segregated," he said.



Simba SC players participate in recent training in Dar es Salaam to shape up for this season's Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASC

Simba yet to make it to CAF Champions League last eight, insists coach Didier

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

SIMBA SC head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa has expressed satisfaction with his side's displays following the club's resounding 3-0 win over Sudan's Al-Merreikh in this season's CAF Champions League but warned that it is not over yet.

Simba maintained their fairy tale run in the group stage of the premier continental club tournament after goals by Luis Miquissone, Mohamed Hussein and Chris Mugalu secured maximum points in their match against Merreikh.

The victory saw Simba maintain their grip on top position in Group A with 10 points, three points ahead of second-placed and CAF Champions League's defending champions, Egypt's Al-Ahly.

The French tactician said in a post-match interview there is still more to be done for Simba to secure a slot in the CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

They need at least a point to confirm their quarterfinal berth.

Da Rosa said his charges will keep on working hard and he called on his players to stay focused as well maintain their current good form ahead of the last two outings.

Up next will be a tricky fixture against Congolese side AS Vita at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, where Simba have proved to be invincible.

It will be a must win game for Vita Club, who occupy third place on four points.

"Our next game against AS Vita will be a tough one as it is a decisive match which will be vital for both sides, we know our opponents and we saw them playing against Ahly in Cairo and Lubumbashi, they're very good side and dangerous so we need to stay focused and in-form to ensure we outsmart them," he opined.

Simba have enjoyed a serene run in CAF Champions League this campaign, setting up impressive records in what promises to be a remarkable season for the club. Four games, four clean sheets, five goals and 10 points bagged, Simba are unarguably

finding their place among the continent's elites.

And Da Rosa is more than impressed with his new side's fine form.

"We are very satisfied with our progress and performance for sure, we scored three times, we played a very good retention game and like you see, we now have 10 points today (Tuesday), we have also kept the lead of this group but as I said before nothing is done yet, we need one point to be sure of reaching the quarter-finals," he noted.

Concerning Tuesday's encounter, Da Rosa said: "For sure we were a little bit tired, you know we have played a lot of matches since one month ago, a lot so we can explain our slow start."

"But I cannot have believed it, before the competition, someone told me you will get 10 points after four matches, so it is a very good win, we must continue, we must focus on reaching the quarter-finals and like I said nothing is done for now."

Da Rosa insisted their goal is to

progress into the last eight of the leading African club competition and he is upbeat the Tanzanian champions will complete their task in hand in the remaining two fixtures.

Meanwhile, Al Merreikh coach Lee Clark believes his side still stands a chance to reach the quarterfinals despite lying at the bottom of the group with a single point.

He pointed out that mathematically it is possible as they have two games in hand as winning both will see them with seven points.

Match-Day four saw defending champions Al Ahly put their campaign back on track with a well-worked 3-0 victory away to AS Vita Club at the Stade des Martyrs in Kinshasa on Tuesday.

The victory helped the Red Devils move to seven points, three clear of the Congolese side.

With two rounds of matches left to play, Ahly have primed themselves to fight for a slot in the last eight despite dropping points in two back to back matches



A Tanzanian female wheelchair tennis player features in a recent competition, which took place in Kenya.

Samatta urges Tanzanians to value unity

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA's national football team "Taifa Stars" skipper, Mbwana Samatta, has called on the country's people to unite in this period of grief over the loss of President John Pombe Magufuli.

Samatta, who plays for Turkish club Fenerbahçe, made the request yesterday via his social media account.

He issued the advice a few hours after Tanzania's Vice-President, Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, announced the death of President Magufuli, who died on Wednesday at Mzena Hospital in Dar es Salaam, while undergoing heart treatment.

Samatta wrote in his condolence: "We will always remember you, our old man. You have finished the process. We pray to God to rest in

peace."

He stated: "Rest in peace President. You have left us in mourning and grief. Sorry to family members of our beloved, sorry to fellow Tanzanians."

