



National Pg 2 China pledges to cement relations



National Pg 3 Tunu Pinda calls for women's loans



National Pg 4 Temesa directed to procure spare parts



FARMING

Page 4



PARKS

Page 5



PRODUCTION

Page 6



State ropes in 68.9bn/- assets of three regional cooperatives



Former CCM Special Seats Member of Parliament Riziki Saidi Lulida (L) is sworn in as a nominated legislator at a ceremony in Dodoma city yesterday presided over by National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai (2nd-R). Similarly sworn in was CCM's Ideology and Publicity secretary, Humphrey Polepole (2nd-L). Both MPs have been nominated by President John Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has recovered assets worth 68.9bn/- that were illegally acquired by former employees and managers at the Nyanza, Geita and Simiyu cooperative unions.

Gerald Kusaya, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, made this affirmation yesterday, emphasizing that assets of cooperative unions that were illegally transferred to an individual or institutions will be restored to the actual owner.

He named the assets as pieces of land, buildings and various machineries, noting that stern measures will be taken against any identified person engaged in public property embezzlement.

"I appeal to anybody or organization in possession of illegally acquired cooperative unions assets to surrender them before the government's long arms reach them," he said.

Officiating at an investors' forum convened by the Kilimanjaro Cooperative Bank Ltd (KCBL), he said the government shall not tolerate any misappropriation of cooperatives' assets.

The assets recovered relate to three out of 46 major cooperative unions, while the probe conducted by a special team formed by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa is continuing with its work.

The government is determined to ensure the unions prosper since they are sources of development of large numbers of people and the nation at large. The government has in place a policy for reviving and strengthening

TURN TO PAGE 2



PM ends land dispute, hands big farm to sisal entrepreneur

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has resolved an outstanding conflict on the 1,598-acre Chanzuru farm in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region pitting Laizer Maumbi and Ameir Nahad by directing that the farm be handed over to Laizer to enable him to develop it by sisal farming.

A statement by the Prime Minister's

Office said that the premier directed the land area with settlements including the Chekereni area with 60 plots of land to be verified of its size and the farmer be compensated with another area, so that the people living therein are not evicted.

The PM gave the directives yesterday at a meeting involving permanent secretaries of concerned ministries, including PMO, Land, PO-RALG (President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments), the Morogoro Regional Commissioner and the farmer, Laizer.

The venue of the meeting was the PMO conference hall at Mlimwa government city in the capital where the premier tasked top officials in the meeting to supervise and properly coordinate this exercise "so that

TURN TO PAGE 2

Austrian investors eye flowers, tourism at TIC, TPSF meeting

By Henry Mwangonde

AUSTRIA yesterday expressed its readiness to facilitate the transfer of technology to local potential sectors like horticulture and air transport so as to enhance their contribution to economic development.

A delegation of investors from Austria is in the country where among other things it has engaged the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) in talks aimed at exploring investment opportunities.

In a meeting attended by Tanzania



He said Austria is currently importing flowers and consumer goods, mostly agricultural products, from Tanzania while exporting machines

Investment Centre (TIC) officials, Christian Fellner who is Austria's permanent representative to the East Africa Community said his country was ready to share with Tanzania the technological progress it has made in multiple sectors.

"We have some of the leading global companies among investors who are here and they have shown interest in investing in some sectors having the potential to succeed and help to improve Tanzania's economy," he said.

He said Austria is currently importing

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt sorts out teachers' employment list fiasco

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government yesterday clarified on the shortfalls and mistakes in the names of recently announced 13,000 jobs for teachers.

Permanent secretaries from three ministries, first the President's Office Joseph Nyamhanga (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dr Leonard Akwilapo (Education, Science and Technology) and Dr Laurean



Ndumbaro (pictured) (President's Office - Public Service and Good Governance) moved to clarify the issue yesterday and outline on the measures instituted.

The matter went abuzz on social media with many questioning who was responsible for listing the names as one teacher was in one instance named 196 times, a surprising typographic excess.

Nyamhanga said the government was addressing the matter, noting that there were many names which featured mistakenly owing to a technical fault which happened when uploading the names. This led to the confusion marring the whole exercise, he said.

Another shortfall was listing of names

TURN TO PAGE 2



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China pledges to reinforce cooperation with Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

CHINA has vowed to work closely with the Tanzanian government to enable the East African nation achieve its economic development endeavors.

The pledge is contained in a letter of congratulations sent by the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi presented to him by the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

The envoy said that China has faith in the Tanzanian government, especially immediately after the October General Election, which was held in a very peaceful manner and that it is committed to strengthening strategic relations to bring development to

the Tanzanian people.

For his part, Prof Kabudi said his talks with ambassador Wang Ke were focused more on various issues including the best ways to implement President John Magufuli's speech during the opening of the 12th Parliament in the capital Dodoma.

In another development, Prof Kabudi yesterday met with Swedish ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjöberg, and Finland ambassador to Tanzania, Riitta Swan. The talks with the two envoys were on how to bolster relations on social and economic issues.

Presenting credentials to President John Magufuli on October 28, last year, the Finland envoy was quoted as saying her country will continue supporting areas of cooperation - environment conservation and improving tax collection systems.



Bjørn Midthun (L), Deputy Head of Mission at the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, and Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa pictured in Dar es Salaam on Friday signing a three-year contract under which women in leadership will be empowered. The agreement also involves the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association and the Pemba Environmental, Gender and Advocacy Organisation. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Austrian investors eye flowers, tourism at TIC, TPSF meeting

FROM PAGE 1

flowers and consumer goods, mostly agricultural products, from Tanzania while exporting machines and Red Bull energy drink brand to the country.

The envoy named other areas of interest as tourism, mining, information technology, financial institutions, telecommunications and construction.

TIC Managing Director Dr Maduhu Kazi said the investors comprise the first batch of Austria's businessmen and women. The wider vision is to initiate five more investment projects from the current 11 projects which have created 786 employment opportunities up to now.

Dr Kazi said the delegation will

today meet permanent secretaries in Dodoma to hear from their side on what is needed for one to invest in Tanzania.

Currently Austrian investors operate a flower plantation at Meru in Arusha region, among other initiatives.

TPSF Managing Director Zack Mbena said the organ is assiduously working to find partners to team up with local investors in products and services that can compete in the global value chain.

"These visits are important as they are aimed at empowering investors to compete for profitable opportunities in the global economy. This requires working with knowledgeable people," he added.

FROM PAGE 1

the cooperative sector, he emphasized.

Kusaya expressed appreciation for cooperative unions and others stakeholders who have contributed in maintaining KCBL up and running following a major investment by CRDB Bank, underlining that the government was committed to ensuring sustainable development is achieved through the cooperative sector.

He challenged the KCBL management and the board of directors to be more creative, build the bank to another level and increase branches throughout the country, pledging the government support to the bank.

The chief business officer for CRDB Bank, Joseph Witts on his part said the financial institution had injected 7bn/- in the KCBL

State ropes in 68.9bn/- assets of three regional cooperatives

revival project.

"We promise KCBL stakeholders and the general public that our experience will enable this bank to improve its services, make a profit and in due course pay dividends to its members," he declared.

In his rejoinder, KCBL Board Chairman Dr Gervas Machimu commended the government for its unwavering efforts in ensuring that the regional bank remains afloat.

"This decision will help restore the services we suspended for a long time. Our partnership with CRDB Bank will also enable us to expand our scope of services

by serving our customers in Kilimanjaro region and elsewhere across the country," he stated.

The Registrar of Cooperatives Societies, Dr Benson Ndege said the KCBL has helped coffee farmers in Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Tanga regions sell their products through the warehouse receipt system.

Realising the importance of the bank, the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) convened the meeting to discuss how to keep the bank moving, he stated.

By the end of this year KCBL working capital shall be standing at 20bn/-, in which case other

stakeholders need to invest in the bank as it has a bright future, he declared.

"It is high time we make hard decisions, call on all cooperative societies in the country to buy shares in the bank to give it a higher imprint in the financial sector," he urged, pointing at Kenya's experience with a similar institution.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira said that the revival of KCBL was a long process involving many stakeholders. The bank is important so as to stick to the slogan of building a strong and sustainable economy, she added.



Contractors Registration Board chairperson Consolata Ngimbwa opens a meeting for contractors in Njombe yesterday. She is flanked by CRB deputy registrar (R&D) David Jere (R) and her deputy, Joseph Tango. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM ends land dispute, hands big farm to sisal entrepreneur

FROM PAGE 1

people living in areas inside the farms are not touched. They should continue to live in the area, and the area that was not part of the conflict should be handed to Laizer."

The farm was earlier owned by one Sadruddin Rajabali who sold it to Laizer, as he decided to abandon livestock keeping to take up sisal farming, and when he was in the process of changing land occupancy title, the farm was sold to another person, the statement indicated.

The premier Land Office staff in Kilosa District to ensure the issue is well supervised so that justice is accorded to the farmer, and that all officials involved in

the 'shenanigans' should be dealt with.

The regional authorities were similarly instructed to identify large plots of land that have not been developed and submit recommendations to the central government.

RC Loatha Sanare expressed appreciation for the manner the premier had resolved the matter, promising that he would supervise the implementation of the decision in an orderly manner.

For his part, Laizer thanked the government for the decision to hand the farm to him, saying it is the only asset he depends on as he sold all his livestock to buy the farm on which he started sisal farming.

Govt sorts out teachers' employment list fiasco

FROM PAGE 1

of teachers as employed but were then identified as having finished secondary school last year, he affirmed.

"We have worked on this matter.

We have seen that this was caused by the candidates' failure to correctly write their details for instance when they finished Form Four or graduated," he said.

Details have shown that most of those who applied finished form

four between 2010 and 2014, with PO-RALG needing to verify that those taken for employment are the right ones, thus rectifying the shortfalls.

"The verification exercise started yesterday and we expect

it to end in two days so that those selected should be given their dues as it was earlier," he stated.

In his remarks Dr Ndumbaro said the ministry had the mandate to issue employment permits for 13000 teachers, where at present

8,000 names of teachers have been released and 5000 others will be released later.

On the verification exercise, Dr Ndumbaro said teachers who were listed as selected but in an irregular manner will be removed

from the list.

"The system used to apply called for history teachers but others have filled in mathematics so that they are recognized. We will remove them," he added.



Morogoro Water Supply and Sanitation Authority managing director Tamim Katakwebwa (R) briefs Morogoro Urban legislator Abdulaziz Abood (2nd-L) at the weekend on a water pipe used by farmers to draw water from Mindu Dam for the irrigation of their farms inside 500 meters contrary to the law governing water sources. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

Chadema elders urge stern action against 19 'MPs'

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA'S elders council (BAZECHA) in Dar es Salaam Region has advised the party's Central Committee to conduct in depth investigations to determine all those involved in the 'process' to obtain the party's 19 Special Seats Members of Parliament who were sworn in last week.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the elders said they supported the step taken by the party's Central Committee to expel the 19 members from the party.

"We wholeheartedly support the step against the traitors who call themselves CHADEMA Special Seats Members of Parliament. This is not enough. We request for in-depth investigations to be instituted to identify all those who participated in the process to determine the 19 Special Seats Members of Parliament," said Uhuru Kitima, BAZECHA chairman for Dar es Salaam Region.

He added: "We do not want to have traitors who are 'viruses' in our party. They should be investigated and stern measures taken against them, even if they happen to be high party officials, because they are part of those traitors."

Kitima said it was not right to leave behind even a trace of such people in the party because they have already tainted bad image of the party.

Kitima further said the Council was saddened by the statement given by the country's Attorney General (AG) on the 19 Special

Seats Members of Parliament, saying his statement was interfering with functions of political parties since he was not a politician himself.

"We are shocked by AG's statement. He is not a leader of any political party. He just cannot interfere with decisions of a political party as he was not a politician at all," Kitima said.

"We, as Chadema elders vigorously against his statement. He should re-examine his position and if he sees the position does not fit him he should resign," he added.

Alex Makungwa, BAZECHA chairman from Mbezi Beach Ward, urged the party to take stern steps against the Speaker of Parliament, Job Ndugai for swearing in the members who had not been nominated by the party.



We do not want to have traitors who are 'viruses' in our party. They should be investigated and stern measures taken against them, even if they happen to be high party officials, because they are part of those traitors

NIMR appeals to govt for title deeds for premises expansion

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) has appealed, regional authorities here for assistance for the procurement of a title deed for the expansion of NIMR centres in Tanga and Korogwe districts.

The appeal was given here at the weekend by Dr Mercy Chiduo, NIMR Tanga centre acting director before the Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela claiming the centres were built within hospital areas making their

expansion difficult in absence of title deeds.

"Our Tanga centre and the small one at Korogwe have been built in hospital areas, hence we appeal for assistance to obtain title deeds for their expansion to house laboratories and offices for the researchers," she said.

Dr Chiduo explained that the centre has a big shortage of both financial and human resources for research work, as many workers were on short term contract basis through funds from various researches done within the

centre.

"We like to thank the government for enabling us to offer permanent employment, but still we have an acute shortage of financial resources for conduction research work," she added.

She stressed that NIMR Tanga centre has succeeded to transform treatment policy for neglected diseases including elephantiasis and hydrocele through research that showed better drugs for treatment and more understanding of the diseases by the society.

"Researchers at this centre continue with research at NIMR Mahenge Centre in Morogoro Region, and initial results show more understanding by the society especially on leprosy and ceratopogonidae diseases," she said.

She thanked the office of the Regional Commissioner for giving them priority and closely working with them, as well as other various stakeholders for their readiness in nation building through sponsorship in various medical researches done by NIMR.

Tunu Pinda calls for low-interest loans for women entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

TUNU Pinda, wife of former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has called on the government to establish banking institutions to provide low interest loans to entrepreneurs to increase their capital.

Speaking here at the weekend at the opening of a training seminar for women entrepreneurs, Tunu Pinda said such financial institutions will save them from humiliation and swindling by street loan

sharks.

She said street loan sharks have been humiliating and swindling women entrepreneurs, hence the government should come to their rescue.

"These loan sharks in the streets have been impoverishing many women by seizing their property due to high interest rates they charge, hence I urge the government to closely look into the issue," she added.

She however called on women who would be provided with loans from financial institutions to be careful over the use of the loans they get so as to be able to

repay.

"We sometimes create our own problems, once one gets a loan, she only thinks of purchasing good clothes and indulge in high life, all of which are not the aims for the loans," she said.

Fr, Yamnyausi Mwaluko, the training coordinator thanked God for the peaceful General Election.

He said the aim of the training was to enable women entrepreneurs engage in business activities to enable the country achieve middle level industrial status, and for their own economic wellbeing.



Chief of National Service Maj Gen Charles Mbuge (in blue suit) has a word with Ngerengere Airwing commanders at the weekend on how to develop Ubena Resort project. This was shortly after he had handed over 10m/- to support the construction of a rest house in the area. Photo: Correspondent Hellen Mwangi



PRE-QUALIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2025

Vivo Energy Tanzania (VETL) Limited is the name behind the Engen and Shell brands in Tanzania.

Vivo Energy Tanzania invites eligible and interested bidders to apply for registration for supply and delivery of various goods, works and services to Vivo Energy Tanzania Limited required for the financial year 2021-2025 in the following categories:

Category reference	Description	Eligibility
VETL/PREQ/001/2021-2025	Pre-qualification for provision of General Supplies	Open
VETL/PREQ/002/2021-2025	Pre-qualification for provision of construction works, Repair works & other services	Open
VETL/PREQ/003/2021-2025	Supply & delivery of General Office Stationary & other common user items	Open
VETL/PREQ/004/2021-2025	Supply & delivery of promotional materials & branded items (T-shirts, caps, umbrellas, Banners, Roll ups, & Teardrops	Open
VETL/PREQ/005/2021-2025	Supply & Fitting of office Equipment's, Machines, Fittings of associated Office Furniture including Window Blinds & Curtains	Open
VETL/PREQ/006/2021-2025	Supply & Delivery of bottled water & other dry food stuffs	Open
VETL/PREQ/007/2021-2025	Provision of Catering Services	Open
VETL/PREQ/008/2021-2025	Pre qualification of consultancy & training services	Open
VETL/PREQ/009/2021-2025	Pre-qualification for provision for maintenance & repairs of vehicles	Open
VETL/PREQ/010/2021-2025	Supply & maintenance of photocopiers, scanners, computers, printers, uninterruptible power supply (UPS), laptops, software, toners & other IT accessories	Open
VETL/PREQ/011/2021-2025	Supply, installation & maintenance of fire & security alarms equipment & security systems	Open
VETL/PREQ/012/2021-2025	Supply of bottled water, dispensing machines & maintenance	Open
VETL/PREQ/013/2021-2025	Provisional of air travel, reservations & ticketing services	Open
VETL/PREQ/014/2021-2025	Provision of sanitary, fumigation, pest control & cleaning services	Open
VETL/PREQ/015/2021-2025	provision of hotel accommodation & conference facilities.	Open
VETL/PREQ/016/2021-2025	Provision of security services(guards, dog patrols & security survey)	Open
VETL/PREQ/017/2021-2025	Maintenance of generators & compressors	Open
VETL/PREQ/018/2021-2025	Supply & maintenance of Retail pumps	Open
VETL/PREQ/019/2021-2025	Electrical maintenance & repairs	Open
VETL/PREQ/020/2021-2025	Supply & repair of Pumps & motors	Open
VETL/PREQ/021/2021-2025	Supply & repair of Fire extinguishers	Open
VETL/PREQ/022/2021-2025	Supply of Fridges & freezers	Open
VETL/PREQ/023/2021-2025	Vehicle hire-minibus, pickups, hardtop landcruisers	Open
VETL/PREQ/024/2021-2025	Courier services	Open
VETL/PREQ/025/2021-2025	Airtime recharge services	Open
VETL/PREQ/026/2021-2025	Garbage removal services	Open
VETL/PREQ/027/2021-2025	Provision of Experiential Marketing Services	Open
VETL/PREQ/028/2021-2025	Provision of Creative Marketing Services	Open

Interested bidders may submit the pre-qualification documents to VETL e- Tender Box email:enders.TZ@vivoenergy.com before 15th December, 2020. OR

Completed Prequalification documents in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked the category reference number should be deposited in the tender box situated at Kurasini Depot office, before 15th December 2020 at 10.00 am.

All tenders will be opened thereafter in the presence of our tender committee and qualified Suppliers will start business effectively 1st January 2021.

The Reserved Categories will be given preference to Youth, Women and persons Living with Disabilities.

All eligible and interested bidders are to be registered with Energy & Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA)

TMDA all out to wage war against counterfeit drugs all over Tanzania

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) says it will continue to protect the health of the community against people who violate laws and endanger lives by monitoring the quality and safety of drugs and reagents at the country's border areas.

The assurance was given here at the weekend by Dr Henry Irunde, TMDA's coordinator for the country's zonal offices at the opening of a training seminar for drugs inspectors at local council level, that brought together senior medical officers, doctors pharmacists and veterinary doctors from all local councils in Mbeya Region.

Dr Irunde said one of their responsibilities was to ensure they protect the health of the community and educating the people to identify fake and/or expired drugs.

He said up to now 80 per cent of drugs and medical devices used in the country are imported hence their duty was to verify the quality thereof before being used by the community.

He called on the 57 inspectors who were specially empowered for the job to abide by work ethics when tackling the issue of fake drugs or medical devices by providing information on their existence in the country.

Anitha Mshighati, the acting TMDA manager for the southern

highland regions said among the strategies in place was to make frequent inspections at border areas of Tunduma and Kasumulu to control importation of the counterfeit drugs.

She said since the inspectors were local council workers, she was certain that after the training they will go and plug all loopholes for the importation of banned drugs.

Speaking at the seminar on behalf of the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Dr Agness Buchwa said investment in factories for making medical devices will assist in the reduction of the existence of fake drugs and reagents in the country.

He said as of now Mbeya Region has three factories for making sanitisers that basically do not meet the requirement, as she said what was needed, is the construction of drugs factories.

She called on investors to grab the opportunity in drugs making to assist in the eradication of counterfeit imported drugs to save people's lives.

James Mwangolombe a pharmacist in Kyela District said among the challenges that affect smooth work performance in the district was rampant smuggling of goods.

Dr Christopher Mwasongela, Busokelo District Medical Officer said the community still lack understanding over the use drugs that have intoxicating effects.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge pictured at a filling station in the city yesterday attending to a motorist. It was at the launch of Puma Energy Tanzania Ltd's Customer Week 2020. To his right is the firm's managing director, Dominic Dhanah. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Igunga District, Tabora Region has taken to court a nurse at Igunga District hospital Wallace Kazili for soliciting 200,000/- bribe from a TB patient.

PCCB prosecutor in the district Mazengo Joseph claimed that the accused, Kazili (52), a resident of Masanga Street, Igunga town committed the offence in contravention of section 15 (1) (a) and (2) of the Prevention and Combating Act. Corruption

PCCB drags nurse to court for soliciting bribe from TB patient

No.11, 2007. The case is before the Igunga District Magistrate, Lydia Illunda.

The prosecutor claimed that on October 30, 2019, the accused who was the nurse at the Igunga District hospital requested a bribe of 200,000/- from Kasembe Bundala Nangale, a resident of Kishapu District, Shinyanga

Region, so that he could give her TB tablets to one Bugumba Luhende Lisawi was admitted at Igunga District hospital.

The prosecutor also informed the court that on the same date, in the same month, the accused Kazili received 50,000/- through mobile phone transaction as the initial payment of 200,000/- he

had requested.

According to the PCCB official, on November 1, 2019, the accused received 50,000/- of the total payment of 200,000/- he had requested.

The accused denied the charge. The case had been adjourned for mention until December 10. The accused is out on bail.



Morris Momba, a Tanzania Social Action Fund (Tasaf) technical support officer in the southern highlands zone, addresses the agency's facilitators in Mbarali District at the weekend on the need to make regular follow-ups on the activities of Tasaf beneficiaries. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Permanent Secretary Elius Mwakalinga has instructed Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) to immediately start procuring spare parts direct from parent companies instead of doing so through middlemen who have often been blamed for providing standard spare parts.

Speaking here at the weekend at a special TEMESA taskforce meeting that involved its management, stations heads and ministry's senior officials, PS Mwakalinga said he would like to see the agency improve its services.

He also instructed TEMESA's procurement manager and the director of vehicles repairs to prepare a report that should indicate the remaining spare parts at each TEMESA workshop, types thereof and from whom.

"I dispatched my inspection team to find out whether the spare parts were genuine or not, and if not I will return them to the supplier and have the money refunded," stressed Mwakalinga. He also directed the agency procurement manager to

PS directs Temesa to procure govt spares from parent firms

finalise the report by December 6 this year after which his team would officially begin inspection at each workshop.

The PS also ordered all TEMESA workshops which have not installed CCTV cameras to do so as soon as possible and also directed the financial manager to provide funds for the cameras at once.

