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My main focus will be on completion of projects initiated in my first term - JPM

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday called upon Tanzanians to come out in large numbers and cast votes come October 28, saying if reelected, his main mission will be to complete projects he initiated in the first five years.

After he and running mate Samia Suluhu Hassan had collected nomination forms at the National Electoral Commission (NEC) head offices in Dodoma, Dr Magufuli said that he decided to vie for the second term in office as he was yet to accomplish all the plans he initiated.

He assured Tanzanians that there is no party other than the ruling party which can bring development in the country.

"I sat down and thought that it is better I vie for another five years so as to accomplish what I started. We have several good projects

that are ongoing and need strong supervision to complete them. We will commence our campaign in Dodoma."

He said: "During the first tenure of five years, we have initiated a lot of changes in different sectors such as health, education, water and others. We have built at least 228 new secondary schools, over 900 primary schools and 500 health centres, just to mention a few."

The Head of State said that his government is also going to supervise the industrialization agenda which includes promoting and facilitating the establishment of processing industries.

"I will continue protecting the country's resources, including minerals. There were some people who spoke out threatening to deal with us effectively just because we have imposed acute measures to protect our minerals, I stood strong

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National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kaijage (3rd-R) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday presenting presidential candidacy endorsement forms to Chama Cha Mapinduzi's President John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election in late October's General Election - as his choice for running-mate, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, looks on. Photo: State House



TRA unveils tax returns e-filing

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has unveiled an electronic tax return system aimed at diminishing the need for clients to visit its offices to submit tax returns.

Dr Edwin Mhede, the TRA Commissioner General (pictured), said here yesterday that the advantage of an e-filing system is that one does not need to schedule ordinary working days or working hours, but can file tax returns even on weekends or beyond working hours.

Speaking at the Arusha Revenue Offices, where the new system was being launched, Dr Mhede explained that the e-filing structure will cater for 'Pay as You Earn,' income tax for individuals, corporation tax, withholding tax, VAT, as well as the Skills and Development Levy.

Individuals and corporate entities in

extractive industries like minerals, gas and petroleum are not yet covered by the e-filing system and will continue to settle their returns at TRA offices in their respective regions.

"Those in extractive industries will have to slightly wait until a special structure for e-filing for the sector has been finalized. TRA is working on these arrangements," he said.

Charles Palapala, the TRA Director of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) said the e-filing system is already functioning and its portal can be accessed through a link at the TRA website.

Once there, one can create a control number using the Personal Identification Number (PIN), a numerical code based on the subscriber's name, providing additional account security.

This will assist the subscriber or client in settling their transactions, as tax-payers will now be automatically reminded to settle their returns when it is time to do so," the ICT director noted.

Dr Suleiman Misango, the TRA board chairman, said the revenue collecting body is also conducting mass induction to taxpayers, educating them on how to use the new system in handling their revenue transactions.



By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla yesterday said that Tanzania has secured endorsement of global tourism body as a safe destination.

Officiating at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) 2020 Tourism and Conservation Awards, the minister said this endorsement by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) shall boost tourist arrivals in the country.

"We have also been permitted to use the 'Safe Travels' stamp of the global tourism council," he said.

In this year's awards, night game driving in parks, using bicycles to climb mountains, serving hot meals in the middle of the jungle; floating in hot air balloons and peddling boats in wilderness lakes are among alternative forms of tourism recognized.

The 2020 awards recognized outstanding firms, organizations and individuals that have played major roles in the travel and hospitality industry, pivoted within the country's game

Global tourism body says Tanzania is safe

“We have also been permitted to use the 'Safe Travels' stamp of the global tourism council”

parcs. In overall performance, Arusha-based Leopard Tours took the first position, followed by Moshi-based Zara International Travel, while third placed was Ranger Safaris of Arusha, reputed as the country's oldest tour company.

In the same order the three safari companies were awarded the 'Best Tour Operators' award in the Northern Zone, having shown proven resilience even during the darker months of the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to temporary closure of the local and global travel industry.

In the different forms of tourism category, Kili World Safaris was awarded for the innovative cycling on mountains, with Four Seasons Safari

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Fishing 'disruption' project now yielding big dividends

By Henry Mwangonde, Kilwa

A SUSTAINABLE fishing programme that halts activities for a while has seen increased harvests and average size of octopus from half a kilo reaching up to five, bringing more money to residents of Songosongu Island in Kilwa District, Lindi Region.

Before introducing this initiative that sought to pull octopus species to the area slightly over a year ago, the average catch in three days of fishing could bring around 500 kilogrammes but after the year elapsed with the project, three days of fishing enables villagers to catch 20 to 40 tonnes.

When the programme was introduced in



Songosongu Island nearly two years ago, it smacked of a massive disruption for residents whose livelihoods largely depend on fishing.

However, after seeing the massive increase in the amount and size of catches, the residents who initially protested the initiative have become its biggest supporters and protectors.

Implemented by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), a nature conservation organization, the initiative began by awareness creation to the islanders followed by halting of fishing activities for three to four months.

Thomas Chale (pictured), an enterprise development coordinator for WWF said on Wednesday that the programme sought to increase fish stocks and thus improve the catch by fishermen after the fallow period, meanwhile at it also helps to conserve the marine environment.

"In this programme we supervise residents on the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. The results that we see are that it

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Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general James Kilaba (seated-L, foreground) symbolically hands over the chairmanship of the Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) when closing the body's ninth annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The countries represented in the live interactive virtual meeting were Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Republic of South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana, Namibia, Eswatini, Angola and Lesotho. Zambia has become the new Chair Country. Kilaba appealed for efficiency in the application of ICTs so as to bring about improved living standards of the people CRASA member states. Photo courtesy of TCRA

Fishing 'disruption' project now yielding big dividends

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allows fish stocks to grow and we have seen the quality in the harvests. This is a sign that they now understand what sustainable fishing means," he said.

So far, about 69 beach management units (BMU) have been formed in a number of districts along the coastline, in Kibiti, Mafia, Kilwa and Mkuranga districts, he said.

Songosongu, an island with nearly 7000 residents, relies on fishing for wellbeing.

The village head, Swaluya Hassan Saad said that since the introduction of the fishing system in the area residents are assured of markets as buyers converge during the harvesting period.

Blast fishing was threatening the future of the island, he pointed out.

The malpractice has vastly been contained at present thanks to government efforts to control illegal fishing, he said.

Dr Modesta Medard, the WWF marine programme coordinator said the idea hails from the need to empower communities to get involved in conservation of marine resources.

"The aim was changing the governance system in the fishing sector whereby we thought of establishing systems to oversee how communities shall work. Then we established BMU and offered training on what they are supposed to do through exchange programmes," she added.

Global tourism body says Tanzania is safe

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Lodge in the Serengeti recognized for organizing hot and fresh 'bush meals' in the wilderness.

Nomad Tanzania was awarded for 'night game driving' experiences, with Abercrombie and Kent listed for canopy walkway tours. Serengeti Balloon Safari was similarly saluted for skyline ballooning over national parks.

In other awards, Ahsante Tours was recognized for conducting the technical Mawenzi climbing experience. Mawenzi is the second highest peak on Mount Kilimanjaro, after Kibo, but it is reputedly more

difficult to scale.

The TANAPA Commissioner for Conservation, Dr Allan Kijazi said that without efforts by tour companies and hotel operators, TANAPA would not have managed to chalk up the number of visitors the country gets, and its revenue impact.

"We certainly need to recognize all our partners in tourism and conservation and especially during the tough times of the coronavirus pandemic when, despite dark clouds, they maintained their unwavering performance," said Dr Kijazi.

The parks chief was recently appointed to serve as Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry.

My main focus will be on completion of projects initiated in my first term - JPM

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together with my fellow CCM members that it is better to die but only for your country," he said.

President Magufuli further said that he will stand to promote local people in investment projects for the country's development.

"The major transformation and changes conducted in the mining sector has started to provide opportunities for local investors to reap big from their work. We have witnessed how artisanal miners are getting profits from their undertakings," he elaborated.

At the NEC head offices, the CCM candidate and running mate were received by the Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Mahera Charles who took them on various procedural requirements that should be observed.

The director said that all aspirants are required to have returned the forms by August 25.

Presidential candidates are required to deposit one million/- surety to the commission whose receipts must be attached with the nomination forms when they are returned.

Nomination forms for presidential candidates need to be signed by at least 200 guarantors from among supporters who are registered in the Permanent Voter Register.

For her part, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan commended President Magufuli for valuing women and children across the country.

In the past five years, President Magufuli has done a lot to empower women socially and economically, she stated.

"We were crying about poor health

services and maternal deaths for years, but our president has done a lot to address the challenges. You have constructed several new hospitals, health centres and dispensaries. You have equipped the facilities with drugs and medical tools and staff. We really thank you," she told the gathering.

The government under President Magufuli has also conducted a revolution in the water, power and education sectors, she declared, underlining that this is something that should be commended.

CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally assured Tanzanians that the ruling party is going to win most seats in various areas, starting from councilors to parliamentary seats.

"On October 28 we are going to win the presidency very early both in the Union and Zanzibar polls," he added.



The major transformation and changes conducted in the mining sector has started to provide opportunities for local investors to reap big from their work. We have witnessed how artisanal miners are getting profits from their undertakings

Dr Shein emphasizes need to research more on pests control, animal diseases

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has urged the Isles' Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries to prioritise conducting research on how to control crop pests and animal diseases.

He was addressing delegates at the opening of the third Nananane agricultural shows at Chamanangwe in Northern Pemba Region. He said through research experts are likely to come up with solutions on farmers' problems including crop pests.

Dr Shein urged the ministry officials to avoid ending up spraying farms during the outbreak of crop pest and animal diseases, but conduct researches to know the exact sources of the problems and come up with a permanent solution.

The president noted that despite many framers engaging in commercial agriculture, they still use industrial fertilisers, hence the need for agricultural experts to educate them on its impacts as well as the benefits of practicing organic farming.

He expressed worries that using industrial fertilisers may have effects on the soil and environment.

He said Pemba Island was famous for cultivation of various crops due to its rich fertile soil, but the situation is now different due to soil fertility decline linked with the use of manufactured fertilisers.

"Practicing organic farming is better for our health as well as the soil, experts should encourage farmers to engage on it, although they will need to conduct a market research for the products," said Dr Shein noting that most of the people around the globe prefer organically grown foods due to its taste.

When you eat organically grown foods, you reduce some health risks which may have been caused by consuming foods grown with industrial fertilisers, the president asserted.

He however challenged the ministry to promote spice farming by encouraging farmers to establish spice farms which will also be used to attract tourists.

Dr Shein said the government's decision to introduce Nananane exhibition at Dole in Unguja and Chamanangwe in Pemba provides

opportunity to citizens to learn on various agricultural matters as well as getting skills on how to use technology in farming.

Participants, apart from showcasing their products, forged partnership with different companies and get access to markets within and outside Zanzibar, he said.

He said the ongoing exhibitions are part of implementation of the CCM election manifesto which has so far been implemented by 95 percent. He said the government is determined to empower farmers through provision of the best agricultural technologies, crops preservation methods, value addition and ensure coordinated markets.

The government in Zanzibar has in the 2020/2021 financial year increased its agriculture budget from 88.17bn/- in 2019 to 129.86bn/- in 2020, (47.3 percent). He said the various interventions in the sector have resulted in increased harvests whereas farmers harvested 47,507 tonnes of rice in 2019 compared to 21,014 tonnes in 2010. Out of the amount, some 28,734.6 tonnes were harvested in Pemba alone.

Dr Shein noted that efforts were also done to improve irrigation schemes and construction of new ones at Cheju, Kibokwa and Kilombero valleys in Unguja. In Pemba the constructed irrigation schemes at Mlemele and Makwarara valleys.

On livestock, President Shein said the government has taken a number of initiatives including educating farmers on best animal keeping practices and ensure reliable services from extension officers. He said officials have been vaccinating the animals frequently to protect them from diseases.

Earlier, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri said the exhibitions are meant to transfer agricultural knowledge and skills to farmers to improve productivity.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Maryam Abdalla Sadalla commended the government's move to introduce the Nananane exhibition saying it provides opportunity to farmers to learn on how to improve their farming.

There are 189 participants taking part in the exhibitions in Pemba.



Hidaya Khamis (in black veil), acting head of Zanzibar's Fisheries department, briefs Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein on octopuses. This was at the opening of an agricultural exhibition at Micheweni's Chamanangwe grounds on Pemba Island yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Activists highlight need for establishment of anti-violence committees at grassroots levels

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and children stakeholders have underscored the need for the establishment of anti-violence committees in streets and villages so as to strengthen efforts to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country.

Speaking during a tele-media conference recently the stakeholders also underlined the importance to increase men engagement in the fight against GBV.

"It is high time to establish anti-violence committees from the grass root level - villages and streets while engaging local leaders to push forward the anti-GBV agenda in the country," said Malcela Lungu, the director of

the country's Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA).

She said men's engagement in the fight against violence is still low whereby the establishment of the committees will help scale up GBV awareness education to reach all parts including those in remote areas.

"As stakeholders, we have to sit down and ask ourselves how we are going to work together, strengthen efforts to ensure that we fight violence in communities. We should also join our efforts to support and educate people of Covid-19," she added.

Lungu said that TIBA has so far conducted awareness programmes in various wards and streets of the Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni district and

will continue imparting skills through various groups including in local coffee hubs.

She called upon husbands not only to respect the GBV law but also take personal responsibility in changing the mindset of others.

Michael Sungusia, a gender expert also hinted on the note saying that more awareness programmes are required to cement the understanding on why men should be engaged in the fight against GBV. "There is still a very low awareness in the public and especially men themselves on the importance of engagement, so we as CSOs and the government have to make sure that we invest heavily in this area of awareness..There was

need to intensify sensitisation about the GBV law, arguing that ignorance is one of the major causes of GBV," he said.

According to him, addressing GBV is a lifesaving work. It is at the heart of the charitable mandate that needs coordinated efforts to achieve.

"We should work together, ultimately, our success will be judged by the people we serve: the individuals and communities, including the women and girls as well as the survivors who received the care," he said.

Sungusia added that specialized GBV prevention and response services should be scaled up to reach all parts of the country.



Visibly elated members of the Songosongo Beach Management Unit head off-shore earlier this week with octopuses caught off Kilwa Island. Photo: Henry Mwangonde

Dr Shein: Govt is there chiefly to serve our people

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said the main responsibility of the government elected by the citizens is to serve them.

Dr Shein was speaking on Wednesday at Zimamoto Bandarini in Mkoani, Pemba soon after he laid the cornerstones for the buildings that would house Zanzibar offices for the Zanzibar Social Services Fund (ZSSF) at Tibirinzi, Zanzibar Revenue Board offices at Gombani as well the launching of the Mkoani Hotel that received major renovations.

He said his Phase VII Government

has been developing the Isles economy including bringing basic social services closer to people.

He said since the January 12, 1964 Revolution the government has been implementing pledges by the founding party, the ASP, but as for now it is pledging Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) promises as laid down in its 2015 Election Manifesto.

He said the new Mkoani Hotel which is one among state owned hotels built since early 1970s simultaneously with those at Chake Chake and Wete was meant to serve the people as well as foreigners.

He said past colonial governments did not bother in developing the

tourism sector, but the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government has greatly done so since 1964 Revolution that saw the increase of tourists.

Dr Shein said the aim of the government to build ZRB offices in Pemba was to simplify the collection of government revenue.

He said the ZSSF offices being built at Tibirinzi will bring its services closer to the workers, and added that the fund has initiated many big projects in both Unguja and Pemba.

The Minister for Finance and Planning, Amb Mohammed Ramia Abdiwawa, assured workers that their money in ZSSF was safe.

Permanent Secretary in Finance

and Planning Ministry Khamis Mussa said in the last ten years, developments gained in the Isles include investment in government offices and its institutions.

He said Mkoani Hotel was opened on January 9, 1974 and offered its services until 1990 when it suspended services due to dilapidation.

He said under Dr Shein's government on October 19, 2018 the hotel was officially handed over to ZSSF to revive it. And added that a private firm, Arqes Africa of Dar es Salaam was picked to draw new plan for the hotel's renovation, while Benchmark Engineering won the tender for renovation work.

Initiate impactful projects, students in higher learning institutions urged

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

UNIVERSITY and collage students have been urged to participate more active in the industrial economy drive by coming up with innovative projects that change ways of doing things.

The call was made here yesterday by the deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training Avemaria Semakafu, saying innovation and technology are the key things in industrialisation.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of two days innovation exhibition at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), young innovators, some who are currently in higher learning institutions should use their skills to come up with new solutions to problems facing Tanzanian.

She said they should think of new things rather than working to recycle things that have been done by other people in other countries.

Speaking about the UDOM's College of Informatics and Virtual Education (CIVE) annual innovation exhibitions, the deputy PS said it is a very important occasion that help sharpen students and help empower them with skills for new ways of doing things.

She said there is need to broaden the event and have most higher learning institutions participate together. "I thank UDOM management for supporting the innovation activities in effort to help solve problems facing the country," she said adding that there is the need to connect young innovators to the end users of their innovating work.

The theme for this year's CIVE Day 2020 is 'Innovation for Impact'. Semakafu noted that despite having

such creative programmes, it is not very clear where winners of the competition go.

"Where do the winning innovation projects go? She asked, adding that the organisers ought to link them up with other organisations like COSTECH and others to broaden their project and ensure real application.

Speaking on behalf of UDOM Vice Chancellor, Prof William Mwegoha noted that students at the university through the innovation competition are working to help solve challenges facing people in the country.

"It is encouraging to see UDOM students working to provide new solutions to challenges in the country as part of the institution's vision to add value in different ways," he said. He noted that the management fully support the innovation programme which is in line with the government efforts for industrialisation.

CIVE Principal, Leonard Mselle said the annual innovation exhibition has been there for the past eight years, coming up with different projects.

"Innovation work is to help solve problems facing the society and it is not an easy task," he said, noting that it is however the duty of such higher learning institutions.

He thanked the current UDOM management for full support of the programme, adding that more innovation projects are likely to be born at the college.



Innovation work is to help solve problems facing the society and it is not an easy task

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If you are interested in this role, more information can be found in the job description at our website <https://www.farmafrica.org/jobs/jobs>. If you would like to apply, please submit your CV and a cover letter that explains how your experience fits this role to recruitment@farmafrica.org.

The deadline for applications is 9:00am BST on **21 August 2020**

Note: Farm Africa will not accept third party application and recruitment consultants are respectfully asked to not get in touch with regards to this role.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

USAID/Tanzania is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

Education Development Partners Group Secretariat (short-term consultancy)

Detailed information and application instructions can be viewed on the USAID/Tanzania website:

<https://www.usaid.gov/tanzania>

And the American Embassy in Dar es Salaam website:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov>

Deadline for applications is **August 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

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CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO BE SELECTED AS A SUB RECIPIENT FOR GLOBAL FUND FOR AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA (GFATM) SUPPORTED PROGRAMME IN TANZANIA MAINLAND [HIV/TB and /RSSH/MALARIA COMPONENTS]

The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) is expected to award Tanzania Mainland two grants: TB/HIV and Malaria/RSSH. As part of dual track financing, Amref Health Africa in Tanzania was selected by Tanzania National Coordinating Mechanism (TNCM) as a Principal recipient (PR 2) for the Non State Actors for the HIV/TB/Malaria/RSSH grant. The grant will be implemented for three years, from 2021 to 2023. The start date is anticipated to be 1st January, 2021. Amref Health Africa is soon embarking into grant making process that include nomination of Sub Recipients for the above mentioned grant.

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania invites applications from interested and reputable organizations/institutions that would like to be considered as Sub Recipients (SRs) for the HIV/TB/RSSH grant. The SRs will be responsible for the program implementation at community level within respective regions and districts. They will be fully accountable to the Principal Recipient and with formal legal obligations towards the grant funds and implementation of agreed work plans and budgets.

The organizations/institutions should meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be an independent legal entity with an independent governance and supervisory board and an organizational structure comprising effective leadership and management as well as transparent decision-making and accountability procedures.
• Has the legal capacity, status and right to enter into a grant agreement and have the ability to receive grant in accordance to the current registration status.
• Proven organization's experience in the implementation of HIV and TB activities and/ or Health System Strengthening interventions as per national standards. Should have adequate technical expertise in infectious diseases (HIV and AIDS, TB, Malaria and community/health system strengthening).
• Experience in implementation of HIV/TB funded by GFATM as well as RSSH would be considered as an added advantage but not a must.
• Has staff (or be committed to hire staff) with relevant qualifications, skills, background and experience in the implementation of HIV, TB and RSSH projects.
• Has an appropriate procurement and supply chain management system, financial management, Monitoring and Evaluation system in place.
• Has an adequate internal control systems that will enable the prompt preparation of regular and reliable financial statements and reports, should safeguard the Global Fund financial and physical assets, should be subject to and comply with acceptable auditing arrangement, ensure compliance, prompt efficient and effective operations and allow for the accomplishment of the program goals and objectives.

A table below shows key interventions to be implemented and their geographical areas (some specific regions and districts will be determined during the grant making process)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 1, MODULE: PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION (PMTCT), PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 2, MODULE: HIV PREVENTION, PRIORITY POPULATIONS, GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 3, MODULE: DIFFERENTIATED HIV TESTING SERVICES, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 4, MODULE: HIV PREVENTION, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 5, 5.1 MODULE: TB CARE AND PREVENTION, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 6, 6.1 MODULE: RSSH: COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 6, 6.2 MODULE: REMOVING HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER RELATED BARRIERS TO TB SERVICES, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

Table with columns: PRIORITY AREA 6, 6.3 MODULE: HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH, INCLUDING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS, PRIORITY POPULATION (S), GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE, INTERVENTIONS, DESCRIPTION (SCOPE OF WORK)

NB: Malaria interventions for Non State Actors will be determined during the grant making period.

All organizations applying will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- 1. Project/Program management: must have demonstrated experience in the management of health related projects with substantial size and scope; have expertise and experience in the mentioned priority areas/key interventions and also an ability to hire staff with required education, background and experience to manage the key interventions.
2. Financial management: must demonstrate adequate internal financial controls system and capacity to make timely payments and accurately record and report transactions.
3. Working with CBOs and other networks: must demonstrate adequate ability to work with CBOs and other PLHV/TB networks in the implementation of the priority key interventions and also ability to implement the program in more than four to five regions, concurrently (15 points)
4. General Management: Have structures that provide and demonstrate effective organization's good governance and leadership with clear division of functions and roles, have effective human resources management and effective monitoring and evaluation systems in place (15 points)
5. Physical and Information technology Infrastructure: Have adequate infrastructure -physical, material and technical resources for staff and computerized management information system for timely communications, transaction and financial program reporting. (10 points).

Applicants should indicate one or more priorities areas they wish to be considered for. All applications must not exceed 12 pages (excluding attachments) and must be submitted in English using Times New Roman, font size 12. The arrangement of the required information should be as follow:

- 1. Cover page – Organization name, physical address, legal registration number, TIN, contact person and designation, type of organization –FBO, NGOs, Private, INGO, etc.
2. Description of organization experience as per number 1 to 5 above (do not exceed 12 pages).

