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'Observe law on benefits, salaries, firing'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

HEADS of ministerial departments and agencies need to come up with a programme to educate public servants and private sector employees on the new formula for calculating retirement benefits at 33 percent lump-sum payment.

Dr Tulia Ackson, the Speaker of the National Assembly, issued this appeal soon after the House approved the central government budget of 41.48trn/- for fiscal 2022/23 with 94 percent of MPs voting 'yes.'

The government needs to prepare a strategy to educate public servants on the new formula and how they are going to benefit from it, she said, similarly urging that budgeted activities for the next fiscal year are conducted while adhering to the country's laws and observing workers' rights.

With the legislature satisfied with the estimates adding 8trn/- from 37.8trn/- in fiscal 2021/22 estimates, she Speaker said MPs haven't approved the budget and laws to allow the government to reduce salaries or violate public servants' rights.

All the decisions should adhere to the laws and regulations, she said, noting explicitly that firing officials or reducing salaries need to follow legal procedures as stipulated in each instance.

Recurrent expenditure is set at 26.48trn/- or 63.8 percent of the total



The Controller Auditor General (CAG) will have a fortified budgetary allocation to strengthen the department's work, by increasing staff and efficiency to ensure that public funds are well monitored, spent, and audited

budget, whereby 11.31trn/- is for servicing government debt and other expenditure under the Consolidated Fund, and 9.83trn/- intended to meet the salary bill, salary increases, promotions and paying new recruits.

A total of 5.34trn/- is set aside for other charges, including 200bn/- for paying arrears to public servants and suppliers.

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and Rwandan President Paul Kagame exchange greetings just before the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting opened in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, yesterday. Looking on is Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland. Photo: VPO

Commonwealth leaders seeking safe ground as Elizabethan era nears horizon

KIGALI

LEADERS of Commonwealth nations started their meeting yesterday, admitting Togo and Gabon, African states which have asked to join the bloc despite having no colonial history with Britain.

The Commonwealth comprises mostly former British colonies, but countries such as Mozambique and Rwanda – a former Belgian colony with an Anglophile leader – have in the past launched successful bids to join the group whose titular head is Queen Elizabeth II.

Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, is representing the queen, who at 96 is restricting her official duties, with keynote leaders attending the summit ranging from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and host President Paul Kagame.

Observers see Rwanda as well positioned to host the conference as the country has of late been at the centre of attraction – and controversy – as it entered a pact with the UK authorities to relieve it of the dilemma of what to do with unwanted migrants crossing the sea channel from north of France to Britain.

In a multimillion dollar deal, the migrants would be airlifted to Rwanda as an alternative place of abode, meanwhile as individual applications would still be processed for possible admission into the UK.

Human rights groups, wishing that arrival on the coast of Britain or any European country be legally accompanied with a recognized right of migration, lodged a case in Britain and lost, then appealed to the European Court of Human Rights which upheld their appeal, and the first scheduled plane to Rwanda carrying a few such migrants to Rwanda did not take off last week. The conference meanwhile was expected to be preoccupied with measures to tackle climate change, tropical diseases and other challenges deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic, observers noted.

The summit was preceded by a series of meetings earlier in the week that some observers say were

Port tariffs being cut, says ministry

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

THE government is moving to reduce different tariffs charged in ports countrywide to increase efficiency, competitiveness and reduce costs for port users.

Aron Kisaka, the director of transport services in the Ministry of Works and Transport said at the Tanga port renovation stakeholders' meeting here yesterday that the strategies would reduce ship congestion at the port of Dar es Salaam,

attracting more traders to use the port.

Apart from reducing taxes at Tanga port for fiscal 2022/23, the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) is in various stages of occupying the Kingoni area in Arumeru district, to serve as a dry port, reducing cargo stay at Tanga port, cargo handled by freight forwarders for Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, along with some neighboring countries, he said.

"The government is rapidly im-

plementing infrastructure projects and is committed to facilitate improvements at Tanga port and other harbours countrywide," he said, emphasizing that completion of the work will make ports more efficient and uplift regional economies.

Regional stakeholder meetings are productive as they involve key government and private sector stakeholders, seeking usable solutions to challenges and focus on sustainable strategies, the director noted. Tanga port acting manager

Masoud Mrisha said that they are fully prepared for the tasks geared to improve the port's performance. Implementation of the decisions of those meetings was afoot as the port management was soliciting big port users to attract more customers.

Port performance improvement meetings are held each month to ensure the challenges presented by stakeholders and port users are resolved in a timely and effective manner, he added.

Raft of amendments filed on Water Resources Act

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has tabled a Bill to amend the Water Resources (Management) Act to strengthen the protection and conservation of water sources from pollution, soil erosion or other adverse impacts. The bill, tabled for its first reading in the National Assembly yesterday, seeks to align provisions of the Act with recent developments registered in

the water sector. Section 37 is amended to proscribe human activities in areas gazetted as protected water sources, along with changing the designation of officers heading basin water boards from "basin water officer" to "basin water director," to reflect the mandate and authority vested to them as the heads and accounting officers of the water basins. Section 65 of the Act is amended to provide powers

to the minister to establish water quality laboratories to oversee water quality management for analytical use and reference, instead of designating other laboratories with such responsibility. Section 21 is amended to remove the role of the National Water Board in advising on investment priorities and access to finance, while Section 23 is amended to make the Basin Water Board responsible for

undertaking awareness creation interventions with stakeholders on water resources management. This amendment seeks to involve stakeholders in matters relating to conservation and preservation of water resources, while Section 24 is amended for the purpose of giving mandate to the minister to prescribe the procedure and qualifications of appointing the water basin director. Section 43 is amended in subsection (1) to include

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Commonwealth leaders seeking safe ground as Elizabethan era nears horizon

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successful in reaching a measure of consensus on a number of issues, notably combating malaria and impacts of climate change in the 54-nation bloc with 2.5bn people.

More than \$4bn was pledged Thursday toward global efforts to accelerate the fight against malaria and other neglected tropical diseases, with governments, philanthropists and others in the private sector expected to contribute. Pharmaceutical companies donated 18bn tablets to help prevent and treat those diseases, conference sources noted. The fundraising signals steps towards a breakthrough, as malaria is a leading killer in Africa, meanwhile as progress is being made in improving malaria prevention and treatment drugs.

Dr. Francisca Olamiju, the head of an activist group in Nigeria, told the Associated Press, a US news agency, of her high expectations for the gathering to bolster campaigns against tropical diseases.

World leaders must "walk the talk" and mobilize more resources for the cause, she said.

The summit also is urging increased climate action ahead of the United Nations climate change summit in Egypt towards the end of the year.

Commonwealth leaders are set to adopt the much-awaited "Living Lands Charter," an action plan to address climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. The charter is designed to achieve climate goals through a mixture of policy influence, financing, technical assistance, governance and sharing knowledge across nations, officials said.

Commonwealth governments have been asked to submit their emission reduction targets by Sept. 23, with 32 of the Commonwealth members being small states, 25 of them are small islands or developing states classified as vulnerable to climate change, they added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi cuts the ribbon at Chuini in Unguja's West A District yesterday to inaugurate Muhammed bin Ahmed Al Jofair Mosque, which has been built with support from a range of Muslim faithful. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Raft of amendments filed on Water Resources Act

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provisions relating to impounding water an activity that requires a water permit, which means interference of natural flows of water leading to adverse effects to water resource, environment and other water uses. This amendment shall regulate water impounding activities by requiring the developer to

apply for a permit. The bill proposes improvement of the Environmental Management Council, section 162 of the Environmental Management Act, Cap. 191. The amendment would legally establish water quality laboratories under the Act through a government notice. Section 88 is being amended to impose conditions on dam

owners to pay the costs of dam site verification and reviewing of design reports, to address the challenge of costs and speed up the process of registration of dams with safety risk. Section 97A is proposed to be added to provide for summary procedure in recovery of arrears due to the Basin Water Boards from defaulting users, failing to pay

fees and other charges. The intention is to save the time the government spends on long litigations. Section 105A is added to introduce a general penalty in offences whose penalty is not expressly provided for, to obviate the risk of simple acquittal of a person found guilty of an offence under the Act. Section 111 is amended to

allow transfer of water or waste water from a water basin to another water basin which does not have sufficient water to meet demand in the respective basin. The fourth schedule is amended to consider gender in selecting members of the management committee of the Water Users Association.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula (R) pictured in Kigali yesterday exchanging greetings with one of her foreign counterparts who are attending the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the Rwandan capital. Photo courtesy of FA-EAC ministry

'Observe law on benefits, salaries'

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Development expenditure is pegged at 15trn/-, equivalent to 36.2 percent of estimates, where 12.31trn/- or 82 per cent is accrued from domestic sources and 2.7trn/- or 18 per cent drawn from external sources.

Development funds from domestic sources include 1.11trn/- for the Standard Gauge Railway project, 1.44trn/- for the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, and 1.18trn/- for the Road Fund.

Additionally, 944.1bn/- is earmarked for railway, water and rural electrification, 570bn/- for higher education students' loans; 230bn/- set aside for verified arrears to contractors, and 346.5bn/- is slated to pay for

primary and secondary education, without fees.

Winding up debate on the estimates, Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said that the 4.48trn/- budget is meant to accelerate economic recovery and strengthen the productive sectors to improve livelihoods, especially in pushing for job creation.

He cited measures to cut expenditure and strengthen value for money in public sector procurement by focusing on real prices of goods and services, instead of merely picking the lowest tender as often it is also far above prevailing market prices.

Another measure is removing government procurement costs for entitled

officials, and enhancing control of fuel consumption for specified government vehicles.

Strengthening the use of information and communication technology in government operations will also curb unnecessary costs, with regional conference rooms being equipped with ICT facilities for virtual meetings, cutting out travel to attend meetings or conferences outside the region.

The Controller Auditor General (CAG) will have a fortified budgetary allocation to strengthen the department's work, by increasing staff and efficiency to ensure that public funds are well monitored, spent, and audited.

Somali trade unions rally for better working conditions for women

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S trade unions are rallying for better working conditions for women in the latest push to break through the long-held cultural barriers.

The admission for freer environment for both women and men came on yesterday at the end of a three-day event to discuss labour relations along gen-

der lines. And most of the trade union representatives gathered in Mogadishu admitted the country's entrepreneurship, for instance, has been held back because only men have a free hand to try it. They argued that allowing women freedom to try out entrepreneurship could bring Somalia overall benefits that will include better contribution to

the economy. The workshop, funded by the Embassy of Sweden and supported by the International Labour Organisation, is part of growing efforts to have labour unions under the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) vouch for more working spaces and freedom for women, as the country rises from years of violence.

Per Lindgärde, the Swedish Ambassador to Somalia said Somalia has no choice but to free up the space if at all it needs to tap into the economic potential of women in the country.

"That potential will always be limited if the workforce is not inclusive," Lindgärde said.

His country is among the best places to work for women

and the country's government is headed by Prime Minister Magdalena Anderson. The country's lessons, the envoy argued, could be brought to Somalia for its own progress.

"Women entrepreneurs already dominate the informal sector of the Somali economy. Enabling them to become part of the formal economic sector will

be of great benefit to the Somali economy. We are glad to support this initiative of the Somali trade unions," Lindgärde said.

At least 35 trade union representatives gathered in Mogadishu for the meeting, including women entrepreneurs and those in the informal economy.

For Somalia, the challenge for better working environment

is historical. The country faces problems advocating for women's rights, their protection from harmful policies at work and being side-lined from decision making.

Besides, violence, sexual harassment and being overlooked for promotion were listed among the challenges, during the meeting. AGENCIES

'Government working to strengthen provision of mental health services'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is working to strengthen provision of mental health services in the country which include hiring more professional workers to support people with the challenge.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Godwin Molllel made the statement in the House yesterday during the question and answer session.

He said the government has continued to hire more social workers stationing them in hospitals, wards and health centres so as to help address various challenges facing people including provision of psychosocial support.

Dr Molllel was responding to a question posed by Michael Mwakamo (Kibaha Rural) who wanted to know the government's plans to establish special units to serve mental health patients in district hospitals in the country.

The lawmaker said the mental health services in the country were facing many challenges due to shortage of workers and units to serve the patients, something which calls for interventions to improve the services.

In response, the deputy minister said that the government has mental health coordinators in 175 district hospitals as well as having a special department to support patients with mental health challenges.

"We are working to strengthen efforts and invest more in public awareness programmes on mental health as well as im-

proving provision of health services to patients," Molllel explained.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tanzania mental health profile of 2017 estimates the burden of mental illness in terms of disability-adjusted life years at 2,727.86 per 100,000 population and suicide mortality rate at 5.4 per 100,000 population.

The Mirembe national mental hospital has been serving a number of people with mental challenges with the government promising to continue improving the facility but also improve psych-social support in all hospitals.



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Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe (R) exchanges ideas with Monduli legislator Fred Lowassa on the sidelines of a session of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt cautions on lump-sum gratuity benefit upon retirement

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has explained that to continue using the previous formula for computing retirement benefits of 50 percent lump sum payment will kill the social security funds sustainability and this is why it has decided to review it so as to promote equality.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Prof Joyce Ndalichako made the statement yesterday in

the House when winding up debate on the central budget for the 2022/23 fiscal year which stands at 41.48trillion/-.

She clarified that the new formula for computing retirement benefits of 33 percent lump sum payment is aimed to create equality for all public and private servants.

Ndalichako said the new formula which will officially commence on July 1, 2022, is however going to increase lump-sum payment to retirees from 54m/- to 71m/- due

to the change of formula from 25 percent to 33 percent.

The minister said the previous formula of 50 percent in lump-sum payment was greatly affecting life and sustainability of the country's social security funds but also was fuelling inequality among servants.

"For example in the previous formula of 50 percent lump sum payment, a servant who contributed 36m/- was receiving 129m/- in lump-sum but those from NSSF and other public servants who

were employed after 2014 and contributed 86m/- were receiving lump-sum payment of 54m/-, this was so unfair, but with the new formula, all servants will receive the same payment in lump-sum," she said.

She noted, "The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) cautioned on this, as the huge payments provided to retirees were affecting capacity and sustainability of the social security funds as they were paying more than collections, because servants were contributing

less and receiving much more."

The minister said apart from getting the 71m/- in lump sum, the retirees will be getting a monthly payment of 1.84m/-.

In 2018, the implementation of the government's 2014 regulations on pension benefits - which came after all pension funds for public sector employees were merged to form the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) - sparked a public outcry that saw former President John Magufuli suspending its use of new formula which was 25 percent lump sum payment.

Also responding to MPs issues Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said the government will not reduce the 10 percent of allocated budget revenues by district councils to support women, youth and persons with disabilities but rather look at possibilities to increase the funds.

This comes after the earlier proposed decision by the government to reduce the loans, getting huge opposition from members of Parliament and the public.

Mwigulu said the ministry had good intention to propose the reduction of five percent allocation from the 10

percent so as to improve infrastructures for petty traders and small-scale entrepreneurs in the country.

"But after listening to requests and explanations from MPs and other members of the public, we have heard them and now the allocation of loans will remain as it was, so as to stimulate economic growth in the country," he said. The minister however, requested the House to approve the budget which is greatly going to address challenges, cut spending so as bring relief to Tanzanians.

"We need allocation of over 900bn/- for agriculture, 200bn/- for livestock and fisheries, and all the budget estimates in other sectors, so I am requesting you today to approve this budget so as to go and help reduce life burdens that Tanzanians," he said.

Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe said the government will in the next fiscal year allocate 150bn/- to specifically subsidize fertilizer prices so as to enable farmers in the country to get access to the agricultural inputs at affordable prices.

"We are going to invest heavily to ensure that farmers get inputs on-time and at affordable prices such as fertilisers, seeds and pesticides," he said.



National Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (C) poses for a photo at Parliament grounds in Dodoma city with students of Kikombo suburb's Bunge Girls Secondary School who paid her a visit yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

LHRC comes up with four proposals on resumption of talks on Tanzania's constitution

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has made four recommendations to the government that will help achieve resumption of the new constitution process.

The first option is for the government to submit a bill to the Constitutional Amendment Bill, to re-form the Constituent Assembly with the representation of members, unlike a few party MPs.

The LHRC also recommends that the government submit to Parliament a Bill to amend the Referendum Act, to give it legal legitimacy and that the third proposal is for the Constituent Assembly to be formed, to use the Second Draft Constitution in negotiations.

The center's fourth proposal is to urge the government to continue to open the doors for dialogue among Tanzanians through meetings, conferences, debates, and the media on fundamental and important issues within the Constitution, for the future of the nation.

The recommendations were made by the LHRC executive director, Anna Henga while speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam as she outlined the best way to revive the New Constitution process.

"The Legal and Human Rights Centre commends the decisions made by the NEC Central Committee of the ruling CCM to ratify the new constitutional process, according to a statement issued by CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary Shaka Hamdu Shaka," said Henga.

Henga explained that the decision was a good sign of strengthening democracy and human rights in the country, with the center congratulating President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the move.

"The previous Constituent Assembly had many challenges, which is why we have made these four proposals, as it was eaten up by misunderstandings and inconsistencies within the legislature," she said.

She clarified that some members of parliament had boycotted the proposed constitution, causing divisions in the community and affecting the entire process of the constitutional process.

"There was a dispute over the structure of the government, the issue of having one or two governments, which in turn led to other issues being debated which are also important in the community," she said.

He said LHRC provides suggestions on how best to proceed with the process including mak-

ing changes to all the Constitutional Amendment Act no. 8/2011 and setting up a new structure for the Constituent Assembly, to begin discussions on drafting a new Constitution.

"The National Assembly should use the Second Draft of the Constitution. This is due to the fact that there was a heated debate on the availability of the Proposed Constitution in 2014," she said.

She cited the benefits of using this approach as if the Constituent Assembly was formed and placed a broad representation of the people beyond the legislature, restoring public confidence in the constitutional process and reassuring them that their issues were being addressed.



The Legal and Human Rights Centre commends the decisions made by the NEC Central Committee of the ruling CCM to ratify the new constitutional process



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Foundation for Preventative Health (FPH) is an NGO working to provide access to better healthcare in Tanzania. It deals with promoting health education in the optical and dental fields among the Tanzanian communities.

FPH is looking for several key people to join the team based in Arusha. We are currently hiring for the following positions:

POSTS:

1. Ophthalmologist - 1 post
2. Optometrists - 2 posts
3. Ophthalmic nurse - 1 post
4. Dental Therapists - 2 posts
5. Dentist - 1 post
6. Office Manager - 1 post
7. Administrative Assistants - 2 posts
8. Outreach Helpers - 5 posts
9. Driver - 1 post

Interested and well qualified candidates should submit a soft copy of their job interest letter along with the other relevant documents to fph.ceo@gmail.com

The deadline for receiving applications is **July 04, 2022**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview after two weeks.

CONTACT: CEO.FPH@GMAIL.COM

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Environmentalists urge climate resilience to avert losses

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

FROM loss of human life and livestock, to crop failure and food insecurity to infrastructure destruction, climate change is having far-reaching effects on communities. To reverse such a situation, environmentalists have called for greater adaptation efforts for resilience against climate shocks.

At a session dubbed: "Commonwealth and climate change: Accelerating action", held on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Business Forum, environmentalists underscored that climate change is an urgent issue to tackle, warning that inaction would lead to a catastrophe to communities.

It is part of the breakfast meeting on climate change hosted by the Commonwealth Secretariat where delegates exchanged on stepping up climate ambition and enhancing climate action in the member countries as well as the association's call to action on living lands.

Living lands mean lands which are sustainably managed and used such as through tackling desertification and drought for increased crop production, and biodiversity protection.

"We need to accelerate climate action, address land degradation and halt the loss of biodiversity, while restoring our ecosystem," said the Minister of Environment, Jeanne d'Arc Uwamariya.

Mujawamariya said that Rwanda needs \$11 billion in order to implement its updated national determined contribution (NDC) which is like the country's national plan to tackle climate change either through adaptation efforts or addressing the climate change impact.

To get such funding, which she described as a significant amount for this plan it submit-

ted to the UN in 2020 before the 26th Conference of Parties to the Paris Climate Agreement (COP26), she said that Rwanda has to work with different partners including local public and private entities as well as foreign ones for resource mobilisation.

Under this initiative, she said: "Rwanda set an ambitious goal in our updated NDC to reduce emissions by 38 per cent, compared to the business as usual, by 2030 and invest in adaptation interventions that enhance our resilience to climate change."

The targeted actions in the plan include moving away from petrol and diesel-fueled vehicles to electric ones or adopting e-mobility; as well as reducing the reliance on firewood and charcoal for cooking among Rwandan households.

Mujawamariya said that Rwanda has huge investment opportunities in e-mobility, indicating that the country exempted tax on electric vehicles with the aim to encourage investors.

The country, she said, has many climate change threats, but observed that the one on top is soil erosion aggravated by deforestation, indicating that heavy rainfall carries away the country's soil because it is bare - with no forest cover.

"So the major threat is soil erosion and deforestation. If we fix those two issues which are in one, because when you cover the land with forests, you fight soil erosion. And how do we implement those two? We have to stop cutting trees, and we have to find alternative clean cooking energy sources for our people. We have to do our best in order to shift from using firewood and charcoal for cooking," she observed.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc IT and billing director Athuman Mlinga (C) makes during panel discussions on IT Governance and Assurance held during the annual conference of the Tanzania Chapter of ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association) in Arusha city on Thursday. Cyber security and IT experts met to deliberate on ways towards making IT systems more secure. Others are TASAC chief internal auditor Ahadi Chacha (L) and KPMG IT advisory manager James Chotamawe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to hire technicians for repair of water infrastructure in rural areas

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is in the 2021/22 financial year set to hire technicians who will be stationed in rural areas to provide closer support to water projects which include conducting repairs and rehabilitation for smooth supply of the precious liquid to people.

Deputy Minister for Water

Maryprisca Mahundi told the House yesterday here when responding to a supplementary question by Husna Sekiboko (Special Seats) who wanted to know the government's plans to hire enough water technicians to supervise safety of water projects.

The lawmaker said a number of water projects in rural areas are not working with the villages failing to pay the technicians to repair them

due to lack of budget.

"We have a lot of experts including those who graduate from the Water College in Dar es Salaam and thus we have set aside a budget to ensure that we hire enough technicians especially in rural areas where the challenge is big," she said.

In her basic question, Husna wanted to know the government's plans to start issuing subsidies to support

rehabilitation of water projects in the country. The lawmaker said the government has been issuing subsidies to fund implementation of road projects so why is it failing to do the same in the water sector.

Mahundi said that the government has a system of setting aside funds every year to facilitate construction and rehabilitation of water projects in rural and urban areas.