The workshops involved are at Same, Songwe, Ifakara and Kahama.

"I want you to convene a meeting with technicians at every workshop and tell them the full working of the CCTV cameras that will show all activities on a vehicle since the time it enters the workshop, removal of defective spare parts, replacement of new ones etc, and whoever will be seen to be conducting illegal activities will be held to account," he said.

In regard to ferries, Mwakalinga

praised TEMESA for doing well especially in the provision of services in various areas of the country, but called on the installation of robust money collection systems to avoid revenue loss.

"I would like to see strong financial surveillance at Busisi Kigongo, Magogoni Kigamboni and Ukerewe ferry services to plug all loopholes on revenue loss," he added.

Speaking at the meeting, Japhet Masele, TEMESA's Chief Executive Officer said the agency plans to increase production in regard to vehicles repairs to reach 30.25bn/- for FY 2019/20 as compared to 22.24bn/- for FY 2018/19, an increase of about 36 per cent.

He thanked the Ministry for the cooperation it provides in regard to the agency's activities, including advice, various directives and funds to enable it improve its services.



I dispatched my inspection team to find out whether the spare parts were genuine or not, and if not I will return them to the supplier and have the money refunded

Tari changes subsistence farming into commercial agriculture

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Uyole Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) in Mbeya Region has begun transforming conservative agriculture (CA) technology to farmers to help those affected by the effects of climate change.

Dr Tulole Bucheyeki, TARI-Uyole director was speaking to this paper yesterday on plans by institute to assist farmers tackle the issue of climate change during the current farming season.

He said farmers in the southern highlands regions including Rukwa, Iringa, Mbeya and Katavi have already started experiencing achievements as they have started utilising conservation of soil resources and environment in their areas.

He said the farming practice abides by the guidelines in regard to rotational farming for cereals and leguminous crops that have seen increase of fertiliser and soil conservation in the fields.

"TARI-Uyole has decided to mobilise for conservation farming because it increases yields in drought areas, but also ensures farmers food security as well as reduction of production costs, thereby increasing their incomes," Dr Bucheyeki said.

He said conservation farming also helps reduce farmers' work time in the fields enabling them do other development activities.

However, he said conservation farming is faced by various obstacles including shortage of experts in the farming technology, as well as a small area currently under conservation farming, as up to 2012 62,500 acres only was under the farming technology.

He said TARI has mobilized itself to ensure the technology is spread to reach farmers and other farming stakeholders in order to increase agricultural raw materials much needed for the industrial economy.

"TARI-Uyole has decided to mobilise for conservation farming because it increases yields in drought areas, but also ensures farmers food security as well as reduction of production costs, thereby increasing their incomes"



An entrepreneur (L) exhibiting 'traditional' items meant to attract domestic and foreign tourists briefs visitors, among them Arusha district commissioner Kenan Kilongosi, at her pavilion in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

'Zanzibar farmers disillusioned over tomato prices'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TOMATO growers in Zanzibar have decried over low prices of the crop, which is caused by tourist hotels closure due to the outbreak of Coronavirus.

In separate interviews, some of the farmers said that tomatoes have no market, a situation which has led to prices, whereby a crate of tomatoes is at 25,000/- from the previous 45,000/-. One of the tomato growers, Ali Khamis of Shakani area said that Isles' farmers were encouraged to venture into horticulture farming but now "we're demoralized by the low price, which is below the cost of production."

"We're relying much on tourist hotels, but most of them have closed down their business due to COVID-19." According to him, Zanzibar farmers were seriously engaging in tomato farming, and most of the people in the Indian Ocean archipelago were relying on the Zanzibar-grown tomatoes and

they weren't importing a lot from Tanzania mainland.

A Kombeni-based tomato farmer Asha Bakari expressed his fear that farmers will stop from growing the crop due to poor market, calling investors to invest in the tomato processing industry, which will be able to get the raw materials from within Zanzibar

She also suggested the need for the government to assist tomato growers to form a cooperative union that will stand for their interests—setting a price cap of the crop, which is widely used.

"We're fighting alone. No one can stand for our interests. That's why I see it is high time, we come up with a cooperative society that will be on our own feet and through this, we'll be able to access loans from financial institutions," she suggested.

Asha also urged banks and other financial institutions to reduce loan conditions so that farmers can easily borrow money to develop their farming activities.

Nairat Abdallah Ali, Women Economic Empowerment officer from the Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar) said that horticultural growers need to be empowered with loans for the sector to grow. "But many of them fail to grow due to the fact that they fail to get loans due to tough conditions provided by banks as they want collaterals," she said.

She said: "Ni kweli ukitaka kukopa benki moja ya masharti uwe na vitu vya thamani aidha nyumba au gari jambo ambalo ni gumu kwa wajasiria mali wetu hasa wakulima."

She said: "It is true that if you want to borrow money from the bank, one of the conditions is to have valuable assets—a house or a car which is difficult for our farmers to have them."

She also revealed Tamwa Zanzibar in collaboration with other stakeholders is struggling to establish an open market that will provide room for farmers to sell their products on weekly basis.

Govt mulls establishing modern industrial parks

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government is set to establish modern industrial parks in different parts of the country to attain additional value for horticulture products.

The initiative, under objectives of the government to advance the performance of the agriculture sector for the five years ahead, will go in tandem with efforts to improve the production of horticulture products from currently 1.7 million to at least 14 million tons per year.

Coordinator for the Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP II 2021/2025), Vumilia Zinkankuba said the initial target is to stimulate the performance of the small and middle-scale farmers engaging in the commercial horticulture sub-sector.

She said that the ministry was implementing a key exercise of collecting and complying with priorities and strategic plans to be included in the guidelines for the 2021/25 Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP II).

She said as per the set priorities, the government is gearing to engage the private sector to strengthen the country's food reservation facilities through the construction of modern warehouses with a general capacity to reserve at least 500,000 crop tons. "We want to set conducive environments for stakeholders in the private sector to chip-in and invest into the construction of warehouses at different agricultural zones, to add muscle to efforts being accomplished by the National Food Reserve Authority (NFRA)," she stated.

Giving more details, she said in the coming five years the government will major focus and efforts to improve productivity in the production of key crops, possibly through the introduction of modern agri-technologies as well as uses of certified inputs and pesticides.

However, she bragged that implementation of the program during the past five years, 2015/2020, has fetched numerous milestones, including successfully managed to increase the country's food security by more than 121 percent whereby the production of food crops increased from 15m to 16m tons.

"During the past five years, we have also managed to increase the scope of irrigation

land from 461,000 to 694, 000 hectares, whereby seed availability to farmers was heightened from 36, 000 to 71, 000 tons and availability of fertilizer from 302,000 to 586,000 tons.

"The programme was developed and implemented with an eye also to facilitate demands stipulated in National Development Vision 2025, Agricultural Development Policy 2018, National Irrigation Strategic Plan 2030 and the ruling party's manifesto," she said.

Moreover, she observed that implementation of the program within the five years had enabled the parent ministry to expand production of seedlings for strategic cash crops from 1.6m to 7.1 seedlings.

As part to improve the performance of the sector, she said the program assisted the government to make a review of diverse agriculture related taxes, whereby through the exercise, at least 105 nuisance taxes was scrapped, being out of a total of 114 that was reviewed.

Among others, she unveils the taxes were removed from key crops include Coffee (20 taxes), Sugar (17), Cotton (14), Cashew (6), Tea (5), whereby in seed and fertilizer sectors at a total of 12 and 4 nuisance taxes were respectively removed.


She said the program, ASDP II, among others majors to develop for key areas, supervision for sustainable utilization of water and land resources, improvement in production and productivity in agricultural activities, additional value and expanded markets for agricultural produced.

"However, through positive lessons from other countries they government decided to introduce and start rolling out agricultural insurances to local farmers," she informed, added that after axed VAT imposition to the insurances, the government was with more plans on the pipeline to ensure the farmers are enjoying the vital services in more patriotic prices.

"We want to set conducive environments for stakeholders in the private sector to chip-in and invest into the construction of warehouses at different agricultural zones, to add muscle to efforts being accomplished by the National Food Reserve Authority (NFRA)"



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA KILIMO
MAMLAKA YA UDHIBITI WA MBOLEA TANZANIA



TAARIFA KWA UMMA
MABADILIKO YA BEI ELEKEZI KWA
MBOLEA ZA DAP NA UREA

Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Mbolea Tanzania (TFRA) ni Taasisi iliyo chini ya Wizara ya Kilimo yenye jukumu la kusimamia uzalishaji, uingizaji na biashara ya mbolea na visaidizi vyake. TFRA imepewa mamlaka ya kusimamia bei za mbolea kulingana na mazingira ya biashara kwa wakati husika.

Aidha, kiwango kikubwa cha mbolea zinazotumika hapa nchini huagizwa kutoka nje ya nchi na hivyo bei zake hapa nchini huathiriwa na mazingira ya uzalishaji katika nchi wazalishaji. Kutokana na uwepo wa Ugonjwa wa Homa ya Mapafu unaosababishwa na Virusi vya Corona (COVID-19) uliozikumba nchi nyingi duniani, uzalishaji katika sekta nyingi ikiwemo uzalishaji wa mbolea umeathirika na kusababisha bei za mbolea katika soko la Dunia kuongezeka. Kufuatia athari hizo na kupitia kifungu cha 4(1)(u) cha Sheria ya Mbolea Na. 9 ya Mwaka 2009 na Kanuni zake; Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Mbolea Tanzania (TFRA) imefanya mabadiliko ya bei elekezi kwa mbolea ya kupandia na kukuzia. Bei za mbolea aina ya DAP zitakuwa wastani wa kati ya shilingi 60,900/= hadi 71,700/= kwa mfuko wa Kilo 50 na kwa mbolea aina ya Urea itakuwa kati ya shilingi 47,700/= hadi 58,200/= kutegemea umbali wa kituo cha mauzo kutoka Dar es Salaam. Bei hizi mpya zitaanza kutumika kuanzia tarehe 30 Novemba 2020.

Mamlaka inasisitiza kuwa hizi ni bei kikomo wa juu (ceiling prices), na hivyo kuwataka wafanyabiashara wote wa mbolea kuzingatia bei hizo kwani hatua kali za kisheria zitachukuliwa kwa yeyote atayekiuka bei hizo. Hivyo, wafanyabiashara wanaruhusiwa kuuza mbolea hizo chini ya bei zinazotangazwa ambazo zinapatikana kwenye tovuti ya Mamlaka (www.tfra.go.tz), tovuti ya Wizara ya Kilimo (www.kilimo.go.tz) na pia katika maduka yote ya kuuza mbolea.

TFRA inawaomba viongozi wa Mikoa na halmashauri kusimamia bei hizi na kutoa taarifa za mahitaji ya mbolea kulingana na eneo husika. Aidha, wakulima kupitia vyama vya ushirika wanashauriwa kuagiza mbolea moja kwa moja kutoka nje ya nchi kupitia mfumo wa ununuzi wa mbolea kwa pamoja (BPS) ili kufanikisha upatikanaji wake kwa wakati.

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30 Novemba 2020




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TWIGA MINERALS CORPORATION

Subsidiaries

Bulyanhulu, North Mara & Buzwagi Gold Mines

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below supply of goods and equipment

TWIGA, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the supplying of the following goods through TWIGA's supply chain partner TCL Services Limited.

No.	Reference no.	Description of goods to be procured
1	TWIGATCL - 20-11-001	HDPE Pipes
2	TWIGATCL - 20-11-002	Cement
3	TWIGATCL - 20-11-003	Electrical Items
4	TWIGATCL - 20-11-004	Stationary
5	TWIGATCL - 20-11-005	PPE
6	TWIGATCL - 20-11-006	Paints
7	TWIGATCL - 20-11-007	General Vehicle spares
8	TWIGATCL - 20-11-008	Lime
9	TWIGATCL - 20-11-009	Fasteners
10	TWIGATCL - 20-11-010	Security Equipment Supply

Minimum Pre-Qualification Criteria:
Established in country agent/manufacturer/producer/distributor of product for minimum of 2 years with the necessary backup service available in country.

The above goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced suppliers will be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s);
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registrations as required
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of Interest submission
- TWIGA and TCL Services reserves the right to invite any other supplier/s which did not submit an EOI submission
- TCL Services acts as the procurement partner for Twiga Minerals Corporation and will manage the purchase process between the chosen supplier and Twiga
- TCL Services will be responsible for the execution and implementation of the procurement process with shortlisted companies

Kindly send your response by email to twigatendergoods@barrick.com 16:00 on the 7 December 2020. Any responses received after this date and time shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of TWIGA and TCL Services.

For and on behalf of TWIGA MINERALS CORPORATION

Production principles: Dar RC challenges oil marketing companies

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge has challenged oil marketing firms to conduct business in accordance with their licences and adhere to the principles of operations.

RC Kunenge urged them to ensure quality of their products to continue luring more customers, reduce operation cost as well as ensuring value for money.

He was speaking yesterday during the launch ceremony of Puma Energy customer care week, a global event which is also celebrated in all the regions where the oil marketing company operates.

"Offering better and quality services contributes towards bringing development in many ways; quality oil business ensures a healthy community and protects the environment," stated the Regional Commissioner.

He however urged the oil marketing company to continue providing education to its customers during the week since most Tanzanians do not have enough knowledge on petroleum products.

He also commended the firm for being part of the community through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy where it engages various groups in provision of road safety education. He said his office will continue working with the company to ensure the safety of road users.

Managing Director of Puma Energy Tanzania, Dominic Dhanah said the company supports government efforts in creating jobs for Tanzanians. He said they invest substantially in training its dealers to offer the best services and that it will offer quality services to its customers.

"We are planning to extend our network in other regions of

the country where currently we do not have service stations", he noted adding the customer care week is celebrated to appreciate its customers by giving them ease for cost.

The week is celebrated from November 30 to December 4, 2020.

Puma Energy Tanzania is owned jointly by the government and Puma Invest Limited, each with a share ownership of 50 percent. It is a midstream international oil marketing company that is engaged in large storage and distribution of petroleum products.

The company is a market leader in the country with market share boasting a storage capacity of 94 million liters, and operates 56 petrol stations countrywide and servicing 8 airports.



Offering better and quality services contributes towards bringing development in many ways; quality oil business ensures a healthy community and protects the environment



This is Nalingwenya river, which traverses Mkong'ondela village in Mtwara Region's Nanyumbu District and across which the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura) is planning to build a bridge to link Michiga and Makong'ondela villages. The scene was captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Villagers in Nanyumbu District commend Tarura for improving road infrastructure

By Guardian Correspondent, Nanyumbu

VILLAGERS in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region have commended the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) for improving the road infrastructure, bridges, ferries, and ditches in the district. They said the move opens up economic opportunities and urban growth in the district.

Speaking in separate interviews, villagers said the commitment made by the government through TARURA in implementing major

development projects including the construction of roads; bridges, and various ferries will leave a historic mark for future generations on the government's role in serving the people.

Juma Mazoea, a resident of Makong'ondela village commended the government for completing the construction of culverts on Nalingwenya River on the Michiga-Makong'ondela road and acknowledging that the completion of the culvert has facilitated and strengthened communication and transportation, including the transportation of agricultural products.

"In the past, the transport was a serious problem and it was more serious during the rainy season and we're spending more money, but now this remains a story of the past," Mazoea said.

Fatuma Maliki, a resident of Pachani village, said: "We're now moving easily throughout the year and this came after the construction of the bridge between Makong'ondela and Pachani villages."

Islam Mahela, a resident of Kilimanihewa Village has thanked the government for building a drainage system in the market, something that helped traders and buyers as the situation used

to be more serious during the rainy season.

TARURA District Manager Eng. Mwombeki Hussein said the agency has been making routine road repairs and this year we've repaired 442 km in all 17 wards in the district to open up economic opportunities.

"As an agency, we've opened up all roads of about 26 km in the town and we have put up road markings for the safety of road users," said Eng Mwombeki, adding that TARURA will continue to implement various projects in the district to enable citizens to travel and transport their goods easily.



Dr Asha Jororo of Dodoma's Makole Hospital addresses youths attending a World Health Day eve seminar in Dodoma city yesterday on ways to combat - or tame the spread of - infectious diseases. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Deputy minister calls upon youth to see unemployment as a serious challenge amid efforts to stabilise economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Dr Jim Yonazi has called on the country's youth to address the unemployment challenge as an opportunity to seek alternative employment.

Dr Yonazi issued the appeal here at the weekend when closing a competition for Innovations and Creativity at the Institute of Accountancy, Arusha (IAA).

"We know many youth are confronted with this unemployment challenge hence I appeal to them to take this as a challenge in finding the solution," he said.

He also called on the youth to utilise the IAA Business Startup Centre to produce quality products that could compete in foreign markets.

"We in the government would like to see this centre to spur changes for the youth in our country to get employment by

employing themselves instead of waiting to be employed," he said.

Prof Eliaman Sedoyeka, IAA principal said through the competition, they had been able to empower youth with business knowledge by giving them basic skills for doing businesses.

Sedoyeka said the Institute prepared the competition aimed at developing knowledge and creativity for the youth so that they can employ themselves and look for external markets for their products they produce.

Pamella Mbogo, IAA business startup centre supervisor said the competition begun on September 23 this year and was participated by 60 youth from the country's various regions.

She said the competition brought together the youth and various other stakeholders and has helped many of them open up economic opportunities.

She said the competition also involved IAA students as well as from other colleges in the country.

'Malaria death toll to exceed that of Covid-19 in sub-Saharan Africa'

LONDON

DEATHS from malaria due to disruptions during the coronavirus pandemic to services designed to tackle the mosquito-borne disease will far exceed those killed by COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa, the World Health Organisation warned on yesterday.

More than 409,000 people

globally - most of them babies in the poorest parts of Africa - were killed by malaria last year, the WHO said in its latest global malaria report, and COVID-19 will almost certainly make that toll higher in 2020.

"Our estimates are that depending on the level of service disruption (due to COVID-19) ... there could be an excess of malaria deaths of somewhere

between 20,000 and 100,000 in sub-Saharan Africa, most of them in young children," Pedro Alonso, director of the WHO's malaria programme, told reporters.

"It's very likely that excess malaria mortality is larger than the direct COVID mortality."

The WHO report found there were 229 million malaria cases globally in 2019, and said that despite the unprecedented

challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries around the world had fought hard and held the line against the disease.

But "long-term success in reaching a malaria-free world within a generation is far from assured", it said. Some of the African countries worst affected by malaria have struggled to make significant progress since 2016.

Due to ongoing transmission of malaria via mosquitoes in many parts of the world, half the global population is at risk of contracting the disease - and it still kills a child every two minutes. Despite this, the focus of global funding and attention has been diverted, making preventable child deaths more likely.

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Peter Sands, executive director

of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, said the WHO report's findings were "extremely timely".

"The global health world, the media, and politics, are all transfixed by COVID...and yet we pay very little attention to a disease that is still killing over 400,000 people every year, mainly children," he told reporters at the briefing.

Lusanga primary school in need of 13 classrooms

By Beatrice Philemon, Mvomero

LUSANGA Primary School in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region is in need of 13 classrooms for the school to get better teaching and learning environment for its 1,162 pupils.

School head teacher Ayoub Kihombo remarked recently while briefing journalists and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) staff who visited the school to see what has been achieved through eco-schools programme.

Right now Standard One and Two share a classroom because the school has nine classrooms that accommodate 1,162 pupils.

"Despite all of our challenges, we are able to teach pupils all the subjects they are supposed to study that in turn help them to get best academic results for standard seven and four," he said, calling on the government and other stakeholders to help them build more classrooms for pupils and teacher's offices to help pupils learn in a conducive environment that in turn will help them to get the best academic results.

Established in 1973, Lusanga primary school is located 70 km from Mvomero District's headquarters.

So far, the school has 1,162 pupils, 13 teachers, nine classrooms, and they still need 13 classrooms, nine teachers, and pit latrines for teachers and pupils.

Eco-schools programme was officially introduced at Lusanga primary school in 2016 with the support from the Danish Government through the Danish outdoor council (DOC) and is being executed by TFCG.

The main goal of the programme was to improve the school environment, establishing micro-projects to overcome various challenges facing the school, income, improve academic performance as the eco-school programme mottoes says "Eco-School is a school that cares environment for sustainable development."

Highlighting the academic results, Kihombo said that the school has been able to improve academic performance for standard seven and four pupils through Eco-School Programme.

"Under the programme, pupils were trained on how to

establish micro-projects in-terms of banana farming, planting tree seedlings for timber and fruits production, vegetable farming and later on selling it to earn cash through education for sustainable development.

Through micro-projects, the school has been able to launch a school feeding programme to help pupils get food at school and transfer knowledge to their parents.

"We are very glad for what we have achieved through School feeding programme because the rate of pupils who were selected to join secondary schools has increased and reduces absenteeism something that wasn't there before," he says

Before the eco-school programme intervention, drop out of school was very high in our school due to lack of food and other family and economic needs.

He said in 2017, a total of 197 pupils sit for Standard Seven National Examinations, and among those pupils, 129 pupils that is equivalent to 64 percent were selected to join secondary schools, among those 56 pupils are boys and the remaining 73 are girls.

While in 2018, 139 pupils sit for standard seven national examinations, and among those pupils, 120 pupils that is equivalent to 86 percent were selected to join secondary schools, among those 46 pupils are boys and 74 are girls.

In 2019, a total of 216, pupils sit for Standard Seven National Examinations, among those students, 171 pupils that is equivalent to 79 percent were selected to join secondary schools, and among those 72 pupils are boys and 99 are girls.

While in 2020, 75 pupils sit for standard seven national examinations, among those 71 pupils that is equal to 95 percent were selected to join secondary schools. He said among those 40 pupils are girls and 31 are boys.

A 10-year-old pupil, Irine Moses lauding TFCG for their support because the money they get from selling banana, fruits, and vegetable, they use it to purchase food for school meals to boost enrollment and reducing absenteeism among school children, improve school infrastructures and academic performance.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technicians pictured in the city's Vingunguti suburb yesterday moving to rehabilitate a main water pipe swept away by recent rains. The pipe serves Kimanga, Kisukuru Chini, Chama, Liwiti, Chang'ombe, Barakuda Ugombolwa, Segerea, Mwembeni, Mpera and Zimbili 'A' suburbs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania intensifies malaria fight in hotspots

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

MALARIA burden is expressed in statistics that preoccupy experts and policy-makers who strategize on how to eliminate the disease.

To Amina Yusuf Mkwanywe, a resident of Ikwiriri in Tanzania's southern Rufiji District, malaria is an abiding threat. "I really have to be vigilant all the time to be free of malaria," she says.

Set in the lower reaches of Rufiji River Basin, Ikwiriri's shrubby plains and wetlands provide conducive breeding grounds for mosquitoes for much of the year. Rufiji district is one of Tanzania's malaria hotspots. Infection rate in 2017 was 14% - almost double the 7.3% national average, according to the National Bureau of Statistics' Malaria Indicator Survey.

