



National Pg 3

Students with special needs



National Pg 4

New information sharing platform



National Pg 5

Govt pledges 200m/- for DIT



National Pg 6

Students need vocational skills



Seif appeals for level playing field in polls



LEFT: Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairman Hamid Mahmoud Hamid (L), who is former Zanzibar Chief Justice, presents Zanzibar Presidency candidacy endorsement forms to Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) candidate Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad in Zanzibar yesterday. RIGHT: The ZEC chairman presents similar forms - also yesterday - to CCK candidate Othman Rashid Khamis. Combo photos: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE ACT-Wazalendo flag bearer in the upcoming Zanzibar presidential election, Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad, yesterday picked up nomination forms from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), calling for a level playing field for all political parties.

Maalim Seif, who arrived at ZEC offices at around 11am, promised to set out his priorities for his election bid after being endorsed by the electoral body to contest for the top position in the state.

"This time around, we will protect our votes to ensure that our victory is not stolen as has been the case in previous general elections," he said, addressing party followers at ACT Wazalendo offices in Vuga, Unguja.

Soon after being handed the presidential candidacy forms by the ZEC Chairman, former Chief Justice Hamid Mahmoud Hamid, Maalim Seif questioned the pre-poll voting scheduled for October 27.

He was concerned that the pre-poll voting on October 27 was irrelevant since the people will again vote for the Zanzibar President, members of the House of Representatives and ward councilors the following day.

Responding, the ZEC chairman insisted that the pre-poll voting cannot be avoided since it is stated in the relevant legislation.

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The ACT Wazalendo candidate called upon religious leaders to promote peace throughout the period of campaigns to facilitate a peaceful general election.

He expressed surprise that the National Electoral Commission (NEC) had announced some candidates from CCM as elected unopposed while there are other contestants from various political parties including ACT Wazalendo who are vying for the same positions.

CCK Isles presidential candidate Othman Rashid Khamis picked up nomination forms from ZEC in the afternoon yesterday, promising to bring about change in Zanzibar, especially in improving provision of social services, mainly education and health.

So far, 13 presidential aspirants have picked up forms from ZEC to collect guarantor signatures from various regions. They are Dr Hussein Mwyni (CCM), Said Soud (AAPP), Juma Ali Khatib (Ada Tadea), Hamad Rashid (ADC), Mfaume Khamis (NLD), Ali Juma (Chaumma), Issa Muhammed Zonga (SAU), Ameri Said Ameri from Demokrasi Makini and Hamad Muhammed Ibrahim of UPDP.

Others are Shafii Hassan Suleiman

Attack by herders leaves one dead, eight injured

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

AN armed group of pastoralists stormed a village in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region at the weekend, killing one person and seriously injuring eight others.

Regional police commander Simon Maigwa told reporters yesterday that the incident occurred on Friday evening at Macheema village, noting that law enforcers have launched a manhunt to locate and arrest the suspects.

Witness accounts say a group of Barabaig herders armed with spears, arrows, machetes and sticks stormed a wedding ceremony in the village and started beating everybody in attendance, killing a militiaman, Said Katimbe.

The RPC appealed to area residents to avail information to authorities whenever they encounter suspicious people especially if they appear to be hiding

The cause is said to be the cattle stolen from the herders, accusing the farmers of aiding the theft. Katimbe succumbed to injuries after being pierced with a sharp object in the chest.

The injured who are admitted to Tunduru district hospital are Zuberi Jafari, Mohammed Chikoko, Mohammed Lilundu, Jimu Mbandawe, Issa Saidi, Matumula Selemani, Zuberi Nasoro and Mohammed Sengani.

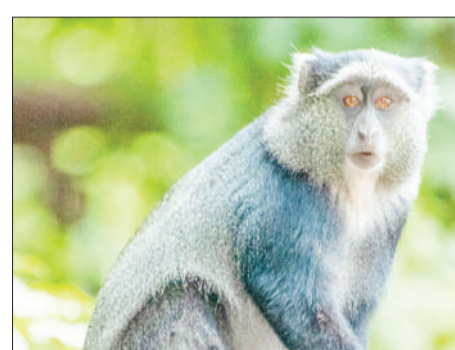
"The suspects took the law into their own hands. They were supposed to address their grievances through legal channels," said Maigwa.

The RPC appealed to area residents to avail information to authorities whenever they encounter suspicious people especially if they appear to be hiding.

Narrating the incident, Macheema Village Executive Officer Ally Sapanga said the villagers were caught off-guard as they were in celebration and the herders unleashed their attack, hitting indiscriminately.

He said the ceremony came to an

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Agro-expansion imperils unique monkey species

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A NEWLY identified subspecies of diademed monkey in Tanzania faces an uncertain future due to growing threats to forest habitat in the northern wildlife circus, primatologists have warned.

The Manyara monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis manyaraensis*) has a geographic range extending between 1,500 and 5,900 square kilometers (580 to 2,200 square miles) around Lake Manyara, a stretch of waterland covering patches of Manyara region upper part and Arusha region lower part.

The ecosystems here, including groundwater, mid-altitude and montane

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WB, govt nod to \$60m in credit for southern circuit

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WORLD Bank authorities and the government have concluded a credit arrangement for 60m dollars intended for reinforcing the southern circuit tourism infrastructure.

The pact was signed recently and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism handed 14 vehicles to be used in various national parks in the circuit at a ceremony here at the weekend.

Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) commissioner general Dr Allan Kijazi (pictured) expressed gratitude to the World Bank for



recognizing the contribution of the tourism sector in the country's economy.

The corporation's board chairman, Gen (rtd) George Waitara, said the infrastructure revamping project will assist in strengthening the tourism sector by improving accessibility to national parks in the southern regions.

The project will also assist in the strengthening of the alternate activities for environmental preservation in the respective regions, he elaborated.

Constantine Kanyasu, the deputy

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WB, govt nod to \$60m in credit for southern circuit

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minister, said at the event that the 14 vehicles already delivered should be used for the purposes intended.

He said great efforts are needed in investment to elevate the status and accessibility of national parks in the southern regions to approach the level of those in the north of the country.

The World Bank through its 'resilient natural resource management for tourism and growth' (REGROW) project has provided 14 vehicles valued at 1.5bn/- for use in tourism sector

facilities in the southern circuit.

Dr Kijazi said at the handing over ceremony that through the project, the government plans to strengthen infrastructures in the southern sphere national parks and to increase the number of tourists in the area.

The vehicles will be taken to Ruaha, Mikumi and Udzungwa national parks, while nine other expected vehicles will be utilized by the newly established Nyerere National Park, making a total of 23 vehicles all valued at 2.5bn/-, he added.

Attack by herders leaves one dead, eight injured

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unceremonious end as everybody ran for their lives as marauding attackers inflicted the damage.

"It was scary. It's unfortunate that people resort to violence to resolve dispute at this time and age," Sapanga said.

The VEO said the pastoralists who live in a camp within the predominantly farming community had previously accused the villagers of stealing their cattle.

Farmer-pastoralist conflicts have been reported in many parts of the country in recent years with most of them resulting in farmers losing lives and having their property destroyed.

Apart from cattle rustling as in this Tunduru case, the main resources for such conflicts are water, land and pasture

A Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) paper published in 2016 stated

that climate change has also induced farmer-pastoralist conflicts in the country.

The study findings showed that climate change, land and water resources were the major sources of farmers- pastoralists' conflict in Kilosa District, Morogoro region.

The study found out that prolonged drought, lack of grazing land and cattle thefts are among reasons for farmer-pastoralist conflict. The study concludes that there is conflict between farmers and pastoralists due to scarce resources, particularly water, land and pasture.

Based on the findings, the report advised that various stakeholders including the government, non-governmental organisations and communities should identify new, and improve existing strategies for the conservation and management of natural resources.



Benjamin Mkapa's widow, Anna Mkapa (R), receives a trophy from DCB Bank board member Zawadia Nanyaro bearing words the former president said when launching the Dar es Salaam-based bank. This was when a DCB delegation went to her residence at Masaki in Dar es Salaam yesterday to comfort following her husband's recent death. Others are managing director Godfrey Ndalahwa (2nd-L) and head of marketing and communication Rahma Ngassa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Seif appeals for level playing field in polls

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(Democratic Party), Khamis Faki Mgau (NRA), Seif Sharif Hamad (ACT Wazalendo) and Othman Rashid

Khamis of CCK.

ZEC announced September 11 as the last day for returning the forms and the start of election campaigns, which are

scheduled to last for 46 days.

ZEC chairman Hamid said the commission has allocated four days, from October 28 to October 31 for vote

counting and announcement of results for the sixth general elections since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in 1992.



Members of the Shia Ithnasheri community in their hundreds take part in a peaceful walk in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to mark the onset of the Holy Month of Muharram, which runs simultaneously with the remembrance the death of Imam Husain - grandson of Prophet Muhammad. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

AU says COVID-19 crisis exacerbates Africa's already dire revenue situation

THE African Union (AU) Commission has said that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated an already dire tax revenue situation across the African continent.

Victor Harison, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs stressed that the brunt of economic challenges mounting from the ongoing COVID-19 impact on African economies.

"Undoubtedly, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a devastating situation for health systems and national incomes globally. Governments continue to strain their fiscal revenues as they implement emergency measures and recovery plans to sustain economies," Harison said in a statement.

"This also has a significant negative effect on tax revenues, which provide a substantial source of revenue for most nations. In many African countries, the pandemic has exacerbated an already dire tax revenue situation," he said.

The 2020 Revenue Statistics in Africa report produced by the AU, African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and the

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), indicated that the tax-to-GDP ratio for 26 African countries remained low at 17.2 percent, compared to the OECD average at 32.2 percent and 22.8 percent for Latin America.

Some major economies, including Nigeria, stood at 5.7 percent, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) at 6.6 percent.

"This signifies the importance for countries to strengthen their tax administration to enhance domestic resource mobilization and develop financial autonomy," said Harison.

The AU Economic Affairs Commissioner also emphasized the imperative for African countries to properly tax the digital economy to derive the benefits therein, emphasizing that tax administrators "should be adequately equipped to overcome the constraints they face in taxing the digital economy."

On Wednesday, the AU had also warned that the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified Africa's need to expand resource mobilization base

as the decline in the prices and demand for commodities and the impact of the pandemic of the travel and tourism sectors, which African countries mainly depend on for tax revenues, have "led to significant loss of revenues."

The AU's call came in line with the deliberations of African tax officials and policymakers who are meeting virtually on August 26 and 27 as part of the High-Level Policy Dialogue, which is being hosted by the AU Commission.

Figures from the 55-member pan African bloc shows that Africa's GDP growth is projected to drop by between 4.9 percent and 2.1 percent in 2020, which would lead to a reduction of between 135 billion US dollars and 204 billion US dollars from pre-COVID-19 GDP of 2.59 trillion US dollars.

According to the AU, the COVID-19 crisis has increased poverty with the African Development Bank (AfDB), estimating that COVID-19 pandemic will push between 28.2 million and 49.2 million more Africans into extreme poverty.

Agro-expansion imperils unique monkey species

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forests at elevations of 960 to 2,550 meters (3,150 to 8,370 feet), are relatively understudied. But based on other studies of Cercopithecus, the genus also known as gentle monkeys, it is likely that the Manyara monkey is an important disperser of forest tree seeds and an important consumer of invertebrates.

Yvonne de Jong and Tom Butynski, who identified the subspecies, said they had already assessed it as endangered in the red list issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

"All of the documented current threats to the long-term survival of Tanzania's primates are directly or indirectly related to human activities – degradation, loss, and fragmentation of forest, poaching, loss of wildlife corridors, setting of fire, and invasion of exotic plants, to name a few," de Jong told Mongabay. "Even the threat of climate change appears to have humans as the root-cause."

Primatologists consider Tanzania one of the most important countries in the world for primate conservation, given its large number of non-human primates. It is home to 14 genera, 28 species and 44 species and subspecies, of which no fewer than 13 taxonomic varieties are found nowhere else.

Eleven of Tanzania's primate species and eight of its subspecies are classified as threatened on the IUCN Red List.

Forest-dependent species varieties such as gentle monkeys are at particular risk. Gentle monkeys, sometimes also called greater periphery monkeys, are large, long-tailed, tree-dwelling monkeys found across Southern and East Africa. Their habitat is evergreen forest at various altitudes, and they are known to have highly developed arboreal skills compared to some other types of monkey.

De Jong and Butynski, who assessed the Manyara monkey for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020, concluded that this subspecies is endangered despite the fact that about 60% (around 3,500 km² or 1,350 mi²) of its probable geographic distribution lies within six protected areas.

Writing about their 15-year study and identification of the subspecies in the journal Primate Conservation at the end of the April, the pair called for improved management of the protected areas in which the Manyara monkey occurs as well as the restoration and protection of the wildlife corridors of the Lake Manyara-Ngorongoro region.

"The threats to the Manyara monkey are particularly serious in non-protected areas," Butynski told Mongabay. "Connectivity among the six protected areas in which the Manyara monkey is known to occur is threatened, and this connectivity is essential for maintaining healthy populations. Fragmentation of wild populations creates many expensive and complicated

conservation and management problems."

He attributed the loss of connectivity largely to agricultural expansion, as well as new settlements, roads and other infrastructure driven by a rapidly growing population; Tanzania's population is expected to more than double by 2050.

"Effective management of the six protected areas in which the Manyara monkey occurs, and the restoration and protection of the wildlife corridors of the Lake Manyara-Ngorongoro region, are essential to the conservation of this new subspecies and other wildlife in the region," Butynski said.

Other experts say the identification of the subspecies, and its recognition as being endangered, could provide it with some protection.

"Having a species classed as endangered can actually do some good as it brings attention to it – it gains national and international attention, authorities pay attention to it, researchers start studies, which can add to its overall protection while other measures are considered," Gráinne McCabe, head of conservation science at the Bristol Zoological Society in the U.K., told Mongabay.

Butynski agreed that identifying the subspecies could help in its future protection. "Simply said, you need to know what taxa are where, and their conservation status, to be able to effectively protect them," he said. But he added it also had a deeper significance as primates come under increasing threat.

De Jong and Butynski note that Tanzania is losing about 200 km² (77 mi²) of forest each year (at 1.1%, it's the second-highest annual rate of forest loss in sub-Saharan Africa) and has a 3% human population "rate of natural increase" (compared to 1% worldwide). They say it is therefore inevitable that Tanzania will continue to lose large areas of forest and large numbers of forest-dependent primates.

"Tanzania's human population, now about 60 million people, is projected to increase to more than 90 million by 2036, and to more than 129 million by 2050. Where will Tanzania get twice as much food, clean water, energy, and other resources to provide to twice as many people in 30 years?" Butynski said.

This makes classifying species and subspecies, including the new Manyara monkey, even more important.

"We are obliged to find out what plants and animals are out there, and to ensure that they are formally recognized so that they have a voice as concerns their long-term viability and place in natural ecosystems," de Jong said. "Many taxonomic varieties have been driven to extinction over the past century and these will, no doubt, be joined by many others during the 21st century."

"Their loss will have simplified ecosystems forever – and made those who depend on these ecosystems more vulnerable to the same fate, including humankind."



A Dodoma city resident uses a simple and affordable but efficient hand-operated machine in grinding coffee beans for his customers, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

TIC urges investors to explore economic activities for growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

TANZANIA Investment Centre (TIC) has appealed to investors to access the Centre's activities to attain economic growth.

TIC, which coordinates, mobilises and oversees the country's investment, is now making efforts to visit investors in their areas of investment for inspection and solve challenges facing them.

TIC Director Dr Maduhu Kazi was speaking during his visit to investors in Mtwara Region.

While at Dangote Cement factory he said the aim was to see how they can work together with investors and stakeholders in other government and private sectors in on how to realise investment goals for economic growth.

"I congratulate the investors for this factory, you are doing a great job, we at TIC are here for you, use TIC for investment development and we are ready to serve you to ensure the country's economic growth," he said.

The factory's General Manager Aboyomi Awofodu said as for now the factory was installing modern

machinery that will use electricity from natural gas, coal and hydro so as to have reliable power at all times.

The factory situated on 1,700 acres of land at Msijute area in Mtwara is among the biggest investment in Tanzania. District and has the capacity to produce three million tons of cement per year.

It started operations in December 2015 and up to now it produces gradea 32.5 and 42.5 of cement used in the country as well as for export.

Meanwhile, Mtwara Region continues to strengthen infrastructures that contributes to increase of investments including the expansion of Mtwara Port costing 157bn/- and an extra runway at Mtwara Airport costing 50bn/-.

Mtwara Region Administrative officer Alphayo Kidata said the aim of the infrastructures was to open up the region's economic potential including cashew nuts growing and the availability of natural gas that has contributed to the establishment of industries for economic growth.

Kidata was speaking in Mtwara to TIC Director Dr Maduhu Kazi during the former's visit to the region as part of his inspection visit to southern regions.

Govt to identify students with disabilities and special educational needs

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government plans to conduct a survey to identify students with disabilities including the deaf and the blind in September, this year in order to have in place strategies to assist them.

This was disclosed at the weekend by the Director of Special Education in the President's Office, Regional

Administration and Local Government Geni Migeheha at a meeting that received reports on inclusive education project for the students conducted by Sense International Tanzania in Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam regions.

The project conducted from June 2016 to May this year under sponsorship of The Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF)

established by the UK government via UK Aid for International Development (UKAID).

He said in 2018 for the first time the government decided to verify the number of children with disabilities in the country after realizing there were many students with special needs.

"In this we call the assistance from various stakeholders including Sense

International, and we aim to assist these children, hence when we reach like them we will ask them to assist in their needs," he said.

However, he said after identifying them they expect to place them together in dormitories with each regions appointing one school for the purpose. He said through financial constraints sometimes the

government cannot finance all these things hence he said they will continue working together with stakeholders to accomplish the exercise.

"For instance, blind or deaf students need special teachers and assistants thereof," he said and added that in that the government was ready to work together with Sense International.

Sense International Tanzania

Resident Director Naomi Lugoe said during the period her institution managed to enroll in class 100 children with disabilities including the deaf and the blind.

She said for this year they have expanded their activities and expect to reach out to 10 special schools that had special units for teaching such children.

Sudan wants Ethiopian Nile dam talks raised to head of state level

Khartoum

SUDAN on Saturday called for raising the negotiation on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) from the ministerial level to the level of head of state.

"The negotiation must be raised from the level of ministers to the level of presidents of the three countries through the African Union in order to provide political support for the negotiations," Sudanese Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Yasir Abbas

said at a press conference in the capital Khartoum.

"Continuation of the negotiations in the current form will not be effective," Abbas added, noting Sudan's commitment to negotiation any time and anywhere.

Reaching a deal in Nile dam talks needs a decision from the highest political leaderships in the three countries, he explained.

Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia on Friday concluded their latest round of dam talks without reaching consensus over

a draft deal regarding the GERD that should have been submitted to the African Union on Friday.

Ethiopia, which started building the GERD in 2011, expects to produce more than 6,000 megawatts of electricity through the project.

However, Egypt and Sudan, downstream Nile Basin countries that rely on the river for its fresh water, are concerned that the dam might affect their water resources.

AGENCIES



Ikungi district commissioner in Singida region Edward Mpagolo (L) has a word at the weekend with Mwaru ward locality leaders and members of the district's defence and security committee during a tour of Minyughe forest, where tree felling is said to be rampant. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

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Wildlife law enforcement agencies in EA unveil new information-sharing platform

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OVER 60 representatives from wildlife law enforcement and relevant agencies from across East Africa attended the virtual launch of the mailing list of a Trade in Wildlife Information Exchange (TWIX) platform for the region.

A TWIX platform facilitates the exchange of information and promotes co-operation between law enforcement agencies responsible for combating illegal wildlife trade and implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

"We are pleased to be part of this

event and eager to work with TWIX," Tamrin Ali Said, CITES focal person, Zanzibar Department of Forestry.

"I am excited about the Eastern Africa-TWIX, we look forward to being connected to the platform so that we can benefit from it," said Moses Muhumuza, Legal Manager at Uganda National Forestry Authority.

The new Eastern Africa-TWIX platform follows the successful piloting of TWIX systems in Africa, first in Central Africa (AFRICA-TWIX) followed by Southern Africa (SADC-TWIX). They were modelled on EU-TWIX, which has operated in European countries for 15 years.

"This is a very exciting and

potentially useful tool for combating illegal wildlife trade. As a prosecution counsel in ODPP Kenya, I see this as an avenue to assist us in effectively prosecuting wildlife related cases," Caroline Nyambura.

"We appreciate and congratulate TRAFFIC under the support from USAID funded CONNECT project for developing the Eastern Africa-TWIX mailing list that will support wildlife law enforcement officers in the region to share information and collaborate in order to fight against illegal wildlife trade," said Jean Baptiste Havugimana, EAC's Director of Productive Sectors.

The mandate for the establishment of the Eastern Africa-TWIX emanates

from a WWF-TRAFFIC East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholders' Forum held in 2016 and is in line with the EAC's Strategy of 2017 to Combat Poaching and Illegal Trade and Trafficking of Wildlife and Wildlife Products.

With funding from the USAID-funded Wildlife TRAPS and CONNECT projects of TRAFFIC and IUCN.

To date, close to 100 officials have been nominated by their agencies to join the Eastern Africa-TWIX platform. It is against this background and to strengthen the implementation and use of an Eastern Africa-TWIX, that a mailing list which connects law enforcement officials from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda was launched

today.

"The launch of Eastern Africa TWIX puts another major building block in building strong interagency regional

collaboration in the African continent," said Allan Mashalla, the East Africa Regional TWIX Co-ordinator based in Tanzania.



We appreciate and congratulate TRAFFIC under the support from USAID funded CONNECT project for developing the Eastern Africa-TWIX mailing list that will support wildlife law enforcement officers in the region to share information and collaborate in order to fight against illegal wildlife trade



HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

RFQ No: 11558

FOR SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF SINGLE USE MALE CIRCUMCISION KITS FOR ADOLESCENT AND ADULT

The Walter Reed Program Tanzania (WRP-T) is a collaborative effort supporting PEPFAR-funded HIV prevention and treatment activities in the Southern Highlands and within the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF). HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is a local non-profit that has supported these efforts since 2004 for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). PEPFAR activities are conducted in close collaboration with the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and the President's Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), through the Regional and Council Health Management Teams.

HJFMRI-T – Walter Reed Program Tanzania provides care and treatment to people affected by HIV/AIDS. It has been actively involved in HIV and AIDS programming, providing resources, personnel, and services to the Southern Highlands Zone. The program has expanded from supporting the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital to becoming a hub for anti-retroviral treatment in the Zone; to community support through decentralized services, with the overall objective of implementing research, clinical HIV, prevention, care, and treatment services. HJFMRI-T currently focuses specifically on four regions in the Southern Highlands Zone, namely Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, and Songwe, and supports TPDF to implement comprehensive HIV prevention care and treatment program in 21 sites throughout the country.