"In the next fiscal year, we will continue implementing more projects as well as rehabilitation and expansion of more so as to further improve supply of water in the country,"

She assured Tanzanians that the government is committed and is implementing a number of projects in various areas in the country and in the near future most parts which experience acute shortage of water will

start getting relief.

Reports show that, only 57 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, and only 34 percent of Tanzania's population has access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time travelling some distance to collect water.



British tourist Shelagh Hughes tries her hand at dehusking coffee beans the 'traditional way' - that is, using pestle and mortar - before finally drying and frying them for various uses. This was at Mataruni village in Moshi Rural District, Kilimanjaro Region, shortly after she had toured Materuni Water Falls yesterday. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Interventions by HJFMRI strengthen HIV/AIDS care, treatment in southern highlands regions

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE ongoing biomedical, behavioral and structural interventions undertaken by the Henry Jackson Foundation Military Research International (HJFMRI) have helped strengthen HIV/AIDS care and treatment as well as reducing new infections in Southern highlands regions.

Speaking during the meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS on Wednesday here, HJFMRI executive director Sally Chalamila said reports have shown that the efforts of the foundation, government and other stakeholders to fight HIV/AIDS spread were showing positive results but still more concerted efforts are needed so as to prevent new infections and thus reduce the incidence rate.

She said that on biomedical, the organisation has been educating and promoting HIV testing, risk reduction counseling and latex condoms; on behavioral, the foundation works on encouraging and supporting risk groups to change especially women engaged in sex work (WESW), men as well as those using drugs.

Chalamila noted that the global goal including of Tanzania is to reach HIV epidemic control by 2030, with 95 percent of people living with the disease to be aware of their HIV status, 95 percent of those testing positive placed on continuous HIV treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment reaching viral suppression.

"In the region, we implement programmes that include behavioural, structural and biomedical interven-

tions, educating the public and encouraging them to test for HIV," she said.

She said in order to win the war against the spread of the disease, it is critical that all people living with HIV get tested, learn their status, and begin lifesaving services.

The director said the foundation is implementing various programmes to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in the regions of Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi and Songwe.

"We also support both the military through the Tanzania People's Defence Force and civilian populations through local communities and partners to fight HIV/AIDS. The programme's integrated approach to prevention, care and treatment allows us to offer a range of services to address transmission, co-infections and overall health and nutrition," she said.

The military programme is executed in tandem with the TPDF, which oversees operations in military health facilities throughout the country, including eight zonal hospitals.

She also said the foundation was also executing The DREAMS initiative with support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) with an aim to help young women become determined, resilient, empowered, AIDS-free, mentored and safe through education, vocational training and other evidence-based interventions.

The programme offers various methods of family planning and teaches girls various entrepreneurial skills. Focus areas include electronic technician

training, tailoring, hair dressing, soap making, tie-dyeing and more. Beyond learning entrepreneurial skills, the AGYWs participate in money saving and economic strengthening groups.

HJFMRI Chief Executive Officer, Southern Highlands, David Maganga said the organisation in partnership with the government are working to combat HIV and Covid-19 adding that they also provide screening services in Mbeya, Songwe, Katavi and Rukwa.

"In this period in which the country has directed efforts towards combating Covid-19 we are working closely with the government in four regions as we execute our responsibility to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS. We are also working to educate the public about the Covid-19 vaccine."

He said the support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has enabled the availability of medical machines.

The funds have been directed to the construction of laboratories capable of testing Covid-19; currently we have focused on regional and zonal laboratories which have strengthened screening services.

The foundation has also been supporting drug addicts through connecting them to health services, equipping them with entrepreneurial skills and other related knowledge so as to enable them to start engaging in income generating activities.

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Drugs Fatma Hassan Toufiq commended the organisation for its efforts in supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS.

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

Improve sanitation facilities, Kagera residents urged

KAGERA residents have been urged to care for their health by having improved sanitation facilities to reduce the risks of being infected by waterborne diseases, such as cholera, diarrhea and dysentery.

Region Health Officer, Zabron Segelu made the call recently when addressing reporters about the state of latrines and the way forward to reach 100pc improved latrines.

Segelu said that the situation will eventually cost much more for treatment than the cost of constructing improved latrines.

He said the region has reached 99.5pc of both temporary improved and improved latrines, and that for the past three years, there has been a strong campaign of community awareness and enforcement of the laws and bylaws to have changed, in constructing and using improved latrines.

"We're well organised that there are extension officers from grassroots level to district and regional experts who are co-operating with communities to see that our strategy is met," said Segelu.

Citing the challenges they have been fac-

ing, he said some people have latrines but do not use them, and others have two, one below standard for children and passersby, and the improved one for the couples themselves and high esteem guests.

"This is not acceptable as it is the source of diseases of which 70 per cent are caused by unimproved sanitation," he said, noting that an improved pit latrine or simple pit latrine is simple to excavate, covered by a platform in which there is a hole, covered by a screen to provide privacy and shelter from the weather and running water to wash

hands, and that it doesn't take much money or manpower to have it.

He however called upon those who can afford to have the modern latrines including power flash piped sewer and composting toilets to do so.

The total latrine coverage in the region has been increasing from 55pc in 2011, 57 per cent in 2012, 65 per cent in 2013 to reach 99.5 per cent.

According to the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Tanzania Demographics and Health Survey (TDHS), 2015/2016 report,

only 61 per cent of households in Tanzania had access to an improved source of drinking water, but only 19 per cent of households were reported to use improved facilities, one in every ten households having no toilet at all.

Eighty per cent of households had no improved sanitation thus practices of unsafe disposal of faeces and poor hygiene subject children to diseases like diarrhoea with a reported prevalence of diarrhoea affecting 12 per cent of children under five years of age, and considered to contribute to 50 per cent of all child malnutrition.

Parents volunteer by engaging part-time secondary teachers

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

PARENTS with children at Dar es Salaam's Ulongoni Secondary School have agreed to pay monthly allowances for two hired science teachers in order to work on part time basis at the school.

The decision was reached recently at the meeting organised by school management at Gongo-la-Mboto suburban in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam region.

Parents have agreed to pay 1,000/- for each student in order to accumulate the needed 760,000/- and pay teachers for Biology and Chemistry subjects who are few at the school.

The school headmistress Sikitiko Salehe said that the school which has a total of 2,659 students with 41 teachers out of which only two are specialised in teaching science subjects.

She said that the school needs at least 10 science teachers to accomplish students' needs from Form One to Form Four.

"But this has become impossible and beyond my control despite efforts to demand more as the government is reluctant to employ others," she

said, clarifying that the school needs 72 teachers, this means that currently there is a shortfall of 31 teachers in order to accommodate the number of students whose admission rate has increased for this year due to recently nine constructed classrooms.

The number of students admitted in form one for this year had increased by over 100 percent from 300 admitted in 2021 to 760 admitted in January this year 2022.

"Since the number of students has increased, there is a great need for the government to employ an additional manpower on teaching service in order to accommodate all students occupied in newly constructed classrooms," she said.

Sikitiko noted that the existing challenges is linked to health status saying that, in her school there are fewer toilet pits a factor that compelled students to line up while going to the toilets by rotation during break hours.

She said that, there are 19 pits for female students and 14 pits available for male students, the number which is not enough to cater for the total number of all students inclined within the compound.



Itracom fertiliser company managing director Nduwimana Nazaire (4th-R, foreground) briefs Agriculture deputy minister Anthony Mavunde (2nd-R) and members of Parliamentary Agriculture Livestock and Water Committee who toured the firm's factory at Nala in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Africa 'must step up surveillance' to curb monkeypox

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN governments must focus on investing in their surveillance systems and strengthening preparedness to curb the rapid spread of infectious diseases like monkeypox, experts have said.

Monkeypox is spreading rapidly in countries worldwide where it has not previously been seen before as well as taking hold in African countries, some of which have grappled with the disease for decades.

"For a self-limiting disease such as monkeypox that is spread through direct and close contact, we should focus on good surveillance with a reliable and efficient diagnostic laboratory backup, isolation of confirmed cases and application of effective infection prevention and control measures," said Prof Oyewale Tomori, a member of the Global Virome Project leadership board.

Monkeypox is a viral disease that presents flu-like symptoms before patients develop a painful rash and lesions and swollen lymph nodes.

The incubation period between exposure and when symptoms first appear ranges from five to 21 days, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the latest WHO figures, a total of 2,103 confirmed cases, one suspected case and one death, have been reported across 42 countries in five WHO regions between 1 January and 15 June. Only around three per cent of these are from the Africa region but the true figure is suspected to be much higher.

"There have been 36 confirmed cases in Nigeria, 10 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, eight in the Central African Republic, three each in Benin and Cameroon, and two in the Republic of Congo," Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, told a press conference on Thursday.

Ghana now has five cases of the virus, while Morocco has one, both of which were monkeypox-free before the recent outbreak, according to the WHO. Globally the disease has spread rapidly in countries where the virus has not been

seen before since early May.

"This is clearly an unusual situation that is affecting more and more countries. So soon after the inequities Africa experienced in respect of the COVID-19 response, we cannot afford any potential repeat and need to be adequately prepared," said Moeti.

She said investment was needed to strengthen surveillance systems in many African countries to enable early and rapid detection of infectious diseases like monkeypox and trigger action to prevent the rapid spread of diseases.

Uganda's Ministry of Health says it has increased surveillance, although the country is yet to record a case of the virus.

"The Ministry of Health is working closely with partners to monitor the evolving situation of the monkeypox outbreak in different parts of the world," said Henry Mwebesa, the country's director-general, health services.

Mwebesa said that the government had strengthened the testing capabilities of the Uganda Virus Research Institute to accurately diagnose the disease.



Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Manyara regional manager Bashiri Rwesingisa (3rd-R) presents waste storage equipment to acting Hanang district executive director Beatrice Ndanu shortly after participating in an environmental cleanliness operation at the Katesh main bus stand yesterday in marking Public Service Week. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

UN rights body to hold urgent discussions on Afghan women

GENEVA

THE UN Human Rights Council will hold an urgent debate to address the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, a spokesman said Friday.

The debate, requested late Thursday by France and the European Union, is expected to be held on July 1, during the ongoing 50th session of the council, the spokesman for the UN's top rights body told reporters in Geneva.

Other countries have since backed the request by Paris and Brussels.

After seizing power in August, the Taliban have rolled back marginal gains made by Afghan women during the past two decades, limiting their access to education, government jobs and freedom of movement.

"The significant deterioration in the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan since August 2021 requires the urgent attention of the council," France and the EU said in a letter to the body's president.

"Following this urgent debate, we will ask the council to examine a resolution, of which we will distribute a draft text as soon as possible."

Countries on the 47-member council can submit urgent debate requests. France and seven other EU member states are on the council. To date, seven urgent debates have been held during Human Rights Council regular sessions since the UN's top rights body was founded in 2006 – the most recent being on Ukraine in March.

The UN rights chief last week slammed the Taliban's "institutionalized systematic oppression" of women and girls in Afghanistan, warning they face a "critical" situation.

Since the Taliban returned to power, Afghans have been "experiencing some of the darkest moments of a generation", Michelle Bachelet told the council.

Tens of thousands of girls have been shut out of secondary schools, while women have been barred from returning to many government jobs.

Women have also been banned from travelling alone and can only visit public gardens and parks in Kabul on days separate from men.

Rwanda to host 2022 World Circular Economy Forum in December, a first for Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

THE World Circular Economy Forum will for the first time, take place on African soil in 2022, bringing together participants from around the world to absorb lessons from the continent and the wider global south toward building a more resilient and greener global economy. The Forum will be held from December 6-8, in Kigali, Rwanda.

The 2022 World Circular Economy Forum 2022 (WCEF2022) will present some of the world's best circular economy solutions as well as examine how businesses from Africa and elsewhere can seize new opportunities and gain a competitive ad-

vantage in the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. Business leaders, policymakers and experts from around the world are expected to participate. The first Forum was held in 2017.

Under the theme From Africa to the World, the hybrid-format event will have proceedings live streamed on big screens in several African cities to drive broad-based engagement with the forum.

The format will enable remote participation in discussions about local models and examples of the circular economy.

"With the youngest population in the world, the African continent can take a crucial role in the global transition towards circularity. Rwanda is proud to host the World Circular Economy Forum 2022,

showing African leadership and commitment," said Rwanda's Minister of Environment, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.

The WCEF2022 presents an ideal platform to showcase cutting-edge circular solutions to support the Paris climate goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rwanda is a founding member of the African Circular Economy Alliance and serves as co-chair.

The government of Rwanda, the African Circular Economy Alliance (ACEA), the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN), and the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, will jointly host the event with international partners.

The global south is expected to face among the most severe impacts of climate

change and biodiversity loss as a result of the take-make-waste economic paradigm. This is particularly true in Africa.

At the same time, the continent has vast natural resources, and a young, vibrant and entrepreneurial population. As such, it is seen as having both incentive and potential to play a lead role in driving the circular economy model and building greater resilience across the globe.

"As a growing continent, Africa plays a key role in advancing circularity. The WCEF2022 presents an ideal platform to showcase cutting-edge circular solutions to support the Paris climate goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The African Development Bank together with its partners, the government of Fin-

land and the Nordic Development Fund, recently launched the Africa Circular Economy Facility to support this transformation as part of Africa's Agenda 2063," said Dr Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth at the African Development Bank.

Sitara's President Jyrki Katainen said: "According to Sitra's recent study, circular economy interventions can halt global biodiversity loss and help the world's biodiversity recover. Circularity is crucial not only to keep valuable materials in use, but also to ease the pressure on extracting virgin natural resources."

A website for the 2022 World Circular Economy Forum will be launched in June 2022. The Forum's agenda will be made



Manyara regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere pictured on Thursday speaking at a meeting for Simanjoro District councillors called chiefly to review the Controller and Auditor General's report for financial year 2020/2021 - in which the council emerged with clean reports. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

TAMWA calls for concerted efforts to abolish oppressive laws, policies

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA, Zanzibar) has called for concerted efforts to change some of the existing laws, policies, and systems that still seem to deprive women of the opportunity to hold leadership positions to ensure gender equality is taken into account through appointment or election.

TAMWA-Zanzibar Director, Dr Mzuri Issa made the call here yesterday when speaking at a press conference aimed at launching the Second Phase of the Women, Leadership and data media reporting awards.

She said in addition to various efforts and steps being taken by the government to ratify national and international treaties as well as the Millennium Development Goals and CSOs that are involved in advocating for women's rights in capacity building and motivating them to run for office, still women aren't given the desired opportunities.

She said statistics still show that there is small number of women leaders at various levels compared to men in administrative positions but more so in political positions where women still seem to lack opportunities to hold leadership posts in structures of political parties.

She also stated that so far statistics show that there are only 6 female in the 18 cabinet, the

number which is equivalent to 33.3%, similarly in deputy ministerial positions we have one out of 7 which is equivalent to 14.3%. This is also reflected in the positions of only 5 out of the 12 principal secretaries who are men equal to 29.4%.

TAMWA, Zanzibar in partnership with Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and the Pemba Environment, Gender, and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO) through the sponsorship of the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania is implementing 'Strengthen Women-In-Leadership (SWIL) project to empower women in Leadership.

She said that through this project to empower women in leadership to a large extent it has been able to pay close attention to more opportunities, potential opportunities, and limitations on efforts to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women especially in leadership positions.

However, in the case of political parties, some parties have been denying women the opportunity to give them top positions due to the systems they have or lack of deliberate strategies by focusing on the issue of gender equality in leadership positions.

"The main objective of this competition is to encourage journalists to write detailed stories to ensure professional competence, raising awareness including the use of the media through newspapers, television, radio and social networks."

Summit spurs pledges on malaria, neglected diseases

By Special Correspondent

COUNTRIES affected by malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) have committed to increasing funding and fast-track the process of eliminating the diseases by 2030 at a key summit in Kigali.

NTDs are a set of 20 diseases prevalent in poor communities, mostly in tropical areas. They include Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, dengue fever, guinea

worm disease, and human African trypanosomiasis. Alongside malaria, they weigh heavily on the health systems of low- and middle-income countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

The Kigali Summit on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases, held Thursday (23 June) alongside the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, had presidents, prime ministers, CEOs, philanthropists, scientific experts, global influencers and community champions

in attendance.

"Ensuring that all African countries mobilise the domestic financial resources required for quality healthcare, is a priority for the African Union, and our partners," Rwandan president Paul Kagame told delegates at the international event.

"If there is one thing the pandemic has taught us, it is that together, through coordinated and collaborative action, we can achieve much more."

Experts said the summit offered a chance to push governments and other key actors to commit to eliminating the diseases.

Sightsavers CEO Caroline Harper said it was "a once-in-a-decade chance to galvanise governments and other partners to make firm commitments which put the elimination and control of NTDs back on track and finally end the suffering they cause to 1.7 billion people [globally]".

She told SciDev.Net: "National governments are showing great leadership but require committed and dedicated support right up until the end, when the job is done."

Harper believes that donors are a key to fighting malaria and NTDs, which affect the poorest communities most severely. "We need commitments from donors to support the countries being left behind like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone and

Yemen," she added.

David Reddy, CEO of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), told SciDev.Net that decisions and commitments at the Kigali summit were critical to ensuring that malaria and NTDs remained part of the key focus in healthcare.

He said that MMV would continue with research and development and make "strenuous attempts" to ensure malaria drugs were manufactured in Africa.



A view captured yesterday of the Mtoni Mtongani Bus stop, as captured yesterday. The stop is undergoing construction at a section of Kilwa Road under Phase Two of the Dar es Salaam bus rapid transit (DART) project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Namtumbo District cooperative officers and extension staff offered motorcycles

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

AUTHORITIES with Namtumbo District Council have distributed 38 motorcycles to extension officers as well as district cooperative officers in the district.

District Council's acting Agriculture Officer, Michael Gambi said the motorcycles have been given by the Ministry of Agriculture and were distributed to the extension officers and cooperative officers by Namtumbo District Commissioner Dr Julius Ningu.

District Council Director Hamisi Chilumba commended the government for the support, saying that the motorcycles would facilitate the performance of the officials in their workplaces by providing excellent extension services.

Chilumba claimed that there were challenges for extension officers not to reach the public on time due to the transport problem, so the government's move to provide the motorcycles would alleviate the long-standing challenge for extension officers.

DC Ningu also commended the government for purchasing the motorcycles and urged agricultural and cooperative officials to go and print jobs by providing better services to farmers to show diversity in agricultural production.

Ningu urged agricultural and cooperative officials to ensure that the motorcycles carry out the government's intended purpose in their workplaces and not otherwise.

He stated that Namtumbo District residents are active farmers so for extension officers getting motorcycles will make it easier for them to provide the needed expertise to them, hence increasing food production and trade in the district.

WVT donates food to 24 primary schools hit by drought in Longido

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

WORLD Vision Tanzania (WVT) has donated food, oil, and beans worth more than 227m/- to 24 primary schools due to food shortages caused by drought in Ketumbeine Division, Longido District, Arusha Region.

The support is through its Ketumbeine (AP) development project.

World Vision Tanzania managing director Dr Gilbert Kamanga handed over the support to Longido District Administrative Officer Boniface Lugola.

He said that the donation was provided due to the drought that hit the area in 2021 and this year causing some livestock unable

to sell due to a lack of pastures.

Kamanga said the donation was 117 tonnes of maize, 37 tonnes of beans, and cooking oil of about 308 buckets with a capacity of 20 liters each, all worth 227m/-.

He named some of the schools that benefited from the donation as Ketumbeine, Olopolosek, Nadare, Gilai Bomba, Sokon, Lumbwa, Wosiwosi, and Esokonoi.

"Our organisation has provided this assistance as a measure to address the poor health of school children and absenteeism due to the famine that has caused many parents to be unable to afford to contribute to school meals. This food will help 10,272 children of this division," he said.

He said in a donation dubbed "Project food in schools to alleviate the famine", the government in Longido district helped for a maize discount in the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) and transported it from Arusha City to Ketumbeine.

Kamanga said the organisation has also provided education to teachers and all areas of the Ketumbeine Division, coping with various disasters including famine, and advising on livestock that can withstand drought to help them sell and buy food in times of drought.

He urged teachers and the leadership of the division to ensure that the food is distributed as planned to resolve the nuisance that

plagued the area.

The Ketumbeine AP Project Coordinator, Peruth Daud said that before the assistance the organisation in collaboration with the government conducted a survey to identify the magnitude of the problem and found that a total of 44,803 households in Longido District were malnourished.

"In February this year, World Vision responded to a request for food, we're able to distribute maize, beans, and oil to 1000 households," he said.

One of the beneficiaries of the project a Ketumbeine Primary School Student, Agness Godfrey said the meal will help increase attendance which was declining day by day, and

track lessons, especially during the day.

"We're grateful for this food, during the day most of us in the classrooms were unable to follow the lessons on hunger but we believe things will be better with getting lunch," said Godfrey.

Lugola after receiving the meal thanked World Vision Tanzania for supporting the government in serving the students and added that it is the second hand of the government.

He said the organisation has been a support to Longido District and many parts of the country to fight for a better life for the child in various fields and thus contribute to a greater opportunity to implement government programmes.

Africa's wildlife needs young naturalists

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Wildlife Foundation (AWF) is championing a proactive education project that brings on-board children into the boat of conservation through an initiative dubbed 'Classroom Africa'.

The initiative targets school-going children in the age brackets of 7 to 17 years, an age group that forms a significant portion of the African population.

"Children are the future guardians of the earth, and one day it will be their responsibility to protect and conserve the planet as home to humans and the wondrous wildlife," said Margaret Meryan, AWF conservation educationist.

Youth and children stand to receive the baton of being the next generation of leaders and custodians of the earth and its limited resources. It is them who stand to lose the most if the climate change wheel is left to keep turning at the same pace it is turning now, notes Meryan.

And how best to induct the young minds into conservation than integrating environmental responsibility into the school curriculums at an early stage.

Classroom Africa, a brainchild of AWF is present in 17 African countries, Kenya being one of them that will see conservation integrated into the school curriculum among other things to inspire conservation through education among children. "We want to have the African Children in the forefront of conservation by initiating them into education that informs attitude and behavioral change and uproots the notion that

conservation is a white man's narrative. Our children need to know the truth, and the truth is that Mother Nature is bleeding and needs protection through conservation from the village level," added Meryan.

From a biblical point of view, humans are default conservationists as per Bible's Genesis chapter one. With man commanded to take over the world and use it as he would, such is a high calling to every individual on earth. But that responsibility comes with a massive burden to use and conserve the environment and natural resources.

"Children are the largest stakeholders of how the earth progresses now and onwards. When climate change takes away the beauty and resources of the earth, it is them who will grapple with the consequences. They need to be part of the process of conservation from a very tender age. It is only then that we can nurture a generation that is well-versed with the needs of the environment and champions for its protection and conservation," said Meryan.