The government is now pressing on with the second phase of a malaria control project after an initial phase cut infection rate in southern Tanzania region - that includes Rufiji district - to 4.9% from 25% between April 2015 and June 2018. The second phase began in July 2019 and ends in June 2021.

Mkwanywe and her community are beneficiaries of the community-

based "Test and Treat" project. Unlike the fixed-post strategy that relies on patients turning up at health facilities for testing and treatment, this new approach involves health workers reaching out to identified malaria hotspots to test and treat people on the ground. The hotspots visited are identified using real-time data on malaria infection rates.

Due to huge geographical variance in malaria prevalence, Tanzania is taking differentiated control strategies. "We are dealing with infection rates ranging from 3% to 14% [nationally] therefore we need targeted approaches," says Dr Ally Mohamed, the National Malaria Control Programme Manager.

The National Malaria Control Programme has divided the country into small units where different combinations of interventions are used to accelerate malaria elimination. On one hand, areas with very low risk, measures are taken on a case-by-case basis depending on malaria surveillance outcome. On the other hand, areas with high malaria transmission risk such as southern Tanzania are getting intensified surveillance,

curative, preventive and control interventions to reduce the disease burden

The stratification of malaria burden in the country and tailoring of the response has been made possible by using malaria infection rate data taken weekly from the routine health management information system at health facilities along with vector surveillance results.

In the project area, a team of malaria testers visits the locations registering high malaria infections to test asymptomatic and symptomatic patients, with those found positive put on treatment. "This project has contributed to the low rates of malaria transmission in Rufiji district," says Dr Ali Zuberi Mbikilwa, Rufiji District Medical Officer.

Since being launched, Rufiji residents say they are experiencing fewer infections. "Whenever malaria testing is ongoing in our village, I take my children for testing. No one has fallen ill with malaria since I started testing frequently," Mkwanywe says.

"I used to miss classes for three to five days whenever I had malaria. Nowadays I get checked whenever the testing teams

come around. I don't miss school because of malaria," says 12-year-old Salha Omari Mpili.

Public health education campaigns are also being carried out through events such as football derbies where people are advised on how to curb infections by properly using long lasting insecticide treated nets and seeking prompt and proper malaria treatment.

The project is currently demonstrational, but it is to be rolled out nationally once validated. "The results of this project will determine the usefulness of the approach and therefore its potential for replication in other communities with high infections," says Dr Tigest Mengestu, the World Health Organization representative in Tanzania. The Organization is charged with providing technical evaluation of the project.

The case-study project is co-funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Chinese government and implemented by Ifakara Health Institute, a Tanzanian government agency, and the National Malaria Control Programme.



Special Seats legislator Bahati Ndingo (R) presents sanitary pads to students of Iringa Region's Mwembetogwa Secondary School yesterday as part of a strategy to ease the impact of challenges facing schoolgirls. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Tanzanian trade team visits LCCI

LAHORE

COOPERATION in different sectors of the economy between the private sectors of Tanzania and Pakistan can play an instrumental role in improving trade and economic ties between the two countries, an official has said.

Speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) President and head of a trade delegation Paul Koyi emphasised that Tanzania is a very peaceful country with immense trade and investment opportunities in many sectors, particularly the agriculture sector, which can be explored by Pakistani business and industrial community that would lead to enhancement of trade and investment ties.

The private sectors of the two countries should start knowing each other, build confidence and should bring the business communities of the two countries closer to each other, he said.

The governments of the two countries should make visa issuance process easier to facilitate the business community, he said.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that the members of Tanzanian business delegation belong to key areas such as information technology, tea, coffee, dry fruits, textiles products, construction, chemicals and agriculture machinery, etc, and they are interested in finding some suitable companies in Pakistan to work with. It is a great opportunity that must be availed by the Pakistani businessmen, he added.



The governments of the two countries should make visa issuance process easier to facilitate the business community

PRETORIA

Pretoria University starts TB vaccine trials on African buffalos

THE University of Pretoria has announced the start of vaccine trials for TB in African buffalos.

Called bovine tuberculosis, this strain is an extremely slow but steadily progressing disease that poses a serious health threat to cattle, wildlife and people, especially in developing countries.

Without active surveillance,

bovine TB goes unnoticed for years until it has escalated to a point where animals present with severe disease.

It will be led by Professor Anita Michel and Dr Jennie Hewlett, who believe the spread of TB within and between animal populations is virtually unstoppable, and culling

infected animals is the only solution.

"The urgent need for alternative control strategies, which are able to reduce and ideally cease disease spread, sparked plans for an important TB vaccination trial among African buffalo," said Hewlett, a lecturer in the Department of Paraclinical

Sciences.

"The protective effects of two anti-TB vaccines will be systematically studied in buffalo under controlled conditions for nine to 12 months in the state veterinary quarantine bomas at Skukuza," said Michel of the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases.

They have received overwhelming support from a team of local wildlife, veterinary and state veterinary professionals who ensured a safe and efficient operation, from capture and testing to translocating the buffalo.

"For the study, Phinda Private Game Reserve and the Manyoni

Private Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal donated 26 buffalo," said Michel.

"The level of stakeholder involvement is indicative of the disease challenge at hand. It is crucial to remember that bovine TB is a zoonotic disease, and can be spread from animals to humans," said Hewlett.

TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Ending use of plastic wrapping possible with workable options

A NEW level of environmental pollution through the use of flimsy plastics is approaching, with traders and shop customers used to plastic wrappers soon having to switch to organic items. This is expected to be formalized at the end of this year following a ban on plastic coverings, also known as tubings, by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC). This is essentially an aspect of regulatory supervision, short of a ministerial initiative for wider consultation with industry stakeholders.

There are clear environmental drawbacks remaining on the basis of the widespread use of thin plastics, after the more notorious carrier bags were removed from the market. That is now part of the memory landscape but there are other plastics that are still being tolerated, and as the regulatory agency noted, they are more or less as systematic in their use as the carrier bags, but only in wrapping goods. It is thus a matter of approximation how much has been done in the battle against plastics when the wrapping is done in thin plastics but not the carrying. Is it 70 per cent, 50 per cent or maybe 30 per cent as NEMC believes?

Depending on how far it can be ascertained that very little has been done to clear the market and thus the wider environment of thin plastics, a proper evaluation of the war against plastics might come out in the negative. It is possible to build false confidence that the environment has been rid of plastics and then it turns out we are talking of plastics of particular colors and limited functions: overall carrying of goods from shops. Admittedly they were the proper eyesore for the banning to be effected, but not

the whole problem, in which case no one should be surprised that NEMC sees there is painful change needed now.

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka told journalists in Dar es Salaam lately that the items will be allowed until December 31, after which environmental regulations will be tightened in this aspect as well. He took note of the fact that apart from market traders and their customers, also to be affected are entrepreneurs who use the items to pack treats such as cashew nuts, groundnuts and a wide variety of other products. These wrapping plastic materials were targeted in the first phase of plastics eradication, but industrialists were given a period during which they find organic alternatives helpful environmentally.

Just how for the thin plastics which remain are as environmentally harmful as the banned variety is a debatable question, but the practical issue is availability of organic replacements for thin plastics being used in numerous wrapping of goods in industries and then in shops. The fact that no real adaptation has occurred in that direction implies that there are commercial advantages of their use, for instance visibility of products. Selling biscuits covered in non-transparent material, or bread, and a whole range of other products, can pose some challenges, which means stakeholders sit down to see how organic materials that are transparent and don't significantly add to prices can be adopted. NEMC says there are quite a few. It therefore follows that what lacks is perhaps an initial push, for industrialists to test alternatives without further waiting, as when a few have made the shift, others will follow suit as well; it's a 'herd mentality.'

It is World AIDS Day: War on pandemic ought to continue

WORLD AIDS Day reminds us that HIV/AIDS has not gone away. COVID-19 is threatening the progress that the world has made in health and development over the past 20 years, including the gains had been made against HIV. Like all epidemics, it is widening the inequalities that already existed.

It is the strength within communities, inspired by a shared responsibility to each other, that has contributed in great part to our victories over HIV. Today, we need that strength more than ever to beat the colliding epidemics of HIV and COVID-19. Friends, in responding to COVID-19, the world cannot make the same mistakes it made in the fight against HIV, when millions in developing countries died waiting for treatment. Even today, more than 12 million people are still waiting to get on HIV treatment and 1.7 million people became infected with HIV in 2019 because they could not access essential services. That is why UNAIDS has been a leading advocate for a people's Vaccine against the coronavirus.

Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a spectrum of conditions caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Following initial infection a person may not notice any symptoms, or may experience a brief period of influenza-like illness. Typically, this is followed by a prolonged period with no symptoms. If the infection progresses, it interferes more with

the immune system, increasing the risk of developing common infections such as tuberculosis, as well as other opportunistic infections, and tumors which are otherwise rare in people who have normal immune function. These late symptoms of infection are referred to as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This stage is often also associated with unintended weight loss.

HIV is spread primarily by unprotected sex (including anal and oral sex), contaminated blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding. Some bodily fluids, such as saliva, sweat and tears, do not transmit the virus. Methods of prevention include safe sex, needle exchange programmes, treating those who are infected.

There is no cure or vaccine; however, antiretroviral treatment can slow the course of the disease and may lead to a near-normal life expectancy. Treatment is recommended as soon as the diagnosis is made.

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. Government and health officials, non-governmental organisations, and individuals around the world observe the day, often with education on AIDS prevention and control.

World AIDS Day is one of the eleven official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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WORLD AIDS DAY
1 DECEMBER 2020

WORLD AIDS DAY MESSAGE 2020

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

1 December 2020
World AIDS Day 2020
will be like no other.

COVID-19 is threatening the progress that the world has made in health and development over the past 20 years, including the gains we have made against HIV.

Like all epidemics, it is widening the inequalities that already existed.

Gender inequality, racial inequality, social and economic inequalities. We are becoming a more unequal world.

I am proud that over the past year the HIV movement has mobilized to defend our progress, to protect people living with HIV and other vulnerable groups and to push the coronavirus back.

Whether campaigning for multithrough dispensing of HIV treatment, organizing home deliveries of medicines or providing financial assistance, food and shelter to at-risk groups, HIV activists and affected communities have again shown they are the mainstay of the HIV response. I salute you!

It is the strength within communities, inspired by a shared responsibility to each other, that has contributed in great part to our victories over HIV.

Today, we need that strength more than ever to beat the colliding epidemics of HIV and COVID-19.

Friends, in responding to COVID-19, the world cannot make the same mistakes it made in the fight against HIV, when millions in developing countries died waiting for treatment.

Even today, more than 12 million people are still waiting to get on HIV treatment and 1.7 million people became infected with HIV in 2019 because they could not access essential services.



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

We must put people first to get the AIDS response back on track. We must end the social injustices that put people at risk of contracting HIV. And we must fight for the right to health. There is no excuse for governments to not invest fully for universal access to health. Barriers such as up-front user fees that lock people out of health must come down.

Women and girls must have their human rights fully respected, and the criminalization and marginalization of gay men, transgender people, sex workers and people who use drugs must stop.

As we approach the end of 2020, the world is in a dangerous place and the months ahead will not be easy.

Only global solidarity and shared responsibility will help us beat the coronavirus, end the AIDS epidemic and guarantee the right to health for all.

Thank you.

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UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Learn more at unaids.org and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

That is why UNAIDS has been a leading advocate for a People's Vaccine against the coronavirus.

Global problems need global solidarity.

As the first COVID-19 vaccine candidates have proven effective and safe, there is hope that more will follow, but there are serious threats to ensuring equitable access. We are calling on companies to openly share their technology and know-how and to waive their intellectual property rights so that the world can produce the successful vaccines at the huge scale and speed required to protect everyone and so that we can get the global economy back on track.

Our goal of ending the AIDS epidemic was already off track before COVID-19.

How 'vilinge' help women to know their rights

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has been running storytelling hubs to raise awareness on gender related issues and to achieve gender equality where gender mainstreaming is integral part of the structure of the society.

TGNP Executive Director Ms. Lilian Liundi says that the famous storytelling hubs, famously known in Kiswahili as 'vilinge' have methodologies that facilitate dialogue and discussion such as group work, case studies, buzz groups, brainstorming and watching of videos.

The primary aim is to make sure that lives of women and other vulnerable groups in society improve and violence against them is strongly fought against.

Some of the regions which have benefited from these storytelling hubs are Kilimanjaro, Mbeya and Coast regions, where women leaders have lauded such meetings, which have opened new successful historical pages in their lives.

Hadija Said Mwanahomboza from Masaki area in Coast region admits that 'vilinge' meetings have helped her be aware of the Gender based violence (GBV) in her area.

This middle-aged lady is now capable of explaining different forms of GBV, Human Rights in the context of GBV, and she can also prepare a plan of action on how to control GBV among women and other vulnerable groups in her area.

"I have learned different forms of gender-based violence at home, in the workplace and in the community issues of gender and human rights, plans of action and transformation.

During a tele-conference held at TGNP headquarters in Mabibo, Dar es Salaam recently, Deogratias Temba, a gender trainer said that TGNP usually runs storytelling hubs to give women an opportunity to tell stories about their achievements and development challenges that exist in their residential areas.

"We are more interested in capacity building, to make sure that women we train get the capacity to address gender and development challenges they face in their day to day lives. We also teach them how to improve their lives by joining credit facilities in their villages" says Temba.

Devota Likokola who took part in that tele-interviews with women who have benefitted from TGNP 'vilinge' strongly says that when women are well trained, they can generate good income, not only for themselves, but for the society as a whole.

Today, the word 'Vikoba' is known in every corner of the country and women's and youth groups have joined them in their localities, as an opportunity to raise



capital in the form of loans, so that the actors can increase their income.

But, who is the founder of vikoba? It is Devota Likokola, a prominent politician who has also served as member of parliament for ten years.

Devota who used the tele-conference to advise women on how to change their lives for the better argues that many women face significant challenges in their personal development because they have not been equipped with right knowledge to work hard in improving their socio-economic lives.

She narrated her personal history, that she worked with NBC bank and quit in 1989, and she decided to open a private restaurant as her investment, before moving further into the political arena.

"When I quit my job I opened a restaurant, however I got into politics and became a Songea councillor and later got into parliament," she says.

Devota adds that during that period, she decided to set up sustainable credit facility aimed at liberating women progressively.

Today she is proud that the program helped many women to supplement their income, which has been of a great help in meeting the needs of their children such as sending them to good schools, and also building for themselves good houses.

Devota decided to establish a system of sustainable credit facilities, with the intention of uplifting women economically.

She told women in that conference that since Vikoba were established, they have helped many people to solve their economic problems.

"The government is committed to supporting sustainable funds, the goal is to manage small groups of members who are trained. The government has also been encouraging people to come to various councils to join such groups, so that the targeted members can benefit" She says.

Juliet Mkonyi who is Kibosho Central Village Executive Officer says she has benefitted from TGNP vilinge, and now she has been able to erect dormitories in

some ward schools, as well as improve service delivery at some dispensaries located in her area.

"After hearing what Mama Devota Likokola said about improving women's lives, I can now set plans on how to give credit facilities to women to enable them run small-scale businesses inside or outside our village" she says.

Paulina Shirima who works at Okaoni village ecoes what her colleague Mkonyi says, adding that she has struggled to help women begin horticulture farming at Umbwe Okaoni, where they have managed to produce different types of vegetables including, salad, tomato and cabbage.

She points out challenges she faced as lack of reliable transport to visit women in their homes to evaluate their works. The few women she managed to visit found them very successful.

Mwanaisha Waziri who resides in Coast region is another woman who has benefitted from TGNP Storytelling hub, who strongly says that in her village there was no secondary school but they have managed to erect one, and so far they have managed to build three classrooms, teachers' office, and a pit latrine.

"We have strong parents' committees which meet often to make sure that people contribute money to facilitate the construction of this school. The TGNP trainings have helped women leaders to know their roles in society, and now have the confidence to speak without fear" says Mwanisha.

Sharifa Issa Salum from Kibuta Ward in Kisarawe District proudly says that in conjunction with men in her area, women have been able to dig a water well which has solved water problem in that village and more children have started going to school, thanks to TGNP trainings which have sensitized women about their roles in society.

TGNP is aware that without women inclusivity on economic activities nothing sustainable in terms of achieving development can be realized.

TGNP runs workshops country-wide to empower women in their established knowledge centres to enable them as a group become self-sustainable and each individual member in these centres to be economically empowered.

Among many initiatives is the implementation of Women Economic Empowerment Projects (WEE) which focused on facilitating grassroots community to establish and operate effective and efficient Knowledge centers that support members to start and operate income generating activities in rural communities like Kisarawe, Moshi Rural and Morogoro Districts.

Empowering women with entrepreneur knowledge and skills enlightens them to know how to address the challenges faced in their day to day economic activities.

TGNP works with stakeholders that champion women's rights to end all forms of discrimination against women and other marginalised groups, whether due to class, sex, age and disability.

Women empowerment must start from the grassroots, where majority of them have no socio-economic and political voice.

Any stakeholder, be it a feminist organisation striving to contribute to building a vibrant transformative feminist movement to promote gender equality and equity, women's empowerment and social justice is TGNP's partner in business.

If women are empowered economically, chances are great that their children will go to school, get better health and be properly clothed and above all the whole family will be stable and assured of a square meal every day.

Here's what you should know about results of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine

By Dana G Smith

PFIZER and BioNTech have just released preliminary data about the efficacy of their Covid-19 vaccine. The news, which has been anticipated almost as fervently as election results, is positive - at least in that, based on early analyses, the vaccine is more than 90 per cent effective at preventing Covid-19.

This is really good news. But before you rip off your mask and start hugging people in the street, there are a number of caveats to keep in mind.

The clinical trial - run by Pfizer using a vaccine developed by BioNTech - is being conducted in nearly 44,000 people around the world. However, the results reported are from 94 cases of Covid-19 that have emerged among those trial participants.

Presumably, the vast majority of those cases were in people who received the placebo, but details about the results are scant because Pfizer issued the preliminary findings via a press release, not an academic paper.

It's unclear how many people who received the vaccine

still contracted Covid-19, and if so, why. Similarly, whether the vaccine protected against asymptomatic infections is also unknown; the press release only mentions symptomatic cases of Covid-19. This is an important issue because people who are asymptomatic can still spread the infection.

Another question is whether the vaccine protects against severe Covid-19. Vaccine efficacy for severe versus mild cases was a major point of debate at the meeting of an independent vaccine advisory committee last month.

Based on the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) current guidelines for authorising a vaccine, some experts were concerned that a vaccine would only have to prevent mild cases of the disease but not necessarily make an impact on hospitalisations or deaths. This latest news does not distinguish between mild and severe cases.

Also missing is specific safety information on adverse events resulting from the vaccine. The press release states: "No serious safety concerns have been observed; Safety and additional efficacy data continue



to be collected."

In order to meet the FDA's authorisation criteria, clinical trial participants who have received the vaccine must be followed for a median of two months to monitor for possible side-effects. Pfizer said it expected to meet these requirements by the third week of this November and would submit for emergency use authorisation when it did.

Based on these lingering questions, scientists on Twitter have called for more data to be released and tried to temper

expectations for the vaccine. But despite this, enthusiasm is high.

For one thing, the 90 per cent efficacy reported is way beyond the 50 per cent efficacy requirement the FDA had in place. Even if the vaccine ends up being less effective than initially thought after more data are analysed, or if it's less effective for either severe or asymptomatic cases, it's unlikely that the overall efficacy will change dramatically enough to prevent it from being authorised.

The results, which are the first to be released from one of the large phase 3 clinical trials currently under way, also bode well for other vaccines in development.

Pfizer's vaccine employs a novel approach that uses messenger RNA to deliver a coronavirus protein into the body. The presence of the protein kicks off an immune response, resulting in the production of virus-specific antibodies that are ready to fight off an infection should the real coronavirus try to enter the body.

This type of technology has not been approved for use in vaccines before, but early studies of the new vaccine showed promising results, with high levels of antibodies produced in response to the drug.

Moderna's vaccine uses a similar RNA-delivery system and produced a comparable antibody response, so good safety and efficacy data for one of the RNA vaccine candidates suggest that the other might also be effective.

Given the massive manufacturing and logistical hurdles to rolling out a new drug to the world's more than 7 billion people, experts have long said that several different vaccines may be necessary.

Pfizer says that it expects "to produce globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses in 2021".

A dispatch by Elemental@Media, where Dana G Smith is a senior writer.

Five nations unite to launch cooperation agency to realise a 'digital future for all'

RIYADH

SENIOR government officials from several nations on Thursday patronised the launch of the Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO), a global organisation aimed at strengthening cooperation across all innovation-driven areas and accelerating growth of the digital economy.

The event was attended by International Telecommunications Union secretary general Houlin Zhao and World Economic Forum president Borge Brende, President, World Economic Forum.

Founded by Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the DCO is driven by a vision to realise a digital future for all by empowering women, youth and entrepreneurs, growing the digital economy, and leapfrogging with innovation.

"We are joining hands together towards a commitment to drive consensus on digital cooperation to make sure that we seize an opportunity for our youth, our women and our entrepreneurs with the ambition to grow our combined digital economy to one trillion dollars in the next 3-5 years," said Abdullah Amer Al-Swaha, Saudi Arabia's Communications and Information Technology minister.

He added: "Our future prosperity will depend on the digital economy. But it can only reach its full potential if we are able to make governments work together collectively with businesses and entrepreneurs so they can survive and thrive, expand their depth into current markets and open doors for everyone into new ones."

The launch follows the conclusion of Saudi Arabia's G20 Presidency to maintain the kingdom's momentum on accelerating the growth of the digital economy across the region and the globe.

This is happening as nations everywhere increase their adoption of remote learning, telemedicine and contact-less economic systems to survive and thrive beyond the social and economic impact of Covid-19.

"This is a critical step towards ensuring that our digital economies are



innovative and future-proof," Ahmad Hanandeh, Jordan's Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship minister, said.

He elaborated: "To create sustainable change, we cannot work in silos; this is a collective and global collaboration. This is where our digital journeys intersect and we can learn from - and support -

one another, which will in turn open the doors for our youth and sectors to benefit from these efforts."

Based on its digitally focused charter, the DCO welcomes participation and guidance from the private sector, international organisations, NGOs and the academic world.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to be part of such a dynamic initiative and a founding member of the Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO)," Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, Bahrain's Transportation

and Telecommunications minister said.

He elaborated: "We thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for this initiative and are confident that the DCO will enable members to respond and adapt in an agile and swift manner to the ever-changing digital scene."

"As we have taken steps at a national level to leverage ICT technologies to enhance government efficiency and processes, the Kingdom of Bahrain also believes that fostering regional and international collaboration is a valuable extension to our national efforts."