HJFMRI Tanzania hereby invites sealed bids from all eligible bidders licensed as "importer" or "distributor" by the TMDA, to supply and deliver Single use Male Circumcision Kits for Adolescent and Adult as per the specified product qualifications and quantities, stipulated in the table below:

S/No.	Item Description	UOM	QTY
1.	Single use Male Circumcision Kits for Adolescent and Adult	Kit	150,000
Kit Composition and quantities:			
1.	ETO Indicators - (3pcs)		
2.	Crepe Paper-surgical wrapping - (1pc)		
3.	Gloves examination ,latex large - (1Pair)		
4.	Gloves examination ,latex medium -(1pair)		
5.	Apron-disposable Plastic - (2pcs)		
6.	Gloves,sterile, surgical, non-powdered, size 7.0 - (1pcs)		
7.	Gloves, sterile,surgical,non-powdered,size 7.5 - (2pair)		
8.	Gloves, sterile, surgical, non powderd, size 8.0 - (1Pair)		
9.	O-drape, hole diameter 4.5cm-7cm,100cm*75cm -(1pc)		
10.	Alcohol swab, w/isopropyl alcohol 70% - (2pc)		
11.	Needle disp.,21G*1.5in - (1pc)		
12.	Needle disp.,25G*1.5in - (1pc)		
13.	Syringe disposable 10mls - (1pc)		
14.	Scalpel,w/handle,disp, retractable,lockable,no.23 - (1pc)		
15.	Gauze, swab, 10cm*10cm,12ply - (20pcs)		
16.	Surgical tape, 12mm*3mm - (1roll)		
17.	Needle holder - (1pc)		
18.	Suture scissors - (1pc)		
19.	Myo scissors - (1pc)		
20.	Metal tissue forceps -(1pc)		
21.	Mosquito forceps curved - (3pcs)		
22.	Mosquito forceps straight - (3pcs)		
23.	Forceps haemostatic cross clamp - (1pc)		
24.	Gauze paraffin,10cm*10cm,1ply - (1pc)		
25.	Suture,4/0,75cmw/needle,rev.cutting,26mm,3/8 circ - (2Pcs)		
26.	Multipurpose container tray - (1pc)		

The bidder should submit a bid price based on all the product requirements requested in this RFQ; HJFMRI requires pricing quotation to include:

- Pricing for specific product requirements, DDP HJFMRI warehouse Mbeya.
- The bidder should indicate the delivery Lead time (Delivery time is very Critical)
- The quantity in stock, at the time of bidding.
- The currency to be used is Tanzania Shilling. Offers in other currencies may be rejected.
- The validity of the offer, minimum 90 days after bid opening date to be mentioned in the accompanying letter to the Bid Offer.
- The product should have at least **80% remaining shelf life** at the time of delivery of the commodities.
- Product offered must be registered by the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) to allow circulates in the in country market.
- The bidder is required to include with its bid, documentation from the manufacturer of the goods, that it has been duly authorized to supply, in the United Republic of Tanzania, the goods indicated in its bid.
- A Certificate of Business Registration.
- A Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) certificate.
- Current and valid business license/permit.
- VAT Registration Certificate from Tanzania Revenue Authority.
- The bidder should submit an evidence of previous (PO/Contract) for the supply of disposable Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision kits (VMMC)

A prospective bidder having any question regarding this RFQ shall sent an email to bids@wrp-t.org prior to deadline.

Submit your price quotation to bids@wrp-t.org, mentioning "RFQ No: 11558 Procurement and delivery of single use male circumcision kits for adolescent and adult" in the subject line of email. Last day for submitting quotation is, September 04 2020 at 14:00PM. Together with the quotation, bidders must submit a scanned copy of the required documents/certificate mentioned above.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its quotation. HJFMRI will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs regardless of the conduct or outcome of the evaluation process. **Late bids, shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.**

The Executive Director
HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI)
Plot No. 14A, Block "O" Uhindini Street,
P.O. Box 1176, Mbeya, Tanzania,

215878101



Angelica Peshu (C), Tigo's acting Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services, briefs journalists in Zanzibar at the weekend on a newly formed partnership with Vigor Group of Companies - owners of ZanFast Ferries. The development is meant to enable people to buy ZanFast ferry tickets via Tigo Pesa. Left is Vigor Group managing director ToufiqTurk. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government and various stakeholders have been urged to continue creating public awareness to help people with albinism (PWAs) as many do not know how to protect themselves.

Some of the PWAs, living in abject poverty do not have the knowledge of how to protect their bodies by having the right clothing or sunglasses as well as sunscreen lotion.

The observation was made here at the weekend by the Founder, Albino Awareness Foundation (AAF), Suleiman Magoma noting that PWAs need to live free from discrimination, stigma, and brutality as well as being enabled to access to solutions that will allow them to fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

He thanked the government for the efforts that have helped reduce brutality and killing of PWAs, especially at this time when the campaign for the next general elections have just started.

"I thank the government and all the responsible authorities for making people with albinism live at peace, especially during this election period" he said, adding that there is however the need to continue public education on the PWAs, reminding them on how to take care of themselves.

He said for the past five years things have really changed and almost no killings of PWA have been recorded,

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government has given eight days for people and stakeholders to come up with views for the Arusha-Moshi passenger train fares.

The government's call to involve people and stakeholders in setting train fares stems from its aim in improving train services in the country.

The call was given at the weekend by the Director of Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA), Gilliard Ngewe at a sitting to receive views from people and other stakeholders who use train services in Arusha Region.

He said the train trial run this month by Tanzania Railways Corporation shows that regular services would start

'Help us to raise positive awareness on albinism'

noting the government has done all it takes to protect them.

Nevertheless, he pointed out that some people with albinism live difficult lives and cannot afford the right care for their skin, calling on the society to reach out to such needy people.

Magoma was speaking at the event to handover donations by the organization to a needy family of five children with albinism at Kikuyu area in Dodoma city.

The foundation donated hats, sunscreen lotions, telescope, sun glasses, sanitary pads, clothes, foodstuff as well opening a small grocery business to enable the family earn some income.

He said after hearing the plight of the family of Edna Sila (50), a mother of eight he engaged fellow workers at the ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation who in turn donated some money that enabled him buy the basic needs for the children with albinism.

The AAF boss noted that among work colleagues who were touched by the story of the poor family and made contribution was the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge.

"I am grateful to the support from

my workmates including the PS and other well wishers that have touched the lives of the needy children with albinism" he said.

In addition to AAF gesture, another local NGO, the Organisation for social support initiatives and environment conservation (OSSIEC) also supported one of the children with albinism by donating a sewing machine.

OSSIEC Director, Kennedy Kassian, noted that his organization work towards helping the needy people in the society and that he was touched by the condition of the children in the family.

"What we have done today is to help Asha cope with life by using her skills in sewing to an some income and support the family too" he said, adding the society should always come in support of such people.

Edna Sila, the mother of seven, five of whom are with albinism thanked the organizations for the donation, calling others to see how to help. She said due to the poor condition, family hardly affords three meals per day.

"The donation is likely to bring positive impact in my family for we cannot afford three meals in a day and at times we go with just one meal" she said.

Govt seeks stakeholders' views on Moshi-Arusha passenger fare

very soon.

He said collecting views is an important foundation for good governance by involving the people as it would strengthen train services in the country.

"our country has rewritten history in restoring the train services that had been suspended for several decades and I call on all the people living near the railway line to protect the infrastructure for the national development," he said.

Speaking at the opening of

the meeting, Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary Richard Kwitega said in the five years of Phase V Government, many things have been accomplished, hence there could be some internal antagonists who are not happy with these accomplishments.

He said the last time a passenger train to be seen in Arusha was 1983, and for a goods train 1987.

He said on December 6 2019 the government officially restored the Dar es Salaam-Moshi train services.

Doctors from China provide 200m/- medical Equipment and drugs to Pemba hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

A TEAM of 29 medical doctors from China has donated medical equipment, drugs and books valued at more than 200m/- to Abdallah Mzee Hospital at Mkoani in Pemba South Region.

The leader of the team, Dr Youan Tongzhou, said the assistance is a result of good relationship shown between workers at the hospital and the health ministry in general.

He said from the number of patients seeking treatment, they believed there were many challenges at the hospital hence the decision to chip in assistance.

Speaking at the handing over event in the presence of Mkoani District Commissioner Mkoani District Commissioner, Dr Youan said they have decided to assist people in Pemba to get better medical services.

Receiving the assistance, Mkoani District Commissioner Issa Juma Ali thanked the Chinese doctors for various medical assistance at the hospital saying it reflects good cooperation between China and Zanzibar.

He also called upon workers at the hospital to take care of the equipment and cautioned that stern measures would be taken against any health workers who will be found misusing them.

Expressing his thanks for the

assistance, Medical Operations Officer from the Ministry of Health in Pemba Dr Yusuf Hamadi Iddi thanked the doctors saying they will be of great assistance to patients especially those involved in accidents.

The hospital's Doctor in Charge Haji Mwitaji said the medical equipment will be used for the intended purposes and pledged to take care of them.



He also called upon workers at the hospital to take care of the equipment and cautioned that stern measures would be taken against any health workers who will be found misusing them



NMB Bank Plc chief internal auditor Juma Kimori has an audience at a seminar the bank held in Dodoma city yesterday for members of the business community. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Momba

THE Government has pledged to provide 200m/- for the construction of five lecture halls at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Myunga Campus in Momba District, Songwe Region.

The pledge has been revealed at the weekend by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilapo during his inspection visit at the dining room built by government funds

Govt pledges 200m/- for construction of five lecture halls at Campus for DIT

through the ministry.

He said the 200m/- pledge had been requested by the DIT students at the campus for the refurbishing of teaching infrastructures including

lecture halls, sports stadium including sports equipment and a vehicle to carry students in their visits to factories.

Dr Akwilapo said he believes the

money requested will be used to build quality lecture halls by using DIT experts.

"I hail DIT for the good management of financial resources that enabled

the construction of the Myunga DIT Campus in Songwe Region and we shall provide another 200m/- for the completion of the infrastructures to enable students study in a friendly

environment," he said.

Head of DIT Prof Preksedis Ndomba thanked the government for the requested funds and promised that the money will be well utilized.



SALARY AND BENEFIT SURVEY

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation—Tanzania (Baylor-Tanzania) is a locally registered NGO since 2009 mainly funded by USAID Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania work in partnership with Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children (MOHCDGEC) to improve provision of services for HIV and other diseases affecting children in the Lake and Southern Highland zones of Tanzania. Baylor-Tanzania is affiliated with the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) network, a program operating out of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania has two Centre's of Excellence which provides pediatric HIV and other diseases prevention, care, and treatment program with the goal of reducing HIV/AIDS-related morbidity and mortality among infants, children, and adolescents in Tanzania. Baylor-Tanzania works closely with partner organizations and healthcare providers to ensure delivery of high-quality services, empowerment of health care workers, and health system strengthening at supported facilities throughout our regions and zones.

The most important asset that Baylor Tanzania has is its employees. When it comes to providing employees with a good experience, limiting turnover, and attracting top talent to Baylor Tanzania, provision of fair compensation is deemed instrumental. Baylor Tanzania is determined to provide her employees with a fair salary and benefits package. Conducting a salary and benefit survey is considered a best fit approach of which the result will help to determine whether or not Baylor Tanzania is compelled to develop employees' compensation plan.

Therefore, Baylor Tanzania is seeking a qualified and competent **Consulting Firm (experienced in Human Resource)**, to conduct salary and benefits survey under consultancy engagement and at the terms and conditions to be agreed upon. Eligible and competent **Consulting Firms (experienced in Human Resource)**, are invited to submit their Proposal for this assignment.

To assist interested firms in preparation and submissions of their proposals, they are requested to download Terms of Reference posted to our job's portal at <http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz/tor.pdf>

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GENDER AND EQUALITY POLICY

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation—Tanzania (Baylor-Tanzania) is a locally registered NGO since 2009 mainly funded by USAID Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania work in partnership with Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children (MOHCDGEC) to improve provision of services for HIV and other diseases affecting children in the Lake and Southern Highland zones of Tanzania. Baylor-Tanzania is affiliated with the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) network, a program operating out of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania has two Centre's of Excellence which provides pediatric HIV and other diseases prevention, care, and treatment program with the goal of reducing HIV/AIDS-related morbidity and mortality among infants, children, and adolescents in Tanzania. Baylor-Tanzania works closely with partner organizations and healthcare providers to ensure delivery of high-quality services, empowerment of health care workers, and health system strengthening at supported facilities throughout our regions and zones.

Baylor Tanzania is seeking a service of qualified and competent **Consulting Firm**, to develop a Gender and Equality Policy under consultancy engagement and at the terms and conditions to be agreed upon. Eligible and competent **Consulting Firms**, are invited to submit their Proposal for this assignment.

To assist interested firms in preparation and submissions of their proposals, they are requested to download Terms of Reference posted to our job's portal at <http://jobs.baylortanzania.or.tz/torg.pdf>

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NGOs and Chemba district council all out to reduce childhood stunting

By Polycarp Machira, Chemba

CHEMBA District Council is slowly winning war on childhood stunting, thanks to cooperation between the authority and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the district.

Records show that by 2018, the rate of stunting among children less than five years of age in the district was 37 percent but the health expert says that the number has gone much lower and the situation is getting better.

The District Medical Officer (DMO), Deogratius Masino attributes that success recorded to good work done by the Centre for Counseling, Nutrition and Health Care (COUNSETH), a civil society organization implementing a community based gender-driven nutrition project in an effort to reduce child stunting in the district.

COUNSETH with the financial support of Irish Aid is supporting Chemba District Authority to implement a four year gender-driven, learning based, nutrition project in Chemba DC.

He said the organization, though its programme, Dodoma Lishe has brought positive impact in the society, adding that it is working to supplement on the government initiatives in improving services to people.

"COUNSETH as an organization has helped us reach the health department budgetary targets and we sometimes feel they are part and parcel of the government team basing on how closely we work together" he said.

Speaking at the event to handover sanitation equipment and working gear by the programme to the district council, the DMO added, "Let other organizations follow what COUNSETH is doing to help improve people's lives and support the government initiatives.

The equipment includes 38 water tanks (1000lts) to be distributed to 38 health facilities in Chemba district. The water tanks will support in handwashing of the community members accessing the services at the health facilities.

Others are nine water tanks (5000lts) to be used in the wells that will be drilled in nine villages which are among the most water challenged villages in the district.

The rest are 200 hand washing

facilities to be placed in public places including schools, houses of worship like mosques and churches.

The project also distributed working gears to support community health workers in providing services to the community.

The items are 160 bicycles to be provided to workers in 80 villages and back packs to aid them in carrying including tools for data collection. The equipment and working gear have a total cost of Sh 81,051,728.

In a statement read on his behalf by the Division Officer, Robi Stephano, Chemba District Commissioner (DC), Simon Chacha expressed attitude to the good work done by the organization in the district.

He said, "I acknowledge various steps and effort made by the district council in collaboration with COUNSETH in fighting stunting in children within our district.", adding that he is also aware of the project's focus on gender disparities that affect maternal, infant, young child and adolescent nutrition in their community.

He thanked the organization for the equipment and working gears it donated to the district council, saying they will help boost sanitation and hygiene among residents of the targeted villages.

Earlier in her introductory remarks, COUNSETH's Director of Programs, Belinda Diana noted that the Dodoma Lishe programme in its four years (2018-2022) under sponsorship of the Irish Aid aims to reduce under five mortality rate in the district.

She said it targets women who have attained child bearing age, expectant and lactating mothers, children below five years, adolescents, religious and local authority leaders as well as men.

"We thank the Irish Aid for their continued financial support and the District Council for working with us in implementation of the Lishe Dodoma project" she said.

Belinda cited major activities undertaken by the programme as village health and nutrition days, transformative reflective leadership approach whereby leaders and followers help each other to advance to a higher level of development through own initiative in their communities. Others are life skills training to adolescents as well as water sanitation and hygiene.



Chief Roketi Mwashinga of the Safwa of Mbeya Region makes remarks at a meeting at the weekend called to deliberate on ways to use a mix of traditional and religious beliefs and teachings in addressing gender-based violations to ensure gender balance in leadership, education and land ownership and use. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

'Minyughe forest reserve in danger of extinction'

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

MINYUGHE Forest Reserve in Ikungi District in Singida Region is still being invaded by people living within its peripheries who engage in wanton tree cutting and grazing their livestock.

The district's defense and security committee visited the area at the weekend and witnessed unauthorized harvests of forest's products including tree cutting and charcoal burning claimed to be carried out by influx of people from neighbouring regions.

The 2309,000-hectare forest is in Sepuka, Ihanja and Ikungi Wards incorporating the district's 26 villages.

The forest reserve was established under Land Management Programme (LAMP) financed by SIDA, a Swiss international NGO in 2002.

It is home to the indigenous 'miombo' woodlands, swamps and rare "Itigi thickets" with various species of wildlife.

Ikungi District Commissioner who doubles as chairman of the defense and security committee Edward Mpogolo

told committee members, Mwaru ward officials and reporters that the aim of the forest's establishment was to protect the forest's ecosystem and the biodiversity that were in danger of disappearing.

He said another aim was environmental protection and fighting desertification for the current and future generations.

He said the forest, including those in Tabora, Rukwa and Katavi regions also act as the pillar against climate change as well as being source of the internal

drainage for the Greater Ruaha River connecting Rungwa, Muhesi and Kizigo forests," he said.

He said the Minyughe Forest Reserve is a catchment forest for the Wembere valley, a lifeline for lakes Kitangiri and Eyasi.

In the circumstances, Mpogolo instructed for the immediate steps against all those who have invaded the forest, adding that whoever wanted to engage in human activities therein should follow laid down procedures.



Residents of King'azi B at Kwembe in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam, in a desperate move to repair a dust-road badly damaged by recent rains, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

'Students merit vocational skills for meaningful self-employment'

ZANZIBAR Deputy Minister for Education and Vocational Training Simai Mohammed Said has said students need vocational skills for meaningful self-employment and called on students wanting to enroll in universities to select fields that would assist in self-employment and they should not depend on government employment.

Speaking at the opening of "Special Day" for new students ready to join State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)

at Mapinduzi Memorial Monument at Michenzani in Zanzibar.

He said many students who complete higher education have been depending on the government for employment without knowing that the government does not have the ability to employ all of them.

He said it now the time for these

students to have a vision in selecting fields that would enable them to employ themselves.

He said there are many employment opportunities especially in the tourism and other sectors for the youths to take.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary Madina Mjaka Mwinayi called on the

students to spend the day to be well conversant with joining instructions to the university.

SUZA Assistant Deputy Chancellor Prof Mohammed Makame Haji said there have been many problems in the past in enrolling in the university, hence they should use the event to facilitate their ambitions.

Govt pumps in 1.4 billion/- to help agro-research do better

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government has provided 1.4bn/- to the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in support of the institute's key activities including development of oil palm production in the country.

The funds will also be used to produce enough oil palm seedlings which will be distributed to farmers as well as imparting extension officers and farmers with needed agronomic practices to ensure they cultivate the cash crop professionally.

Since when the government embarked on large production of oil palm in the country with intentions to increase availability of crude edible oil, TARI has been tasked to research, produce and distribute the key crop's seedlings to farmers.

TARI- Kihinga and TARI- Ilonga centers have been picked to coordinate all the activities.

National coordinator for oil palm research in Tanzania, Dr Filson Kagimbo said the focus is to produce a total of 5,000,000 seedlings annually.

"We appreciate the government for dishing out the money which enables us to conduct our activities on time and more efficiently," he said.

Dr Kagimbo, who doubles as director for TARI- Kihinga center, expressed a need for the government to mull over increasing the relevant budget allocations in order to have the much-needed strategy to fetch the intended end-results.

He said the imitative requires a serious financial muscle to allow conduction of thorough researches, innovations, seedlings production as well as training farmers and extension officers.

He said that TARI -Kihinga in Kigoma region is currently producing improved oil palm seeds -"Tenere" which will be freely distributed to farmers.

The center has by June this year produced at least 1,805,868 oil palm seedlings which can cover a total of 36,117 acres, he said adding the center targeted to produce 1.2 million oil palm seedlings annually.

Oil palm researcher for the eastern zone, Frank Reuben said at least 76,000 oil palm seedlings have so far been produced at the Morogoro-based TARI- Ilonga center. "The center's focus is to produce 200,000 seedlings within six months; the seedlings will be distributed to farmers in Morogoro, Tanga and Coastal Region," he asserted.

He said the demand for oil palm seedlings increase every day as more farmers opt to grow the crop.

Lack of enough improved oil palm seed varieties and poor awareness on best practices among farmers and agricultural officers are among the factors weakening the performance of the vital sub-sector.

Data shows that in 2018, Tanzania produced a total of 40,500 tonnes of palm oil, out of which, 31,750 tonnes were produced from 19,640 hectare in Kigoma Region.

In Tanzania, the low oil palm produced is contributed to the use of low yielding oil palm varieties, small areas of land devoted to palm production, poor agronomic practices, use of low - quality planting material, old palm trees which have not been replanted for over a century, lot processing facilities as well as lack of extension services.

Tanzania is importing 365,000 metric tonnes of edible oil annually which costs the government at least 443bn/- Palm oil is the most consumed edible oil in Tanzania due to its widespread availability and cost-effectiveness. In 2016, domestic edible oil consumption was estimated to be 570,000MT, 64percent, of it being palm oil, 30percent sunflower and 2 percent cottonseed oil.

TDL vows to develop grape farming in Dodoma Region

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Distilleries Limited (TDL) has expressed its commitment towards the development of grape farming in Dodoma region as well as its ambition of moving to direct contracting with

local grape farmers.

TDL's contribution to local sourcing and intentions to develop the grape industry is aligned with the government's wider efforts to improve the livelihoods of many smallholder farmers and enhancing Tanzania's

economy.

TDL strongly believes that Tanzania's industrial drive can be a success if smallholder farmers are empowered to produce raw materials needed by industries.

TDL's general manager, Devis

Deogratus said the company currently sources approximately 1.2 million litres of wine from CETAWICO and UWAZAMAM, who source local grapes produced in Tanzania. This translates to about 3.3bn/- per annum.

According to Deogratus, the company is committed to increasing local sourcing throughout its entire value chain over the coming years and currently sources 89 per cent of its materials and services locally. This is equivalent to over 46bn/-.

TDL has invested in the creation of Tanzanian brands which include: Imagi, Valeur, Dodoma Wines, Dodoma Rose, Konyagi and Zanzi Cream liqueur which are household names and are structured to cater for a wide array of pallets.



Dorothy Mwaluko, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Investment), speaks at a capacity building seminar for officers in the PM's office. It was in Dodoma at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Mount Kilimanjaro porters trained on financial literacy, business skills

OVER 100 mountain porters in Kilimanjaro Region have been trained on financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills for sustainable incomes during tourism low seasons and disasters like Covid-19.

Organised by financial leasing firm—Equity for Tanzania (EFTA), the one-day training was meant for porters operating on Mount Kilimanjaro and it's geared towards providing them with the skills on entrepreneurship, business formalization, marketing and accounts management.

EFTA marketing manager, Peter Temu said being an award-winning equipment finance company EFTA is dedicated to helping small entrepreneurs and farmers to grow.

"Among our clients are tour operators who

benefited with equipment loans such as tourist's vehicles, that's why we decided to provide entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills to their porters for sustainable income generations as the tourism sector loses its way due to the outbreak of COVID-19," he said.

He added: "After the training, they also benefited with equipment loans as a group or individual worth 20m/- and above."

Training facilitator, Noel Katongo said porters who took part in the training are equipped with business ideas, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship in general, among many

others. "They have learnt on how to innovate and start up utilizes the resources within their areas for sustainable entrepreneurship activities for income generations."

EFTA sales and marketing manager, Doreen Mongi explained that, apart from training porters, the firm has also trained women and youth groups.

One of the beneficiaries, Amani Gasper described the training as an eye opener to him as he had never kept record of his money before.

"But this training gave me skills on how to account for every coin of shilling I get."

Families suffer as EA remittances dry out

By Special Correspondent

JULIUS Minani and his 32-year-old friend Kaduna spent weeks squatting in a dilapidated shack in Alexandria in Johannesburg.

The pair had been evicted from an apartment due to outstanding rent.

Their troubles began in April, when Minani, a chef, was laid off from a fast-food chain restaurant after his bosses complained about a loss of business due to the coronavirus virus, forcing the business to close.

Distraught, Minani, a Burundi native, had been trying to find work but failed due to the imposed lockdown and social distancing restrictions.