"Let's stay connected in this time of grief," the attacker, a former England's Aston Villa player, noted.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli, passed away on Wednesday night.

Samia announced the President's death through the national television.

She added that Magufuli had a heart problem for a long time.

Samia announced the country will observe a 14-day mourning and the national flag will be half-mast.

Magufuli will be remembered for his great contribution to Tanzania and his efforts to improve each sector, including sports.

Yanga, Azam FC still eager to lift Premier League top honour

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

YANGA's management has said that their side's pursuit of Vodacom Premier League's top honour is still on, despite posting less impressive results in recent fixtures.

In the first round of the tournament, Yanga started well as they played a total of 19 league fixtures without losing a single game.

They then opted to change the team's technical bench, parting ways with head coach Zlatko Krmpotic.

Krmpotic catapulted Yanga to victory in four matches and draw in one, which came in the clash against Tanzania Prisons at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Krmpotic was dismissed for what was described as poor results.

He was replaced by Cedric Kaze who led Yanga to 18 league matches, winning 10 games, posting draw in seven outings and loss in one.

The outcome led to his dismissal on March 7 due to what was described as the team's poor performance.

In Yanga's fixture under Kaze's tutelage, the squad posted 1-1 draw with Polisi Tanzania, prompting Yanga bosses to fire him.

They are placed first in the domestic top flight with 50 points, they though are under a lot of pressure from their age-old rivals Simba, who are placed second with 46 points.

Mshindo Msolla, Yanga's Chair-



Yanga's Chairman Mshindo Msolla.

man, said: "The target of winning the Vodacom Premier League is stagnant, failing to get results in previous matches does not mean that we will fail to achieve our goals."

He disclosed: "We decided to offload the technical bench in order to solve the problem of poor results so the work is still going on and the goals are not chang-

ing."

Vivier Bahati, Azam FC's assistant coach, noted the team have also not given up on winning the Vodacom Premier League title.

Azam FC, currently under tutelage of head coach, George Lwandamina, started the season impressively under Romanian Arstica Cioaba.

Their momentum was thereaf-

ter slowed down by Mtibwa Sugar, as the latter won 1-0 against the Dar es salaam squad, leading to Cioaba's sacking.

They are placed third place with 44 points having played a total of 24 matches.

"We still have a match and the League is going on so there is still a chance of winning the title," he said.

Rahimi scores as Raja end Nkana's 64-match unbeaten home record

JOHANNESBURG

NKANA of Zambia surrendered a 64-match unbeaten home record in CAF competitions since debuting 38 years ago after a 2-0 Confederation Cup loss to Raja Casablanca of Morocco on Wednesday.

Star Soufiane Rahimi converted a 47th-minute penalty for the visitors in Ndola and substitute Noah Sadaoui added a second goal with three minutes of regular time remaining.

Rahimi picked up the most valuable player and leading scorer awards when Morocco won the African Nations Championship for home-based footballers in Cameroon last month.

Ahead of the Group D match-day 2 fixture, Nkana had won 45 home matches and drawn 19 in the Champions League, African Cup Winners Cup, CAF Cup and Confederation Cup, scoring 137 goals and conceding 38.

It was the second long unbeaten CAF home record to fall this month with TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic beaten for the first time in 75 matches.

Nkana coach Kelvin Kaindu had slammed his defence after a three-goal loss to Pyramids in Egypt seven days ago and was fearful of the damage star-studded Raja might inflict.

His concerns proved valid as the Moroccans cast aside poor recent CAF form to win comfortably and share first place with Pyramids, leaving Namungo of Tanzania and Nkana pointless.

Ramadan Sobhy and substitute Omar Gaber scored in the second half as Pyramids defeated Namungo 2-0 in Dar es Salaam.

Pyramids, who lost to Renaissance Berkane of Morocco in the 2020 Confederation Cup final, are the only team with a perfect record in the African equivalent of the Europa League this season having won six matches.