The founding members of the DCO have joined forces to establish the organisation motivated by their shared interests concerning the digital economy - which they believe can only be realised through collaboration.

"We believe that the DCO will offer Kuwait a great opportunity to further develop its national digital agenda as well as to further progress the global digital agenda," Salim Al-Ozainah, Chairman and CEO of Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority, said.

Pakistan's Foreign minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, meanwhile noted: "Pakistan is privileged to be a founding member of the Digital Cooperation Organisation and to work closely with our partners to guide and lead a global digital agenda."

Omar Sultan Al Olama, the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, chipped in with congratulations on the DCO's launch.

"We praise this step in progressing digital transformation, which will support the broader technology sector," he noted, adding: "The adoption of both emerging and advanced technologies around the world will support global efforts in creating a sustainable and bright future for all of humanity."

Agencies

Apartheid-era crime of incitement declared unconstitutional

By Geoffrey Allsop

ON Friday the Constitutional Court declared the crime of "incitement" under the Riotous Assemblies Act unconstitutional.

The Riotous Assemblies Act is a piece of "security" legislation that was passed in 1956 to suppress political opposition towards the apartheid government. One way the act tried to achieve this was to create the crime of "incitement".

It was used to discourage civil disobedience. For example, Robert Sobukwe was convicted of incitement in 1960 for encouraging black people to disobey the pass laws.

Read the judgment

According to the act, a person is guilty of incitement if they encourage or instigate another person to commit a crime. If found guilty, they can be sentenced to the same punishment as the person who actually committed the crime.

For example, if someone influences other people to engage in civil disobedience by encouraging them to not pay E-tolls, they can be found guilty of incitement and given the same punishment someone actually found guilty of not paying E-tolls could be sentenced to.

In *EFF v Minister of Justice and Correctional Services*, a majority of the Constitutional Court declared the crime of "incitement" under the Riotous Assemblies Act to be unconstitutional.

According to the majority judgment by Chief Justice Moeng, this is be-

cause the crime unjustifiably violates the constitutional right to freedom of expression.

Background

In 2014 and 2016, EFF leader Julius Malema made several public statements where he allegedly encouraged people to unlawfully occupy private land.

Following Malema's statements, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) charged him with incitement under the Riotous Assemblies Act. The NPA brought the charges against Malema on the basis that he allegedly incited people to commit a crime by encouraging them to unlawfully enter private property which is a criminal offence under the Trespass Act.

Malema and the EFF then challenged the constitutionality of incitement in the Pretoria High Court. Their constitutional challenge rested on two points.

First, the crime of incitement unjustifiably limits the constitutional right to freedom of expression. Malema said this was because incitement could result in the criminal prosecution of someone for exercising their constitutional right to speak freely about injustice or unjust laws. He also said he never encouraged anyone to act violently. Incitement should be limited to only criminalising expression which encourages violent acts and not peaceful acts of civil disobedience, Malema and the EFF argued.

Second, Malema argued he had not encouraged anyone to commit a crime. He argued this was because the Prevention of Illegal Eviction (PIE) and Extension of



The Constitutional Court has ruled that an apartheid-era law under which Julius Malema was charged is unconstitutional.

Security of Tenure Act (ESTA) provide constitutional protection to people who occupy private property without permission. Because PIE and ESTA were enacted to give effect to the constitutional right of people to not be evicted without a court order, the apartheid-era Trespass Act should not apply when someone occupies private property without permission.

This means that someone would not be committing a crime under the Trespass Act when they occupy private property without permission, because PIE and ESTA take precedence.

On 4 July 2019, the Pretoria High Court found that while incitement limits the right to freedom of expression, the limitation was reasonable and justifiable.

The court did, however, declare the Riotous Assemblies Act to be unconstitutional to the extent it allowed someone who incites a crime to be sentenced to the same punishment someone convicted of actually committing the crime could be sentenced to.

The High Court declined to rule on Malema and the EFF's argument about whether PIE and ESTA take precedence over the Trespass Act.

The High Court judgment was then referred to the Constitutional Court which had to determine whether the High Court correctly rejected Malema's remaining arguments about incitement and the Trespass Act.

Why incitement limits the constitutional right to freedom of expression

Justice Moeng explained that the Constitution protects all forms of expression. Only expression which amounts to propaganda for war, the incitement of imminent violence or the advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity or religion is not protected.

Therefore, if someone was prosecuted for encouraging another person to commit a violent crime, they could not argue that their constitutional right to freedom of expression would be infringed.

The crime of incitement, however, is not limited to criminalising forms of expression which are not protected by the Constitution. This is because it criminalises expression that encourages another person to commit "any offence".

Incitement therefore also criminalises expression which encourages people to commit non-violent crimes or to engage in peaceful and non-violent civil disobedience against laws they believe to be unjust.

A majority of the court found that the crime of incitement, as defined by the Riotous Assemblies Act, limits the constitutional right to freedom of expression. The second question the court considered was whether this was justifiable under the general limitation clause.

Why the limitation could not be justified

The general limitation clause is a section of the Constitution that allows the government to infringe a constitutional right, if it can show the court that the infringement is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

Given its importance, very persuasive reasons would have to exist to show it is justifiable to criminalise constitutionally protected forms of expression.

The majority judgment concluded that while incitement has the legitimate objective of discouraging people from encouraging others to commit criminal acts, its limitation on the right to freedom of expression went too far and was not reasonable and justifiable.

This was because it is not reasonable and justifiable to criminalise expression which did not encourage others to commit non-violent crimes or crimes that are not "serious".

The majority judgment said that a better solution would be for incitement to only criminalise expression which encourages others to commit a "serious" crime, such as murder, rape or armed robbery. This would allow people to encourage others to engage in peaceful civil disobedience but also allow the government to prosecute people who encourage others to commit violent or serious crimes which would still achieve the objective of crime prevention.

The crime of incitement under the Riotous Assemblies Act was therefore declared unconstitutional to the extent it allowed for the prosecution of someone for encouraging others to commit a "trivial" crime or a crime that is not "serious".

Parliament has been given 24 months to fix the constitutional problems with the Act.

The court ruled that in the interim, the crime of incitement should read to only allow for the prosecution of people who encourage others to commit a serious or violent crime.

The majority judgment declined to confirm the High Court order.

This means that someone convicted of incitement for encouraging others to commit a serious or violent crime can still be sentenced to the same punishment someone actually convicted of committing that crime could be sentenced to.

DM

IFAD and FAO join forces to support family farming in East and North Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) have joined forces to foster inclusive and sustainable family farming as the central cornerstone for a vibrant, productive and profitable agriculture across the Near East and North Africa (NENA).

This was announced today during the e-launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming

(UNDF) in the NENA region. The event brought together government ministries, farmers' organizations, civil society, research institutions and international organizations to define priorities and implement a regional action plan for this decade.

"Family farms worldwide have immense potential to become core players and to support developmental strategies aimed at increasing food security, making food systems sustainable and managing natural resources," said Dina

Saleh, IFAD's Regional Director for the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe Division. "Family farming is viewed as an optimal model, effectively helping to restore environmental degradation and sustain natural resources. For generations, farmers have looked after the farms they inherited from their ancestors with great care and with the desire to pass on the responsibility, and we are strongly committed to supporting them."

"Taking into considera-

tion the specific characteristics of the NENA region and its unique challenges, it is of paramount importance to introduce a new generation of enabling policy environment and technical interventions tailored to the region, with focus on the socio-economic inclusion of youth and women, to promote agri-food systems transformation, while putting family farming at the center," said Serge Nakouzi, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa.

Panel discussions during the launch event focused on lessons learned thus far and the vision for future actions. Speakers familiarized the virtual audience with the objectives of the UNDF and the Global Action Plan (GAP), also taking into consideration the need to build more resilient and sustainable food systems in response to COVID-19.

The coordinated efforts between IFAD and FAO are being scaled up in the context of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF),

which runs from 2019 until 2028.

Despite the huge potential for family farms to contribute to food security and although agriculture is the major source of income in many rural areas in NENA, with more than 80 percent of agricultural production provided by small-scale agriculture, family farming remains neglected in major agriculture- or food security-related policies in the region.

Farmers are facing increasing pressure to provide suf-

ficient and nutritious food for a growing population, to cope with climate change and the degradation of natural resources.

The two agencies are coordinating their advocacy and development initiatives in the region to strengthen farmers' organizations to ensure that actions reach the grass roots level. These actions will contribute significantly to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of eradicating poverty and hunger.

Liwale villagers earn millions from Swiss-funded projects

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MTAWATAWA village, Liwale district, Lindi Region has raised more than 379m/- from 2014 to 2019 from conserving forests through sustainable, forest-based enterprise support in Tanzania (CoForEST).

The project is implemented under financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Speaking to the forest conservationists and reporters who visited the village recently, acting village executive officer Benadetha Kitangita said the achievement registered within a short period of four years is a result of the collective responsibility of the village, district, and development partners.

The sustainable pro-community natural forest management project is being implemented at Mbila village land forest reserve.

"You know the goal of this project is to transform the economics and governance of forest product value chains and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation," she said.

She said 55 percent of the money was given to the village council, 10 per cent went to Liwale district council and 35 per cent went back to the village natural resource committee for patrols and conservation purposes.

"We have managed to construct borehole at 12m/- we have construct-

ed the village office toilet at 6m- and built a house of the village Executive Officer at 28m/-." She said.

The villagers have also used some of the money to complete the dispensary building at 24m/-, and bought a tractor which cost 71m/- . The tractor is used to help the villagers conduct fruitful agriculture activities.

Furthermore, the village has built classrooms, and some of the money is used to pay the teacher who is currently teaching pupils at the village primary school.

The village has made several contributions to the ongoing secondary school building project and paid an allowance for the village natural resource committee.

Commenting on how the villagers have been able to raise the funds and conserve the forests, the village Chairman Omary Shamte said first of all the villagers received training on the Project and forest conservation and management.

"We then formed a committee that convened three times every month and then the patrol team meets after three days to patrol the forest and ensure it is in order.

"When the CoForEST project kicked off, we started getting profit, the villagers are now benefiting from different social services such as health, water, and education," said the village Chairman.

The Chairman of the Village Natural Resource Committee Juma Mohammed named some of the chal-



Mtawatawa villagers and MJUMITA in one of their meetings on CBFM activities in the village. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

lenges saying despite the achievement, some people are still conducting illegal timber harvesting.

Citing an example, he said since the commencement of the project the village natural resource committee impounded more than 1,000 timbers.

Acting District Executive Director James Milanzi said the conserving Forests through sustainable, forest-based Enterprise Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) has made a sig-

nificant contribution to the villagers and many are willingly supporting the project.

"This project has helped the district government because instead of taking the money to the village for basic social services, the village can generate funds for itself," said Milanzi

I call on development partners to extend more support to this district so that useful projects like this can be extended to other parts of the districts,

the region, and the country at large, he said.

He said the project has created more awareness and provided education on forest conservation, management, and good governance.

Policy and Dialogue Officer from Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) Elida Fundi called for the government to put in place good policies and laws so that the whole country could benefit from CoFor-

EST, the project which is under financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The villagers once they see projects that generate profit, especially when they see basic social services they can be willing to cooperate to conserve and manage their forests well than ever before, she explained.

She said the community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) approach when integrated with forest-based enterprises can provide incentives for communities to manage the forests on the village land sustainably and at the same time enhance rural development.

TMDA in drive to improve medicine quality, safety and ethical practices

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has launched a special project, which is aimed to foster medicine quality, safety, and ethical practices on clinical trials in the country.

Dubbed 'ASCEND-Moving Tanzania's clinical research ethics and medicines regulatory capacity to the next level', the two years and a half project will focus on strengthening systems and facilitate more clinical research.

Speaking during the project kick-off meeting held in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, TMDA Director General Adam Fimbo said the project is expected to strengthen pharmacovigilance systems to increase reports on adverse events and reactions originating from clinical trials and establishing an effective system for information sharing.

Pharmacovigilance, also known as drug safety, is the pharmacological science relating to the collection, detection, assessment, monitoring, and prevention of adverse effects with pharmaceutical products.

He said the project also secured funds worth Euro 498,750 (1.4bn/-) from the European Development Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) whereby the process of funding acquisition began in October 2019, the acquisition process engaged Seven institutions.

He cited the seven institutions as Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Zanzibar Food and Drugs Authority (ZFDA), Zanzibar Health Research Institute (ZAHRI), University of St Andrews (USTAN) and TMDA.

According to Fimbo, through the project the systems for up scaling clinical research ethics and medicines regulatory capacity to monitor and regulate medical researches and trials in the



Chief Medical Officer Dr Abel Makubi pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend addressing a meeting held just before the launch of ASCEND, a project coordinated by the Tanzania Medical and Medical Devices Authority. Photo: Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

country will be improving.

The DG further said that TMDA has also approved 197 clinical trials conducted in the country since 2008 so as to ensure they comply with national and international laws, regulations, guidelines, and standards.

According to him, the approved clinical trials were out of the 213 received; among them, five were rejected, three were terminated, and five were queried waiting for the response while three are under assessment.

Chief Medical Officer- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children Dr Abel Makubi said before being appointed for the post while working at the Mwanza-based Bugando Medical Center he used to engage in various research activities including conducting clinical trials.

"I experienced mounting challenges to include delays in the authorization of clinical trials due to delays in ethical and regulatory reviews. These critically slow down efforts put forward by investigators and frustrate sponsors of research," Makubi said.

Makubi said the ministry has formulated National Health Policy and monitors its implementation, providing for setting up of systems for conducting research in the country, effective regulatory control, and ethical reviews.

The CMO said the policy further compels regulators and ethics committees to ensure that research including clinical trials is designed and conducted to protect participants from any potential harm.

He urged academic institutions to train and produce professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills in managing patients including being engaged in research that observes good research practices.

Dr Ndekyia Oriyo, NIMR's Director of Research Information, Technology and Communication said the ASCEND project enables the institute in collaboration with TMDA to focus on issuing permits to researchers who do studies on vaccines, treatment, and medical devices.

"We have a database of all findings for health research conducted

across the country. Our duties include sending reports on the findings to the Ministry of Health as well as advising it on the proper policy and health plans for clinical trials," Oriyo said.

Earlier, TMDA manager for clinical trials and pharmacovigilance Kissa Mwamwitwa said that the authority will continue creating a better environment for conducting clinical trials by improving time for the approval processes, and consequently, the overall oversight of clinical trials will be improved.

"The implementation of the ASCEND project with strong collaboration of all consortium members and stakeholders will strengthen systems on conduct of clinical trials research, ethics, and pharmacovigilance in the country," she added.

Mwamwitwa said the project will help to improve the efficiency and quality of the work of the national research ethics and regulatory agency for clinical trial reviews and pharmacovigilance.

UNECA: Thousands of women due for continental ICT camp for African girls

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

OVER 3000 women and girls from across Africa are expected to participate in a hybrid (online and in-person) event scheduled to run from 30 November to 11 December 2020, focusing on ICT as a crucial tool for women's empowerment.

The 11-day event is jointly organised by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) under the auspices of the United Nations 75th anniversary celebrations and the Decade of Action for achieving the SDGs.

"Our goal is to empower women and young girls through the development of skills for sustainable inclusive entrepreneurship, and harness digital technologies to accelerate implementation of the SDGs in line with the Declaration on the Decade of Action and Delivery on Sustainable Development," said Jean-Paul Adam, ECA's Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management. More importantly, he added, it is 'unacceptable that only 22.6% of African women had access to the internet, compared to 33.8% of men in 2019. We have an obligation to bridge the gender digital gap by promoting women and girls' access to digital channels and increase the number of girls who participate in the fourth industrial revolution in support of Africa's growth efforts.'

Addressing this gender gap can create significant opportunities for the continent. It is estimated that closing this gender gap just in mobile phone ownership and data usage in low- and middle-income countries could generate an annual USD \$15 billion in revenue for mobile operators.

While Africa remains with the widest digital divide, it is the most dynamic continent in terms of ICTs adoption, with rapidly evolving penetration rates and extraordinary innovations driven by scarcity and lack of access to affordable quality infrastructure, latest technologies, devices and apps.

The joint ECA-ITU hybrid camp will bring together (in-person) 124 girls to the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, with thousands of others joining online.

They will be trained to code using the Scratch program, and will also be exposed to interactions that espouse gender equality, mainstreaming and techniques in confidence building and public speaking.

No-confidence move against Ramaphosa could just be an opening salvo in long war

By Stephen Grootes

THE upcoming motion of no confidence against President Cyril Ramaphosa provides a useful window to examine the motives and agendas of people within the ANC and within other parties.

Thursday's motion of no confidence brought against President Cyril Ramaphosa by the African Transformation Movement stands virtually no chance of succeeding. But the motion may show what could happen in the future should some people feel increasingly desperate as their own date with justice looms. It also demonstrates how a political party can give the impression of working to help those in other political parties, no matter how often they deny it.

Technically, the ATM's motion to remove Ramaphosa will require a simple majority of MPs. This would mean that if all of the opposition parties vote to carry it (which is by no means certain) a significant chunk of the ANC MPs would have to vote in favour of it too.

The ATM has just two MPs, while the ANC has 230.

But it is possible that the DA, with its 84 votes, would vote against Ramaphosa, while the EFF is almost certain to add its 44 MPs to that list.

Some of the other parties are more difficult to predict. The IFP for example, with its 14 MPs, could go either way or even abstain. The African Independence Congress with its two MPs is hard to predict, the ACDP, with four MPs, could decide to vote to support Ramaphosa to make a political point, or against him to make a different political point. And the Freedom Front Plus is in a similar position.

This means that the number of ANC MPs who would have to vote against their own leader to make this audacious move work is huge.

It is true that in the last days of the Zuma presidency a group of ANC MPs voted in favour of a resolution to remove him. But that vote was held by secret ballot, while this time it will be in the open. And to go against your party whip in public is a difficult, perhaps impossible, thing to do.

This shows the importance of the National



President Cyril Ramaphosa, (L), and the African Transformation Movement's Mzwanele Manyi.

Assembly Speaker, Thandi Modise. While the former speaker Baleka Mbete decided in 2017 that the vote should be by secret ballot, here Modise has decided it must not be secret.

The timing of this is also up to her. The ATM filed the motion before the pandemic, but it is only being debated this week. This coming weekend the ANC National Executive Committee (NEC) is due to meet and the issue of whether Secretary-General Ace Magashule should "step aside" after being charged with corruption will almost certainly be discussed.

What better way to give Ramaphosa momentum ahead of that meeting than for him to have spent the week watching ANC MPs giving speeches defending him in Parliament and then voting to retain him as president?

This reveals how important a speaker can be in ANC internal battles. Modise's decision certainly aids Ramaphosa in a significant way.

It is true that there are many people in the ANC, many of them MPs, who have everything to lose from Ramaphosa's continued grip on power.

For Bongani Bongo, Mosebenzi Zwane, Tina Joemat-Pettersson and many others, Ramaphosa's insistence on allowing the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to prosecute independently is very dangerous. For them, a new president who did not insist on an independent NPA might lead to more sleep.

But there is an important reason why acting now would not be in their best interests either: the ANC would probably not survive a decision to remove Ramaphosa as president. And there is no one who could really, and confidently, take over.

This A-bomb of Ramaphosa's has remained useful since December 2017, when he was elected ANC leader at Nasrec. Deputy President David Mabuza does not appear to have the support of enough people, Magashule faces criminal charges and would divide the party more than it already is and Treasurer Paul Mashatile may need a little time before he reveals more of his ambitions.

It may also be impossible to hold a meeting, virtual or otherwise, that could decide

on a replacement.

And so it is much wiser for ANC MPs, even if they oppose Ramaphosa, to maintain the status quo.

This equation, however, could change in the future.

It is likely that this will not be the last motion brought against Ramaphosa. By the time the next one comes around, it may well be that Magashule and others in the ANC are fighting to stay out of jail.

If Magashule were to control the votes of many MPs in the same position they might feel that it would be safer for them to invoke the chaos that removing Ramaphosa would bring. If there is a sense of desperation, it would be much easier to cause this chaos through Parliament rather than at any ANC gathering, conference or National General Council. To do this through Parliament would mean control of only, say, 100 MPs who may be in the same position as he is. It would be easier to do this than through having to control thousands of ANC delegates at a party event.

While this scenario is still unlikely, the chances of desperate acts will start to grow as the trials of Magashule and others get under way.

It is important to examine the motives of the ATM itself in bringing this motion.

It has tried in the past to bring chaos to our political situation. During the counting after the 2019 elections, the party tried to claim, without evidence, that the election had been stolen. Its officials were part of a bid to essentially delegitimise the vote-counting process.

The party says that it is bringing this motion based on the fact that Ramaphosa "misled" the nation around load shedding and our economic situation.

It may be that the party has its own truth-based issues. Its head of strategy is Mzwanele Manyi. He used to run ANN7, a TV channel not known for its truth-telling. After the first allegations emerged around the Vrede Dairy Farm scandal, Manyi proudly told the world that it is a "world-class facility" and that he "personally took this video".

ANN7 proudly reported a similar line. Unfortunately for students of propaganda, the footage of this has been removed from YouTube.

While Manyi has claimed many times to not be in charge of the ATM, he can give every impression of in fact running the show, of giving the orders. And, of course, the origins of the party are murky, with suggestions that it was formed by people inside the ANC as a body to put pressure on Ramaphosa from outside the ANC.

The next few days are likely to feature various leaders and parties making certain claims around Ramaphosa. But, in the end, the real political action of the week is likely to take place at the weekend, when the ANC NEC meets to decide the increasingly burning issue of Magashule. **DM**

The coronavirus pandemic has harmed trans people: Governments need to act

By Nadia Rahman

“COVID-19 may be a new killer - but hate has been killing us for decades,” says Joey Mataele, a trans activist from Tonga.

Mataele, who helped found Tonga's only organisation for trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people, is right.

Between 2008 and 2020, there has been an annual increase in the numbers of murders of trans and gender-diverse people, according to the Trans Murder Monitoring Project. In the year to 30 September 2020, around the world, 350 trans and gender-diverse people were killed.

Horrible though these figures are, they do not capture the true magnitude of the abuse faced by many trans people on a daily basis.

Fatal attacks are the most extreme manifestation of a toxic system of oppression and discrimination that many trans people describe as pushing them to the margins of society, leaving them especially vulnerable to the coronavirus pandemic.

When Amnesty asked trans people whether they had received any government support during the pandemic, many responded with incredulity.

“President Duterte pardoned the murderer of a trans woman,” said a Filipino trans woman, citing the murder of Jennifer Laude, whose killer was pardoned after serving only half his sentence.

“If killing trans people has been made this easy, what can we expect from the government [at the time of the pandemic]? No support at all.”

Many trans people high-

light longstanding barriers to formal education and employment opportunities, which restrict them to certain kinds of informal work.

For example, in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, trans women - known as hijras - often earn a living by performing ceremonial functions at weddings and child births, or engaging in sex work.