"We were literary starving, and couldn't sustain ourselves as our savings dried out," Minani said.

Minani, who moved to South Africa three years ago in search of greener pastures, is among the many migrant workers who have lost jobs because of economic difficulties triggered by the deadly virus.

Lockdowns travel bans and social distancing measures imposed by governments to quell the spread of the pandemic have pushed the global economy to a virtual standstill.

Thousands of African migrant workers forced to return home after losing work, face unemployment and poverty in their own countries, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In host countries, sectors that depend on migrant workers have suffered due to an increased risk of infections and loss of work, wages and health insurance coverage, the labor agency said.

The coronavirus crisis was expected to wipe out 6.7% of working hours globally in the second quarter on 2020 -- equivalent to 195 million full-time workers, said the ILO.

Sectors most at risk include accommodation, food services, manufacturing, retail, business and administrative activities.

Wrecked by crippling unemployment and business disruption, migrants' families at home have suffered a double tragedy due to the loss of remittances.

"Many migrant workers, who have lost their jobs in the host countries had returned when travel restrictions eased, although they might wish to go back after some time," the Director of the ILO's

Condition of Work and Equality Department, Manuela Tomei said.

There are approximately 164 million migrant workers globally, while not all have returned home, ILO said many would.

Minani, who returned to his village in Burundi in June, has not been able to find meaningful work and is considering going back to Johannesburg.

"I would like to go back to Johannesburg when things go back to normal," he said. "I don't have anything."

Remittance flows, which provide an economic lifeline for many poor families in Africa are expected to fall significantly.

POSITION: CIVIL ENGINEER (WATER SUPPLY)

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Plan and schedule the work and efficiently organize the site/facilities in order to meet an agreed program of deadlines.
2. To attend regular meetings with clients, architects and consultants and keeping them informed of progress.
3. Supervise and monitor the site labour force through General Foreman and or Supervisors, monitoring the work of any subcontractors to complete the work as per customer's satisfaction.
4. Oversee quality control and safety matters on the site, and ensure that regulations are adhered to.
5. Resolve any unexpected technical difficulties and other problems that may arise at any time.
6. Oversee the selection and requisition of materials for use in the construction / maintenance, to check whether the materials are as specified.
7. Supervise and ensure proper maintenance of materials and to advice on technology and modifications required for a simpler and cost-saving mechanism.
8. Prepare the necessary paperwork for the completion of work and get it authorized by the client after their inspection.
9. Develop a relationship with the Project Engineer and prepare periodical reports on the progress of work.
10. Experience in water supply projects particularly construction of water supply structures such as Intakes, tanks, treatment plants etc
11. Not less than twelve years of experience in Water/Structure/Building projects

QUALIFICATION AND COMPETENCIES

Education

- A University degree in one of the following fields is required: Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineer, Irrigation Engineer or another relevant technical field.
- Shall be registered with Tanzania Engineers Registered Board

Work Experience

- A minimum of twelve years of professional work experience in water Supply related programmes for developing countries is required.

Language Proficiency

- Fluency in English is required. Knowledge of another official UN language or local language of the duty station is considered as an asset.

How to apply

- Interested candidates should send their application (cover letter and CV) to Serengeti Limited through e-mail info@serengetiltd.com

- Candidates should indicate in their cover letter how they fit the criteria outlined in the advert.

- All applications must be received by 07 September 2020 at 1600hrs East African Standard Time.

- Applicants should clearly indicate the position they are applying for in the email subject line.

215877101

DRILLER (RIG OPERATOR) Required Qualifications, Skills and Experience

Qualifications and skills

- High Diploma or Equivalent in Drilling or related technical field (like Geology).
- Demonstrated practical experience in Direct and Reverse Drilling technologies
- Hands-on contract and day-to-day management of drilling activities
- Demonstrated practical experience in the deep groundwater development from siting up to drilling.
- Demonstrated excellent command of spoken and written English. Fluency in Swahili is added advantage
- Excellent interpersonal and diplomatic skills.

General professional experience

- At least 10 years demonstrated experience in the field of drilling deep boreholes with Direct and Reverse drilling methods and able to provide evidence and contact references

Specific professional experience

- Minimum of 5 years conducting borehole drilling and supervision in Africa. The Candidates must demonstrate that they have conducted at least three similar assignments in the last 3 years.

How to apply

Interested candidates should send their application (cover letter and CV) to Serengeti Limited through e-mail info@serengetiltd.com

Candidates should indicate in their cover letter how they fit the criteria outlined in the advert.

All applications must be received by **07 September 2020 at 1600hrs East African Standard Time.**

Applicants should clearly indicate the position they are applying for in the email subject line.

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TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

INSTITUTE OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Accredited by the National Council for Technical Education

INVITATION FOR 2020/ 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLICATIONS

The Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) invites applications for entry into its various programmes for academic year 2020/2021. Qualified applicants for admission into its competence-based Customs and Tax Management programmes, are invited to apply for programmes specified hereunder:-

1. **Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (PGDT) - 12 months (full-time) or 18 months (Executive). Minimum entry qualification:** A Bachelor's Degree in any business-related field or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.
2. **Bachelor of Customs and Tax Management (BCTM) - Three years (full-time) Minimum entry qualification:** Either Two Principal Passes at "A" Level in business related subjects with a minimum total of 4.0 grade points or a minimum of Second Class (Lower Division) Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management or any other Ordinary Diploma in a business related discipline. All applicants for the BCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).
3. **Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (DCTM) - Two years (full-time) Minimum entry qualification:** Basic Technician Certificate (NTA level 4) in Customs and Tax Management or in any other business-related discipline; OR One Principal Pass and one Subsidiary Pass at "A" Level in business related discipline. All applicants for the DCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).
4. **Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (CCTM) - One year (full-time). Minimum entry qualification:** FOUR passes in business related subjects at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).
5. **The Institute also invites applications for the East African Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (CFFPC) - Four months (full-time) or Six months (part-time). Minimum Entry Qualifications:** TWO passes at "O" Level excluding religious subjects

MODE OF APPLICATION

- a) Applications should be done online through www.ita.ac.tz
- b) BCTM, DCTM and CCTM applications must be accompanied with evidence of payment of a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 10,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- c) PGDT and CFFPC applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 30,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- d) The fee may be paid through **M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa and Airtel Money.**
- e) The application Fee for foreign applicants should be paid through Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Tanzania, **ITA fee collection account Number: - 3300481074.**

The deadline for applications is **15th September 2020 for CFFPC, CCTM, DCTM and PGDT. Application deadline for BCTM is 25th September 2020.**

For more information please contact:

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Saving most of this year's tourism activity still possible

AUTHORITIES at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism believe that current goals in the tourism sector will be dented somewhat but the season will definitely not be lost to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Permanent Secretary Dr Aloyce Nzuki told a media conference lately that one million tourists are still likely despite the Covid-19 outbreak, which would definitely be a spectacular achievement in the circumstances. There was a disruption but ministerial experts believe that most of our erstwhile expected tourist visitors would just have rescheduled their visits until better times are signaled.

With the fairly early opening of the country's skies, these experts see every possibility that the country's goals, while they can't be achieved as projected earlier, could at most be cut in half to about one million tourists, rather than being lost to Covid-19 parched territory.

That is basically what the Permanent Secretary was underlining, that opening the country's skies early enough, upon solid evidence that things were alright in the country, will facilitate modest results in tourism for this season, curbing awful decline.

It is also possible there is an advantage that we cannot for good reason shout on top of our voices at the level of government in particular, as Tanzania did not reopen its skies merely as a pragmatic pursuit of tourist arrivals at any cost, but on solid, non-slippery ground. This reality of Tanzania being significantly safer than most other tourist destinations in this part of the world and well beyond is now being admitted in capitals around the world. This will help to propel tourism activity once originally skeptical travel

agencies and planners start coming round to admit as much, on the basis of observations, word of mouth.

There are things in commerce where advertising cannot assure that the message is sent and received, as by its very nature advertorial content is one sided, it shows all the shine and not gaps or weaknesses. This is what is filled up by word of mouth, as those talking at person to person terms engage their confidence and trust in the one to whom they are speaking, and will take his or her word as valid, well intentioned and in that sense, as sufficient basis to make a decision. Those among foreign operating agencies like airlines and other travel organizations present in the country will most likely spread the word of mouth to others.

Tourism is a win-win situation for the recipient country and travel agencies involved, airlines etc as they all get a piece of the pie when people unlock their savings to make a visit in a far away country, and even if it was nearby as it all requires significant resource allocation. In that case when a country is singularly demonstrated to be safe, for all intents and purposes, it would be a substitute destination for travelers whose choices would otherwise be wider, even when Tanzania would still have been an option. Now it might become an obvious choice as few similar destinations could rival the level of confirmed safety, etc.

Tourist flows this year will relate to wanton disregard of traffic lights at intersections - they just race away against red lights, right in front of a traffic cop. Their arrogance is unimaginable. But while our upcountry roads continue to haunt those using them, passengers and pedestrians alike through loss of life and limb, those in the city of Dar es Salaam, apart from motorists' bad manners, inculcate their own version of anguish in traffic congestion.

Dar's transport blues call for much greater govt attention

THERE are no two ways about it, as conditions are at the moment, driving around Dar es Salaam is a nightmare at best of times.

It is further depressing that this uncomfortable situation is unlikely to ease any time soon, despite efforts in widening some of city roads to four or even eight lane carriageways, the construction rapid transit motorways or even flyovers at busy intersections.

And talking about rapid transport motorways (mwendokasi), the Kimara-Magogoni Ferry rapid transport system inaugurated four years ago is yet to show any tangible relief it has provided to the Dar commuters' transport woes.

In fact, at times the entire system becomes closed due to rains which flood the Jangwani stretch of the infrastructure due what was clearly poor workmanship in its planning.

However, it would be wrong to heap blame for all the Dar commuters' transport woes entirely on the Government, local or central.

It is true that Dar es Salaam's road network was never designed to accommodate the amount of vehicular traffic that plies the labyrinthine grid that makes the roads and streets of this large metropolis.

On the other hand, this hopeless situation is exacerbated by the very bad road manners one encounters in the city; regrettably by all types of road users. No pedestrian is ready to let a car pass when the two encounter even on the straight road.

It is by no means certain whether even the police know why motorists in this city punch the Highway Code on the nose.

Further, it would appear that the

law enforcement forces are as well overwhelmed by the scale of wanton disregard of laws and simply the absence of good road manners.

Just imagine the audacity being displayed by our motorcyclists in wanton disregard of traffic lights at intersections - they just race away against red lights, right in front of a traffic cop. Their arrogance is unimaginable.

But while our upcountry roads continue to haunt those using them, passengers and pedestrians alike through loss of life and limb, those in the city of Dar es Salaam, apart from motorists' bad manners, inculcate their own version of anguish in traffic congestion.

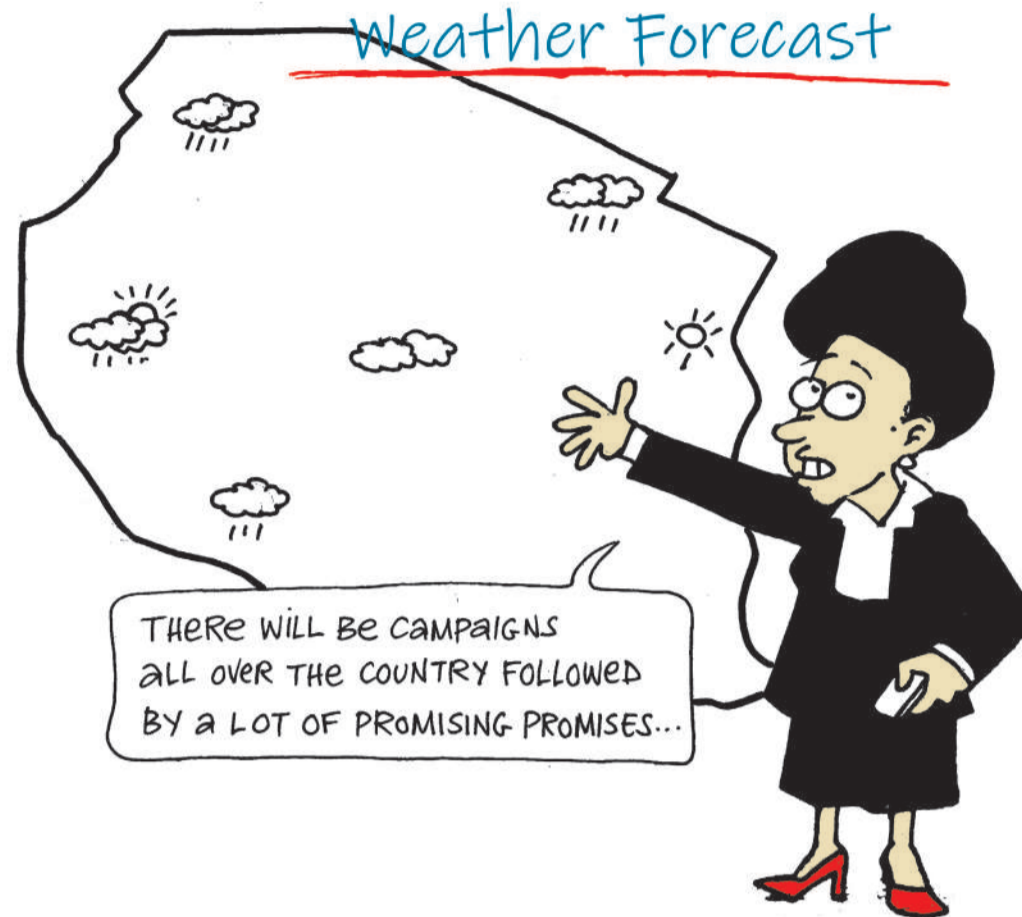
The only difference between the two is the speed. In the former it's the vehicles' jet-speed that claim human lives while in the latter it's their snail pace that infuriates and inconveniences many motorists.

And since their invention motor vehicles have always been associated with speed. The first car racing took place in 1895 as the machines were only in the first stages of development. So from then on it has been speed, as they say in Kiswahili slang "speed kwa kwenda mbele" with very disastrous consequences to human lives and property.

Also consider this truth among motorists: - why is it always that the driver behind you appears to be racing while the one in front is only sightseeing?

Surely, the human race is addicted to racing, but with callous consequences.

The spate of carnage on our roads in recent days must instill this question to any clear mind - what's wrong with our transport sector?



Change begins with choice

By Capt Sam Addaih

ANY day we wish we can discipline ourselves to change it all. Any day we wish we can open the book that will open our mind to new knowledge. Any day we wish we can start a new activity. Any day we wish we can start the process of life change. We can do it immediately, or next week, or next month, or next year." Change begins with choice says Jim Rohn.

We can also do nothing. We can pretend rather than perform. And if the idea of having to change ourselves makes us uncomfortable, we can remain as we are. We can choose rest over labor, entertainment over education, delusion over truth, and doubt over confidence. The choices are ours to make. "But while we curse the effect, we continue to nourish the cause." As Shakespeare uniquely observed, "The fault is not in the stars, but in ourselves."

We created our circumstances by our past choices. We have both the ability and the responsibility to make better choices beginning today. Those who are in search of the good life do not need more answers or more time to think things over to reach better conclusions. They need the truth. They need the whole truth. And they need nothing but the truth.

We cannot allow our errors in judgment, repeated every day, to lead us down the wrong path. We must keep coming back to those basics that make the biggest difference in how our life works out. Activity is one of those important basics that we cannot afford to neglect.

In order to produce the desired results we must put intelligence as well as intensity into our activity. Action without intelligence can be destructive. But we must not spend too much time in the process of acquiring intelligence. All things must be in their rightful ratio.

It is so easy to mistake motion for progress and movement for achievement. That is why activity must be deliberately planned, carefully refined and consistently executed.

We must become wise enough to use today to plan tomorrow. We must design the future, not just dream about it. If we discipline ourselves to put intelligence into our plans, we will put fortune into our future.

In our journey toward success we need to select a specific destination. We also need to anticipate the obstacles and the risks and be prepared to respond to them whenever they appear.

Having well-defined goals is an essential part of any life plan. These goals should be recorded in writing,



and should reflect both short-term and long-range planning. Short-term goals serve as landmarks along the journey. They are the small stepping stones that lead to the achievement of our long-term fortune and help us to stay on track over a long period of time.

Long-range goals serve as milestones. They are the points of achievement along the way that give us cause to celebrate the fruits of our efforts.

But the most important part of planning and goal-setting is to see in our "mind's eye" the major objective that we are pursuing. This is what Rohn calls the "magnificent obsession" This is the very nerve center of our ambition. This is what drives us.

Major objectives are the unseen force that pulls us into the future. Through our daily activity and discipline we provide the push to propel us toward success. But it is the dream of the future achievement of our objectives that pulls us along day after day and pulls us through the major obstacles we encounter along the way. The exciting thing about this process is that the more we push, the more the future begins to pull.

"As we demonstrate our unwavering determination to conquer our limitations, increase our intelligence and achieve our objective, that still small voice within us begins to speak its special and promising message adding to the pull of the future. As we listen carefully to this voice, and respond instinctively to its urgings, the pull becomes stronger and the future more certain."

Our better future begins with a worthy objective and a simple plan. We must not allow our plan to become excessively burdened by complexities. Many of the answers take time to discover. It is virtually impossible to

plan every detail or to anticipate every obstacle.

We must also be careful not to allow the opinions of others to unduly influence the development of our plan for the good life. Others will have opinions about what we should do, but the final plan for progress must be our plan. We should listen to the voices of value, but we must remember that no one else will see our plan or sense our obsession quite the way we do. "It must be a personally designed plan, and its creator and architect must remain at the helm of the ship throughout the entire journey."

There is a tendency for the negative side of life to infiltrate our plans, our dreams, and our activities in an effort to seize control. There is a tendency for optimism to surrender to doubt. There is a tendency for a simple plan to become a complex plan. There is a tendency for courage to give way to fear, and for confidence to be overwhelmed by worry.

Only through the consistent application of discipline can we prevent the negative tendencies of life from destroying our plans. With the passing of a little time and the attainment of a little success, we can become careless. That is why those in pursuit of the good life must develop a new sense of appreciation for discipline, and become aware of all that they can do and all that they can achieve.

Any day we choose we can walk away from wherever we are regardless of the circumstances. By small leaps we can begin the process of amending our activity to such a degree that today can become the starting point of a whole new life.

We do it by designing a good plan. We do it by setting new goals. We do it by working every day on the little things

that will make a major difference in how our lives turn out. Like everything else that success requires, developing the discipline that it takes to achieve our dreams is easy to do and it is also easy not to do.

The early inspiration that comes from the practice of new and simple disciplines will start a process called "soaring self-worth." It does not matter how small or how insignificant the activity is because it is within those obscure but important disciplines that the great opportunities exist.

"This kind of simple progress will build a ladder leading out of the abyss of failure and neglect that once was our dwelling place. With each new discipline we will have constructed a new rung that will enable us to climb out of the darkness where the failures, the complainers, and the confused and misguided gather to share their sad stories of how unfair life is." Building the ladder is easy to do. The smallest of disciplines, practiced every day, start an incredible process that can change our lives forever.

Until we have learned to take care of the little opportunities life brings our way, we will never master the disciplines for becoming happy and prosperous. The major accomplishments in life begin with the mastery of the small disciplines. "Planning, imagination and intense activity are awesome forces that have the power to dramatically change the quality of our lives."

Activity is a major part of the life puzzle. It is the power that gives substance and meaning to our philosophy and our attitude. Intelligent, planned, intense, and consistent activity creates new energy and keeps us moving toward the exciting future that our thoughts and desires have already designed for us.

BY JAMES THOMAS-QUEH

Of late voices have been heard for the government to re-establish the Death Penalty for rapists. The first call came from the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). Next, a Reverend, the National Orator of the July 26, 2020 Independence Day celebration, added his voice. Then we soon heard that President Weah has given his "unflinching support for capital punishment for those violating minors". And quickly the opposition ANC leader jumped on the opportunity to "blast" the government on its handling of rape cases among other issues. Well, he was also very short of solutions, and neither did he manifest any opposition to the use of the Death Penalty. Or this is an election season, and anything may be good for the ears.

But the application of the Capital Punishment is not a play-play or cheap political talk. It is a very important, sensitive national issue that has many unsuspected moral, social and political ramifications - not only for the national leadership, but also the nation as a whole. Imagine, the President - be he/she an imperial democrat, dictator, tyrant, autocrat, etc (and we have had such potentates in the past) - has an absolute power to sign the death of a citizen. And mind you, our nation has an over 80% illiterate population, poor and does not even understand the functioning of the justice system. This reality has created the perennial travesty of justice since the founding of our Republic in 1847. A justice system serving only the interest of the ruling class in cohort with a minute educated minority.

This fact was high on my mind when I published the essay: "Liberian Criminal Justice System: In Retrospect and Reforms" at the inception of the Sirleaf government in 2006. In that essay, I recommended that both the Capital and Corporal Punishments be abolished and inscribed into our constitution as such. First, because criminological studies have shown that these barbaric punishments since the medieval time have no deterrence effect. And truly, if the Death Penalty had any effect, then there should not be so much mass murders in the United States - the only Western power where this pen-

Beware, President Weah: Capital punishment could turn out to be irreversible political trap



alty has been applied unabated. And second, I have the deepest conviction that the rampant applications of both punishments under the Tolbert and Doe administrations was a politically motivated exercise rather than any intent to combat crime.

On this point, I applaud the effort of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf not to have applied the Capital and Corporal Punishments during her twelve years at the helm of power. Unfortunately, she did not abolish them; instead, the 1976 Penal Code was amended to add Death Penalty or Life Imprisonment without the possibility of parole to be imposed on an offender who, during the commission of the crimes of terrorism or hijacking or armed robbery, causes the death of his victim.

Now, I am fully aware that a rape - especially on minors - is among the most heinous crimes and certainly does merit the harshest punishment in the Penal Code. Notwithstanding, I am vehemently against the re-introducing of the Capital Punishment in Liberia. What is more, in a country still with deep scars of the civil war, weak political system, institutions,

judiciary and the rest - we would be sending the wrong signal to the international community. Further, it will destabilize more the dispensation of justice and psychological impact the population.

For these reasons and more to follow, I would urge the government to look into the second option of the amended 1976 Penal Code mentioned - if no previous legislations already on rape - so that Life Imprisonment without the possibility of parole to be imposed on an offender convicted of rape. Honestly, for me the Capital Punishment depicts a cruel, brutal, savage and non-forgiveness society. And a "Christian nation and God fearing people" out to be forgiven and magnanimous.

Having that in mind, I will now add a brief synopsis of my personal encounter with the Capital Punishment, hoping that it will aid the President in his reflection and also our refresh memories and awaken some conscience.

My Professional/Personal Experience with the Capital Punishment Having already recounted a small

portion of my professional adventures in a previous article, here is another aspect briefly traced. I joined the staff of the Division of Rehabilitation, Ministry of Justice, in the late 1970s, not having the slightest idea that the Division had the supervising role in the application of the Death Penalty. And needless to mention that the entire staff of the Division were all young professionals, recruited mainly to implement the modern prison reforms initiated by the government, and not to oversee public executions. Perhaps, though, we must have been also too young, career conscientious only and politically naïve.

The reality, President Tolbert (1971-1980) was also a Reverend. Immediately after taking power on July 23rd, 1971, he begun public executions on November 19th, 1971 - something totally foreign then to Liberia - even though the Death Penalty was stipulated in the penal code. By the time I joined the Division there had already been seven (7) executions, and during my stay we supervised nine (9) more executions up to April 12, 1980. This brings the total number of executions to sixteen (16) during the entire Tolbert administration. Additionally, there were also many brutal public flogging scenes of juvenile delinquents. Well, at the end President Tolbert himself was also executed. Thus the axiom: violence has the propensity to produce violence.