Please note that the cover page and the following supporting documents which are to be submitted together with the application are not part of the 12 pages.

- Organization/Institutional profile, including a diagram and brief description of organizational structure.
• CVs of three key personnel
• Proof of registration, including TIN
• General organizational policy and procedure manual
• Finance policy and procedure manual
• Procurement manual
• Audit reports and management letters during the past three years (2017, 2018 and 2019)
• M&E manual
• Description of the Information technology Infrastructure.

All applications should be in hard copies and soft copies in CD-Roms. Applications, in sealed envelopes and clearly marked on the left upper corner GFATM-SR 2021-2023, should be submitted to the following:

Country Director
Amref Health Africa
Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Plot 1019, Upanga area
P.O. Box 2773,
Dar es Salaam

All applications must be received not later than 21st August 2020, 4.00 PM

Questions about this call may be submitted to Amref Health Africa through: GFATM.SRApplications@Amref.org, not later than 16th August 2020



NMB Bank Plc agribusiness relationship manager Christian Kihwelo (2nd-R) elaborates on an issue in Morogoro municipality yesterday when briefing visitors at the bank's pavilion at the Nane-Nane agricultural exhibitions for the Eastern Zone. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCB unveils key strategy to support cashewnut farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Cashewnut Board (TCB) has unveiled its plans to invest heavily in farmers, experts and best farming practices with an aim to boost cashew production from the current 300,000 tonnes to 10 million tonnes per year by 2025.

TCB's manager for Central and Western Zone, Ray Mtangi said that under the new programme which will be implemented collaboratively with the ministry of agriculture, cultivation of the key cash crop in the country will be highly improved.

He was speaking at the on-going Nane Nane Agricultural Exhibition in Simiyu Region.

Mtangi said the envisaged scheme will ensure there is enough production of improved seed varieties, but also, imparting farmers with needed agronomic practices in order to facilitate them to start growing quality cashews.

According to him, there will be a special programme to establish cashew plantations in more regions as well as training extension officers over how to mitigate common diseases that often affect the crop.

"For the past few years, Tanzania's

performance in the cultivation of cashew has experienced a lackluster movement, and that's why we have found it prudent to initiate the said programme in order to curtail the grim statistics," he said.

The main cashew nut leading countries within the continent include Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana and Tanzania which currently ranks number four.

For his part, Agriculture Minister Josephat Hasunga said that the ministry had already started to implement preliminary efforts for the full revival of cashew nut cultivation in Tanzania.

Being among key economic crops, minister Hasunga said the ministry will allocate enough resources towards the sector, to include capital loans to farmers, supply of enough equipped extension officers, to mention but a few.

"For the past few years, Tanzania's performance in the cultivation of cashew has experienced a lackluster movement, and that's why we have found it prudent to initiate the said programme in order to curtail the grim statistics"

By Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

FOREIGN Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi has called upon Tanzanians to invest in aquaponics—one of the sustainable ways to grow fish and plants in an integrated system.

The system involves a combination of aquaculture (raising aquatic animals such as snails, fish, crayfish or prawns in tanks) and hydroponics (the soil-less growing of plants in water) in a symbiotic environment.

Minister Kabudi made the call here recently when officiating this year's eastern zone Nane Nane Agricultural

Prof Kabudi urges farmers to venture into aquaponics

Exhibition.

Highlighting on some advantages of the aquaponics system, Prof Kabudi said the amount of time needed to grow fish and plants with aquaponics is less compared to normal food gardening.

He added that the system also uses less water than any other gardening.

"It is high time for Tanzanians particularly farmers engaging in aquaponics gardening which is completely organic to earn an

additional income for their families," said Prof Kabudi.

Dr Anna Ngumbi, an official from the Livestock Training Agency (LITA) Morogoro Campus, encouraged communities to engage in the

technology since it is cost-effective.

"Currently, the minimum investment capital required for aquaponics is 2.7m/-. The cost is affordable compared to previously estimated costs of up to 5m/- when the technology was firstly

launched in Tanzania," she said.

Project Manager, Aquacom Limited, Jonas Leonard called on Tanzanian farmers to invest in the technology to reap more, urging them to adhere to principles governing aquaponic gardening to make good profits.

"Those intending to grow fish should choose Nile Tilapia due to its high demand in the market," he noted.

He added: "Aquaponics is also essential to ensure food security in the country and a source of income for households. With the technology, farmers can grow fish and plants at places of their choice—indoors, outdoors and in greenhouses."

AFRICAN UNDERGROUND MINING SERVICES

Expression of Interest (EOI)

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

- One Remote Control Technologies "ATX2200 Control Guidance Unit".
- The supply, installation and on-site commissioning of one Remote Control Technologies "Control Master ATX2200 Tele Remote Guidance System" on one Caterpillar R2900G loader.

At AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

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 13/08/2020** quoting "EOI Supply of Remote Control Guidance Systems" 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
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- 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
- Trade references, previous contracts to supply Remote Control Technologies equipment.
- 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 **13/08/2020** 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.

AFRICAN UNDERGROUND MINING SERVICES

Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Supply of one Sandvik Development Drill DD421-60 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 one Sandvik Development Drill DD421-60.

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 13/08/2020** quoting "EOI Supply of Sandvik Development Drill DD421-60" 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
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- 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
- Trade references, Contracts to supply similar drill equipment.
- 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 13/08/2020 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.

AAT, FIA target 600 for defensive driving training in D'Salaam

By Guardian Correspondent

In an effort to improve road safety and minimising of fatalities the Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) in collaboration with Federation International de Automobile grant programme (FIA) & Michelin International have organised special day-long Defensive Driving training for more than 600 Dar es Salaam-based drivers.

The three-month training is at the beginning earmarked for drivers who drives trucks, buses, school buses and ambulances.

AAT president Nizar Jivani told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the training will be conducted by experts from AAT driving School, Tanzania Traffic Police HQ, Tanzania Fire & Rescue services (Fire drill) & First Aid free of charge as part of AAT/FIA/Michelin International social corporate responsibility.

The purpose of the training is to reduce accidents, fatality and for drivers to understand new and updated road signs, law.

Beneficiaries of this important yet precious training will be drivers from an estimated 30 companies.

FIA/ AAT/ Michelin will be undertaking such training first time for drivers in the country and the first batch of trainers is scheduled for next Thursday. Superintendent of Police Deus Sokoni who represented Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SACP) Fortunatus Muslim in the launch hailed AAT and FIA for undertaking the training. He said AAT/ FIA have been working with a hand-in-glove cooperation towards road safety with Traffic Police.

AAT CEO Yusuf Ghor said each batch of the training session will involve 50 drivers all the way to the next three months.

Ghor said FIA/AAT is also planning to train 950 Boda Boda riders on importance of wearing crash helmets and will distribute free. AAT president Nizar Jivani presented a UN-top brand

crash helmet to Superintendent of Police Deus Sokoni for the mission yesterday.

He also said in the past five years AAT/FIA in collaboration with Tanzania Police Education Unit have trained 5000 Boda Boda riders in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions and officially all the riders have acquired Tanzania Revenue Authority licenses after the training.

AAT/FIA with the assistance of Tanzania Police Education Unit have also trained 2565 Teachers in Dar es Salaam in 123 schools Road Safety signs.

The purpose was teachers in schools should pass the knowledge acquired to children as part of Road Safety curriculum. Equipments of banner of road signs for teaching, stop & go signs, leaflets was also provided to all the schools.

Besides road safety training AAT have erected road signs - go slow, zebra crossing in some of the schools to minimize fatalities.

Experts who are part of the Defensive Training from Tanzania Traffic Police HQ included SP Deus Sokoni- for traffic laws, Superintendent of Police Abel Swai who is responsible for road safety instructions. Fares Kauli and Christina Charles from fire fighting and AAT chief driving instructor Samwel Saleh, AAT/ FIA International grant programme & Michelin International would like to thank companies who have released their drivers and press and electronic media for sensitising the public on importance of defensive driving.

AAT would also like to thank Tanzania Traffic Police Education Unit for always collaborating in various road safety projects and would like to thank ASAS Dairies Ltd for donating milk for healthy living.

While Dar es Salaam Regional Sports officer Adolf Halii hailed AAT/FIA for launching the defensive driving programme, Michellin representative through Superdoll firm Adam Mubago said the tyre makers are proud to be part of road safety campaign.



Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) president Nizar Jivani (C) presents a UN-brand crash helmet to Superintendent of Police Deus Sokoni at the launch of a Defensive Driving programme held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are Dar es Salaam regional sports officer Adolf Halii (L), AAT CEO Yusuf Ghor (R) and Superdoll sales manager Adam Mubago. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Mwanza SMEs benefit from bank's low-interest loans

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Mwanza Region have successfully expanded their businesses, thanks to the low interest loans from the National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

Giving her testimony on how loans from NBC bank have helped her to grow her business, Mwanza-based businesswoman, Grace Kweka said through the loans she has managed to grow her business from a capital of 7m/- in 2005 to the current 250m/-.

"Some business owners especially women tend to be reluctant to get

loans from financial institutions, but I have a pleasant experience with NBC bank. For instance when corona was at its peak I couldn't travel outside the country to get goods, but I negotiated with the bank and they agreed to reduce my interest fee," said Kweka.

She added: "I started out as an entrepreneur and I now own a medium-sized business, all these successes are due to the loans I have received from the bank over years."

Addressing SMEs in Mwanza Region yesterday during a get together event arranged for the bank's clients, NBC bank Managing Director, Theobald

Sabi reiterated the bank's commitment to support the growth of private sector especially Small and Medium-sized Enterprises across the country.

He said the bank will continue supporting SMEs through provision of low interest loans.

"We have been providing low interest loans to SMEs as part of our initiative to enable small business owners to grow their business and ultimately boost the country's economy," said Sabi.

According to him, there are several success stories from small and medium sized business owners that demonstrate how much the loans have

contributed to the growth of their businesses.

NBC Director of Business Banking, Elvis Ndunguru said the aim of organising the get together event with SMEs and business owners was to familiarise them with various banking services and products that are tailored for SMEs and are geared to help entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

"For instance, we offer low-interest loans to business owners without requirement of collateral as long as they have business contracts with big companies," said Ndunguru.



Entrepreneur Grace Meshaki (C) briefs NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (R) and the bank's Mwanza Branch manager, Rodgers Masolwa, in Mwanza city on Wednesday on how her business has benefited from the bank's low-interest loans to SMEs - to the extent of growing from 17m/- to 250m/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE famous local producer of veterinary medicines and pesticides-Dodoma-based Farm Access Company Ltd -was nurtured by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) right from its humble beginning to becoming a pharmaceutical giant, a senior official recounted here yesterday.

Anthony Mavunde the Deputy Minister for Labour, Youths, Employment and the Disabled told a gathering at the Nzuguni Nane Nane grounds that the bank financed all aspects -from earthworks, construction

TADB offered 1.8bn/- to nurture Dodoma-based veterinary, farm drugs manufacturer

until production of drugs.

"Let me take this opportunity to thank the TADB for taking strong steps in support of national industrialisation agenda championed by the fifth phase government led by President John Magufuli."

The deputy minister said the bank supported the start and growth of the company until it became a giant producing veterinary and farm drugs.

He said the company had broadened the labour market by employing young Tanzanians, adding that the government would work with the bank in building small industries to add value to grapes predominantly grown in Dodoma Region. He called on the TADB to mobilise other banks to promote grape growing and processing in Dodoma Region.

The company's senior development

manager, Dr Simon Mphuru, joined the minister in paying tribute to the bank and asked the TADB to support smallholder farmers, who he said were the primary producers the nation depended on to advance the national industrialisation agenda and create new jobs.

He also appealed to Tanzanians to seize the many opportunities emerging in the agricultural sector.

PwDs talk of media 'snub' against them

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

PEOPLE with disabilities have complained of being left out in almost all reports and programmes published or broadcasted in local media outlets such as Radio, Television and Newspapers.

The Disabled Women Association chairperson, Salma Haji Sadati, pointed out that most, if not all, the personalities working in the country's media industry are healthy people without any form of physical disabilities, who usually forget that their audiences also comprise of physically challenged minority who have the right to be informed.

"Take the recent Corona pandemic, all the media alerts, education and information regarding the infections were totally targeted to healthy audiences, forgetting those with impaired sight and hearing, while facilities such as water for cleaning hands or sanitizing formulas were kept out of reach from physically handicapped people," said Sadat, blaming the local media for failing to point this out.

She further said that people with impaired sight cannot watch television or read newspapers, those with impaired hearing can neither listen to the radio nor understand what is being discussed on TV, but apparently media outlets have been doing nothing to accommodate these groups.

While some TV stations such as the Independence Television (ITV), Tanzania Broadcasting (TBC) and Azam's Uhai TV employ (deaf) interpreters to offer sign languages during live news broadcast, it has been observed that this service does not apply to other programmes.

Now according to the chairperson, it was women and children with disabilities who suffered most, when it

comes to limited information, because traditionally these are the people who hardly have any say in the community.

Salma Sadat also described the predicaments that disabled people had to endure during the Coronavirus pandemic peak as that of protective gear, such as facial masks that were made without giving consideration to handicapped people, therefore in order to put them on, they were subjected to rely on others, which again placed them at direct risk of being infected with the disease.

The Director of Women's Efforts in Development (WAJIK) organisation, Janeth Mawinza, was also of view that protective items such as facial masks, during the Corona pandemic only served to create social stigma against people who wore them.

"That was due to misinformation or the fact that education regarding pandemics was badly impacted among residents, who thought that wearing a mask meant already the person was infected, thus creating a negative label against them," said Mawinza, a gender activist whose organisation deals with gender and children rights issues.

That was due to misinformation or the fact that education regarding pandemics was badly impacted among residents, who thought that wearing a mask meant already the person was infected, thus creating a negative label against them



Camel business manager Tawakal Rajab (2nd-R) presents wheat flour to food vendor Shani Mwalim (R) on the sidelines of a meeting for small traders jointly organised by the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner's office and an agency known as Mama Alaska. It was held in the city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TaCRI presents 19 new Arabica coffee varieties, four for Robusta

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

TANZANIA Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) has come up with 19 new varieties of Arabica Coffee and four of Robusta with short maturity periods that reduce farmers' production cost by 30 to 50 percent.

Speaking during the ongoing Nanenane Agricultural Exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region, TaCRI's Head of Technology Distribution and Training Dr Magesa Jeremia said the seedlings for the improved half-caste coffee species are produced coffee seeds and farmers can

plant many seedlings in a small area.

He said in the research the Arabica species have shown capability to withstand diseases including withering and mature in a short period.

Magesa said 3,000 seedlings of the new species can be planted in one hectare as opposed with the former species when only 1,500 could be planted in one hectare.

TaCRI Director Dr Deusdedit Kilambo said already they have identified new areas for coffee growing including Tanganyika District in Katavi Region and in Uluguru Mountains areas in Morogoro Region.

Dr Kilambo said as for now they have seedlings for 23 new coffee species which they will plant in both old and new coffee growing areas but cautioned that farmers might not get better yields therefrom if they do not abide by the appropriate coffee growing procedures.

Stephen Marco, farmer from Nyantira village, Nyansincha Ward in Tarime Rural District, Mara Region said the new Arabica coffee species has increased his income and better living standard, attributing the achievement by adhering to guidelines from TaCRI.

Kijazi wants TFS to have brand name

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, Dr Allan Kijazi, has called on Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) to ensure they come up with one name that would identify the honey they produce in the country.

Dr Kijazi issued the directive early yesterday during his visit at the TFS pavilion in the ongoing Nanenane Agricultural and Livestock Exhibition for the Central Zone being held at Nzuguni Grounds in the outskirts of Dodoma city.

He said he has no doubt about a great work done by TFS in honey production but was surprised to see its pavilion displaying various types of honey each

with a different name.

"I have seen honey from Sao Hill and here I see TFS pure honey - how is this so? All this honey is yours why should it have different identifications? Unless there is a hidden agenda but all of you are integrated hence there is no reason to identify yourselves differently in the market," he said.

"But also it would be better in this exhibition, among others, to have only one pavilion displaying "TFS Honey" inside of which you would have displayed all beekeeping products from your various areas," Dr Kijazi added.

He said our country is now a middle economy nation hence it was time to work hard in the production and

distribution of honey to attain much more success.

TFS Communication Officer said already the agency has finalised all procedures for the registration of a name that will identify the honey they produce - "Misitu Honey."

Ally said in regard to honey production, TFS has established eight new beekeeping reserves from six forest reserves in 2015 to 14 in 2019.

He mentioned the reserves: Central Zone (Manganze-Mzaree, Songolo, Lebba-Jumbe, Mialo-Kwamtoro, Aghodi and Msemembo), Western Zone (Buha -Kibondo), Northern Zone (Kangala, Kwenyunga Magiri, Kwamba and Muheza) and Southern Highlands Zone (Kipambawe, Shinji, Malinga and Chlangu).



Safina Egha (R), head teacher of Dar es Salaam's Kawe Ukwamani Secondary School, checks on students engaged in batik making ready for display at the school's 16th anniversary celebrations lined up for today. Photo: Guardian photographer

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

AS part of efforts to assist the government to control the spreading of coronavirus, Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) has donated various WASH facilities to Moshi municipality that will be placed at four major markets and crowded areas.

The WASH facilities refer to the provision of water, sanitation, waste management, hygiene and environmental cleaning.

AJISO through its special project - 'creating awareness on Covid-19' which is funded by the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) is implementing a campaign that aims to reach out to people at crowded markets with education on how to prevent themselves from contracting the disease.

Under the campaign, AJISO plans to reach at least five major markets - Majengo, Pasua, Mbuyuni, Manyema and Meimoria.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the organisation's coordinator, Tatu

NGO donates a range of WASH facilities to Moshi municipality

Mruttu said they have also provided 12 loudspeakers.

Acting Medical Officer for Moshi Municipal Council Dr Erick Atugonza said that despite the number of Covid-19 cases going down, it is important for Tanzanians to continue adhering to the protocols of hygiene to avoid being infected with the disease.

"Communities need to continue adhering to professional advice from health experts which includes washing hands with running water and soap or using alcohol based hand-rubs.

He applauded the role played by AJISO in creating awareness on Covid-19 calling upon local leaders to make sure the donated items are used for targeted purposes.

Representing market leaders, chairperson of the Meimoria market, William Mollé said they have been insisting all the people coming to the

market to wash their hands at entrance gates.

He said traders are also advised to wear face masks and wash their hands regularly.

The highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness (Coronavirus) firstly reported in Wuhan, China has infected over 3 million people across the world.

Experts have frequently been advising the public to avoid unnecessary gatherings, practice self-isolation for them to remain safe during this time when the country and the world at large struggles to battle the spread of the highly flu-like Covid-19 outbreak.

Covid-19 is characterised by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. Illness can be more severe for some people and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TO CONDUCT INVENTORY AND INSPECTION OF IVD VEHICLES IN TANZANIA

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking offers for conducting Inventory and Inspection of fleet of the Immunization and Vaccine Development Programme (IVD) under the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) Tanzania. Interested parties are invited to submit a proposal for the services on the project in response to this Request for Proposals (RFP).

The WHO is an international organization, consisting of 194 Member States and a Specialized Agency of the United Nations with the mandate to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work. As such, the WHO is dependent on the budgetary and extra-budgetary contributions it receives for the implementation of its activities. Bidders are, therefore, requested to propose the best and most cost-effective solution to meet WHO requirements, while ensuring a high level of service.

The WHO requires the successful bidder to carry out Inventory and Inspection of IVD Programme Vehicles in Tanzania.

The provider shall be an institution operating in the field of fleet management with proven expertise in motor vehicle inspection and fleet management.

Currently the IVD does not have adequate data regarding the actual number of vehicles and their conditions, thus rendering the process of planning of the fleet utilization difficult. These vehicles are located in the Districts, Councils and Regions of Tanzania Mainland for transportation of medical supplies, patients and medical personnel. The Government of Tanzania or donor agents provided these vehicles for use in health service related activities.

The ministry intends to decentralize the transport operations management, repair, and maintenance of vehicles under the IVD. Therefore, it is necessary for the Ministry to have adequate data to appropriately plan for a new transport management system effectively.

The main objectives are the following for each (1) District, (2) Council, (3) Region and (4) MoHCDGEC (IVD) as a whole:

- To establish the **total number of vehicles.**
- To establish the **total number of vehicles currently in use.**
- To establish the **number of serviceable vehicles currently not in use.**
- To determine the **number of vehicles with conditions beyond economical repair.**
- To determine the **number of vehicles with conditions categorized as scrap.**

The main deliverable is a consolidated IVD vehicle database giving the following information:

- Vehicle location (Region, District and Council).
- Vehicle condition (in use or not in use, serviceable or scrap)
- Vehicle model and make, registered owner, engine number and chassis number.
- Determine the fair market value for each vehicle categorised as unserviceable and scrap.

Bidders should follow the instructions set forth below in the submission of their proposal to WHO.

- The proposal and all correspondence and documents relating thereto shall be prepared and submitted in English language.
- The proposal should be concisely presented and structured to include the following information:
 - The proposed solution.
 - Methodology of the work including tools.
 - Duration of the work (timeline), **not exceeding 21 days.**
 - Cost of the work broken down in operational items (Financial proposal), **not exceeding Tsh 100,000,000/= (One hundred million shillings).**
- CVs of the leading consultant (s) including following experiences and qualifications (essential):
 - Specialist in Management and Operations Systems or Transport and Logistics (Supply Chain Management) or Procurement and procurement audit.
 - Prior experience of conducting fleet assessment and provide evidence.
 - Member/Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILIT), Tanzania.

Information that the bidder considers confidential, if any, should be clearly marked as such. The bidder shall submit the complete proposal to WHO in writing no later than **Monday day 17th August 2020, 16:00** ("the closing date"), by email at the following address: afwcoztrem@who.int

Each proposal shall be marked Ref: RFP/IVD/08/06 and be signed by a person or persons duly authorized to represent the bidder, to submit a proposal and to bind the bidder to the terms of this RFP.

WHO may, at its own discretion, extend the closing date for the submission of proposals by notifying all bidders thereof in writing.

Any proposal received by WHO after the closing date for submission of proposals may be rejected.

The offer outlined in the proposal must be valid for a minimum period of 90 calendar days after the closing date. A proposal valid for a shorter period may be rejected by WHO. In exceptional circumstances, WHO may solicit the bidder's consent to an extension of the period of validity. The request and the responses thereto shall be made in writing. Any bidder granting such an extension will not, however, be permitted to otherwise modify its proposal.

A bidder may withdraw its proposal any time after the proposal's submission and before the above mentioned closing date, if written notice of the withdrawal is received by WHO via mail/email, as provided above, before the closing date.

No proposal may be modified after its submission, unless WHO has issued an amendment to the RFP allowing such modifications. No proposal may be withdrawn in the interval between the closing date and the

expiration of the period of proposal validity specified by the bidder in the proposal (subject always to the minimum period of validity referred to above).