At the national level, the conservation agenda has been supported through proactive legislation and targeted funding for micro and small-scale environmental protection to build climate-smart and resilient communities.

In December 2021 during the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Nairobi National Park, President Uhuru Kenyatta was on the record challenging stakeholders led by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to be innovative in their conservation efforts.



Motorcycle mechanical instructor Said Hasani (C) briefs youths on how to assemble a motorcycle engine. This was during training for 42 beneficiaries of a Youth Agency Mufindi project held at the Igoda orphanage in Mufindi District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has appointed Simon Mizrahi as acting vice President, Technology and Corporate Services Complex, effective 20 June 2022.

According to a statement issued yesterday, Mizrahi is currently the bank's director for delivery, performance management and results and acting director for the operations committee secretariat and quality assurance.

"In these capacities, he oversees results delivery on the bank's multi-billion annual investments across the African continent and engages with the Board of Directors and donors on the full complexity of the bank's development challenges," the statement reads in part.

Mizrahi is a seasoned senior executive with more than 25 years of

AfDB appoints Mizrahi as acting vice president for tech, corporate services

experience in delivering strategic leadership on development and development policies. He has extensive experience in leading policy work and has published on issues central to the development agenda with a strong emphasis on development impact, climate change and development effectiveness. Mizrahi has demonstrated a strong capacity for thought leadership, strategic decision-making and delivering bottom-line results.

As the Head of the Operations Committee Secretariat, he reviews and assesses all Bank operations, operating rules, and policies. His department

also sets and monitors operational standards for lending, supervision and project completion. In 2019, he elaborated the Bank's Quality Assurance Plan and established its first programme to train operational staff toward improving the quality and impact of Bank operations.

Before joining the Bank, Mizrahi was Deputy Head at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in charge of aid effectiveness. He authored the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action, two landmark agreements adopted by 110 countries and organisations across the world. From 1994 to 1996, Simon also

worked as a country director for Médecins du Monde in Kigali, Rwanda and Managua, Nicaragua.

Mizrahi has operated in eight African countries and, in 1994, was Head of Operations for Urgence Rwanda, a coalition of NGOs in charge of delivering humanitarian assistance to Rwanda and Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the immediate aftermath of the genocide.

Mizrahi holds a Master of Philosophy degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from the University of Cambridge, UK (1991) and a Master's degree in Political Sciences from the Insti-

tut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France (1990).

Commenting on his appointment, he said: "I am humbled and deeply honoured that Dr. Adesina has appointed me to this new and very exciting position. Innovation and technology have the potential to revolutionise the way the Bank operates and does business in Africa."

"The Bank has an amazing and highly skilled staff and I look forward to working with them to harness the transformative energy of technology to better support the Bank's corporate services and realise its development goals".

Commenting on the appointment, president of the African Development Bank Group, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina said: "I am pleased to appoint Simon Mizrahi into this new role of Acting Vice President for Technology and Corporate Services to lead the drive for full digitalisation of the Bank, deployment of big data analytics, robotics, machine learning and other IT tools and systems to revamp how we do business, including cyber security to protect ourselves."

"Simon is a highly skilled and experienced member of my senior leadership team. He is results-oriented, a quality that shows in the successful manner he delivers complex operations in challenging settings across the continent. He will help provide the leadership needed to orient this new vice presidency until the substantive vice president for the new Technology and Corporate Services Complex is appointed."



A pedestrian (L) moves to force his way through the metal fence meant to ensure security for pedestrians near a Buguruni section of the ever-busy Mandela Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday instead of using the overhead bridge (R) installed specifically for the purpose. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

War meant to end HAT as public health problem validated in Equatorial Guinea

By Special Correspondent

EFFORTS to eliminate human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), also known as sleeping sickness, are continuing to show excellent progress, in line with the targets set out in WHO's 2030 road map for the control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases.

Human African trypanosomiasis has two principal forms, referred to as gambiense and rhodesiense, and is generally transmitted through contact with infected tsetse flies.

Equatorial Guinea has now been validated by WHO as being the latest country to eliminate the gambiense form of the disease as a public health problem within its borders.

The general incidence of the gambiense form of the disease has reduced sharply this century. In 2021, 750 cases were reported in 11 endemic countries - this represented a 95% reduction in the number of cases when compared to the figure for 2001 (26 095 cases). Other countries have also seen their elimination of the disease as a public health problem validated by WHO recently - Equatorial Guinea now joins Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and Uganda on that growing list.

Longstanding work and commitment by the Ministry of Health of Equatorial Guinea, through its human Afri-

can trypanosomiasis National Control Program (PNCTHA), has allowed the country to reach the threshold established for validating elimination. This threshold is defined as fewer than 1 case per 10 000 inhabitants on average, over the last five years, in all of the country's health districts. Validation of elimination requires countries to submit extensive dossiers to WHO. These are then assessed by an independent group of experts, who determine if the criteria for elimination as a public health problem have been met.

Recently the WHO country representative, Dr George Fom Ameh, transmitted an official letter acknowledging this achievement to Equatorial Guinea's Minister of Health, Dr Diosdado Vicente Nsue Milang. The letter was signed by the Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Elimination of gambiense HAT as a public health problem is an important step on the road to achieving the more ambitious goal of elimination of transmission. Equatorial Guinea is now committed to maintaining its surveillance capacity, to ensure that screening and diagnosis continues in populations at risk of contracting the disease. It remains committed also to ensuring that there is adequate treatment for any new cases detected, and to controlling tsetse fly populations.

Five demands set by African youth to fight climate change

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN youth leaders, who attended "African Youth Conference on Climate Justice" on the sideline event at the ongoing CHOGM, have reiterated the need for including youth in climate change negotiations processes.

The conference aimed at mobilising the youth leaders, young women and various community groups, to demand for ambitious and urgent action on climate change through tracking all key decisions and commitments made during and after the 26th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26).

They further sought to establish whether

existing climate action pledges known as NDCs and their implementation thereof tracking if NDCs are ambitious enough to achieve the 1.5 Degree Celsius Paris Agreement goal. The meeting placed emphasis on the need to step up climate justice issues in addressing the climate crisis in Africa.

Their demands by the youth include the overhaul of African education system, whereby they have been requesting an overhaul of African education system that speaks to climate change issues, inculcating stakeholders from children to industry leaders and key political players to create a wider understanding of the need for urgent and sustainable climate action in order to save the planet.

They also demand immediate measures to channel investment and finance towards, reduction in the emission of carbon emissions, from the domestic to industrial spheres. These measures should include enhancement of natural resource efficiency and climate friendly practices.

"We are convinced that our relatively low carbon emissions and significant carbon absorption capacity should be considered in climate finance discussions including the carbon market," reads part of the statement.

The youth have demanded that individuals, youth organisations, enterprises and other climate actors have adequate and tailor-made access to prevailing technologies that

will enhance information and knowledge exchange in terms of ICT as well as reduce damage to the environment and adaptation to the effects already being faced.

The African youth further demanded that young people be considered in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of climate action interventions from grassroots to national level.

"This consideration should be representative of the youth demographic in our member states' decision-making bodies," adds the statement.

"We demand special consideration for the insular nations and territories, including, but not limited to Mauritius, Seychelles, Mada-

gascar, Comoros, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome et Principe, that are part of Africa and are categorized as the most climate vulnerable countries due to their offshore geographical location and topography," the youth have requested.

They also demanded that AU member states and Regional Economic Communities begin to deliberately transition to a low carbon culture of industrialisation.

"Climate finance should incrementally flow towards adaptation projects and less towards mitigation considering that Africa only accounts for 4% of global GHG emission," they said.

International Day against Drug Abuse, Trafficking: Interminable battle where many are surrendering

MARKING an international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was decided by the United Nations General Assembly by a resolution on 7th December 1987, to be observed 26th June each year. It was an expression of determination to strengthen action and cooperation for an international society free of drug abuse, or as some would say, by as much as possible. No international campaign is as solidly unachieved as the fight against drug abuse and trafficking, as even in draconian systems, drugs thrive.

A United Nations chronicler says the day is supported each year by individuals, communities and various organizations all over the world, with the global observance meant to raise awareness of the huge problem that illicit drugs cause to society. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) addresses existing and emerging transnational drug challenges stemming from situations of crisis, as in situations of warfare there is little effective policing of society, and powerful groups look for money by all means, forming alliances with drug barons. Money laundering reaching one trillion dollars globally stems from drug trafficking, sale, on the basis of World Bank data, for years.

It means that advocacy work intended to protect the most vulnerable, including children and youth, can't be assured because many youths tend to go for drugs first as excitement, by imitating peers, and the sink into the habit when they encounter deeper frustrations in life. Many

cultures tolerate soft drugs like khat on the Horn of Africa and cannabis all over the world, and it is increasingly being taken as a cash crop. Some nearby countries like Malawi have legalized the farming of cannabis, which is not too strange as the principal crop in the country for decades is tobacco. That builds immunity to issues of intoxication, etc.

Noticeably, large companies making cannabis products have their shares traded on the New York stock exchange and elsewhere, while police all over the world are frantically pursuing stronger, and thus illicit drugs like heroin and cocaine. In the final analysis, as it is the case for excess consumption of hard liquors it is up to an individual to learn what to do and not do, as it isn't possible to actually to take urgent action to protect people by tackling illicit drug supply. The best societies provide is wider treatment facilities.

Eroding civil liberties at times gives authorities a free hand to curtail drug trafficking. The key element in that dimension is fear - when top police or drug control officers realize that there is zero tolerance for drugs at the top. To keep their jobs, they follow the trail and nail the barons, disrupting the supply chains, arresting scores of visible end point dealers, etc. When civil liberties are restored in a broader way, the drug barons and their acolytes at higher levels of law enforcement become freer, and during election campaigns, they know politicians will be hankering for contributions; many are purchased outright.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture: Tracking consensus on interrogation

EXPERTS say that torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being, with a United Nations chronicler affirming that despite the absolute prohibition of torture under international law, torture persist in all regions of the world. Concerns about protecting national security and borders are intensively used to formalise torture and other forms of cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment in police cells in particular. It is a situation that cultivates pervasive shifts of mood and ethics in society, making violence ordinary and eroding the sense of moral prohibition altogether.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture by a resolution of the General Assembly.

Even in major democracies, there are spheres of conflict where routine prohibitions on the use of torture are put aside and national security imperatives prevail.

That is why eradicating torture is a problem because it is a usable method to collect hidden information that an individual shall not willingly offer, though it is at times abused by fabricating links between persons, or plots against the state, and forcing suspects to admit as much.

In Tanzania the matter has been discussed endlessly in relation to provisions in the Law of Evidence Act (1967) that identified 'confessing to a police officer' as one means of collecting evidence. In practice it means that the magistrate shall look at the consistency of the evidence

without demanding how it was collected, as often this works to the advantage of suspects. Different countries have contrasting scenarios of the torture malaise, some using torture in criminal investigation and many resorting to it to pursue cells of terror organisations, their plans, financing, etc. All this is difficult terrain where good conduct rules are scarce, or plainly don't work.

The marking of the day isn't based on realistic precepts about unavoidable anomalies in combating crime or curbing terror threats, but recognizing torture as a crime under international law.

Thus the relevant UN conventions make torture absolutely prohibited and that its use can't be justified under any circumstances.

The UN chronicler says that this prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a state has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity.

Those who show outright contempt for civility can't expect to be fairly treated when they land in the hands of the law. It is like an armed robber who cites provisions of humane treatment of prisoners, to expect a balanced diet and television in the cell, which isn't to say these things aren't provided under any circumstances. It is really a matter of chance or luck what sort of regime one meets after falling into the arms of the law.

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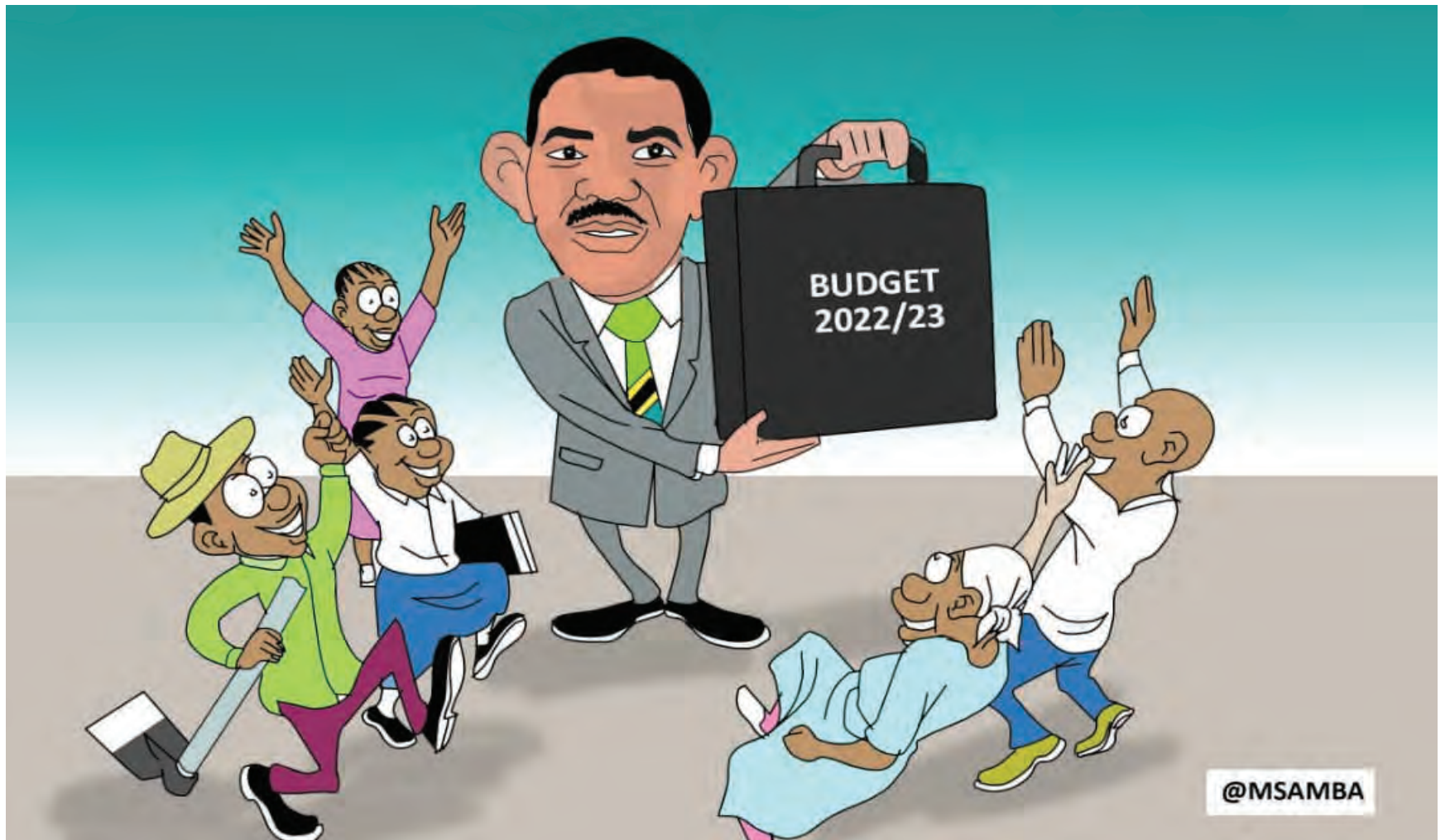
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A frightening view: Inside the eye of the 'hurricane of hunger'



The World Food Programme

says 41 million people around the world, including in Nigeria (pictured) are at imminent risk of famine. File photo

By Danielle Nierenberg

WHEN I first met Dr Roland Bunch, I have to be honest - he scared me. As one of the most well-respected leaders on agronomy and resilient land management, he offers extremely prescient predictions on how famines take root when soils fail - and also has an admirably clear-eyed view of what we need to do better.

When we first met in the mid-2000s, I was at the Worldwatch Institute and invited him to contribute a chapter to a book I was writing. He described how farmers in Malawi and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were noticing their soil was getting tired.

Maize yields were unpredictable and decreasing year to year - problematic when that's the crop you depend on most for both consumption and sale to earn your livelihood. Droughts were a major concern, but Dr Bunch understood that farmers were, rightly, more worried about loss of soil fertility.

Droughts and depleted soils can be difficult to distinguish. While fertile soils can soak up and retain what little rain does fall, depleted soils become compacted and water simply runs off, so each problem accentuates the other.

Plus, when farmers are facing infertile soils, they are more likely to move to new areas of land, which unfortunately eats up arable land without regenerating it. And in some cases, folks give up farming altogether and move to cities, where it's difficult for them to find jobs that match their skills.

He wrote this warning right around the 2007-08 food and financial collapse, which

stretched into riots and famines around the globe over the next half-decade. And unfortunately, we may be back where we were then.

Dr Bunch warns that the coming famine will be a "hurricane of hunger," which sounds ominous to me and so many of us who work in this space. But things are not hopeless.

Over the past 20 years, one of the so-called solutions that's been heavily promoted in places like Malawi are fertilizer subsidies and artificial fertilizers - which are not the answer.

We forget that artificial fertilizer should be used sparingly like medicine, to help get farmers over a hump or temporarily boost soil quality to allow for better use of organic matter.

But unfortunately, subsidies have led to farmers becoming dependent on artificial soil amendments and have actively disincentivized growing a more diverse set of crops or using organics to fertilize soils in countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and more.

One of the answers to what we're seeing around soil infertility are cover crops and 'green manure' (which refers not to colorful animal poop but rather the practice of growing certain crops to

turn or incorporate back into the soil).

These can be things like bushes, trees, and vines that help improve soil quality, control weeds, and retain water. Other great options are crops like cowpeas and scarlet runner beans, which people can eat.

This is something else we often forget when we're talking about how to keep folks from being hungry: The foods people have depended on for generations are not only regenerative but also delicious! Farmers have an opportunity, Roland says, to return to growing these indigenous crops - sometimes called forgotten crops or orphan crops - that are resilient to droughts, have deep root structures to keep water and nutrients in soils, grow perennially so they don't need to be replanted every year, and taste really, really good.

Between crises like climate change, soil depletion, global conflicts, and Covid's supply chain fallout, the bottom line - and it's a sobering one - is that we're facing a massive famine and that "hurricane of hunger" over the next year.

I've talked before in this newsletter about the power of citizen eaters and the participatory democracies Frances Moore Lappé advocates for - but for these ideas

to actually translate into powerful results, we need governments that are actively engaging in agriculture.

Roland says it's possible to end hunger in one generation, and quite inexpensively, but only if we have the will to do so. We'll need action from leaders in policy, business, and more to invest in helping farmers adopt greener, more regenerative soil practices.

As he says, better soils lead to better lives - which are more urgent now than ever before.

I want to thank and commend Dr. Roland Bunch for his leadership and - seriously - for scaring me. His predictions not only frighten me but also give me hope. He tells us how bad things can be - but also how good things can be if, again, we have that political engagement.

I've included more writing from Dr Bunch and other luminaries in the Learn More section below, and as always, please shoot me an email at danielle@foodtank.com with your perspectives and ideas for how we move forward.

Danielle Nierenberg is President of Food Tank and an expert on sustainable agriculture and food issues. She has written extensively on gender and population, the spread of factory farming in the developing world and innovations in sustainable agriculture.

Can a squatter's uninterrupted claim of land ownership be legal?

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we looked at intoxication as a defence against criminal liability. We said some people charged with certain criminal offences plead intoxication as their defence but added that they have to successfully prove it if they want the court to determine the case in their favour.

Section 14(2) of the Penal Code (Chapter 16) provides for circumstances in which intoxication is a defence against criminal liability, but not in any other circumstances [Subsection (4)].

We concluded that an accused person or appellant who pleads intoxication against criminal liability must successfully prove before the court that he or she was under the influence of alcohol or drug and had temporarily or otherwise become insane at the time of commission or omission of the criminal offence he or she is charged with.

It is only after the court is satisfied with the evidence produced before it that the accused person or appellant can be exonerated from criminal liability and not otherwise.

Today, we invite you to look at a different issue, which you could be familiar with or you might have heard it being complained of. This is "adverse possession of land". What is it and how does it occur?

You might have come across a case like this: a person processes and gets a surveyed plot under a right of occupancy. Instead of developing his or her plot it remains



idle for a long time, even exceeding the statutory period of limitation of 12 years.

But another person squats on it uninterrupted and develops it. After a long time, the owner starts demanding that he or she has been dispossessed of his or her plot illegally and files a case in court to repossess it. Who do you think the law recognizes as the owner of the plot: is it the original owner or the squatter?

Let us briefly look at what the law says. But before we do that, let us look at some persuasive authorities. According to the Harvard Law Review of 1918 Vol. 32, No. 2 on page 136: "A possession which has continued for a long time without interruption, and which has been accompanied by an uninterrupted claim of ownership, ought to prevail against [the entire] world."

Kate Green & Joe Cursley in their book "Land Law" (Fifth Edition, 2004) argue on page 32 that the basic principle is straightforward and quickly grasped: "Through adverse possession, a person can effectively become the legal owner of land solely because of her [or his] occupation of it."

After a statutory period of limitation lapses, the 'paper owner' loses his or her right of landownership to a squatter who has uninterrupted occupied and developed land, which legally belongs to another person.

This means that if a landowner abandons his or her land for a long time and a squatter happens to develop it uninterrupted then, even if the landowner has a title deed, he or she cannot successfully claim that he or she has been dispossessed of land illegally.

In *Pye v Graham* [2003], the House of Lords identified two fundamental requirements of adverse possession. The first is that the possession must be real (or 'factual') - the squatter must act as owner, showing an 'appropriate degree of physical control'. The second is that he or she must have an intention to possess the land (*animus possidendi*).

Kate Green & Joe Cursley in their book (cited above) argue that factual possession signifies an appropriate degree of physical control, which can be shown if the squatter encloses the land or improves it in some way, but trivial acts performed on it will generally be insufficient to establish factual possession.

In Tanzania, adverse possession is covered in Section 16 of the Land Registration Act (Chapter 334). The section states: "For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that an application for first registration may be made by a person claiming to have acquired a title to a registrable estate by adverse possession or by reason of any law of prescription."

Therefore, adverse possession simply means uninterrupted land occupation which exceeds the statutory period of limitation of 12 years without the owner's permission.

In *Tanzania Electric Supply Company v Hellen Byera Nestory*, Appeal No 113 OF 2020, the High Court of Tanzania, said the period of limitation to recover land was 12 years in terms of Section 3(1) of the Law of Limitation Act (Chapter 89, RE 2019), read together with Part I item 22 of the Schedule of the same Act.

This stipulates: "Even by invoking the doctrine of adverse possession, the respondent has no right to recover the land that has been in occupation by the appellant for over 20 years."