The Doe regime (1980-1990) had the identical trajectory as its predecessor, though with a great difference in the number of executions and the methods of their applications. From what is already known the methods went from summary executions by firing squad to bayonet, bludgeon and the official gallows. While it may be impossible to give the exact figures of these summary executions, it is estimated that between 30 to 40 soldiers and civilians must have lost their lives in the process of the military coup on April 12, 1980; then April 17, 1980, first firing squad: three (3) soldiers and one (1) civilian; April 22, 1980, second firing squad: thirteen (13) former government officials; March 6, 1981,

seven (7) convicted long serving murderers were hanged at the Monrovia Central Prison to mark the first anniversary of the military coup d'état; August 1981, General Thomas Weh Syen and four (4) other PRC members were shot and bludgeoned in prison for an alleged plot against Doe; February 3, 1982, third firing squad: four (4) army lieutenants who ambushed a military vehicle and killed three of their four fellow officers transporting \$53,203.75 to pay an army battalion in the Gbama District... and the list could continue infinitely.

And the same cause produced the same effect for President Doe; thus adding yet another inglorious chapter to our socio-political history.

The excessive applications of both the Capital and Corporal Punishments under the Tolbert and Doe administrations (though I did not served in the Doe administration; took exit just few months after the military coup), and my own profound professional and personal conviction that both punishments were futile and socially, politically toxic - led me to undertake a research paper: "Capital and Corporal Punishments in Liberia (1971-1985)" (see: Liberia-Forum, Vol.3, N°5, Liberia Working Group, 1987, pp. 45-59, West Germany).

My findings

The public executions were supposedly launched by President Tolbert to deter the increasing criminality. But when the executions are tallied with the three most intense political periods, one quickly sees the correlation that they were politically motivated.

First, 1971 (4 executions) - President Tolbert took power under an uncertain political situation and sensed the wary population had no confidence in him. Thus the executions were intended to put the fear of God in the people and legitimize his power. Second, 1974 (3 executions) - the "progressives" had the President's feet to the fire to speed up the long awaited political reforms. This period culminated to the tragic death of the President's brother, Steve Tolbert, (the Minister of Finance) in a plane crash the following year, 1975. And third,

1978/79 (9 executions - two (2) on Oct.13, 1978, were simply the prelude for the seven others know as the "ritualistic killers", executed on Feb. 16, 1979) - the social and political tension in the country was at a boiling point. The executed - Allen Yancy, James Anderson et al were high profile political figures of Maryland county; their orchestrated elimination was a premeditated decapitation of the ruling settler class leadership of the county. Thus it was not surprising that these executions would immediately unleash the unprecedented violent "Rice Riot" of April 14, 1979, followed by the April 12, 1980 bloody military coup d'état - dethroning the entire ruling settler class leadership of Liberia.

Then comes President Doe, putting an entire government before a firing squad for "rampant corruption." But looking at our situation since, President Tolbert, in effect, was an angel. Because not only did we end up with a civil war that took us more than forty years backward, but also our country is classed among the most corrupt nations of the world.

That said, there were also other interesting revelations. The Death Penalty is not only extremely futile with a socio-political impact, but it also has an important, subtle psychological impact on the Judiciary, those in direct contact with the execution and the spectators to be supposedly deterred.

For the Judiciary, after the executions of Feb. 16, 1979, I discovered the courts manifested their discontent against the Death Penalty in three different manners: (a) deliberate delay of trials and appeals in murder cases, (b) outright acquittals, and (c) back-door arrangements or bribes to reduce murder charges to lesser offences.

The sad result - in the last days of the Tolbert administration the population perceived also the Judiciary as the most corrupt in that the controversial murder cases were systematically acquitted or reduced to lesser offences (ex. Edward Gberi and Leonard Bailey murder cases).

EU-Africa cooperation on migration is collaborative effort

BY KAMEL GHRIBI

As with many EU nations, Italy is facing the enormous task of rebuilding its economy in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tunisia is facing the same situation but economic recovery is compounded by the impact of regional instability on its myriad industries. As with Italy, no sector has been hit harder than tourism.

Adding to this difficult situation is the question of uncontrolled illegal immigration. I would like to express my deep gratitude that this question is now finally being addressed in earnest thanks to the industrious behind the scenes work carried out by the Italian and Tunisian diplomatic missions represented in Rome and Tunis. Thanks to their gutta cavat lapidem approach, combined with the deep desire of Italian Foreign Minister Luigi di Maio and Minister of the Interior Luciana Lamorgese to find a long-term solution to an age old difficulty, an official visit of great importance is taking place today in Tunis with the Tunisian Government.

The importance of this visit cannot be underestimated, not only for the two nations most deeply affected by illegal immigration, but also for the EU who have thrown their full support behind the Italian mission by sending two special envoys - Commissioner Borrell and Commissioner Joansson. The symbolic significance of this choice will not go unheeded.

Tunisia, by virtue of geography, has always been an important strategic partner for the EU through trade and as a "privileged partner"; however it is also, like Italy, a migration hub and is often the first port of call for many sub-Saharan immigrants. Tunisia is considered the first transit safe-haven as immigrants attempt to reach European shores.



Immigration is a humanitarian issue, and as the Tunisian President correctly stated, security solutions alone cannot resolve the situation. Therefore, a new approach to resolving the problem is long overdue; this time, however, there is more pressure on the EU to deliver on promises made. A commitment to robust bilateral economic programmes that sustain and support the countries generating migrants and transit nations such as Tunisia is needed if we are to curb the desperate exodus.

Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the factors in the surge of migration, but we cannot ignore the pre-existing economic situations combined with high youth unemployment that have aggravated an already difficult situation. Therefore, we are now witnessing a surge in a different type of migrant. As well as the economic and political refugees of the past, we are now seeing the exodus of entire families and highly educated graduates hoping to find a better life in Europe. It has been noted that many of these immigrants are young Tunisians.

Immigration is not a one-nation problem. Italy is struggling to recover from the devastation caused by COVID-19 and has already voiced concerns about the need for speedy intervention that will curb the flow of illegal immigrants. I maintain the view that with the right support Tunisia holds the ideal solution to this problem.

EU member states will need to create an initiative in Tunisia aimed at legally processing immigrants and creating a systematic and controlled arrival and integration programme that can regulate the arrival of immigrants to Europe allowing them safety, protection and a chance to build a new life. Tunisia, as a transit country, will always be an ideal and partner to share the burden of immigration together with nations of origin and those of destination, but only if adequately supported.

Tunisia cannot be abandoned at this delicate time. The EU must endeavour to seek more balanced partnerships, and although this will be a challenge, the balance must be found if we are to stabilise the region

as a whole and transcend political divisions. Without regional stability then no structured immigration programmes between any MENA nation and the EU can ever succeed in the face of refugees fleeing unemployment and lack of opportunity on the one hand, and on the other, hunger, persecution, violence and oppression.

Tunisia can be an inspiration for the region because it has made and will continue to make credible strides towards democracy, political, social and economic reform as well as border security. The EU can play a role in the region by supporting Tunisia's success as a model to follow. We must not forget, however, that Tunisia still has much hard work to do in terms of the institutional reforms necessary to strengthen and consolidate the full transition towards a mature democracy. Furthermore, the EU will also need to consider ways to assist Tunisia domestically and not simply with the issue of immigration.

Illegal immigration affects the entire European Union; therefore, Italy and Tunisia cannot be left alone to

deal with the influx of migrants. The fact that the EU has sent representatives to join the Italian Foreign Minister and Minister of the Interior to meet in Tunis is a positive sign that the EU understands the critical importance of finding a common vision that will foster fair, open and egalitarian dialogue.

We need to find long-term solutions to the problem of illegal immigration and resources must be channelled towards frontline nations such as Italy and Tunisia because as we have found out to our great cost, both economically and in terms of human life - illegal immigration is an irresolvable problem in the short-term.

Migration policies must follow a long-term vision and address the root causes of emigration in the nations of origin, they must identify the best way to support transit countries such as Tunisia and adequately control borders before adopting other measures in countries of destination in this case, EU member states.

The only way this can be achieved is for the EU to dedicate economic resources for the development of Africa and the MENA region, as investment encourages economic development and offers tangible improvements and better living conditions that will prevent people from being obliged to leave their countries of origin.

However, to succeed we will need courage and ambition. We need to generate opportunities and offer investment incentives that strengthen the production base, create jobs in the countries of origin, provide basic healthcare and educational services to the local populations, ensure that the young have the tools to decide their future and thus avoid the temptation to migrate to Europe. The simple and indeed logical truth is that either we offer migrants opportunities in their own countries, or they

will come to ours looking for them in Europe.

The responsibility to assist does not fall on governments alone; my personal business approach demonstrates that the private sector and individual entrepreneurs can do much to help create employment and strengthen businesses through strategic investments and financing targeted projects in the nations within which they operate.

There is also no doubt that Tunisia has been at the receiving end of much financial support from the EU; however, I believe that in these delicate COVID-19 times now could be the right time to revise the external economic agendas imposed on Tunisia and re-examine the true nature of the conditions attached to the financial support offered.

That loans must come with interest rates is non-negotiable; what is negotiable however is whether they should come imposed with austerity measures that will harden socio-economic conditions by burdening future generations.

In exchange, Tunisia will have to show itself to be a serious and reliable Mediterranean partner capable of maintaining the commitments undertaken to make the borders with Europe safe.

We cannot fail in this mission and the fact that the European Union is accompanying the Italian mission to Tunis underlines an acute awareness of the fact that, paradoxically, most of the immigrants who land on Italian shores have no desire to stay. Italy is quite simply not the coveted destination but rather, it is considered a transit country for immigrants wishing to reach other European states.

Today is a once in a generation opportunity for Euro-Mediterranean relations and I have faith in its deep symbolism.

By Jerry Laz

Allow President Buhari 'to flatten the curve'

Whatever that is happening to this great nation now is not by surprise. This is not a happenstance of us has predicted it, because the coming together of the All Progressive Congress and Congress for Progressive Change C.P.C has no nitty-gritty and the centre fails to hold. Every elite is a stakeholder and shareholder of the project Nigeria. So the Union haven survived the six years hullabaloo and upheavals is a huge success. The formation is like that of Nigeria since 1914 till date we have been managing ourselves even undermining great prices our culture, thinking are never the same and will never be. We have heard from Ango Abdullahi that after Shagari no election is credible that is true.

But calling for restructuring, repositioning or whatever name for now is distraction. Let us give Buhari the support and forget the Buccaneer politicians who lack the ideological compass. Now here is National Consultation Front (N.C.F), the Third Force is dead. Please all the distractor should stop telling the world that the nation is like a calabash floating on the sea though will not sink but has no direction. What this country needs now is the elder statesmen's advice they have been doing the needful but we hope for their best.

Un Almajiri which suppose not to be discussed as a national issue, those who read Islamic Studies has said that given birth to a child whom you can't take care of and goes begging is un-Islamic. Is sequel to those so-called Christians who teach religion outside Christ? Christ point of prayer which is our father who is at in heaven which even some Muslims know there is no die, die, blood of Jesus or Holy Ghost fire and all worth not by slightest provocation it is anti-christ and it is lack of faith which is fear.

However, as we have two main religions in the country is this fear that make them think of marginalization. Jamaatu Nasir Islam, Christian Association of Nigeria. The Clerics should come out teach well the Muslims to teach real Islamic teachings which is love and the true Christian to teach Christ without pretending hence the call of restructuring. I am of the opinion that if Muslim,



Muslim or Christian Christian will make this system of government see the light of the day let us go by it. Since is like others are failing. Buhari Ideagbon was there then. Now in Kaduna comrade. Mallam El-Rufai has done it, the heavens did not fall. Many detractors, sometimes, I am forced to wonder if some of these men and women who want to pull down this nation to fail to know that is not Buhari alone will not sink, but the entire nation. Buhari probity, integrity and uprightness are intact he (Buhari) is known

and recognized as champion of the anti-corruption fighter in Africa. If one chose one whom one feel will work for one is not nepotism or misconstrued as creating neither vacuum nor weakness. Buhari is determined not to be distracted by uninformed attacks from misguided politician within his party and oppositions. Buhari is determined to fight corruption to a finish.

When is February 14th 2019 and July 11th same year in Authority newspaper I wrote of comrade El-Rufai never been rotted

despite distractions from sycophant. He did it Muslim, Muslim and he said that his deputy the medical Doctor that Almighty God use her to save him from the pandemic. Whenever I write of him (El-Rufai) some will call my line and accuse me of having soft sport for him. P.M.P. if it the Boron men that will help you finish the race for this three years go ahead.

My dear fellow Nigerian without medium of doubt I ask that we remain steadfast, irrevocable and resolutely committed progress, develop peace and make the country through some critical Nigeria stakeholders on the need to embrace the virtue of patience with P.M.B. as he settles for good governance and infrastructural development remains legendary, for this remaining three years.

Let us leave fear give Buhari the support if you don't have love of God the love of the nation will not be there please we should listen to some Clerics, like Imam, Sheikh Suleiman Adam of Sultan Belo Mosque Kaduna he preaches and teaches peace and not fear. Paul Eneche of Dunamis Church and his wife teaches of God's oneness of mind and not religion but Christ, he will teach you about the death of Christ, his burial, his resurrection and his ascension. Look not on the building for that is for the congregation he will let you know that the church is whom you are in Christ whom Christ is in you, not the big building. He doesn't see himself as a general overseer but a coordinator.

Good Politicians also has come too to call on support to the president. Our OBJ too is talking good of him (Buhari). Though he spoke largely on insecurity, of the nation that Boko Haram like other insecurity kidnaping, bandits, herdsman and terrorist, militants and armed robbers that com-

pounded the nation will soon be over by this administration.

However, to believe on the principles of democracy where true Federal Character equality, mutual respect, justice egalitarianism and to extol merit from all works of life, religious groups political groups, ethnic and cultural groups. We should not be living under the notion that this country of ours will dismiss or for its incapacitation or destruction nor disintegration is not the answer and we pray that we should not be held hostage by criminality. Calling for disintegration is not the answer, restructure now is just political gimmick. We should stop regional, religious and tribal politics.

I may suggest you can make it Muslim-Muslim this time, heaven will not fall when you and Idiagbon made the law. War against indiscipline and Environmental Sanitation even though is like is losing out it is still working in some state in the Southern part of the country, even in the north, make some reshuffling now. As a security officer you have forgotten the slogan. Be friendly with all but don't be familiar with anybody even your mother if not why should Magu of all people do this in your administration. Just come out clean and do the needful so they (the big masquerades) should not see you as his (Magu's) comrade in crime or a participatory criminee. The paper weight and the feather weight politicians who can make mountain out of an ant hill, never to do well Machiavellian and Mephistophelian some of them are still in your cabinet. This Magu's case is one too many. The on undue interference of self-centered political big wigs.

However PMB check how to stamp democratic authority in your cabinet. And so handle the affairs by so doing wean it from

the expansionist and from the hands of entrenched killers. Be mindful those pretenders whom you think are with you they put time bombs, landmines and banana peels, but you should check also that all these banana peels depends humongously on how some of this whom you feel are working with you or the stakeholder are they willing to drop their ego and megalomaniac habiliments for your interest and the nation. In my own opinion with Magu's Saga whom again will be trust, make charges now that we have seen that you are on the lastrace, just three years ago. Pa Olusegun Matthew Obasanjo (O.M.O) OBJ called for repositioning now is it well thought through and guided by good vision and agenda, for the good of Nigeria? What matters is the led and the leader to work with oneness of mind. From on set, I know that Magu lack the mundus operand to handle EFCC. We know those governors who are working with the president, the likes of Obaseki and "Hope" of Imo State, Hope Uzodimma. Unlike the Pharaoh who once ruled and ruined Imo State, who can destroy markets and never rebuild it. We have hope that Hope will do the needful as at when due, on that Pharaoh who did not know Joseph. Hope, no matter the political affiliation, do not witch-hunt just do the needful. Though Fani-Kayode has said it all the pharaoh. It is quite unthinkable and unreasonable as alleged that El-Rufai is masterminding the killings in southern Kaduna because they are Christians. This is a country where rumour is more than hard currency. In fact it is an aberration for a sane man to reason like one who is insane.

On Covid-19 that the epicenter is in the developed world let do well to follow the instructions from the Director Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, Chikwelhekweazu, because this Covid-19 is real, is not for women, children, men, Muslims or Christian, rich or poor, let us not lose our guides and guard not to be misled as the sit at home is lifted. It is not yet Uhuru. So the awareness must continue because it has no barrier or economical limitations.

I advise our governors and senators all stakeholder to work with the president with good fate and stop seeing their selves a emperor.

By Rogia al-Shafee

A lot more remains to be done to get maximum benefit from vast livestock

Sudan that reportedly owns about thirty percent of the Arab World's animal wealth, has so far failed to cash adequately on this product.

Even in terms of domestic meat and milk production, the citizens suffer from the unjustified high prices of these commodities that render them out of the reach of the poor citizens.

Export-wise the Sudanese livestock shipped for foreign markets has failed to fetch no more than an annual one billion Dollars, despite the vast quantities exported. Economists often attribute this situation to bad management and what they call "smuggling across official papers." This interprets in that the concerned authorities should tighten their measures and unify export windows, a measure the government has recently taken by announcing its "one window export policy."

Another aspect of mismanagement of this important sector is also well demonstrated in the recent recurrent occurrence when Saudi Arabia, the biggest for Sudan's livestock exports, repeatedly returned shipments of sheep because their immunity is below the standard specifications. Some 120,000 heads of livestock were returned in early July, preceded earlier by 149,000 heads.

But the mismanagement and indiscipline on the part of the exporters often oblige the Saudi authorities to return sheep exports for low immunity.

Caretaker Minister of Animal Wealth Dr. Aadil Farah Idris has told a recent press conference that Sudan has so far exported 735,453 heads of livestock, with Saudi Arabia receiving 450,000 heads during the first of April to the First of July 2020.

Caretaker Minister of Animal Wealth Dr. Aadil Farah

Minister Idris has attributed the returned shipments from Saudi Arabia to inadequate shipping due to the fact that the export vessels are not properly ventilated and lack suitable food and water appliances. As a result some 3000 heads have perished on the way back from the Saudi port of Jeddah, he said.

He said due to lack of coordination among the concerned ministries and



commercial bodies and due to absence of commitment to the Saudi health specifications where the livestock has to be immunized and kept in the quarantine for a whole month, the shipments were returned from the Port of Jeddah.

Another Saudi condition is that Sudan should send no more than one vessel of livestock to Saudi Arabia per day.

Thus the situation, Minister Idris has called for the unification of the immunity measurements with those of Saudi Arabia.

He said because some quarantines were unfenced some unimmunized sheep strayed and mixed

with those immunized before they were shipped to the Saudi ports. This had happened towards the recent Qurban Bairam festivity.

Livestock producer and exporter Hamid Abdallah Mahmood considered livestock of great value to the Sudanese economy. It ranks second to minerals.

He said one head of sheep can fetch the equivalent of \$200 if exported in the right manner, adding that Sudan sheep increase by more than two million heads per year, he said.

Mr. Mahmood further revealed that if exported in meat and beef form, Sudan's annual revenue

from this commodity could jump to \$10 Billion, that can easily provide the country's needs of foreign exchange; and without any effect on the local consumption.

He said the repeated returning of Sudan's livestock shipments from Saudi Arabia had caused the country's exports to stop and thus discouraged exporters and producers due to accumulating losses.

He said there is need to launch an 'exports council' of concerned bodies that can take part in decision-making and draw policies.

There is also need to upgrade slaughterhouses, coolers and trucks and sea and air transport

facilities. There is also need to boost the supply police forces and mandate them to stem the activity of illegal traders.

The Central Bank of Sudan and the Ministry of Commerce should retrieve export unpaid revenue on the part of some exporters and revise the exporters lists, he said.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Medani Abbas

"All we need is policies which are protected by the law and to control exports to maintain the real value of our exports," he said.

Mr. Ali Habeeballah, Finance Secretary of The Livestock Exporters Department in the Sudan Busi-

nessmen Association, told Sudanow Sudan's 110 millions heads of livestock can contribute a good deal in the national economy if well cared of.

But he said the reshipment of some livestock exports from Saudi Arabia has caused the death of a big sum of livestock, thus reducing export revenue by about an annual \$ one billion.

The Sudanese animal wealth, he said, is one of the best in the World thanks to abundant water and natural pasture. It is healthy and feeds on natural pastures, a matter that wins it international buyers.

Sudan's sheep are also the best and find many buyers when exported alive and do fetch good prices on the World market, he said.

But the other types of livestock can be exported in beef form to secure an added value. This also requires the provision of sophisticated slaughterhouses, transport facilities and due health care to avoid any complaint from the importers.

Habeeballah also urged the Ministry of Commerce to open up more markets for livestock export now that some African countries are now contending with Sudan on the global market.

The banks active in the livestock business should do their best to beef up exports, examine the existing markets and their actual needs in terms of quality and quantity in order to activate trade and enhance the trade balance, he said.

He said inadequate funding had caused the deterioration of this sector and the decline in the trade balance.

He further called for the provision of suitable export vessels and the reduction of government levies that burdened producers and exporters.

There is also need to launch specialized agencies for livestock export and to prevent harmful practices, he said, urging the private sector to support livestock research, introduce modern technologies to promote exports, launch veterinary teams to check the herd on site to prevent diseases.

In conclusion this vast economic resource should be managed carefully and the Animal Wealth Ministry should take the reins, rally the cooperation of concerned entities and discuss the details of the exports issue and close all the existing loopholes.

BY CORRESPONDENT DANIEL SEMBERYA

EARLY pregnancies have been described as a major obstacle for many school girls to continue with their education and attain their dreams, particularly those in secondary schools.

In addressing the challenge TGNP Mtandao through its various established knowledge centres in collaboration with local government authorities in given respective areas have been carrying out education awareness campaigns that involves parents and school girls to contain the situation.

Secretary of Kalimawe Knowledge Centre, in Same District, one of TGNP Mtandao's established centres Zubeda Amiri says in an interview over the weekend that many school girls get pregnancies after being cheated by bodaboda (motorcycle taxi) riders.

"Our school girls spend about two and half hours to reach where their school is located in another ward. They usually get exhausted and as a result some of these fall prey to bodaboda riders," Zubeda says.

She says that their knowledge centre in collaboration with local authorities have been working jointly to ensure the challenge has been addressed.

Amiri has further calls upon for the intervention of the government and other key stakeholders in the sector, because their efforts (knowledge centre) was not enough to arrest the situation.

She further requests the government with other key stakeholders in the education sector need to build another secondary school in their ward so as to reduce the distance of going to school for these girls in a different ward.

Amina Juma, assistant chairperson of Makokane Knowledge Centre, Kalimawe Ward, Same District calls upon the government and the private sector to join hands and build a secondary school in their neighborhood.

"It is our hope that when the school is built very close to our villages it would automatically reduce the walking distance of our school girls that has been a major contributing factor for them to fall prey for boda boda boys, who have been impregnating them," she notes.



TGNP in awareness campaign to curb schoolgirl pregnancies

Amina lauds TGNP Mtandao, saying through their education on various social issues, they have been going around to different primary and secondary schools educating girls on how they can avoid child pregnancies, while still at school.

Monica Sempoli, assistant chairperson of Lugulu Knowledge Centre, Same District says building dormitories could be one of the solutions for their girls not to get pregnancy.

"When our girls will be in boarding school, they will no longer walk long distance to and from home to school every day. And they will not be trapped by boda boda boys or fellow boy students."