WHO may, at any time before the closing date, for any reason, whether on its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a (prospective) bidder, modify the RFP by written amendment. Amendments could, inter alia, include modification of the project scope or requirements, the project timeline expectations and/or extension of the closing date for submission.

All prospective bidders that have received the RFP will be notified in writing of all amendments to the RFP and will, where applicable, be invited to amend their proposal accordingly.

Before conducting the technical and financial evaluation of the proposals it has received, WHO will perform a preliminary examination of these proposals to determine whether they are complete, whether any computational errors have been made, whether the documents have been properly signed, and whether the proposals are generally in order. Proposals which are not in order as aforesaid may be rejected.

Please note that WHO is not bound to select any bidder and may reject all proposals. Furthermore, since a contract would be awarded in respect of the proposal which is considered most responsive to the needs of the project concerned, due consideration being given to WHO's general principles, including economy and efficiency, WHO does not bind itself in any way to select the bidder offering the lowest price.

WHO may, at its discretion, ask any bidder for clarification of any part of its proposal. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in price or substance of the proposal shall be sought, offered or permitted during this exchange.

The WHO reserves the right to the following:

- Award the contract to a bidder of its choice, even if its bid is not the lowest;
- Award separate contracts for parts of the work, components or items, to one or more bidders of its choice, even if their bids are not the lowest;
- Accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the solicitation process and reject all proposals at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and without any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for WHO's action;
- Award the contract on the basis of the Organization's particular objectives to a bidder whose proposal is considered to be the most responsive to the needs of the Organization and the activity concerned;
- Not award any contract at all.

WHO has the right to eliminate bids for technical or other reasons throughout the evaluation/selection process. WHO shall not in any way be obliged to reveal, or discuss with any bidder, how a proposal was assessed, or to provide any other information relating to the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for elimination to any bidder.

NOTE: WHO is acting in good faith by issuing this RFP. However, this document does not obligate WHO to contract for the performance of any work, nor for the supply of any products or services.

At any time during the evaluation/selection process, WHO reserves the right to modify the scope of the work, services and/or goods called for under this RFP. WHO shall notify the change to only those bidders who have not been officially eliminated due to technical reasons at that point in time.

WHO reserves the right at the time of award of contract to extend, reduce or otherwise revise the scope of the work, services and/or goods called for under this RFP without any change in the base price or other terms and conditions offered by the selected bidder.

WHO also reserves the right to enter into negotiations with one or more bidders of its choice, including but not limited to negotiation of the terms of the proposal(s), the price quoted in such proposal(s) and/or the deletion of certain parts of the work, components or items called for under this RFP.

Within 30 days of receipt of the contract, the successful bidder shall sign and date the contract provided to it by WHO, and return it to WHO according to the instructions provided at that time. If the bidder does not accept the contract terms without changes, then WHO has the right not to proceed with the selected bidder and instead contract with another bidder of its choice.

All bidders must adhere to the UN Supplier Code of Conduct, which is available at the following link:

https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/files/attachment/page/2014/February%202014/conduct_english.pdf

WHO reserves the right to publish (e.g. on the procurement page of its internet site) or otherwise make public the contractor's name and address, information regarding the contract, including a description of the goods or services provided under the contract and the contract value.

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We look forward to receiving your response to this RFP.

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2020

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Plaudits for Ifakara Institute on WHO citation of TB guidelines

SOME good news was received early this week or slightly earlier by Tanzania's researchers and members of the scientific community in general.

It was with regard to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) adoption of a TB testing procedure, also known as a technology, effectively promoting it into a key guideline.

The sort of innovation at issue is basically one of method, but it involves a kind of 'factorisation', meaning looking at determinants of TB possibility as it lives in tandem with HIV/Aids, to find a combination of testing elements or compounds best suiting the purpose.

Of course, all these areas are constantly researched upon, but ours is still a contribution - a key addition.

The point was noted as the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) featured in the latest WHO guidelines on a TB diagnostic tool, a recognition arising from its work on new technology for testing TB called Xpert MTB/RIF. It was made a part of new consolidated guidelines on 'tuberculosis module three' published by WHO in past weeks.

This is what an IHI senior researcher was explaining, as he is one among 12 scientists forming a WHO team to review a range of diagnostic technologies endorsed by WHO for a decade now. Standard scientific practices don't change each year but are evaluated on a longer basis.

The WHO review related to the impact of the new 'Xpert' method on patients that has highlighted important outcomes thus being made part of WHO recommendations on testing TB presence in a patient.

The crucial aspect is initial diagnostic test in adults who are suspected for TB but also have either HIV or multi drug resistant TB (MDR). It is evident that there is a range of diseases and problems that may need multiple tests is one method that can give an adequate answer isn't possible, and IHI

seems have provided an answer to that problem. They have helped to improve TB testing worldwide.

The researcher interviewed said that before the WHO review, the diagnostic tool 'Xpert MTB/RIF' was strongly recommended of that specific section of patients, but now it is strongly recommended for all adults with signs and symptoms of TB regardless of HIV or MDR status.

IHI noticeably found out that patients diagnosed using Xpert MTB/RIF had better chances of surviving and being cured compared to those diagnosed using the standard of care, smear microscopy.

WHO noted that the diagnostic tool had a high certainty of evidence for test accuracy as well as moderate certainty of evidence for patient-important outcomes. It isn't on every other month or year that internationally recognized research is registered in the country, despite that researchers collaborate with attached foreign researchers, etc.

Little has been said about any auxiliary benefits or forms of recognition outside direct citation by the UN agency in current testing procedures for tuberculosis in particular.

As it isn't a formula for manufacturing drugs it isn't likely to fetch a patent, and the recognition itself is scientific acknowledgement of no minor standing, which uplifts the public IHI's image and that of Tanzanian scientific research activity generally.

It helps build trust in the work carried out by local scientists when they have a positive environment for conducting their work, basically meaning a range of technological or precision equipment needed to take measurements under varying conditions.

It all helps boost the case for science and public expenditure in that direction, contrary to feelings that researchers just pile up reports on findings.

Opposition has really hard time mapping out inclusive economy

TANZANIA'S opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency - ACT-Wazalendo, for short - is a newcomer to general elections. But shrewd as it shows it is, it is already promising to surprise older parties in the coming polls.

It is the youngest political party in the country, but it isn't growing as a nascent political group the way most other parties started in the past.

It is essentially a regrouping of cadres from established parties, opposition in particular, and therefore many people know what to expect from them. It is thus not entirely far-fetched for the party to declare that it will give older outfits a run for their money in the polls.

What that formulation means in usual terms is that the party will put up a stiff challenge in most areas in the elections, and it definitely stands to benefit from concessions in major opposition parties like the Civic United Front (CUF) and Chadema, many of whose cadres have since decamped.

It has also benefited from the usual election tremors in CCM, though there isn't anything like the 1995 or 2015 'earthquakes', despite fetching at least one leading cadre from the ruling party. This enhances its credibility, largely so. ACT-Wazalendo is especially interesting in that it has presented fairly comprehensive starting bloc talking points as to what it wishes to tell the voters and the public generally, and definitely it has a number of sound points.

It unfolded a platform where the key campaign areas include creating a stable and inclusive economy, investing in women empowerment, improved social services as well as valuing and improving the private sector.

All these are areas that current authorities have worked to develop

and expand, but it is evident that more can be done, by CCM or the opposition.

There are more precise issues where the capacity of the party or any other to realize those objectives are either limited or substantial depending on how the promises are factored, the costing that can be imputed to those objectives.

ACT-Wazalendo says that it will make sure every Tanzanian has health insurance, that a government it forms would pay pensions to every Tanzanian when becoming old, that is, above the formal employment eligibility age limit.

That is part of modernisation, but it has essential prerequisites which impact on the character of ownership of the means of production.

There are areas like restoring the dignity and respect for every Tanzanian, especially women and children, against stigma and harassment.

Definitely that is a laudable platform. It must be acknowledged, though, that the ruling party has made such efforts in successive governments but most of those drawbacks are sourced in culture.

This also has to do with social positions which in turn are related to how land is owned and used, the gender and age-set roles therein, etc. Activists call it a patriarchal economy, and it is prevailing.

Perhaps the party's Leader, Zitto Kabwe, kicked up more dust when he said that they are working to ensure that they create a government that respects the rule of law, dignity, freedom and well-being of the people.

He underscored the importance of having a fair system of justice, true democracy, freedom as well as inclusive, strong and prosperous economy. That is crucial, though it is often much easier to say it than to actually ensure it, but we wish the party well.

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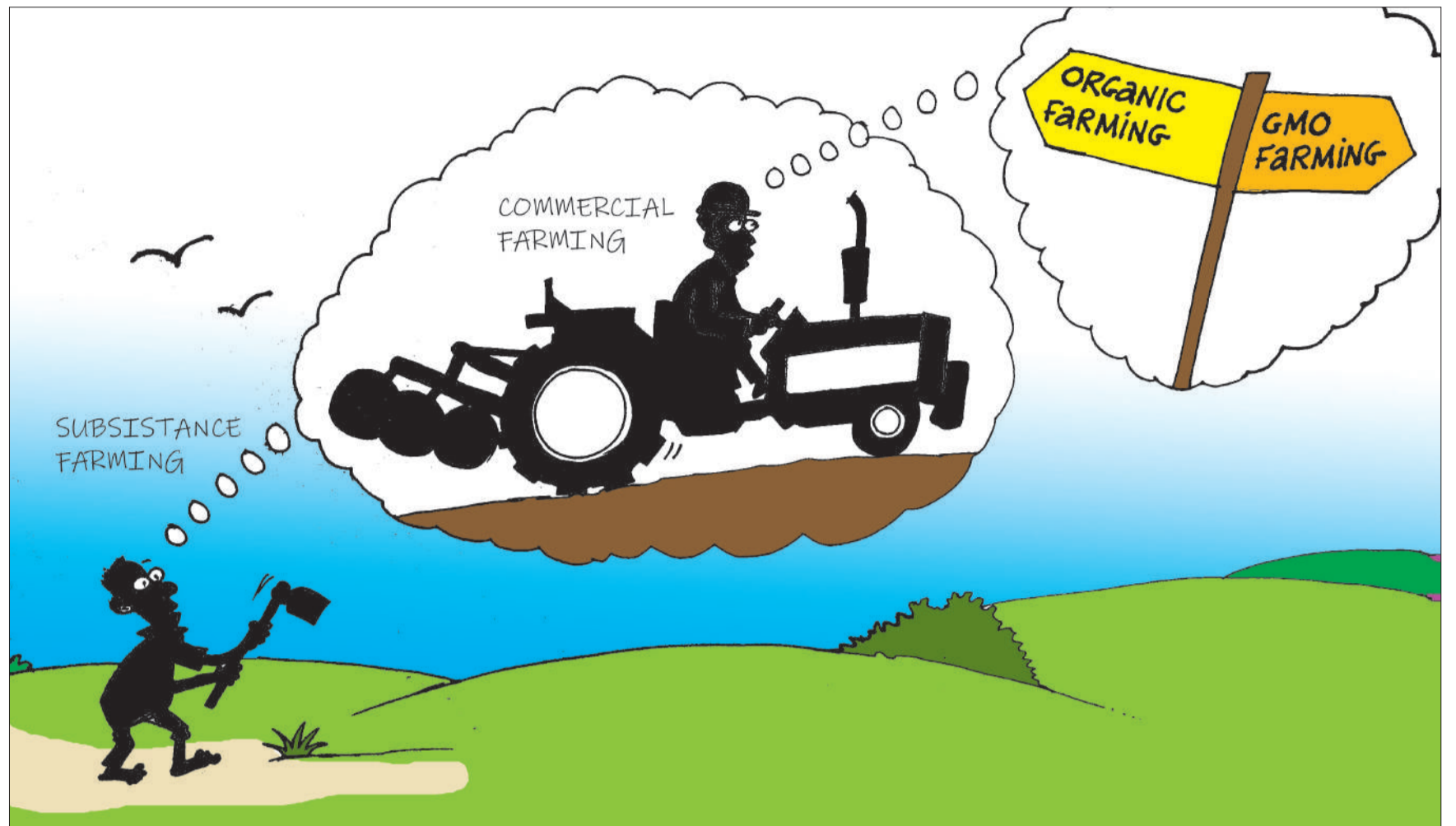
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In Covid-hit Africa, agricultural research feels the pinch

By Munyaradzi Makoni

IT is strangely quiet at the National Crops Resources Research Institute in Namulonge, Uganda. Seventy per cent of its 400 staff members have not reported for work since the country instituted a lockdown in March due to layoffs and government policies brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have to work harder to implement our work plans to minimize the disruption of Covid-19 while adhering to the Health ministry's guidelines and standard operating procedures," says Godfrey Asea, NaCCRI's director.

The limited staffing has affected harvesting and planting activities, especially for cereals and pulses - beans, lentils and other seeds that grow in pods.

Although Uganda's lockdown measures have been among the strictest in Africa, NaCCRI is far from alone. Other agricultural research institutes in Africa are also finding their work curtailed by the pandemic, with potential near-term consequences for farmers in the region.

Research slows down

As one of Uganda's 16 agricultural research institutes under the National Agricultural Research Organisation, NaCCRI specializes in developing legumes, maize, rice, horticultural crops, and oil palm varieties adapted to the country's climate, as well as pesticides and herbicides.

It also offers quality control testing of consumer products related to agriculture. During the pandemic, it has suspended some research activities, such as stakeholder surveys, and its trainings and tours.

The planting season begins in March in Uganda, and some of the institute's planned field experiments have either started late or aren't being monitored as closely as usual due to disrupted working hours and reduced labor, says Asea.

To stop the spread of Covid-19, Uganda initially banned both private and public transport, so organisations had to provide means of travel for their essential workers.

Although those restrictions have eased, many organisations, including NaCCRI, are still providing transportation for staff members. A daily curfew - from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. - continues.

"Moving staff to and from work is now expensive, while curfew restrictions have forced staff to work fewer hours," says Asea. He adds that 16 of its graduate students have been forced to stop their research altogether and only the seven students who live at the institute have been able to continue.

According to Asea, the changes "might disrupt timelines for near-

release technologies such as new crop varieties for cassava, maize, and rice".

Even as NaCCRI continues to offer limited quality control services for consumer products such as packed flour, milk, and soil, this work faces challenges, says Asea.

In addition to the limitations posed by staffing shortages, "the lockdown on business has made it hard to access laboratory consumables. Reagents are getting depleted with no foreseeable opportunity to restock".

On a positive note, he says, "the extra desk time created by the pandemic has also enabled scientists to engage more in scientific writing of journal articles and proposals."

And some laboratory work has continued. For instance, the nutrition and bioanalytical lab has maintained experiments on samples that were already collected in the field before the shutdown that are aimed at developing new crop strains including cassava, sweet potato, and sorghum, and food products such as maize flour, rice, and beans.

Scientists cut off from farms

In neighbouring Tanzania, Covid-19 came during the rainy season. The resulting lockdown imposed by the government left researchers at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), a nonprofit based in Dar es Salaam, counting their losses.

"Unfortunately, the rain did not wait for Covid-19, so we missed critical data that we were supposed to collect on our experiments," says Victor Manyong, IITA director for Eastern Africa and agribusiness head for Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to overseeing local farmers, IITA maintains nine of its own research fields stationed across the country. The organisation develops crops to improve yields, processes agriculture products to increase shelf life, and finds novel solutions to pests and diseases.

But this year, "we could not go to the rural areas to see the farmers who are growing the crops," which include cassava, maize, soya bean, cowpea, yam, banana, and plantain, he says, adding: "Neither could we meet with the consumers in the urban areas to know exactly what was happening with agricultural sales."

Owing to Tanzania's lockdown and closure of universities, more than two dozen students from local universities who planned to go to IITA for hands-on experience could not travel to rural areas of the country to conduct their research, says Manyong.

The students are now expected in September. Nine of the students who had planned to visit IITA this spring wanted to evaluate the efficacy of a treatment to ward off a toxic fungus that affects maize. They missed the window for applying it to this year's

crop.

IITA had also planned to conduct training in aquaculture in the eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo, but the pandemic has stopped or delayed delivery of the cages it needed and of a huge quantity of imported fish feed, which was expired by the time it arrived.

All told, Manyong says, it's too soon to know the value of all that IITA has lost to the pandemic, but he expects it will be in the millions of dollars.

Another researcher affected by the confluence of the pandemic and growing season is Oluwaseyi Shorinola, a crop scientist based at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi who has been working to increase the protein content in wheat varieties grown in Kenya and Ethiopia.

His goal, he says, is to enable East African nations to grow more high-quality wheat and reduce their dependence on imported grain.

Working in the laboratory during the lockdown, he managed to finish crossing the best lines of these local grains to optimize them for grain size, protein content, and disease resistance.

But Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have contributed to delays in testing his improved lines in the field during the main growing season, pushing that fieldwork to early next year, he says.

That will mean he'll need to apply for an extension to the fellowship from The Royal Society FLAIR that's supporting the work, he adds.

Ansori Maré, a plant scientist at the University of the Free State in South Africa, is another researcher encountering delays with her wheat-breeding experiments. She has been working to develop new disease-resistant varieties, but owing to South Africa's lockdown, her laboratory and greenhouse work has completely stopped.

With no crossed seeds to test, "planting the next season will be later this year, or we will lose a complete season and data collection," she says. Such delays, she notes, also affect the students in the plant sciences department negatively, slowing the research projects needed to complete their postgraduate studies.

Since June 1, researchers at Maré's university now have access to laboratories and the greenhouses again, although under strict rules and regulations aimed at minimizing infection risk. "At this stage, no irreplaceable losses were experienced, except time," Maré says.

Difficulties collecting animal data

Chinyere Ekine, a statistical geneticist at ILRI in Nairobi, is working to improve milk yields in Africa using genetics and crossbreeding of cattle.

She explains: "To do genetic improvements, we would need to

measure traits over time, and keep a pedigree of the animals to know who the sire and dam are," adding: "Then you can crunch the numbers and pick out the best sire and dam with an average higher breeding value for the traits of interest so the next generation will be better than their parents' previous generation on average."

To that end, ILRI hires workers known as enumerators to collect data on traits from smallholder farmers in rural Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

They also encourage smallholder farmers to learn the importance of consistently collecting their own data for making informed decisions in the future such as which animals to keep or sell, and for determining the value of a farmer's herd in order to help secure loans.

Ekine's team uses genetic information from animal hair that the enumerators collect along with other data to identify the best bulls for use in breeding via artificial insemination.

According to Ekine, enumerators used to reach the farmers once a month, but when Covid-19 struck in mid-March, people were not allowed to go out to rural communities.

In addition to the official lockdown, there were fears that the virus could be transmitted from humans to farm animals, and people could not risk losing their livelihoods. The flow of data from the enumerators has significantly slowed as a result, she says.

"You need to collect data on milk, on growth, in a sequence. You need to follow the animal," Ekine explains, adding: "When you have missed this data, it's an analysis lost."

To keep going, Ekine's team gave farmers cell phone credit to help collect data on their phones, an additional cost that had not been part of the project initially and was not as effective as the enumerators' data collection, she says.

The challenges mean it will take longer to produce improvements in cattle, and smallholders will have less robust information to use for breeding decisions. "What you cannot measure, you cannot improve," says Ekine.

Shorinola worries that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on agricultural research could ultimately extend beyond the disruptions he and others have experienced, and notes: "Although this has not happened yet, we anticipate that funders might want to divert their resources to new Covid-19 priorities, neglecting important agriculture research."

He adds that, while developing a vaccine against Covid-19 is very important, problems that affect food security such as locusts and a fungus known as wheat rust have not gone away during the pandemic.

To the contrary, he says, "lockdown due to the pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of our agriculture systems."

What future generations will remember about the coronavirus disease pandemic

By Andy Slavitt

I BEGAN writing a lengthy piece on the difficult decision of sending children back to school, with four scenarios and decision criteria to try to help parents. Then I stopped because I started thinking about children and what we teach them. I scrapped it for something much less useful.

I think about the things we all try to teach our children: how to be safe, following the golden rule, showing consideration, using evidence, and looking out for those less fortunate.

And I thought: What are they going to say about us when they grow up? They are watching us invoke those things and how precious their education is (it is), but they see that we weren't willing to work all summer to make their buildings safe. That we decided to keep bars open and spread Covid-19 even knowing it would be impossible to control come autumn.

That the governor in Arizona threatened to take a school district's budget if they didn't open even after a teacher died there... That we have some studies now that show that school-age children get and spread Covid-19 and the president still asked every school to be open even with high spread...

That we have data emerging that indicate that there are medium or long-term cardiac consequences for even asymptomatic people and still decided to open schools in person... That we didn't put together the tools - tests and contact tracing - to make them, their schools and their families safe...

They see that European and Asian countries have done those things. They're smart. They're curious. They're observant. They know that it's not impossible. Do they think we can't? That we won't?

They can see or will learn that some here had economic and political reasons for wanting them back in school and that's what mattered. That we ignored their teachers... And their aides, their librarians, their bus drivers... The adults we tell them to listen to...

They will learn - as you will - that the Koch Brothers has people tinkering with CDC (US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) plan on school openings.



That they were allowed...

These are formative years for the children. What else do they see? That the president hails the stock market but doesn't visit gravesites or talk about our losses... That at a time of need corporations got their bailout loans but their parents unemployment insurance was allowed to expire...

That we let people stand in line for food and lose their housing like in the 1930s... That even after losing 150,000 people, we still sat by, knowing that 70,000 more would be lost if we did not change... And

we did not change...

Today's children will be back in school at some point, hopefully soon. What should scare us is that their own children will study us in their history books.

My grandmother, like so many others, came here with nothing - without even her parents. She was eight years old. Everything I have, including the "liberty" and "rights", were nothing I earned. They were gifted them from her and many others who sacrificed.

I always thought that our job was to give something of equivalent value to

our children and grandchildren. They have known for some time that we have decided not to give them a more livable planet. And that's unforgivable.

But this pandemic...! This pandemic could absolutely be our moment to redeem ourselves. To show what we are made of... We can save lives. I think about the opportunity to show that we can leave a legacy in these times. To show how we pulled together... How we valued human lives... How we helped people in need...

But our children and grandchildren

are unlikely to learn about us as "the greatest generation". They are unlikely to call us "pro-life". I don't think they will say that the older generations sacrificed for them like we can say...

I think they may believe that the lessons we tried to reach - of kindness, of science, of charity - were empty words. Telling them to do as we say and not as we do...

We want children back studying STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) but are a country ignoring and belittling scientists. We want children back learning social studies but can't demonstrate what adults do with lessons from history.

We want children to learn and work in teams but see adults who can't seem to manage not to put others' lives ahead of our own rights. We teach values in school and religious school but do nothing about the suffering in nursing homes, farm labour camps, and among people of colour.

I have no moral high ground. I feel a part of the crime in progress. The good intentions and losing votes don't add up to much right now.