A Filipino trans activist who works across southeast Asia said the main forms of livelihood for trans women in the region are sex work, beauty pageants and performing in entertainment venues.

Similarly, in the Pacific Islands, most trans women - known variously as Leiti, Fa'afafine, Vakasalewalewa, Fakafafine and Palopa on the different islands - are employed in the hospitality industry. Social distancing and lockdown measures affected all these industries, cutting trans women off from their income overnight.

The pandemic has brought new risks for trans sex workers, some of whom have risked exposure to the virus or met clients in unsafe locations in order to continue working. According to the TMM Project, among the trans people murdered in the past year whose occupations were known, 62% were sex workers.

In the absence of specific government relief or stimulus packages, many trans people have had to rely on assistance from others in the trans or wider LGBT+ communities. And there are some heartening examples of trans activists and communities coming together in localised efforts to support those most in need.

In Latin America, the or-



ganisation RedLacTans created a solidarity network linking 17 countries in the region, and covered costs of basics like food for vulnerable people.

In Pakistan, trans activists came together to provide basic awareness around hygiene and sanitisation, distributed sanitisers, immunity boosters and masks. Many hijras in South Asia who lost their income during lockdown said they would have faced homelessness had it not been for the support of their community.

But activists should not have to step into the gaps left by government failures. Governments need to look hard at the damage the pandemic has caused to the trans community and commit to doing better.

This means challenging the institutionalised barriers trans people face in accessing formal employment and benefits, providing appropriate and timely healthcare, food security and shelter; and protecting trans people from violence and harassment.

Respecting and promoting the human rights of trans people is the national and international obligation of every government. States have a moral and legal responsibility to keep those who are already on the margins of society from falling over its edges.

Tonga officially named the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian sovereign state and archipelago comprising 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited. As of 2016, the state had a population of 100,651 people, of whom 70 per cent reside

on the main island of Tongatapu.

Tonga stretches across approximately 800 kilometres (500 mi) in a north-south line. It is surrounded by Fiji and Wallis and Futuna (France) to the northwest, Samoa to the northeast, Niue to the east (which is the nearest foreign territory), Kermadec (part of New Zealand) to the southwest, and New Caledonia (France) and Vanuatu to the farther west. It is about 1,800 kilometres (1,100 mi) from New Zealand's North Island.

From 1900 to 1970, Tonga had British protected state status, with the United Kingdom looking after its foreign affairs under a Treaty of Friendship. The country never relinquished its sovereignty to any foreign power. In 2010, Tonga took a decisive step away from its traditional absolute monarchy and towards becoming a fully functioning constitutional monarchy, after legislative reforms paved the way for its first partial representative elections.

In many Polynesian languages, including Tongan, the word *tonga* comes from *fakatonga*, which means “southwards”, as the archipelago is the southernmost group of the islands of central Polynesia. The word *tonga* is cognate to the Hawaiian region of Kona, meaning leeward in the Hawaiian language.

Tonga became known in the West as the “Friendly Islands” because of the congenial reception accorded to Captain James Cook on his first visit in 1773. He arrived at the time of the inasi festival, the yearly donation of the First Fruits to the Tu i Tonga (the islands' paramount chief) and so received an invitation

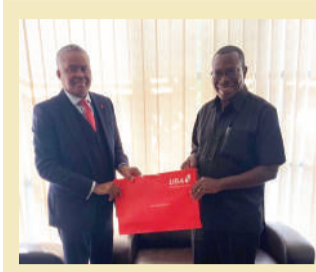
to the festivities. According to the writer William Mariner, the chiefs wanted to kill Cook during the gathering but could not agree on a plan.

History
An Austronesian-speaking group linked to the archaeological construct known as the Lapita cultural complex reached and inhabited Tonga around 1500-1000 BC. Scholars have much debated the exact dates of the initial settlement of Tonga, but thorium dating confirms that the first settlers came to the oldest town, Nukuleka, by 888 BC, ± 8 years. Not much is known before European contact because of the lack of a writing system, but oral history has survived and been recorded after the arrival of the Europeans.

By the 12th century, Tongans and the Tongan paramount chief, the Tu i Tonga, had a reputation across the central Pacific—from Niue, Samoa, Rotuma, Wallis & Futuna, New Caledonia to Tikopia—leading some historians to speak of a Tu i Tonga Empire. In the 15th century and again in the 17th, civil war erupted.

The Tongan people first encountered Europeans in 1616 when the Dutch vessel Eendracht, captained by Willem Schouten, made a short visit to trade. Later came other Dutch explorers, including Jacob Le Maire (who called on the northern island of Niutopotapu); and in 1643 Abel Tasman (who visited Tongatapu and Ha'apai). Later noteworthy European visitors included James Cook (Royal Navy) in 1773, 1774, and 1777; Spanish Navy explorers Francisco Mourelle de la Rúa in 1781 and Alessandro Malaspina in 1793; the first London missionaries in 1797; and the Wesleyan Methodist Reverend Walter Lawry in 1822.

Whaling vessels were among the earliest regular western visitors. The first on record is the Ann & Hope which was reported among the islands of Tonga in June 1799. The last known whaling visitor was the Albatross in 1899. They came for water, food and wood.



CURRENT NEWS
UBA Tanzania CEO says more branches to open in market to boost inclusion

Page 14



TOP VIEW
Chinese firm introduces aerobic tea series of sanitary pads

Page 14



VIEW FROM THE TOP
Tanga Cement chief bemoans lack of reliable power supply, hiked coal transport costs

Page 15

UTT Asset records 42pc growth in funds despite COVID-19

By Francis Kajubi

DEFLYING the coronavirus pandemic, UTT Asset Management and Investor Services Plc recorded one of the highest growth in funds under its management from 290.7bn/- last year to 412.8bn/-, a 42 percent increase this year.

UTT AMIS' Chairman of Board of Directors, Casimir Kyuki told shareholders during the 12th annual general meeting that the impressive annual performance of the Umoja Fund for the year ended June 2020 has been a result of good management.

Kyuki said returns to investors exceeded their benchmark with annualized return of 10.3 percent translating to better earnings and growth of the fund's size. "Despite challenges that the

world and Africa are going through with Covid-19 eruption, there was minimum impact to us because of stable regulatory environment and the government's response to the pandemic," Kyuki said.

He further added that the assets value growth represents an increase of 122.1bn/- compared to decrease of 4.4bn/- recorded in 2019. The UTT AMIS Board Chair revealed that it for the first time ever since the establishment of the Umoja Fund that was such massive in a year.

Kyuki further added that the dramatic growth of the fund was also supported by an increase in the number of investors in its six schemes that went up by 9.4 percent to 13,671 from 5,169 during the period.

"During the period the fund attracted new investors mainly because of



UTT AMIS board chairman, Casimir Kyuki speaks at the 12th shareholders' annual general meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam last week. Right is Simon Migangala who is UTT AMIS managing director while left is board member, Francis Chacha. Photo courtesy of UTT AMIS.

growing public confidence and awareness on the benefits of investing through collective investment schemes," he stated.

"In a move to realize UTT AMIS strategic plan to 2024, the board approved reopening of investor service centers in Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya and Zanzibar," the UTT

AMIS Board Chair added.

As for the performance of the capital market as reflected through Tanzania Share Index (TSI), there was generally limited movement in share prices. TSI registered modest increase of 0.83 percent from 3,458.24/- June last year to 3,486.95/- this June which translates that

share prices remained around same levels for the period.

Kyuki affirmed that during the year under review, the company also completed integration of computer systems with CRDB Bank Plc to eliminate manual intervention and allow automatic flow of transactions from the custodian to UTT AMIS.

Danish-funded Eco-Schools Programme brings relief to thousands in Morogoro

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THOUSANDS of villagers including primary school pupils in Mvomero District of Morogoro Region have benefited from an Eco-Schools Programme seeking to eradicate poverty through micro projects, environmental conservation and food security.

One of the model schools where pupils from destitute families get food while attending classes to enable them concentrate on their studies is Lusanga Primary School located at Diongoya Ward which has seen pass marks improve while poverty levels fall thanks to funding from Danish Outdoor Council (DOC).

The school's Head-teacher Ayoub Kihombo told journalists who visited the area recently the Eco-Schools Program was introduced at Lusanga in 2016 by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group.

"Eco-School Programme promotes environmental conservation and sustainable development hence young people are encouraged to be productive while protecting the environment," said Kihombo.

He explained that so far, a lot has been achieved by the public school and its neighbourhood naming some of them as income generation through selling of 1000 tree seedlings worth 2.1m/- to One Acre Fund, money which is used to feed pupils hence improve their academic performance at primary school leaving examinations level.

Because of the Eco-Schools Program,

the school has also been earning 3m/- annually from other income generating activities including fruits and vegetable cultivation. "We have used this money to renovate one classroom which is now used as staff room while 200,000/- was used to renovate a pit latrine," he noted.

He said so far, the school has been able to purchase 200 banana suckers which have since planted on a half acre plot of land for banana production that help feed pupils but also earn them income. Apart from selling them, extra banana suckers are offered to pupils to plant at their homes which helps transfer knowledge to their parents to earn income but also engage in sustainable agriculture production.

"Furthermore in 2019, the school provided more than 400 tree seedlings worth 200,000/- to 217 standard seven pupils, while so far this year, we have given them to 167 standard six pupils,"



Lusanga Primary School's head teacher, Ayoub Kihombo briefing Eco-School Program committee members and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group staff and journalists on successes being made under the program during a field visit last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

the Head-teacher added. Also the school has been able to provide 174 tree seedlings to standard five pupils, 14 tree seedlings to Eco-School pupil parliament members and six tree seedlings to Eco-school Committee members to plant in their localities to improve their health status, earn cash and transfer knowledge to the communities.

In total, the school has more plots of land on which it has also planted mangoes, orange trees

and 100 Gmelina trees for timber.

"Eco-school programme is a programme that encourages young people to engage with their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it, it starts in the classroom where it expands to the school and finally fosters change in the community at large," he says.

Commenting on the project, Eco-School Program's Environmental Officer, Omari Mohamed

said the pupils have become good ambassadors and models to transfer knowledge on environmental conservation to their parents and guardians.

"The environment has been used as a teaching and learning tool for the pupils but also assisted to improve academic performance because of the feeding project. Many of our pupils are now proceeding to join secondary schools," Mohammed said.

Charting the global economy

GENEVA

THE world's economic recovery is wildly uneven – and that again was on display this week.

US data on the eve of the Thanksgiving holiday offered signs of both strain and strength, while Germany's resilience was again on display in European PMI numbers – even amid new lockdown measures that have knocked the economy back.

No matter where in the world you are, the economic consequences of the pandemic are falling disproportionately on the young. Though if you could choose where to weather the crisis, a new scorecard suggests New Zealand should be high on the list.

Here are some of the charts that appeared on Bloomberg this week on the latest developments in the global economy:

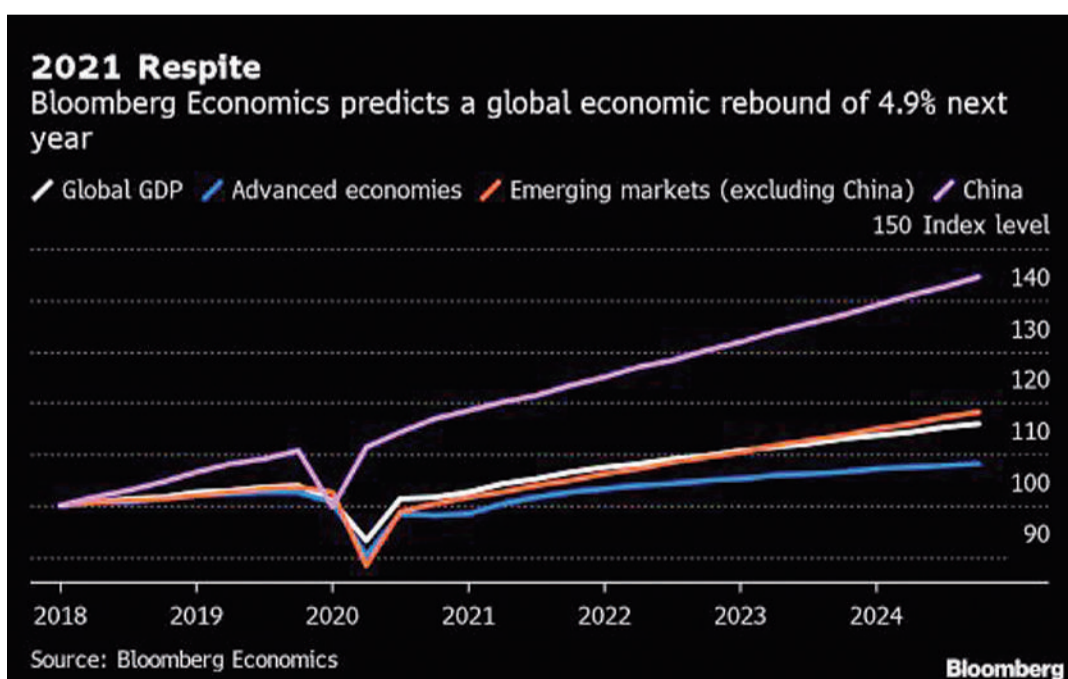
US

US business activity is powering ahead and housing market remains red hot. The annualised rate of new-home sales has averaged 1 million from August through October, the strongest demand since 2006, and an increase in builder backlogs suggest residential construction will remain robust through at least the end of the year.

Still, some of the ground looks shaky. Americans' income declined more than forecast in October, the number of people applying for state unemployment benefits unexpectedly increased in consecutive weeks for the first time since July, and consumer sentiment dipped to a three-month low.

Europe
European economies are contracting again as the latest coronavirus restrictions take a massive toll on services. The Purchasing Managers Index for the euro area slipped back into contraction in November, as did the UK Germany, however, is coping with the latest restrictions relatively well.

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak sought to balance more jobs support with controversial spending cuts this week to get control of the government's pandemic debts. According to Bloomberg Economics, the UK will struggle to avoid economic scarring, though the hit will probably be smaller than from previous recessions. That's in part because of the scale of the policy



response.

Asia

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison is trying to break a standoff with China that has stalled delivery of more than \$500 million worth of coal from the world's biggest exporter as tensions between the two trading partners mount. China's economic recovery stabilised in November, underpinned by solid global demand for exports ahead of the Christmas period and the stock market's gain to its highest since 2015.

Emerging Markets

Consumer prices in Latin America's two largest economies diverged in early November, complicating Brazil's plans to hold its benchmark interest rate at a record low while suddenly giving Mexico space to cut. Bloomberg Economics doesn't expect Nigeria's recovery to gain momentum until next year, when the deep oil production cuts agreed in 2020

are eased and the emergence of a vaccine lifts global demand.

World

In 2019, the US-China trade war blew a hole in global growth, in 2020, the pandemic caused a historic crash, but 2021 could be the year when US-China ties stabilise and a vaccine draws a long-awaited line under the Covid crisis, according to Bloomberg Economics.

While the people at greatest risk of suffering severe cases of Covid-19 are of retirement age, the economic fallout has been greatest on the young. A look at unemployment rates across Group of Seven economies shows how severely the crisis has hurt 15-24 year olds. Bloomberg crunched the numbers to determine the best places to be in the coronavirus era. New Zealand had the highest score. Japan, at No. 2, was the only G-7 country to make the top 10.

2020 Cannabis Vexpo Africa kicks off, its line-up revealed

CAPE TOWN

THE 2020 Cannabis Vexpo Africa kicked on 26 November and will run until 28 November. Over 1,000 visitors were registered, live presentations and panel discussions were enthusiastically attended, and records were broken.

The largest number of unique visitors and exhibitors to attend an African related virtual cannabis event was accomplished, and organisers are expecting the visitor numbers to double each day going forward.

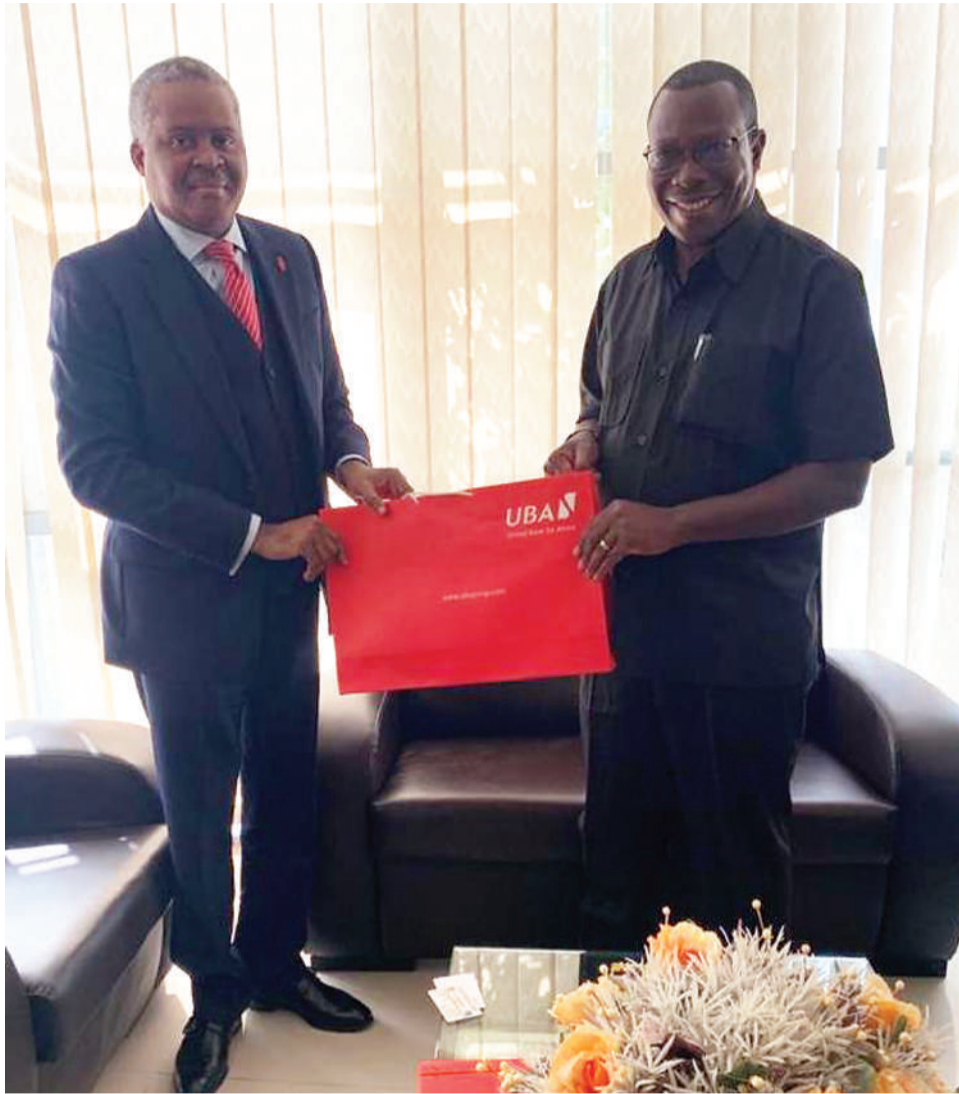
Opening the livestream presentations was a passionate talk by Dr Ahmed Jamalooddeen on mass collaboration in the cannabis industry, with presentations throughout the day quickly shifting through topics and panel discussions on investing and moving toward more inclusive regulations.

The line-up is packed with live panel discussions and presentations from cannabis experts, leaders and change-makers from around the world. See the full line-up here. With over 50 exhibitors taking part, hundreds of delegates and thousands of visitors attending, moods were high and encouraging toward the future of the cannabis industry in Africa.

This is the first time that anything of this scale in the African cannabis industry has been hosted, and we are really happy with what the exhibitors, key speakers and our team have achieved," stated the virtual expo director Silas Howarth. "Our first day was a good learning curve and a great launch. We have established a fantastic platform and we are looking forward to the next two days of the event."

With a vast array of businesses and industry leaders represented, such as Cannabis Oil Research, Atami Nutrients, The Best Grow and more, The Cannabis Vexpo Africa is the best place to do cannabis business, virtually!

UBA Tanzania CEO says more branches to open in market to boost inclusion



UBA Tanzania managing director Kingsley Ulinfun (L) presents a gift to Finance and Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango when they met in Dodoma recently. File photo.

By Smart Money Reporter

UNITED Bank for Africa Tanzania Limited will open more branches in Arusha, Mbeya, Mwanza and Zanzibar as the bank seeks to advance financial inclusion in line with government agenda.

UBA Tanzania's Managing Director, Kingsley Ulinfun said in Dar es Salaam last week after the bank opened a new branch at Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project that following the over US\$400 million investment in the project.

Ulinfun said the funding commitment towards the construction of the JNPP has led to investments in ultra-modern business office and commercial centres hence the need for presence of

formal banking services.

"In line with UBA's customer first philosophy, this is another step that UBA Tanzania has taken in its branch expansion program," said adding that the new Rufiji Branch includes a variety of digital products and services including secure and convenient bills payment and online transactions.

"It should be recalled that in 2019, the United Bank for Africa provided US\$366 million financial support to the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project. As a further demonstration of the support for this project, the bank is providing another US\$40 million in project financing, bringing its total commitments to over US\$400 million," he said.

The UBA Tanzania chief further noted that the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project which is described as one of the biggest achievements since President John Magufuli took overpower in 2015, is poised to be a catalyst to the industrialization agenda.

The newly opened UBA Rufiji Branch will offer full banking services to contractors, staff and the general public at Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station (formerly called Rufiji Hydroelectric Power Project) is a 2,115 megawatts dam currently under construction.

United Bank for Africa Plc is a leading Pan-African financial institution, offering banking services to more than twenty-one million customers, across 20 African countries and with presence in the US, UK and France.

Chinese firm introduces aerobic series sanitary pads in market



Betty Mkwasa, Sunshine Industrial Company Limited's vice president, displays Sunbelt sanitary pads and party liners after launching them in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FEMALE clients of Sunshine Industrial Company Limited are now buying aerobic tea series sanitary pads introduced by the company in the market last week.

Speaking during the launch of Sunbelt sanitary pads and party liners in Dar es Salaam, Sunshine Industrial Company Limited's Vice President, Betty Mkwasa said the pads are more superior than any other sanitary pads and party liners available on the market.

"The new aerobic tea series pads have an ingredient of tea freshness which is good for skin care and tenderness," Mkwasa said adding that Sunbelt sanitary pads are made from high quality soft cotton for extra comfort and skin protec-

tion.

She noted that the Chinese group latest products in the market have an ingredient which neutralizes bad odours while providing antibacterial benefits to allow users get a feeling of freshness and comfort.

"Our new product is very unique and comes in a packet with eight pieces made with super absorbent cotton for fluids hence providing a dry and pleasant sensation," the Sunshine Group VP added while promising customers more new products soon.

"Sunshine is a market leader in innovation and development of new products which meet demand of a new generation of consumers," she noted.