The court held that this principle of law was stated in the case of *Bhoke Kitang'ita v Makuru Mahemba*, Civil Appeal No 222 of 2017 in Mwanza (unreported), where the Court of Appeal of Tanzania stated: "It is a settled principle of law that a person who occupies someone's land without

permission, and the property owner does not exercise his [or her] right to recover it within the time prescribed by law, such person (the adverse possessor) acquires ownership by adverse possession."

The court further said that the appellant's occupation and possession of the land for over 12 years without interruption was sufficient to grant ownership under the doctrine of adverse possession.

The court stressed: "Without putting more colours, the suit was time-barred and the respondent had lost her right to recover the land."

In his book "Land Law as a Human Right: A History of Land Law and Practice in Tanzania" (2012), Abdon Rwegasira presents four elements to prove adverse possession of land.

He says the first element is actual possession - that is, any act which shows control of land to the exclusion of any other person. The second is uninterrupted use of land for the statutory period of limitation (12 years). The third is that the adverse possessor must intend to exclude any other person, including the landowner, from using the land. The fourth is that the possession of land must be without the permission of the original owner.

As presented above, a squatter may legally own land through adverse possession if the 'paper landowner' doesn't do anything to prevent him or her from squatting on it for at least 12 years of statutory limitation. So, take care lest you lose your rights over land you haven't developed for a long time.

Today's proverb: "The fountain is clearest at its source."

The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

Nine problems with highly intelligent people

By Julie Gabriel

INTELLIGENT people often have to struggle with problems related to their high IQ. Let's review the most common psychological challenges of highly intelligent people.

Intelligence has many advantages. Intelligent people recognize their emotions, build better relationships, solve problems more efficiently, and generally have greater knowledge about life. Last but not least, intelligence is an important success factor.

Accordingly, it is worth striving to be very intelligent - and so it is hardly surprising that almost everyone considers herself or himself particularly intelligent. But in addition to the positive aspects, the downsides should not be ignored.

When is a person considered to be very intelligent? Nobody wants to say of herself or himself "I'm stupid."

Most people therefore attest to at least average intelligence. Many go further and see themselves above average.

But from which IQ do you really speak of high intelligence? The average IQ is a value of 100 (with a deviation of up to 10 upwards and downwards.) A high IQ is spoken of with a value of 110 and upwards.

However, it can be discussed how meaningful such values are. Critics note that there are different forms of intelligence that are not mapped in classic tests.

Strong intelligence can open many doors and enable numerous opportunities. Nevertheless, particular cleverness is not without its disadvantages.

Intelligent people pay a high price with many problems and suffer in their professional and private everyday lives.

One: Intelligent people are bored with jobs and conversations. The more intelligent a person, the faster the boredom sets in.

Routine tasks on the job, monotonous projects and other to-dos that do not offer enough intellectual challenge lead to feeling under-challenged and

bored. If great mental capacities are not used, thoughts wander, look for other occupations and concentration is lost.

Intelligent people also suffer from boredom in shallow conversations. Small talk about the weather or other topics that do not require reflection or intellectual effort cannot arouse interest. Intelligent people switch off and get bored with such ramblings until the unnecessary talk is over.

Two: Intelligent people are often seen as know-it-alls. Great knowledge can impress. Some people take this as an opportunity to learn for themselves but, unfortunately, many react rather negatively. Smart people are often labelled as know-it-alls by others.

This does not even require a know-it-all behaviour. Intelligence quickly leads to the bad reputation of a know-it-all who feels superior to all others.

Three: Intelligent people are unpopular. Know-it-all behaviour is closely related to another problem: Intelligent people are often unpopular. Envy can be a driving force here.

In addition, intelligent people are perceived as arrogant by others. Those who know a lot and use their knowledge seem to want to rise above others - which can lead to social exclusion.

Intelligent people are also unpopular because they unconsciously and unintentionally point out their own mistakes and inadequacies to others.

If you know a good answer to difficult questions, you force others to ask the uncomfortable question: "Why didn't I know?" The common reaction against the trigger is aversion.

Four: Intelligent people change jobs more often. That's right: intelligence can make you successful. On the other hand, intelligent people have the problem of changing jobs more often than others.

One reason for this is that they are perceived as a threat by the boss. This secures the boss's own position and keeps the clever mind at the lower end of the hierarchy at a distance. The changes and improve-



ments that intelligent people want to encourage in their jobs are also problematic. You see weak points, potentials and opportunities to use them. It is by no means a good thing in every working atmosphere to put a finger in the wound like this.

Five: Smart people hate making decisions. Intelligence promotes logical and analytical thinking - but decisiveness is not one of the strengths.

Smart people take a long time to commit themselves and have a hard time making final decisions. They mentally go through all the alternatives, constantly weigh up, see all the advantages and disadvantages.

To them, even small decisions become big challenges. Where others only see A or B, intelligent people discover possibilities from C to Z and sway back and forth for a long time.

Six: It is difficult for intelligent people to assert themselves. Wouldn't it be better not to argue with a particularly intelligent person? Thought wrong!

Great intelligence can even be a hindrance in discussions. The problem: Your own point of view is well thought out, the arguments sound - but intelligent people can also put themselves in the shoes of the other person. Counter-arguments can be understood, as one's own views

are reflected and questioned. In the end, compromises are made, although the interlocutor may hardly be able to represent her or his own side.

Seven: Intelligent people suffer from perfectionism. Overlook unnecessary mistakes or ignore a half-hearted solution?

That's difficult (read: impossible) for intelligent people. They have an eye for details, can identify errors and do everything in their power to rectify them. If you know something will be better, don't settle for a different outcome.

Such perfectionism is exhausting and is perceived as negative by the environment

-especially when it extends to the work and results of others.

Eight: Intelligent people are afraid of failure. With such high expectations of themselves, excessive self-criticism and fear of failure are not uncommon among intelligent people.

High standards are set for one's own performance, which increases the pressure even further. It gets even worse when the environment stirs expectations.

With a high IQ, you often get to hear: "You are so smart, you can achieve great things." In your head this becomes: Only if I achieve really great things have I not failed.

Nine: Smart people are often frustrated - and it is not just the sum of all the problems mentioned that leads to frustration.

Intelligent people have precise ideas about their own goals and developments. You have thought about what you want to achieve and what is necessary for it. If reality deviates from this, dissatisfaction and the desire to make changes quickly arise.

If that is not possible, the frustration grows rapidly and steadily. Intelligent people suffer particularly badly from this feeling of powerlessness and helplessness.

The Orange Journal

HONG KONG

Highlights of Hong Kong's development achievements since return to motherland

SINCE its return to the motherland in 1997, Hong Kong has made significant progress in the fields of politics, economy, livelihood, society and culture.

The following facts and figures offer a glimpse of Hong Kong's development achievements over the past 25 years.

- The chief executive designate of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is elected by the Election Committee. The Committee membership has been expanded from 800 in 2002 to 1,200 in 2012 and to 1,500 in 2022. The number of sectors has been increased from four to five.

- The Legislative Council (LegCo) of the HKSAR is constituted by election. Each of the first four terms of LegCo of the HKSAR after Hong Kong's return to the motherland had 60 seats. The fifth- and sixth-term LegCo of the HKSAR both had 70 seats.

The seventh-term LegCo of the HKSAR has 90 seats, with 40 elected by the Election Committee constituency, 30 by functional constituencies, and 20 by geographical constituencies.

- The HKSAR Honors and Awards System was established by the HKSAR government in 1997.

The chief executive of the HKSAR has awarded 746 people on the 2021 honors list, including seven awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal, the highest award under the HKSAR Honors and Awards System.

Since Hong Kong's return to the motherland, 109 Grand Bauhinia Medals have been awarded.

- As of May 17, 2022, the number of foreign consulates in the HKSAR has increased from 88 to 119, including 63 Consulates-General, 56 Honorary Consulates, and six officially recognized bodies.

- At present, 168 countries and territories have granted visa-free access or visa-on-arrival to HKSAR Passport holders.

- By 2021, Hong Kong's gross domestic product (GDP) was 2.86 trillion Hong Kong dollars (about 364.31



A ferry with flags marking the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland sails at the Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, south China, June 22, 2022. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Xinhua

billion U.S. dollars) in nominal terms. In 1997, Hong Kong's GDP was 1.37 trillion Hong Kong dollars (174.51 billion U.S. dollars). From 1997 to 2021, Hong Kong's GDP grew at an average annual rate of 2.7 percent in real terms.

- Hong Kong's per capita GDP has gradually increased. Hong Kong's per capita GDP (in nominal terms) reached 387,100 Hong Kong dollars (49,310 U.S. dollars) in 2021 compared with 192,000 Hong

Kong dollars (24,460 U.S. dollars) before Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

- The average daily turnover of the spot stock market of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) was 15 billion Hong Kong dollars (1.91 billion U.S. dollars) in 1997 and 166.7 billion Hong Kong dollars (21.23 billion U.S. dollars) in 2021, respectively.

In 2021, the average daily turnover of Hong Kong Stock Connect under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Con-

nect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect programs was 20.079 billion Hong Kong dollars (2.56 billion U.S. dollars) and 21.63 billion Hong Kong dollars (2.76 billion U.S. dollars), respectively.

The HKEX in 2021 raised a total of 42.297 billion U.S. dollars from its initial public offerings (IPOs), ranking fourth in the world.

- The proportion of mainland enterprises in Hong Kong stocks has risen rapidly since 1997. As of April

2022, 1,370 mainland enterprises are listed in Hong Kong, accounting for 53.3 percent of the total number of companies listed on the HKEX and 77.7 percent of the total market capitalization, with a market value of 37.6 trillion Hong Kong dollars (4.79 trillion U.S. dollars).

- The mainland has made great efforts to ensure the supply of goods and materials for people's livelihood in Hong Kong. Currently, Chinese companies supply more than 90 percent of Hong Kong's live pigs and cattle, 78 percent of its drinking water, 70 percent of its fresh livestock and poultry, 52 percent of its wheat flour and 42 percent of its oil and gas.

- From mid-1997 to mid-2021, Hong Kong's population increased from more than 6.5 million to over 7.4 million, an increase of nearly 1 million over the past 25 years.

The population density in Hong Kong is one of the highest in the world, with an average of 6,801 people per square km in 2021.

- Hong Kong has one of the highest life expectancy in the world. The average life expectancy in Hong Kong in 2021 (provisional figures) is 83.0 years for males and 87.7 years for females compared to 76.8 years and 82.2 years in 1997, up 6.2 years and 5.5 years, respectively.

- Hong Kong is increasingly attractive to talents from home and abroad. The HKSAR government launched the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme in June 2006, and the annual quota was increased to 4,000 in 2021.

By the end of 2021, 36,689 applications from nearly 100 countries or regions had been received, among which 9,131 applications were approved.

- The HKSAR government has always attached great importance to promoting volunteer work. From 1998 to 2018, the number of registered volunteers exceeded 1.3 million, meaning one in every five to six people in Hong Kong is doing volunteer work, and more than 3,250 organizations participated in volunteer services.

- From 1997 to 2021, the number of cultural, recreational and sports facilities in Hong Kong continued to increase: the number of public libraries increased from 64 to 82 (both fixed and mobile), swimming pools from 32 to 44, stadiums from 74 to 102, football pitches from 291 to 317, and children's playgrounds from 596 to 665.

Xinhua

US president touts gas tax holiday amid surging energy prices

WASHINGTON

THE White House has proposed a gasoline tax holiday in a bid to bring down record energy prices. But economists doubt such a move will have any major impact.

"Such a tax holiday might reduce gas prices by up to 18 cents a gallon but will still leave gasoline prices at a painfully high level," Desmond Lachman, resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a former official at the International Monetary Fund, told Xinhua.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday called on Congress to suspend federal gas tax for 90 days, giving families "just a little bit of relief," as Americans are frustrated by the nation's soaring gas prices.

As of Thursday, U.S. gasoline prices stood at 4.94 U.S. dollars a gallon, just a hair lower than last week's cost of just over 5 dollars - the highest in U.S. history.

Prices are sky high partly due to sanctions on Russia, a major

energy provider, and critics said the administration's energy policies are a major contributor. The White House, meanwhile, blames U.S. oil companies.

"I call on the companies to pass this along - every penny of this 18-cents reduction - to the consumers. This is - there's no time now for profiteering," said Biden.

The White House said earlier that the July 4 holiday weekend - when millions of Americans drive to beaches, mountains and other getaways - is a target to announce new steps to cut record gas prices.

Biden's proposal also comes in the lead-up to November's midterm elections, and the president politically needs to be seen taking action to bring relief from painful gasoline prices.

The president's effort is unlikely to gain traction with lawmakers, as even members of his own party - such as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi - could be reluctant to support it.

Pelosi, as well as some other Democrats, has argued that the

tax savings might not go to consumers, but get passed to oil companies.

It is far from clear, however, that he will succeed in getting this measure through Congress, with Republicans dismissing it as a gimmick, Lachman said.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell accused Democrats of playing "political games," arguing that the proposed measure is aimed at boosting Democrats' prospects and would soon expire after the midterm elections.

"President Biden is calling for another ineffective stunt to mask the effects of Democrats' inflation. The latest bad idea would barely put a dent in the soaring gas prices on his watch," McConnell said on Twitter.

"Here is a better idea: What if Democrats stop waging war on affordable American energy?" McConnell said.

Andrew Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates, a consulting firm, noted that a gas tax holiday will bring down prices to the tune



of 18 cents a gallon, because that's how much the consumer is paying in a federal excise tax.

Such a tax holiday could amount to a mere band-aid solution, critics said.

Indeed, gas prices in Maryland went down slightly when the state halted the gas tax for 30 days,

from March to April. "And then when the gas tax was reinstated, they went right back up," Lipow told Xinhua.

Another question the administration faces is how long such a gas holiday would last.

"Keep in mind those taxes are used to pay for roads and other infrastructure, so they (the government) would have to come up with the money elsewhere to make up for that shortfall," Lipow said.

Lipow said the one thing that administration actually could do would be to "ease the type of environmental regulations on the type of gasoline that is sold in the U.S. during the summertime" since that could increase supply.

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Barry Bosworth told Xinhua the move is "on balance, a shortsighted political action."

The expansion of base energy supply is constrained by uncertainty about the longer-term outlook given the recent turmoil of COVID-19 and the conflict in

Ukraine, Bosworth said.

The government should focus on reducing that uncertainty and promoting alternative supplies and conservation measures with a coherent longer term policy framework, Bosworth said.

The energy market will remain very tight for some time and winter demand in Europe should be a big concern, Bosworth said.

Dean Baker, senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, told Xinhua the reason prices are high is because the United States has an inadequate supply and the price effectively rations demand.

"This story doesn't change if we get rid of the tax," Baker said.

Efforts to cut the federal tax gas comes in the lead-up to a meeting this week between Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and oil executives.

Granholm told CNN on Sunday that suspending the gasoline tax could cause some federal funds to stop going toward projects under Biden's bipartisan infrastructure

law, which the president signed into law last year.

Aside from the tax not helping much to significantly bring down gas prices, economists said a gas tax holiday would not alleviate inflation, which stands at a 40-year high.

"It would not make much of a dent in inflation," Lachman said. Inflation is also unlikely to spare the Democrats from a big loss in the midterm elections with inflation now the number one economic issue, Lachman added.

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a budget watchdog group, criticized the proposed measure, urging the administration to fight inflation by lowering deficits, not boosting them.

"A gas tax holiday would modestly reduce prices at the pump but exacerbate overall inflationary pressures and increase demand for an energy source already short in supply," MacGuineas said in a statement, arguing that such a policy is not a solution.

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RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Donors launch competitions to promote youth-led farming businesses in Africa

NAIROBI

THE second edition of Pitch AgriHack 2022 has been launched in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi to spur growth of youth led agriculture enterprises in Africa through provision of funding, mentorship and peer learning.

Supported by African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), Heifer International and Generation Africa, the competition seeks to identify innovations that the continent's youth can leverage to transform food systems.

Agnes Kalibata, the President of Nairobi-based Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, stressed the need to incentivize the youth to come up with innovations that can re-imagine small-holder agriculture in the continent.

Kalibata noted that Africa's youth are in a vantage position to end the endemic challenges facing the continent's farming systems thanks to their ingenuity and entrepreneur spirit.

"There is hope that the youth of Africa will throw out the legacy problems created in the food system over the last 100 years and come up with tech-enabled, nature positive solutions that fast-track Africa's food production capacity to create jobs and make the continent self-sufficient," Kalibata remarked in a joint statement issued in Nairobi.

African youthful innovators aged 18-40 are eligible to participate in the Pitch AgriHack contest that runs from June 20 to July 29, while three winners and three runners up will receive cash grants to grow their agri-based start-ups. The six winners in three open categories including early stage, mature or growth stage and woman-led ventures will be entitled to cash prizes worth 45,000 U.S. dollars, according to the organizations.

The top 12 finalists at Pitch AgriHack 2022 will face off during a pitching contest at the African Green Revolution Forum slated for September.

The finalists will participate in the AGRF Agribusiness Deal Room where over 800 companies, 15 government delegations and 150 public and private sectors will con-



vene to generate new opportunities in the agriculture sector.

Dickson Naftali, the Head of Generation Africa said that the hackathon aims to motivate

the youth to harness new generation technologies and transform agricultural value chains in the continent.

Pitch AgriHack is about promoting digital

jobs and smart technologies that appeal to the youth.

This competition calls on the innovative minds of Africa to empower themselves and

their communities by harnessing and developing ground-breaking technologies in the agrifood sector.

Study shows climate change affects likelihood of armed conflict in Africa

By Joshua Manning

A NEW study has shown that climate change affects the likelihood of armed conflict in Africa, as published by the Spanish National Research Council

Climate change influences the likelihood and duration of armed conflicts in Africa claims the result of a study carried out by a team from the INGENIO Institute (In-

stitute for Innovation and Knowledge Management), a joint Centre of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), together with the University of Rome and the University of Urbino Carlo Bo.

Their results are published in the latest issue of the journal *Economía Política*.

The research team based their climate change study on

data from the African continent from 1990 to 2016. Applying a mathematical model of negative binomial regression, it assessed whether certain climatic phenomena, in combination with the socio-economic characteristics of the areas studied, affected the probability of a conflict breaking out or not and, if it did, its duration.

Among its conclusions, the climate change study stated

that a prolonged increase in temperature and precipitation increases the probability of conflict beyond the affected area by a factor of four to five, specifically in populations located within a radius of up to 550 kilometres.

The climate change study also concludes that in Africa, food shortages due to drought increase the likelihood of conflict, especially if water shortages persist for at least three

years. Conversely, excess rainfall triggers conflict, but in a very short time frame.

Davide Consoli, a researcher at the INGENIO Institute and one of the authors of the study stated:

"The results we have obtained have far-reaching implications for land policies on the African continent. For example, changes in climatic conditions influence the probability of conflicts over

large area which means that the design of climate adaptation policies must take into account the particularities of each territory."

The team from INGENIO, the University of Rome and the University of Urbino also points out that the persistence of violence requires the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies designed in conjunction with peacekeeping measures, es-

pecially in those areas most prone to armed conflict.

"These measures are essential in the design and implementation of adaptation strategies for climate resilience. Indeed, poorly designed adaptation interventions can exacerbate existing inequalities and increase the risk of conflict," concludes Consoli on the Africa climate change study

Agriculture is the brightest future of Africa

By Karl-Heinz Heerde

AGRICULTURE is too often seen as feeding the farmers and their families making extra money by selling crops to the market. African leaders are eager to catch up with the white man and propagate industrialization as their people's bright future. A car or a folk no one can eat.

The ever-growing population of Africa needs enough healthy and quality food now and more so in years to come. In Ghana profit margin for cocoa farmers is shameful low. Crops like maize and cassava feed the masses but do not help social standards to be addressed and on a sustainable good level like income, health care, education, etc.

Farming in Africa must not only be more bio and environmental friendly but by rethink how to do farming more profitable to generate profits and address the better social standards.

Not only do African farmers have to use modern farming technologies but become Farming Scientists and constantly improve on their skills to stand side by side with industrial bosses on the same level. This has no link to NGOs thinking but the concept of maximizing profit margins. Planting exotic fruits and vegetables such as Red Pineapple and white strawberries among others planted exclusively for the high-end market can build mansions or in a mix of traditional mass products adds to the extra income needed to build a good house for the farmer's family.

African leaders have no vision of these ideas and possibilities but rather listen to outsiders that want e.g. Europe cheap products like pineapple, mangos, and bananas only even representatives of the so-called "Fair Trade" organizations which in the end are not fair at all.

Rethinking of Agriculture in Africa can only come from people that have the spirit of making good and best money with Agriculture to demonstrate to African farmers their concept on the ground right before their eyes and for them to be copycats and use it on their farms.

African leaders do not want to see their farmers grow, progress, and succeed as long as the masses are fed. Unlike the industrial revolution with a limited number of people being rich farmers can be many more thinking about a better future for the nations. This can become a very dangerous movement for the existing political elite of African nations.

Rethinking and good profit-making in the African agricultural sector is a serious threat to the stability of African poverty and foreign exploitation but great news for Africa to be lifted which by lesser economic migration will benefit the white man in Europe also, over time.



By Ornella Moderan and Fatoumata Maïga

High maternal mortality in Mali worsened by rife obstetric violence, social superstitions

IN Mali, the hashtag #lavieest-sacrée (life is sacred) has become the symbol of a revolt against the country's endemic maternal mortality rates. It first appeared in 2021 after renowned journalist Hawa Séméga died during childbirth.

High maternal mortality reflects both the failings of the healthcare system and the dangers of social values that glorify women's suffering. It also highlights the impact of fatalistic religious beliefs, social obligation to motherhood, and women's financial dependence on men, which all hinder women's health and safety in childbirth.

Years of insecurity and political instability – and incomplete civil registration records – make it difficult to update figures, but those available are alarming. In 2017, the United Nations (UN) estimated Mali's maternal mortality rate at 562 deaths for every 100,000 live births. That's 2.6 times higher than the global average of 211.

This makes Mali the 13th most dangerous country in the world for women giving birth. A high prevalence of female genital cutting and early marriage that leads to early pregnancies make matters worse. Both are known risk factors for maternal death. National data is slightly less distressing than UN estimates but still worrying. According to the 2018 Demographic and Health Survey, 325 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births were reported between 2011 and 2018.

In 2017 alone, childbirth killed more Malian women and girls than the headlining security crisis in all the



Every pregnant woman wants the same thing – a safe pregnancy, free from worry and anxiety, and the delivery of a healthy baby. However, this is not the case for many mothers in Africa. (Photo: afterthird.com/Wikipedia)

there's little public data to assess these measures' efficiency or effectiveness.