I only hope future generations will remember the doctors and nurses. The scientists and social workers... The many neighbours who helped each other...

My hope is in them. That they will be formed by what they witnessed... I am hopeful that we are raising people that would never tolerate the scale of human losses this large.

As of now, I think that they would look back and see people who wouldn't wear a mask, who wouldn't bring this to a quicker end, who didn't have the courage or the character to at any moment look at the death toll and call for a stop.

I hope that at any moment we change. There are many credible plans. I still believe that we can take it back by caring about the next life we would lose.

But, so far, we haven't made reducing the death toll or our children's future important enough to inconvenience ourselves. And they know it. That's the education they're getting.

A Medium coronavirus blog dispatch. Andy Slavitt is a former medicare and medicaid head for former US President Barack Obama.

Consumer is key: Mapping the post-Covid media outlook

By Alysha Chandra

WITH the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic hitting the news industry hard, it remains to be seen what a recovery will look like and how the media will change once the dust settles.

Leading analysts in China and the United States, Cecilia Yau of PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ken Harding of FTI Consulting, offered their projections during WAN-IFRA's recent Asian Media Leaders eSummit.

The panel discussion was moderated by WAN-IFRA's Director of Insights, Dean Roper, and speakers discussed the potential for U-shaped or V-shaped recovery curves.

Yau, a Partner and China and Hong Kong Media Leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said a V-shaped recovery curve would be the best-case scenario for the industry.

She said that this scenario would see public lockdowns last only two months and the economy would recover fairly briskly, returning to "normal" in 2022.

In what Yau called the "core case" scenario, public lockdowns lasting three to four months would result in a U- or W-shaped recovery curve. The hit to both consumer and advertising spending would be terminal for many media companies.

"It is likely that China will be one of the best cases, and recovery in Hong Kong and Tokyo could be something like the W-shaped curve," she said.

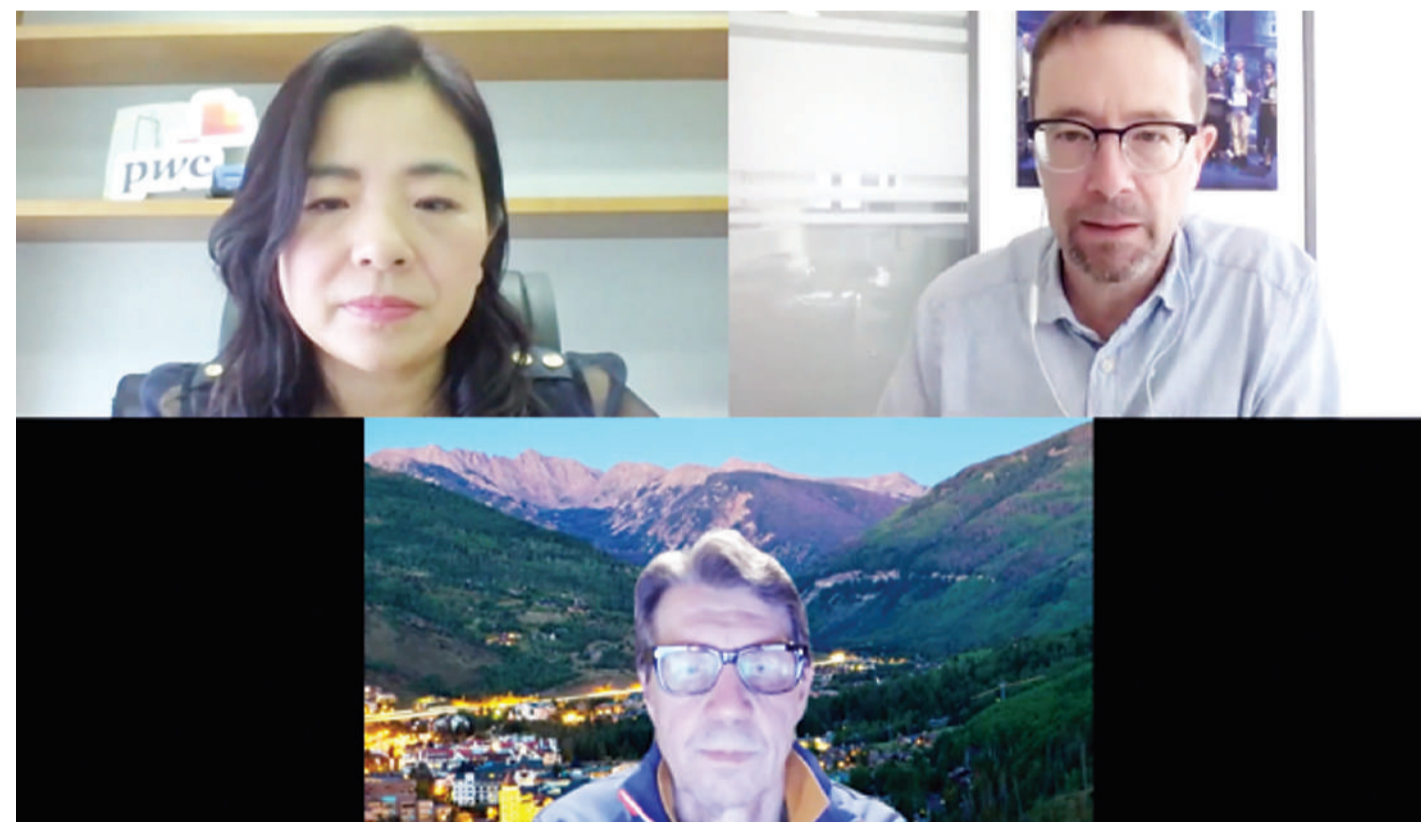
Harding, a Senior Managing Director in Telecommunications, Media & Technology at FTI Consulting, had a more sobering take on North America. "It's clearly not going to be V-shaped. It's going to be a U, or an extended U," he said, predicting an unrecovered advertising revenue loss of between 17 and 28 per cent as a result of Covid-19 by the fourth quarter of 2021.

"We get a lot of questions - like: 'Will this come back?' Well, the trends are going to improve, but we're going to reset the base and that really results in that 17 to 28 per cent unrecovered advertising loss," said Harding.

Early reopenings in the US have created an additional decline in projected revenues that Harding expects to fall even further. He says FTI looked back at the performance of two different legacy industries - newspapers and out of home (OoH) media - after the 2008 recession as the most recent proxy for what could happen.

FTI found that print media suffered more significant losses and a slower recovery than OoH media, with Harding saying that this suggests that print media could fare worse than other sectors post-Covid-19.

Both speakers said that consumer revenue would be the industry's saving grace. "It's a great thing that we actually have consumer revenue. If we had been the industry of ten years ago where we were at 80 per cent advertising revenue - it's serious now, but it would be ex-



PricewaterhouseCoopers Partner/China and Hong Kong media leader Cecilia Yau (top-L) and FTI Consulting senior managing director for telecoms, Media & Technology Ken Harding (bottom) in conversation with WAN-IFRA director of insights Dean Roper (top-R), in session on Post-Covid Media Outlook at the Asian Media Leaders eSummit.

tremely serious," Harding noted.

FTI's forecast predicted an even greater swing to a consumer-led business, with print advertising falling from 31 per cent in the first quarter of 2020 to under 20 per cent in 2021. It projected that print circulation would grow to 50 per cent, with total consumer revenue growing to 62 per cent after the pandemic ends.

Yau echoed many of these findings, saying: "Most consumer-type entertainment media segments are performing quite well, especially the digital ones. However, the advertising side has been badly impacted, especially physical advertising."

While Yau noted that segments like OTT

(over-the-top) media services and video games were doing well, she cautioned that prolonged lockdowns could still limit content and cause consumers to cut back on OTT subscriptions and also result in supply chain disruptions for hardware.

The speakers concurred that the crisis has accelerated the digitisation of the industry, with Yau submitting: "Digitisation has been high in China already, especially from the e-commerce side. However, during this pandemic, you can see that people have expanded their digital experience to areas like e-learning and telecommuting - with over 70 per cent of Chinese consumers trying new online activities."

Harding meanwhile said FTI's view was that

whatever path a news company was already on - in terms of the transition to digital - is probably now accelerated by two years.

Yau said that, despite the disruption to offline advertising, Covid-19 has been an opportunity for industry leaders to further expand in a good pricing environment.

She said China's largest offline advertising provider, Focus Media, had adequate cash flow and chose to increase its investment in indoor advertising channels - including billboards in the lobbies of commercial buildings.

Mergers, acquisitions likely to rise

Citing the recent bankruptcy auction of the McClatchy Company, Roper asked the speakers about the prospects for more mergers and acquisitions happening soon.

Yau said she expected more action, noting: "The major entertainment media companies in China are internet-based and rich in cash, so they are looking for good targets for their acquisition and keen to go into new areas such as education."

Harding meanwhile said that, in the US, over half of the newspaper industry could eventually be owned by private equity.

"I think they're looking, quite frankly, at a harvest situation. I think they're looking at getting debt cheap and really harvesting the newspaper industry," he said.

Other revenue streams

In terms of chasing other revenue streams, Harding said that digital marketing services are difficult for publishers to make decent margins on, "but they seem to be pushing hard on branded content".

Yau, for her part, held the view that digital services could be a way out "but the margins are low and take time".

She added, however, that social media groups in China have been taking the opportunity to move the marketplace onto their platforms, with the Chinese version of TikTok and even Alibaba hosting live shows where celebrities or key opinion leaders sell products.

Harding chipped in, saying: "Reader revenue is still the number one, but I don't know if that's going to be enough to sustain the industry."

A WAN-IFRA (World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers) dispatch. Alysha Chandra is a third-year student at Yale-NUS College in Singapore.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (R) receives a gift from Women and Youth Entrepreneurs Association director Doreen Mawala in recognition of his support to women entrepreneurs in Tanzania. He had just opened a trade and agriculture workshop jointly organised by the association, NBC Bank and the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) at Nane-Nane Agricultural Exhibition grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WMA stresses use of approved weighing scales for selling crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Acting Manager of Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) for the Southern Highlands regions Emmanuel Malanga has advised local councils in the regions to establish joint open markets for selling crops using approved weighing scales in order to do away with plastic buckets that cheat farmers.

Malanga issued the advice yesterday when speaking to this paper on how they educate the people on the appropriate use of weights and measures that are approved by the Agency.

He said in order to control the widespread use of plastic buckets and bowls in selling and buying crops, it would be better for the local councils in the regions to establish open markets that will use officially approved weighing scales.

“In rural areas there is a big problem in the use of the buckets and bowls as farmers never use weighing scales in selling their crops while buyers like the procedure as they reap great profits through this cheating,” Malanga said.

He added that WMA in the southern Highland Zone will embark on an operation to inspect all butcheries to make sure all weighing scales are approved by the Agency and bear WMA stamp.

He said any butchery that will be found with a weighing scale that is not so stamped

the owner thereof will be fined as well as other legal steps including court action.

He reminded all people to refuse being sold meat which has not been weighed by the WMA approved scales and that whenever they see that happening they should immediately inform the agency.



In rural areas there is a big problem in the use of the buckets and bowls as farmers never use weighing scales in selling their crops while buyers like the procedure as they reap great profits through this cheating

‘Specific units can help cut neonatal deaths’

By Guardian Reporter

PERINATAL deaths in Tanzania accounts for 39 in every 1000 pregnancies, according to Dr Felix Bundala, the Acting director of Reproductive and Child Health in the Ministry of

Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children. “... and reducing these we must improve quality of care in our health system,” he said when he presented the National Guideline for National Care and Establish-

ment of Neonatal Care at the Stakeholders Meeting and In-service Training hosted by Ifakara Health Institute and partners through the NEST 360° (Newborn Essential Solution of Technologies NEST) project held in Dar es Salaam recently.

Dr. Bundala said: “Quality care for newborn can be archived by combining different components in health systems, including establishment of neonatal care units in hospitals.” “The guideline for neonatal care gives the details on how to implement that, but, one recommendation is encourage health facilities

in Tanzania to allocate rooms or spaces for establishing Neonatal Care Units.” NEST technologies are designed in partnership with African hospital to be effective, affordable and rugged. The project will allow clinicians to provide high quality comprehensive newborn care keeping babies warm, helping

them breathe, diagnosing infections, treating jaundice and other life-threatening conditions for small and sick babies. The three-day meeting and in-service training, held at the Muhimbili University College of Health and Allied Sciences (Muhas), aims to build clinical and technical ca-

capacity to improve newborn care in selected facilities where the project will be implemented. The NEST 360° partners in Tanzania are: IHI, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, Muhas and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

Thousands of residents in Mapinga face hiccups in accessing healthcare services

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon,

Bagamoyo

MAPINGA is one of the wards in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region. The ward is a home to more than 20,000 people, and is located few kilometers from the country's busiest commercial capital, Dar es Salaam. But, they normally travel long distances to access health care in clinics and hospitals.

Residents of Kiembeni, Changwaela, Tungutungu, Kiharaka and Udindivu suburbs are among thousands of people with little access to health care. They are relying on the Dar es Salaam's Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital and Bagamoyo District Hospital, something which is costly—in terms of money and time.

Ramadhan Panga, Kiembeni suburb village secretary said: “This is a serious challenge. We're in daring need of healthcare services here. That's why we're appealing for the government interventions and help us in building health centre here. This will help reduce transport costs.”

Having access to a health centre will significantly decrease deaths from malaria, chronic disease and other waterborne diseases, he said.

“There are people who rely on a private hospital, which is owned Catholic Church while others walk at least four kilometers to the nearest health facility to get healthcare ser-

vices,” he said.

According to Panga, the challenge is more serious when it comes to women and children, to the extent that some women deliver at home on the way to hospital and without the assistance from the trained birth attendants.

He also cited poor road infrastructure as another hiccups in the area and the situation becomes more serious during rainy season as the road becomes impassable.

“We've been appealing to the government to build a bridge at linking Kiembeni, Kiharaka residents in Mapinga ward and Mbweni residents in Kinondoni District to facilitate faster movement of people and goods across the ward.”

During the rainy season no one can move from one location to another because we depend on those ways to move where we are to Mbweni ward in Kinondoni district for various or Bagamoyo district for household needs and healthcare services.

“We believe the health centre will increase the overall wellbeing of the villagers by helping pregnant women have safer births, providing preventative interventions and health education for malaria and providing treatments for waterborne disease and other chronic diseases,” he said.

A 37-year-old, Esha Ndago said: “We normally use motorcycle when going to health facilities. That's why we want to have our own health centre.”



Oxfam campaigns coordinator Mkamiti Mgawe (L) and partnership officer Monica Mahoo (C) with an Oxfam beneficiary in Arusha Region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Oxfam in Tanzania joins smallholder farmers in Nane Nane celebrations

By Guardian Reporter

AS the country begins Nane Nane celebrations marked in various regions across Tanzania, Oxfam Tanzania has joined its partners in celebrating the farmers' day. This is in recognition of their contribution in supporting small holder farmers in Tanzania.

Farmers day - commonly known as Nane Nane in Tanzania is a time for recognizing contributions of farmers and all those involved in the agricultural sector and is celebrated in almost all regions including Morogoro, Arusha, Tabora, Lindi, Dodoma, Mbeya, Simiyu and

Mwanza from August 1, with a climax on the August 8, of every year.

While working to improve the lives of small holder farmers, particularly women in Tanzania, Oxfam in Tanzania believes that agriculture is more likely than other sectors to provide diverse opportunities for empowering women.

However, women farmers they say are held back by barriers that prevent them from feeding their families and reinvesting in their livelihoods.

According to Oxfam, small holder farmers, particularly women face restrictions related to their gender while also experiencing the financial struggles

shared by all small-scale farmers.

“It is a fact that women do not receive the same support as men farmers do; they have less access to land, loans and machinery but also are heavily involved in domestic chores including caring, cooking and cleaning which remains hidden economically,” says Francis Odokorach, Oxfam Country Director.

Oxfam in Tanzania reckons that the situation was aggravated during the outbreak of the global Covid-19 pandemic that saw women affected by the increased burden of unpaid care and domestic work. Together with their partners who include Rural and Urban Development

Initiative (RUDI), Relief to Development Society (REDESO), PALISEP, PINGOS and UCRT, OITZ is celebrating NaneNane day in Arusha and Mwanza.

OITZ will also involve the Female Food Heroes (Mama Shujaa wa chakula) who are the key small-scale female farmers influencers in addressing issues around policies and practices. They will also showcase their products and share knowledge of how OITZ and partners have contributed towards improving their livelihoods.

For Arusha celebrations, OITZ will collaborate with Oxfam partners in the region and Ngorongoro district office in

showcasing their work. They will be displaying honey refining process, honey products from Birma, Saleand Engurusambo. They will also exhibit sunflower oil from Hanang district.

Meanwhile, in Mwanza Region, Oxfam will collaborate with partners in the region and Kishapu District in participating in the event. They will be displaying the whole process of the sisal value chain including the machineries display. The audience will get to see how the sisal is being processed, from decortication, lying of the fibres in the sun to drying, to aligning, then brushing process, and lastly through pressing machines as well as the baling

process.

Oxfam has thanked the government for the Nane Nane platform, saying it presents a unique opportunity to recognize and promote the contribution of women in food security and allows them to showcase new technologies and developments in farming, in addition to enhancing education to the wider public on the challenges that small-scale farmers face in producing a reliable food supply. In addition, Oxfam acknowledges the government of Tanzania especially the local government who have been keen to support its partners in securing land titles to small holder farmers, particularly women.

On the other hand, Oxfam believes the government should continue to break down the barriers that are holding back women farmers and preventing them from accessing critical farming inputs.

“They should ensure women have secure land rights and provide them with vital funding and support for farming and adapting to climate change,” says Odokorach, adding that Such support would protect women's rights while also boosting their productivity. It would unleash the potential of hundreds of millions of women farmers to effectively reduce poverty and hunger.

In the shadow of Hiroshima - 75 years on

By Terence McNamee

“WHEN I level out, the nose is a little bit high and as I look up there the whole sky is lit up in the prettiest blues and pinks I’ve ever seen in my life. It was just great.”

The view from the ground, about nine kilometres below from where pilot Paul Tibbets gaped at colours in the sky, was anything but.

“One of our classmates had fallen into the pool”, Kataoka Osamu, then a teenage schoolboy, recalled, “he was already dead, his entire body burned and tattered. Another was trying to extinguish the flames rising from his friend’s clothes with the blood which spurted out of his own wounds. Some jumped into the swimming pool to extinguish their burning clothes, only to drown because their terribly burned limbs were useless. There were others with burns all over their bodies whose faces were swollen to two to three times their normal size, so they were no longer recognizable. I cannot forget the sight of those who could not move at all, who simply looked up at the sky, saying over and over, ‘Damn you! Damn you!’”

Hiroshima had been preparing for a day like this for months. By 1945, attacks by US bombers on Japanese cities had become commonplace. Hiroshima had been spared till now but, as a thriving hub of manufacturing and military activity, was on high alert. School children had been mobilised to demolish homes along city corridors to create firebreaks. The aim was to prevent firestorms of the kind which devastated Tokyo. A single night-time raid on Japan’s capital by nearly 300 US B29s killed about 100,000 people.

When air raid sirens broke the morning calm of 6 August 1945, the people of Hiroshima did not panic. Air defence spotters reported only two or three B29s approaching the city. Hardly a mass raid; not enough to induce terror in a population habituated to war. People went about their business.

It was probably only a matter of seconds after “Little Boy” - the atomic bomb dropped from the approaching B29 flown by Colonel Tibbets - exploded 600m above Shima Hospital that those who survived the initial blast and heat wave realised that, in fact, they could never have prepared for a day like this. History hadn’t known one. Little Boy was 6,500 times more efficient at killing than a regular bomb.

The United States began developing the atomic bomb as a national project at the outbreak of World War II. Unprecedented effort, manpower and money were expended to build a weapon of unimaginable destructive power. Two types of atomic bombs were eventually produced - a uranium bomb, which was dropped on Hiro-

shima; and a plutonium bomb (“Fat Man”), dropped three days later on Nagasaki.

The project was launched in 1939 after a small group of refugees from Europe, mainly Jewish physicists - Nobel Prize winners, including Albert Einstein, among them - warned US leaders that Nazi Germany was developing a programme to build atomic weapons. A year earlier, German chemist Otto Hahn had discovered nuclear fission. Scientists everywhere understood that the energy released from fission could - theoretically - produce a nuclear explosion.

Perhaps the largest technological endeavour in human history, code-named the Manhattan Project, was birthed by a singular fear: that Hitler would get his hands on the bomb before the US did.

Nothing about how Little Boy came into being - the characters and places, the scale of ambition, the ethical dilemmas evoked, its impact on history - is diminishable. Whole libraries could be devoted to this story. Many writers have tried to elide its moral complexities, sculpt cause-and-effect around its every turn, answer every question. Their books are best left on the shelf.

During the final, apocalyptic months of World War II, once-unthinkable acts were routinely justified on all sides. Whatever their private thoughts, leaders knowingly killed their enemies’ civilians in large numbers.

We know that then US President Harry Truman believed that dropping the bomb would compel Japan to surrender and, ultimately, save more American and Japanese lives by avoiding a land invasion of Japan. But we will never know if more lives were saved; if Japan would have buckled under more conventional bombing, as Truman’s successor, Dwight Eisenhower, argued at the time; or if it was the entry of the Soviet Union into the war against Japan on 8 August, rather than the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, that was more decisive in forcing Japan’s surrender.

We also know that the scientists and engineers working on the Manhattan Project suffered doubts, which for many gave way to remorse in the years and decades after Hiroshima. One of its leading physicists, Luis Alvarez, spoke for many of his colleagues in a letter to his young son, written aboard one of the B29s accompanying Tibbets, from where Alvarez watched Little Boy explode:

“...what regrets I have about being party to the killing and maiming of thousands of Japanese civilians this morning is tempered with the hope that this terrible weapon we have created may bring the countries of the world together and prevent future wars.”

Alvarez’s boss, J Robert Oppenheim-



Seventy-five years on from that August morning in Hiroshima, humanity seems neither wiser nor more foolish about the bomb. Just spiritless, says the writer. File photo

er, often called ‘the father of the atomic bomb’, similarly thought that it is “not only a great peril but a great hope”. They were less forthright in admitting that by bringing this terrible weapon to life, there was little prospect that it would not be used. By the end of 1942, German research lost steam and Hitler effectively withdrew from the nuclear race with the US. The Allied victory in Europe in early May 1945 further rendered Manhattan’s raison d’être obsolete. The bomb became a solution looking for a problem - a means searching for an end to justify its existence. Japan became that end.

Tibbets might have been expected to have deeper misgivings than Alvarez, after the carnage inflicted on Hiroshima became known. Alvarez knew infinitely more about the destructive power of Little Boy than those charged with dropping it. Tibbets was given many chances to express regret before he died in 2007. Not once did he oblige. His soul remained untroubled in the knowledge that he did what he was told; an act both patriotic and merciful. It “saved a lot of lives”, he said time and again in interviews. Yet Tibbets knew as well as Einstein, Oppenheimer and Alvarez that Little Boy changed the world forever. Before his passing, Tibbets requested that his remains be cremated and that no monument to him be built. He feared that future generations may gather there, to rail against the bomb.