- Pirates snatch victory -
Orlando Pirates replaced Eny-

imba as leaders of Group A -- the toughest of the four sections -- with a late Tshegofatso Mabasa goal giving the South Africans a 2-1 victory over the Nigerians in Soweto.

Mabasa missed a penalty earlier in the second half after Deon Otto gave Pirates the lead on 27 minutes and Enyimba captain Austin Oladapo levelled from a spot-kick just before half-time.

In the same group, Al Ahly Benghazi of Libya overcame having to play in Cairo for security reasons and losing Abdallah Imhamed to a red card on 76 minutes to win 1-0 against Entente Setif of Algeria.

The only goal of the north African show-down came in the third minute when Jibreel Alwadawi beat goalkeeper Sofiane Khedairia.

Berkane lost for the first time in defence of the title, going down 2-0 away to Coton Sport of Cameroon in Group B in northwestern city Garoua.

In the second half, Souaibou Marou scored his second goal of the campaign and Sibiri Sanou his first to take Coton to second, one point behind six-time CAF title winners JS Kabylie of Algeria.

Massinissa Nezla equalised in the 90th minute as Kabylie came from two goals behind to draw 2-2 with NAPSA Stars of Zambia in Lusaka.

Jimmy Mukeya and Doisy Soko netted for NAPSA before teammate Amos Simwanza conceded an own-goal to bring the visitors back into the game.

Tunisian clubs had mixed Group C luck in west Africa with CS Sfaxien drawing 1-1 against Jaraaf in Senegal and Etoile Sahel falling 1-0 to Salitas in Burkina Faso.

Olivier Boissy was the Salitas match-winner with his fifth goal of the campaign and Mamadou Sylla rescued a point for Jaraaf by scoring in stoppage time.

The remaining four matchdays are scheduled for April and group winners and runners-up qualify for the quarter-finals.

AFP

Spanish league president hopes fans can return after Easter

MADRID

LA Liga president Javier Tebas said Wednesday he hoped some fans could return to league matches in late April, but reports that the Copa del Rey could open its gates earlier drew a stinging response from the government.

"It's been a year, we've learned a lot, and we hope that by the third week of April we can start to have a percentage back in the stadiums," Tebas told a press breakfast, adding "if circumstances allow".

Separate reports on Wednesday that fans would be admitted when the 2020 and 2021 Copa del Rey finals were played in Seville on April 3 and 17 were rejected by Health Minister Carolina Darias.

"Let me be clear and blunt. It is not appropriate. It is not timely and it is not convenient," Darias told a press conference.

The Covid-19 infection rate has increased slightly in several regions recently which may mean that a weeks-long decline in the national infection rate has bottomed out, she added.

Spain has suffered more than three million Covid-19 cases and 72,565 deaths.

Spaniards traditionally take holidays in the week running up to Easter Sunday, which falls on April 4 this year.

"Everyone is cautiously watching

Easter, a key moment to see how things are going," said Tebas, adding that it would provide an indication of whether fans could return to La Liga matches.

"We all hope that after Easter we can set a quick date."

Tebas was echoing a sentiment expressed by Irene Lozano, the Spanish Secretary of State for Sports, who said recently: "If we see that a fourth wave has not started, we can begin to raise very important questions for fans, supporters and the clubs themselves."

Spectators have been barred from top-flight Spanish football matches since March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Spanish news radio Cadena Ser reported earlier Wednesday that supporters would be able to attend the rescheduled 2020 Copa del Rey final next month between Real Sociedad and Athletic Bilbao.

The report said Seville's 60,000-seat La Cartuja stadium would be at between 20 percent and 25 percent capacity when last season's final is belatedly played on April 3, as well as for this year's final between Barcelona and Athletic on April 17.

Health Minister Darias was opposed to such a plan.

"You must understand that, given the situation we find ourselves in epidemiologically, this is not possible," she said.

AFP

"It's been a year, we've learned a lot, and we hope that by the third week of April we can start to have a percentage back in the stadiums," Tebas told a press breakfast, adding "if circumstances allow".