Airtel debuts 'double data' offer for smartphones to mark festive season

By Smart Money Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Airtel Tanzania Limited who are smartphone owners will now enjoy double data on a weekly and monthly basis when they buy data bundles for the next six months as the mobile phone services company ushers the end of year festive season.

Announcing the offer in Dar es Salaam this week, Airtel's Head Data Marketing, Ezekile Kahatano said the smartphone double data will have the same validity period as the data bundle purchased and bonus data is only available on the device that activated the offer.

"Our focus is always on providing customers with the best possible service and one that is aligned to the current digital lifestyle," Kahatano said noting that all existing customers who plan to upgrade their feature phones qualify to get the offer.

He explained that the offer is valid if one's smart phone is being used for the first time on the Airtel network which gives an opportunity for other customers to experience the telco's superfast 4G network spread across all major towns of the country.

"Airtel smartphone double data provides low-cost access to Tanzania's best 4G network to smartphone customers as we approach the busy festive season," the Head Data Marketing added.

Commenting on the latest product, Airtel Tanzania Communications Manager, Jackson Mmbando said the launch of the double data offer and the 100 percent bonus given shows the telco's commitment to improve services to customers.

"I take this opportunity to urge smart phone customers to join Airtel network to get double data on weekly and monthly pure data packs. We believe during this festive season our customers need freedom to communicate with their families, friends and business partners hence this service gives all the freedom that they need," Mmbando said.



Airtel Tanzania Limited's head data marketing, Ezekiel Kahatano (R), speaks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the launch of 'Smartphone double data' offer for customers. He is with the telco's communications manager, Jackson Mmbando. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

South African retailers opt to turn from China, preferring local clothes

JOHANNESBURG

TFG and Woolworths have signed up to an industry plan that includes a target to source 65% of their goods from local manufacturers within the next decade.

South African retailers including TFG and Woolworths are increasing investment in local clothing manufacturers, both to reduce a dependency on Chinese imports and secure a supply chain thrown into disarray by Covid-19 restrictions.

The companies have signed up to an industry plan that includes a target to source 65% of their goods from local manufacturers within the next decade. While progress toward the goal varies per chain, the spread of the coronavirus has sharpened their collective focus.

The pandemic caused "such disruptions to the supply chain that everyone's sitting back and saying do we ever really want to be that reliant on China ever again?" TFG Chief Executive Officer Anthony Thunström said in an interview.

The initiative comes as South African president Cyril Ramaphosa looks to revive a manufacturing industry that's deteriorated since the lifting of apartheid-era sanctions two decades ago, which enabled companies to seek cheaper alternatives from overseas suppliers. Re-establishing the sector would help achieve a goal of creating jobs, easing an official unemployment rate that's at a 17-year high.

"As South Africa opened to trade in the late 1990s, China came in and decimated the market as cost was the only dictating factor," said Lawrence Pillay, head of sourcing at Woolworths. "But the world has changed radically and there is now so much more than just the cost. Sustainability, carbon footprints, challenges of logistics, all of these factors are going to force a rethink."

"There are certain products, like heavy winter jackets, that we just don't have the materials and skills in South Africa to yet produce," Thunström said. South Africa won't manage to revive the industry in full because local retailers "can't replace all the product ranges," added Lulama Qongqo, an analyst at Mergence Investment Managers in Cape Town.

TFG, which sources about 22% of its apparel locally, has hired 550 more workers across two South African factories this year and sees the potential to add several thousand more, according to the CEO.

While South Africa works to revive its clothes-making industry, nearby countries such as Mauritius and Madagascar are also adding to their capabilities. The steps taken by those island nations are good examples of how self-sufficiency in the industry can be achieved, according to Woolworths's Pillay.

"If we want our local retailers to get 65% of their product within the borders of South Africa, then we have to look at a broad scope of product categories," he said. "In 28 years, I've never seen better co-operation between retailers, government, labour and manufacturers. In 10 years we can re-create the industry."



There are certain products, like heavy winter jackets, that we just don't have the materials and skills in South Africa to yet produce, Thunström said. South Africa won't manage to revive the industry in full because local retailers "can't replace all the product ranges"

Tanga Cement chief bemoans lack of reliable power supply, rise in cost of transporting coal

THIS is the second part of an interview between a Smart Money Reporter and Tanga Cement Plc's Managing Director, Reinhardt Swart (pictured), who explains further on the challenges his company is currently facing:

What are the challenges - if any - is Tanga Cement is facing?

Tanga Cement has the same challenges today that it faced in the past. We are a major consumer of electricity and I think if you take the statement I made on the apparent shortage of cement supply, there might be intermittent shortage because of capacity that is down for maintenance just for a week or so.

But we have the same problem regarding supply of electricity; sometimes there is enough of it; sometimes there is none! Our cement plant is a very huge consumer of electricity; we consume as much electricity as the amount which is consumed by a town the size of Tanga. But the equipment being used is so sensitive that if you just have the slightest power interruption, then the plant stops producing cement. If you look at the big picture, there is enough electricity. But when there is power outage, it takes six hours to start up production again. That is one key thing one has to understand that a cement factory is very sensitive to electricity quality, quantity and uninterrupted supply.

Any other challenges?

Another challenge is, unfortunately, geological, created by mother-nature and father time. Tanzania has the best limestone deposits in Africa but unfortunately for us in Tanga, coal is located in the far south of the country, and the only way we can get enough of it is by road, from a distance of approximately 3,300 kilometres. The cost of transporting the coal is too much; it is actually more than the actual core business - especially if you have a cement plant that uses coal to fire the kiln like ours. So, what we have to do is to increase the price of our cement annually - which also makes the royalty go up. My shareholders are not willing to pay the royalties which makes me pay



them first out of production then I have to make a margin on that so that I can get dividend to pay the shareholders, which we have never done for four years.

Do you plan any further investments because the market demand is booming?

We are facing a major challenge to commit any further investments because the agreement signed with Tanzania Investment Centre in 2013 has not been gazetted yet. The fact that it is not gazetted yet means that we have to allocate funds for possible payment of what we have promised, but we have not paid. Because it has not been gazetted, I cannot claim the benefits. And, because it's not gazetted, our shareholders say 'I cannot give you this money if you cannot get the agreements gazetted.'

So how do you afford all this royalties - and still have a viable business model in producing and selling cement?

It is a very big headache at this stage - and you'll have to go through with this challenge of royalty charge on the value of landed coal instead of charge coal at source. If that could be resolved, it would have a significant impact on further stabilizing the extricate price of our cement, not the retail price. But the extricate price would just prolong the stability which we already have and it would reduce the requirement for the increase. We still have to increase our prices due to other factors, but the demand after the price increase is going to be less.

Why not use railway transport from Dar to Tanga so you cut costs?

We have a problem with the availability of vehicles for

transport. We currently have an agreement in place with Tanzania Railway Corporation but even though we have an agreement in place, TRC locomotives are not available at the present.

We have opened up the line for Moshi and Arusha but if there are no locomotives, we cannot use the facility. So, the railways system should be available to transport large volume of cement and other goods at all times.

Although we have agreed on transport charges with TRC, there is no signed agreement on this so far, but, if they change mind and increase the transport charges, I would have no option but to also increase our extricate price - something which we have not done since June this year.

When do you plan to increase cement prices and why?

I will certainly increase price in the future - presumably in January 2021 - not based on the supply and demand principle, but based on cost of production. The calculations are in our annual reports, as there is no secret about it, for that is how the economy works.

Governments urged to bridge the digital divide as connectivity becomes essential

PARIS

Countries around the world have been called on to do more to bridge the digital divide as internet connectivity becomes more important for remote working and learning amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Internet service providers reported a 60 per cent growth in traffic since the pandemic began as millions of people worked from home and pupils learnt online, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's latest Digital Economy Outlook. However, the pandemic has thrown light on digital gaps within the 37-member bloc and developing economies.

The report shows that even within the OECD, the share of fixed broadband subscriptions varies widely. South Korea and Japan, which have sophisticated digital economies and smart cities, have adoption rates of 82 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively.

In comparison, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel and the UK have adoption rates that are below 5 per cent, with rural areas particularly underserved. OECD countries typically have twice the level of high-speed mobile internet subscriptions per person and three times the number of fixed broadband subscriptions of non-OECD nations.

OECD deputy secretary general Ulrik Knudsen said digital

technology had helped countries in the bloc avoid a complete standstill during the Covid-19 crisis, and enabled them to learn more about the virus, hasten efforts to find a vaccine and track the development of the pandemic.

"We are at a turning point in the digital transformation, and the shape of our economies and societies post-Covid will depend on how well we can progress and narrow these divides," he said. The latest digital outlook showed that OECD economies had 113 high-speed mobile internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants as of June 2019, up from 32 per 100 a decade earlier.

Non-OECD countries, meanwhile, have 60 subscriptions

for such services per 100 people. A significant indicator of the pivot to an increasingly digital economy is the notable rise in online sales as a share of total sales, the report said.

Only a quarter of companies with more than 10 employees across the OECD bloc registered online sales before the pandemic, while a third purchased cloud computing services and more than half had a social media presence. The share of people using e-government services rose from 43 per cent in 2010 to 58 per cent in 2019. The OECD's recommendations to boost digital services come after the International Monetary Fund urged governments and institutions to speed up digitisation efforts.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

London is 'thrown to lions' with no Brexit financing deal likely

LONDON

THE golden age of the City of London began with a big bang. It's ending with a whimper.

Fears that the finance powerhouse that emerged from Margaret Thatcher's 1986 deregulation - known as the Big Bang - will gradually be dismantled have deepened with a recent flurry of announcements about some business heading to the European Union as Britain enters the last month of the Brexit transition period without a financial-services deal in sight.

The latest shift comes Monday at 8 a.m., when London Stock Exchange Group Plc's stock trading platform Turquoise Europe goes live in Amsterdam. It joins other trading venues like Cboe Europe and Aquis Exchange Plc setting up shop on the continent as part of their no-deal Brexit plans, a contrast with the late 1980s, which ushered in a period where London became the place to be for equities trading.

"The City of London has been thrown to the lions," said Alasdair Haynes, chief executive officer at Aquis, adding that the UK could lose even more stock trading than it expects if giant US asset managers like BlackRock Inc. decide to trade in Paris and Amsterdam.

Last week, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said it had applied to French regulators to open its SIGMA X Europe stock platform in Paris from Jan 4. Goldman partner Elizabeth Martin said that she expects most of the 8.6 billion euros (\$10 billion) a day in London-based European share trading to shift to the bloc.

Aquis has already established a platform in the French capital. It went live with more than 1,700 European shares earlier this month. Other trading venues like Liquidnet have outposts in Dublin to ensure they can service clients.

"We are expecting a big bang on January 4," said David Howson president of Cboe Europe, the largest of London's stock trading platforms, which opened its own venue in the Dutch capital last year. "The industry has never had to move this much flow overnight."

It's not just stock dealing that's shifting. Brussels disappointed London swap traders last week when its markets regulator said that derivatives need to change hands on EU-based platforms from January. That means trillions of dollars of transactions is at risk of being transacted outside of the UK.

Land grab

The bloc has already made a land grab for London's euro swaps clearing business, urging its banks to accelerate a shift to Europe. Deutsche Boerse AG's Eurex Clearing has built up a 19% share of the business over recent years although it is dwarfed by London's market share.

In recent weeks, Goldman and JPMorgan Chase & Co. have indicated that between them more than 300 staff will move to continental cities. Goldman is shifting as much as \$60 billion in assets to Frankfurt, while JPMorgan is moving about \$230 billion to the German city.

Consultancy EY said in a report last month that the 7,500 roles and 1.2 trillion pounds (\$1.6 trillion) in assets that have moved already may just be the beginning. It expects further shifts in personnel and assets once the UK's transition period officially ends.

That bodes ill for the UK, where finance employs more than one million people, makes up about 7% of the economy and accounts for more than a 10th of all tax revenue. Despite that, the industry has garnered little of the attention bestowed on fishing, which makes up just 0.1% of the UK economy, in the protracted Brexit negotiations.

Talent pool

To be sure, London's long-standing advantages of the English language and legal system and a deep talent pool mean it won't be overtaken anytime soon. And a last-minute agreement with the EU on financial services could still happen.

The LSE said it would call off its plan for Turquoise Europe if the European Union declared that Britain can host trading services for EU shares, part of a process known as equivalence. Such an agreement remains a possibility.

But time is running out. And without an agreement London's status as Europe's financial hub will no longer be in its hands. "The kingmakers here will be the Americans," Aquis CEO Haynes said. "There's no guarantee they will still trade in London. They will follow the liquidity."

Regional stock markets automate trading

KIGALI

FOUR East African countries - Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi - have finally merged their stock markets through a decade-long automation project to attract investment.

The automation means now investors will be allowed to trade their stocks electronically across the borders next month, according to Celestin Rwabukumba, the chief executive of the Rwanda Stock Exchange.

It is a project that has been in the making since 2011 when countries from the region embarked on integrating their stock exchanges, although at a time Rwanda was only starting to invest in its capital market.

The World Bank-funded project has been completed with only a few states for the technology system to go live, according to Rwabukumba who's also the chairman of the East Africa Securities Exchange Association (EASEA).

"There was a time for you to trade your KCB shares in our market, you needed to go on a bus, get your shares certificate from Kenya and bring it to Rwanda or send it by DHL," he said. That was inefficient and costly.

"Today, it's going to be happening in the blink of an eye. The system will allow you to open an account across markets, boost access to a pool of investments, as well as give you visibility," he noted.

Through the platform, investors in the four countries will be able to buy and sell shares of companies listed in any of the countries without going through different stakeholders. Kenya had reportedly pulled out of the project in 2015 over alleged procurement irregularities, but Rwabukumba said they have "formally expressed interest" to join again.

Kenya currently has the largest and active capital market in the region. The Nairobi Securities Exchange comprises approximately 66 listed companies with



Celestin Rwabukumba, chief executive of Rwanda Stock Exchange.

a daily trading volume of more than \$10 million and a total market capitalization of more than \$20 billion.

Rwanda's bourse, on the other hand, has a market capitalization of just \$3.5 billion, but the move by the region is expected to

diversify markets such as that of Rwanda and create a wide pool of both retail and institutional investors.

George Odhiambo, the Managing Director of KCB Bank Rwanda, part of KCB Group whose shares are listed both in Kenya and Rwanda, said the automation is likely to bring a lot of benefits towards promoting the capital market. "Any automation should reduce transaction costs, improve operational efficiencies and speed deals closure for the benefit of stakeholders," he told The New Times on Thursday.

The platform

The technology platform dubbed the EAC Capital Markets Infrastructure (CMI), developed by a Pakistan-based private firm, will basically interconnect all the region's trading systems. It has features such as the smart order router, which will enable stockbrokers to view all markets and market information across the region,

and the messaging feature that will allow market players to communicate.

However, for stockbrokers to trade, they will have to fulfil certain conditions including minimum capital requirements. For instance, a regional broker to be allowed to trade across the region will have to be capitalized at Rwf240 million. Alternatively, for brokers to trade they would have to have "sponsored membership" in a local market where they want to buy stocks. "It means you will have to sign an agreement with a broker in Dar es Salaam through which you can execute orders. This is because stock markets are still governed by regulations in host markets," he noted.

Rwanda, which is looking to leverage the integration project to promote its capital market, started its bourse officially in 2011. Other members in the region have had their stock exchanges for many years, except Burundi which is yet to establish one.

WORLD

Joe Biden chooses more senior aids, Trump maintains election fight

WASHINGTON / WILMINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden chose more senior aides to lead his administration's efforts to defeat the coronavirus and rebuild the US economy, and his office confirmed on Sunday he would begin receiving classified briefings that are an essential step toward taking control of national security.

As the Democratic former vice-president prepared for his move to the White House, Republican President Donald Trump pledged to maintain his legal fight to overturn the result of the Nov 3 vote even while indicating in comments to Fox News that he was growing resigned to leaving office on Jan 20.

Yesterday, Biden was expected to begin receiving the classified presidential daily briefing, after weeks of the Trump administration refusing to provide it. The PDB, as it is known, is the first step toward transfer of responsibility for the most sensitive intelligence to a new administration.

Biden also was expected to announce as soon as Monday top members of his economic team, a source familiar with the process said. They include several officials with whom Biden worked when serving as vice-president to Barack Obama.

Neera Tanden, president of the progressive Center for American Progress think tank, will be named director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Cecilia Rouse, a labor economist at Princeton University, would be named as chair of the Council of Economic

Advisers, the source said.

The picks were initially reported by the Wall Street Journal. The New York Times also reported on Sunday that Brian Deese, who helped lead Obama's efforts to bail out the automotive industry during the 2009 financial crisis, would head the National Economic Council.

Biden also tapped campaign staff and advisers to lead an all-woman communications team, naming campaign spokeswoman Kate Bedingfield as White House communications director and veteran Democratic spokeswoman Jen Psaki as press secretary.

Separately, the 78-year old Biden visited a doctor as a precautionary measure on Sunday after injuring his ankle when playing with one of his dogs.

'Biden administration'

Despite Trump's pledge to keep fighting, a few Republicans appeared to acknowledge that Biden had won.

"We're working with the Biden administration, the likely administration, on both the transition and the inauguration as if we're moving forward," Senator Roy Blunt, chairman of the congressional inaugural committee, told CNN, stopping short of acknowledging that Trump lost.

Trump on Sunday kept up his unsubstantiated allegations of widespread electoral fraud, both in his Fox News interview and on Twitter. His legal team has lost dozens of lawsuits by failing to convince judges of elec-



US President-elect Joe Biden

tion irregularities in hotly contested states like Michigan, Georgia and Arizona.

Biden won with 306 Electoral College votes - only 270 are required - to Trump's 232. The former vice-president also leads Trump by more than 6 million in the popular-vote tally.

Trump's team was dealt another blow with the completion on Sunday of recounts in Wisconsin's two largest counties that confirmed Biden won the battleground state by more than 20,000 votes.

Speaking to Fox News, the president was unclear about how he would proceed. "The problem is it's hard to get it to the Supreme Court," he said.

Trump's team has offered conflicting statements on its likely course following a defeat in a federal appeals court on Friday in a case challenging Biden's win in Pennsylvania.

The Supreme Court has always been unlikely to tip the election in Trump's favor, said Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Trump's Pennsylvania challenge was a particularly poor vehicle for getting to the high court because it involves a procedural question about whether Trump's campaign should have been allowed to expand the case, Levinson said.

"There is nothing for the Supreme Court to decide," she said.

Trump said for the first time on Thursday that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College votes for Biden on Dec 14. On Sunday, he said he would continue to fight the results of the election even after he is due to leave office, saying: "My mind will not change in six months."

Aides say Trump has discussed starting a television channel or social media company to keep himself in the spotlight ahead of a potential 2024 White House bid.

Agencies

US seeks to cover real culprits behind chemical weapons provocations'

MOSCOW

THE United States and its European allies seek to cover the real culprits behind chemical weapons provocations by bringing accusations against Russia and turning up the heat on the Syrian authorities, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing on Friday.

"The US calls on its allies to continue turning up the heat on the Syrian leadership and sending - as they put it - strong signals to Russia at the upcoming Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The goal clearly is to do everything possible to cover the real masterminds and organizers of all those chemical weapons provocations," she emphasized.

According to Zakharova (pictured), Syrian militants have developed skills in chemical terrorism thanks to the support of their Euro-Atlantic partners.

"It seems that the US and its allies, pursuing their own geopolitical goals, don't care about how this kind of approach will affect the security situation in the Middle East and beyond," she added.

The US remains the only member of the Chemical Weapons Convention that has not yet completed the elimination of its declared chemical weapon stockpile, the Russian diplomat pointed out.

"The incident involving Russian blogger Navalny makes it clear that many US allies, including those in Europe, have the knowledge and technical capacities to create Novichok agents.

That said, their allegations that Russia has a state chemical weapons program and undermines the norms of the Chemical Weapons Convention look like unscrupulous attempts to justify activities to oppose Russia through sanctions in an absolutely cynical way, which has become the habit of the US and its allies," Zakharova noted.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman also said that the US and its allies deliberately sought to involve the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in their political game.

However, in Zakharova's words, the organization's reputation has been tarnished as a result of "scandals surrounding fake reports on chemical weapons provocations in Syria."

Their attempts to impose their will on the OPCW Technical Secretariat is what undermines the organization's work, the diplomat stressed.

Agencies



Iran says Israel-made weapon used in nuclear scientist's killing

DUBAI

IRAN'S English-language Press TV said yesterday that the weapon used in the killing of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist last week was made in Israel.

"The weapon collected from the site of the terrorist act (where Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated) bears the logo and specifications of the Israeli military industry," an unnamed source told Press TV.

Speaking before the Press TV report, Israeli intelligence minister Eli Cohen told radio station 103 FM on Monday that he did not know who was responsible.

Fakhrizadeh, who had little public profile in Iran but had been named by Israel as a prime player in what it says is Iran's nuclear weapons quest, was killed on Friday when he was ambushed on a highway near Tehran and his car sprayed with bullets.

Iran began Fakhrizadeh's burial in a cemetery in northern Tehran on Monday, state TV reported, as the defence minister promised that the Islamic Republic would retaliate for his killing.



An image grab from footage obtained from the state-run Iran Press news agency yesterday shows a religious singer preaching near the coffin of slain scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, one of Iran's top nuclear scientists who was assassinated in an attack, during his funeral in Tehran. (PHOTO / AFP)

Iran's clerical and military rulers have blamed Iran's long-time enemy, Israel, for Fakhrizadeh's killing, raising the threat of a new confrontation with the West and Israel in the remaining weeks of Donald Trump's presidency.

However, Iran's rulers are aware of daunting military and political difficulties in attacking Israel. Such an attack would also complicate any effort by U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to revive detente with Tehran after he takes office on Jan. 20.

Tensions have increased between Tehran and Washington since 2018, when Trump exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with six powers and reimposed sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

In retaliation, Tehran gradu-

ally breached the deal's curbs on its nuclear programme. Biden has said he will return the United States to the deal if Iran resumes compliance.

Tehran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons.

Agencies

Kenyan expert calls for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine in Africa

NAIROBI

A Kenyan immunization expert has urged African governments to take tangible actions to ensure the continent has equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccines once they become available.

Omu Anzala, professor of virology and immunology and lead researcher at the Kenya Aids Vaccine Initiative at the Institute of Clinical Research (KAVI-ICR) on Friday said Africa should start planning logistics and distribution of vaccines instead of being skeptical and hesitant.

"The emerging global issue right now is acceptance of the vaccines, availability and its access," Anzala told journalists during a virtual briefing on the current status of the vaccine.

He urged African governments to allocate adequate resources to secure adequate supply of COVID-19 vaccines that are likely to be approved for immunization of people against the deadly pandemic.