Of the 78,000 buildings standing in the city that August morning, nearly 50,000 were totally incinerated. Almost all the rest were partially destroyed. About 80,000 of Hiroshima’s estimated population of 350,000 in

1945 were killed instantly. People within 800m of the blast were turned into lumps of charcoal by the heat wave. Another 80,000 or more people living in the city at the time would die in the coming weeks, months and years, due to the effects of burns or radiation. The exact number will never be known.

Alvarez got one thing (mostly) right in his letter to his son: the unfathomable nightmare visited upon Hiroshima would help prevent future wars. But only between countries that had the bomb. Peace between them would obtain in knowing that they could annihilate each other, whom ever struck first. The idea seemed mad, literally: Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD).

More than 70,000 nuclear warheads would be built over the next four decades, mostly by the US and Russia. Evermore lethal and ingeniously deployed - as missiles, torpedoes, land mines, artillery shells - the bomb gave a perverse order to the post-war era. To protect their interests, major powers developed their own arsenals. A seat at the top table demanded it. They would internalise the logic of nuclear deterrence, but only for them. Lesser nations had to accept another reality, expressed in a global agreement signed in 1970, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): states already possessing nuclear weapons would get to keep theirs but no one else would be permitted to get them. The deal was anchored in two promises: if they stuck to the rules, the nuclear have-nots could benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and secondly, the haves would make genuine steps towards getting rid of their nuclear weapons. The former promise has been broadly kept. Not so much the latter.

One of the great tragedies of modern times is that Hiroshima has not reshaped our world for the better. Rather, it has locked us into the Cold War’s icy covenant: as the price of being “protected” by an (untested) deterrent, we must accept being held hostage to the prospect of nuclear catastrophe, without hope of relief, affecting generation after generation. The pact feels less demoralising than it once did. Terrorism, climate change, now global pandemics haunt us more these days. But the ghost of Hiroshima has not moved on.

Perhaps the only time it might have done so was 1986, during a weekend meeting in Iceland of all places, between then US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail

Gorbachev. The great nuclear adversaries stared into the abyss and concluded that the world needn’t fall into it. Proposals put forward at the Reykjavik Summit for swift and total global nuclear disarmament were so radical that both Russian and American aides scrambled to rein in their leaders, knowing that once off the island, they’d face mountains of obstacles. Sure enough, it was a dream deferred. But in the simple act of imagining it, Reagan and Gorbachev made the world a safer place, offering a glimpse of what a post-Cold War world might look like.

History has not been kind to their vision.

The global store of nuclear weapons has decreased dramatically since the 1980s. Today there are less than 14,000 in existence, mostly still held by the United States and Russia, with the rest shared between China, the United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. (South Africa remains the only country to develop and then voluntarily dismantle its nuclear arsenal.)

No one should find comfort in these numbers. Nuclear powers are modernising their arsenals and developing new technologies to support them. Evidence that they are losing faith in the bomb’s political and military value is scarce. What is clear is that nuclear weapons have become almost immeasurably more powerful since Hiroshima. A simulation of the 500 kiloton “Ivy King”, the largest pure fission bomb ever tested by the US (Little Boy exploded with about 13 kilotons of force), exploding over London generated a terrifyingly precise death toll of 453,370 people. Russia tested a thermonuclear weapon - which gets its explosive power mainly from fusion - in the high Arctic that had an explosive yield equivalent to 3,000 bombs of the kind dropped on Nagasaki. That test was nearly 60 years ago.

I have never been able to get my head around one sentence from *How to Build a Nuclear Bomb*, a portentous book by British nuclear physicist and peace scholar, Frank Barnaby, published in 2004:

“There is no critical mass for the fusion process, and so in theory there is no limit to the explosive power that can be obtained from a thermonuclear weapon.”

What cruel joke we play on ourselves, pretending that such destructive power is securely tucked away, forever. International trust - if that can be measured - in all but a few of the current crop of men leading nuclear-armed states is pitifully low. In the past, my own Western biases would have led me to expect a US president, at least, to be prudent in times of grave crisis. That was before Donald Trump said he wanted to be “unpredictable” with nuclear weapons, which he later speculated could be used to “stop hurricanes from hitting the United States”.

In the heady days after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, whatever justifications nations had for building nuclear weapons seemed to be melting away. Hanging on to them for reasons of influence or prestige, or to deter enemies who were fast becoming friends, no longer seemed defensible. But historical moments are just that - moments. They tend not to last long. Great power relations are so different today that one could be forgiven for thinking that that moment never happened.

Covid-19 has surely refined our sense of the unthinkable. For decades we have assumed, despite the occasional scare, that nuclear weapons will never be used in anger again. It is an assumption so tightly threaded into the global consciousness that we often forget that the bomb even exists.

None of us wants to see a mushroom cloud again. But we seem to have lost the will to think anew about nuclear weapons. Seventy-five years on from that August morning in Hiroshima, humanity seems neither wiser nor more foolish about the bomb. Just spiritless.

AGENCIES

China sees stable recovery of employment

By Li Jie

A total of 5.64 million new urban jobs were created by China in the first half of 2020, achieving 63 percent of the annual target, and the surveyed unemployment rate in urban areas

stood at 5.7 percent in June, said the country’s Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MOHRSS) during a press conference held on July 21.

As China steadily advances its work resumption and implements measures to stabilize employment, a rising demand is seen in the labor market

and employment is gradually getting back to stability.

The country has recruited 554,000 employees for over 10,000 key enterprises, and sent more than 6 million migrant workers back to work by chartered flights, trains and buses. The MOHRSS figures also indicated that

the registered unemployment rate in urban areas stood at 3.84 percent, and the market demand turned from a drastic decline when COVID-19 firstly broke out to positive growth.

“The employment went through a low-to-stable progress in the first half of the year,” said Zhang Ying, an official with the MOHRSS. The gradual recovery of employment came from the effective COVID-19 response, orderly work resumption, gradual pickup of economy and the targeted policies launched by the MOHRSS, Zhang introduced.

A series of policies to stabilize employment were rolled out in the January-June period during which insurance premiums worth 63.6 billion yuan were returned to over 4.34 million enterprises to help them sustain stable payrolls, benefiting 100 million employees. Besides, 40.5 billion yuan worth of employment subsidies were also handed out.

China has launched comprehensive online recruitment services since the beginning of this year, including an on-line recruitment activity carried out by the MOHRSS in which the ministry released information of 27.61 million jobs and received nearly 20 million resumes. The ministry also launched a recruitment campaign for the private sector, and more than 2 million pieces of job information have been released.

By taking a series of measures, China ensured the employment of impoverished migrant workers. As of the end of June, the number of impoverished rural workers finding jobs in urban areas had reached 28.3 million, outnumbering the total from last year.

The reduction and exemption of corporate social insurance premiums are an important measure taken to counter the impacts from COVID-19. As of the end of June, employers saw a decline of 576.9 billion yuan in insurance payments related to old-age, unemployment and work-related injuries, and payments worth 43.1 billion yuan were postponed over the period.

In June, relevant departments extended the implementation of the policy to reduce and exempt corporate social insurance premiums. According to Nie Mingjun, head of the pension and insurance office at the MOHRSS, the policy will remain valid till the end of the year, and the total premium reduction is expected to reach 1.6 trillion yuan.

“The unprecedented intensity and scale will help lift enterprises out of adversity, and stabilize and expand employment,” Nie said.

The proportion of enterprise workers basic pension

funds under central government allocation was raised to 4 percent this year. A total of 740 billion yuan was allocated by the central government, and the inter-provincial allocation stood at 170 billion yuan. As of mid-June, the second-quarter fund had all been allocated, which offered firm support for provinces with difficulties to pay the basic pension.

On July 21, the MOHRSS issued a ranking of the top 100 most wanted jobs in the second quarter, which suggested a larger short labor supply in the manufacturing sector, especially metal heat treating, foundrymen, fitters and riveters.

It is reported that the MOHRSS will hold the first national skill contest this year, and make it a biennial event. The contest has the same competitions with the World-Skills, and also adopts those closely related to economic and social development, as well as people’s lives, covering manufacturing, information communication, construction, transportation and life services.

“The high-level skill contest helps promote skill training, and is estimated to propel nearly a million people to participate in provincial and municipal contests,” said Zhang Lixin, director of the ministry’s Department of Vocational Capacity Building. These measures will all improve the quality of the workforce, and offer support for economic restructuring and high-quality development, he added.

Zhang introduced that China has a workforce of nearly 800 million people, including 200 million technical workers. They are an important foundation for China’s manufacturing and creation, playing an important role in promoting high-quality economic development. The national skill contest will spur the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of technical workers, and play a leading and guiding role for building a workforce that is knowledgeable, skillful and innovative.



China has launched comprehensive online recruitment services since the beginning of this year, including an online recruitment activity carried out by the MOHRSS in which the ministry released information of 27.61 million jobs and received nearly

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 119 00--

WORD-FIT

in this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

SEIND

- 3 LETTERS: CCM, USE, ANT
- 4 LETTERS: SIPE, LAOS, ISLE, PROA, ACME, AVOW, (7 WORDS)
- 5 LETTERS: FLOAT, SCORE, EMEND, MINES, WINDS (5 WORDS)
- 6 LETTERS: NUANCE, FRANCE, CAREEN, ADDICT TSE TSE (5 WORDS)
- 7 LETTERS: SALVAGE
- 8 LETTERS: UGANDANS
- 10 LETTERS: SALVATIONS

SOLUTIONS

BARBARIANS, BOOM, MALAY, PILL, SANDHILL, SAVANNAH, ACID, HARRY, MALAYSIA, ALUM

SALAMANDER, MASS, THE, SEREN, GLIA, MEANDERS, ASIA

CROSSWORD

1 made dirty or imperfect by being displayed in a shop

5 among

7 ulema

8 people descended from a common ancestor

10 live in a complex social colony

11 a person who have access to the World of good and evil spirits

13 a student’s fraternity

15 extending below

17 assumed artificially

19 not certain

20 an Internet service consisting of thousands of newsgroups

- 1 can be seen in the sky at night
- 2 an obituary
- 3 avoiding work, lazy
- 4 a stoat
- 6 a cylindrical metal container
- 7 an open source of software
- 9 an elected officer in a county, responsible for keeping peace
- 12 a son of a king or Queen
- 14 a playing card with three spots
- 16 a daughter of one’s brother
- 17 afflict in mind
- 18 Feed Force Unit in Tanzania

BANK HIRES REPOA TO ADVISE ON REGIONAL MARKET

By Property Watch Reporter

AS it plans to extend its tentacles to more East and Central African countries, CRDB Bank has hired Research on Poverty Alleviation to carry out substantive studies on the region's market potential.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week after signing a memorandum of understanding with Repoa's Executive Director, Dr Donald Mmari, CRDB's Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Joseph Witta said they have engaged with the research institution because its work meets international standards.

"Because we want to expand to regional markets in the near future, we need to have quality information on which our decision will be made," Dr Witta said noting that Repoa will also assist build capacity of the bank's staff.

Currently, CRDB has a subsidiary in neighbouring Burundi only. The Tier 1 bank is also seeking to establish a subsidiary in DR Congo which is the second largest user of Dar es Salaam Port after the host nation.

He said the deal with Repoa will also involve doing research in the domestic market on behalf of the bank so that it can make scientific decisions on growth and expansion in the future. "CRDB understands the important role that quality research plays in improving services and Repoa is a competent institution in this regards hence our decision to engage them," he noted.

The CRDB CCO further noted that in order for any business to succeed and dominate the markets, it needs competent research results



CRDB Bank Plc's Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Joseph Witta (R) exchanging contract documents with Repoa's Executive Director, Dr Donald Mmari after signing an agreement to collaborate in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

on which decisions will be based so that the banks remains a dominant force in the market.

"Repoa's research work has been used to develop policies, strategies and visions in the country including National Development Vision 2025, National Poverty Eradication Strategy and Tanzania Assistance Support, among others," Dr Witta underlined.

In remarks after signing the deal, Repoa CEO, Dr Mmari said they are ready to deliver on CRDB's assignment so that the bank continues to expand and dominate the market while planning the regional onslaught.

"We hope that this engagement will help further improve the bank's delivery of services and products through building capacity of its workforce," Dr Mmari noted adding that CRDB will build a competent team of researchers who will help the bank to sustain growth and profit making.

Kamwelwe assures Magomeni Quarters residents of new homes before next year

By Francis Kajubi

FORMER Magomeni Quarters residents who located to pave the way for the construction of modern apartments over five years will move into their new homes by December this year.

Works, Transport and Communications, minister Isack Kamwelwe said in Dar es Salaam this week that the government has set aside funds to complete the project which has been stalled for many years.

Eng Kamwelwe said the government has allocated 16bn/- in this year budget to finish the project which was officially launched by President John Magufuli over three years ago when he ordered the residents be allowed to stay in the new houses free of charge for five years.

The project is being implemented by Tanzania Building Agency whose CEO, Daudi Kondoro said construction works have already reached over 70 percent. Kondoro promised that construction work of the apartments which will incorporate a commercial centre will be completed by December. "We are looking forward to receive the allocated funds to finalize the project so that the residents can move in," Kondoro said.

In 2016, President John Magufuli launched construction work of the project backed by a 20bn/- pledge and was scheduled to be accomplished before his first five year term in power which end November this year.

Following a land ownership dispute in 2012 with Kinondoni municipal council, about 644 people were evicted from the then Magomeni Quarters to pave way for the multibillion shillings commercial complex which incorporates the apartments.

The project which stands at a 20-acre plot, will allocate three acres for construction of residential apartments while the rest will be used to erect commercial infrastructure including shops.

The chairman of the 644 evicted families, George Abel, said they were happy with the ongoing construction of the apartments but urged authorities to speed up. He said that half of the three blocks out of five which are under construction are almost finished with water and power wiring.

"The three apartments have also been fitted with windows and doors. The rest two apartments are at the stage of installing insulation and plumbing," he said this week noting that TBA has assured them to move in before end of year.



The project on which stands on a 20-acre plot, will allocate three acres for construction of residential apartments while the rest will be used to erect commercial infrastructure including shops.



Magomeni Quarters apartments still under construction in Dar es Salaam.

The African island that stamped out the Covid now needs tourists

PORT MORESBY

MAURITIUS was the first African country to get the coronavirus under control. Now its challenge is how to let the tourists that are its economic lifeblood back in.

The Indian Ocean island's success in quelling the outbreak is unique in Africa and comes as the disease is spreading across the continent, with countries from Kenya to South Africa battling a surge in cases since movement restrictions were eased.

Mauritius is one of the few places in the world that hasn't had a locally transmitted infection in over three months. It recorded its last Covid-19 death on April 27 and has managed to keep the total number of confirmed infections to just 344.

But in a country that relies heavily on tourism, the government is under increasing pressure to reopen its airport to tourists and rescue an industry that employs almost a fifth of its workforce. It's not without risk: The Bahamas saw infections jump after opening up to travellers in July.

"We need an opening date so that the entire industry can work toward the target," said

Paul Jones, chief executive officer of The Lux Collective, which owns six high-end resorts and hotels in the country.

The success of Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island with a population of 1.3 million, stems from the same factors that helped South Korea overcome its first outbreak: a strong central government, a well-funded health system and a containment strategy with widespread testing, contact tracing and quarantine measures. The government was among the first to require quarantine for travellers from China in January and one of few worldwide for front-line medical workers who'd been in contact with positive cases upon completion of their shifts.

"The government of Mauritius did a very good job," said Laurent Musango, the World Health Organization's country representative. Mauritius closed its harbour and airport to travellers as soon as it confirmed the first three coronavirus cases on March 18 and deployed police and the army to enforce a complete lockdown a week later. The government set clear guidelines as to what people were permitted to do – even restricting grocery shopping to specific



An aerial view of Port Moresby.

days depending on people's surnames when supermarkets were allowed to reopen.

The well-publicised deaths of both the first patient and the doctor

who diagnosed him scared many into following precautionary measures, said Ramanand Jeeneea, a doctor and chief executive officer of Medicin.mu, an online platform that enables people to contact medical practitioners via WhatsApp.

"People complained a lot, especially those who found themselves stranded abroad when the borders closed without advance notice," Jeeneea said. "But once the government set up a high-level virus committee, we all saw the results of its focused efforts. Mauritius handled it better than the U.K., where different experts are shouting about how to do it."

Under control

By May, the outbreak was under control. The country has had just 10 deaths and a handful of so-called imported cases added between May and July after returning Mauritian nationals tested positive upon arrival. More than 215 000 people have been tested, the most per capita in Africa.

At the same time, the economy is likely to shrink by a record 13% this year as tourism has collapsed and the national carrier, Air Mauritius, was placed under voluntary administration. Before the pandemic struck, as many as 1.4 million tourists per year descended on the country's pristine beaches, accounting for 10% of gross domestic product.

EPZA OFFICIAL LURES INVESTORS WITH MAXIMUM AGRO-PROCESSING RETURNS

By Property Watch Reporter

INVESTORS seeking maximum returns on their capital should choose agro-processing which has cheap and readily available raw materials backed by government incentives.

Export and Processing Zones Authority's Investment Promotion Manager, Grace Lemunge said local and foreign investors should exploit the massive potential that is available in agro-processing which is backed by the government's industrialization blue print.

Lemunge told visitors to EPZA pavilion at the ongoing 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibition in Bariadi District this week that more agro-processing industries are needed to add value to commodities which are exported raw because of shortage of such facilities.

"EPZA is using this year's agriculture fair to invite investors to exploit potentials available in the agriculture sector in order reduce and ultimately end the exporting of raw materials," she said, adding that the initiative will guarantee the country more foreign earnings but also create jobs.

The EPZA official pointed out that investors who do so through EPZA qualify for a wide range of incentives which ensure a quick return on their investments. Lemunge said currently there are more than 170 industries that have been established under the EPZA of which over 40 percent deal in agro-processing.

The EPZA Investment Promotion Manager further added that increasing investments in agro-processing industries also assures more value addition to commodities while providing farmers with a reliable market.

Agriculture employs about 70 percent of the country's active labour force and contributes around 30 percent of gross domestic product according to official records by Ministry of Agriculture.

"Our participation at this year's 'Nane Nane' fair is of paramount importance because agriculture is not only necessary for food security but also a key source of income for most rural families," she noted.

Tanzania still has huge virgin arable land suitable for farming thus more agro-processing industries will push farmers to increase investment by growing their farms in order to meet rising market demand.



EPZA's Benjamin William Mkapa Industrial Park in Dar es Salaam.

Apart from promoting industrial investments, the EPZA also links farmers with foreign processors who were linked to

farmers for processing before exporting to foreign markets particularly in Asia and Europe. The EPZA is currently overseeing the construction of the

Kurasini Trade and Logistic Centre for agro products aimed at encouraging agro-processing in order to commercialise the sector.

This ambitious project which is billed to be largest trade hub for agro products in the region is being implemented by the EPZA at a cost of about US\$30

million (over 60bn/-). The trade hub will unlock immense market potentials for agriculture products to be traded through the Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX).

InterContinental Hotel closure feared to derail government stake sale

NAIROBI

THE closure of the five-star InterContinental Hotel Nairobi is set to derail the sale of the government's stake to a company associated with the family and allies of late President Daniel arap Moi.

The Privatisation Commission was expected to start talks with Sovereign Group – the fund associated with the Moi allies – to buy the 33.8 percent stake that the government holds in the hotel. But the permanent closure and the decision of global chain InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) to stop running the Nairobi hotel has downgraded its value.

Sources at the commission reckon that the latest turn of events surrounding the luxury hotel may see Sovereign Group review its interest in the government stake. "The closure of the hotel will definitely hit the ongoing sale of the hotel," said a top executive at the Privatisation Commission who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The value of the hotel has been downgraded, with UK-based InterContinental Hotels Group severing links with it. Sovereign Group is unlikely to show interest now that the anchor partner has decided to run and cut its losses."

InterContinental Hotel on Tuesday announced it was sacking all employees and ending its Kenya operations amid the coronavirus economic fallout. Kenya has lost Sh80 billion so far in tourism revenue, about half of last year's total, due to the pandemic.

"I can confirm that the lease agreement between IHG and KHPL (Kenya Hotel Properties Limited) is in the process of being terminated, but we're not commenting further on the specifics," said the InterContinental hotel in an e-mail response to the Business Daily.

The InterContinental Hotels Corporation has been running and managing the 389-room InterContinental Hotel



Nairobi Intercontinental Hotel.

Nairobi under a 99-year lease since April 1967. This means that KHPL, the holding company that owns InterContinental Hotel Nairobi, will seek another hotel group to run the Kenya facility or sell its prime city centre property.

The Privatisation Commission had restarted the sale of the 33.8 percent government stake in InterContinental Hotel Nairobi through pre-emptive rights to existing shareholders, meaning existing owners of the hotels will be given the first right to buy the stake.

This gave Sovereign Group an edge in the purchase of the government stake after InterContinental Hotels Group, which also owns 33.83 percent, signalled its exit. Sovereign Group owns 19.2 percent of KHPL while Development Bank of Kenya has a 12.99 percent stake.

Joshua Kulei (President Moi's former private secretary), Rodger Kacou and Ahmed Jibril own a combined stake of less than one percent in the firm. "The government is unlikely to get a good price for its stake if Sovereign Group agrees to a deal and decides later to get a new operator at the exit of InterCon," said the official at the privatisation agency.

The sale of government shares in InterContinental hit a snag in 2015 after Sovereign Group placed bids that were below the set reserve price. The investment group also failed in its bid to acquire the 33.83 percent stake that belonged to global chain InterContinental Hotels Corporation.

The Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) had in 2015 approved the transaction for acquisition of 5,874,391 shares in KHPL by Sovereign Group for an undisclosed amount. The exit of InterContinental Hotels Group,

which is listed in the London Stock Exchange, comes amid financial struggles at the Nairobi facility.

InterContinental Hotel was already struggling before the pandemic and was last year declared technically insolvent since it could not service its debts that stood at Sh717 million. The debt was owed to Stanbic Bank.

Talk of an ownership shift at the hotel began in August 2011 when the then President Mwai Kibaki's Cabinet gave the green light for the sale of the Tourism Finance Corporation (TFC) stake with pre-emptive rights to existing shareholders.

TFC, formerly known as Kenya Tourist Development Corporation, was offloading the shares in a privatisation exercise meant to transfer government-owned businesses, including underperforming sugar mills, to the private sector.

Infrastructure Commission to fast-track projects valued at R340bn

PRETORIA

GOVERNMENT will in the coming months expedite the implementation of at least 50 infrastructure projects with a total investment value of more than R340bn.

The fast-tracking of the projects forms part of the reconstruction and recovery of the South African economy. This was the key outcome of the inaugural meeting of the reconstituted Council of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission on Thursday, 30 July.