Eleven reasons to feel cheerful about Barcelona's future

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

SO Barcelona have their new president, Joan Laporta, who also happens to be their old president, and speculation is rife about what might happen next.

Scenarios range from total doom and gloom -- a billion-plus dollars of debt, Lionel Messi's expiring contract, a global pandemic devastating the football economy -- to a "What, me worry?" approach, as best exemplified by presidential candidate Toni Freixa, who had talked about signing Dortmund's Erling Haaland and PSG's Kylian Mbappe.

As often happens, reality is somewhere in the middle. There are reasons to fear the worst, reasons to be cautiously optimistic and some reasons to be cheerful, even a few days after failing to reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League for the first time since 2007.

Some clever and responsible stewardship from Laporta can keep Barcelona at, or near, the very top of club football for the next few seasons. Equally, he could screw things up further beyond all recognition. But here's the good news...

1. There are two outstanding teams in Europe, and the rest is ... well ...

Manchester City are a notch above everybody else and, probably, so are Bayern Munich. They're financially solid and while they'll need some tweaks in the summer (the former needs a striker, the latter a central defender), they're sitting pretty. Everybody else has issues to work through either on the pitch, on the bench or in the club accounts. Barca may be worse off than Europe's other big clubs in many respects, but everybody has problems.

2. Their debt is monstrous, but debt is only a problem when it can't be serviced

That nearly \$800 million of "short-term" debt is pretty terrifying. Financial blogger Swiss Ramble explains in detail just how Barcelona's is so huge relative to other clubs, along with why it's a concern. However, as long as you can refinance, there's wiggle room. The fact of the matter is that right now, there is a lot of private equity money circling around football and interest rates remain low.

They might not get a great deal and, to some degree, it may be kicking the can down the road, but they will get a deal.

3. 'Mes Que Un Club' ('More than a club') rules apply, which is a double-edged sword, but probably a net positive here

Barcelona's club structure -- with a board elected by members -- means that loaning them money is more like lending money to a local government. On the surface, it's not a good thing: elected officials don't have the same sort of skin in the game because ultimately, unlike private investors, it's not their money they're playing with. They may be more prone to outside pressure and taking unreasonable risks for short-term popularity so lenders charge them more.

That's true to some degree, though, perhaps less so than in the past. On the flip side, though, Barcelona's public status gives them a little more clout with lenders. It's one thing for a bank to threaten legal action against a club owned by an American hedge fund or Russian oligarch if they're late with payments. It's another to do so against a public trust like Barcelona, with tens of millions of supporters and newly installed management that's inheriting the mess.

From a PR perspective, if Barca owe you money, a lender is more likely to want to renegotiate and get some positive press -- "See? We're helping Barca climb out of their hole and not being mean!" -- than to call in the lawyers and repo men.

4. There's a backbone of world-class talent, and most of it is young

Let's leave Messi to one side for now and look at the rest. Marc-Andre ter Stegen (28), Frenkie de Jong (23), Pedri (18) and Ansu Fati (18) are undoubted A-list players, among the best in the world in their roles. Ronald Araujo (22), Sergino Dest (20) and Ilaix Moriba (18) are on their way to reaching that level.

If you really want to look at the



Lionel Messi finds himself suddenly surrounded by blossoming young talent at Barcelona. (Agencies)



world through Azulgrana-tinted glasses, you might add Riqui Puig (21), Oscar Mingueza (21) and Francisco Trincao (21) to that list and maybe chuck in loanees Carles Alena (23) and Jean-Clair Todibo (21). I'm not going to go that far, but of the latter six there's a pretty good chance that one will become world class and another couple will be serviceable contributors. Given their ages, that's pretty good.