"We do not have to worry about the speed or safety and efficacy of vaccines, but instead governments and policymakers should start planning for necessary logistics to ensure the cold chain of the vaccines," said Anzala.

He said that the cold chain required for the distribution of the vaccine is not going to be similar to the usual child vaccines.

Anzala, one of Africa's leading virologists, reiterated the significance of prioritizing who should get the vaccine first, once it becomes available.

"It will be important to give preference to people at higher risk of getting infected and experiencing complications," said Anzala. He said that evidence shows that for older people, there is an increased mortality rate even without pre-existing medical conditions.

Xinhua

China, Russia lead BRICS summit in COVID-19 cooperation, multilateralism

THE fruitful results yielded at the BRICS Summit highlights the bloc's multilateralism and reflects that despite growing uncertainties brought by unpredictable events, such as the US presidential election and the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Russia have clearer and firmer targets aimed at deepening their strategic partnership and maintaining global stability, experts said.

This year's summit was hosted by Russia via video link and member countries released the Moscow Declaration, vowing to strengthen cooperation on vaccine development, multilateralism, and United Nations-centered international order.

During the summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on member states to speed up the development of COVID-19 vaccines and build R&D centers. He also noted

that China had proven that the novel coronavirus can be overcome, calling on other countries to learn from China's experience.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Chinese companies are working with their Russian and Brazilian partners on phase-III clinical trials of vaccines, and China is also prepared to cooperate with South Africa and India.

As two countries that have achieved major breakthroughs in vaccine development, China and Russia have set a global example for turning vaccine development into a race against the virus instead of a political manipulation, analysts said.

Chinese analysts also pointed out that the declaration is another example that the two countries have reached consensus as comprehensive strategic partners, are developing their bonds in many fields and have become

the largest stabilizers for the world.

While the US keeps challenging the UN's guiding role and subverting international order, China and Russia have announced support for the UN on many occasions this year. For example, the two countries' top leaders exchanged congratulatory messages on September 3, which marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the World War II, showing their determination to jointly safeguard global stability and peace.

China and Russia's close cooperation is a stabilizer amid growing uncertainties in recent years that could affect international order, such as this year's US President election, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit, Zhao Huirong, research fellow at the Institute of Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies under the Chinese

Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. Unlike the US, which is trying to destroy an international order that it thinks is unfavorable to its interests, China and Russia prefer to work together to provide the world with a platform and opportunities to find solutions to new crisis and challenges through negotiation, Zhao noted.

The close bond between China and Russia not only stems from their bilateral interests but also their similar responses to geopolitics, Yang Jin, an associate research fellow with the same institute as Zhao's, told the Global Times. Unlike some Western countries, which continue to adopt a cold war mentality, China and Russia have learned lessons from the Cold War, oppose adopting ideology to deal with relations with other countries and seek to reach a wide consensus among different

countries, the expert said. "China and Russia are coming closer and closer, which is also because we have each other's back amid provocations from some countries that are trying to isolate China and Russia and make them rivalries," said Yang.

Yang said that this bond would not change no matter which party in the US or whoever wins the presidency.

As two permanent members for the UN Security Council, China and Russia can jointly push a crucial global agenda, including the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, climate change, prevention of global pandemics and support of high-technologies, experts said, noting that the two countries and their stable and close partnership have become important for ensuring global stability and order.

Global Times

War not over, says Ethiopia's Tigrayan forces leader

ADDIS ABABA/NAIROBI

THE leader of rebel forces in northern Ethiopia said yesterday they were still fighting near the regional capital of Mekele, which fell to government troops at the weekend after nearly a month of battles and air strikes.

"I'm close to Mekele (pictured) in Tigray fighting the invaders," Debretsion Gebremichael told Reuters in a text message, which the government dismissed as a deluded claim.

The war in Tigray region has killed hundreds and probably thousands, sent refugees into Sudan, enmeshed Eritrea, impeded a peacekeeping mission in Somalia, and heightened frictions between Ethiopia's myriad ethnic groups.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government launched an offensive on Nov 4 against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), accusing the ex-guerrilla movement, which dominated national government for nearly three decades until 2018, of insurrection.

Abiy's federal forces took Mekele, a highland city of 500,000 people, at the weekend with relatively little resistance, though the TPLF later said it had shot down a plane and retaken one town.

TPLF leader Debretsion, a 57-year-old former radio operator, denied reports that he had fled to South Sudan and said his forces had captured some soldiers from neighboring Eritrea around Wukro, about 50 kilometers north of Mekele.

Abiy's spokeswoman Billene Seyoum

dismissed Debretsion's comments, saying: "The Federal government as a priority is busy governing a country and bringing stability to those affected."

Tracking and responding to the many delusions of a disintegrating criminal clique that has become irrelevant is not our focus."

Guerrilla war feared

There was no immediate comment from the Eritrean government, though at the start of the conflict it had denied involvement.

The TPLF has shelled Eritrea's capital Asmara.

Claims from all sides are difficult to verify since phone and internet links to Tigray have largely been down and access has been tightly controlled since the war began.

When he took office in 2018, Abiy pledged to unite Ethiopia's 115 million people, but there have been repeated bouts of bloody ethnic violence and hundreds of thousands have had to flee their homes.

Both sides have spoken of hundreds of dead in the Tigray war, and diplomats believe the toll is in the thousands.

Abiy told parliament on Monday that his troops had not killed a single civilian and were protecting Mekele from damage. "We are not the (TPLF) junta. We have responsibilities. We conduct ourselves responsibly," he said.

Debretsion's defiant comments raise the spectre of a drawn-out guerrilla war. The battle-hardened TPLF helped to



topple Ethiopia's Marxist dictatorship in 1991 and knows how to exploit its mountainous terrain and borders with Sudan and Eritrea.

Abiy won a Nobel Peace Prize last year for making peace with Eritrea, whose government also regards the TPLF as an enemy.

The US State Department reported six explosions in Asmara on Saturday night, but without specifying the cause. Diplomats told Reuters they had been either rockets or missiles.

Ethiopia is a major contributor to an African Union peacekeeping force fighting al Qaeda-linked militants in Somalia, but has disarmed several hundred soldiers there of Tigrayan ethnicity, questioning their loyalty.

The war in Tigray region has killed hundreds and probably thousands, sent refugees into Sudan, enmeshed Eritrea, impacted a peace-

keeping mission in Somalia, and heightened frictions between Ethiopia's myriad ethnic groups.

In a text message to Reuters, Debretsion Gebremichael, who heads the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), denied reports that he had fled to South Sudan and said he was still resisting in Tigray.

"I'm close to Mekele in Tigray fighting the invaders," he said. Debretsion added that his soldiers had captured some Eritreans fighting alongside the Ethiopian federal forces.

Billene Seyoum, the spokeswoman for the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, told Reuters that Debretsion should be ignored.

"The Federal government as a priority is busy governing a country and bringing stability to those affected. Tracking and responding to the many delusions of a disintegrating criminal clique that has become irrelevant is not our focus," she told Reuters.

There was no immediate comment from the Eritrean government, though at the start of the conflict it had denied involvement.

The TPLF has fired rocket at Eritrea's capital Asmara.

Claims from all sides are difficult to verify since phone and internet links to Tigray region have been largely down and access tightly controlled since the war began on Nov 4.

Agencies

Boko Haram militants kill over 40 farmers in NE Nigerian: official

ABUJA

MORE than 40 farmers were killed after Boko Haram militants launched an attack on a village in the northeastern state of Borno, an official has said.

Babagana Umara Zulum, governor of the Borno state, on Sunday confirmed the incident to reporters while leading horrified kinsmen of the victims to bury the dead in Zabarmari, a town in Jere local government area of the state, following the attack early Saturday. "It is disheartening that more than 40 citizens were slaughtered while they were working in their farmlands," Zulum said.

Although the victims lived in Zabarmari, a farming community, they were attacked at Koshebe village in the Mafa local government area of the same state, while working on their farmlands. "Our people are in very difficult situations.

They are in two different extreme conditions; on one side, if they stay at home, they may be killed by hunger and starvation, and on the other side if they go out to their farmlands, they risk getting killed by the insurgents," the governor lamented.

The official said some locals were still missing, as many fled the area due to the attack. A mass funeral was conducted early Sunday for the victims of the attack, attended by the state governor, other local officials and families of the deceased. Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on Saturday condemned in a statement the attack, describing it as "insane". He said the government had given all the needed support to the armed forces "to take all necessary steps to protect the country's population and its territory."

Agencies

White House press secretary appointment has nothing to do with Kremlin – spokesman

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has underlined that appointment of the White House press secretary is a US domestic affair.

According to him, the issue has nothing to do with the Kremlin.

"This [press secretary appointment] is a choice of the head of

state after the official results of the [US presidential] elections are announced and all legal challenges are resolved," he said, commenting on Joe Biden's plans to appoint Jen Psaki the White House press secretary.

"Generally, this is more of a domestic issue and the issue for Mr. Biden himself, it has nothing to do with the Kremlin," he emphasized.



Jennifer Psaki

"From the bilateral Russian-American relations standpoint, the press secretary does not formulate foreign policy, it is the head of state who formulates foreign policy, at least in our country.

And, of course, much depends on the US president," Peskov noted.

"As usual, we are hoping that political will to normalize our bilateral

ties will still emerge in Washington as time goes on," Peskov underlined. "Up until now, it hasn't happened yet, unfortunately."

Generally, this is more of a domestic issue and the issue for Mr. Biden himself

16th China International Cultural Industries Fair kicks off online

THE 16th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF) kicked off online on Nov. 16. The five-day event was for the first time presented on the internet through 5G, livestream and virtual reality (VR) technologies.

The 1st ICIF, which opened in 2004, had only one sub-venue and attracted over 700 exhibitors and 477,000 visitors, while last year, the event established 66 sub-venues which were joined by 2,312 global exhibitors and 7.8 million visitors. It has grown into the largest, highest-level, and most effective and influential expo in China's cultural industry after 15 years of development.

Dafen village, known for its oil paintings, was the only sub-venue of the 1st ICIF. Its story about the ICIF is a miniature of how the event has been driving the development of the cultural industry.

The village, serving as a bridge between art and the market that translates talents into fortune, has benefited a lot from the sessions of the ICIF.

According to incomplete figures, the village earned 80 million yuan (\$12.2 million) by selling oil paintings in



A woman views handiworks from Ghana at the 15th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair, May 17, 2019. File photo

2003, and the revenue soared to 140 million yuan after the first ICIF was held and 279 million yuan in 2005.

Today, the small village that covers only 0.4 square kilometer is home to over 1,200 galleries and shops, housing nearly 10,000 practitioners in the oil painting industry. Its output in 2018 hit 4.55 billion yuan, making it the largest production and trading base of oil paintings in China.

Over the past 15 years, the

transaction volume of the ICIF rose from 35.69 billion yuan to nearly 250 billion yuan. This year, the event has collected 21,572 exhibits, and is joined by 3,243 enterprises and organizations, 931 more than those in the previous year.

The ICIF has also been promoting Chinese culture overseas and introducing foreign cultures to China. It has not only brought cultural products from the world to China,

but also forcefully advanced the communication, dialogue and cooperation in the cultural industry among different countries and regions.

Through the event, an acrobatics troupe from Zunyi, southwest China's Guizhou province, has taken their shows to the globe, and Huangmei cross-stitch, a national-level intangible cultural heritage of China, has also been introduced to the world.

People's Daily

In first for Australia, PM speaks to parliament on video link

SYDNEY

PRIME Minister Scott Morrison became Australia's first leader yesterday to make an appearance before parliament by video link, as he spends time in quarantine following a recent trip to Japan.

While not the first such session by a world leader, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson having addressed parliament online, Morrison spoke to Australian lawmakers on a big screen television placed at the back of the House of Representatives.

Morrison (pictured), who last week became the first world leader to meet Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, spoke on the coronavirus, which Australia has largely contained, and aspects of the country's economic recovery.

"Our relative success here in Australia sometimes shields us from the sheer scale of the devastation that has occurred elsewhere," he said in comments that had been delayed a few minutes by technical issues.

Yesterday marked 24 hours with no new locally acquired infections for Australia, though its death toll rose to 908 after disease complications killed one person in southeastern Victoria state who had earlier been cleared of infection.

Australia's tally of more than 27,800 infections is far fewer than many other developed countries.

With infections curtailed, authorities in Victoria said they would resume a system of hotel quarantine for locals returning from overseas.

The state had barred entry to Australians returning home following an outbreak of more than 20,000 cases sparked by infections among hotel workers caught from those in mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Many of the workers, who had second jobs, then carried the virus further in the community.

The outbreak was only contained after a stringent lockdown for more than 100 days in the state capital of Melbourne, home to about 5 million people.

Agencies



Disagreement over selection of gov't threatens future dialogue in Libya

TRIPOLI

EXPERTS believe that the deep disagreement over the mechanisms for selecting a new government in Libya threatens the future of the UN-sponsored Libyan political dialogue, which requires more concessions and international pressure on the Libyan parties to agree on the form of the upcoming transitional authority.

"The differences that prevail within the political dialogue have become clear. The United Nations (UN) has even hinted at the difficulty of solving the Libyan crisis all at once, and that the issue needs many stages and rounds to create harmony between all parties," Khalid al-Montaser, a Libyan professor on international relations,

told Xinhua.

"We strongly welcome the cease-fire agreement and the success of the military track, to clear the way for the political track to complete the formation of a new executive authority, which ends the division and the state of fragmentation of the country's institutions and prepares the atmosphere for the upcoming elections," he said.

Under the auspices of the UN, the first round of Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) took place in Tunis on Nov. 9 with the participation of 75 Libyans representing the social and political

spectrum of the Libyan society to discuss a political roadmap to achieve lasting peace. The participants agreed to hold national elections on Dec. 24, 2021.

The first virtual meeting of the second round of the LPDF was held on Monday to discuss the criteria for selecting the unified executive authorities for the preparatory period preceding the elections, according to the UN Support Mission in Libya.

Libyan political analyst Imad Jalloul believes that the ongoing dialogue between the Libyan factions must end quickly in order to avoid the return of the military conflict.

"The recent cease-fire agreement clearly paved the way for politicians to sit at the negotiating table, after such negotiations were out of reach a few months ago when the language of guns prevailed in western Libya," Jalloul told Xinhua. "Regional and international parties pushed towards stopping the war after the withdrawal of (Khalifa) Haftar's forces (eastern-based army)."

The same parties can play a major role in pushing for rapid consensus on the mechanisms for selecting the new executive authority, which is possible if the international will for that is available," Jalloul added.

The dispute about the mechanisms and criteria for selecting the upcoming government at the LPDF was over the method of voting for the candidates of the prime minister and the new presidential council, local media reported.

Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General Stephanie Williams recently told the UN Security Council that "ten years of war cannot be solved in one week of political talks, but we hear more now the language of peace rather than the language of war."

Iman Jalal, a Libyan university professor, believes that the UN mission has so far failed to achieve any progress in the political dialogue this month, and is trying hard to save what can be saved and put forward new proposals.

"The United Nations has only succeeded in bringing the Libyans together at one table," Jalal told Xinhua. "The solution and consensus are still far away in reality." "I believe the political parties do not have much confidence in the existing dialogue. The pressure of the UN mission on all participants to sign a written pledge that they will not participate in the new

executive authority is something that many of them do not like. Therefore, some try to punish the United Nations indirectly by obstructing consensus over mechanisms of the selection of the future government that will replace the Government of National Accord (GNA)," she said.

The UN-backed GNA and the rival eastern-based army were engaged in a deadly armed conflict for more than a year in and around the capital city of Tripoli, which ended recently with the GNA announcing taking over all of western Libya after withdrawal of the eastern-based army. The Libyan factions signed a permanent cease-fire agreement on Oct. 23 in Geneva.

Xinhua

SPORT



NUTA Jazz band

Enduring NUTA Jazz metaphor: Loyalties anguish in broken families

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CHECKING some spaces on social media in relation to a song of the 1970s, 'tell me my brothers whom I should save, first father and second mother both depending on me...', which depicts the issue as an either do-or-die situation in the wide sea, is still a vibrant point of fans' attachment.

It is hard to say what precisely attaches those using the song to illustrate different messages (for instance a group of Tanzanians living in the Scandinavian countries), when communicating on different issues of interest back home.

Nor is it clear if any answer was really given to that song, though there were some attempts during that period.

For one thing, the situation that the song depicts is not real in a factual sense of the term but a metaphor, a conjured-up picture of something else in real life, but intended to carry nearly the same weight as that which it seeks to depict.

So, one wonders in what manner someone conjures up a picture of having father and mother (his own arrangement of priority, or sequence of mentioning) in the sea, and cannot help both at the same time and has to choose one.

By its definition that is an impossible situation, for it actually means choosing who dies between the two parents, and by a religious exclamation 'God forbid,' it will not happen.

Still the metaphor is there and has to be understood, and where possible, the listener makes up his or her mind what would be the right way of doing things if such a situation came up.

Assuming that none of us shall ever be at sea with both parents (or any set of people and in a position to come ashore but help only one person), the issue has to be solved differently, and it appears to be linked with broken families.

It is a situation that can test the loyalty of a young person when parents are at odds, and possibly both need help.

What can readily be put to question is the sort of emergency that was raised in the song and whether indeed it applies to real life that mother and father are equally in difficulties, and in a non-complementary manner.

Where they are still staying together it follows that assistance to one is also true of the other as they would be sharing meals or rent if the residence is rented, etc but if they live separately or divorced long ago there are choices that indeed have to be made.

The question is whether the song represented such choices correctly, as no two situations can have the same gravity, occurring in contrasting environments.

One way of interpreting the tone of the song, the manner in which it created a sense of urgency and total inability to do what is needed such that both parents can be 'saved' is pretension, refusing to actually say who is in difficulties, between one and the other parent.

And then there is a proper issue of whether or not there is sufficient ethical training in that regard as to how to about such issues, that is, where should the loyalty of a son be directed, between mother and father if they are not together.

Pushing the matter this way, one comes to even demand if the sequencing in the song was right, saying 'first father, then mother.'

If indeed the sequencing in the song was repeatedly 'father, then mother' it is likely that there is an ethical error in the song, which may substantially arise from superficial circumstances which were made into a dramatic portrayal of making impossible choices in life.

It is hard to say that in life mother and father not being together is contributed equally by both parents, as often men have wider choices of whom they can live with or bring up a partnership than women.

In that case when separation occurs, the loyalty of the son is supposed to remain with the mother, as ethical teaching shows that nothing can remove mother loyalty.

At the same time, it would appear that the song was conceived with a sort of prejudice, that ordinarily it is father who is supposed to come first and then mother, in the sense of household authority.

This ordinary family psychological situation is then transferred to the sea situation, as to whether it should be observed or not.

Directly on that issue it is evident that this authority matrix no longer applies when it comes to being saved, as mother is weaker at home so she must be saved at sea - because she is weaker, in danger.

Just as the youth putting up the song is supposed to defend the family, whether his own or that of his parents, this defence was the duty of father in the first place.

If his loyalty to the mother of that youth broke down at some point, no loyalty competition can arise.

He remains a close relative who can be assisted, but under no circumstances bring up his problems as somehow equal to what the mother needs.

SPORTS

Defensive solidity fuelling Yanga's VPL title push

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YANGA's success in the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) so far this season, somewhat surprisingly, has been based primarily on their strong defensive record.

On Saturday, they managed to extend their unbeaten streak to 13 matches with another hard fought 1-0 victory over JKT Tanzania.

They currently sit atop the Vodacom Premier League table with 31 points from 13 matches.

That was not what most expected of Yanga at the beginning of the season.

With the attack-minded players they signed, it was assumed that they would be playing free-flowing, attacking football and that they would attack relentlessly and with reckless abandon.

Instead, a key factor in their success has been the defence. A simple look at goals conceded in the league indicates as much - Yanga have conceded just four goals this season, a significant improvement on the 13 goals the team shipped in in 2019/20, and seven in 2018/19 at this stage of the campaign.

So far this campaign, they have conceded 0.31 goals per game, the best record in the league. Last season they conceded 0.68 goals per match.

Yanga have kept 10 clean sheets. It is a remarkable improvement. Last season, they only had six clean sheets at this stage of the campaign.

They now appear more balanced and tactically cohesive. Their goal return has largely remained the same at 15 strikes while last season they had 16 at this stage of the campaign.

The pragmatic approach has enabled them to edge out Simba SC and Azam FC, their main title challengers.

It is worth reminding ourselves that Yanga are the only side yet to lose a game this season while Simba SC has already lost on two occasions and Azam have thrice left with zero points.

It is also worth noting that what Yanga have done defensively so far is credit to the whole team.

They do not concede a lot of shots in general. It is not that they do not concede because their goalkeeper Metacha Mnata makes one world-class save after another.

They do not let their opponents shoot often and that is the best thing.

Against Simba SC, despite allowing to be dominated in ball possession, Yanga managed to restrict their opponents



Yanga midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe (R), challenges JKT Tanzania forward, Adam Adam, when the teams met in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) duel which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

to just two shots on target, albeit both were headers.

Against Azam FC, Yanga were so compatible that, in the end, goalkeeper Mnata faced no 'serious' shot on target.

Azam FC's failure to register a serious shot on target could be interpreted in terms of how poor they were but nevertheless no matter how you see it, it is also a test of Yanga's defensive solidity.

While both teams looked to play attacking football, Yanga were the ones who put together the better passing patterns.

Azam FC's threats were limited, as they struggled to bring forward Prince Dube and later substitutes, Thierry Akono and Richard Djodi, into the action on a regular basis.

The game could have gone for 10 hours without Azam FC scoring simply because Yanga defended well.

Just like against Simba SC, Yanga defended on the front foot, pressing high and restricting the opposition.

They are not passive off the ball. They press and close down space.

During his post-match press

conference, Azam FC assistant coach, Vivier Bahati, noted the difference between his side and Yanga was in the way the former failed to press.

He stated: "Failure to press cost us. We played well when we had the ball but struggled when we lost. We were poor without the ball. We did not press enough to win back the ball while Yanga did well in pressing and attacking."

The Burundian coach was also asked if he was happy with the performance of his players.

In response, he immediately fired back, saying: "I am not impressed with our performances. There was no pressing, no tracking."

"You can't be happy with the lack of press and tracking back when we did not have possession. You can't be satisfied with such performance."

This Yanga side is not defensive in the traditional sense. It is different, certainly, and so far, it has proved successful.

Whether they can maintain their current rate of conceding goals throughout the season remains to be seen.

Kilimanjaro tennis outfit holds sway in 2020 BQ Open junior competition

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KILIMANJARO-based Rafiki Foundation tennis team emerged as overall winners of the just ended BQ Open junior tournament, held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts last weekend.

The squad's head coach, Charles Laizer, said his team collected 10 medals and seven trophies at the event which attracted more than 80 players.

The participating junior players came from Arusha, Coast Region, Kilimanjaro, Simiyu, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza and hosts Dar es Salaam.