President Cyril Ramaphosa chaired the meeting, which brought together ministers, premiers, mayors and the South African Local Government Association to ensure the effective integration of the country's substantial infrastructure programme. In terms of the Infrastructure Development Act of 2014, the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) acts through its council.

The council coordinates the development, maintenance, implementation and monitoring of the National Infrastructure Plan; coordinates the determination of priorities for infrastructure development; designates strategic integrated projects (SIPs) and ensures that infrastructure development, in respect of any SIP, is given priority in planning, approval and implementation.

Egyptian developer Orascom Development appoints new chief executive

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN property and hospitality development firm Orascom Development Holding (ODH) appointed Omar El Hamamsy as its new chief executive and restructured its management team. Mr El Hamamsy takes the helm of the company after its previous chief executive Khaled Bichara died in

a car accident in Cairo in February.

Mr El Hamamsy joins ODH from McKinsey where he was a senior partner in the global management consultancy's Middle East office. In his 18 years at the consultancy, he led a number of practices including travel and transport. He also worked on transformations of multi-national

companies in the Middle East and Europe and was part of a number of cross-border acquisitions and integrations of firms, according to an ODH statement on its website.

A graduate of Stanford University, Mr El Hamamsy previously worked for six years at AT&T's Bell Labs in the US. Samih Sawiris, chairman of ODH, said Mr El Hamamsy's experience will help

the company continue its "turnaround story and take ODH to the next level of growth and development."

The appointment of the new chief executive marks the end of the interim committee created in February 2020 to oversee the business during the transition phase. Members of the committee including Samih Sawiris, Jürgen Fischer and Naguib Sawiris

will focus again on their roles as members of ODH board.

Chief development officer of hotels, Abdelhamid Abouyoussef will take up the new position as the chairman of Orascom Hotels Management, the group's hotels management company. Ashraf Nessim will continue in his role as chief financial officer and a member

of executive management team, the company said.

The ODH board also approved the appointment of Karim Hassan, group head of business development, as a member of the company's executive management team. The role of the chief human resources and organisation development will no longer be part of the executive management team,

according to the statement.

Orascom Development, whose shares are listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange, is a developer and operator of resorts, hotels and residential communities. It operates 33 hotels in seven countries, including The Cove resort in Ras Al Khaimah and the Jebel Sifah resort in Oman.

TECHNOLOGY

HOW TECH HELPED CONTRACTOR COPE WITH THE COVID PANDEMIC

WISCONSIN

WITH 14 offices around the country and dozens of projects, it sought to circumvent its own hierarchy to find and implement systems quickly so it could keep building without endangering workers' lives.

By the end of June, it had ditched a cumbersome, paper-based, health self-assessment system in favour of a smartphone app. It had also rolled out an automated image-capture system so that far-flung design and supervisory professionals could resume oversight of complex projects without travelling to site.

"We needed a structure that could deal with a cycle time that was faster than a hierarchical decision tree," said Will Lichtig, Boldt's executive vice president of performance & innovation. Lichtig was charged with establishing a task force that would tap the knowledge of a wide base of people in the company and implement solutions.

Ditching paper

In the early days of Covid-19, Boldt started by requiring everyone entering a site - workers, clients, and sub-contractors - to fill out a paper health assessment form. The paper started piling up.

Dan Wagner, a Boldt superintendent in California, said he was juggling 150 pieces of paper a day and trying to do it while working remotely. "A paper form requires someone to touch it, put it in a bin, and keep as a record," Wagner said.

"The very nature of the process was counter to achieving a seamless process that doesn't spread the virus," Wagner flagged up the issue and within two weeks the company's IT unit had moved the system onto smartphones at Wagner's site. Now workers and visitors scan a QR code that takes them to an online survey.

If any answers indicate a risk of spreading Covid-19, the user is denied access to the jobsite and the survey is referred up the line. The online



Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, where Boldt used OpenSpace to show construction progress

self-assessment is used in conjunction with temperature screenings at site entrances.

"The system notifies us in seconds," said Wagner. "It makes our safety managers' lives so much easier because they can manage information and get the reports while working remotely." The system is now used around the country.

Remote site monitoring

A second pain-induced innovation happened in Boldt's home state of Wisconsin, which issued stay-at-home orders in March. There, Boldt was in the final stages of building a six-storey hospital building at Children's Wisconsin, with around 225 people on site. Because construction was considered an essential industry, crews kept reporting to site, but support services, construction management and owners' facilities executives were staying home.

"Our architects in Chicago weren't coming up, and much of our project team was working remotely," said Boldt project manager Scot Lauwasser. "We started tying up our resources with video conferences and having a hard time sending site photos to all parties." Lauwasser proposed a system called OpenSpace—a 360-degree camera mounted on a hard hat that takes photos every half-second as a person walks through a construction site.

The images are automatically uploaded to a website and

map directly onto site plans, floor plan layouts, and BIM models of the building. All this information is accessible to anyone with an Internet connection. "It's sort of like Google street view for construction projects," Lauwasser said. "We walk the job site once or twice a week," Lauwasser said. "Customers and construction partners can log in at any time and immediately see the progress of the job based on the timeline."

More to come

The Boldt task force is probing other ways to make company offices safe. One idea is to combine thermal temperature cameras with facial recognition, with the system linked to each building's security system so that staff who pass the temperature scan can be automatically admitted into the building in one scan.

"Hand held thermometers aren't always accurate, and they require a person be within 6-feet of the individual," said Dave Much, Boldt's director of emerging technologies. This system is currently being tested at the firm's headquarters in Appleton, Wisconsin. "The pandemic has been a catalyst for forcing change via technology," added Much.



A night view of the Saudi capital's central business district.

Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Development awards contract for international airport

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia's Red Sea Development Company, which is building a tourism project on the kingdom's Red Sea coast, awarded an infrastructure works contract for an international airport located within the development.

The contract was awarded to a joint venture between Saudi Arabia-based Nesma & Partners Contracting and Almbani General Contractors, the company said in a statement on Monday. The value of the deal is not disclosed.

"The Red Sea Development Company is making huge progress in the development of a world leading destination and by awarding our largest contract to date, we take another significant step in this direction, while demonstrating our ongoing commitment to creating opportunities within the Saudi Arabian construction sector," said John Pagano, chief executive of The Red Sea Development Company.

The Red Sea project is being developed over 28,000 square kilometres of land and includes a vast archipelago of more than 90 islands. The destination also features mountain canyons, dormant volcanoes and ancient cultural and heritage sites.

The first phase of the development will include 16 hotels offering 3,000 rooms, residential properties, leisure, commercial and entertainment amenities, a new airport and supporting infrastructure.

"We are proud to be selected to contribute to the development of the Red Sea International Airport which we believe will play a key role in the transformation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by welcoming up to one million visitors per year to the destination by 2030," Rami Alturki, vice chairman and board member at Nesma & Partners Contracting Company, said.

The contract covers the construction of airside infrastructure works, including the design and building of a runway, pavement works, aeronautical navigational aids, helipads and roads. The design contract for the airport, which is set to open in 2022, was awarded to Foster + Partners in October 2019.

The Red Sea Development Company, which is wholly owned by the kingdom's Public Investment Fund, has awarded contracts worth 5.3 billion Saudi riyals to date, a spokesperson from the company told The National.

Saudi Arabia is undertaking a number of projects spanning various sectors including real estate, entertainment and tourism as part of the Saudi Vision 2030 programme that aims to diversify the economy away from oil. Other projects that are under construction include the \$500bn Neom business and industrial zone extending into Egypt and Jordan as well as a mega entertainment and sports destination, named Qiddiya, near the capital, Riyadh.

Tourism is expected to contribute more than 10 per cent of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product by 2030 - up from 3 per cent currently - and provide one million jobs. The country recently set up a \$4bn fund to develop the tourism industry.

Qiddiya Investment Company, which is developing the Qiddiya project, is planning to award at least 10 billion riyals (\$2.66bn) worth of contracts to various companies this year to speed up the construction of the entertainment and sports projects at the site.

"We've awarded well over 1bn riyals contracts so far and that figure is going to jump, may be 10 times to 10bn riyals, which will all be construction-related contracts," chief executive Michael Reininger recently said.

Yanlord, GIC launch RMB 7bn China residential JV as market rebounds

BEIJING

SGX-listed Yanlord Land Group Limited said Tuesday it has partnered with Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC to jointly develop integrated commercial and residential property projects in high-growth cities across China amid signs the mainland residential market is gradually recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The joint venture will be owned 51 per cent by Yanlord's wholly-owned subsidiary Yanlord (China) Investment Group Co. and 49 per cent by an affiliate of GIC, the partners said in a statement. The companies had been working together in the past decade, announcing their first joint venture in 2006 to pursue residential projects in Nanjing, Shanghai and other Chinese cities.

The latest partnership, which aims to invest up to RMB 7 billion (\$1 billion) in high-end residential projects in China, comes as government data showed housing sales rebounded in the second quarter, as major urban centers emerged from a nationwide lockdown designed to curb the further spread of coronavirus.

Green shoots of recovery

Property sales by floor area rose 21 percent year-on-year in June after climbing 9.7 percent year-on-year in May, according to Reuters. While sales slowed in June, growing demand from homebuyers is adding to the green shoots of recovery in China, with Yanlord's recent results reflecting the recovery in housing demand in the mainland's top cities. Contracted pre-sales for the company across China reached RMB 298 billion in the first half of 2020 - up 65 percent compared to the year before, Yanlord reported in early July. About 84 percent of the developer's sales came from projects in five cities, namely Hangzhou, Nanjing,



Nanjing Yanlord Yangtze River Bay town was the developer's first GIC-backed project.

Suzhou, Shenzhen and Tianjin.

With contracted sales recorded in the first half, Yanlord said in a statement to Mingtiandi that the company is maintaining its full-year 2020 sales target of RMB 70 billion as declared earlier. Yanlord plans to launch new residential projects in Shanghai and Hangzhou this month, in line with its focus on China's Yangtze River Delta and other key mainland economic hubs.

While Yanlord and GIC did not elaborate on their investment plans, the partners said the investment agreement will run for seven years, with an option to extend for another two years. Yanlord said the joint venture is still on the lookout for new potential residential sites.

"Since 2006, GIC and Yanlord have co-operated to invest in Nanjing and expanded our footprint in key cities in China," said Zhong Sheng Jian, chairman and CEO of Yanlord. "The cooperation program will further strengthen our presence in China and create value to the shareholders."

Bullish on China's prospects

Nanjing, the capital of the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu, is among the most resilient property markets in China. The city, located 300 kilometers away from

Shanghai, accounted for about 27 percent of Yanlord's contracted pre-sales in the first half. While GIC says it's cautious of the global investment climate after its real annualised returns dropped to 2.7 percent in the year ended March 2020, down from 3.7 percent the previous year, the asset manager remains bullish on China's prospects.

In a report published late last month, GIC voiced its faith in the benefits that urbanisation, a growing middle class, improving infrastructure and deeper integration would have for Asian economies, including mainland China, despite friction with the US and the impact of the coronavirus. "While headline risks have indeed risen, these factors should continue to generate self-sustaining growth in Asia, including China, and drive its outperformance over the long term," the sovereign wealth fund said in its most recent publication.

GIC reportedly partnered with global real estate fund manager AEW to buy an office building near Beijing's Financial Street for just under RMB 3 billion. That deal in Xicheng district came less than six months after GIC's RMB 8.8 billion purchase of the LG Twin Towers in the Chinese capital's Guomao area in February, just as the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread around the world.

Abu Dhabi building licences rise 20% in first half of 2020 despite COVID-19 pandemic

ABU DHABI

THE number of new building licences in Abu Dhabi surged 20 per cent in the first half of this year, as developers in the emirate continue to press on with their projects despite the coronavirus pandemic-driven slowdown.

The Department of Municipalities and Transport (DMT) in Abu Dhabi issued 4,426 commercial, residential and government building permits during the first six months of the year, it said on Wednesday.

The DMT also approved four major development projects in the emirate, including Aldar Properties' Dh8 billion Saadiyat Island Development The Grove, a project near Abu Dhabi International Airport and one project each in Al Ain and Al Dhafra region, it said.

The DMT's efforts to "improve the quality of life in the emirate" and regulatory oversight of the market have con-

tributed to make Abu Dhabi's real estate market "the most improved real estate market in the world between 2018 and 2020", the department said, citing JLL's Global Real Estate Transparency Index. While economies across the region are facing the headwinds in the wake of the pandemic, Abu Dhabi has rolled out several stimulus packages to cushion the economic blow.

In March, Abu Dhabi, which accounts for about 6 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, unveiled measures to support businesses in the emirate, including the exemption of real estate registration fees for commercial and industrial entities for the rest of the year.

"The total exemptions and reductions from DMT fees according to the economic package launched by the Abu Dhabi Executive Council amounted to more than Dh1.4bn for individuals and business sectors, aimed at enabling them to face current and future challenges," the DMT said.

WORLD

FB, Twitter pull Trump posts over coronavirus misinformation

WASHINGTON

FACEBOOK Inc on Wednesday took down a post by US President Donald Trump, which the company said violated its rules against sharing misinformation about the coronavirus.

The post contained a video clip, from an interview with Fox & Friends earlier in the day, in which Trump claimed that children are "almost immune" to COVID-19.

"This video includes false claims that a group of people is immune from COVID-19, which is a violation of our policies around harmful COVID misinformation," a Facebook spokesman said.

A tweet containing the video that was posted by the Trump campaign's @TeamTrump account and shared by the president was also later hidden by Twitter Inc for breaking its COVID-19 misinformation rules.

A Twitter spokesman said the @TeamTrump account owner would be required to remove the tweet before they could tweet again.

YouTube, through a spokesman, said it had also pulled down the video for violating its COVID-19 misinformation policies. However, the original interview remains available on the Fox News page on the platform. YouTube did not immediately respond to requests to clarify which videos were taken down.

The Trump campaign accused the companies of bias against the president, saying Trump had stated a fact. "Social media companies are not the arbiters of truth," said Courtney Parella, a spokeswoman with the campaign.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that while adults make up most of the known COVID-19 cases to date, some children and infants have been sick with the disease and they can also transmit it to



US President Donald Trump

others.

An analysis by the World Health Organization of 6 million infections between Feb. 24 and July 12 found that the share of children aged 5-14 years was about 4.6 percent.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. During a briefing at the White House, Trump repeated his claim that the virus had little impact on children.

"Children handle it very well," he told reporters. "If you look at the numbers, in terms of mortality, fatalities ... for children under a certain age ... their immune systems are very very strong and very powerful. They seem to be able to handle it very well and that's according to every statistical claim."

It was the first time Facebook had removed a Trump post for coronavirus misinformation, the company's spokesman said.

It also appeared to be the first reported instance of the social media company taking down a post from the president for breaching

its misinformation rules.

Twitter has taken down a post retweeted by Trump pointing to a misleading viral video about the coronavirus, but left up clips of the president suggesting scientists should investigate using light or disinfectant on patients.

Twitter said those remarks expressed a wish for treatment, rather than a literal call for action. It also left up a March post from Tesla Inc's outspoken CEO Elon Musk stating that "kids are essentially immune" from the virus.

Facebook has taken heat from lawmakers and its own employees in recent months for not taking action on inflammatory posts by Trump.

The company has previously removed ads from Trump's election campaign for breaking misinformation rules, in that case around a national census.

It also took down both Trump posts and campaign ads that showed a red inverted triangle, a symbol the Nazis used to identify political prisoners, for violating its policy against organized hate.

Agencies

Lebanon mourns victims of devastating blast, searches for missing

BEIRUT

LEBANON mourned yesterday the victims of the most powerful blast to hit a country that has already been struck down by an economic crisis, as rescuers searched for those missing since the explosion flattened Beirut port and devastated the city.

French President Emmanuel Macron, making the first visit by a foreign leader since Tuesday's blast which killed at least 145 people and injured 5,000, arrived in Beirut on Thursday along with specialist rescue personnel and equipment.

Dozens are still missing and up to a quarter of a million people were left without homes fit to live in after shockwaves smashed building facades, sucked furniture out into streets and shattered windows several kilometres inland.

A security source said the death toll had reached 145, and officials said the figure was still likely to rise.

Families gathered near the port seeking information on those missing, amid rising public anger at the authorities for allowing a huge



quantity of highly explosive material to be stored for years in unsafe conditions in a port warehouse.

"They will scapegoat somebody to defer responsibility," said Rabee Azar, a 33-year-old construction worker, speaking near the smashed remains of the port's grain silo, surrounded by other mangled masonry and flattened buildings.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab declared three days of mourning from Thursday after the explosion, the most devastating to hit the city still

scarred by civil war three decades ago and reeling from a financial meltdown and surge in coronavirus cases.

Economy Minister Raoul Nehme said Lebanon, with its banking system in crisis, a collapsing currency and one of the world's biggest debt burdens, had "very limited" resources to deal with the disaster, which by some estimates may cost the nation US\$15 billion.

President Michel Aoun blamed the blast on 2,750 tonnes of ammo-

niac nitrate, used in fertilisers and bombs, that had been stored for six years at the port after it was seized. He promised to investigate and hold those responsible to account.

The government has ordered port officials to be put under house arrest, ministerial sources told Reuters.

'Crooks and liars'

But Lebanese, who have lost jobs and watched savings evaporate in the financial crisis, blamed politicians in charge during decades of state corruption and bad governance.

"Our leaders are crooks and liars. I don't believe any investigation they will do. They destroyed the country and they're still lying to the people. Who are they kidding?" said Jean Abi Hanna, 80, a retired port worker whose home was damaged and daughter and granddaughter injured in the blast.

An official source familiar with preliminary investigations blamed the incident on "inaction and negligence", saying "nothing was done" to remove hazardous material.

Some local media reported sightings of drones or planes flying in the area shortly before the explosion and some Beirut residents said they saw missiles fired. But officials have denied the incident was the result of any attack.

A Lebanese security source said the initial blaze that sparked the explosion was caused by welding work.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said the US government had not ruled out the possibility that Tuesday's explosion was an attack and was still gathering intelligence.

People who felt the explosive force said they had witnessed nothing comparable in years of conflict and upheaval in Beirut, which was devastated by the 1975-1990 civil war and since then has experienced big bomb attacks, unrest and a war with Israel.

"First we heard one sound. Seconds later there was a big explosion. All hell broke loose," said Ibrahim Zoobi, who works near the port. "I saw people thrown five or six metres."

Agencies

PARIS

WORLD food prices rose in July, led by vegetable oil and dairy products, to extend a rebound from the previous month following sharp falls triggered by the pandemic, the United Nations food agency said yesterday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 94.2 points in July versus

World food price index rises for second month in July

93.1 points in June.

"Similar to June, further increases in the prices of vegetable oils, dairy products and sugar outweighed lower prices in the meat markets amid overall steady value of the cereal price index," the FAO said in a statement.

The agency's vegetable oil price index climbed 76% in July to reach a five-month high. Palm oil was buoyed by expected production slowdowns, revived global demand

and protracted migrant labour shortages, while soyoil and rapeseed oil were underpinned, respectively, by tightening supply in Brazil and fresh demand in Europe, it said.

Vegetable oil demand had been curbed earlier in the year by lockdown measures to counter the novel coronavirus, dampening restaurant and biofuel demand.

In dairy, all products tracked by the FAO rose last month, helping the dairy price index rise 3.5% and

climb back above the pre-pandemic level, the agency said.

Milk powders rose due to strong import demand by Asian buyers amid concern about export availabilities in Oceania. Butter and cheese were supported by robust import demand but remained below pre-pandemic levels, FAO said.

Average sugar prices rose 1.4%, with support from rising energy prices and drought-reduced production in Thailand, partly offset

by strong sugar crush volumes in Brazil.

In contrast, the FAO's meat index slipped 1.8% and was 9.2% below the year-earlier level, as global import demand continued to lag availability despite coronavirus-linked disruptions to slaughtering.

The cereal index was almost unchanged, with sharp gains for maize (corn) and sorghum linked to Chinese purchases of US suppliers offset by weaker rice quotations and stable wheat prices.

Agencies

Teachers, unions: 'safety strike' is pandemic option

NEW YORK

TEACHERS across the United States are staging mass protests against the reopening of public schools amid the coronavirus pandemic over fears that they won't be safe despite the federal government's push for in-person classes to resume.

In Arizona, Florida, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina and several other states, teachers plan to or already have walked out and are supported by major teachers unions.

The protests are in reaction to President Donald Trump's demand that states reopen public schools for in-person teaching and not just the distance-learning that has been announced by a raft of school districts.

Teachers nationwide are demanding that districts ramp up safety measures to defend against COVID-19 by making face masks mandatory and extra ventilation in classrooms a priority.

Dozens of teachers met on Saturday at Mill Creek Park in Kansas City, Missouri, to protest the reopening of schools in the fall.

Amanda Laws, a Missouri educator, told local TV station KSHB: "I don't think it's safe yet."

One teacher in Jacksonville, Florida, protested by holding a handwritten sign from her car window that read: "Lives over lessons." Her daughter held her own handwritten sign: "Keep my mom safe."

In Somerville, New Jersey, on Thursday, teachers from Somerset County walked up and down Main Street chanting: "Only when it's safe!"

Amy Six, a teacher from North Plainfield said: "I don't want to die."

In states that have already reopened for in-person classes, students and teachers at schools in Mississippi and Georgia have been diagnosed with the coronavirus.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the nation's second-largest teachers union with 1.7 million members, said on July 28 that it would "support safety strikes" as a "last resort" if teachers believed that their school districts weren't taking enough precautions. Around 70 percent of teachers nationwide were members of a teaching union in 2016, according to The New York Times.

AFT President Randi Weingarten said at its recent convention: "If authorities don't protect the safety and health of those we represent and those we serve; nothing is off the table. Not advocacy or protests, negotiations, grievances, or lawsuits or, if necessary and authorized by a local union as a last resort, safety strikes."

The union adopted a resolution that school districts must wait to reopen classrooms until the transmission rate of coronavirus in an area falls below 1 percent and the daily community infection rate is below 5 percent.

The country's largest teachers' union, the Florida Education Association (FEA), sued that state's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, last month over his push to fully reopen schools as the number of cases in the state spiked.

The Sunshine State, the new epicenter of the virus in the US, confirmed 4,752 new cases of coronavirus on Monday, bringing its total to 491,884, with a death toll of 7,157, according to the Florida Department of Health.

FEA President Fedrick Ingram said of the lawsuit in a statement: "Governor DeSantis needs a reality check, and we are attempting to provide one. The governor needs to accept the reality of the situation here in Florida, where the virus is surging out of control."

On July 8, Trump threatened to withhold federal funding to schools that refused to fully reopen with in-person classes.

He tweeted: "In Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and many other countries, SCHOOLS ARE OPEN WITH NO PROBLEMS. The Dems think it would be bad for them politically if US schools open before the November Election, but is important for the children & families. May cut off funding if not open!"

Dr Deborah Birk, a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, appeared to distance herself from the administration's official line over the weekend, sounding a note of caution on reopening schools.