5. Despite highs and lows, there are guys who've been around that have shown they don't need to be immediately replaced

Jordi Alba is 31, but he's having his best campaign in several years and is good for another couple of seasons (and he's locked in through 2024 anyway). Clement Lenglet (25) is also locked in through 2026 and, while not everyone's cup of tea, is a serviceable player. Heck, even Sergio Busquets (32), who had a rocky time earlier this year, when used in the right setup can give you another year or two.

6. Everybody is hurting financially, it's not just you ... which means the football ecosystem has changed

Transfers spending and wages will almost certainly be down in the summer as there's less cash in the system. That hurts you because it's harder to dump assets in order to raise cash quickly. Barca had the highest wage bill in the world for several years, and other clubs simply aren't going to want to pick up salaries of overpaid Camp Nou busts. But the lack of cash in the system works both ways. It also means there's less competition for the guys you want to keep, in particular those whose contracts you may want to extend, like Pedri or Ousmane Dembele. And, if you do need to make signings, they should, by the same principle, be that much cheaper.

7. Bad contracts don't stick around in perpetuity and, in some cases, can be negotiated down

This probably won't work with guys like Samuel Umtiti or Philippe Coutinho: you're on the hook for their contracts until 2023. The same goes for Miralem Pjanic (30) until 2024. That's OK. They'll magically disappear off the wage bill in a few years. (And that's important when you make projections and put together your three-

year plan.) But you can go to someone like Gerard Pique -- who is 34, locked in until 2024 and genuinely adores the club -- and say: "Hey, Gerard, help us out ... we're really struggling here. Can we work something out?" He's uber-rich to begin with, he's married to somebody far wealthier than he is anyway, he probably has ambition for a role post-retirement ... why not give it a shot?

Then there's Sergi Roberto, who is out of contract at the end of the next season. This is the only club he's ever known, he's been injured all season, would he say "no" to more years and a little less money?

8. Barca's economic model means they took more of the downside with COVID-19, but they should enjoy more of the upside when it's over

The Camp Nou is the biggest stadium in European football and its closure meant crowds went from an average of 75,000 per game, pre-pandemic, to zero since. Barcelona's museum is the third-most visited in all of Spain -- its revenues also dropped to zero.

You don't have to be a genius to see how, in absolute terms, closures affected Barca more than most. But when things reopen, that revenue will return in a big way. And it will impact Barca more than most too.

9. Ronald Koeman only has a contract through 2022

He has made mistakes and he may or may not be a long-term solution, but the Dutchman and former Barcelona player has surpassed expectations in terms of steadying the ship and getting buy-in from players. The fact that Barcelona are still in the running for a domestic double despite Messi's bureau, despite Jose Maria Bartomeu's resignation, despite the summer transfer mess, despite the financial implosion ... at some point, all this means he deserves credit.

The good thing, though, is that if Barca need to go in a different direction, it won't cost much to let him go. And, if he stays, he's in no position to make major demands the way a high-profile manager might.

10. If you're smart, you turn Messi's situation into a win-win

Simply put, you need to put a number on what Messi brings to the club.

A real number, not Laporta's electoral voodoo economics when he said that Messi costs Barcelona 8% of their budget but brings in 30% of revenue. And then you speak to him and treat him like an adult. You tell him that you want him to stay, but if he expects to earn close to the \$100m-plus he's making now, it won't happen, because it would be irresponsible on the part of the club. It would mean not paying down the debt and it would mean not surrounding him with players who can win things before he retires.

You don't need to be ashamed to ask for a "hometown discount." He doesn't strike you as a guy who is motivated by money anyway. It doesn't mean he needs to be like Pau Gasol and play for (nearly) nothing. You just need to show him what you will spend the money on if he takes a substantial pay cut and how that matters, whether it's debt servicing or acquiring/retaining talent. Give yourself a number and stick to it. And hope that he agrees.

If he doesn't? Hey, you will have instantly slashed a huge chunk off your wage bill and relieved a ton of financial pressure.