Anna Sangai, senior programme officer movement building with TGNP Mtandao, says that, last year TGNP in collaboration with ONGAWA carried out a project titled Human Right to water and sanitation of girls and women in Northern Tanzania, through participatory Action Research with communities in those areas, found that early pregnancies was one of their major concerns.

Regarding early pregnancies for school girls Sangai has also suggested the need to construct dormitories which will accommodate girl students coming from away from school.

She also urged the government to send to those schools women teachers who have a knowledge on

sexual reproductive health who will among other things will tech girls on reproductive health.

Other findings indicate that despite continuing early marriage practices and early childbirth, domestic violence and other gender-based discrimination, overall gender parity in Tanzania is generally better than in comparable countries due to the country's efforts to advance women's empowerment.

The main challenges to girls' education in Tanzania include the following: Drop out is mainly caused by truancy, pregnancy, death, poverty and illness. On the side of girls' education early pregnancies is one of the contributing factors for drop out.

For example in 2014, pregnancy at Primary Education level was 265 (0.3%) while at Lower Secondary level was 3,510 (4.8% of all drop outs) as per BEST, 2015).

Girls Transition Rate show that number of girls decreases as they move from low to higher levels of education compared to their counter parts boys.

Tanzania's abolition of secondary school fees and contributions has been a huge step toward improving access to secondary education.

"But the government should do more to address the crowded classrooms, discrimination, and abuse that undermine many adolescents' education."

Study reveals how climate change could affect malaria transmission in Africa

BY JAMES IVES

AN international study reveals how future climate change could affect malaria transmission in Africa over the next century.

Malaria is a climate-sensitive disease; it thrives where it is warm and wet enough to provide surface water suitable for breeding by the mosquitoes that transmit it.

For more than two decades now, scientists have suggested that climate change may alter the distribution and length of transmission seasons due to new patterns of temperature and rainfall.

The burden of this disease falls primarily on Africa. In 2018, out of an estimated 228 million cases of malaria worldwide, 93% were in the African continent.

Detailed mapping of malaria transmission is vital for the distribution of public health resources and targeted control measures.

In the past, rainfall and temperature observations have been used in malaria climatic suitability models to estimate the distribution and duration of annual transmission, including future projections.

But factors affecting how rainfall results in water for mosquito breeding are highly complex, for example how it is absorbed into soil and vegetation, as well as rates of runoff and evaporation.

A new study, led by the Universities of Leeds and Lincoln in the UK, for the first time combined a malaria climatic suitability model with a continental-scale hydrological model that represents real-world processes of evaporation, infiltration and flow through rivers.

This process-focused approach gives a more in-depth picture of malaria-friendly conditions across Africa.

When run using future climate scenarios up to the end of this century, a different pattern of future changes in malaria suitability emerges compared to previous estimates.

While the findings show only very minor future changes in the total area suitable for malaria transmission, the geographical location of many of those areas shifts substantially.

When a hydrological model is used, aridity-driven decreases in suitability are no longer observed across southern Africa, particularly Botswana and Mozambique.

Conversely, projected decreases in malaria suitable areas across West Africa are more pronounced. The largest difference is in South Sudan, where the study estimates substantial decreases in malaria suitability in the future.

The study, published today in Nature Communications, highlights river corridors as year-round hot spots of malaria transmission.

While flowing water in large rivers is not a suitable habitat for malaria-carrying mosquitoes, nearby smaller water bodies, such as bankside ponds and floodplains can make for ideal larval breeding grounds, as do associated irrigation schemes.

The Niger and Senegal rivers in Mali and Senegal, and the Webi Juba and Webi Shabeelle rivers in Somalia, are all identified in the study as suitable for malaria transmission despite currently extending beyond the geographical ranges hitherto predicted to be climatically suitable.

This is especially important since human populations tend to concentrate close to rivers.

Since the huge efforts to eradicate malaria from parts of the world, the areas where we observe malaria today are only a part of the total area that would otherwise be suitable for malaria transmission.

Dr Mark Smith, Study Lead Author, School of Geography, University of Leeds "But if we are to project the impact of climate change on the geography of malaria transmission, we need to develop more sophisticated ways of representing that envelope of malaria suitability both today and in the future.

"Our approach aims to lay out the environmental risks of malaria more clearly, so that projections of climate change impacts can help inform public health interventions and support vulnerable communities.

Rampant destruction of forests 'will unleash more pandemics'

BY ROBIN MCKIE

SCIENTISTS are to warn world leaders that increasing numbers of deadly new pandemics will afflict the planet if levels of deforestation and biodiversity loss continue at their current catastrophic rates.

A UN summit on biodiversity, scheduled to be held in New York next month, will be told by conservationists and biologists there is now clear evidence of a strong link between environmental destruction and the increased emergence of deadly new diseases such as Covid-19.

Rampant deforestation, uncontrolled expansion of farming and the building of mines in remote regions - as well as the exploitation of wild animals as sources of food, traditional medicines and exotic pets - are creating a "perfect storm" for the spillover of diseases from wildlife to people, delegates will be told.

Almost a third of all emerging diseases have originated through the process of land use change, it is claimed. As a result, five or six new epidemics a year could soon affect Earth's population.

"There are now a whole raft of activities - illegal logging, clearing and mining - with associated international trades in bushmeat and exotic pets that have created this crisis," said Stuart Pimm, professor of conservation at Duke University. "In the case of Covid-19, it has cost the world trillions of dollars and already killed almost a million people, so clearly urgent action is needed."

It is estimated that tens of millions of hectares of rainforest and other wild environments are being bulldozed every year to cultivate palm trees, farm cattle, extract oil and provide access to mines and mineral deposits. This leads to the widespread destruction of vegetation and wildlife that are hosts to countless

species of viruses and bacteria, most unknown to science. Those microbes can then accidentally infect new hosts, such as humans and domestic livestock.

Such events are known as spillovers. Crucially, if viruses thrive in their new human hosts they can infect other individuals. This is known as transmission and the result can be a new, emerging disease.

An example of such events is provided by the HIV virus, which in the early 20th century spread from chimpanzees and gorillas - which were being slaughtered for bushmeat in West Africa - to men and women and which has since caused the death of more than 10 million people. Other examples include Ebola fever, which is passed on by bats to primates and humans; the swine flu epidemic of 2009 and the Covid-19 virus, which was originally passed to humans from bats.

"When workers come into rainforests to chop down trees they don't take food with them," said Andy Dobson, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton University. "They just eat what they can kill. So that exposes them to infection all the time."

This point was backed by Pimm. "I have a photograph of a guy slaughtering a wild pig deep in the Ecuadorian jungle. He was an illegal logger and he and his fellow workers needed food so they killed a boar. They got splattered with wild pig blood in the process. It's gruesome and unhygienic and that is how these diseases spread."

However, not every emerging disease is caused by a single, major spillover event, stressed zoologist David Redding, of University College London. "In places where trees are being cleared, mosaics of fields, created around farms, appear in the landscape interspersed with parcels of old forest.



"This increases the interface between the wild and the cultivated. Bats, rodents and other pests carrying strange new viruses come from surviving clumps of forests and infect farm animals - who then pass on these infections to humans."

An example of this form of transmission is provided by Lassa fever, which was first discovered in Nigeria in 1969 and now causes several thousand deaths a year. The virus is spread by the rodent Mastomys natalensis, which was widespread in Africa's savannahs and forests but now colonises homes and farms, passing on the disease to humans.

"The crucial point is that there are probably 10 times more different species of viruses than there are of mammals," added Dobson. "The numbers are against us and the emergence of new pathogens inevitable."

In the past many outbreaks of new

diseases remained in contained areas. However, the development of cheap air travel has changed that picture and diseases can appear across the globe before scientists have fully realised what is happening.

"The onward transmission of a new disease is also another really important element in the pandemic story," said Professor James Wood, head of veterinary medicine at Cambridge University. "Consider the swine flu pandemic. We flew that around the world several times before we realised what was going on. Global connectivity has allowed - and is still allowing - Covid-19 to be transmitted to just about every country on Earth."

In a paper published in Science last month, Pimm, Dobson and other scientists and economists propose setting up a programme to monitor wildlife, reduce spillovers, end the wildlife meat

trade and reduce deforestation. Such a scheme could cost more than \$20bn a year, a price tag that is dwarfed by the cost of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has wiped trillions of dollars from national economies round the world.

"We estimate that the value of prevention costs for 10 years to be only about 2% of the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic," they state. In addition, reducing deforestation - which is a major source of carbon emissions - would also have the benefit of helping the battle against climate change, add the researchers.

"The rate of emergence of novel disease is increasing and their economic impacts are also increasing," states the group. "Postponing a global strategy to reduce pandemic risk would lead to continued soaring costs. Society must strive to avoid the impacts of future pandemics."

By Edmund Zar-Zar Bargblor

What took place in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County, is a result of a system that undermined the fundamental principles of democracy. The role of governance in the respective counties in Liberia, is one of importance. The founding fathers required for the traditional chiefs to be elected, including the various members of the House of Legislatures. But the administrative arms in the various counties in Liberia, the Superintendents (Like a State Governor in the United States, who is elected by their citizens), are appointed by the President of the Republic of Liberia. In each county, there are districts and each is governed by a Commissioner. Each appointed District Commissioner, has the power to dismiss a chief, especially when said chief is elected by his/her citizens.

Brief History about the establishment of Paramount Chief in Liberian body politics

In my previous article I explained, Paramount Chief is the English language designation for the highest-level political leader in a regional or local polity or country administered politically with a chief-based system. This term is used occasionally in anthropological and archaeological theory to refer to the rulers of multiple chiefdoms or the rulers of exceptionally powerful chiefdoms that have subordinated others (<https://africanorb.com/2019/10/05/the-missing-link-of-liberian-african-tradition-where-are-the-visible-legacies-of-african-traditional-royalties-by-edmund-zar-zar-bargblor/>)

Paramount chiefs were identified by English-speakers as existing in Native American confederacies and regional chiefdoms, such as the Powhatan Confederacy and Piscataway Native Americans encountered by English colonists in the Chesapeake Bay area of North America. (Wikipedia)

Paramount Chief formal title was created by British administrators during the 19th and 20th-century Colonial era and used in India, Africa and Asian colonies. The British used it as a substitute for the word "king" to maintain that only the British monarch held that title.

Good governance: Is election of a county superintendent in Liberia a necessity?



Since the title "chief" was already used in terms of district and town administrators, the addition of "paramount" was made to distinguish between the ruling monarch in England and those found in Africa. So, the African kings were to be referred to as "Paramount Chief", but not King (Wikipedia).

The concept of 'Paramount Chief' was introduced in Liberia, by the Founding fathers, to exploit this concept to their political benefits, with complete disregard to the culture and political practices of the Liberian Africans who they met in West Africa.

To control the indigenous political establishment, the founding fathers of Liberia, introduced an electoral system in which paramount chiefs were elected, in complete contradiction to the practices of our forefathers. The traditional leaders were never elected; the council of elders would select most often a warrior, or the first male child that was based on bloodline.

This unfortunate practice continues to exist today in Liberia. During the Tubman administration, with the introduction of the Unification Policy, this practice was effectively put into practice. District commissioners, were apparently appointed to undermine the

Traditional Royalties in Liberia.

District Commissioners were appointed and given the power to dismiss an elected paramount chief from his position. This unfortunate contradiction continues to exist in Liberia today. The profound contradiction continues in Liberia's governance domain, the Superintendent within each county, is appointed by the president, instead of his/her election by citizens that he/she governed.

The Orchestrated Riot in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County

The recent orchestrated Riot in Zwedru City (July 30, 2020), where some citizens of Grand Gedeh, demanding for Hon. Yekeh Kolubah and Presidential Candidate, Mr. Cummings leave Grand Gedeh, is an indication where a leadership of a county doing everything possible to please its boss. Therefore, the superintendent of a county be elected by his/her citizens. This level of blind loyalty to any leadership in a democracy, is dangerous.

Now, the Superintendent is answerable to the president and not to the people he/she governed. So, what is playing here, a superintendent makes decision without seeking the approval of the citizens of his/her citizens, but

directly to the President. What took place in Zwedru City is the result which I explained above. The superintendent functions at the pleasure of the president and not the people, in this case, the people of Grand Gedeh County. It is irionary, to blame the people of Grand Gedeh, especially when they have no power to elect their own superintendent in their county. Perhaps, that's why there are always conflicts between the members of the Legislature and the office of the superintendent. As the result, there are no meaningful developments taking place in Grand Gedeh County, irrespective of the existence of a County Budget, funds allocated to achieve meaningful developments. Even the various businesses, such as loggings, gold mining, etc., have yet to have positive impact in the lives of their citizens. In Grand Gedeh County, the hospital needs to be repaired and updated. Sadly, this outdated hospital is the only one in the entire County. Most clinics in the districts in the county are non-functional.

Brief History of Underdevelopment in Grand Gedeh County

In some years ago, it was reported by FrontPage Africa, that Citizens from Gbarzon Statutory District in Grand

Gedeh County petitioned the Auditor General of Liberia, Mr. John Morlu, II in December 2008, calling for an audit of their county development fund.

According to the report, the Citizens said, since the county development fund was allotted to the county in the last fiscal budget, their district is yet to benefit anything substantial in terms of development.

The numerous complaints of mismanagement of county development fund from Grand Gedeh and some counties have reportedly prompted President Sirleaf to declare that the Executive take charge of the county development fund.

The Analyst reported on September 9, 2009, that a delegation from the Gborho Clan in Grand Gedeh County, visited Monrovia to meet with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on issues affecting their areas. The delegation informed the Liberian leader of the collapse of two major bridges in their area, which is impeding the movement of goods and services. These bridges have yet to be repaired or reconstructed.

FrontPage Africa, (June 18, 2010), reported that, Mr. Chris Bailey, Superintendent of Grand Gedeh County at the time, was booked in an audit conducted by the General Auditing Commission of

Liberia, for misdirecting thousands of dollars for various projects in the county. The Superintendent allegedly, made numerous withdrawals from the coffers of the county, without the approval of others paying money to his private company which is, offered most of the contracts for the implementation of projects in the county.

Need for Article 56 to be amended
There is a need for the Article 56 of the constitution to be amended, that says: 'B' "All cabinet ministers, deputy and assistant cabinet ministers, ambassadors, ... superintendents and other government officials, both military and civilian are appointed by the President. But the 'B' says, there shall be elections of paramount, clan and town chiefs by the registered voters... to serve for a term of six years." It is about time that the Superintendent of each county be elected and not appointed as presently practiced.

Mr. Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, was correct when he wrote in his book that:

"Since 1847 and throughout the history of public administration in Liberia, there has been no system of checks and balance and our presidents have wielded extraordinary power in the management of the nation's affairs. The other two branches of government, the legislative and the judiciary, have always proved powerless in invoking the power of our constitution. We have never been able to see our legislative branch question the executive branch nor curb the excesses of the presidency. The major excesses of the Liberian presidency remain entrenched in its power to appoint and remove any public official at will, directly or indirectly; to set national priorities and decide what is good or not good for the country; and to determine how our nation's financial resources should be controlled and expended. In the management of our nation's affairs, all socio-economic and political decisions that impact local communities within the political decisions that impact local communities within the political subdivisions, continue to be controlled and directed by the president through officials based in the nation's capital and agents sent to the interior" (Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae: Proposition 12 For Decentralized Governance in Liberia).

The death penalty not the answer to Liberia's rape problem: We need leadership to confront the elephants in the room

By Samuel Sakama

HERE we are again as the surge of rape, gang rape, sodomy, sexual assault and their frequency (more than 600 cases during COVID-19 State of Emergency) ignites a national debate about the death penalty.

We need to press pause and ask ourselves: is the death penalty a solution to rape? There is now academic consensus and advocacy over the past 50 years that the death penalty does not deter violent crime. Just take a look at all of these countries that still have the death penalty: Iran, India, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Indonesia and even the United States (where over 30 of 52 states are retainers) - they all have not been able to deter offenders or even manage violent crime.

AS stated by Bryant Stevenson in his book (Just Mercy), there were 300,000 prisoners in the US in the 1970s; today, that number is a whopping 2.3 million prisoners, making the US the leading jailer in the world despite a large retention of the death penalty. India has the death penalty too for violent crimes including rape however it remains one of the worst countries in the world to be a woman.

IN Saudi Arabia rapists are more likely to be sentenced to death, however they continue to perpetrate some of the worst systemic discriminations against women in human history. Alarmingly, countries like Afghanistan and Iran kill victims of sexual abuse despite having the death penalty for perpetrators. China, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia kill drugs traffickers however this has neither deterred nor stopped drugs trafficking in the region. What can we learn from these countries?

WE need to call the elephants in the room which are our traditional forms of masculinity, patriarchy, corruption and bad governance. The problem is that the court system is for the elite - those that can afford to pay the numerous legal and illegal fees, to pay



Dr. Amaning's (left) outburst comes few weeks after the AFL Chief of Staff, Major General Prince C. Johnson (right), President George Weah, and others began expressing their support for the Death Penalty against perpetrators of rape.

for a competent prosecutor or defence counsel. For the poor and uneducated, the legal system forces even the most committed survivor or parent of the survivor to give up and accepts that the law is not 'for people like them'.

AN American Psychological Association (APA) study shows the connection between harmful masculinity and violence. The traditional ways we train boys/men and the expectations that are placed on them can be harmful, damaging, violent and even toxic. For example, boys/men are trained and expected to provide for their families, be tough, compete in a society with limited opportunities and to not show emotions. These are expectations that are mostly impossible to achieve even in advanced societies not to mention in the poorest country on the planet.

ANOTHER study by the APA inexorably links toxic masculinity and the sense of entitlement to rape and other forms of sexual violence. The sense of entitlement can be counterproductive because boys/men come to believe through systems of socialisation that they have dominion over the country's resources including its women and girls.

RECENTLY, we saw the ruling CDC of President George Weah who declares himself 'The Feminist-In-Chief' put

forth an "All Male-Aspirant List" for the December 2020 special senatorial elections despite the fact that there is ONLY one female left in the Senate. There is no doubt that there will be more male aspirants in the Opposition Bloc and even amongst Independents when their candidates are made public. Is the Equal Representation proposed in 2016 not dead?

HOW does President George Weah ('The Feminist-In-Chief'), his cabinet, parliamentarians and Liberian boys and men in and out of country treat girls and women? How do Liberian girls and women who are relatives and friends of these boys and men treat other girls and women who are abused?

THE current and perhaps continual, surge of rape and sexual abuse should be a wakeup call for all of us to reflect on these questions. And it is a real opportunity for President George Weah and the good men and women of Liberia to lead this challenging and critical cultural reform to end violence against girls and women rather than appealing to the lowest denominator - the death penalty.

THE rape problem in Liberia is nothing new and we all know it. We know that Liberian women and girls remain the most marginalised economically, socially and politically. According to

the TRC report, "more than 70% of all sexual based violations" (p.51) during the war were against women and girls.

WE also know that what makes headlines about the Liberian civil war (1989-2003) globally is the use of "rape as a weapon of war". The United Nations estimates that "between 61.7 and 77.4 percent of women and girls [residing] in Liberia were raped" (p.8) during this period. Although these alarming estimates have been challenged by academics, who argued that a small sample size of 412 women used in the study during the war does not tell the whole story, rape numbers in Liberia are said to have remained high post-war and will continue to do so if the culture of impunity is not challenged.

THE civil war has long gone, however toxic masculinity exists even in time of peace. The impact of violence during war can still be seen in every corner of Liberia, and will continue if we Liberians, at all levels of power do not push for cultural reforms.

GIVEN the continued surge of this problem, it appears that the ascendance of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her post-conflict women's rights agenda have arguably had a little meaningful impact for the majority of Liberian women and girls. The everyday realities for women and girls continue

to be impacted by toxic masculinity that even high profile cases such as Little Angel and More Than Me have done little more than expressed their plights.

HOW about the post-conflict foundations laid by the ARC, IMC, IRC, NRC, OXFAM and etc through donor goodwill in relation to "Sexual & Gender-Based Violence" (SGBV)? Even today, an army of billboards depicting a half-naked man over a frightened woman continue to splash "STOP RAPE" messages in urban areas around the country, although these NGOs have all disappeared. Why can't the current government continue GBV prevention and response programmes at the micro and macro levels? Why not invest in these, instead of the death penalty?

AMNESTY International reports that the death penalty is fading out globally with a total of 142 countries (including Liberia), abolishing the practice of intentional killing and only 56 countries (including 16 in Africa) retaining it. Liberia's last execution was in 2000 and the state has been on a de facto moratorium since then, despite estimates that 14 people were on death row at the end of 2019. Liberia is also a signatory to a number of international human rights instruments that are against the death penalty. Post-conflict Liberia has not sanctioned the killing of anybody - let us continue this path.

ALTHOUGH the current debate understandably makes the case for the death penalty attractive at a glance, evidence shows that governments and societies that lack innovative solutions turn to the death penalty to show that they are doing something to combat violent crimes and even 'tough on crime'. But the death penalty does not work.

WHAT works are therapeutic and innovative programs including restorative justice, psychosocial support, education, treatment, access to justice, early intervention and compensation where possible, which are said to have greater impacts for victims and offenders alike rather than inhumane punishment. How much of national budget do we currently allocate to such programs? There is increased advocacy

around the world to fund crime intervention programs rather than cruel (ineffective) punishment - the notion is called justice reinvestment.

THE death penalty violates the most fundamental human right - the right to life - and it is a cruel, inhumane and barbaric punishment, which often discriminates against the most vulnerable people in society. Liberia's development indicators show current levels of poverty, vulnerability and a flawed justice system that is more likely to indict the poor than the rich/powerful. Today, substantive equality before the law remains only a vision especially for the poor. Most importantly, the death penalty does not give justice to victims or genuinely relieve their suffering, it only extends the suffering to another family.

THE current Rape Law provides clearly for up to ten (10) years and life imprisonment for serious offenders. The government should review and create innovative solutions such as access to justice programs, a national sex offenders' registrar, compulsory treatment programs, reverse the principle of the onus of proof on the perpetrator and create systems where law enforcement/ the prosecution can lead litigation to avoid families swaying evidence to protect the perpetrator rather than resort to the death penalty.

WE know from our recent history that "13 men" and even more top government officials were sentenced to death by firing squad in 1980 for economic crimes and corruption, however those killings did not end corruption. Corruption increased instead and remains one of the most challenging problems of our country today. It is evident that the use of the death penalty by the coup plotters then only killed people, it did not kill corruption!

IN CONCLUSION, public support for the death penalty often goes hand in hand with a lack of reliable information about the practice and the presumption that it would reduce crime. It does not! It is the hope of the writer that this article will close this gap by providing empirical evidence to add to this all-important national debate.

BUSINESS



Absa Bank Tanzania Limited's Pugu branch manager, Veronica Okio (R) and customer Fuad Salmeen (in white robe) cut a ribbon to inaugurate the bank's branch along Nyerere Road in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Second right is ABT's head of branch network, John Beja.

SLOWDOWN

Exports decline to 8pc of total goods at Mombasa port

NAIROBI

Mombasa port recorded 8 per cent in exports as share of the total cargo handled at the facility, a significant drop from the same period last year when it stood at 15 per cent.

This is according to the latest Northern Corridor Transport Observatory report, which attributes the decline to challenges related to Covid-19. In 2019 during the same period, the Port of Mombasa recorded 15 per cent of export cargo that goes through Mombasa, with a third of the total belonging to neighbouring countries, while Kenya, the region's biggest economy, taking up the lion's share.

The new report attributes the decline in the first six months of this year to closure of borders with Uganda which is the main transit user, recording a number of hitches along the corridor and at the borders. In Kenya, tea which is sold through Mombasa auction sustained the biggest export market through the port.

The Northern Corridor report indicates that the overall performance of the port fell by 5 per cent, from 14.3 million metric tonnes in 2019 to 13.6 million metric tonnes in the mid of 2020, with imports accounting for 82 per cent of the total cargo handled.