Birk told CNN: "If you have high case load and active community spread. ... We're asking people to distance-learn at this moment so we can get this epidemic under control."

A poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation in July found that 60 percent of parents would prefer that schools wait to resume in-person teaching. Thirty-four percent want schools to reopen sooner so that they can go to work. The survey found that at least 76 percent of Democrats want to wait for schools to reopen.

Agencies

On July 8, Trump threatened to withhold federal funding to schools that refused to fully reopen with in-person classes

China's top-level policy blueprint to bring certainty to world

BEIJING

WITH its headway in both epidemic prevention and control and economic recovery, China is working on formulating a new plan for economic and social development, which is set to bring certainty and confidence to the world amid uncertainties.

The proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan for Social and Economic Development (2021-2025) and future targets for 2035 will be assessed during the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chi-

na (CPC) scheduled to be held in Beijing in October, according to a meeting of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau last week.

Created every five years since 1953, the Five-Year Plan is a major feature of China's governance system, setting growth targets and defining development policies. It allows the authorities to map out strategies for overall economic and social development and to advance with the times.

Such disciplined and comprehensive approach stems from a system of governance

designed to serve the long-term and fundamental interests of the people, rather than one that is exploited by a few politicians in some western countries for shortsighted goals and their own interests.

It is worth noting that a 15-year "long-term vision" is mentioned along with the 14th Five-Year Plan this year, aiming for 2035 when the country's socialist modernization is expected to be basically achieved.

The long-term vision will ensure the coherence and strength of the policies, thus offering a stable and safe environ-

ment for domestic and foreign investors.

As underscored in last week's Political Bureau meeting, China will accelerate the establishment of a "dual circulation" development pattern that takes the domestic market as the mainstay while domestic and foreign markets can boost each other.

While expanding domestic demand was stressed, it would be a mistake to consider that China will retreat from the global economy. Rather, China will utilize domestic and international resources more ef-

ficiently, ensuring robust and sustainable development.

China's economy has become more intertwined with the world, as shown by the remarkable increase in imports and exports in June, and growing trade with partners such as the ASEAN and the Belt and Road countries. Hyping up the theory that China is self-isolated not only goes against the facts, but also leads to many enterprises missing the opportunities of sharing the cake of China's growth.

Figures from the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 re-

port show that China has made greater progress in the 2005-2020 period than any other large economy in terms of facilitating the ease of doing business. Moreover, China's Ministry of Commerce is amending a regulation on foreign strategic investments in Chinese listed firms to ease thresholds and restrictions on foreigners buying equity stakes.

China's commitment to deeper reform and wider opening-up gives confidence to the world to face up to the economic turbulence as some politicians in the United States abused their state

power to bring down certain non-U.S. enterprises. The U.S. practice is nothing but political manipulation and makes things worse especially when many economies continue to flounder amid the pandemic.

China firmly opposes the blatant act of bullying and will continue to facilitate greater opening-up. With its predictable and coherent policies, China will provide more opportunities through high-quality development for businesses seeking an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment.

Xinhua

Hong Kong government explains its decision to delay poll

HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong Government said on Monday that its decision to postpone the 2020 Legislative Council General Election on public health grounds is reasonable, legal and in the public interest. It made the statement in response to comments made by the Hong Kong Bar Association.

The Government said the health and well-being of all Hong Kong people is its overriding concern.

Since July 1, more than 2,300 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded, compared to a cumulative caseload of about 1,200 over the preceding six months. It emphasised the city is at a critical juncture in its battle against the virus and that if the situation is not handled resolutely, the current wave of infections could spiral out of control.

The Electoral Affairs Commission wrote to the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Government, Carrie Lam, on July 28 expressing concerns over the public health risks of conducting the LegCo election.

To combat the virus' spread, the Government has put in place the most stringent social distancing measures ever adopted since January. These measures have inevitably affected the

normal operation of businesses and people's daily activities. The association's doubts about the evidential basis of the Government's decision have overlooked these facts and concerns.

The Hong Kong Government attaches importance to protecting the constitutional right of Hong Kong residents to participate in elections. It stated that with stringent social distancing measures in place, no meaningful electioneering activities could be conducted.

These measures would also prevent candidates from putting across their manifesto to voters. Moreover, the strict boundary control measures make it virtually impossible for voters in the Mainland and overseas to return to cast their votes. Therefore, the decision to postpone the election is to protect public health and protect the voting rights of all registered voters.

Regarding the duration of the postponement, the Hong Kong Government said that the current wave of infections would likely last for at least several weeks or longer, adding that there may also be a winter surge later in the year.

Postponing the election for 14 days under section 44 of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap 542), as suggested by the Hong Kong Bar Association,



Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor speaks at a news conference on 31 July 2020. (Xinhua)

tion, is not a practical solution to this unprecedented problem.

The Hong Kong Government stressed that invoking the Emergency Regulations Ordinance (Cap 241) to postpone the election was the only viable option. It said the legal basis is sound, as the epidemic situation can be regarded as an occasion of public danger and emergency.

In a free society like Hong Kong, citizens are free to raise legal challenges against policy decisions or existing legislation at any time. It will not be in the public interest if the Hong Kong Government refrains from making decisions or invoking legal powers under existing legislation due to the possible outcome of legal challenges.

In the present case, it is key to note

that the Court of Appeal upheld the constitutionality of the Emergency Regulations Ordinance in a judgment in April, and a pressing task following the postponement is to address the legislative vacuum that will emerge when the current LegCo term ends on September 30, the Government added.

The Chief Executive Carrie Lam has sought the support and guidance of China's Central Government and the latter has replied. The Central Government expressed support for the decision to postpone the election and said it would make a submission to the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC), the highest organ of state power, for its decision.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. Under the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the NPCSC has the authority to tackle this constitutional issue encountered by the Hong Kong SAR.

The Hong Kong Government said it does not see how this is contrary to the principles of legality and legal certainty and degrades the rule of law in Hong Kong as alleged by the Association.

Agencies

US Department of State's report geared to silence Russia's cooperation proposals - embassy

WASHINGTON

THE US Department of State's report on "Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem" is an attempt to silence Moscow's proposals to resume cooperation in key areas, the Russian embassy in the United States said on Wednesday.

"The above mentioned report is an attempt to silence Russian official proposals to resume cooperation in key areas on which the security of the entire world depends," the embassy wrote on its Facebook account, commenting on the report of the US Department of State Global Engagement Center (GEC) about the "Pillars of Russia's Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem."

According to the Russian embassy, this report is obviously geared to discredit alternative information sources. "The US State Department is not very fond of the existence of alternative sources of information. Serious resources are employed to discredit them. Any voice that contradicts Washington is dubbed "disinformation" in the service of the "Kremlin" and Russian intelligence," it said.

The US report "runs into absurd," Russian diplomats noted. Thus, the US Department of State assigned LDPR leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the private radio station Gовorit Moskva as "Official Government Communications."

"If this serves as the pinnacle of the entire structure, so carefully built by our American colleagues, then it seemingly looks like a house of cards," the commentary reads. "Russian and foreign media outlets that dare to criticize the United States should bear in mind that they can and almost certainly will become the subject of thorough scrutiny. Their accounts in American social media are at risk of being suspended with no explanation."

In its Special Report Pillars of Russia's Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem, the GEC claims that Russia is key threat in terms of disinformation and propaganda. According to the report, this "ecosystem" involves official government channels, state-run mass media, proxy-resources, and social network. The Russian authorities, as follows from the report, are responsible for the development of such tactics and platforms as part of their approach to the use of information as a weapon.

Agencies

Foreign political party leaders call for resisting Cold-War

BEIJING

FOREIGN political party leaders have sent messages to the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, opposing the plot of some U.S. politicians who fabricated accusations to smear China and escalated provocations against China to contain its development.

In their messages, foreign political party leaders said they think the CPC is the guarantee for China's development and revitalization as well as the guarantee for the world's peace and development.

Simon Compaore (pic-

tured), president of the People's Movement for Progress of Burkina Faso, said that under the strong leadership of the CPC, China is developing rapidly, and its international influence is rising. China is committed to global cooperation to promote mutual benefit and win-win results.

Some countries stick to the Cold-War mentality and attempt to readopt the containment policy, noted Compaore, calling on the world to abandon the Cold-War mentality and ideological prejudice, jointly deal with issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, and safeguard world peace and promote



human progress together.

The politburo of the Egyptian Communist Party said some U.S. anti-China politicians have attempted to hamper China's development, created a tense atmosphere in the world, and jeopardized the efforts exerted by other countries especially the developing nations in advancing economy and eliminating poverty.

The Egyptian Communist Party supports China's rights in safeguarding sovereignty, security and its development interest, and believes that any attempt to sow dissension between the CPC and the Chinese people is doomed to fail, it said.

Dogu Perincek, chairman of the Patriotic Party of Turkey, said some countries are trying to hold China down economically, militarily and politically, which his party firmly opposes. The CPC is not only a miracle maker who lifts the Chinese people from poverty and realizes China's fast development, but also a guardian of world peace and future hope, he said.

The politburo of the Arab Unification Party of Lebanon condemned what some countries have done to slander China and infringe upon China's legitimate rights. It said that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent attacks against China were aimed to undermine China's role in counterweighing U.S. unilateralism. The party lauded China's active stands toward the people around the world and thanked China for its support to developing countries in economy, development and other fields.

Aleksandar Paunov, first secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Bulgaria, said the recent positions and statements issued by some U.S. politicians are outright provocations which must be strongly condemned.

Against the backdrop of globalization and the rampant COVID-19 pandemic, this is not the right style and approach to conduct international politics, said Paunov, noting that solidarity and cooperation are more powerful than fighting alone.

The statement issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation said the United States has continuously defamed and suppressed China on a series of issues concerning Xinjiang, Tibet, and Hong Kong in recent years. The recent remarks by Pompeo are destructive and will escalate international tensions.

Xinhua

NEW YORK

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Wednesday the launch of five new lines of effort under the so-called "Clean Network" program to "protect America's critical telecommunications and technology infrastructure," going a step further in suppressing Chinese tech companies.

According to the five lines, Washington will seek to remove "untrusted" Chinese apps such as TikTok and WeChat from U.S. mobile app stores, limit the ability of Chinese cloud service providers like Alibaba, Baidu, and Tencent to access cloud-based systems in the country, and ensure undersea cables "are not subverted for intelligence gathering" by China.

The nature of this move is an actual decoupling in these areas between China and the United States, as well as those countries Pompeo has been pressuring to stand with Washington. Though he calls it a "clean network," the ideas behind it and the means he has employed to reach it are dirty.

Pompeo's dirty 'clean network'



There is not any justifiable reason for these actions. Pompeo's excuses are that Chinese companies steal U.S. technologies, collect data, and threaten U.S. national security, though he has never shown any convincing evidence whatsoever.

On the contrary, the United States has a notorious reputation for spying on the whole world, even its allies. Pompeo may have trumped up the charges against Chinese companies simply based on his own experiences, as he once boasted in a speech that "we lied, we cheated, we stole."

These actions will have seri-

ous consequences and Chinese companies will not be the only ones that suffer. Companies of other countries, including U.S. companies, will also face losses due to disrupted global supply chains and international scientific and technological cooperation.

These actions will harm the interests of consumers of tech products too. The political scrutiny and threatened expulsion or forced sale of popular video-sharing app TikTok by the U.S. government have already been met with strong objections from young people in America, and have been broadly criticized both in and out of the country.

These actions will further discredit the U.S. investment and business environment, as analysts have warned over the case of TikTok, which has been assimilated to pirate-like action.

Pompeo has boasted that more than 30 countries and territories are in his boat, committed to exclusively using

"trusted vendors" in their Clean Networks. It is obvious that he is trying to knit a global network to crack down on Chinese tech companies and hamper China's development.

But his scheme is doomed to fail. These "clean countries" mentioned by Pompeo will eventually find that it is their loss to refuse Chinese technologies. And by reviewing China's development in the past decades, people can easily see that Pompeo's tricks will hardly slow China's pace of development.

The United States has long been a standard-bearer for the tenet of free market and fair play in international exchanges, but now it is crushing every bit of it with its own hands. As the world's sole superpower, the United States is bullying any country, any company or any individual seen as a potential challenge, without any respect for international rules and regulations.

Xinhua

Third plane of Russian emergencies ministry heads to Beirut hit by powerful blast

MOSCOW

A THIRD plane of the Russian emergencies ministry has taken off for Beirut, rocked by a huge blast on Tuesday, after a stopover in Saratov, the ministry's press service said yesterday.

"At 04:53 Moscow time on August 6, an Il-76 plane took off from Saratov for Lebanon," it said, specifying that the plane was carrying 15 specialists from Russia's sanitary watchdog and equipment for organizing a laboratory for conducting tests for the novel coronavirus infection.

On Wednesday evening, more than 100 Russian specialists - rescuers, doctors and psychologists - arrived in Beirut. The Russian emergencies ministry's planes also brought an airmobile hospital.

Two more flight are performed to Beirut to bring more Russian specialists. According



to Sergei Vorontsov, the chief of the ministry's taskforce, Russia may send more rescuers to the area.

A powerful blast rocked the Beirut seaport area near the Lebanese Navy's base on August 4, sending a shockwave through residential neighborhoods of the Lebanese capital. The shockwave destroyed and damaged dozens of buildings

and cars. Local authorities say the blast was caused by the detonation of 2,700 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, stored in the port after being confiscated by the customs services in 2015.

According to latest updates, at least 137 people were killed and about 5,000 were injured. Dozens are still missing. Over 300,000 people were left homeless.

Agencies

CHARACTERISTIC towns are innovative and entrepreneurial platforms that China has been striving to build in the recent years. Covering several square kilometers each, they are clusters of featured industries that advocate a combination of different lifestyles and eco-spaces. They are different from administrative townships and traditional industrial parks.

To better guide the development of characteristic towns, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) recently issued a notice introducing the successful experiences of 36 exemplars across the country.

The 36 "benchmark" characteristic towns all have their respective pillar industries, including auto manufacturing, online communication, new materials, high-tech incubation, pharmaceutical research and development, cultural and art innovation, fragrance, rice farming

China endeavours to build characteristic towns

culture and sports.

Having developed strong industries with distinctive features is something shared by all the 36 characteristic towns, the notice said.

The Tang West Market Culture and Tourism Town is one of the 36 exemplars. Located in Xi'an, Northwest China's Shaanxi Province, it is built on the original site of the west market of Tang Dynasty (618 A.D.-907 A.D.) in the city of Chang'an (today's Xi'an).

"What's under our feet is the ruin of the west market that once prospered over 1,000 years ago. It was the start of the Silk Road during the Sui (581 A.D.-618 A.D.) and Tang Dynasties," said Li Zhong-

hang, CEO of Tang West Market Group, adding that the scarce resource enabled the group to fully tap into the value of history and culture.

The unique cultural resource made the Tang culture and the Silk Road a bedrock for the characteristic town, attracting 20 million tourists each year and generating a revenue of around 3 billion yuan (\$429 million).

Architectures featuring a style that combines traditional Tang expression and modern designing techniques now stand in the Tang West Market Culture and Tourism Town, presenting a historical look of the ancient Chang'an city.

At present, a cultural activity that showcases the charm of the ancient Chang'an city in 24 different hours of the day is being held in the characteristic town. Many young people are wearing Tang costumes there on weekends. As progress is being made in China's efforts to prevent and control COVID-19, the characteristic town with distinctive historical features has once again become a popular destination among tourists.

"Popularity drives consumption, and the operation of the shops here gradually got on track," said Li, referring to the impacts brought COVID-19 earlier.

The characteristic town adjusted its commercial structure

according to the changes of the market, increasing the supplies of daily necessities, and it also made further exploration of the unique connotation of the cultural industry.

In this 1.5-square kilometer characteristic town, there is the Tang West Market Museum, a first-class museum focusing the Silk Road culture, Tang commercial culture and the history of the west market. Besides, the town is also home to a Silk Road cultural street and an international antique market. They both resurged the history and made the place a "must-go" destination.

"The last thing that a characteristic town wants to see is being

in a rut, and we made clear from the very beginning that we want to present the cultural features of the Silk Road based on history and culture and relying on the cultural industry," Li told the People's Daily.

According to him, the town has been selected as a starting point for many Chinese organizations to retrace the Silk Road, and it is also the final destination for foreigners who travel along the ancient trade route from the west.

Industry is vital but not all for a characteristic town. According to the definition of relevant department, characteristic towns shall offer space for production, living and ecology, and develop indus-

tries, culture, tourism and community as well. In general, they should combine production with lifestyles and be suitable for both business and residence.

At present, the phase-2 project of the Tang West Market Culture and Tourism Town is under construction, including office buildings, hotels and theaters.

The town will also introduce areas for cultural and innovative experience, as well as cultural shows the next year in its phase-3 construction. Upon completion, the town is expected to attract over 10,000 entities and create nearly 100,000 jobs, generating 500 to 600 million yuan in tax revenue, according to Li.

People's Daily



NBC Bank Business Banking and SMEs Manager Mr Jonathan Bitababaje (R) hands over football jerseys to RAS Mara team's captain Jedi Kuyenga as part of the bank's sponsorship at the Sports Bonanza held yesterday at the NaneNane Agricultural Exhibition Grounds held nationally at Nyakabindi Stadium in Bariadi, Simiyu region. (Photo: Correspondent)

Indian federal investigator to probe Bollywood actor's death, says prosecutor

MUMBAI

INDIA'S federal investigative agency will probe the death of a Bollywood actor, its top prosecutor said on Wednesday, the latest twist to a murky case that was reported as a suicide and has dominated Indian social media for over a month.

Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, was found dead at his residence in Mumbai on June 14 which police termed an "accidental death". Local media said he was found hanging from the ceiling and described his death as a suicide.

Rajput's death has triggered heated debate on prime time news channels and conspiracy theories on social media.

His family had also asked for a federal investigation into the factors leading to his death, and a tug-of-war between two state governments over the matter has muddied the waters more.

On Wednesday, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Indian Supreme court that the federal government had approved a request

from the government of Bihar, Rajput's home state, to turn the inquiry over to the federal investigation agency (CBI).

The state government of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, had refused to transfer the case to the CBI from local police, saying it did not warrant a federal inquiry.

Bihar, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party shares power with an ally, is set to go to polls later this year, while Maharashtra, India's richest state, is ruled by a coalition of three opposition parties.

Rajput, a TV actor who came from a middle-class family, was a rare outsider who found success in Bollywood, an industry known for being insular and long dominated by several families.

In the days after his death, several industry insiders, including actress Kangana Ranaut, accused Bollywood of pushing Rajput to the emotional brink by denying him acting opportunities.

REUTERS



Simba Queens outfit's players jubilate after clinching this season's Women Premier League silverware with a 5-0 victory over Dodoma's Baobab

Waluguru Original Band launches new album today

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FAST rising music troupe, Waluguru Original Band, is set to launch new album, titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga', in Morogoro today.

The launch, the band's director Deogratius David 'Killer Man' disclosed, will take place at the Terminal Pub, located at uliopo eneo la Msamvu in the region.

David pointed out prominent dance musician, Ali Choki, and The Bambazi Band from Dar es Salaam, will accompany the Waluguru Original Band's album launch.

Experienced musician Mulemule 'FBI', David added, is The Bambazi Band's leader.

Mulemule had in the past been part of the famous domestic music troupe, FM Academia, which is also based in Dar es Salaam.

"Our new album has songs namely 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe', we have regularly been playing these tracks in our shows," he disclosed.

David the troupe's musicians had headed to Dar es Salaam on Monday this week to finalize production of the track 'Cha Kupewa' and then headed to Morogoro to conclude preparations for the album launch.

The band's leader pointed out he invited Choki and The Bambazi Band in the launch, given the Dar es Salaam artistes have been working closely with his troupe, which has won popularity in Morogoro.

"Besides our band's album launch, The Bambazi Band artistes will as well launch their band in the day," he stated.



Waluguru Original Band's female artistes showcase their skills at the troupe's show, held in Morogoro recently. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

"They, for that matter, felt it was better they join us so we can hold the two events on the eve of Nane Nane Day."

David further noted the day will see Waluguru Original Band play several songs which won Choki popularity when the musician was working for Dar es Salaam bands, African Stars 'Twanga Pepeta' and Extra Bongo.

He noted there will be plenty of entertainment in the launch.

He said the is 'Kikao cha Wahenga' the second album the Waluguru

Original Band has come up with in the entertainment industry since the troupe's inception in 2014.

He noted he hopes the second album will introduce the Morogoro troupe successfully in and outside the region.

"We had first launched the album titled 'Rosemary', but the album did not achieve success, therefore, we opted to regroup and we have now come up with the 'Kikao cha Wahenga' album," he disclosed. "I'm optimistic this album will help us scale great heights, given

the album's songs have won music fans' hearts."

He was adamant that he is eager to see it that Morogoro regains the enthusiasm the region had in dance music in the past.

David disclosed he, therefore, has a duty to come up with good songs which will impress music fans and ensure the band rises to prominence.

JKT boxers excel in National Open Boxing Championships



JKT Club's Boniface Mligwa (R) throws a punch at Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman in one of this year's National Boxing Championships' fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Mligwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S National Services Headquarters (MMJKT) outfit's boxers have started well at the ongoing National Open Boxing Championships which is taking place at Tanzania Packers venue in Kawe, Dar es Salaam.

The one-week event has attracted boxers from Iringa, Morogoro, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Prisons, JKT and several security institutions and firms.

Speaking in the city yesterday, Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT) secretary general, Lukelo Wililo, said the championships is going on

extremely well.

He expressed his happiness with the level of competition shown by the participating boxers.

He said so far boxers from MMJKT have won eight bouts that had 20 boxers taking part in them.

Wililo said in Bantamweight division Hussein Juma from MMJKT won after his opponent, Emmanuel Paschal, was disqualified while Boniface Mligwa also from MMJKT won by points against Issa Athuman from Prisons.

In the same division, Wililo disclosed, Salum Mohamed from Prisons beat Daniel Leonard of MMJKT by points.

Wililo said in Lightweight division, Hassan Mrutu of MMJKT won by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the third of his fight against Ezekia

Amulike of Prisons.

Said Kanenda also from MMJKT beat Abubakari Lubanja from Iringa by points.

In Light Welterweight division, Yusuph Mambo and Shabani Mganda both from MMJKT won by TKO in the first round of their respective fights against Selemani Salum from Morogoro and Thomas Haule from Iringa.

The OBFT official said in Welterweight division, Gururashid Rashid from MMJKT won by TKO against Edward John from Prisons.

Hillal Mwandjeja from Kawe Club beat Joseph Philipo from MMJKT by points.

In Middleweight division, Huled Rashid from MMJKT was awarded a win after his opponent Mahafudh Abdallah from Mahafudhi Promotions was outclassed.

"I'm happy with the level of competition shown by the boxers, it shows that the country has many good boxers who can compete well at both local and international events," he said.

The National Open Boxing Championships will be used as a platform for selecting boxers who will represent the country at the Tokyo Olympics next year.