Besides a weak healthcare system, the high societal tolerance regarding violence against women in some parts of Mali makes matters worse. Many believe that women's suffering is a 'source of blessings' for them and their children, and violence against women is commonplace, even in obstetrics.

For example, deep-seated notions that 'good mothers' endure physical and psychological abuse in silence make C-sections less likely, as they are decried as an easy solution. Women who get C-sections often face social stigma and retaliation.

Institute for Security Studies research shows that some healthcare professionals – men and women alike – deliberately delay assistance to women in labour to prolong this state of suffering, which they consider positive. The time wasted is often the difference between life and death.

Religious precepts that promise heaven to women who die in childbirth compound the problem. They encourage women and families to accept their fates rather than demand better healthcare. And the low average level of education benefits medical staff whose authority families struggle to challenge.

Despite the risks and the weak protections available, maternity remains a social obligation for Malian women. The average fertility rate (6.3 children per woman in 2018) is one of the highest worldwide. Refusing or not being able to give birth is severely sanctioned by a woman's family and society. Wives who don't bear children face disgrace or rejection in a social context where divorce may destroy their social and economic status.

Improving security for all Malians – half of whom are women and girls – requires more than a resolution to the violent conflict. The tide of maternal mortality, which is statistically more lethal, must also be stemmed.

More investments are needed to train professionals in perinatal healthcare and source adequate birthing equipment, including in rural areas. Along with medical protocols, such training must improve the way patients are treated and deconstruct social belief systems that excuse obstetric violence by glorifying women's suffering.

While addressing conflict-related insecurity is urgent, it shouldn't eclipse other sources of avoidable deaths, starting with maternal mortality. Making the country safer must include an unwavering commitment to providing essential social services like quality healthcare. This, too, is a matter of saving lives.

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 310 00--

3 letters ABO, EYE, RTE, DSO, AKA, ORB, RAI,ARK, NEL,
4 letters MUON, SPAM, CEIL, MINE, DUST,
5 letters MAIZE, MINOR, OBAMA, NOISE, CHARD, AIDED RAISE
6 letters HIATUS, NAMELY, RIDE IN,
7 letters GERMANY, EELPOUT, IAMBICS
8 letters ASSISTED, ASEISMIC, EEL GRASS
9 letters DOSSHOUSE

CLUES: Across
 1. founder of Christianity
 2. birth place of Krishna
 3. highest mountain in Africa
 4. plants growing best in a sandy soil
 5. the largest Continent
 7. People who lives permanently abroad
 8. fibre crop in Tanzania/Kenya
 10. used in the ancient Mediterranean World for writing
 15. pear cactus in Mexico
 17. an unstable meson with a mass around 200 times that of the electron

Down:
 1. First President of Kenya
 6. "Man-made moons"
 9. palm tree with creeping roots
 11. known as the white and blue city in Africa
 12. Papal court at the Vatican
 13. a headland in Africa
 14. name for Dutchy girls
 15. largest lake in Ethiopia
 16. Maori oven
 18. realize
 19. Ballroom dance originates in Buenos Aires
 20. people of south central Ghana

WORD-FIT
 M W A N G A G U I B U R U N D I B K E G
 U R E A I R N I U E V O T E E
 S A G G A R A N L S H W G Y R
 E T E W L S O O L I V E R N G O M A G
 T H A L A M U S S F A R R O E
 P N O R W A Y I R L U M U M B A W
 E M E A N R I N D I A M U E
 D U E N D O L A G A N S P O T S A
 U A Z A N N H K A D U Y U T A H
 A N G O L A E G T E A S L Y T A
 E L A R S E S A R N E T O I

CROSSWORD
 B U R U N D I B K E G
 I U E V O T E E
 L S H W G Y R
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 F A R R O E
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 G A N S P O T S A
 H K A D U Y U T A H
 T E A S L Y T A
 S A R N E T O I
 C C L A N P O L L I S

SOLUTIONS:
 1. Jesus Christ
 2. Varanasi
 3. Kilimanjaro
 4. Cacti
 5. Africa
 7. Expats
 8. Cotton
 10. Papyrus
 15. Saguaro
 17. Tau lepton
 1. Uhuru Kenyatta
 6. Moon
 9. Pandanus
 11. Addis Ababa
 12. Apostolic See
 13. Cape of Good Hope
 14. Frisian
 15. Lake Tana
 16. Hāngi
 18. Realise
 19. Tango
 20. Ewe

six preceding years combined. Data from that year reports 946 deaths (of all ages and genders) resulting from political violence, including conflicts, and 4,400 deaths of women during childbirth.

That makes more than 12 maternal deaths per day or 366 per month. To put this number into perspective, Malian women's rights advocates compare it to a plane full of pregnant women, many young or adolescent, crashing every month and going unnoticed.

Mali's healthcare system was fragile before the security crisis, but it's worsened over the past decade. The World Health Organization (WHO) says 116 healthcare centres closed nationwide because of violence. Those that remain open struggle to operate due to a lack of resources and qualified personnel, who armed groups regularly target.

The quantity and quality of healthcare services are insufficient and unevenly spread across the country. WHO tallies 2,571 functional healthcare establishments at the national level, half located in the country's south, mainly around Bamako. The central and northern regions most severely affected by the security crisis are left lacking.

To make matters worse, 33% of so-called functional healthcare centres aren't equipped for prenatal care or delivery. In 2018, there were only 71 obstetrician-gynaecologists to care for nearly four million Malian wom-

en aged 15 to 45. Half of these specialists were located in Bamako and its outskirts, while entire regions in the north and east didn't have even one.

A further challenge is the cost of prenatal care, which is often prohibitive in a country where 47% of the population lives under the poverty line. A 2005 government decision to make Caesarean (C-section) deliveries free was a step in the right direction, but its impact on overall healthcare costs remains limited.

In 2019, the administration announced reforms to provide free healthcare for pregnant women, invest in medical staff and enhance healthcare availability countrywide. This hasn't happened.

Women's economic dependence further aggravates the financial barriers to accessing healthcare. They are traditionally assigned non-paid domestic roles and given little say in family decisions. The latest Demographic and Health Survey shows that only 20% of women participate in decisions on household spending or their own healthcare due to patriarchal power structures.

State authorities acknowledge the issue but struggle to address it. In 2010, a strategic plan to combat malaria was adopted, including specific measures for pregnant women. And a Ten-Year Health and Social Development Plan (2014-2023) aims to reduce mortality rates for mothers and children under five. However,

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00 - 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

NBC Bank opens doors to businesses in Tanzania, SA



NBC Bank Plc managing director Theobald Sabi, right, addresses members of South Africa-Tanzania Business Forum at meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has emphasized its commitment to achieving business prosperity between Tanzania and South Africa through its services, especially in the area of business and agricultural investment.

Bank's managing director Theobald Sabi said this while speaking to members of the South African Business

Forum during a meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said for a long time now the bank has been a major ally of businesses between South Africa and Tanzania and through the meeting he was able to explain the various services offered by the lender to the traders including commercial and agricultural loan services.

"Our role as a financial supporter in the country is to ensure that we provide commercial solutions to our businesses

so that they can conduct their business competitively at home and abroad. We have been providing various services to them including loans, and insurance plus enabling them to make various payments locally and internationally," he mentioned.

South African Business Forum chairman Manish Thakrar said the importance of NBC bank and other financial institutions is especially great at this time when there is a huge increase in trade between Tanzania

and South Africa.

"The challenge of COVID 19, as well as the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, has greatly increased the demand for food products, especially in South Africa. For us that could be a great opportunity. However, the good news is that NBC Bank has put agricultural loans as a matter of priority. The will help us a lot as food products are in high demand in South Africa," he said.

FCC, BRELA, SIDO seal pact to improve investment climate

By Francis Kajubi

THE Fair Competition Commission (FCC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with the Business Registration and Licensing Authority (BRELA) and the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) that among other things it targets enabling small businesses to grow through mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

The MoUs between the entities come after the Minister for Industry, Trade, and Investment Dr Ashatu Kijaji had recently directed authorities under the ministry to collaborate in strengthening the business and investment climate.

Addressing the press on Thursday in Dar es Salaam, FCC Director General William Erio said the MoU with BRELA is of two aspects namely information sharing about mergers and acquisitions by enterprises below the 3.5billion/- threshold and sharing information about licensed trademarks and business names.

According to Erio, there has been a growing tendency of small enterprises to merge, change hands, or full ownership without notifying the FCC though some of which had already met or exceeded the required threshold.

"Information sharing between the two entities will help eliminate cases related to non-notified mergers and acquisitions and infringements or misuse of already registered business names and trademarks;

However, there has been an increment in complaints related to counterfeit and product counterfeiters. Information sharing will therefore enable FCC to have access to all registered businesses and their trademarks at BRELA," asserted Erio.

Speaking of the FCC-SIDO agreement, Erio said that it is intended at sensitizing and encouraging small and medium business owners to register their businesses, and have their prod-

ucts branded with licensed trademarks so that they become competitive with established companies and make their businesses grow.

Godfrey Nyaisa, Chief Executive Officer BRELA, said that the agreement has come at the right time when the government is canvassing for investments' direct impact on the people.

According to him, the MoU will make it easier for the FCC to fulfilling its principal roles of promoting and protecting competition, consumer protection, and fighting counterfeits and counterfeiters.

"This agreement is going to make it easier for the FCC operations as all the information we keep shall be shared with it frequently. We hope that complaints related to counterfeits, non-notified mergers and acquisitions, and forgery of business names and trademarks will be reduced if not eliminated," said Nyaisa.

Sylvester Mpanduji, Director-General SIDO said that through the MoU small industry owners will have a chance of growing as they will be exposed to best practices of doing their businesses.

"The agreement also requires partners to roll out sensitizing campaigns to consumers so that they are aware of critical issues such that identifying counterfeit products, forged trademarks, and business names so that they buy genuine products for their consumption," said Mpanduji.



Information sharing between the two entities will help eliminate cases related to non-notified mergers and acquisitions and infringements or misuse of already registered business names and trademarks

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibiti

SOME sesame growers in Coast Region have asked the government to provide them with agricultural inputs as it is to cashew nuts to increase production.

Speaking here on Thursday farmers said that if they are given subsidies for farm inputs many of them would produce sesame in large quantities and will benefit from the crop.

One of the farmers, Twaha Simba, said that the biggest cost to sesame farming is insecticides that have been going up from time to time, "so if the government helps with inputs it will have helped farmers".

Kibiti Cooperative Union secretary Abdallah Kigumi urged farmers to continue to focus on the better preparation of sesame seeds and ensure they are clean before getting them into the warehouses. "This action will attract local and foreign buyers and reduce unnecessary complaints," Kigumi said.

Coast Region Cooperative Union (CORECU LTD) manager Mantawela Hamisi said sesame prices had been rising in each auction from 2,878/- per kg in the first auction to 3,222/- per kg in the fourth auction.

He added that buyers of sesame seeds have also been increasing from 18 to 23, which encourages farmers to



continue growing their crops.

He said through the auctions, farmers now see the benefits of selling their produce in the form of warehouse receipts where it is different from the previous buyer to buy from a farmer at prices that sometimes oppressed the farmer.

The crop is extremely important in Coast Region and the southern regions

of Mtwara and Lindi.

According to the most recent research from 2010, 44,000 families grew sesame in Lindi and the neighboring region of Mtwara, about 12 percent of all agricultural households.

Tanzania is Africa's largest producer of sesame seeds and one of the continent's largest exporters, according to

the latest available data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Today, world demand for sesame seeds is on the rise and the market is growing in Tanzania.

In 2016, there was a big push from domestic exporters to get more farmers to grow sesame

Foreign ministers discuss post-Covid-19 recovery, sustainable development

By James Karuhanga

COMMONWEALTH foreign ministers on Thursday met face-to-face for the first time in almost three years, ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), in Kigali.

The meeting allowed ministers the opportunity to hold formal discussions on the CHOGM theme, Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming, focusing on three topical issues.

Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC,

said: "It is a source of great joy that we are finally back together, in person, at CHOGM - after so many years of change and challenge, and so much detailed planning.

"Since CHOGM 2018 in London, we have worked intensively to help member countries... responding to their needs, priorities and requests. We have blended our technical assistance with advocacy at the highest levels of the international system.

"This week, here in Kigali, we have a precious opportunity. To come closer together, once again, in spirit as well as

in person. In a changing world, we need unity and purpose, drawn deep from the wells of Commonwealth history, values and potential, to achieve our shared goals and realise our potential."

Ministers discussed new and evolving challenges to ensuring peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, and how the Commonwealth is addressing these challenges now and in the future.

They also considered multifaceted issues relating to sustainable and inclusive development such as climate change, the environment and oceans, sustainable energy, youth and innova-

tion. They discussed how member states should address these complex issues, with a special focus on the needs of small states and least developed countries.

The Ministers also examined the severe consequences of the pandemic on public health systems, trade, and connectivity, and how governments can build back better systems capable of handling future crises.

Ministers heard how the Commonwealth can strengthen health security and resilience, support trading systems and small states, and harness other op-

portunities for a sustainable and inclusive post-Covid-19 recovery.

The Ministers had the opportunity to hear from the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who presented their organisations' perspectives and offered ideas for greater inter-organisational collaboration to tackle these matters.

The meeting outcomes will inform the policy agenda for the gathering of heads of government at CHOGM, scheduled to open on Friday, June 24.



Since CHOGM 2018 in London, we have worked intensively to help member countries... responding to their needs, priorities and requests.

Africa must end foreign food, medical dependence - AfDB president

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

THE African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina has called on governments in Africa to wean the continent off dependence on food and medicine imports.

Speaking in Kigali, on the sidelines of a meeting of Commonwealth leaders Adesina said that AfDB has approved the creation of a pharmaceutical tech foundation and began processing requests for food relief.

Africa was hit hard by the economic fallout from the coronavirus (COVID-19)

pandemic.

Now, as many countries are still struggling to rebound, they are facing rising inflation and food shortages aggravated by the war in Ukraine.

"Africa should not allow itself to be vulnerable in excessively depending on others, whether it is for vaccines or whether it is for food," said Adesina.

"The fact is that when you are dependent on others, you are also very highly vulnerable to any shock of any kind."

The bank last month approved a 1.5 billion dollars financing facility for emergency food production, with the aim of averting a looming food crisis. The funds

are meant to help 20 million farmers produce 38 million tonnes of food.

Adesina said the bank had already received requests from countries to draw on the fund. "Once those things come to our board, they are swiftly reviewed and approved, and the money is out at the door," he said.

Meanwhile, the AfDB's board this week approved the creation of a new Africa Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation. Adesina said the foundation would allow Africa to leverage intellectual property rights, protected technologies, and innovations to expand Africa's pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing sectors.



AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina

TNM organises dance festival for Population and Housing Census

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE Tanzania National Museum (TNM) is scheduled to organize a dancing festival as part of a campaign to inspire citizens towards Population and Housing Census (PHC) to be held countrywide in August this year.

The festival incites citizens to be counted for the national development, will be performed under the program of Museum Art Explosion on 24th June at the House of Culture located along Shaban Robert Street in Dar es Salaam city.

TNM's Coordinator Edga Chatanda said that the main purpose of organizing such an event is to remind Tanzanians to par-

ticipate in the exercise, the importance, and its value for national development.

Chatanda said the four-hour celebrity will be graced by two traditional dancing groups namely Mlonge and Righters Theatres both are based in Dar es Salaam. The groups will engage in innovative local traditional and contemporary dancing to pass across the message.

When asked if such occasions are still restricted with the number of participants according to the directives earlier issued by the Ministry of health a year ago as part to curb the Covid-19 spread, he said that since the ceremony will be held inside the hall, wearing of masks is an important aspect deemed to fight the pandemic as the

number of invited guests would not be limited to allow social distancing.

Museum Art Explosion is among the most valuable programs initiated by TNM with the aim of educating youths on cultural issues and are involved together with other activities such as traditional dance, music, drama, acrobat, and exhibition.

Other activities conducted under the program include art paintings and students' learning about the exhibition on natural resources, performances, and many other historical matters.

The National Museum and House of Culture in Tanzania are the first, largest, and oldest of all museums in the country which has inherited and preserved the

collections of ancient discoveries and other resources from King George V Museum of England since 1940.

The three-acre ground size of the ground area currently hosts four in-door permanent exhibitions and manages six storage rooms for rock art, archaeology, and human evolution, biology, ethnography, history, and paleontology collections as well as a strong room for an important national treasure.

Within the compound, there are also outdoor permanent exhibition galleries whereby aquarium, trees, and butterflies catch gardens and historical State cars are preserved for people to visit.

Coffee helps to restore Mozambique's rain forest

By Special Correspondent

IN Gorongosa, at the southern end of the Great African Rift Valley in the heart of central Mozambique these women are not heading to a common plantation. They are coffee pickers.

The once foreign crop now grows in the midst of this rainy forest reversing the degradation of ecosystems.

"The relationship between the indigenous plants and the coffee is that coffee does grow very well in the shade and the community has destroyed this Gorongosa mountain, so we have put in an objective to reforest it, Julias Sabao, a project supervisor for the Gorongosa National Park, says. So, with the coffee we are very successful here bringing back the Gorongosa forest."

Sabao discovered coffee during his refugee years in Zimbabwe. At the end of the war in Mozambique, he brought that knowledge back with him to help restore the mountain. Clearcutting had exposed the mountainous soil and parched it, leaving only shrubs and grasses. Now, for every coffee plant, a tree is planted to bring the needed shade to grow.

"Before all this area was dead, Sabao says pointing at the soil. no trees, no nothing was here. Now if you look you see big trees coming back so there's a very big difference, which means we are successful in our project for reforestation."

Local communities picked up the new ways of farming. Since coffee plants take several years to become productive, the reforestation programme provides for locals to grow other food crops to order to support themselves. For Sofia Molina, a manager of 'Natural products of Gargonza', this condition was essential:

"We interest the communities around the mountains of Gargonza in reforestation through additional income, creating additional income through coffee but also intercropping with other cultures while the coffee is growing."

The World Bank says Gorongosa now has some 300,000 coffee plants as well as 400,000 cashew trees, 400 beehives and 300 new jobs.

Gorongosa coffee is exported around the world, with profits ploughed back into the plantation.

One coffee plant at a time, the rain forest is becoming verdant again.



Zimbabwe eyes readmission into Commonwealth at Kigali meeting

KIGALI

ZIMBABWE, which has applied to be readmitted into the Commonwealth, has a strong presence at the ongoing Commonwealth meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

Ministers from Zimbabwe, business leaders, students, and members of civil society are in Kigali attending commonwealth forums.

Zimbabwe is eager to be readmitted into the group as part of its re-engagement drive after it withdrew in 2003, following a stormy diplomatic relationship with Britain.

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa wants his country readmitted into the Commonwealth. On 15 May 2018, Mnangagwa submitted an application to rejoin the club of 54

countries from different continents.

Zimbabwean Ambassador to Rwanda Charity Manyeruke, who is attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, welcomed as "a positive development" the extension of an invitation to her country to attend the Kigali gathering.

"Zimbabwe is excited to be participating in Commonwealth forums as this presents opportunities to network with the international community taking into account the government of Zimbabwe's policy of engagement and reengagement," Manyeruke said.

"The commonwealth meeting in Kigali has provided opportunities for our Zimbabwean diaspora across the globe who are participating as panelists, facilitators, and as delegates in the forums."

Added Manyeruke: "I have met with the Zimbabwean Diaspora, media, private sector, academia, civil society, those in finance and banking, arts and students. They have had an opportunity to engage."

Zimbabwe's women affairs minister Stembiso Nyoni attended the Commonwealth Women Forum while foreign affairs deputy minister David Musabayana and tourism and hospitality deputy minister, Barbara Rwordzi, are in attending the Commonwealth Business Forum which was officially opened by President Paul Kagame on Tuesday, June 21.

The Zimbabwe Embassy is also exhibiting at the high Commission square where it is showcasing products made in Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe Investment and de-

velopment agency acting CEO Duduzile Shinya said: "We appreciate being invited to the Commonwealth Business Forum. It has given us an opportunity to network with our peers and potential investors. It has also given us the opportunity to present the attributes of Zimbabwe as well as the opportunities in our own country."

Zimbabwe's export promotion body, Zimtrade is also in attendance.

The southern African country will be looking at friendly member countries, especially Rwanda, to support its efforts to be readmitted.

The country's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, David Musabayana said Zimbabwe's new thrust was focused more on economic diplomacy ahead of politics.

Musabayana said: "We are humbled

to be invited to attend as observers. We have been engaged on various forums where we are networking. There is a lot of interest in Zimbabwe from Commonwealth member countries who are keen to do business and invest in Zimbabwe."

He said the process for Zimbabwe's bid to be readmitted into the Commonwealth was going well and that he held engagements with the chairperson of the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, Lord Marland of Odstock on the sidelines of the ongoing Commonwealth Business Forum.

When Zimbabwe applied for readmission, Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: "Zimbabwe's eventual return to the Commonwealth, following a successful membership application, would

be a momentous occasion, given our shared rich history."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was then the Foreign Secretary tweeted saying: "Fantastic news that Zimbabwe ... wishes to rejoin the Commonwealth."

To re-join, Zimbabwe must demonstrate that it complies with the fundamental values set out in the Commonwealth Charter, including democracy and rule of law plus protection of human rights such as freedom of expression.

The membership process requires an informal assessment to be undertaken by representatives of the Secretary-General, followed by consultations with other Commonwealth countries.

ETS plays key role in boosting TRA's revenue collection process

By Guardian Reporter

DURING the 2021/22 fiscal year as of May, 2022, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) had managed to collect 19,966trn/- from the targeted 20,41trn/- as the Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) system played a key contribution in the revenue collection process.

Innocent Minja, TRA's ETS Project Manager told The Guardian earlier this week that the revenue collections are equivalent to 98 percent of the anticipated target.

"The contribution of the products which are using the ETS system in tax collected over the same period such as excise duty and VAT from those products of cigarettes, alcohols (beer, wines, and spirits; non alcohols—soda, juices and bottled water, which are locally manufactured stood at 1.09trn/- contributing 9.2 percent of the total tax collected domestically," said Minja.

According to him, TRA is confident that the ETS system has helped in safeguarding the government's revenue by ensuring that there is full utilization of modern technologies in obtaining real time production data from the manufacturers.

He asserted that since the country's economy is recovering from the COVID 19 pandemic impacts, TRA is confident that the ETS will play a major role in increasing significantly revenue collections during the 2022/23 financial year.

Minja noted that success stories that came with the ETS system did not come from the blues but from well-designed plans.

TRA had launched an awareness campaign during this ending financial year where TRA staff, manufacturers, importers and clearing and forwarding agents was educated on how the ETS system works.