Notably, a larger share of imported cargo through the Port of Mombasa for the six months was containerised goods that stood at 66 per cent. Kenya accounted for the bulk of the total throughput at 64 per cent, whereas about 36 per cent of total throughput was for transit market.

Shippers Council for East Africa Executive officer Gilbert Lagat attributed the increase of containerised cargo to importation of processed products compared to raw materials. "There is a reversal of imported cargo from conventional cargo (loose cargo) to containerised cargo since companies are preferring importing finished goods to raw material because there is no conducive environment to process products during this pandemic period," said Mr Lagat.

According to the data, in June 2019 containerised cargo accounted for 47

per cent of the total throughput while the rest was conventional cargo due to increased infrastructure development projects and companies were processing more products which resulted to high importation of raw materials.

Uganda remains the biggest transit market, accounting for 3.28 million metric tonnes during the period under review. The Northern Corridor half year report shows some positive indication in export increasing by 3 per cent in May of the total throughput, from 11 per cent in January this year. Apparently, Covid-19 has had a profound effect on transport and logistics.

According to the report, the challenges experienced in addressing cross-border trade at the onset of the disease manifested lack of transboundary disaster management strategies, thus exacerbating the impact of the pandemic.

The same report shows a decline in the demand for crude oil which may be attributed to the outbreak of the coronavirus and the subsequent cut in oil production by oil-producing countries. According to the Oil Market Report, since May 2020, OPEC+ countries have been reducing output by over nine million barrels daily, a factor that undermined the demand for crude oil globally.

Statistics also showed that the indicator for the delays after customs release at the Mombasa port worsened for the quarter in 2020 to a maximum of 51 hours when compared to the same quarter in 2019, which at its highest stood at 38 hours, as trucks experienced long waits for clearance for Covid-19 health protocols before embarking on their journeys. However, there was a gradual improvement in performance for the quarter from 55 hours in April 2020 to 34 hours in June 2020.

Transit time is determined as the period from the time goods are released at the Port/Inland Container Depots up to the exit points at the border and final destinations. Member states have employed different tracking regimes. In most of the routes along the Northern Corridor, transit times increased partly due to the challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

OPTIMISM

Nine gazetted villages in Lindi hope for revenue from forests

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon, Lindi

OVER 27,000 hectares of natural forest in Lindi District have been gazetted by the government paving way for sustainable harvesting by villagers to earn revenue that will be invested in development projects.

Lindi District Commissioner, Shaibu Ndemanga said through Government Notice No. 487 published in June this year, nine villages now own their forest reserves. He named the villages as Mahima, Kiwawa, Ruhoma, Milola Magharibi, Kinyope, Likwaya Muungano, Mkombamisi and Makumba.

"This is an important step towards making these villagers own their forests and use them sustainably by adopting forest management plans," Ndemanga naming Mahima Village as one of them already making progress since the legal recognition.

"Right now the village will have a mandate to own the forest reserve and harvest trees sustainably by developing bylaws that support management plans," he added noting that the forests are directly under the Village Natural Resources Committees.

He commended Mahima villagers with 3,125 acres for conserving their forest through establishment of village land forest reserve for several years which led to government's decision to grant them legal recognition.

The Lindi DC also thanked partners including Tanzania Forests Conservation Group for backing the villagers achieve the feat. "I'm very glad to witness what you have done for your vil-



Lindi district commissioner Shaibu Ndemanga (in specs) presents a copy of the government Gazette of June 2020 with Notice No. 487 to Mahima Village chairperson, Maimuna Swalehe (R) at a ceremony held at the village last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

lage today, Malima village is a special village in Lindi district that is using revenue generated from forest products to implement development projects," the DC noted.

Speaking on the achievement made, Mahima Village Chairperson, Maimuna Swalehe said Mahima Village Land Forest Reserve is already helping the village gov-

ernment and residents raise funds to implement important development projects.

"But we are also contributing to increase of revenue collection by Lindi District Council directly," she said noting that among other things, Mahima Village has already managed to build a modern village government office, two classrooms, eight

pit latrines at Mahima Primary school, rehabilitated a road and build a bridge on a main road to the district headquarters.

She also paid tribute to Mjumita's Community based Forest Management Programme which contributed a lot to the success stressing that the process was complicated and that villagers alone

would not have succeeded.

"We are very glad to receive this government recognition and invite our neighbouring village residents to come and learn on how we have managed to reach where we are today so that can help them have their village land gazetted," she said excitedly.

EXPANSION

NIT gets land in Dodoma for putting up railway transport training centre

By Guardian Reporter

SOME 360 hectares of land in Dodoma Municipality have been set aside to construct a National Institute of Transport's centre of excellence for railway transport.

NIT's Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa, told Tanzania Railways Corporation's senior officials led by CEO Masanja Kadogosa that the centre will exclusively train and dole skills to professionals in the railway transportation.

Prof Mganilwa who accompanied members of NIT Governing Council who visited TRC headquarters last week said the Dodoma centre will also run long and professional programmes, research and consultancy in railway transportation.

"The centre of excellence will also act as a house of innovations for the railway transport with focus on technology progress on coach and wagons designs, manufacturing, repair and maintenance activities," he noted.

He added: "The Institute has divided railway transport into two major groups based on the nature of training and delivery approach; these are Railway Transport Management and Railway Transport Engineering."

On existing programmes in Railway Transport Management, the NIT chief explained that they have Master of Science in Logistics and Transport Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Rail Transport Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Transport Economics and Bachelor Degree in Logistics and Transport Management.

Commenting on the field visit to Tanzania Railways Corporation, Prof Mganilwa said: "The Minister for Works Transport and Communication, Engineer Isack Kamwelwe in December last year during the launch of NIT Governing Council ordered that the council visit all institutions which are under its ministry so as to see how we can help them in areas of human resources development."

"The TRC and the NIT Governing Council have agreed to strengthen the relationship between them the two parts while discussing human resource as challenge in the railway profession. Tanzania is currently facing shortage of professionals in railway transportation but NIT is going to start producing experts in the field," he added.

Briefing the NIT delegation, TRC's Managing Director, Masanja Kadogosa said welcomed the NIT cooperation saying as the state rail company diversifies its transport network, there is need for more qualified personnel.

"National Institute of Transport has done a lot in contributing towards supporting railway industry development in the country by producing skilled labour for many years, in fact half of our workers are graduates from NIT," Kadogosa noted.



Tanzania Railway Corporation managing director, Masanja Kadogosa (R) briefs members of National Institute of Transport's Governing Council when they visited the TRC headquarters in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of NIT.

World Bank suspends ease of doing business assessment, pending probe into irregularities

KIGALI

The World Bank Group has temporarily suspended the World Bank Doing Business Report publication which has been published for the last 17 years.

The rankings were paused to allow for investigation and assessment of allegations related to irregularities. The rankings rank countries on the basis of their ease and cost of doing business based on 10 indicators.

A statement by the bank released on Thursday, August 27, this week said they had opened investigations following a number of irregularities that have been reported regarding changes to the data in the Doing Business 2018

and Doing Business 2020 reports. The reports were published in October 2017 and 2019 respectively.

The changes in the data were inconsistent with the Doing Business methodology, the bank said. In an attempt to salvage the reputation of the report, the bank has commenced a review and assessment of data changes that occurred for the last five Doing Business reports.

"We have asked the World Bank Group's independent Internal Audit function to perform an audit of the processes for data collection and review for Doing Business and the controls to safeguard data integrity," the Group said.

Rwanda has previously raised concern about the abrupt changes

in the methodology of the ranking. For instance, last year, Rwanda expressed concern on adjustments made in the report that had not been communicated as is standard practice. Among the changes made by the World Bank abruptly in the previous report was in an indicator relating to assessment of the stock market.

According to the latest ranking, for an economy to be seen as having an active stock market that protects minority investors, it has to show at least 10 companies listed and trading equities. The abrupt uncommunicated adjustment saw Rwanda drop in position in protecting minority investors where Rwanda was placed 114 globally from 14th in the previous report.

COMMITMENT

Prof Shemdoe promises an end to payment of nuisance business fees

By Guardian Reporter

NUISANCE fees and other related charges imposed on businesses deemed unnecessary will be abolished by the government in order to allow rapid growth and profitability.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Trade and Industry, Professor Riziki Shemdoe said over the weekend during an NMB Business Club meeting for Dodoma Region, that growth of private businesses contributes to rapid growth of the national economy.

Prof Shemdoe said the government will talk to banks such as NMB to devise plans that will enable businesses to grow and generate profit but stressed that such development should also translate into revenue increases for Treasury.

"The government will continue to review different fees and other charges imposed on businesses which are a concern because they frustrate growth and profitability of such businesses," he promised while urging banks such as NMB to also continue reviewing interest rates charged on loans which are



Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof Riziki Shemdoe.

hiked.

Speaking at a dinner meeting, NMB's Head of Business Banking, Alex Mgeni said improvement has been made in loan disbursement which now benefits artisanal miners who were not eligible for a

long time.

Mgeni also responded to concerns by the business community regarding fees and other charges associated with banking by advising them to understand various legal and regulatory provisions which

govern such payments.

"But let me also invite you as business people to invest in NMB shares and other instruments which are available in the market because it is profitable and safe to do," Mgeni stated while pointing out that the

Dar es Salaam based lender has been posting profits for the past eight years.

In remarks at the same event, NMB Business Club Chairperson, Joyce Kaishozi said businesses have suffered much from the coronavirus outbreak disruption hence need consideration by the bank in various areas.

"We need consultations with bank officials at all levels to agree on several issues including repayment of loans because businesses have been disrupted by Covid-19," Kaishozi argued saying many business owners are committed to repay their loans. Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi pledged to continue working closely with the private sector so that businesses can grow and contribute to rapid economic growth of the country.

"We are extending our branch network to all parts of the country by investing in new physical branches to serve the public and where necessary we are using our mobile branches to do so," Mlozi noted saying in Central Zone which comprises of Dodoma, Manyara and Singida Regions only Chemba District has no physical branch. The market's largest bank has 230 branches, 7,000 agents, 800 ATM machines with 25 branches in Central Zone only.

ELIMINATION

New milk delivery plan to cut off brokers

NAIROBI

Brokers and milk transporters who profiteer from dairy farmers' sweat could soon be out of business under a proposed Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) plan that will see farmers invest in dairy infrastructure and directly engage processors.

KDB managing director Margaret Kibogy said once adopted, it will help farmers get rid of costly transporters, and thus get more share of the producer price paid by processors. "A co-operative mode will enable Kenya to modernise its dairy sector where farmers will be compelled to sell milk via dairy societies that also become channels for quality monitoring, credit access as well as dairy husbandry training," she said.

Traditionally, transporters collect raw milk from farmers and market the same to various outlets only for farmers to be paid at a set price minus Sh3 a litre as transport fee. This sees transporters bargain for better prices but retain low prices for farmers. Agriculture secretary Peter Munya emphasised the need for farmers to form self-help groups that can directly negotiate for better prices from processors.

Since January, he said, the ministry has spent Sh2.2 billion to buy 350 milk coolers each with a 3,000-litre capacity for distribution to farmer groups that produce at least 500 litres a day. The coolers are meant to reduce milk losses and improving the quality of milk reaching the market.

With deliveries falling from 63.4 million litres in January to 40.2 million litres in June due to apathy among dairy farmers, Mr Munya directed New KCC to release milk powder reserves to processors for processing fresh milk to help stabilise prices.

"Kenya has also invested in a milk quality testing laboratory that will affirm the quality of milk products in the market. This will boost confidence among international farmers opening markets for locally processed products," he said. Ms Kibogy said surveillance will be enhanced to help reduce influx of imported milk products from outside the East Africa Community.

Milk deliveries dropped by 8.24 million litres in the first half of 2020 compared to a similar period last year when processors received 319.1 million litres. Covid-19, reported in Kenya mid-March, continued to adversely affect the sub-sector with June registering 40.25 million litres, being the lowest since March 2017 when 38.64 million litres were delivered.



Kenya Dairy Board managing director Margaret Kibogy.

GENEROSITY

UBA donates text books worth 2.8m/- to Dar school



UBA Tanzania's head of marketing and corporate communications, Brendansia Kileo, speaks after presenting text books to Rising Star Secondary School in Dar es Salaam on Friday, with some of the students sampling the books.

By Guardian Reporter

LITERATURE text books worth 2.8m/- have been donated by UBA Foundation to Rising Star Secondary School as part of its corporate social responsibility last week.

UBA Foundation which is a charity arm of United Bank for Africa has been in the forefront in supporting

governments across Africa through its Read Africa Initiative which has invested in the African youth to promote learning and a reading culture.

UBA Tanzania's Head of Digital Banking, Asupya Nalingigwa said the bank is keen to ensure growth of a reading culture among Africa's youths

irrespective of their backgrounds or ethnicity. "We as a bank understand the need for students to read and study hard," Nalingigwa said.

He urged students to work hard and sharpen their skills through reading while insisting that it is through reading that they will equip themselves with knowledge of the

world that surrounds them and thus be able to grab various opportunities.

In her remarks after receiving the donation, Rising Star's Headmistress, Leticia Madenge thanked the bank for the donation saying it had arrived timely when the school is facing an acute shortage of various textbooks

which then affected academic performance.

"I take this opportunity to promise that we will make proper use of these books for benefit of us and the next intakes that will follow," Madenge said.

UBA Tanzania has been supporting the country's education sector since 2018 when

Tanzania Education Authority officially recognised the bank as a partner. Rising Star Director, Fransisca Matay received the donation on behalf of the school management. She thanked UBA Tanzania management and staff for the donation which will help improve performance at the school.

OUTAGES

SA sees worst power cuts on record in 2020, research shows

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa has endured its worst power cuts on record this year, research by the country's national science council showed on Friday. The power cuts by ailing state utility Eskom

are one of the biggest challenges facing President Cyril Ramaphosa as he tries to revive investor confidence in Africa's most industrialised economy.

Analysis by South Africa's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) found that 1,498 Gigawatt hours

(GWh) of energy had been shed so far in the first eight months of 2020, more than 1,352 GWh in the whole of last year and 1,325 GWh in 2015, the previous two worst years on record. The CSIR estimates planned power cuts, known locally as load-shedding,

cost the economy up to R120 billion (\$7.2 billion) last year.

Eskom generates more than 90% of South Africa's power but has struggled to meet demand for years because of faults at its coal-fired power stations. Some of these stations have not been

properly maintained and two new ones have been hobbled by design flaws.

Ramaphosa has promised to break up Eskom to make it more efficient and has granted it a series of mammoth bailouts to stabilise its finances, but its problems have persisted. Eskom

last implemented planned power cuts last week. The CSIR predicts load-shedding will continue for two to three years, depending on the actions the government takes to address the electricity shortfall.

WORLD

Trump administration halts election security briefings, Democrats complain

WASHINGTON

THE United States' top intelligence office told lawmakers it will end in-person briefings on election security because there had been leaks from congressional committees, officials said on Saturday.

The move drew heated rejoinders from Democrats who have focused on foreign efforts to sway the presidential election in 2016 and again this year.

President Donald Trump's new director of national intelligence, John Ratcliffe, notified the House and Senate intelligence panels on Friday that the office would send written reports instead, giving lawmakers less oppor-

tunity to press for details as the Nov. 3 election approaches.

An official in Ratcliffe's office, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it was "concerned about unauthorized disclosures of sensitive information following recent briefings."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff decried the move. "This is a shocking abdication of its lawful responsibility to keep the Congress currently informed, and a betrayal of the public's right to know how foreign powers are trying to subvert our democracy," they said in a statement.

Ratcliffe's office had offered to hold in-person briefings for the House and



Director of National Intelligence (DNI) John Ratcliffe

Senate oversight panels next month, even after concerns surfaced about leaks from previous meetings, a House committee official said. It later rescinded the offer.

The decision was first reported by CNN.

Senator Marco Rubio, a Republican and acting chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement late on Saturday that he had spoken to Ratcliffe who "stated unequivocally" to him that he would fulfill the intelligence community's obligations to keep members of Congress informed. The committee will continue receiving briefings on all oversight topics, including on election matters, Rubio said Ratcliffe told him.

It was unclear whether Rubio meant those would be in-

person briefings. Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, told reporters while on a visit to Texas that Ratcliffe will "ultimately give full briefings, in terms of not oral briefings, but fully intel briefings."

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence said this month that Russia, which orchestrated a hacking campaign to sway the 2016 election in Trump's favor, was trying to "denigrate" Trump's 2020 Democratic opponent, Joe Biden. And it said China and Iran were hoping Trump is not re-elected.

"For clarity and to protect sensitive intelligence from unauthorized disclosures, we will primarily do that through written finished intelligence products," the ODNI official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Biden said in a statement late on Saturday that ODNI was curtailing one of the intelligence community's most basic duties and it is "nothing less than a shameless partisan manipulation to protect the personal interests of President Trump." Ratcliffe, a close political ally of Trump, is a former member of the House intelligence panel and was a vocal defender of the president during investigations of Russia's efforts to influence the 2016 election.

He told senators during his confirmation hearing this year that "the intelligence I deliver will not be subject to outside influence."

Peru now world's deadliest COVID-19 pandemic hot spot

PRAGUE

PERU has set another grim record by reporting the highest number of deaths per capita from the coronavirus.

With 28,277 confirmed deaths from COVID-19, or 86.2 per 100,000 inhabitants, Peru on Thursday overtook Belgium as the nation with the most victims, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and Bloomberg.

It comes a week after the South American nation of 33 million posted the world's deepest economic contraction in the second quarter following a drastic lockdown.

More than five months after reporting its first case, Peru has one of the world's worst outbreaks by other measures, too. Over the past seven days, no country has posted more cases. It's also among nations with most fatalities by population size over the past week.

The outbreak has been so bad that as much as a quarter of Lima's 12 million population may have already had the virus, according to a government study published last month. Officials warn the country's real death toll may be close to double the official figure.

Yet there are signs Peru may be past the worst of the pandemic. While the country reported 153 deaths on Thursday, the number of hospitalized patients had fallen 9.2 percent from a peak reached 10 days earlier.

Despite locking the entire country down early and aggressively, the government has struggled to get control of its outbreak. Cases surged after lockdown measures were eased in July, prompting a ban on social and family gatherings and also delaying plans for reopening the economy.

WHO

The World Health Organization will next week receive a raft of pledges of support for its plan for COVID-19 vaccines for all.

But the agency has already had to scale back its ambition.

The United States, Japan, Britain and the European Union (EU) have struck their own deals to secure millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses for their citizens, ignoring the UN body's warnings that "vaccine nationalism" will squeeze supplies.

If other countries that can afford it and pursue a similar approach, the WHO's strategy for fighting the coronavirus pandemic globally and equitably risks coming undone, experts warn.

Countries wishing to be part of the WHO initiative, dubbed COVAX, must submit expressions of interest by Monday.

More than 170 countries, including Canada, Norway, South Korea and Britain, have submitted non-binding expressions of interest to participate in the scheme, which the WHO has touted as the only global initiative to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to rich and poor countries alike.

It has signed up nine COVID-19 vaccine candidates and set out plans to obtain and deliver 2 billion doses by the end of 2021 across countries that sign up.

But it has struggled to get wealthier countries on board in full beyond pledges of funding and warm words about donating surplus vaccines.

The EU's aggressive dealmaking for vaccine supplies and tepid statements about COVAX have in particular undermined the initiative, which is co-led by the WHO, the GAVI vaccines alliance and the CEPI Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

The European Commission is likely to pledge cash for COVAX but it is also securing its own supply deals for member states, deeming COVAX too slow and expensive. Brussels has told countries they can help fund COVAX, but can't seek to buy vaccines via both schemes, a Commission spokesman said. Forced to choose, some countries have pulled out of COVAX entirely.

Other WHO members, which are already major donors to existing global vaccine programmes unrelated to COVID-19, are still on the fence too.

Agencies



Relatives carry the coffin of a suspected COVID-19 victim at the Nueva Esperanza cemetery, one of the largest in Latin America, in the southern outskirts of Lima. AFP

British universities should not reopen next month, says union

LONDON

BRITISH universities should scrap plans to reopen next month to prevent travelling students from fuelling the country's coronavirus pandemic, a union said, calling for courses to be taught online.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has come under fire over its moves to restart education, especially after a row over exam results for school students and a failed attempt to bring all pupils back to their classes earlier this year.

Johnson has been calling on Britons to return to something more akin to normality after the corona-

virus lockdown, calling on workers to return to offices to help the economy recover from a 20% contraction in the April-June period.

But the University and College Union (UCU) said it was too early to send students back to universities, warning they could be blamed if cases of COVID-19 increased.

"Moving a million plus students around the country is a recipe for disaster and risks leaving ill-prepared universities as the care homes of a second wave," UCU general secretary Jo Grady said in a statement.

"It is time for the government to finally take some decisive and responsible action in this crisis and



Cyclists are seen in front of Cambridge University, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Cambridge, Britain, May 15, 2020. (File photo)

tell universities to abandon plans for face-to-face teaching," she said, urging the government to move all teaching online for the first term. Stephen Barclay, chief secretary to the Treasury (finance ministry), said he did not agree with the argument.

"I think universities like the rest of the economy need to come back and students need to be able to do so," he told Times Radio.

Several universities say they are ready to reopen next month after weeks of preparation and some students say they have already spent money on such things as housing in preparation for the new term. **Agencies**

New school year dawns amid virus controls

BEIJING

CHINESE primary and secondary schools started to partially open to certain grades Saturday, as the opening of the new school year for different grades of students will continue until Sept. 7 in a staggered schedule amid intensive COVID-19 prevention and control measures on campus.

In Beijing, six grades in primary and secondary schools started the new semester Saturday, with a total number of 590,000 students, according to a source of Beijing Municipal Education Commission.

At half past seven Saturday morning, six-year-old Ren Jia stood at the gate of Beijing Bayi School and waved goodbye to his family. The first grader was immediately greeted by senior students who guided him to undergo a body temperature check and led him to his classroom.

In the school building, contact-free hand washing equipment is installed on each floor. Yellow one-meter lines and other signs are painted on the ground to remind



Students have a class in Hubei Shuiguohu No 1 Middle School in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, Aug 10, 2020. XINHUA

students to keep their distance from one another.

Xu Jie, director of moral education at the school, said the orientation for new students will run for three days to get children familiar with the campus environment and the epidemic prevention requirements.

The school has prepared a gift bag for each new student, inside of which there are face masks, sterilized paper towels and their name

cards.

At the High School Affiliated to the Beijing Institute of Technology, the opening ceremony for the new school year was held in the auditorium with choral performances and poem recitations. In order to prevent overcrowding, some students watched a live stream of the ceremony in their classrooms.

The Beijing municipal authority has required teachers and students to wear face masks on campus.

Kindergartens in the city will open on Sept. 8. Children do not need to wear face masks in kindergartens, though staff are required to wear masks.

In Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi province, more than 800 students from grade eleven of Taiyuan No 12 Middle School returned to campus Saturday. In the morning, they had their temperature checked and received epidemic prevention supplies provided by the school.

"We have staggered the beginning of the new school year for different grades in junior and senior high so that the epidemic prevention work can be done in an orderly way," said Feng Guolei, principal of the school.

In the spring semester, Chinese schools implemented a variety of anti-epidemic measures. Xinghualing District Foreign Language Primary School in Taiyuan pioneered the use of paper angel wings for students to help them maintain social distance. "In the new semester, we will continue to use the 'one-meter wings' to keep children at a safe distance and help them develop an awareness of health and safety," said Zhao Gailing, principal of the school.