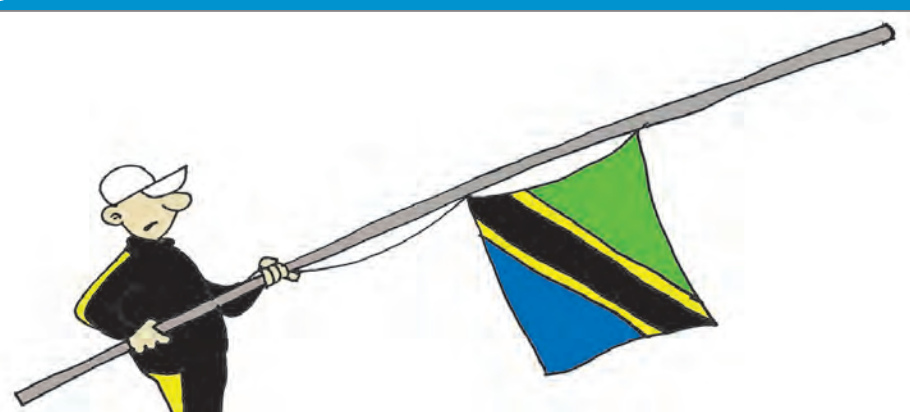
If he does? Well, you get another season of one of the greatest players in history at a price that probably is far less than he's worth.

11. Jose Maria Bartomeu is gone...

Let the law determine what, if anything, he did wrong. But you can draw a line under the final years of his administration and the general air of toxicity that surround everything, like Pig-Pen's cloud in Peanuts. Even Messi was happy to be photographed casting his vote in the post-Bartomeu elections -- something we've never seen before. Those are 11 reasons to be cheerful. You can, no doubt, come up with many more to be terrified. And, yes, a lot of it depends on how much faith you have in Laporta. He's not a businessman, he's fundamentally a lawyer and a politician and, admittedly, that doesn't necessarily bode well. But if he's humble enough to surround himself with smart people, if he doesn't make the mistakes of the past, if he can sell the fan base on his project, he can make this work.

Barca are neither recession-proof, nor too big to fail. But they're darn close.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Eleven reasons to feel cheerful
about Barcelona's future

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Magufuli's death a blow to Tanzania, say sports associations' officials

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHILE Tanzania is grieving following the death of the country's President John Pombe Magufuli, Lake Zone sports associations' officials have said the country has suffered a major blow.

The officials disclosed Magufuli will not be easily forgotten due to his contribution in various fields including sports.

Mwanza Regional Athletics Association's Chairman, Silas Isangi, noted they have received the news of Magufuli's death with great shock.

He disclosed they remember him for his love for sports.

"For newly elected athletics officials, we needed to visit the State House and introduce ourselves, but sadly he has already left us, it is a great pity for the athletes as we are supposed to remain connected," Isangi noted.

Geita Regional Football Association's secretary general, Pius Kimisha, said President Magufuli was an avid sports fan and they would remember him more for the infrastructure he put in place.

He disclosed: "There is, for example, Chato Stadium that he founded and there is already a budget set aside for further improvements."

"We needed to organize a big match to officially open it, it is certainly a blow to the athletes," he disclosed.

Shinyanga Regional Football Association's chairman, Said Mankiligo, said during his time many have been seen to be productive.

"Look at sports' success in Tanzania, we had much success during his period, Simba for example are doing well domestic and internationally, Taifa Stars also qualified for Africa Cup of Nations after 37 years," he stated.

"He moreover created an environment for players to appreciate their work," he added.

Tanzania's sports, entertainment personalities mourn Magufuli



President John Pombe Magufuli pictured at the previous season's Vodacom Premier League match between Yanga and Simba, played in Dares Salaam on March 8, 2020. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadonga

SPORTS and entertainment personalities in Tanzania are mourning the death of President John Pombe Magufuli, who passed away in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday night.

Due to the passing of the President, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) said it has suspended all soccer activities in the country for a period of two weeks.