However, he said, the awareness campaign was extended to the public, where the public



is sensitized on the use of the public mobile app commonly known by a Swahili name-HAKIKI STEMPU.

"Through the app taxpayers can verify the validity of the stamp affixed on the package of a product and can as well report if the stamp is not genuine or if the product's information does not match with the product he had paid for," said Minja.

Commenting on complaints that came with the system, Minja said most of which came from manufacturers, but are being

worked out by TRA in collaboration with the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

"Manufacturers had pleaded for the reduction in the operation costs. TRA had in January 2022 reduced the stamps by 12 percent. However, TRA announced a new tender for service providers to bid;

The aim is obtaining a new service provider who will offer the ETS at low cost as claimed by manufacturers. The procurement processes are ongoing," he asserted.

The Electronic Tax Stamp (ETS) system was rolled out in January 2019, with the aim of safeguarding the government's revenue by ensuring that there is a use of modern technology to obtain production data on a timely basis (real time) from the manufacturers.

This comes because of the Excise Duty, which is levied upon production of specific goods, therefore knowing the actual production is reasonable.

In that case, Minja said the introduction of the ETS came with high technology security features which

simplified the coordination of taxpayers and created transparency in assessing taxes especially Excise Duty, Value Added Tax (VAT) and Corporate Tax.

In another development, government has realized sub-standard Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) receipt papers that allow printing on the receipts fade very fast.

Deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Hamad Hassan Chande told the August House recently that the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has strengthened its system in effort to curb the problem.

Chande was responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Angelina Malembeka (CCM), who asked: "What is the government doing in effort to ensure that EFD receipts' printings do not fade away within a short time?"

In response, the deputy minister said the problem is caused by use of sub-standard printing papers and not the required thermal paper.

He explained that after realizing the challenge, both Tanzania Bureau

of Standards (TBS) and TRA have collaboratively come up with the required standard of people to be used.

"The two institutions are closely monitoring the type of printing papers on use to ensure the quality of the document," said Chande.

The deputy minister in addition said TRA has improved its EFD monitoring system, enabling to get information of every receipt printed and a copy is saved in the revenue authority's server. He said a copy can be obtained at any time when need be.

In Mainland Tanzania, suppliers of goods and services whose annual turnover is 14m/- or more are required to issue receipts (or invoices) through Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs), known as fiscalised receipts (or fiscalised invoices).

The Value Added Tax Act 2014 also requires VAT registered persons wishing to claim input value added tax (VAT) on their local purchases to be in possession of fiscalised invoices/receipts at the time of recording these claims in the VAT returns.

C'wealth: Youth tasked to underscore innovation for collective sustainability

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

YOUTH today have proven to be an indispensable asset. They have chosen to be at the helm of so many aspects for development. From championing gender equality, human rights, climate change among others, their efforts have proven that when young people are empowered, development results advance.

Among issues discussed at the third plenary of the Commonwealth Youth Forum on June 20, 'Youth Championing Innovation for Transformation and Development' was key, where different young activists underscored the need for innovation, especially among youth, for development.

Rianna Paterson, a multi-award winning global TEDx speaker, change maker and founder of the Dementia Foundation said that everyone, including youth, have a duty to make this world liveable for all.

She tasked youth to always consider the bigger picture when building projects, "they should build them for all people, for young people, and for future generations."

With her initiative, Paterson decided to champion innovation for development by creating a community of dementia advocates to channel and change the narrative for good, by providing enough information on what dementia is and what support to give to a person with it, after her grandfather passed away from the disease.

"My grandfather passed away from dementia when I was sixteen, he was my friend in all and it was quite hard to see him deteriorate quickly. When he started losing memory, I decided to turn to google on how to

take care of a person with dementia. I started bringing pictures to make him remember and eventually, he did, most of the time people with dementia are characterised with suffering, vulnerability, and fragility. We need to change the narrative."

Sharonice Busch, a pan-African youth union vice president and National Youth Council of Namibia, emphasised the power of consistency and why youth should work together to respond to the challenges that they face.

With her life as a young girl raised by a single mother and growing up in an underprivileged home, Busch decided to use her story to advocate for issues that youth face like unemployment, re-integration of teen mothers back to school, and changing the narrative around public schools.

"We are ordinary youth doing extraordinary things. But we need to be coordinated and better organised as young people. To governments, the best investment you can make is in the youth," she said.

Shomy Chowdhury, a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activist from Bangla-

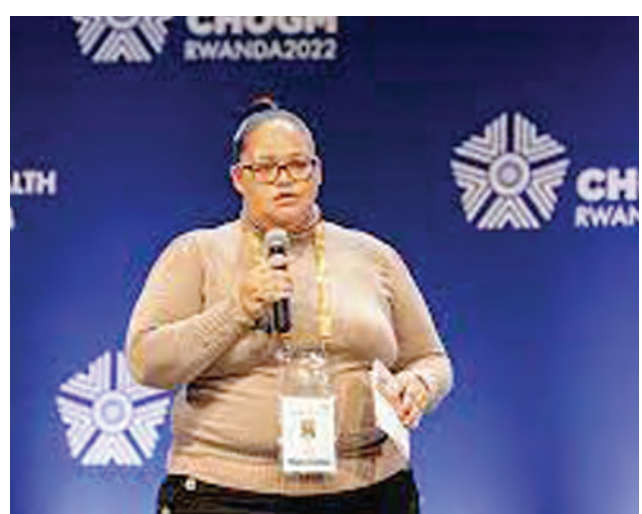
desh, urged youth to understand that there are so many different ways to address challenges especially by leveraging technology and innovation; however reflection on challenges happening in communities can be a source for innovation.

She shared that her passion to advocate for water sanitation and hygiene came from losing her mother to poor hygiene.

"When I lost my mother to diarrhoea, I decided to take action. I knew I had to do something not only for me, but for the entire community. I knew I had the knowledge to address this, but what about the ones in the communities that didn't have access to education and awareness," she said.

Although she couldn't save her mother, Chowdhury vowed to save other people by creating a platform that would spread awareness and avail necessary tools to deal with sanitation.

She reminded the youth to look out for potential partners and collaborations for them to be efficient in the way they execute their plans and innovations.



Sharonice Busch, a pan-African youth union vice president and National Youth Council of Namibia speaks at the Youth Forum on June 20.



ITV	9:30	23:00	17:00	16:30
SATURDAY 25 June	Soap: Uzalo	Habari	The Base	Igizo: Rebecca
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	Habari za saa	The Base	Jiji Letu	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
6:00 HABARI	Watoto wetu	00:30 Al Jazeera	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
6:40 Kumekucha	Habari za saa	02:00 DWTW	18:15 Jagina	18:15 Korean: Jumong
7:00 Habari	11:00 ITV Top Ten	WEDNESDAY 29 June	18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Brela	19:00 Jungu Kuu
8:00 Al Jazeera	Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:00 Usafiri wako	19:30 Shika Bamba
9:00 Watoto wetu	11:55 Habari za saa	6:00 HABARI	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	20:00 Habari
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: NSSF	6:40 Kumekucha	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	12:40 Mjue Zaidi	7:30 HABARI	21:05 Malumbano ya hoja	21:15 Igizo: Rebecca
11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	23:00 Habari	21:40 Art and Lifestyle
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	8:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base	22:10 ITV TOP 10
12:40 Usafiri Wako rpt	13:30 Art and Lifestyle rpt	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	00:30 Al Jazeera	22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:10 Korean: Jumong rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	02:00 DWTW	23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
13:50 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt	14:00 Soap rpt: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	FRIDAY 1 July	01:15 DWTW
16:10 Igizo: Mizengwe	14:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	SUNDAY 3 July
16:30 Igizo: Rebecca	15:00 Meza Huru	10:25 Uchumi wetu	6:00 HABARI	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	16:30 Watoto Wetu	10:55 Habari za saa	6:40 Kumekucha	6:00 HABARI
18:00 Jiji Letu	17:00 The Base	11:00 The Base rpt	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	6:40 Kumekucha
18:15 Korean: Jumong	Jiji Letu	11:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	7:00 Habari
19:00 Jungu Kuu	18:10 Albu yako rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	8:00 Al Jazeera
19:30 Shika Bamba	Mapishi	12:30 Igizo rpt: Rebecca	9:55 Habari za saa	09:00 Watoto Wetu
20:00 Habari	18:30 DWTW: Kesho leo	12:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	19:00 Aya ya Jamii	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	10:30 Usafiri wako	11:45 Mjue Zaidi rpt
21:15 Igizo: Rebecca	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	13:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Filler: Mizengwe
21:40 Art and Lifestyle	20:00 Habari	14:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Watumishi Housing	11:00 The Base rpt	12:50 Bongo Movie rpt
22:10 ITV TOP 10	21:05 Dakika 45	14:15 Soap: I Plead Guilty	11:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	22:00 Bundesliga na DW	14:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	15:30 Mwangaza
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt	22:15 Soap: I Plead Guilty	15:00 Meza huru	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	16:30 ITV Top 10
01:15 DWTW	23:00 Habari	16:30 Watoto Wetu	12:55 Habari za saa	17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo
SUNDAY 26 June	23:30 The Base	17:00 The Base	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba rpt	18:00 Jiji Letu
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	00:30 Al Jazeera	18:00 Jiji Letu	13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	18:15 Mapishi
6:00 HABARI	DWTW	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	18:30 Matukio ya wiki
6:40 Kumekucha	TUESDAY 28 June	Jarida la wanawake	14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ	18:50 Mapishi
7:00 Habari	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	14:30 Igizo rpt: Rebecca	19:30 Igizo: Rebecca
8:00 Al Jazeera	6:00 HABARI	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	14:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari
9:00 Watoto Wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	20:00 Habari	15:00 Meza Huru	21:05 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology
10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt	7:30 HABARI	21:05 Abu Yako	16:30 Watoto Wetu	21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
11:45 Mjue Zaidi rpt	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	21:30 Mjue Zaidi
12:30 Filler: Mizengwe	8:55 Habari za saa	21:40 Ripoti Maalum	17:30 Kiziam	22:15 Bongo movie:
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	22:15 Soap: I Plead Guilty	18:00 Jiji Letu	23:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe	02:05 Al Jazeera
16:30 Mwangaza	10:00 Watoto wetu	23:30 The Base	18:30 Uchumi wetu	CAPITAL
16:30 ITV Top 10	10:25 Jagina rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	19:00 Shamba lulu	Sat 25 June
17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo	10:55 Habari za saa	02:00 DWTW	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	08:00 Al Jazeera
18:00 Jiji Letu	11:00 The Base rpt	THURSDAY 30 June	20:00 Habari	09:00 Rev rpt
18:15 Mapishi	11:55 Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:05 Kipima Joto	09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
18:30 Matukio ya wiki	12:00 Al Jazeera	6:00 HABARI	23:00 Habari	10:00 Culinary delight rpt
19:30 Igizo: Rebecca	12:30 Aya ya jamii	6:40 Kumekucha	23:30 The Base	10:30 Innovation rpt
20:00 Habari	12:55 Habari za saa	7:00 HABARI	00:30 Al Jazeera	11:00 Out n'about rpt
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko	13:00 Ripoti Maalum	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	02:00 DWTW	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Reflexology	13:30 Shikabamba	8:55 Habari za saa	FRIDAY 2 July	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
21:20 Kipindi maalum: Ruge Foundation Launch	13:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:30 Our Earth rpt
22:20 Bongo movie:	14:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty	9:55 Habari za saa	6:00 HABARI	13:00 Business edition rpt
23:30 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt	14:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Hwarang
02:05 Al Jazeera	15:00 Meza Huru	10:30 Shamba lulu	7:00 Habari	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Laws of love
MONDAY 27 June	16:30 Watoto wetu	10:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	17:15 EcoAfrica
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	17:00 The Base	11:00 The base	9:00 Watoto wetu	17:45 Bundesliga kick off
6:00 HABARI	Jiji Letu	11:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	18:15 Capchat rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	18:15 Bundesliga na DW rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	19:15 Mizengwe
7:30 HABARI	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Sema na Mahakama ya TZ - Live	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt	19:30 The Decor
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	12:55 Habari za saa	11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo	20:00 Korean Drama: Hwarang
8:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	12:40 Usafiri Wako rpt	21:00 Out n'About
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba	13:30 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	13:10 Korean: Jumong rpt	21:30 Music : Club 101 rpt
MONDAY 27 June	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF	14:00 Soap: I Plead Guilty	13:50 Soap: I Plead Guilty rpt	23:00 Series rpt: Lake Hill
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:40 Chetu ni chetu	15:00 Meza Huru	16:10 Igizo: Mizengwe	01:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 HABARI	22:20 Soap: I Plead Guilty	16:30 Watoto Wetu		

WORLD

Pressure mounts on UK PM Johnson after crushing election defeats

LONDON

BORIS Johnson's Conservatives lost two parliamentary seats yesterday, a crushing blow to the governing party that prompted the resignation of the party's chairman and intensified doubts about the future of Britain's prime minister.

In Rwanda for a meeting of Commonwealth nations, Johnson was defiant, pledging to listen to voters' concerns and do more to tackle a cost-of-living crisis after what he described as "tough" results in the two so-called by-elections.

The losses - one in the Conservatives' traditional southern heartlands and in a northern England seat won from Labor in the last election - suggest the electoral coalition Johnson brought together at the 2019 national election may be fracturing.

The transformation of Johnson from vote winner to electoral liability may prompt lawmakers to move against him again after months of scandal over COVID-19 lockdown parties at a time when millions are struggling with rising food and fuel prices.

Johnson has resisted intense pressure to resign after he was fined for breaking lockdown rules at his Downing Street office.

This month he survived a vote of confidence by Conservative lawmakers,

though 41% of his parliamentary colleagues voted to oust him, and he is under investigation by a committee over whether he intentionally misled parliament.

"It's absolutely true we've had some tough by-election results... I think as a government I've got to listen to what people are saying," Johnson told broadcasters in Kigali after the results.

"We've got to recognise there is more we've got to do ... we will keep going addressing the concerns of people until we get through this patch."

Following the losses in Tiverton and Honiton in southwest England, and Wakefield in the north, Conservative Party Chairman Oliver Dowden resigned in a carefully worded letter that hinted he believed Johnson should take responsibility for the election defeats.

"Yesterday's parliamentary by-elections are the latest in a run of very poor results for our party. Our supporters are distressed and disappointed by recent events, and I share their feelings," Dowden said in a resignation letter to Johnson.

"We cannot carry on with business as usual. Somebody must take responsibility and I have concluded that, in these circumstances, it would not be right for me to remain in office," added Dowden, a long-time ally of Johnson.

Several Conservative lawmakers



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivers a speech at the Business Forum in Kigali on Thursday, during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. AP

tweeted support for Dowden, saying he was not to blame for the results in messages that suggested resurgent dissent against Johnson's leadership.

Although under his party's rules Johnson cannot face another confidence motion for a year, lawmakers fearing for their own futures may decide to reduce the grace period to bring about a second vote.

However, that might take time. It would entail changes to the committee that represents Conservative lawmakers who do not have government jobs.

A wave of resignations from Johnson's cabinet team of top ministers could also be another route for the prime minister to be forced out before the next national election, scheduled to be held in 2024. It could be called earlier.

'Go now'

The Conservatives lost a large majority of more than 24,000 votes in Tiverton and Honiton, in a deeply Conservative part of southwest England, defeated by the centrist Liberal Democrats who secured a majority of more than 6,000.

The Liberal Democrats said the size of the victory suggested that other Conservative lawmakers may be at risk of losing their seats

in the party's southern heartlands.

"If Conservative MPs don't wake up, I think at the next election, the voters will send them packing," the Liberal Democrats' leader, Ed Davey, said.

Winning LibDem candidate Richard Foord said in his victory speech that Johnson should "go, and go now".

In the separate parliamentary seat of Wakefield in northern England, the main opposition Labor party also defeated the Conservatives.

"Wakefield has shown the country has lost confidence in the Tories. This result is a clear judgment on a Conservative Party that has run out of energy and ideas," Labor leader Keir Starmer said in a statement.

Johnson led the Conservatives to their biggest majority in three decades at the 2019 national election, winning praise from his party for his ability to win in traditionally Labor-voting areas in north and central England.

But the loss of Wakefield could indicate that his ability to win again in these areas at the next national election has been compromised.

The by-elections were triggered by high-profile resignations of Conservative lawmakers - one who admitted watching pornography in parliament, and another found guilty of sexually assaulting a teenage boy. **Agencies**

Kremlin spokesman dismisses as absurd PACE's charges over MH17 disaster

MOSCOW

THE Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is not a judicial authority and this is what makes absurd the conclusions contained in the PACE resolution regarding the MH17 disaster and the charges against Russia, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

"The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, if we understand it correctly, does not belong to the judicial branch of power. Accordingly, it can hardly pass any guilty verdicts against anyone. This is what makes such resolutions absurd," Peskov said.

Earlier, the PACE passed a resolution concerning the 2014 MH17 disaster over eastern Ukraine to blame the loss of Malaysia's passenger liner on Russia.

A passenger Boeing-777 of Malaysia Airlines (flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala-Lumpur) was shot down over Donbass on July 17, 2014. All 298 people on board - citizens of ten countries - died. **Agencies**

G20 aims to collect 1.5 billion USD to prevent, prepare for future pandemics

JAKARTA

THE Group of 20 (G20) expects to collect no less than 1.5 billion U.S. dollars by the end of this year to build infrastructures to prevent and prepare for potential pandemics in the future, said Budi Gunadi Sadikin, health minister of Indonesia and the current G20 host, on Thursday.

The commitment to establishing the fund, called the Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF), was agreed upon by the health ministers of G20 members, along with the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO), at the first Health Ministerial Meeting (HWG) held on June 20 to 21 in Indonesia's Yogyakarta.

Sadikin told a Thursday press briefing that as of now, several countries and a few charity foundations had pledged to donate a total of 1.1 billion dollars.

The fund will be housed by the World Bank, while the WHO will advise the implementation and allocation of the money.

Sadikin elaborated several allocation plans for the fund, including building and improving access to emergency medical countermeasures, establishing a global network of genomic surveillance labs, and building global research and manufacturing hubs.

Sadikin said the money will be used to produce emergency tools needed for timely and equitable responses to future pandemics, including vaccines, therapeutics, medicines, personal protective equipment (PPE), and testing kits, that will be equally distributed to all countries once another pandemic strikes.

The minister said the G20 members agreed that they needed some connected sequence laboratories to identify and share genome sequence data from pathogens that can cause outbreaks.

"By having such connected labs we can anticipate or overcome an outbreak better. We will be able to get information faster with stronger data sharing mechanisms, then diagnose faster, then we can produce vaccines faster."

The minister said the G20 forum agreed to build several additional global research and manufacturing hubs in Southern countries for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Most of the countries in the Global South are underdeveloped and developing countries, which faced more difficulties in facing the pandemic and obtaining access to vaccines.

Sadikin said that the ideal countries to build the hubs were those with large populations. "So, the Global South countries can develop and supply vaccines to their populations in a more timely and equitable way."

Local media reported that WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus directly attended the HWG, and he estimated that the financial need for strengthening global health security reached 31 billion dollars per year.

"WHO and the World Bank have estimated that we need 31 billion dollars every year to strengthen global health security."

Two-thirds of that amount could come from existing resources, but that leaves a gap of 10 billion per year," he said.

Ghebreyesus suggested that the FIF be supervised by a council and an advisory panel that would be supported by the joint Secretariat of the World Bank and WHO, which is based in Washington. **Agencies**

Rwanda hosts Commonwealth summit amid rights concerns

KIGALI

COMMONWEALTH leaders met in Kigali yesterday to discuss cooperation on topics from trade to health to climate, against a backdrop of criticism of the host Rwanda's human rights record and of a British policy to deport asylum seekers there.

The Commonwealth, a club of 54 countries most of which are former British colonies, encompasses about a third of humanity and presents itself as a network of equal partners with shared goals such as democracy, peace and prosperity.

"The fact of holding this meeting in Rwanda, a new member with no historical connection to the British Empire, expresses our choice to continue reimagining the Commonwealth for a changing world," Rwandan President Paul Kagame said in a speech at the opening ceremony.

Rwanda joined in 2009.

The opening ceremony was attended by 29 heads of state and

government. The other member states, including South Africa, India, Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand, sent delegations led by ministers or diplomats.

Britain's Prince Charles was there, representing his 96-year-old mother Queen Elizabeth who is the head of the Commonwealth. Charles is due to succeed her, a plan being questioned by some Caribbean members.

The leaders will hold two days of talks behind closed doors.

Human rights

One item on the agenda will be applications by former French colonies Togo and Gabon to join the Commonwealth, a sign of disenchantment within France's sphere of influence in Africa and of the attractions of an English-speaking club.

The theme of the summit, "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming", offered few clues as to what outcomes were expected.

At previous summits, leaders



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson reacts as he walks on stage to take his seat during the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting yesterday in Kigali, Rwanda. AP

have agreed on declarations and targets on specific challenges such as malaria, and some of the richer members have pledged funding for specific initiatives.

Earlier this month, 24 civil society groups including Human Rights Watch said the Commonwealth's human rights mandate would be undermined if leaders

failed to challenge Rwanda on its record.

They said the Rwandan government was responsible for abusive prosecutions, harassment and torture of dissidents, which Rwanda denies.

The hosting of the summit by Rwanda has also kept the spotlight on Britain's controversial

policy to deport asylum seekers to the country.

Prince Charles was reported by British media to have described it as "appalling", an uneasy backdrop to his interactions with Kagame and with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the summit.

Johnson, asked by Reuters on Thursday if he would visit detention centers prepared by the Rwandan authorities to receive asylum seekers from Britain, said he was working "flat out" and would not be able to.



The fact of holding this meeting in Rwanda, a new member with no historical connection to the British Empire, expresses our choice to continue

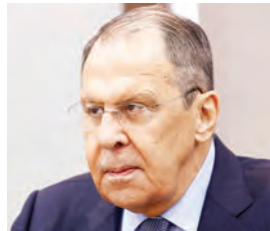
Granting EU candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova does not pose risks for Russia - Lavrov

BAKU

RUSSIA sees no risks for itself in the fact that Ukraine and Moldova have been granted EU candidate status, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a press conference following talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov yesterday in

Baku.

"Our position has always been that the European Union is not a political bloc, unlike NATO. The development of its relations with any countries that wish to do so does not create any threats and risks for us," Lavrov said in reply to a corresponding question.



"Of course, we will realistically consider the European Union's behavior and monitor the real steps it takes and how

the candidate countries act: whether they comply with these requirements or still try to show their independence," the minister added.

On Thursday, the heads of state of the EU member states at a summit in Brussels approved granting Ukraine and Moldova the status of candidates to join the bloc.