The Chinese Ministry of Education issued a circular earlier this month asking schools to take local anti-epidemic situations and the schools' conditions into account while making contingency plans, and to enhance their capabilities in handling possible emergencies with well-trained personnel. **Xinhua**

China sees in-depth integration of 5G network into various industries

UNDER a 380-meter-high power transmission tower on Jintang Island in Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang province, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) slowly rose into the air and started its routine inspection of the 500-kilovolt power transmission lines between Zhenhai district of Zhejiang's city of Ningbo and the large steel pylons on Jintang Island.

"We used to carry out the inspection by looking through a telescope on the ground. It was inefficient, and some parts of the lines may be missed out," said Han Lei, a staff member who is in charge of the UAV project of Zhoushan power supply company of State Grid Corporation of China.

In July, the company put into service a 5G-based UAV autonomous inspection system built with the help of China Unicom. Thanks to the 5G network with high bandwidth and low latency, data, images, and

videos can be quickly transmitted to the control room via the new system, which enables people to get inspection report by simply clicking on the computer screen and has improved the efficiency by more than four times.

By the end of June, the number of 5G base stations in China had exceeded 400,000, according to statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), which revealed that the country's number of 5G terminal connections had reached 88 million as of the end of July.

Such amazing figures are the result of China's fast speed and huge scale of 5G network construction that exceeded all expectations.

China is seeing 15,000 more new 5G base stations every week. The country has newly built 257,000 5G base stations dur-

ing the first half of this year, with over 97 percent of the needs in construction being met through the use of existing resources.

The Shanghai-Suzhou-Nantong Yangtze River Bridge that opened to traffic in July, for one, has been equipped with 5G network.

"China Tower Corporation Limited has overcome many difficulties in the construction, including working at heights, limited construction time, and compatibility of full coverage of 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G networks," disclosed Ye Lu, general manager of the Nantong branch of China Tower, which participated in the 5G construction on the bridge.

Ye added that the company managed to make one antenna be shared by multiple enterprises, saving 60 percent of the investment and shortening the construction period by 60 days.

The huge number of 5G base stations and 5G terminal connections represent the rapid integration of 5G network into Chinese people's lives and its increasingly important role in bringing changes to the country's economy and society.

"The Internet speed of 5G network is so fast. The smooth and high-definition livestreaming videos based on 5G network helped me a lot with my business," said Zhou Weimin, manager of a restaurant located at the foot of the Phoenix Mountain in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang province.

"Catering businesses in tourist attractions were confronted with obstacles during the COVID-19," Zhou said, disclosing that the business of his restaurant has eventually got better since he started to introduce the specialties of his restaurant, promote takeout food, and help customers tour the Phoenix Mountain to people via

livestreaming.

In fact, the number of people in China who have enjoyed the benefits of 5G network like Zhou is surging at the rate of several million a month.

At the same time, massive innovative applications of 5G network are taking place across the country.

"Since the use of the 5G network and driverless heavy-duty rack cars, each roll of steel can be handled three minutes and thirty seconds faster than before and the number of managerial staff has been reduced from 130 to 30," disclosed Xu Yonggang, chief customer manager of the government and enterprises clients department of the Shanghai branch of China Telecom, referring to the driverless heavy-duty rack cars shuttling between the wharves near the Yangtze River and the base of Baosteel in Baoshan district of

Shanghai.

These driverless heavy-duty cars are the first batch of driverless road vehicles with the greatest load-carrying ability put into use in China's metallurgical industry. While representing a new attempt of Baosteel and China Telecom to promote the application of 5G technology in industrial Internet, these vehicles could handle the smooth turnover of 100,000 tons of steel rolls on a daily basis.

The in-depth integration of 5G network into traditional industries including industry, transportation, medicine, education, and energy are producing fruitful results, benefiting the world with achievements in such areas as self-driving vehicles, industrial Internet, smart transportation, smart medicine, smart home, and smart education.

People's Daily



A citizen in Nanjing, capital of East China's Jiangsu Province, uses a mini programme which provides local public transportation information.

Boom in mini programmes in China opens up huge business opportunities

THANKS to their ability to meet people's needs for various services during the COVID-19 pandemic, mini programs have quickly penetrated various industries in China, such as telemedicine, online education, as well as the fresh food retail industry, while playing important roles in government affairs and people's livelihoods.

There are now more than 5.5 million mini programs in China, with the amount of daily active users exceeding 440 million, according to a midyear report on mini programs in 2020.

The total value of the transactions that take place on mini programs in China is expected to exceed 2 trillion yuan (about \$287.8 billion) by the end of the year, suggested a recent report released by a Chinese SaaS provider.

"During the period when the epidemic situation was very serious, my family did our best to not go outside, so I bought vegetables at home via mini programs. It was very convenient," said a college student surnamed Zhao.

When she found that mini programs could meet basically all her needs for various services ranging from paying bills to online shopping, Zhao taught her parents how to use them so that they could also enjoy bike sharing and express services.

"My parents learned how to use these mini programs quickly," said Zhao, adding that mini programs are convenient as people can use them without having to download a dedicated app onto their mobile phones.

The first mini program was released on social media platform WeChat on Jan. 9, 2017. There are now 11 mini program platforms in China, including WeChat, service-focused e-commerce giant Meituan Dianping, the world's leading mobile payment platform Alipay, tech giant Baidu, and leading cybersecurity company Qihoo 360.

There were 580,000 mini programs in China in 2017, and the figure is estimated to surpass 14 million in 2020, according to iiMedia Research, a third-party data mining and data analysis service provider.

The number of mini program users in China is expected to exceed 850 million this year, according to data from iiMedia Research.

With more platforms intensifying their efforts to tap into the field, more types of mini programs will be connected to various platforms, ensuring that the growth of mini programs will continue to accelerate.

So far, Alipay's digital platform has a total of over 1.7 million mini programs, which are used by more than 600 million people each month.

The number of mini programs on the WeChat platform has exceeded 3.2 mil-

lion, and have more than 730 million monthly active users, according to a recent report on the development of online mini programs during the first half of this year.

As demand for contactless digital services has soared since the COVID-19 outbreak, China has seen a boom in the development and performance of mini programs.

Many businesses that have launched mini programs on the Alipay platform have seen their sales volumes rocket.

One mini program launched by a milk tea brand on Alipay was visited more than 8 million times in the two months after its release, while the value of the brand's business transactions on Alipay platform rose 50 times.

Another mini program that provides users with moving services found that there were over 10,000 inquiries made on the mini program on Alipay for moving services every month, and 30 percent of these people eventually hired the company for its services.

Li Shang Huang, a Chinese snack food retail brand, managed to attract more than 20,000 people to its offline stores within 20 days by providing coupons through its mini program.

With apps taking up more and more internal storage, space on mobile phones has become increasingly precious. Mini programs offer a far more convenient alternative, as people can open them simply by scanning the code of a mini program or searching the program with their existing apps.

On top of that, the cost of developing a mini program is much lower than that needed for an app, and in terms of user experience, there's not much difference between the two.

Moreover, being closely connected with social media apps gives mini programs a major advantage over apps, said Pan Helin, executive director of the research institute of digital economy at the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.

Recently, WeChat started running internal tests for a new feature based on mini programs. This feature allows enterprises to run mini stores on the platform and promote sales via livestreaming. The move is aimed at helping more small and medium-sized enterprises and owners of private businesses benefit from e-commerce via the WeChat platform.

Last March, Ant Financial Services Group, the operator of Alipay, announced that it would upgrade Alipay into an open digital lifestyle platform.

The platform revealed that it would work with 50,000 service providers to help 40 million businesses in the service industry realize digital transformation over the next three years.

People's daily

Sputnik V vaccine is supplied to medical institutions for Phase 3 of trials

MOSCOW

FIRST batches of the Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus have been supplied to the medical institutions within the framework of the third post-registration phase of clinical trials of the preparation, Russian Healthcare Minister Mikhail Murashko told journalists on Thursday.

"The first batches of the vaccine against the coronavirus infection are being supplied already within the framework of Phase 3 clinical trials,"



he said.

Earlier, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) reported that post-registration clinical trials of Sputnik V, the first vaccine against the coronavirus, are planned in five other coun-

tries.

Registered on August 11, Russian Sputnik V preparation became the first vaccine against the coronavirus worldwide that obtained state registration.

The preparation was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Healthcare Ministry and is produced jointly with the RDIF. In all, over 160 vaccines are being developed worldwide with over 30 of them being at the stage of clinical trials on humans.

Agencies

China, France vow to uphold multilateralism

PARIS

CHINA and France will uphold multilateralism to promote international cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and confronting global challenges, visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Laurent Fabius, president of France's Constitutional Council, agreed during their meeting here on Saturday.

Wang said the Sino-French ties have maintained a strong momentum of development under the strategic leadership of the two heads of state.

"Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic, Chinese and French governments and peoples have been working side by side and helping each other," said Wang.

He suggested that the two countries should, with regular COVID-19 containment measures in place, further deepen strategic mutual trust, resume exchanges and cooperation in all fields in an orderly manner, and continue to explore new areas of cooperation to inject more stability into the economic recovery of both countries and the world as a whole.

Solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons to defeat the pandemic, the Chinese foreign minister stressed.

Facing the still severe epidemic situation, Wang said China is willing to continue with France and the European Union (EU) to firmly uphold multilateralism and safeguard the current international system and international order, enhance international solidarity in fighting the pandemic and help Afri-



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, left, touches elbows with Laurent Fabius, president of France's Constitutional Council, in Paris, France on Saturday XINHUA

can countries to achieve accessibility and affordability of vaccines.

China will work with France and the EU to implement well the Paris Agreement on climate change, and play an exemplary role in promoting good interaction and win-win cooperation among major forces, he added.

Fabius recalled the time when he was France's foreign minister working with China in facilitating the Paris Agreement on climate change and the comprehensive agreement on the Iran nuclear issue, and expressed deep regret over the unilateral withdrawal from the treaties.

He noted that as defenders of the current international multilateral order, France, the EU and China should maintain the main theme of multilateral cooperation, lead the international community to take positive action, strengthen international collaboration on the COVID-19 vaccine, and confront global challenges including climate change, making contributions to world peace, progress and prosperity.

France is the fourth leg of Wang's ongoing European tour, which has taken him to Italy, the Netherlands and Norway and will also take him to Germany.

Xinhua

Abe resignation: Japan economic recovery looks further uncertain

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday announced his resignation over health issues, catching the country by surprise and sending two major stock indexes tumbling in Tokyo.

Japan's economy is already in deep recession amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the sudden resignation of the prime minister, who led the country's economic recovery through "Abenomics," has added further uncertainty.

In December 2012, Abe took office for the second time and launched ultra-loose monetary policy, proactive fiscal policy and a series of structural reform measures to boost the Japanese economy. Guided by "Abenomics," Japan's economy was on the path to slow recovery, leading to a sharp rebound in the stocks and real estate markets.

However, according to the Economic and Social Research Institute of the Cabinet Office, the phase of economic expansion started by "Abenomics" ended in October 2018. The 71-month recovery period has become the second longest since World War II.



But the ultra-loose monetary policy under "Abenomics" has neither helped Japan out of deflation to reach the 2-percent inflation target, nor has it significantly boosted the development of Japan's real economy. For the Japanese media, economists and people, years of around 1-percent economic growth has done little to boost their confidence, and they "lacked a real feeling" of economic recovery.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Abe's cabinet has rolled out an unprecedented economic stimulus package to counter the economic fallout. With the state of emergency fully lifted, the stimulus package is delivering results as the country's economy appears to be hitting the bottom and is in the course of recovery.

But most experts believe that the re-

covery would be very slow as Japan's economy lacks momentum due to weak domestic and external demand.

According to the latest data, Japan's economy shrank 7.8 percent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter, or at an annualized rate of 27.8 percent, logging the sharpest contraction on record.

The data also showed that the country's personal consumption remained sluggish, while the recovery of industrial and mining production was still weak and exports were far from a full recovery.

Takahide Kiuchi, an economist at Nomura Research Institute Ltd, said that Japan's economy shrank at a record pace in the second quarter, with 60 percent of which coming from a sharp drop in personal consumption.

As the employment environment deteriorates and income decreases, consumption is expected to continue to be bleak in the future, said Kiuchi, adding that demand for durable goods such as automobiles will be delayed, and service industries such as catering and entertainment will still face severe challenges.

Xinhua

Past decade has seen 'sound development in China-UK relations' - embassy spokesperson

LONDON

THE past 10 years have seen "sound development in China-UK bilateral relations," including the growth of trade, Chinese investment in Britain and the number of Chinese students in the country, a spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Britain said Saturday.

The spokesperson made the statement in response to a report carried by The Times newspaper on Friday, which said that "the number of Chinese diplomats in the UK has risen by almost a quarter in the past decade, prompting renewed concerns over the country's political influence in Britain", and that "Chinese diplomats around the world have been accused of displaying so-called 'wolf warrior' diplomacy during the coro-

navirus pandemic."

"The past 10 years have seen sound development in China-UK bilateral relations," during which a visit by the Chinese leader to Britain in 2015 unveiled the "golden era" of China-Britain relations, the spokesperson said.

In these 10 years, trade between the two countries doubled; Chinese investment in Britain increased 20 times; Chinese students in Britain increased from 100,000 to 220,000; Britain became the largest recipient of Chinese students in Europe, the spokesperson noted.

"The two countries also kept close communication regarding regional and international hot spots," the spokesperson said.

"As the bilateral relations grow and exchange and cooperation in various sectors increase, the workload of the Chinese em-



Ambassador Liu Xiaoming

bassy has risen accordingly and so has the number of staff in the embassy," the spokesperson said. "This is the reflection of the booming relationship. It is reasonable and there is nothing wrong about it."

"Diplomats of the Chinese Embassy and Consulates General in the UK are serving as a bridge between China and the UK and shouldering the important task of promoting understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation," the spokesperson said.

"Every achievement and progress in China-UK relationship is closely connected with their arduous works which deserve fair and just assessment rather than distortion and accusation," the spokesperson said.

"The most important conclusion we could draw from the outbreak of COVID-19 is that

New York museums reopen with masks, sanitisers and no crowds

By Bloomberg

AFTER more than five months in hibernation, the museums of New York are slowly starting to reopen, reawakening part of the cultural life of the city.

On Saturday, the Metropolitan Museum of Art will greet the general public after members were allowed back on Thursday. The Museum of Modern Art just opened this week, the Whitney Museum of American Art will reopen next week and the Guggenheim plans to return in October.

"It's important psychologically and spiritually for the people of New York City," said Tom Finkelpearl, the city's former cultural affairs commissioner. "When there's turmoil, that's the time when you want to go to a museum, to have that moment of connection with a work of art."

With practically no tourists, who usually make up the lion's share of visitors, and government restrictions on capacity, the impact of museum reopenings will be more symbolic than economic, Finkelpearl said. The fixed costs will remain the same, while the revenue will plunge, he said.

Countless exhibitions in galleries and museum have been canceled or postponed. The Met alone has already cut 400 jobs and expects to lose US\$150 million in revenue due to the pandemic. The picture is even bleaker in the performing arts: Broadway theaters, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall plan to stay dark until at least next year.

Even at 25 percent of its capacity, the Met, with 2.2 million square feet of exhibition space, can accommodate as many as 2,000 people every hour, said Laurel Britton, senior vice president for revenue and operations. That number is likely hypothetical. The museum doesn't expect to have more than 4,000 visitors a day, she said. There's a silver lining: no crowds.

"I think it will increase your enjoyment of the experience," Britton said. "We are going to be a hyper local museum."

For the visitors who do come, the experience will be different. At the Met, new procedures will include temperature checks outside on the plaza, timed tickets and mandatory masks. Smaller galleries and coat checks will be closed, water fountains shut down. Open seven days a week prior to the pandemic, the museum will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Some of the Met's exhibitions had only been on display for a few days before the pandemic prompted lockdowns.

"Photography's Last Century," an exhibition of the collection of museum trustee Ann Tenenbaum, had opened just a few days before the closures in March. It's a display of more than 60 photographs, spanning the 20th century, by Walker Evans, Man Ray, Cindy Sherman and others. The works will enter the museum collection as part of the promised gift from her and her husband Thomas H. Lee, chairman of Lee Equity Partners.

The reopening will be bittersweet for Tenenbaum. Like many other New Yorkers, she lost relatives to COVID-19: her parents. They had traveled from Savannah, Georgia, for the March 9 exhibition opening, and they were proud of their daughter's collection. It isn't clear where they contracted the coronavirus, but it could have been at a dinner with friends the night before the opening, Tenenbaum said. Several other diners also became sick.

Agencies

Xinhua



In this March 4, 2018 file photo, Chadwick Boseman arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Actor Chadwick Boseman, who played Black icons Jackie Robinson and James Brown before finding fame as the regal Black Panther in the Marvel cinematic universe, has died of cancer. His representative says Boseman died Friday, Aug. 28, 2020 in Los Angeles after a four-year battle with colon cancer. He was 43. (AP)

Chadwick Boseman didn't just play icons. He was one

BY JAKE COYLE

THE image that keeps replaying in my head since the death of Chadwick Boseman is from early 2018. It was just days before "Black Panther" would open in theaters and the exhilaration aroused by this long-incoming cultural event was everywhere around Boseman. Flocked by fans, he repeatedly paused for pictures until he was handed a months-old Black child whom he gently held, beaming.

Boseman's family said that the actor, who died Friday at the age of 43, was first diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016. Did he know when he held that baby that he might not live long enough to see a child of his own raised? Did he know that in playing Jackie Robinson, James Brown, Thurgood Marshall and T'Challa – in so gracefully filling the screen with the dignity of Black lives – that he was helping to cradle another generation?

In a tragically brief but historically sweeping life as an actor, Boseman played men of public life and private pain. Before Friday, we didn't know he, too, was bearing such a burden. That has only magnified his accomplishment, bringing him closer to the great figures whose shoes he wore on film. He played men who advanced a people's progress, a trail he helped blaze himself. He played icons, and died one, too. "There's a lot to learn from Jackie Robinson. There's a lot to learn from James Brown. There's a lot to learn from Thurgood Marshall," Boseman said that day two and a half years ago. "I would like to say that some of those qualities have infused themselves into me at this point."

Boseman started out as a playwright. He was raised in the manufacturing town of Anderson, South Carolina, the youngest of three boys. As a junior in high school, he wrote and staged a play inspired by the shooting death of a basketball teammate. Before he was a Hollywood star, he penned numerous hip-hop-infused plays: "Hieroglyphic Graffiti," "Rhyme Deferred," "Deep Azure" – and directed others. In New York, he performed with the National Shakespeare Company.

He compared his alma mater, Howard University, to his own personal Wakanda.

"If you have a blanketed idea of what it means to be of African descent and you go to Howard University, you're meeting people from all over the diaspora – from the Caribbean, any country in Africa, in Europe," Boseman said. "So you're seeing people from all walks of life that look like you but they sound different."

That early development of an expansive, historical understanding of African American identity surely fed the grace and humility of Boseman's most famous roles. It wasn't until he was in his mid-30s, after a handful of brief television appearances, that he landed his first leading role as

Robinson in "42." He was, from the start, a self-evident movie star with a rare, effortless charisma. Rachel Robinson, the Hall of Famer's widow, said it was like seeing her husband again.

In the hours of shock since the news of Boseman's death, the story of how Denzel Washington paid for Boseman and other Howard students to attend a summer theater program at the University of Oxford has been much retold. It's especially fitting because it, as if by fate, links Boseman with Washington. Like his long-ago benefactor, Boseman exuded strength and self-possession. When he played Robinson and Brown (in "Get on Up") and Marshall (in "Marshall"), Boseman's power wasn't asked for or worked up to. It was innate. It was there already. "When I hit the stage, people better be ready," he says in "Get on Up." "Especially the white folk."

Many would have, after playing Robinson and Brown, turned a blind eye to biopics. But by playing a young version of the Supreme Court justice in "Marshall" (which he co-produced) Boseman confirmed the ongoing nature of his project, one that would reach a staggering climax in "Black Panther." Boseman first made his debut as King T'Challa in "Captain America: Civil War" in 2016, the same year he was diagnosed with colon cancer.

After playing a string of pioneers, Boseman led the "Black Panther" revolution.

"We all know what it's like to be told that there is not a place for you to be featured – yet you are young, gifted and black," Boseman said, accepting the film's Screen Actors Guild Award for best ensemble. "We know what it's like to be told there's not a screen for you to be featured on, a stage for you to be featured on."

It's mind-boggling what Boseman was able to accomplish, facing down an industry's historical prejudice while suffering through cancer treatments. But it's equally hard to measure what lay in front of him. In less than a decade, Boseman changed the movies. His more recent films suggest the next decade was going to be at least as interesting. In last year's "21 Bridges," a film he also produced, Boseman plays an NYPD detective whose cop-killer case uncovers the department's own persistent corruption. Boseman's very presence reorients the story.

During the filming of "Black Panther," Boseman said he was communicating with two boys who had terminal cancer. They were hoping to make it long enough to see the film. "I realized they anticipated something great," Boseman said in a SiriusXM interview. The kids, Boseman said through tears, didn't make it. But in his unjustly short career, Boseman held in his hands a world, illuminated on screen like never before.

AP

Guitarist dies on stage during night music concert in Dar

BY CORRESPONDENT MARC NKWAME, ARUSHA

A guitarist with the Bogoss Musica Band, Tantara Masai, collapsed and died during the group's night performance in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, music authorities have confirmed.

Tantara Masai, a Congolese by origin, previously played with Defao Matumona 'General Defao', an internationally acclaimed music star from Democratic of Congo (DRC), and his string chords can be heard in some of Defao's popular hits such as 'Salanoki'.

The expert guitarist, Masai, was of late part of the Dar es Salaam-based Bogoss Musica troupe and met his death during the band's performance at Buza Savoy Hall in the city over the weekend.

According to witnesses' reports, the incident occurred at around 3.00am in the early hours of Saturday.

The music show was in full swing when suddenly things took dark twist.

According to the band's leader, Nyoshi El Saadat 'Matala', Masai was playing normally on stage when he suddenly handed his rhythm guitar to another guitarist, saying he was off to grab a drink.

But as soon as Masai took off



Bogoss Musica Band

the guitar, he collapsed. Band members rushed to his aid and carried him from the stage to El Saadat's car, which was parked outside, with the intention of rushing him to hospital.

Unfortunately, however, as soon as he was laid across the car seats, the popular solo and rhythm guitarist succumbed to

his death, which means he never made it to the hospital.

The Secretary General of the Tanzania Dance Music Association (CHAMUDATA), Hassan Msumari, has confirmed the reports in his official statement, saying all funeral and burial arrangements were being conducted at Sinza White Inn, the

base grounds for the Bogoss Musica band.

Masai was poched from his old band, the Big Stars, which was led by Matumona, in 2006, and brought to Tanzania to perform with Akudo Impact, a music troupe formed and managed by former cabinet minister, Juma Kapuya.

James and Lakers advance with 131-122 win over Trail Blazers

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

WHILE the ultimate objective is to win a title, LeBron James said the Los Angeles Lakers achieved a key goal against the Portland Trail Blazers – and it wasn't simply to win the first-round playoff series.

It was improvement. "We got better throughout the course of the series," James said. "We knew we were coming into a series versus a hot Portland team that was playing the best basketball inside the bubble along with Phoenix. So we wanted to just come in and try to work our game, get better and better as the games went on, as the series went on. And I believe we did that."

James had 36 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists and the Lakers advanced to the Western Conference semifinals, beating the short-handed Blazers 131-122 in Game 5 on Saturday night.

Anthony Davis had a playoff-best 43 points for the top-seeded Lakers in their first playoff appearance since 2013. The Lakers hadn't won a playoff series since 2012. James has never lost a first-round playoff series, going 14-0.

The Lakers will play the winner of the series between Houston and Oklahoma City. The Rockets took a 3-2 lead with a 114-80 victory earlier Saturday.