The juniors competed in age categories of U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14 and U-18 and there were also singles and doubles matches.

Rafiki Foundation squad was represented by 12 players, namely Emmanuel Lema, Irene Kweka, James Mbagi, Erick Kessy, Clinton Kaungu, Rachel Swai, Naitoti Singo, Nasha Singo, Irene Munishi, Dorine Munishi, Hillary Ndossi and Rukia Kapofi.

The coach thanked the team's sponsors, Dekker Chrysanten Tanzania, for supporting the outfit.

He said Naitoti won the U-8 girls' event, while Irene Kweka was runner up in the same group.

In U-14 event, Singo emerged as the winner, followed by Swai in the runner up spot.

Laizer said in U-12 girls, Nasha was the winner while Irene Kweka was runner up. Lema emerged the runner up in U-18 boys' category while in girls' doubles, Naitoti and Irene were winners, Irene Kweka and Irene Munishi were runners up in U-14 girls' category.

"We are happy with our team's performance at the BQ Open Junior tournament, our team performed well, this was due to good preparations," he stated.



This year's BQ Open Junior tournament's winner for the U-6 boys singles, Saifudin Bhajjee (R), is presented with a trophy by the tournament's guest after the event's climax in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

"We thank our sponsors for being with us all the time," he said. This year's BQ Open junior tournament was held for the eighth year in a row.

Clash of heads raises concerns as Wolves beat Arsenal

LONDON

THE sound of the thud from a clash of heads just added to concern.

The game was only five minutes old at the Emirates Stadium when Wolverhampton forward Raul Jimenez and Arsenal defender David Luiz collided while jumping for the ball.

The emptiness of the Emirates Stadium – with fans still excluded until next week due to the pandemic – made the troubling sound all the more audible.

Concerns grew as Jimenez appeared motionless and was eventually wheeled off the field with an oxygen mask on.

"I knew straight away that something was wrong," Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said. "Everyone called 'red, red,' which means it's a bad situation. You see the panic in their eyes."

By the time the Premier League game ended – with Wolves beating Arsenal 2-1 – there was a more encouraging update from the London hospital with Jimenez said to be conscious and talking.

One of the lingering concerns, though, was why a bandaged and bloodied Luiz played on until the interval at a time when there is growing scrutiny into the long-term impact of head injuries. Trials of concussion substitutes are only due to begin in 2021.

Arsenal maintained that Luiz never lost consciousness.

"They have some tests they have to do before they put him back on the pitch, and then David was just concerned about the cut, nothing else," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "They will continue to do some checks in the next few hours but he was fine."

The result was not fine for Arteta, with Arsenal languishing in 14th place and eight points off the lead after 10 games. That leader, unusually, is Tottenham, which drew 0-0 at Chelsea on Sunday.

Another former Premier League champion avoided a day as miserable as Arsenal's. Manchester United fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 at Southampton.

ARTETA'S STRUGGLES

Exactly a year to the day after Arsene Wenger's immediate successor, Unai Emery, was fired, Arteta is also struggling badly. With 13 points, Arsenal has its lowest tally after 10 games in 39 years.

Wolves took the lead in the 27th minute when Pedro Neto slotted in a rebound after Leander Dendoncker's header onto the crossbar. Although Gabriel's towering header drew Arsenal level three minutes later, Daniel Podence volleyed Wolves back in front after Neto's shot bounced off goalkeeper Bernd Leno's legs.

Next up in the Premier League for Arsenal is one of the biggest games of the season: the north London derby against Tottenham next Sunday, on the first weekend with some supporters allowed back into the capital's stadiums for the first time since March.

MOURINHO'S PONIES

While Jose Mourinho was accustomed to winning titles with Chelsea – three times – he is now in charge of a Tottenham side that hasn't won the championship since 1961.

No wonder he keeps downplaying the prospect of still being first in May, despite Tottenham showing defensive resilience to draw at Stamford Bridge where the team has only won once in 30 years.

The point, following last weekend's victory over Manchester City, put Tottenham ahead of champion Liverpool on goal difference and two points in front of third-place Chelsea.

"We are not even in the race," Mourinho claimed. "We are not a horse ... we are just a pony."

AP

Conte in firing line as Inter need Champions League miracle

MILAN

ANTONIO Conte is in the firing line with another Champions League failure looming as his Inter Milan side head to Borussia Mönchengladbach on Tuesday with their hopes of reaching the knockout stage hanging by a thread.

The three-time European champions are bottom of Group B with just two points from four games, six points behind leaders Gladbach.

Real Madrid – the record 13-time winners – are one point behind the Germans in second place and three clear of Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk with two matches to play.

An Italian team has not won a European trophy since Inter secured the Champions League to complete a treble under Jose Mourinho in 2010.

And Inter need a miracle to avoid a third consecutive exit in the group stage.

Against Gladbach, the 1977 European Cup runners-up, there will be no room for error.

The teams settled for a 2-2 draw at the San Siro last month, with Romelu Lukaku scoring both goals for the hosts.

Inter need to win and then beat Shakhtar, while also hoping other results go their way.

For former Juventus and Chelsea manager Conte, who took over at Inter in 2019, his European record has been consistently disappointing.

Conte tasted European glory as a player with Juventus, in the 1995/96 Champions League.

But the 51-year-old's best result as a coach was leading Juventus to the 2012/13 quarter-finals.

He took Chelsea to the last 16 in 2017-2018, but this threatens to be his fourth failure to make it into the knockout rounds.

An exit from the lucrative tournament would prove costly for Inter, who this week revealed losses of 102.4 million euros (\$122.4m) for

2019/2020, largely blamed on the coronavirus pandemic.

Club president Steven Zhang nevertheless hailed Conte as "a true leader" who would restore the Chinese-owned side to their former glories.

"Last season's goal was to start creating a winning mentality, then try to reduce the gap with our competitors," said Zhang.

"For better or for worse" – Last season, Conte took Inter to a second-place finish in Serie A, just one point behind Juventus, and to the Europa League final where they lost to Sevilla.

He had looked set to leave after just one season following a furious outburst following their defeat by Sevilla, complaining both he and the players received "little protection from the club".

"I don't want another year like that," fumed Conte before confirming he would stay after clear-the-air talks.

A divorce would have proved costly with his contract running until 2022 and worth a reported 12 million euros (\$14 million) a season.

This season Inter have frequently had to come from behind, battling back from two goals down to equalise before Real Madrid snatched a 3-2 victory in Spain.

They also came from two goals down to beat Torino 4-2 a week ago, but convincingly won 3-0 against Sassuolo on Saturday to move second in Serie A.

But Conte admitted his side had been outplayed by Real Madrid in the 2-0 defeat last time out in Europe, not just because of Arturo Vidal's first-half sending off for arguing with the referee.

"Responsibility needs to be shared and we need to be united, for better or for worse," said Conte.

"In positive and negative moments, we all need to take credit and responsibility. We're all in the same boat and we're all rowing in the same direction."

AFP

Familiar fallings on show in Arsenal's worst start in 40 years

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MIKEL Arteta is now discovering what it is really like to be Arsenal manager. Just like Unai Emery and Arsene Wenger before him, the Spaniard must ready himself for another winter of discontent at the Emirates after a 2-1 defeat at home to Wolves. The Gunners currently sit in 14th position in the table, having made their worst start to a Premier League season.

Arsenal haven't started any season this poorly since 1981-82, and they hadn't lost on home turf against Wolves since 1979. Star striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who started centrally against Wolves, is still waiting for his first goal at the Emirates since last season, too, so there really aren't many silver linings on the clouds that are hovering above the club right now.

And just to compound Arsenal's misery, they must travel to face bitter rivals Tottenham next Sunday with Jose Mourinho's team sitting pretty at the top of the table following their 0-0 draw against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge earlier in the day.

"We need more goals to win football matches," Arteta said. "We need to keep supporting the players. We're creating chances but struggling to score goals. That's the difference between winning and losing."

"When you lose matches, the confidence goes down because they believe things can happen again."

"You need to win after a defeat. We've been doing this in my time here, but this is the first time since we've been here [that Arsenal have had a losing run]."

There was always a danger that winning the FA Cup and Community Shield in the first year of Arteta's reign in charge would turn out to be too much too soon for a club that has lost its way as a Premier League force. That is now proving to be the case.

Optimism grew with those Wembley successes, against Chelsea and Liverpool, and they probably played a big role in persuading Aubameyang to end the uncertainty over his future by signing a new three-year contract at the club in September. But Aubameyang has scored just one league goal since putting pen to paper on his deal, and Arteta's progress has also stalled. The trophies papered over cracks that have not gone away.

That Arsenal have gone off the rails at the same time that Aubameyang has stopped scoring is hardly a coincidence. With Arteta attempting to solve the team's long-standing defensive issues by making the Gunners more organised, there was always the risk that the plan would fall to pieces if Aubameyang lost his goal touch.

Arsenal have had 95 efforts at goal in 10 league games so far this season – only four teams have had fewer – and scored from just 10 of them. They are scoring at a rate of one goal per game, so whenever their defence comes up short – as it did against Wolves – they are in trouble. How starved have Arsenal been for goals? Centre-back Gabriel's header in the 30th minute on Sunday is the club's only goal from open play in six Premier League games!

And the problems run deeper at the Emirates, where Arsenal have now failed to keep a clean sheet in eight successive home league games. When you are struggling to score at home, you really need to be tight defensively, but Arsenal were all over the place against Wolves, just as they were in the last game at the Emirates when they lost 3-0 to Aston Villa.



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has scored just two goals this season and is cutting a frustrated figure due to a lack of service. (Agencies)

Wolves, who lost Mexican forward Raul Jimenez to a scary head injury following a clash of heads with David Luiz on five minutes, dominated this game and could have scored more than the two they netted through Pedro Neto and Daniel Podence in the first half.

Adama Traore was unfortunate to be booked for diving on 54 minutes when replays suggested the Wolves winger had been caught in the penalty area by Gabriel, the Arsenal goal scorer. Wolves should have been awarded a penalty.

In Arsenal's defence, Wolves are a strong, impressive side under Nuno Espirito Santo, and they will take points off many other leading teams this season. They were smarter and better organised, with centre-half and captain Conor Coady leading vocally from the back.

Arsenal desperately need a figure such as Coady at the heart of their defence – a defender who can marshal a back four and take charge without guidance from the sideline.

In contrast, Luiz and Gabriel seemed to barely know what the other was doing. Luiz has always been a maverick defender, one who can create more problems than he solves, but he was handed a new contract during the summer, so Arteta must have some belief

in him. The absence of the injured Thomas Partey in midfield did not help Arsenal, with Dani Ceballos taking the Luiz approach by causing problems for his team with needless fouls and arguments with the officials. But this is the Arsenal that Arteta has been in charge of for a year now, and the same old issues keep resurfacing.

He has made a big decision about Mesut Ozil and chosen not to consider the German midfielder and, with inconsistency a major issue with the former Real Madrid playmaker, Arteta cannot be blamed for that call. That said, he desperately needs somebody in his team who can offer similar levels of creativity as Ozil, with greater work ethic, to make Arsenal a more potent attacking outfit and one which can get the most out of Aubameyang.

As it stands, Aubameyang is marooned up front, starved of service and growing increasingly frustrated. Opponents have started to figure out that cutting off the supply line to Aubameyang pretty much nullifies Arsenal's threat.

Arteta has plenty of problems to solve, but finding a solution to that should be the priority because all the other tweaks will mean nothing if Arsenal can't score.

Mourning Maradona, Argentina turns to Boca's Copa quest

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

THE current holders of the Copa Libertadores are Flamengo of Brazil, the country that supplied 2017 winners Gremio. Before that, no Brazilian side had reached the final since 2013.

This is a glaring record of underachievement, as Brazil's clubs have a considerable financial advantage over their continental rivals. Their income is far greater, allowing them to pay higher salaries and, therefore, lure high-profile internationals from other South American countries.

The logical development, then, is for the Libertadores to be dominated by Brazil. This year, that finally appears to be becoming a reality, though even in death, Diego Maradona might have something to say about that.

Six clubs from Brazil made it to the knockout stage of this year's competition, in which they managed to avoid one another in the first round. There is a genuine chance, then, that six of the last eight teams will be from the same country.

Three of them would seem to have a foot and a half in the quarter-finals. In last week's first leg clashes, Santos, Palmeiras and Gremio all won on the road, and so this week they only need to avoid defeat at home to book their place. Palmeiras and Gremio can even afford to lose by a single goal. Palmeiras are 3-1 up on Delfin of Ecuador while Gremio have a 2-0 lead on Guarani of Paraguay. The lead of Santos is a single goal, but they will surely feel that the hard part has been done after a 2-1 win at the altitude of Quito against LDU of Ecuador.

That leaves the three Brazilian clubs who are up against Argentine opponents. Flamengo may have had a touch of fortune to come back from Argentina with a 1-1 draw



A man holds a poster of Diego Maradona when he played for the soccer club Boca Juniors, as he waits in a line outside the presidential palace to pay his last respects, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020. (Agencies)

against Racing, on a night when their defence was frequently exposed. But Racing had similar problems dealing with the Flamengo front line, and back in Rio de Janeiro the Brazilians will be seen as favourites to qualify.

The same does not apply to Athletico Paranaense, who drew 1-1 at home to Argentine giants River Plate. Athletico carried their recent resurgence of form into last week's first leg, and only conceded the equaliser in the final minute of the game. But by the end they were hanging on grimly, and their task in Argentina will not be easy, but it is not impossible. They could spring a surprise and become the fifth Brazilian club in the last eight, leaving it up to Internacional to complete the six.

Going into the round, Inter knew they would be facing a tough opponent who, before a ball has been kicked, may have become even tougher. They are up against Boca Juniors of Argentina, the team most associated with Maradona.

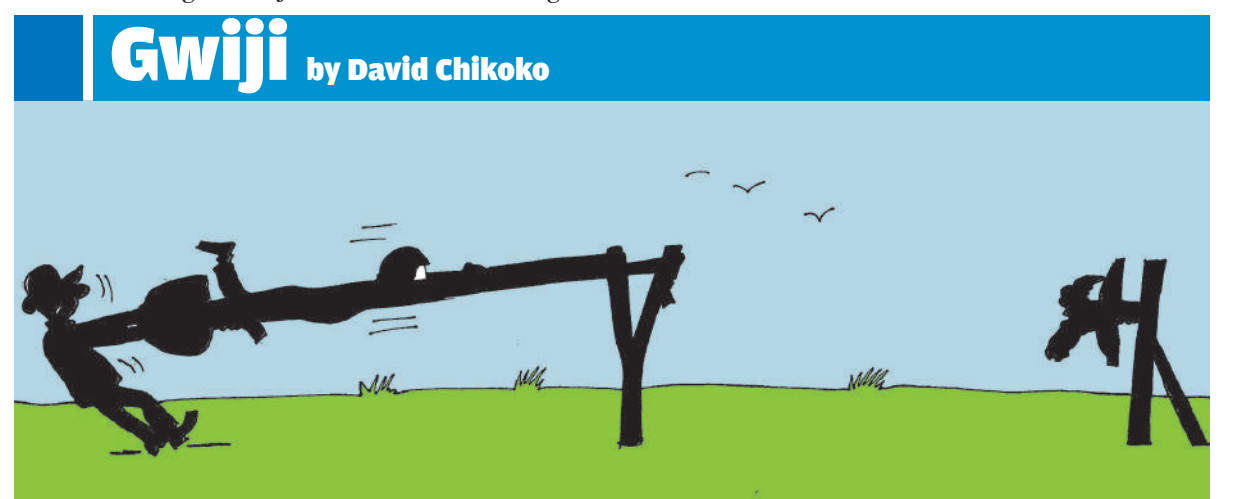
It was with Argentinos Juniors that Maradona began his career. He had a

brief but memorable spell with Boca before heading off to Europe, and he ended his career with the club in the mid 90s. He was a fanatical Boca supporter, with his own private box at the stadium, from where he loved to take off his shirt, swirl it around his head and lead the chanting.

The profound emotion engendered by Maradona's death at the age of 60 last week will now have to be channelled, and one outlet could well be the Libertadores campaign of Boca Juniors, and especially the current owner of Maradona's famed No. 10 shirt, Carlos Tevez.

A strong bond existed between Maradona and Tevez. They share similar origins, products of the poverty, social exclusion and precarious life of the shanty towns on the periphery of Buenos Aires. And it left in both a fierce "take me as you find me" pride. They are also united by that stocky build, and by a love for Boca.

Maradona's time as coach of the Argentina national team was progressing with a certain competence until he unbalanced the side by forcing the inclusion of Tevez. It made little sense, and it had disastrous consequences. But Maradona simply could not resist it. It was almost as if he felt represented by the presence of Tevez in the team.



Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

Familiar fallings on show in
Arsenal's worst start in 40 years

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Cioaba sacking resulted from Azam FC's poor results in Premier League, says official

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) side, Azam FC, says the firing of the team's head coach, Romanian Aristica Cioaba, resulted from the team's poor results in the league.

Azam FC that started the 2020/21 VPL on a good note by winning seven games in a row, parted ways with the Romanian tactician a week ago.

The Romanian had been named the domestic top flight's best coach for the month of September.

Thabit Zacharia, Azam FC information officer, said the club's management decided to fire the coach due to poor performance in the league.

He said the team was lacking direction and the management thought it wise to terminate the contract with the coach.

Azam FC has, this season, lost three game to Mtibwa Sugar, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Yanga.

"The decision by the club to part ways with our head coach, Cioaba, was not brought about by the defeat in the hands of Yanga, it was done due to the team's poor performance in the league," Zacharia stated.

"It was for the betterment of Azam FC and the coach," he said.

He maintained that Azam FC's mission is to win this season's domestic top flight's top honour.

Zacharia also disclosed that his club is hunting for a coach who will take Azam FC to another level.

"Our mission is still there and we are hopeful that we will emerge as champions this season, sacking our head coach does not mean that we have abandoned our dream of becoming champions this season," he insisted.

"We are ready to bounce back strongly and with renewed purpose," he said.



Former Azam FC head coach, Aristica Cioaba

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrika 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



Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck.

Simba SC still in for tough challenge in Plateau United tie, says coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, has disclosed that despite winning 1-0 against Nigeria's Plateau United in the first leg of CAF Champions League's preliminary round, it is not yet over for his club.

A second half strike by midfielder, Clatous Chama, helped Simba SC come out with the victory, which puts them in pole position ahead of the second leg, to be played in Dar es Salaam at the end of this week.

Chama scored on the the 53rd minute of the duel, which took place at New Jos Stadium in Jos, making the most of an assist by winger Luis Miquissone.

Vandenbroeck stated: "Our opponents are strong and they tried technically to find a goal but they failed due to the strength of my players, in that I congratulate them."

"The results we got are good but we still haven't finished the job because next week we have another 90 minutes," he said.

The return leg match for the two teams is expected to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on December 5, with Simba SC needing either a win or a draw to advance to the first round.

Simba SC will play the reverse fixture with fans allowed to enter the venue, a situation which will be a huge boost to the outfit.

If they make it to the preliminary stage, Simba will face winners of the preliminary round's duel between Costa do Sol of Mozambique and FC Platinum of Zimbabwe.

FC Platinum on Saturday won 2-1 away to Costa do Sol, with Tanzanian striker, Elias Maguri, netting the Zimbabwean side's second goal.

In Simba SC's first leg game, coach Vandenbroeck started with just one striker, John Bocco, who was forced to track back and help out in the team's defense.

The inclusion of midfielder Mzamiru Yasin that replaced defender Joash Onyango that was injured in the first half, brought about composure in Simba's defense, given Erasto Nyoni, who had earlier played as defensive midfielder, was deployed at the central defensive spot.

Mzamiru went on to operate in the defensive midfield spot. Simba moreover dropped winger Hassan Dilunga who did not play well yesterday and replaced him with Bernard Morrison, who brought impact into the team in the remaining few minutes of the clash.

Chama wasted another chance for Simba before the final whistle. Simba's keeper Aishi Manula excelled between the posts, making several saves to frustrate Plateau United strikers.

The Nigerian club's strikers proved to be good in taking free kicks and attacking from the wings.

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The results we got are good but we still haven't finished the job because next week we have another 90 minutes.



TIPER Company's Public Relations Manager, Emmanuel Kondi (R), presents cash prize to winner of the men's 21km race of the 2020 Rock City Marathon, Kenyan Edward Kibet, after the race's climax in Mwanza last weekend. Standing (L-R) are Kibet's compatriot, Bernard Msau, who finished second, and third-placed athlete, Tanzanian Mathayo Sombi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Kenyan athletes keep on holding sway in Rock City Marathon

By Guardian Reporter

AS the 11th edition of the Rock City Marathon ends with participants from Kenya emerging victorious in the race, Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, said the race has been of great economic benefit to the region.

Rock City Marathon's season II was held at Rock City Mall parking grounds in the region, featuring 21km, 10km and 5km races.

Approximately 3000 participants from within and outside the country participated in the event, including running clubs from various regions, a number organizations and institutions, government officials, people with albinism and children.

The race is designed to promote the athletes' talent while promoting local

tourism, especially in the Lake Zone region.

Kenyan athlete, Edward Kibet, emerged victorious in the men's 21km race after clocking 1:04:52, followed by compatriot, Bernard Msau, who clocked 1:04:55.

Tanzanian athlete, Mathayo Sombi, finished in the third place after clocking 1:06:11.

Ugandan Doreen Chemuthi won the women's 21km race after recording 1:15:06, followed by Kenyans, Nesphine Teplenting and Cecilia Wayda, who clocked 1:15:35 and 1:26:56 to take the second and third places respectively.

Tanzanian female athlete, Angelina Tsere, who clocked 1:26:56 finished in the 10th place.

The hosts' athlete, Alphone Simbu, failed to make it to the top 10 of the 21km race, saying his

preparations for international races.

He had recently made his way back to action after a long-time injury break.

Speaking at the event, Mongella expressed satisfaction with the rapid growth of the race noting that the increase in participants has been of great economic benefit to the region, as well as in the promotion of local tourism.

He noted: "The growth that is being witnessed in this race is a clear sign that it will be one of the biggest races not only in the country but also internationally."

"I believe we will continue to receive more visitors including tourists who will also come to visit the tourist attractions we have in the Lake Zone region," he said.

He further commended

various stakeholders who participated in making the race a success, including St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), TIPER, Magare Company Ltd, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), KCB Bank, Garda World, CF Hospital, Bugando Hospital, Azam Bakhresa Group, through the firm's Uhai water product, Pepsi, Azam TV and ITV stations, as well as all the media, for promoting the race.

Commenting on the results, Rock City Marathon's Technical Advisor, John Bayo, congratulated Kenyan athletes for doing well.

Bayo pointed out Tanzania did not get enough participation of senior athletes as many of them are focusing on participating in international competitions and, thus, giving opportunity to Kenyan athletes to win the local races.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