Gun lobby, interest-oriented market behind US gun violence

BEIJING

ONCE again, the recent fatal shootings across the United States, including mass ones, have pit advocates for a tightened gun market against those who lobby for and gain from gun sales.

International media and observers have repeatedly warned of the danger of a loose gun market, but see the issue a standstill, as it has deeply entrenched social cause besides bipartisan tensions.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the loopholes and scrappy data of the National Instant Background Check System, which is meant to guarantee gun buyers have clean slates, may partially

fail such an aim.

The system "operates with serious built-in limitations inserted by the gun lobby, which pushed to speed up gun sales - inserting a provision that allows gun dealers to give purchasers their weapons if an investigation is not completed within three business days," said the report.

The gun lobby in the United States is too strong, and politicians are too weak, observed the British Medical Journal in an opinion piece earlier this month, noting that prices for major gun-related stocks rose the day after the Uvalde shooting at an elementary school killing

19 children and two teachers on May 25.

U.S. lawmakers serve as mouthpieces for powerful interest groups, which have earned considerable profits from gun sales, Ezzat Saad, director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, told Xinhua, blaming U.S. legislative bodies for aggravating mass shootings.

For instance, Saad said there are lawmakers who, instead of calling for stricter laws to curb the arms trade inside the country, suggest more investment in psychological therapy, touting it as a way to decrease mass shootings.

Deepanshu Mohan, associate professor of economics at O.P. Jindal Global

University in India, said the U.S. gun industry is guided by "the compulsions of less-regulated market forces."

That can be traced back to the late 20th century, when the U.S. economy "was built around an industrialised, mass-scaling model of weaponizing itself and other nations while designing tools of finance to profit from war," he said.

For a long time, the U.S. market has been "based more on maximising self-interest while less on the consequences, ethics or morals of resulting actions," and Mohan argued that the value of human life and ethical considerations in economic and social policy-making are

needed for change.

"More guns lead to more violence," Amanda Marcotte, a senior politics writer said in an article published on the website of U.S. news portal Salon, adding that research showed that was especially true of the gun buying surge during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, as the percentage of newly purchased guns being used in crime climbed.

The surge was due to decades of propaganda leading people to think they needed guns to be "safe," Marcotte said.

"So this vicious cycle is perpetuated. People buy guns, which leads to more gun violence, which leads to more gun

sales, and so on and so forth," said Marcotte.

"It's another reminder that as long as our country is awash in guns, shootings can happen anywhere, anytime," California Senator Scott Wiener said following a shooting on Wednesday, which killed one and injured another inside a train in San Francisco.

The United States accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population, but owns 46 percent of the world's existing firearms, the Spanish daily El Pais has reported, saying the problem "fuels divisions and political polarization."

Xinhua

'Russia full of determination over Kaliningrad situation'

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is full of determination over the transport blockade of Kaliningrad, but will not rush to make decisions, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has told TASS.

"No need to rush here, but, at the same time, we have been full of determination," he said, commenting on the situation. "It will take some time before certain decisions are made."

Russia is absolutely right in the Kaliningrad issue, the country is analyzing the situation and delivering its position regarding the transit blockade of the enclave to its opponents, he said.

"We are analyzing this situation in a most serious way. Via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are delivering our [position] to our opponents," he said. "In this situation, we are absolutely right."

"Regrettably, they are not our partners any longer, they are our opponents now," he added.

When asked whether any retaliatory measures should be expected after the report by Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev to Russian President Vladimir Putin, the official replied: "We need some time to analyze the situation." "I believe our opponents need it as well," he added.

The Kremlin does not rule out the possibility of Lithuania lifting its restrictions on transit to Russia's Baltic enclave, but is preparing for the worse, he said.

"Let us not rule out anything. Let us hope for the better and prepare for the worse. And this is exactly what we are doing now," he said.

Lithuania imposed restrictions on the rail transit of some goods from Russia to the region from June 18 due to EU sanctions. Kaliningrad later confirmed that restrictions also applied to truck freight.

Russia says the move is illegitimate as it violates the agreements the country committed to when joining the EU. Vilnius and the European Union insist they are only enforcing the sanctions regime.

Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev visited the Kaliningrad Region on June 21. The visit was planned well in advance, but the transport blockade was among issues discussed at a national security meeting with his attendance. According to earlier reports, Patrushev will make a report to Putin about the outcome of his visit.

CEDAW experts commend King Mohammed VI for his actions in favour of women's rights

GENEVA

EXPERTS of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) have commended King Mohammed VI for the determined actions he took to improve women's rights.

The experts, who were taking part in Geneva in an event organized by civil society on the sidelines of the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council and the examination of Morocco by the CEDAW, congratulated the Kingdom for all the breakthroughs made in matters of women's rights improvement, highlighting in particular the setting up of a legal age of marriage to struggle against the marriage of minor girls and the assertion of the principle of equality between men and women in family relations, as enshrined in the Family Code.

They also underscored the fact that the Moroccan Constitution of 2011 prohibits all forms of discrimination, a provision that is reiterated in several legislative texts.

The experts exchanged views with members of the Moroccan delegation that were taking part in the event.

In this connection, Abdelwahab Gain, President of the African Human Rights Watch, and Professor Shaibatah Mrrabih Rabou, President of the "Sahara Center for Studies and Research on Development and Human Rights" explained to their interlocutors how Morocco complies with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to which it adhered in June 1993.

They also surveyed the measures taken by the Government to ensure guarantees of women's rights before the judicial system, women's political participation, economic empowerment and the right to employment, health care and social security.

The two activists, who contribute to civil society's efforts to strengthen advocacy with UN institutions for the Kingdom's territorial integrity issue, recalled that they got in touch in Geneva with several experts from North Africa and the Middle East, including from the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, to discuss ways of upgrading cooperation on issues of concern to North Africa and the Middle East.

Disinformation emerges as global pandemic - Pakistani FM

ISLAMABAD

In this information age, disinformation has emerged as a global pandemic, and like many other countries, Pakistan has been a victim of targeted campaigns of disinformation, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said.

The foreign minister made the remarks here on Thursday while addressing virtually the meeting of the Group of Friends on Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in New York. "The exponential proliferation of disinformation, especially through online platforms and social media, has spread social discord and fostered hate speech, racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and interstate tensions and conflict," Zardari said.

Disinformation has often justified and intensified the violations of human rights, said he, adding that hybrid warfare, pursued through disinformation, is often the opening salvo of intervention and conflict.



President Xi calls for peace, development, openness, innovation to build high-quality BRICS partnership

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping hosted the 14th BRICS Summit via video link on Thursday evening in Beijing, calling on BRICS countries to safeguard world peace and tranquility, boost development, and unleash the potential and vitality of cooperation.

"Standing at the crossroads of history, we should both look back at the journey we have traveled and keep in mind why we established BRICS in the first place, and look forward to a shared future of a more comprehensive, close, practical and inclusive high-quality partnership so as to jointly embark on a new journey of BRICS cooperation," Xi said.

SAFEGUARDING WORLD PEACE

At the summit, Xi called on BRICS countries to uphold solidarity and safeguard world peace and tranquility, saying that it is important that BRICS countries support each other on issues concerning core interests, practice true multilateralism, safeguard justice, fairness and solidarity and reject hegemony, bullying and division.

"This year, we have held the Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Meeting of High Representatives on National Security, deepened cooperation on counter-terrorism, cybersecurity and other issues, enhanced coordination at the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, and spoke out for justice on the international stage," he said.

He stressed that the Global



Chinese President Xi Jinping hosts the 14th BRICS Summit via video link in Beijing, capital of China, on Thursday. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the summit. (Xinhua/LI Tao)

Security Initiative (GSI), which advocates a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, follows the philosophy that humanity is an indivisible security community, and aims to create a new path to security that features dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win over zero-sum.

"China would like to work with BRICS partners to operationalize the GSI and bring more stability and positive energy to the world," said Xi.

UPHOLDING COOPERATION, OPENNESS

Noting that the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis has resulted in disruptions to global industrial and supply chains, sustained hikes of commodity prices, and weaker international monetary and financial systems, Xi said BRICS countries need to uphold cooperation to boost development and jointly tackle risks and challenges.

"This year, we launched the BRICS Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on Supply Chains and the Initiative on Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development, adopted the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters and the Strategy on Food Security

Cooperation, and held a High-level Meeting on Climate Change for the first time," Xi said, adding that BRICS countries should make good use of these new platforms to boost connectivity of industrial and supply chains and jointly meet challenges in poverty reduction, agriculture, energy, logistics and other fields.

Noting that BRICS countries gather not in a closed club or an exclusive circle, but a big family of mutual support and a partnership for win-win cooperation, Xi said BRICS countries need to uphold openness and inclusiveness and pool collective wisdom and strength.

At the Xiamen Summit in 2017, Xi proposed the "BRICS Plus" cooperation approach. Over the past five years, "BRICS Plus" cooperation has deepened and expanded, setting a prime example of South-South cooperation and seeking strength through unity among emerging markets and developing countries, Xi said.

"This year we, for the first time, invited guest countries to attend the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The newly established BRICS Vaccine R&D Center has an unequivocal commitment to openness. Step by step, we have organized a variety of 'BRICS Plus' events in such areas as scientific and technologi-

cal innovation, people-to-people exchanges and sustainable development. All these provide new platforms for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries," he added.

UPHOLDING PIONEERING SPIRIT, INNOVATION

"Those who seize the opportunities of the new economy, such as big data and artificial intelligence, are in sync with the pulse of the times," President Xi said, adding that BRICS countries need to uphold the pioneering spirit and innovation and unleash the potential and vitality of cooperation.

He called for improving global science and technology governance and allowing more people to access and benefit from the fruits of scientific and technological advances.

"This year, we have accelerated the building of the BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution Innovation Center in Xiamen, hosted the Forum on the Development of Industrial Internet and Digital Manufacturing and the Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development, reached the Digital Economy Partnership Framework, issued the Initiative for Cooperation on Digitalization of Manufacturing, and established a network of technology transfer centers and an aerospace cooperation mechanism," he said.

All these have opened new channels for closer industrial policy coordination between BRICS countries, Xi said.

As representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, Xi called on BRICS countries to make the right decision and take responsible actions at this critical juncture of history, stay united, pool strength and forge ahead to build a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly create a bright future for humanity.

Xinhua

China's Henan sees achievements in integrating heritage protection, ecological progress



Photo shows the Yangshao Village National Archaeological Site Park in Sanmenxia city, central China's Henan province. The park comes with a Yangshao culture museum, excavation memorial sites and archaeological display areas. File photo

ZHENGZHOU, the capital of central China's Henan province, is combining ecological progress with cultural relics and heritage protection to improve life quality for its people.

Since 2017, the city has launched a program that incorporates the protection of ancient sites and towns into ecological progress. Building ecological parks on ancient sites, Zhengzhou is striving to advance cultural relics and heritage protection through ecological conservation.

A 29.8-hectare ecological heritage park near the Lucun River has lately been established to display and protect a local moat-surrounded settlement. In the park, citizens can experience pottery-making, observe archaeological ash pits, and join many other cultural activities. The park is now frequently visited by surrounding residents.

According to Ren Xiaohong, former deputy head of Zhengzhou's municipal administration of cultural heritage, there are over 220 ancient sites among Zhengzhou's major historical and cultural sites protected at the municipal level or above. Two of them are on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and 83 are protected at a national level, he told People's Daily.

Zhengzhou has established 45 ecological heritage parks and offered 318 million yuan (\$47.37 million) of relevant subsidies since 2017, seeing an increase of nearly 10,000 mu (667 hectares) in green areas.

Based on their positions, goals and functions, these ecological heritage parks combine heritage protection with forest conservancy, farmland protection and urban ecological progress, Ren introduced.

The Miaogou ruins in Zhengzhou were once a pottery workshop of the Yangshao culture, an important stream of Chinese civilization dated from around 5000 BC to 3000 BC. Now it has turned from a wasteland into a geological park. With heritage display areas, archaeological experience areas and landscapes, the park is a favorite spot for residents in the city. Building ecological parks on ancient sites allows the city to not only protect heritages, but also improve the ecological environment, said Wu Weixing, an official with Zhengzhou Municipality for ecology and environment.

Xinzheng, a county-level city under the administration of Zhengzhou, was the capital of Zheng State and Han State during the Spring and Autumn period (around 770-476 BC) and the Warring States period (475-221 BC). Now an archaeological park has been built by the sides of the ruins of the two ancient states' city walls, like a green belt crossing the city.

"The park has lifted the image of

Xinzheng and become a new landmark of the city," said Zhao Shuqi, head of the city's municipal bureau of culture, radio and television, tourism and sports.

Xinzheng's ecological space has been expanded with the opening of the archaeological park, and the city is also seeing increasing influence. Since the relics of the ancient capital city of Zheng and Han states were designated as a national archaeological park in December 2017, the number of tourist arrivals at the park has increased by more than 20 percent each year. In 2020, the park attracted 419,600 visits.

Archaeological parks are not only places for leisure and entertainment, but also landmarks that enhance the cultural confidence of residents, said Ren Wei, head of the municipal cultural heritage bureau of Zhengzhou.

The Yuanling ancient city park in Xinzheng is a good example that offers important ecological and cultural support for the city, Ren said. Under the concept of ancient site protection, the park's landscape has been improved, the water system and micro-terrain shaped, forming a large-scale plant landscape consisting of flower corridor, grassland and flower farmland.

People's Daily

DPRK leader calls for bolstering self-defence capabilities

PYONGYANG/SEOUL

THE top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has called on the Korean People's Army to "improve the absolute power and the military and technical edge," the official Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday.

Kim Jong-un made the call during the third Enlarged Meeting of the eighth Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) held from Tuesday to Thursday, said the KCNA report.

The meeting focused on issues about "rapidly bolstering the national defense capabilities to put them on the level appropriate to a new stage of the developing revolution," according to the report.

The meeting deliberated on a proposal to increase the number of vice-chairmanship of the WPK Central Military Commission and elected Ri Pyong-chol, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, as vice-chairman of the Party Central Military Commission, it said.

The commission also decided to add an essential military action plan to the operational duties of KPA frontline units, examined

and approved providing a military guarantee for further strengthening the country's war deterrent and ratified a plan for reorganizing military organizational formations, according to the report.

Reopening case of deported DPRK fishermen

Ruling party members and rights activists of the Republic of Korea meanwhile are calling on the government to reopen a 2019 case of the repatriation of two DPRK fishermen.

President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office in May, has been revisiting several defection cases after criticizing what he called his predecessor Moon Jae-in's DPRK policy and vowing to boost support for defectors during the election campaign.

The Moon government deported the fishermen, calling them "dangerous criminals" who allegedly killed 16 other colleagues aboard their vessel while crossing the sea border.

Officials said at the time that there was an "unfortunate event" between the crewmen due to an abusive captain, without elaborating.



In this photo provided by the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK leader Kim Jong-un attends a meeting of the Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, which were held between June 21 and 23, 2022, in Pyongyang. AP



Yanga's newly recruited Zambian attacker, Lazarous Kambole. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Can Yanga help Lazarous Kambole bounce back?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH one season coming to a close, another one is on the horizon as football fans all over the country are already excited for the 2022/23 campaign.

It is that time of the year when clubs are scratching their heads on who to release, keep and sign ahead of the new season.

Champion Young Africans, alias 'Yanga', has wasted no time in facing the transfer market.

Last week the outfit announced its first acquisition, Zambian striker Lazarous Kambole became the first signing for the 2022/23 season.

Kambole has arrived in Tanzania following three difficult seasons with South African giants, Kaizer Chiefs, where he struggled for game time.

Kambole's time at Kaizer Chiefs would receive mixed reviews from fans and journalists.

Some would call him a wasted talent - others would say he has been mismanaged. The opinion is heavily divided.

He had arrived at Kaizer Chiefs with a high profile after being a top performer in the Zambian Super League for Zesco United, having also been their standout player in the CAF Champions League.

But his move to Kaizer Chiefs saw him managing just two Premier League goals in three seasons as he struggled for game time, this is a frankly dreadful return.

The limited playing opportunities at Chiefs also led to the 28-year-old losing his place in the Zambia national team.

Upon his release, one Kaizer Chiefs fan said: "Kambole, good luck in your new journey. Let's hope you are going to get your form of scoring goals in your new club because the Chiefs jersey was too heavy on your shoulder."

Another one wrote: "This one must be arrested for scamming Kaizer Chiefs, he lied and said that he is a player, imagine scoring two goals in three seasons. How do you explain that?"

Moving from the more lucrative South African Premier League to Tanzania is not exactly a step forward but it might be the right move for both parties.

Kambole is moving here to get playing time and figure out how to carve out his football career and save it from rotting

on the warm Kaizer Chiefs bench he spent in three seasons.

Nobody is more aware than Kambole himself that he completely lost his mojo at Kaizer Chiefs and was a distant shadow of his former self at Zesco United.

In Kambole's mind, he might be fired up by the opportunity at Yanga, the desire to get his feet back, because sometimes change is just what a player needs to get his groove back.

For Yanga, many will question whether a forward with his numbers is the right man to bring to a team that wants to emulate their age-old rivals by doing well in CAF Champions League next season.

They know they are taking a gamble on a striker who suffered a remarkable dip in form, from one of the deadliest strikers in the continent to becoming extremely tame in front of goal.

However, the club feels like it can get the best out of Kambole, despite his well-documented struggles at Kaizer Chiefs this is a gamble worth taking.

They are getting a player who is fighting for a second chance.

The desire to prove something has the potential to propel a career further than any natural ability.

Yanga is in desperate need of reinforcements and upgrades to the outfit's center-forward options.

The club needs a striker to ease the overreliance on Fiston Mayele. Heritier Makambo has failed to provide competition to Mayele while Yusuph Athumani is still too green.

There is a confidence that Kambole will be able to adjust quickly to Yanga and the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

Of course, it will take some time for him to find his footing again, as effectively he has not been playing for the last few seasons. But he should be back to his best in no time.

It is now to be seen if the forward will get back to his best self and also revive his international career with Zambia but football has rarely proven to be so straightforward.

Yanga knows there is the possibility of Kambole faring either better or worse than Heritier Makambo whose return to the club has not gone well as envisaged earlier.

against Yanga at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on July 2.

While Yanga is eager to clinch a second major domestic trophy with victory over Coastal Union, the Tanga side is preparing to make history by stunning the former and win the top honour.

On June 15, Yanga lifted NBC Premier League silverware after thumping Coastal Union 3-0 in the league tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's Congolese striker Fiston

Mayele shone again as the forward scored two goals in the tie and boosted his search for the top-flight's golden boot prize.

In the battle for the golden boot prize, Mayele has scored 16 scoring goals, as is the case with Geita Gold FC striker George Mpole that has registered the same number of goals.

Yanga's victory pushed Coastal Union to the ninth spot in the Premier League table standings, three places from the latter's previous spot on the log.

Stoning Mbeya City FC coach as the painful side of a good story

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

REPORTS of a violent scenario after a Premier League match pitting Mbeya City FC and Coast Region military-based club, Ruvu Shooting FC, were disheartening at the least.

It was an indication that the bad habits of Tanzanian soccer fans, where they judge instead of supporting the coach and the players, were here to stay, despite a severe admonition from various sources.

Still, it appears that objections in that regard are not strong enough - and they may indeed have to prudently remain halfway, to retain links with fans.

The coach who was on the point of being lynched - as pelting a person with stones is in legal terms not far from attempted murder, as it involves willful injury and perhaps of an irreversible nature - was the well-respected Ugandan tactician Mathias Lule, who has locally coached elsewhere before moving to the Southern Highland club.

It is uncertain whether the coach is familiar with such scenes, as it is likely that most coaches at least realize there is at times a moment where the fans go berserk.

But ordinarily one expects some catcalling, much fewer streams of insults, and definitely, not many coaches expect being stoned.

That is also what is surprising about the Premier League scene in Tanzania - and perhaps generally in Africa



Mbeya City FC head coach, Mathias Lule.

- where the fans rarely engage in battling those of the other side, except in rowdy metropolis where fighting is part of the culture.

Here the contention is virtually an expression of manhood, entirely different from actually reacting to a letdown, as in that case, the anger seems to be directed, in a privileged manner, to the coach and marginally to the technical bench.

The club leadership comes last, and usually, it is not brought into contention by dismal performance on the pitch but when there are rifts in the leadership.

That is why there is even then some good news about what happened in Mbeya, namely that the fans are noticeably starting

to take regional club sides rather seriously, which looks a bit surprising.

It is to suggest that there is a change in atmosphere, which can rapidly be attributed to streaming the Premier League on live television all over the country, such that those with roots in this or that part of the country can follow the fortunes of their regional club and those within the vicinity can watch at home.

This has the effect of gradually building the sense of a community around a club, it was not the case a few years back.

It is a change of tone from the past where only the city rivals had a reliable fan base, still stretched all over the country but seemingly being diminished on their wings, as being a fan

is undiminished.

In other words, one cannot throw stones at a coach as an individual grievance but it must be reflecting community sentiments, a stadium community at the very least, and visible pains at losing to Ruvu Shooting.

Sentiments flared partly because of the relegation threat, which they could not stomach, as it is an up-and-coming club that had shown good promise the previous Premier League season, and it fails.

What all this suggests is that there was in the first place a community of fans following the performance of the Ugandan head coach, and the feeling is so strong that when the side lost even by that narrow margin - and ordinarily that can easily be reduced to bad luck - they could not stand it.

While from the viewpoint of sportsmanship that was a fatal error, as it led to a disruption of orderly conduct in a public event, it also underlined what could not have been sufficiently attested before.

It is the fact that there is increasingly a solid fan base for Mbeya City FC to whom that club is everything, not a simple auxiliary.

That was visibly the case until perhaps just recently, as regional clubs were offshoots of various public institutions with an internal

loyalty rather than an external, community-based fraternity of fans.

The sharp differences between Mbeya City FC's fan base and the head coach, at least during that moment, were in a sense comparable to intercalation between former Young Africans SC head coach Luc Eymael and the fans, leading to his controversial remarks labelled as racist.

The coach wanted the fans to support the team, not criticize the players and insult the coach, as that leads nowhere in building the club, they refused.

The point about the incident in Mbeya is that for once it shows the deep-seated pain for the club when it loses 1-0 to fellow strugglers Ruvu Shooting, who like Mbeya City FC, have seen better days in the Premier League showdown.

Forming a community of supporters at the regional level who are ardent enough to generate airs of hostility when the side loses a deciding match in terms of their hopes to be assured of remaining in the Premier League is a sort of 'graduation' for the club.

A fan base is a ticket to longevity, standing to attract investors, and being sure that attachment with the team has either commercial dividends or higher social renown.

Nine clubs to compete in National Junior Swimming Championships

By Guardian Correspondent

NINE clubs will compete in the 2022 National Junior Swimming Championships to be held in Dar es Salaam from July 2-3, the Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) has announced.