The competition will moreover produce boxers for World Boxing Championships, which will take place in Belgrade, Serbia in March next year and other international events.

'Job done' as Solskjaer's United reach Europa League last eight

PARIS

MANCHESTER United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer praised the performance of his second-string side in reaching the Europa League quarter-finals with a 2-1 win over LASK on Wednesday.

United had a 5-0 lead from their first leg played in March and will face Copenhagen who enjoyed a 3-0 victory on the night over Istanbul Basaksehir in their last 16 tie.

Usual starters such as Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial were named on the bench while the likes of Jesse Lingard and Fred started at an almost empty Old Trafford.

"It was a good exercise, job done, minutes under the belt and ready to travel," Solskjaer told broadcaster BT Sport.

"The sharpness you lack when you don't play regularly. Some of these haven't really played since lockdown. They played last time against Norwich which is a month ago," he added.

Despite United's comfortable lead from March 12's first leg the visitors caused problems early on.

Andres Andrade hit the crossbar with a powerful header after 10 minutes before Peter Michorl fired wide just after the quarter of an hour mark.

The Linz-based outfit had to wait until the second half to break the deadlock as defender Philipp Wiesinger rifled into the top corner from outside the box after 55 minutes.

Their celebrations were short-lived as Lingard equalised on the counter attack for United three minutes later.

Martial claimed the match-winner with two minutes to go despite LASK goalkeeper Alexander Schlager getting a foot to the France striker's

shot.

- Lukaku scores again -

Elsewhere, Antonio Conte's Inter Milan will face either Steven Gerrard's Rangers or Bayer Leverkusen with the Germans holding a 3-1 lead going into Thursday's match after his side beat Getafe 2-0.

Romelu Lukaku and Christian Eriksen scored either side of the break for the Italians.

"It was a difficult match against a team that plays aggressively, but we did well, the defence did a good job and I'm happy to score for the team," Lukaku told Sky Sport Italia.

"Christian also got an important goal for the side and we must continue like this."

Inter's meeting with the La Liga side was played over just one leg in Gelsenkirchen to save time ahead of next week's last eight to be held in Germany.

Lukaku became the club's first player to score in five straight European appearances since Brazilian striker Adriano in 2004.

Lukaku slotted home after Alessandro Bastoni's long ball after 33 minutes.

The Spaniards were given a chance to take the game to penalties with 25 minutes remaining as VAR said Diego Godin had handballed in his own box but veteran centre-forward Jorge Molina missed mark.

Eriksen made sure of Inter's last-eight spot after 84 minutes with his first touch after Dakonam Djene made a mess of a clearance inside his own area.

Earlier, 2009 champions Shakhtar Donetsk booked a quarter-final place against Basel or Eintracht Frankfurt after three goals within the closing four minutes clinched a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg.

AFP

Valencia captaincy snub hastened exit, says City's Ferran Torres

LONDON

SPANISH winger Ferran Torres said Valencia's failure to hand him the captain's armband and make him one of their highest-paid players were key factors in his decision to join Manchester City.

The 20-year-old joined the Premier League side on a five-year contract this week for a fee reported to be around 23 million euros (\$27.29 million).

"I wanted to stay and I put forward the conditions to do so. They weren't above the club's means," Torres told Spanish newspaper Marca.

"One was for owner Peter Lim to be involved in contract negotiations so that I knew I was important, another was to be captain ... The third was to be one of the highest paid players. I wanted two of the three, but none were fulfilled."

Torres said he first thought about leaving Valencia when he was told he would not be a first-team regular in the recent campaign.

"I started thinking about leaving last summer after the European Under-19 Championship. The club told me personally that they weren't counting on me," he said.

"They literally said I was the fifth

winger in the squad, that reinforcements were coming and other players from other positions were ahead of me.

"It was a very hard blow for me, but what was worse was that they even put me on the market and offered me to teams in Spain."

Torres, who scored six goals and had eight assists for Valencia in all competitions last season, joins City as a replacement for Leroy Sane after the German winger moved to Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich last month.

Meanwhile, Manchester City have signed defender Nathan Ake from Bournemouth on a five-year deal, the Premier League club announced on Wednesday.

Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed but British media reported City paid Bournemouth 40 million pounds (\$52 million) to sign the 25-year-old with an additional 1 million pounds to be paid in add-ons.

"City have been the best side in England over the course of the last decade," Ake said in a statement here "Coming here is a dream for me. This is a top side full of world class players."

REUTERS

UEFA rules could see clubs forfeit UCL games

LONDON

CLUBS in next season's European competitions could be forced to forfeit matches if they fail to inform UEFA of travel restrictions in place to curb the spread of coronavirus, according to guidelines issued by European football's governing body.

UEFA said it would publish a list of known travel restrictions between countries before each draw is made. Clubs would then have to inform UEFA of any other unknown restrictions at least 48 hours before the draw, failing which they will be handed a 3-0 defeat.

"If a club fails to inform the UEFA administration two days prior to the relevant draw of any restrictions other than those published by UEFA ... the club will be held responsible ... and the match will be declared to be forfeited by the club in question," the governing body said.

UEFA also said that if a club was drawn against an opponent that was not allowed to travel to the country, then it must find a neutral venue for its home fixture.

If the home club failed to propose a suitable alternative venue it would have to forfeit the game.

The rules will apply for the qualifying rounds and playoffs of next season's European competitions.

This season's remaining Champions League and Europa League round-of-16 second-leg ties that were postponed because of the pandemic in March will be played in the stadiums of the home teams.

The final stages of the Champions League, from the quarterfinals onwards, will be played as a mini-tournament in Portugal and the Europa League in Germany.

(Agencies)

Manchester United, Inter Milan reach quarters as Europa League returns

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany

MANCHESTER United and Inter Milan booked their places in the Europa League quarterfinals Wednesday as continental soccer returned in empty stadiums amid the coronavirus pandemic.

United won 2-1 against LASK Linz to complete a 7-1 aggregate win over the Austrian club, five months after the first leg was played. LASK held the lead on the night for two minutes after Philipp Wiesinger's 55th-minute goal, but Jesse Lingard soon leveled for United. Anthony Martial scored another for United in the 88th.

"They haven't played for a while, some of these lads, and it showed," Manchester United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said in televised comments.

The win sets up a quarterfinal reunion for Solskjaer with his former Norway teammate Stale Solbakken, the coach of Copenhagen. They played together at the 1998 World Cup.

Inter beat Getafe 2-0 with goals from Romelu Lukaku and Christian Eriksen. It was a one-off game played in Germany because they did not complete a first leg before the European season was suspended.

Earlier, Shakhtar Donetsk and Copenhagen also advanced.

Lukaku gave Inter the lead with his 30th goal of the season, picking up Alessandro Bastoni's high pass in the 33rd minute and holding off a defender before stroking the ball low into the far corner. Eriksen made it 2-0 in the 84th, hammering in a loose ball in the penalty area two minutes after he came on from the bench.

"I'm very happy for the team because I can see that they are eager to continue this adventure and not go on their holidays," Inter coach Antonio Conte said.

Getafe started stronger with an intense pressing game and could have taken the lead in the second minute, but Inter goalkeeper Samir Handanovic kept out Nemanja Maksimovic's header.

Inter gradually took control of the game against a Getafe team which had not played since July 19 and last won on June 29. Getafe keeper David Soria



Manchester United's Jesse Lingard, centre, gestures as players kneel for Black Lives Matter ahead of the Europa League round of 16 second leg soccer match between Manchester United and LASK at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020. (AP Photo)

made a string of impressive saves before Lukaku's goal and reacted well to keep out an overhead kick from Danilo D'Ambrosio in the 49th.

Getafe had a chance to equalize in the 76th when Inter defender Diego Godin conceded a penalty for handball, but Jorge Molina fired his shot wide, preserving Handanovic's record of five games without conceding a goal.

Inter's quarterfinal opponent is likely to be Bayer Leverkusen, which leads Rangers 3-1 ahead of the second leg Thursday.

Shakhtar, the 2009 UEFA Cup winner, won 3-0 in the second leg against Wolfsburg

to complete a 5-1 victory on aggregate. The Ukrainian club didn't score until a goal from Junior Moraes in the 89th minute. Moraes and Manor Solomon added a goal apiece in stoppage time.

Copenhagen reached the quarterfinals of a European competition for the first time after overturning a 1-0 deficit from the first leg against Istanbul Basaksehir to win 3-1 on aggregate thanks to two goals from Jonas Wind.

All games from the quarterfinals onward are being played in Germany over a single leg. None will have fans.

Games began with a minute's silence

designated by UEFA to honor victims of the coronavirus pandemic. European soccer's governing body didn't arrange a coordinated whole-team gesture aimed at racial injustice, though team captains wore armbands reading "No To Racism."

United players took a knee before their game, as all teams have done in the English Premier League since it restarted in June, and were joined by their Austrian opponents from LASK. At the Inter-Getafe game, all players stood in silence around the center circle after an announcement about the coronavirus.

AP

Messi will retire at Barcelona despite Inter interest - president

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Josep Maria Bartomeu has said he is convinced that Lionel Messi will retire at the club in "three or four years."

Messi, 33, is tied to the La Liga giants until June 2021 and has yet to sign a contract extension.

"It's not just me that says so but Leo has always said it, that he wants to end his professional career at Barcelona," Bartomeu told beIN Sports. "I think it's the club of his life. It's a man for a club and it's the best club for him."

Reports of a renewed interest by Internazionale to sign Messi coupled with rumours that the Argentina international's contract negotiations with Barca had been called off has led to speculation that the player could leave next summer.

But Bartomeu said he is not worried about Messi leaving the club and expects him to sign a new contract.

"I am certain that it [contract extension] will happen," Bartomeu said. "I have no doubt that Leo Messi in three, four, many years to come will retire at Barcelona."

"He arrived at the club when he was young, he grew up here, he feels the colours. He is a very important part in our history. He is the best player in the history and he is at Barcelona. It is very clear to him that this is his all-time club."

La Liga president Javier Tebas recently said he hopes Messi will play in Spain for the remainder of his career. The league lost Cristiano Ronaldo two years ago when the Portugal forward left Real Madrid to sign for Juventus in a €100 million transfer.

Messi scored 25 league goals for runners-up Barcelona this season and won his seventh La Liga golden boot -- and his fourth in a row. He expressed his frustration after Real Madrid were crowned La Liga champions for the first time since 2017.

However, Messi and Barca are looking to finish the season strong by lifting the Champions League trophy.

"We have made positive self-criticism among us all and we are in a situation in which we know where the possible errors are and where we need to grow to correct them," Bartomeu said, ahead of Saturday's Champions League Round of 16 return leg against Napoli. "We are ready and with renewed enthusiasm."

Bartomeu, meanwhile, said his club will only restart talks with Inter over the potential signing of Lautaro Martinez once the season is over. The 22-year-old is seen as a potential successor to Luis Suarez at Barca.

"We are focusing on the international games," he said. "Once the Champions League is over, we will talk to Inter. But that issue is absolutely halted."

"We have very good players. We want to bring good players but at times there are complicated situations."

Meanwhile, Barcelona have completed the signing of Sao Paulo's teenage striker Gustavo Maia on a €4.5 million transfer, with a €300m buy-out clause, the club announced on Thursday.

The Catalan outfit had paid €1m in March to the Brazilian club to have a preferential option to acquire 70% of the player's sporting rights.

Barca paid the remaining €3.5m to land the play-



Lionel Messi

er on a five-year contract.

He will represent Barca B next season where he will look to break into the first team.

Maia arrived at Sao Paulo at 14 and was tied to the club until 2022. He won seven titles with Sao Paulo's youth teams and had his best season in 2018-19 when he scored 30 goals in 36 games.

The suspension of football in Brazil in March due to the coronavirus pandemic prevented Maia from making his first team debut.

The versatile attacker, who can play on the left or through the middle, has been capped by Brazil at youth level.

His signing continues Barca's aggressive pursuit of the best young talent from all over the world.

Barca paid €31m to sign Portugal youth international Francisco Trincao from Braga on a five-year contract.

Attacking midfielder Pedri Gonzalez, 17, also joined Barca earlier this month from

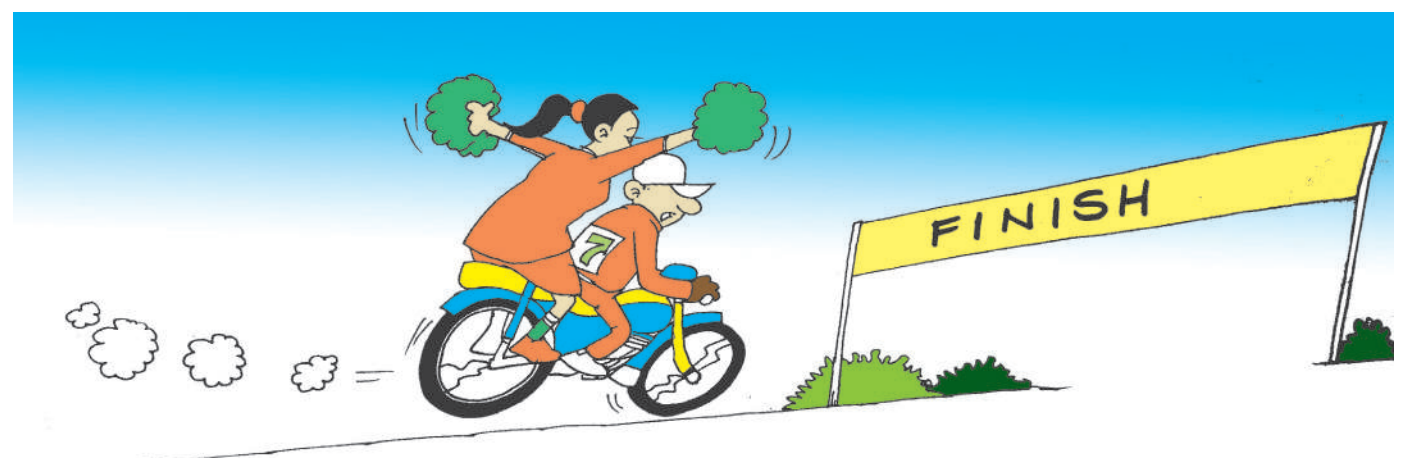
Las Palmas.

Asked if the coveted Pedri and Trincao would be sold this summer, Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said they would not be.

"No. They are not and neither are Araujo, Riqui [Puig] or Ansu [Fati]," he added. "We are trying to create a new generation of players. Next season will be different. We have young players arriving to the team like Trincao and Pedri and players promoted from Barca's reserves like Riqui, Ansu and Araujo."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



TFF official criticizes football outfits' recruitment approach

SPORT

Man Utd, Inter Milan reach quarters as Europa League returns

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mbao FC midfielder, Jordan John (R), gets the better of Namungo FC player when the teams locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League match in Mwanza recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBAO FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) Director of Competitions, Salum Madadi, has blamed local clubs for the way they are signing new players during this main transfer

window.

The transfer window for the 2020/21 season opened a week ago, with Yanga and Azam FC having been active on the market given the two sides are signing many players.

In a monitored radio interview with one of Dar es Salaam radio stations held yesterday, Madadi who has vast experience of local football said clubs are

signing players for the sake of impressing their supporters not the technical and tactical needs of the teams.

He said he has observed that clubs are signing players without following the football philosophy of the teams, coach's methodology and the teams are also not observing balance.

"What is happening on our local players' market now is not good, look,

teams are just signing players without following the team's football philosophy," he stated.

"There is no balancing... you find a team signing many good players who play on the same position, one wonders if the players are signed on recommendations by the coach, are they going to meet the methodology of the coach?" he asked.

Madadi who once served as the federation's Technical Director had always been blaming local clubs for their preference for the foreign coaches without having the coaches' full background.

"Our local clubs like foreign coaches, some are employed without even knowing their full background. It takes time for a foreign coach to understand local football terrain and introduce his football philosophy," he said.

Yanga, who currently have neither head coach nor assistant coach after parting ways with head coach, Belgian Luc Eymael, and his assistant Charles Boniface, have, on the one hand, so far signed four new players.

They are central defender Bakari Mwangeto, striker Waziri Junior, fullback Yassin Mustapha and midfielder Zawadi Mauya.

Yanga are linked to a dozen of other foreign and local players.

On the other hand, Azam FC who are coached by Romanian Aristica Cioba have required the services of midfielders Ismail Aziz Kada, Awesu Ally, Ally Niyonzima, and striker Ayoub Lyanga.

However, one football analyst, who opted to be anonymous, said most clubs in Africa, including Tanzania, sign players with the aim of impressing their supporters.

All set for 2020 Nane Nane pool tourney

By Guardian Correspondent

THIS year's edition of Nane Nane pool championship got underway at CCM Mwinjuma Hall in Mwananyama, Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The tournament's organizer, Michael Machellah, said the event has been sponsored by Dar es Salaam-based pool table makers, Kenice.

He said the event has attracted pool players from the city's Temeke, Ilala, Ubungo, Kigamboni and Kinondoni districts, and Morogoro and Manyara.

The organizer said this year's event they will have singles and team categories.

He said 128 male athletes are competing in singles while 16 ladies have confirmed to compete in this category.

Machellah disclosed that winner in junior singles category will take home cash prize of 500,000/-, the category's runner up will get 100,000/- while third-placed player will rake in 50,000/-.

In veterans' singles, the winner will get 200,000/-, runner-up will walk away with 100,000/- and the third-placed player will take home 50,000/-.

He said the top player in the women's category gets 50,000/- while 10,000/- awaits the category runner-up.

In the juniors' category, the winner gets 300,000/-, runner-up rakes in 100,000 and in veterans' category, the winner takes home 300,000/-.

"We are happy that this year's edition of Nane Nane Pool table tournament has started on a good note, we thank Kenice Company for sponsoring this tournament," he said.

Manyara-based pool player, Baraka Jackson, is the championship's singles' defending champion.



Morogoro's Fransaliam School's up-and-coming pool player showcases his prowess in the U-10 category of a past tournament, which took place at Tushikamane House of Talent Club, located along Kilakala road, in the region. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Simba Kings cricketers set to face Buffalo Blasters in 2020 Advanced Players Legue



Dar es Salaam's GP Pak Stars players pictured prior to taking part in one of the 2018 Advanced Players Legue (APL)'s encounters, which took place in the city. The outfit clinched the competition's trophy.

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club oval will be a place to go for cricket enthusiasts in the city, as the area will on Saturday play host to the 2020 Advanced Players Legue (APL).

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which will climax on Sunday next week, takes place with a view to raising the standard of the sport at the domestic level.

Six franchises are participating in the T20-formatted showdown. The outfits are Simba Kings, Chui Challengers, Royal Rhinos, Twiga Titans, Tembo Stars and Buffalo Blasters.

In the competition's opening day, TCA information officer Atif Salim disclosed, Simba Kings will lock horns with Buffalo Blasters in the first match in the morning.

Royal Rhinos will take the pitch to lock horns with Twiga Titans in a clash, scheduled to start at 2.30pm.

Salim disclosed this season's competition will solely see domestic players take part in clashes, as opposed to past competitions in which foreign players also took part in.

The official disclosed the failure by foreign players to participate in this season's tournament has come about because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Salim noted the pandemic has caused uncertainties and there were lockdowns in such countries like England, Kenya, South Africa, Pakistani and India at the time the APL was planned.

The TCA had invited professional cricketers from the mentioned countries in the past editions of the APL and the players offered tremendous contribution in improving their domestic counterparts' game.

"We decided not to include foreign cricketers so we can be on the safe side," he noted.

The GP Pak Stars clinched the previous edition of the APL, which took place in 2018.

The TCA official stated that the 2020 APL sponsors are Delta, Westpoint, Tanfoam, Sterling, Computer Center, Hitech Sai, Unity Computers, Spik and Span, Crystal Management & Maintenance, GI Security and Reliance Insurance.

The national cricket governing body

further unveiled squads which will grace the pitch in the competition, with each of the outfits having been made up of 15 players.

Royal Rhinos, skipped by Ashish Kamania, has Arslaan Premji, Faridi Bakari, Safvan Annarathodika, Issa Safari, Augustine Mwamele, Suraj Kumar and Yash Hirwania.

Aahil Jassani, Omari Hilal, Zamoyoni Ramadhan, Seif Khalifa, Vikram Rathore, Jumanne Mohamed, and Baraka Laizer also make the squad.

Former senior national women cricket team's player, Hyroon Ramadhan, is the squad's coordinator, whereas Salim is the team's manager.

Tembo Stars consist of Kelvin Anjelo, Amiri Sadiki, Raymond Francis, Vipin Abraham, Ally Mpeka, Vaibhav Bhatia and Raza Imaam.

Adil Kassam, Abbas Adamjee, Alhaji Sadiki, Salam Olilakandy, Athuman Kikonzi, Nisar Ahmed, Nassor Zahoro and captain, Abhik Patwa, are as well in the squad.

Kassam is also the side's manager, whilst Jessica Emily is the side's coordinator

Tennis coaches' association now appoints interim leaders

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Tennis Coaches Association (TTCA) has selected interim leaders to oversee operations of the association and drafting of its constitution.

Riziki Salum, one of the pioneers of TTCA, said the association will foster frequent and meaningful collaboration between its members, advance best practices among coaches and athletes in the country.

He said members of the association met in Dar es Salaam last weekend and selected the interim leaders.

He mentioned them as Rajab Boli, who is the association's chairman, Majuto Majaliwa (vice-chairman), Khalid Abdallah (secretary general), while Kiango Kipingu is the association's assistant secretary and Hassan Chande is the treasurer general.

Salum said TTCA seeks to provide access to unique and progressive professional development and continuing education platforms, digital and physical coaching tools and communication.

"We met last weekend and selected interim leaders of our association, the aim is to see to it that there is unity among all tennis coaches in the country, local coaches are getting modern training of the sport, the welfare of coaches is respected and other related activities," he said.

He said currently the association has 31 members from across the country and they are all attending online tennis coaching course as the aim is to have qualified tennis trainers.

"The association will bring coaches together in ways we have not seen before and will strengthen our community through working together, we have experienced and less experienced coaches," he stated.

"So, coming together will help in sharing knowledge and experience, currently all coaches are attending online courses organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the aim is to see to it that the country has many qualified coaches," he said.

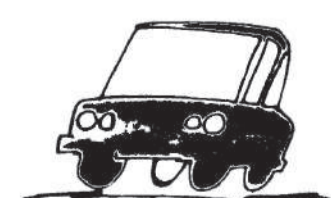
The TTCA has blessings of Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) and was formed on recommendations from National Sports Council (NSC) with the aim of developing tennis from the grassroots levels.

“

We met last weekend and selected interim leaders of our association, the aim is to see to it that there is unity among all tennis coaches in the country, local coaches are getting modern training of the sport, the welfare of coaches is respected and other related activities,

Flexibles by David Chikoko

PC DO YOU FIGHT CORRUPTION FROM WITHIN OR FROM WITHOUT?



EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

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DAR ES SALAAM