According to Clifford Ndimbo, TFF Information Officer, a friendly match between Tanzania's national team 'Taifa Stars' and Kenya's Harambee Stars, which was set to take place in Kenya yesterday, was cancelled to honour Magufuli.

Ndimbo said the national team, which is preparing for Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers against Equatorial Guinea will continue camping in Kenya.

In interviews and social media posts, the personalities have described the passing of Magufuli as a big blow to sports and entertainment sectors in the country.

Domestic football giants, Simba SC and Yanga, in their

separate posts, said the President will be remembered.

"Rest in Peace our beloved President, John Pombe Magufuli, you will forever be remembered," Simba SC wrote.

Yanga wrote: "Rest in Peace the President of United Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli, we will remember you forever."

Tanzania's Netball Association's Chairperson, Devatha Marwa, said President Magufuli directed that sports should improve in the country and his death is a big blow to the nation. She noted: "His passing is an incalculable loss to the country, he directed that sports, including netball, should improve in the country."

"I'm of the view that his vision for sports development in the country should live on and motivate our sports person to perform well," she said.

Former Athletics Tanzania (AT) Secretary General, Wilhelm Gidabuday, who is also the founder of Gidabuday Sports Tourism Foundation, said President Magufuli will be greatly missed by all people in the country.

"On my own behalf and that

of athletes in the country, we are saddened by the passing of our beloved President John Pombe Magufuli, he was emphasizing on fair play in the game," he said.

He further said the President has left footprints in sports in the country and he is hopefully that sports projects initiated by Magufuli will continue.

He disclosed: "I believe that all sports projects like infrastructures, which he initiated, Olympic Stadium in Dodoma among others, will continue."

"When I was AT Secretary General, I had a dream of seeing to it a Tanzanian athlete wins medal during his reign," he said.

Gidabuday said in an effort to honour Magufuli's contribution in sports development, the AT current leadership should work hard to see to it that a Tanzanian athlete wins medal at either Tokyo Olympics or 2024 Paris Olympics.

Yanga's spokesman, Antonio Nugaz, said the President will be remembered forever.

"You have finished the race, rest in peace our President," he wrote.

Actress, Wema Septu, wrote

'Rest In Preace, Mr. President'.

Simba SC captain, John Bocco, stated: "Good things never last, a true patriot, Tanzanian who put his country first, not selfishness."

"I believe those who wanted to learn have learnt a lot from you and those who can see have seen a lot of good things from you, Rest In Preace Mr. President," he wrote.

His team mate, Aishi Manula, posted: "True to him we will go, you have done what God called you to accomplish, you owe Tanzanians nothing."

Yanga midfielder, Deus Kaseke, said: "Rest in peace President, Tanzanians will remember your good deeds on earth."

The side's Rwandan midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima, wrote: "Rest in peace President."

There were other condolences from Simba SC information officer, Haji Manara, famous musician and Morocco's Wydad Casablanca winger, Simon Msuva, and others.

Magufuli placed the country on the world map in sports as during his reign, the country's national football teams qualified for Africa Cup of Nations finals for their respective age groups after missing the events for many years.

He also honoured all senior national football team's players with plots of land in Dodoma and the country hosted U-17 Africa Cup of Nations Championship, with him in the forefront of supporting the country's U-17 soccer squad.

The President also attended various local matches, including Vodacom Premier League ties.

He was guest of honour in a league clash between Simba SC versus Kagera Sugar the 'Dar es Salaam Derby' pitting Yanga against Simba, he was accompanied by former Confederation of African Football (CAF) president Ahmed Ahmed.

During his time he was also a towering symbol of urban music as local artists were performing during many of his activities. He was at times involved in playing music instruments.



Employment Opportunity

At the heart of Pact is the promise of a better tomorrow. The promise of a healthy life. Of a decent livelihood. Of sustainable natural resources that benefit communities. Now more than ever in its 42-year history, Pact is helping millions of people who are poor and marginalized discover and build their own solutions and take ownership over their future.