CJ McCollum had 36 points for the surprisingly scrappy Trail Blazers, who played without injured All-Star guard Damian Lillard. Carmelo Anthony added 27 points.

Down 14 in the third quarter, Portland got to 100-97 on McCollum's layup and tied it on Anfernee Simon's 3-pointer to cap an 8-point run with 9:46 left. James answered with a 3.

Gary Trent Jr.'s 3-point-

er tied it at 109 with just under seven minutes to go. Again the Lakers held off Portland with Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3.

After Trent's 3-pointer closed it to 114-112 with 4:53 left, Davis had a personal 11-0 run to put Los Angeles up 123-112 and all but seal it.

The game was originally set for Wednesday night, but players collectively decided not to play in the three playoff games scheduled for that day to protest racial injustice following the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Games on Friday were also postponed.

James said he hopes the past few days made a difference.

"Obviously, the bubble season will never be forgotten. In sports this is the first time we've been able to do something like this, but this moment is so much bigger than us playing basketball," James said. "Hopefully, years on down the line, when America is in a better place, you can look back to this moment and be like, that was one of the catapults that kind of got it going."

Lillard injured his right knee in Game 4 that prompted him to leave the bubble in Florida and return to Portland to see team doctors. Lillard was named MVP of the seeding games heading into the playoffs, averaging 37.6 points and 9.6 assists in eight games.

Trent Jr. took his Lillard's spot in the opening lineup. But because of injuries the eighth-seeded Blazers had just nine players available for the game.

"All you can do is hope to hang around and make it a fourth quarter game and win in the end, and we didn't quite win it in the end," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said.

Portland's lone win in the first-round series came in Game 1.

Meanwhile, Russell



Los Angeles Lakers players kneel during a moment of silence before an NBA basketball first round playoff game Saturday, Aug. 29, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

Westbrook returned.

Dennis Schroder left.

That was a fortunate turn of events for the Houston Rockets.

James Harden scored 31 points, and Westbrook came back from an injury to face his former team in the playoffs for the first time, helping the Rockets beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 114-80 on Saturday night for a 3-2 lead in the first-round playoff series.

"We've missed him the first four games. Now we've got him, and let's see what we can do," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "I knew he was going to be a little rusty, but he gave us a nice little spark."

A two-time scoring champion and the 2016-17 league MVP, Westbrook averaged 27.1 points in his first season in Houston but had played just one game since Aug. 4 because of a strained right quadriceps – missing the Rockets' first four playoff games. He finished with seven points, six rebounds and seven assists in 23 minutes against team where he played the first 11 years of his career.

"He brought that energy. He brought that excitement we were missing," Harden said. "We need him."

Schroder led the Thunder with 19 points – 18 of them in the second quarter, when Oklahoma City had its only lead of the game. But he was ejected midway through the third

for hitting P.J. Tucker in the groin while trying to fight through a screen; Tucker also was ejected after retaliating with a head-butt.

"It was kind of a bang-bang play," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "I understand, with P.J. getting thrown out, maybe it felt like Dennis needed to get thrown out. But again, it was an illegal screen. I'm not even going to speculate or even know (how) to read Dennis' mind."

Robert Covington had 20 of his 22 points in the second half, and Eric Gordon had 20 in all for the Rockets, who can advance to the conference semifinals for the fourth straight year with a victory in Game 6 on Monday.

Steven Adams had 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Darius Bazley had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder. They trailed by three at halftime before giving up 19 of the first 21 points of the third.

Houston scored 20 of the game's first 27 points, but the Thunder erased the deficit in the second – taking a brief lead of as many as five points – before the Rockets took a 48-45 lead into the half. Houston outscored the Thunder 37-18 in the third.

Y'ER OUT

Midway through the third quarter with Houston leading 67-49, Tucker set a pick on Schroder, who swung his right arm between Tucker's legs. When the two players stood back

up, Tucker approached Schroder and head-butted him from behind.

After checking the video, referee James Capers called a Flagrant 2 foul on Schroder and ejected him. Tucker was given a technical foul with an ejection.

"As Schroder attempted to get through the screen, (he) delivers an unnecessary and excessive act in the groin of Tucker. Tucker gets up and head-butts Schroder," Capers told a pool reporter. "It was unnecessary and excessive and by rule that is the definition of a Flagrant Penalty 2."

OFF THE COURT

The teams had been scheduled to play the game on Wednesday before the league suspended all games in the wake of the Milwaukee Bucks' decision not to play as a racial justice protest.

As president of the players' association, Thunder guard Chris Paul was one of the busier people during the walkout. He finished with 16 points and three assists, going 1 for 5 from 3-point range while Oklahoma City made 7 of 46 as a team.

"No excuses," Paul said. "It's been an emotional couple days for everyone on our team as well as their team."

"To be honest with you, it was nice to get out and play some," he said. "But as soon as the game is over, it's back to the work."

AP

Three things we learned from the Community Shield

LONDON

ARSENAL beat Liverpool 5-4 on penalties to win the Community Shield after a 1-1 draw at Wembley on Saturday.

Here AFP sport looks at three things we learned from the traditional pre-season friendly between the Premier League champions and FA Cup winners:

Ascendent Arsenal back in the groove
Just 28 days after beating Chelsea in the FA Cup final, Arsenal were back at Wembley to start the new season and once again the national stadium provided the ideal backdrop for Mikel Arteta's side to underline their rapid improvement.

So lethargic and error-prone during the dismal reign of Arteta's predecessor Unai Emery, the Gunners have been transformed by their former midfielder and Liverpool were the latest top side to find out just how well organised Arsenal are under their Spanish boss.

Just as Arteta out-witted Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola and Chelsea manager Frank Lampard with his astute game-plans in last season's FA Cup, Liverpool chief Jurgen Klopp found himself caught in his rival's tactical web in the first half.

Defending deep and attacking on the counter, with instructions to target Liverpool's young defender Neco Williams, Arsenal took the lead through Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's superb curler after he punished the rookie's cautious approach.

Then, when Arsenal's legs began to tire after just a week of pre-season training, Arteta had instilled enough competitive spirit in them to hold on for a penalty shoot-out that Aubameyang won with a nonchalant spot-kick.

Arsenal finished 43 points behind champions Liverpool last season but, while it might be too soon to label the north Londoners as title contenders, it would be a surprise if that gap isn't a lot closer come the end of this term.

Liverpool yet to hit their stride
For a team whose manager is famous for his commitment to

fierce, high tempo pressing, there was a noticeable lack of intensity from Liverpool as they suffered a second successive Community Shield defeat.

Jurgen Klopp's side set such a high standard during their relentless march to a first English title for 30 years that it is easy to interpret any drop-off as proof that Liverpool's thirst for silverware has been quenched.

Winning the Premier League quicker than any other side just a year after they landed the Champions League would be enough for some less driven teams to rest on their laurels.

But Klopp has no reason to panic.

Not only were Liverpool without captain Jordan Henderson and influential defender Trent Alexander-Arnold, but they are only two weeks into their pre-season training schedule after the late finish to last term.

Klopp could take heart from the way Liverpool kept going to equalise through Takumi Minamino's first goal for the club late in the second half -- his champions will remain the team to beat when the title race begins in two weeks.

Promising Saka heats up
While it was the electric Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang who stole the spotlight, there was also an encouraging display from emerging teenager Bukayo Saka.

Aubameyang's future is crucial to Arsenal and Mikel Arteta said a new contract for the Gabon striker is "close".

But it is the development of youngsters like Saka that offers Arsenal hope of long-term success.

The 18-year-old winger enjoyed a breakthrough campaign in 2019-20 and looks set to build on that this season.

His range of passing was on full display when he found Aubameyang with a raking cross-field pass that led to his captain's 12th minute opener.

Only Kevin De Bruyne (22) and Trent Alexander-Arnold (15) have provided more assists for Premier League sides in all competitions since the start of last season than Saka (13).

AFP

Barcelona unwilling to negotiate Messi departure

MADRID

BARCELONA is unwavering in its intention to keep Lionel Messi and will not facilitate his departure.

Spanish media reports said Messi has contacted the club to try to resolve the situation. Barcelona said Saturday that it will not negotiate to allow the Argentine great to depart before his contract ends next year.

Messi is not expected to report to the club on Sunday for scheduled coronavirus testing that is required for the entire squad before training can resume next week, according to Catalan radio RAC1.

Earlier this week, Messi said he wanted to invoke a contract clause that allowed him to leave at the end of last season, but the club said the clause had already expired.

A lengthy legal battle may ensue as the 33-year-old forward is expected to say the clause was valid until the end of the season, which was pushed back because of the pandemic.

Barcelona is not willing to give up on the player, especially not for free. Messi's contract, which ends in June 2021, has a buyout clause of 700 million euros (\$830 million). He has been with the club for nearly two decades, leading it to more than three-dozen titles and holding most of its individual records.

Spanish media said Messi and

AP

Arsenal closing the gap to elite by Arteta channeling his inner Moyes

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta has already acquired a taste for winning at Wembley as Arsenal manager, and Liverpool became the Spaniard's latest victims in the Community Shield on Saturday. Less than a year into the job at the Emirates, the former Gunners midfielder has delivered silverware in the FA Cup and Community Shield at a rate of success that his coaching mentor, Pep Guardiola, would be proud of.

He also secured a big FA Cup semifinal victory against Guardiola's Manchester City en route to last season's win against Chelsea in the final, so there can be no questioning Arteta's success so far in reviving Arsenal and getting his team to perform against the elite when it matters.

The Community Shield win against champions Liverpool may have been sealed with a penalty shootout after the game had finished as a 1-1 draw, but every trophy counts and each one that Arteta wins will strengthen his position as he embarks on the daunting challenge of making Arsenal challengers for the Premier League title again. That may happen sooner rather than later, but if Arsenal fans expected Arteta to build his team in the style of Guardiola, this win against Liverpool suggested otherwise.

Arteta spent three and a half years learning his trade as a coach as Guardiola's assistant at City. He also enjoyed a five-year stint playing under Arsene Wenger at Arsenal before calling time on his playing career to join Guardiola at the Etihad in 2016.

But despite so many formative years working with two of the most aesthetically pleasing coaches in football, Arteta has taken a pragmatic approach to his job at Arsenal. In



Arsenal players pose with the trophy after winning the Community Shield.

many ways, he is following the ethos of another of his old managers -- David Moyes at Everton -- by building from the back and making Arsenal durable and organised before even thinking about adding the style.

The presence of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in his team allows Arteta to build a solid foundation because he knows that the Gabon forward has the pace and finishing ability to offer a threat at the other end of the pitch, as he did against Liverpool with a stunning first-half goal that gave Arsenal the lead.

Aubameyang is a natural finisher -- a striker who would add something to even the greatest teams with his eye for goal -- and Arteta can work on making Arsenal solid at the back and in midfield because his star striker and captain will always give his team a

cutting edge.

But his predecessors in the job -- Wenger and Unai Emery -- consistently overlooked the need to resolve Arsenal's defensive frailties and toughen up the soft centre. Had Arteta chosen to follow the Guardiola or Wenger blueprint of overloading his team with flair players, the same old problems would have been an issue again.

But since taking charge, Arteta has focused on organisation, and against Liverpool it looked as the pieces are beginning to fall into place. Kieran Tierney and Hector Bellerin are both now showing themselves to be reliable full-backs who can defend as well as attack, while David Luiz has (for now) eradicated the mistakes and improved his concentration at centre-half.

But Arteta is not being

complacent judging by his summer transfer dealings to date. Defender William Saliba has arrived, after signing from Saint-Etienne in a £27 million deal that saw him remain at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard on loan for the 2019-20 season, and Arsenal are close to sealing a deal for Lille centre-half Gabriel.

In the past, Arsenal have been guilty of focusing too much on attacking signings rather than defensive additions, but Arteta is addressing that shortcoming.

Arteta's midfield of Mohamed Elneny, Granit Xhaka and Ainsley Maitland-Niles, whose future at the club remains uncertain, was another example of prioritising substance over style. This selection was certainly more Moyes than Guardiola or Wenger, but Arsenal dominated the central area of the pitch,

albeit against a Liverpool team playing without injured captain Jordan Henderson. Willian, the summer signing from Chelsea, will add further industry to the team when he is added to the fray, but Mesut Ozil can expect to stay out in the cold with the German clearly completely unsuited to the way that Arteta wants to play.

Arsenal are certainly on an upwards curve under Arteta, but the Community Shield is never a reliable gauge when assessing a team's prospects for the season, so perspective is required when judging both theirs and Liverpool's performance.

Liverpool, runaway winners of the Premier League last season, were missing key men such as Henderson, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, but their lack of serious investment since the summer of 2018 is beginning to show.

Takumi Minamino, a £7.25m January signing from FC Salzburg, finally scored his first goal for Liverpool with a second-half equaliser, but the Japan forward is the only attacking player the club have signed in more than two years. Konstantinos Tsimikas, a summer signing from Olympiakos, is a second-choice left-back recruited to compete with Andy Robertson, so the club have not spent big for a while.

Messi is worth pursuing, but his wages make a move impossible

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

EVERY big club in the world would want Lionel Messi. Some players are just too good, and too exciting, to turn down if the opportunity arises that they might become available. There is just one major problem with Messi, though. Or, to be more precise, 100 million of them.

Whenever you find yourself in the company of a senior executive at one of football's super clubs, conversation always turns to Messi and the fantasy question of whether they would attempt to sign the Barcelona captain if he ever decided to leave the Camp Nou. One such figure laughed late last year when asked about his club's Messi prospects. "We would all love Messi," the executive said. "But he earns £100 million a year at Barcelona, so he would have to take a pretty big pay cut if he ever left."

For all of Messi's incredible talents, his earning power is the one thing that can overshadow his ability with the ball at his feet if he really does want to leave Barcelona this summer.

Even in normal times, paying a player half of Messi's current salary would be a challenge for every big club that would rate its chances of signing him. But in 2020, with football clubs seeing their cash flow hit hard by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Messi numbers simply don't add up, even for the likes of Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, Bayern Munich and Manchester United.

Man City would seem the obvious destination due to the club's Barcelona connection with manager Pep Guardiola, chief executive Ferran Soriano and director of football Txiki Begiristain, but having just avoided a two-year Champions League ban after overturning a UEFA sanction for breaching Financial Fair Play regulations, Man City's accounts will be under such close scrutiny that they will find it virtually impossible to fund a move for Messi.

There might be a way of making it work; say, the securing of a sponsor prepared to pay whatever it takes to be associated with the club that signs Messi. It would be difficult for



Lionel Messi

UEFA, or anybody else, to argue that even a £100m annual sponsorship was inflated, because there's simply nothing to measure it against.

Meanwhile, sources have told ESPN that United are losing approximately £4-5m every time a game is staged without paying supporters at Old Trafford during the COVID-19 crisis. Their Premier League rivals will be suffering a similar shortfall, and with all topflight clubs in England due to pay a rebate of approximately £20m to

the league's broadcasters, big clubs like United and City will soon be counting lost match-day revenue in the region of £50m. That is a big financial hole for any business to contend with, and the losses will not be restricted to the money that comes through the turnstiles and from the television companies.

All of Europe's major clubs are having to cut their cloth accordingly this summer. Some will argue that Chelsea are breaking the mould with their business so far on Hakim Ziyech and Timo Werner, but having been unable to spend the €100m raised by Eden Hazard's move to Real Madrid last year as a result of a worldwide transfer ban, the Stamford Bridge side is merely using money that has been sat in a bank vault for the past 12 months. Nobody else has made a big splash in the transfer market, and much of that is down to many within the game believing that football has still to accept the financial correction that is heading its way.

So if Messi really is making himself open to

offers, either as a free agent via a contractual option or as a player commanding a transfer fee -- his release clause is understood to be 700 million euros -- he could not have picked a worse time to seek a move away from Barcelona.

Had Messi been 27 and at the peak of his powers, some club might have taken the view that the Argentine was worth the huge outlay. Crunching the numbers for a 27-year-old with plenty of years ahead of him is a different story to trying to make it work for a 33-year-old.

As Cristiano Ronaldo (35) and Zlatan Ibrahimovic (38) have shown, and continue to do so, greatness does not have a use-by date and Messi would certainly give any new club a massive injection of star quality and match-winning ability. But at 33, there would be no resale value with Messi and the clock would be ticking on him delivering success and silverware. And as for shirt sales paying his wages, all clubs have long since realised that that particular myth does not correspond with reality.

The biggest earner for the super clubs is, and always has been, success on the pitch, and even Messi cannot guarantee that. Barcelona won nothing last season and they have not won the Champions League since 2015. And let's not forget that Messi could not prevent the Champions League meltdown in Rome in 2018, the semifinal collapse at Liverpool in 2019 and their 8-2 defeat at the hands of Bayern in Lisbon.

So when everything is considered, it's difficult to make a sound, financial case for signing Messi from Barcelona this summer. Unless, of course, he decides that he is so determined to find a new challenge that he is prepared to accept just a tenth of what he earns right now.

If that happens, then Messi would jump to the top of every club's summer hit list. But don't expect that anytime soon. Right now, he is a £100m-a-year player before a transfer fee has even been discussed, so good luck finding a club willing and able to make a deal happen.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal closing the gap to elite by Arteta channeling his inner Moyes

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5 EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Complaints on players' unpaid dues imminent as transfer period ends, says Sputanza



Azam FC striker, Richard Djodi ©, negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania players when the sides locked horns in the previous season's Vodacom Premier League match, which was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AS the main transfer period for players in Tanzania comes to a close today, the Tanzania Soccer Players Union (Sputanza) leaders have said they anticipate many claims of players demanding their dues from clubs.

The main transfer period opened on August 1 and is coming to a close today.

Mussa Kisoki, Sputanza

Chairman, said so far they have not received any complaints on unfair dismissal, unlawful contract termination or players who are demanding their dues.

He, however, said he expects

many complaints especially from clubs which were relegated from the Vodacom Premier League.

Outfits, which were relegated in the 2019/20 Premier League season, are Singida United, Mbao

FC, Ndanda FC, Alliance FC and Lipuli FC.

Lack of commitment on the part of players was one of reasons, which led to the above mentioned teams' relegation,

given the players were not paid their dues.

Kisoki said experience has shown that many players tend to complain to Sputanza after the culmination of the player registration period.

"Up to today (last Saturday) no any player has come to us complaining about having not been paid his dues, unfair dismissal or unlawful contract termination, but we expect many complaints soon," he said.

He promised that Sputanza will do all it can to help players, who will lodge complaints to his association.

The Sputanza boss also advised players to demand to know their future with their respective clubs.

He pointed out many players are found in dilemma after clubs have released them in the last minute.

"There is a tendency that clubs release the players they deem surplus to their requirements in the last minute, this habit is not good," he disclosed.

"Players must demand in advance to know from their clubs are interested in their services, this will help them plan for the future before it is too late," he said.

Kinondoni Development thump Ilala Boys in 2020 TCA Development League

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI Development cricket outfit has made its intention to competently battle for the trophy in the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League clear, thrashing Ilala Boys by 52 runs in a clash, which took place in the city last weekend.

Opener, Arshaan Jasani, put man of the match performance with the bat as Kinondoni Development side raced to 184 runs all out in 37.1 overs of the 40-over clash, once they had won the toss and elected to bat.

Jasani, a gifted all rounder, not only saw to it his team get off to a good start but also went on to steady the ship with his aggressive batting showing.

He notched 69 runs, which included eight boundaries, and ended as the top run getter.

Fellow opener, Juma Mohamed, managed a few overs at the crease and posted 13 runs which consisted of two fours.

Mohamed Omary, batting at number three, had equally good innings, helping his side pile up runs with his 35 runs which consisted of three fours.

Low order batsman, Kelvin Anjelo, and top order batsman Aahil Jasani also notched double digit figures for the side.

Anjelo ended with 16 runs not out, which included a four, Jasani registered 10 runs which consisted of a four.

Ilala Boys' bowlers, captain Arsalan Premji and Zamoyoni Ramadhani, did their best to frustrate Kinondoni Development team's efforts to end their innings with an imposing score, as they took three wickets apiece.

Premji leaked 36 runs in eight overs,



Lions Academy spinner, Lazaro Festo ©, puts his skills to show in a 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League clash with Ilala Boys, which was played at Leaders Club in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

posting an economy rate of 4.50, Ramadhani leaked 47 runs and had one maiden over in his eight-over spell.

They were ably assisted by Nikhil Sawant that ended with two wickets, leaking 15 runs in his four-over spell, much as the three bowlers' efforts failed to reach to fruition.

Notching 185 runs to come out victorious turned out to be a tall order for Ilala Boys, given they, in response, ended with 132 runs all out with 63 balls remaining.

Significant batting

performance in the innings came from opener, Kheel Suchak, the youngster registered 63 runs not out.

Suchak confidently stepped up after an early dismissal of fellow opener, Ivan Ismail, with the former blasting seven boundaries on his way to notching the impressive score.

Ismail recorded 19 runs, which consisted of a four and a six, before he was caught by Kinondoni Development team's fielder, Shafii Mwarami, from a delivery by Dhyey Shah.

Skipper Premji, who batted at number three, failed to replicate his bowling exploits, give he was frustratingly bowled for duck, having been caught by Jasani from Shah's bowling.

Jay Hirwania was the team's other batsman that managed double digit score, recording 11 runs which consisted a boundary.

Batting collapse the squad experienced thereafter frustrated its efforts to get down to a successful chase.

The collapse was engineered

by a surprising early exit of Ramadhani that was dismissed without a run to his name.

The muscular batsman was caught by Kinondoni Development squad fielder Aahil, off Abdulrazak Mohamed bowling, as he went for a big shot.

Shah had a memorable outing during Kinondoni Development's turn with the ball, ending his spell with a six-wicket haul and successfully foiling Ilala Boys' chase.

The youngster leaked 27 runs in 6.3 overs and recorded an economy rate of 4.15.

Mohamed piled misery on Ilala Boys with his skilful bowling, given he took four wickets and leaked 22 runs in five overs.

Kinondoni Development team have, in the process, moved to the second spot in the tournament standing following the victory.

They are the only squad that has yet to concede defeat, having collected four points from victory in two outings. They have posted net run rate of 1.1102 after amassing 308 runs and leaking 255 runs.

Lions Academy still lead the rest of the pack in the event, having posted four points from victory in two outings and defeat in one match.

Upanga Warriors, Ilala Boys and TCA Women teams are positioned third, fourth and last respectively in the log.

Four regions pull out of 2020 National Athletics Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FOUR regions will not compete at the coming National Athletics Championships slated for September 12-13 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer Tullo Chambo said the four regions missed registration deadline, which was last Friday.

He mentioned the four regions as Kagera, Rukwa, Lindi and Mtwara.

Chambo said although AT is not surprised by the failure by the regions to take part in the championships, he asked them to be serious.

"Historically the regions of Rukwa, Lindi and Mtwara are not active in athletics, they don't compete at any championships," he stated.

"We ask the regions' leaders to wake up and start promoting the sport in their regions," he disclosed.

"As for Kagera, they were calling us regularly asking for procedures on how to register, we told them but they did not register up to the closing date," he said.

The AT information officer stopped short of spelling the consequences which will befall the regions, saying the showpiece's organization committee's members will decide when they meet soon.

The National Athletics Championships is taking place after five years of absence.

It is organized jointly by AT, Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) and National Sports Council (NSC).

Prior to the championships, AT had through the association's Acting Secretary General, Ombeni Zavalla, warned all regions to make sure they are sending elite athletes for the event.

She mentioned one of the consequences for failure to send top athletes as refusal by AT to issue permission to the athletes to compete outside the country.



Female athletes participate in 5000m race of the Ngorongoro National Open Championships, which took place in Arusha in 2018. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