The two-day event has been organized by TSA and will take place at the Shaaban Robert swimming pool, also known as Champion Rise.

Hadija Shebe, TSA's organizing committee chairperson had, in an interview held recently, mentioned the participating clubs as Bluefins, Champion Rise, FK Blue Marlins, Lake Swimming Club, MIS Piranhas, Mwanza Swim Club, Pigeo, Dar es Salaam Swimming Club, and Talisist Swimming Club.

Hadija said that the preparation for the competition is still going on and swimmers will compete in various categories of the showdown that has been sponsored by Kilombero Sugar Company Limited as the main sponsor.

Other sponsors are Burger



Junior swimmer, Lorita Borega of FK Blue Marlins Swimming Club, competes in the past event which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

53, Rap & Roll, Pepsi, and F & L Juice.

She said that the event will have age categories including U-7, eight, nine, 10, 11, and 12.

She explained that the open events will be 400m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle,

and 200m Individual Medley (IM).

She pointed out that points for open events (400m Freestyle, 200m IM, and 200m Freestyle) will be allocated to an individual swimmer and medals will be handed over to the

best performers based on final place rather than age group.

Hadija said they have organized the junior event to promote the sport, besides seeing to it budding swimmers garner experience.

She said they believe this

time around more swimmers will compete in the tournament, doing their best to reduce Personal Best Times (PB) and breaking records.

"The staging of the event is the TSA's mission to raise awareness and promote swimming," she noted.

She said trophies will be handed over to the top three swimmers in each age group while medals will be presented to the top three swimmers.

The medals are gold, silver, and bronze for the first, second, and third finishers.

"Points will be allocated for first to 10th places. The top swimmer will get 20 points, second (16 points), third (14 points), fourth (12), fifth (10), sixth (8), seventh (six), eighth (four), ninth (two) and 10th will get one point," she said.

She appealed to private and government institutions to support the event to make it more successful.

Mgunda seeks to sharpen Coastal Union ahead of remaining Premier League ties

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

WITH Coastal Union set to take part in three tough matches within 10 days, the club's head coach Juma Mgunda has the challenging task of addressing the outfit's weaknesses to see to it that it fulfills its targets.

The tactician moreover has another task of seeing to it his players do not suffer injuries and carelessly get marching orders in the clashes, as the squad will play this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final

against Yanga at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha on July 2.

While Yanga is eager to clinch a second major domestic trophy with victory over Coastal Union, the Tanga side is preparing to make history by stunning the former and win the top honour.

On June 15, Yanga lifted NBC Premier League silverware after thumping Coastal Union 3-0 in the league tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's Congolese striker Fiston

Mayele shone again as the forward scored two goals in the tie and boosted his search for the top-flight's golden boot prize.

In the battle for the golden boot prize, Mayele has scored 16 scoring goals, as is the case with Geita Gold FC striker George Mpole that has registered the same number of goals.

Yanga's victory pushed Coastal Union to the ninth spot in the Premier League table standings, three places from the latter's previous spot on the log.

Coastal Union however on Monday bounced back with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Namungo FC at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi in the 28th round match.

The success helped Coastal Union crawl back to its former position in the league table after posting 37 points.

Mgunda revealed in an interview with The Guardian that the remaining three ties are tough for him because he seeks to ensure his outfit hardly suffers loss.

The tactician pointed out that Coastal Union is pursuing a top-four finish in the top-flight and making history via clinching this season's ASFC trophy.

The gaffer pointed out: "I can say that we have two Premier League matches awaiting us against Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold FC, and we got back home yesterday (Wednesday)."

"We are starting training to shape up for the clash against Kagera Sugar scheduled for Saturday, and then on June 29 we will conclude the NBC

Premier League with a tie against Geita Gold FC."

"On July, 2 we will be in for a tough tie against Yanga in the ASFC final."

"We will, within 10 days, take part in three tough matches and all of them are potential for us to meet our targets."

The coach pointed out: "Much as there are no players nursing injuries in the squad, I'm taking all ties as final so I would have to put extra efforts to achieve success."

FIFA clears 26-man squads for 2022 World Cup

GENEVA

FIFA has approved bigger 26-man squads for the World Cup in Qatar, deciding Thursday to extend football's relaxation of rules that help coaches and players during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The move was expected from the FIFA Bureau -- comprising the presidents of FIFA and football's six confederations -- after 23-player rosters were expanded for recent continental championships.

Adding three players to the typical World Cup roster follows UEFA doing the same for the European Championship last year.

There were 28-player squads also approved for the Copa America tournament in South America last year and at the Africa Cup of Nations in January.

The extra numbers help the coaches of the 32 teams cope with possible outbreaks of virus cases. It also means additional players are already following health protocols within the camp in Qatar rather than being brought from their home country.

The squad size change will send a total of 96 extra players to the World Cup, which is being played from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18.

The 28-day tournament compares to 32 days four years ago in Russia.

Most of the extra players will likely come from European clubs whose domestic seasons must pause by Nov. 13 for the first World Cup held during the northern hemisphere winter.

Squads will be together for just one week before the tournament kicks off instead of the usual preparation time of about two weeks. FIFA has created a \$209 million fund from its World Cup revenues to compensate clubs with a daily rate of about several thousand dollars for releasing players to national-team duty.

World Cup teams can also now use five substitutes in the regulation 90 minutes instead of three. What started as an interim rule in 2020 to ease player workloads in congested game schedules during the pandemic is now codified in the laws of the game.

The FIFA Bureau also set March 16 next year for a presidential election to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, during the annual congress of 211 member federations.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino is seeking a new four-year term to extend his leadership of football's world body to 11 years.

No potential opponent has yet emerged and the deadline to enter the contest is four months before the election.

That will fall in mid-November, days before the World Cup starts.

(Agencies)

Real Madrid women star alleges 'dangerous' culture

STOCKHOLM

REAL Madrid forward Kosovare Asllani has said there is an "unhealthy and dangerous environment" around the club's women's team, alleging the squad have been "constantly pushed to play injured."

The Sweden international spoke at a news conference while at her national team training camp on Thursday as she prepares to take part in Euro 2022 in England next month.

Asllani, who joined Madrid in 2019 as the women's team's first star-signing and was named player of the season in 2020-21 after scoring 16 league goals, is leaving the club this month when her contract expires.

"I think there is a culture at the club which is unhealthy for players to be in," Asllani said. "I have almost been forced to play injured. The management team has not listened to the medical team. It has become a very unhealthy and dangerous environment."

ESPN have approached Madrid for comment.

Asllani, 32, played for Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain before moving to Madrid in July 2019, when the women's team was still known as CD Tacon before the completion of its merger with Madrid a year later.

She fired them to a second-placed finish behind Barcelona in 2021, before an injury-disrupted 2021-22 saw her contribute just three league goals in 17 appearances.

"I have done a lot for the club from the beginning and I have seen that the club has not treated players well over the years," she added.

"I think it's important for me to talk, since no-one else has. I have tried to make changes, but in the end, the environment created there is one of refusing to listen to the medical team and the players."

"It is no coincidence that I was injured there and had a setback, as you are constantly pushed to play injured. It is not a healthy environment... I care so much about the club, but I feel that it is in the wrong hands."

Last season, sources told ESPN that the relationship between Madrid's squad and then coach David Aznar had broken down, with criticism of his management style and claims that excessive preseason training had increased the players' risk of injury.

Aznar was fired in November 2021 and replaced by Alberto Toril, who took Madrid to third place in the league as well as the Champions League quarterfinals, where they lost 8-3 on aggregate to Barcelona.

"I might have left last summer, but I gave it one last chance," Asllani said.

"I've been a big part of the club's history, but unfortunately it's an environment that is not healthy, and it's not just me. There are an incredible number of players who have had to go through a lot, which is not right at a top club... I think it's an environment created by just wanting results and seeing players as products."

(Agencies)

Tantrums and tactics turned Lukaku's Chelsea dream into a nightmare

LONDON

ROMELU Lukaku arrived at Chelsea heralding his move as a dream come true, but less than a year later the Belgian striker is set to rejoin Inter Milan as one of the most expensive flops in Premier League history.

Lukaku was hailed as the final piece of Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea jigsaw when he was signed from Inter Milan for a club record £97.5 million (\$119 million) last August.

But everything that could go wrong did go wrong for the 29-year-old in his disastrous second spell with the Blues.

Lukaku's stock has fallen so far that Tuchel has cut ties with the former Manchester United and Everton player after only one season.

Inter are expected to confirm his return to the San Siro shortly, having negotiated a reported eight-million-euro (\$8.4 million) loan fee for Lukaku.

Lukaku is believed to have taken a pay cut such



Romelu Lukaku

is his desire to leave Stamford Bridge at all costs.

He ended the season as Chelsea's top scorer with 15 goals in 44 appearances, but that statistic does not tell the full story of his wretched time in west London.

Lukaku struck only eight times in the Premier League and Chelsea's new co-owner Todd Boehly was quick to rubber-stamp his impending exit.

He joins Fernando Torres, Andriy Shevchenko, Alvaro Morata and Chris

Sutton as the latest high-profile forward who failed to justify a hefty price tag at Chelsea.

After firing Inter to the Serie A title in 2021, Lukaku's combination of power and predatory finishing should have been the key to a dominant period for Chelsea, who won the Champions League just months before his signing.

Lukaku billed the move, on a lucrative five-year contract, as an emotional homecoming after previously playing for the club he supported as a boy from 2011 to 2014.

"I'm happy and blessed to be back at this wonderful club. To try to help them win more titles is an amazing feeling," Lukaku said at the time.

Damning indictment - Lukaku's early enthusiasm fuelled four goals in his first four appearances, bullying the Arsenal defence in a display of the power that could overwhelm any opponent if he was in the mood.

However, Lukaku's attitude quickly turned sour as a run of six matches with-

out a goal raised concerns about his ability to adapt to Tuchel's system.

Hampered by an ankle injury and a bout of the coronavirus, Lukaku lost his place to Kai Havertz.

Lukaku was unhappy with the way Tuchel was using him, a feeling his former Inter boss Antonio Conte gave voice to when he said the German didn't "understand" how best to utilise the striker.

While Tuchel must take a share of the blame, Lukaku destroyed his hopes of turning the tide with an incendiary interview in December.

"Physically I am fine. But I'm not happy with the situation at Chelsea. Tuchel has chosen to play with another system," Lukaku told an Italian television channel.

"I really, genuinely from the bottom of my heart hope to come back to Inter."

Tuchel was understandably furious and dropped Lukaku for Liverpool's visit to the Bridge just days after the interview was aired.

Lukaku was forced to

apologise to Chelsea and the club's fans.

When he eventually got back in the side, his body language was dreadful as he moped through matches and argued with teammate Hakim Ziyech during a game against Brighton.

Lukaku's wretched season reached breaking point at Crystal Palace in February when he broke the record for the lowest number of touches (seven) by an outfield player in a Premier League match.

"It's not about the system. For him, it changes nothing. The data is out there and the data speaks a certain language," Tuchel said in a damning indictment.

After four months without a Premier League goal, Lukaku scored three in two games towards the end of the season, earning a place in the FA Cup final team against Liverpool.

Yet Lukaku's limp display as Chelsea lost on penalties at Wembley was a fitting epitaph to his turbulent year.

AFP

Chelsea must learn from Manchester United mistakes when replacing Marina Granovskaia

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CHELSEA may end up spending well over £100 million on new signings this summer, with a new centre-back, full-back, midfielder and centre-forward already on coach Thomas Tuchel's list of priority acquisitions, but the biggest problem facing the Premier League club's new American owners cannot be solved by any kind of transfer fee. By confirming the departure of senior executive Marina Granovskaia, Chelsea have created a vacancy that could prove impossible to fill.

What happens on the pitch, and the players who dictate whether a team succeeds or fails, tends to dominate the attention of supporters and media alike, but there are times when key changes in the boardroom carry much more weight than the transfer of a star player. Granovskaia's exit from Stamford Bridge is the most significant change among football's power brokers since David Gill stepped down as Manchester United chief executive in 2013.

United are still trying to recover from the double loss of Gill and manager Sir Alex Ferguson nine years ago. While Ferguson's retirement was unquestionably the most seismic event at Old Trafford for the past 30 years, Gill has also proven to be irreplaceable as the calm, experienced and well-connected figure who ran the club's off-field operations and presided over transfer dealings and contract negotiations. The brain drain suffered by United in 2013 led to a chaotic transitional period under Gill's successor, Ed Woodward, and the club remains in a state of flux almost a decade later.

Chelsea's summer of change is different to that endured by United in 2013, but the club faces an uncertain future nonetheless. The new regime, headed by L.A. Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly, would be



Chelsea executive Marina Granovskaia handled the day-to-day running of the club as well as overseeing player transfers and contracts. (Agencies)

wise to learn from United's mistakes when they plot their path away from the Roman Abramovich era.

Whereas United lost their greatest manager and a highly respected chief executive, Chelsea must move on without the man whose billions turned the club into serial winners and two-time European champions, and the woman who wielded huge influence at Stamford Bridge for more than a decade and was credited with making Chelsea one of the best-run clubs in the world, on and off the pitch.

Boehly and his partners must take on the challenge of proving that Chelsea can enjoy ongoing success without the benefit of Abramovich's personal fortune -- the Russian oligarch covered losses that amounted to more than £900,000 a week during his 19 years as owner -- but they are wealthy and astute enough to know how to make a football club succeed as a sustainable business operation. Part of that involves ensuring they

have the right person in place to oversee the football operations -- player recruitment, transfers and contracts -- that Granovskaia so successfully managed, particularly since being promoted to a chief executive role in 2014.

Chelsea have a made a promising start by announcing that Granovskaia will remain at Boehly's disposal throughout the summer transfer window to

advise on negotiations, and sources have told ESPN that the club are keen to hire Michael Edwards, who is leaving his role as Liverpool sporting director this month, to lead the new football department at Stamford Bridge.

But just as United, and Woodward, didn't know the true value of Gill until he had left the club, Chelsea

are also likely to discover that losing Granovskaia will mean more than the simple departure of a boardroom agent. Sources have told ESPN that several player agents, in particular, are anxiously waiting to discover what Chelsea do next. Perhaps that concern is rooted in self-interest and fear of the unknown because so many had built a relationship with Granovskaia that enabled them to negotiate with knowledge of who they were dealing with and how those negotiations would progress.

Some clubs deal with only a small number of favoured agents, and some owners new to the Premier League in the past have relied on just one agent to run their recruitment operation in the early years of their ownership. It is unlikely that Chelsea will repeat that kind of mistake made by the likes of Portsmouth, Blackburn Rovers and Manchester City (prior to Sheikh Mansour's takeover in 2008), but once they lose Granovskaia's knowledge and connections, they will be vulnerable to others taking advantage of their inexperience.

When Woodward replaced Gill, he had little knowledge of the football world having worked in banking and United's commercial department prior

to his promotion to the top job, and he has since admitted to making too many mistakes while learning the ropes. Those mistakes cost United millions in terms of bad decisions on signings and contracts, while the club were also exploited by players, agents and rival teams when it came to boosting their own valuations and pay deals simply by using United for their own advantage.

By enlisting Granovskaia's help for the remainder of this transfer window, Boehly, who has taken the role of interim sporting director, has at least acknowledged that neither he nor his associates yet have the knowledge of the football industry to go it alone this summer. But once Granovskaia is gone for good, Chelsea have to find the right answer. Edwards would come with a proven track record and be as close to a replacement for Granovskaia as possible, but his role at Liverpool did not have the same level of authority and oversight as that held by someone often described as the most powerful woman in football, so there would still be gaps for Chelsea to fill.

United failed to replace Gill, but at least their mismanagement has given Chelsea a case study in how not to do it with Granovskaia.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Tantrums and tactics turned Lukaku's Chelsea dream into a nightmare

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NBC Premier League relegation battle gathers pace, top four places up for grabs



Mbeya City FC's forward, Frank Ikobela (C), negotiates his way past Geita Gold FC's center-back, Kelvin Yondani, when the former's club hosted the latter's side in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash played at Sokoine Stadium recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBEYA CITY FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE battle to stay clear of the relegation zone and finish within the top four is set to move closer to reaching a dramatic conclusion as 2021/22 NBC Premier League season heads into its penultimate round this weekend.

Several teams find themselves in an intense relegation battle to remain in the top flight that looks likely to head into the final day of the season.

Mbeya Kwanza FC which

moved closer to direct relegation on Wednesday, is rock bottom in the standings, with seven points separating the club and Mtibwa Sugar which occupies the last safe spot.

Mbeya Kwanza FC, Biashara United, and Prisons are in a mini-league to avoid automatic relegation.

Two of the three will go down automatically, while a relegation playoff offers a second chance

for another against the side that finishes 13th, a spot which is currently occupied by Ruvu Shooting.

Biashara United placed second from the bottom with 25 points, will take on eighth-placed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, which has collected 35 points.

Prisons, which is placed third from bottom on the log, will be hoping to boost its survival hopes when the side hosts Simba SC on

Sunday.

Ruvu Shooting, currently with 28 points in the playoff place, plays at Mbeya Kwanza FC before the former's potential all-or-nothing meeting against Prisons at home on the final day.

Then other two teams, Azam FC and Namungo FC will resume a different kind of battle in the race for the top four and the coveted third spot, with only one point separating them.

Geita Gold FC will be aiming to solidify an impressive maiden campaign in the top flight by finishing in the fourth position ahead of other more established outfits.

The Geita club is also bidding for a continental place, it is only one point behind third-placed Azam FC.

Either a win or draw away to Polisi Tanzania on Saturday would guarantee Geita Gold FC the fourth position.

Coastal Union's best chance of continental qualification is by winning the Federation Cup final against Young Africans, alias 'Yanga', next

week.

Yanga, which wrapped up its 28th Premier League title with three games to spare, travels to Mbeya City FC which is already assured of safety and with little play.

Namungo FC, Coastal Union, Polisi Tanzania, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, and Mbeya City FC are the teams that essentially have nothing but a log position to play for in the final two rounds of the league season.

Saturday fixtures:

Dodoma Jiji FC vs Azam FC (Jamhuri, Dodoma), Coastal Union vs Kagera Sugar (Mkwakwani, Tanga), Mbeya Kwanza FC vs Ruvu Shooting (Majimaji, Songea), Polisi Tanzania vs Geita Gold FC (Ushirika, Moshi), Mbeya City FC vs Yanga (Sokoine, Mbeya), Biashara United vs Kinondoni Municipal Council FC (Karume, Musoma).

Sunday fixtures:

Mtibwa Sugar vs Namungo FC (Manungu, Turiani), Prisons vs Simba SC (Sokoine, Mbeya).

5 EATV Sports

TONIGHT @ 9:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funyuka
15:30 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hit
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS LIVE
22:00 Zote kuntu
23:00 Kurasa (r)
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

All set for Eastern Africa Roll Ball Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonga

THE fifth edition of the Eastern Africa Roll Ball Championships gets underway at Don Bosco, Osterbay in Dar es Salaam today.

Tanzania Roll Ball Association (TRBA) disclosed that preparations for the regional roll ball tournament have been completed.

Kenya is the only foreign country battling it out in the two-day championships which were initially slated to start yesterday.

Noel Kiunsi, TRBA Chairman, yesterday said defending champion Kenya could not start to take part in the showdown yesterday, as the country's squad asked for time to rest.

Other countries that confirmed their participation in the championships are Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Kiunsi though said the three countries' sides withdrew at the eleventh hour.

"So far Kenya and Tanzania are the ones set to compete in the fifth edition of Roll Ball Championships, other countries which confirmed their participation withdrew in the eleventh hour," the official pointed out.

"This has affected us but the championships will take place as planned," he said.

He stopped short of issuing today's fixtures, saying he can not talk more as he was in class.

The association extended invitations to South Sudan, Zambia, Kenya, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Rwanda.

Kiunsi, in a previous interview, could not issue reasons which forced countries that received TRBA's invitation to snub it.

The championships were initially planned to take place for three days in Dar es Salaam last month.

They were postponed due to a request issued by member nations, which said they are not prepared for the championships.

Kiunsi said many cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the cause of their failure to prepare for the showdown.

In the previous interview, Kiunsi advised each of the participants to come along with a national flag and an anthem for official use.

Each country, Kiunsi revealed, should cover its internal transport costs, however, the hosts can coordinate the availability and logistics.

Roll Ball is a game played between two teams and is a unique combination of roller skates, basketball, handball, and throwball.

It is played on roller shoes with each team consisting of 12 players, six on the field and six in reserve.

The main objective of the game is to score maximum goals within a stipulated time.

The main feature of the roll ball sport is that the ball is held in one or both hands, when passing to the other players, with the ball repeatedly bounced on the ground.

The court size can vary from 28 meters to 40 meters in length and 15 meters in width.

The court includes a center-line dividing offensive and defensive areas. The penalty line is drawn 4.5m or 3.5m away from the goal.



Tanga Regional Football Association (TRFA)'s Chairman, Said Soud (standing 5th L), and a section of Coastal Union's leaders speak to the side's players after a training session in the region recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF COASTAL UNION



Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's winger, Iddi Kipagwile (2nd L), dribbles past Mbeya Kwanza FC defenders during a 2021/22 NBC Premier League clash held at Azam Complex Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. KMC FC cruised to a 4-1 victory. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Coastal Union has yet to sign Djibril, says official

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

COASTAL Union's Information and Communication Department has sought to clarify information alleging that the side has signed Benin footballer, Olatoundji Djibril.

The outfit has, instead, disclosed what took place was talks between the player and club's Chairman Steven Mguto.

The information was released a few hours after Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) had announced through media outlets that the registration period for teams participating in the NBC Premier League, Championship, First League, and Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League will start on July 1, 2022, and come to a close on August 31, 2022.

A photo was posted on social media pages showing Djibril donning a Coastal Union jersey and signing a contract, with a caption stating deal done.

In an interview with The Guardian, Coastal Union's spokesman, Miraji Wandu, noted that what had been seen in the photo was a preliminary conversation between two sides, the player and Coastal Union's Chairman Steven Mguto.

"The player was indeed seen donning a Coastal Union jersey, and sitting on a chair with pen and paper as if he was signing a contract, but the fact is that he was with our Chairman Mguto having a preliminary discussion, and no registration agreements were entered," he said.

He said currently all registration procedures at the club are being coordinated by the registration committee under its chairman Hemed Hillary and secretary, Juma Mgunda, Coastal Union's head coach.

Wandu further elaborated that in a few days to come, the outfit's management will focus on the potential matches that the team will face, and, once the registration period starts, everything will be made clear.

"Djibril is not the only new footballer to be signed, there are other players to be registered by the club but they are still playing for their sides, we don't want to announce them because we do not want to disturb others."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