Pact enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. Pact accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, and transforming markets into a force for development.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant positions for the Kizazi Kipya Project:

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Project : Kizazi Kipya Project

Position Location : Dar es Salaam

Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link:

<https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400002106007/Information-and-Communication-Technology-ICT-Manager?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline: Wednesday -31st March 2021

Position : Senior Procurement Officer (1 position)

Project : Kizazi Kipya Project

Position Location : Dar es Salaam

Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link:

<https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400002100084/Senior-Procurement-Officer?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Wednesday -31st March 2021

Position : Program Manager - Renewable Energy (1 position)

Project : Kizazi Kipya Project

Position Location : Dar es Salaam

Contract Duration : 30th September 2021 (Non-Renewable)

Job Description and Application Link:

<https://cvpeople.tanzania.zohorecruit.com/jobs/Careers/59404400002055034/Program-Manager---Renewable-Energy?source=CareerSite>

Application Deadline : Wednesday -29th March 2021

Detailed Position Job Descriptions and How to Apply:

If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application online describing why you are the right candidate for this position and a curriculum vitae detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from previous and current place of employment. Please send the application online (through the CVPEOPLE Tanzania link under each position) as only the applications sent online will be reviewed.

The closing date for applications will be as guided under each position.

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Pact is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection and employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, citizenship status, genetic information, matriculation, family responsibilities, personal appearance, credit information, tobacco use (except in the workplace), membership in an employee organization, or other protected classifications or non-merit factors.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit: <http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
PROVISION OF SMS SHORT CODE, BULK SMS AND USSD GATEWAY AGGREGATION SOLUTION AND SERVICE FOR TAHA MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS)
RFP NO. [TAHA/CONS/003/2021]
ISSUE DATE: 18.03.2021
CLOSING DATE: 26.03.2021 AT 05.00 P.M EAT

Section A: About TAHA

TAHA is an apex private sector member-based organization leading the country's efforts in propelling forward horticultural development agenda. Due to TAHA and Partners interventions, massive achievements have been attained in the past decade including an increase in export revenues from \$364 million in 2015 to over \$700 million in 2018 and decreasing dependence on import of vegetables and fruits in Zanzibar from 80% in 2014 to less than 40% currently. TAHA has strong market connections at domestic, regional and international level (Europe and Middle East), markets which project beneficiaries will be connected to.

TAHA Markets Information System

This is TAHA's digital platform which was developed to promote timely access to markets information by the horticulture sub-sector value chain actors (small holder farmers, buyers and service providers e.g. input suppliers). The system is open to both TAHA members and non-members in rural and urban areas. MIS was developed because horticulture practitioners especially at the local level- including neighbouring countries lacked access to critical information to guide their decisions. The platform provides market information on buyers, trends in price, transport logistics and agronomic information, which helps value chain actors' especially small holder farmers to make a well-informed marketing decision before going to the market. It also improves the bargaining power of small holder farmers and improves business transparency in a market environment. The current system was operationalized in 2014, and has a total of 30,000 registered users with free daily access to the system from 18 registered markets (16 in Tanzania and 2 in Kenya - Mombasa and Nairobi). Data shows that 257,760 requests were made to the system from September 2018 to February 2021.

Currently, for any horticulture value chain actor to access information through MIS, he/she will need to register into the system by sending a message with a word TAHA to 15670 through even simple phone, after that he/she can enter into main menu by dialling *149*59# to with list of information (price, buyers, logistic etc.) where he/she can opt the category of information he/she want and have direct contact with one who is concern. The code must be aggregated to all Tanzanian mobile networks operators.

SECTION B: Bidders Instructions

Bidders wishing to submit proposals are encourage to confirm their intent to respond and request for a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) "containing all necessary instruction". Interested bidders can send an email to procurement@taha.or.tz and basilisa.mtalo@taha.or.tz not later than 22nd March 2021 05:00 P.M EAT. Please identify the name of the company, phone number and email address of the person who will serve as the key contact for all correspondence.