



National Pg 3 Five dead as farmers, pastoralists clash



National Pg 4 Agency increases seed production



National Pg 5 Measures to sustain the environment



ACT-Wazalendo brainstorming on shadow cabinet

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Executive Committee of the opposition ACT-Wazalendo has tasked the party's leader, Zitto Kabwe (pictured) to form a shadow cabinet which will be responsible for issuing alternatives with regard to policy matters as well as holding the government accountable.

The ACT-NEC which concluded its meetings in Dar es Salaam over the weekend has tasked the party leader as he because he is responsible for the party's policy issues.

Secretary General Ado Shaibu told a press conference that Zitto Kabwe will assume authority to oversee the shadow ministers, with the shadow cabinet being composed of spokespersons for various sectors.

They will be responsible for issuing alternative professional opinions regarding policy matters in relation to social, economic, political, national and



...no doubt for lack of political legitimacy due to the fact that most of their representatives weren't chosen by the people

international issues, he elaborated.

A vital strategic task for ACT-Wazalendo is to hold the government responsible, he said, suggesting that with the multiparty system, the government is being overseen by representative organs such as local councils and the legislature.

A survey conducted during party tours in various regions indicated that representative organs have failed to appropriately hold the government responsible, "no doubt for lack of political legitimacy due to the fact that most of their representatives weren't chosen by the people," he declared.

The 2020 general elections saw these representative organs lacking representation of opposition parties, including not reaching the required qualifications to form a shadow cabinet in Parliament, he asserted.

The party leader is this week expected to announce spokespersons for each ministry to cement the focus on how Tanzanians will be served by a political party that is not in power.

"It is our duty to oversee the government," he had reaffirmed in an earlier statement.

Citibank pledges support for SGR

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) bids farewell to Akinsowon Dawodu, head of Citibank's Sub-Saharan Africa Cluster, after talks in Dodoma city yesterday focusing on funding for the implementation of various major projects in Tanzania. Citibank is the consumer division of financial services multinational Citigroup. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

CITIBANK has promised to provide Tanzania with loans on favourable terms for implementation of its strategic construction projects, including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

Akinsowon Dawodu, the cluster head for the bank in Sub-Saharan Africa, issues this affirmation here yesterday during a meeting with the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, also promising to act as ambassador in talking investors into initiating technological projects in the country.

"We know that Tanzania is constructing a standard gauge railway from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza; which will also connect with Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We have submitted our proposal as we want to assist the government to secure loans from regional and international financial institutions," the bank executive noted.

Citibank (T) CEO Geoffrey Mchangila said the bank has been operating in the country for 27 years, assisting the government to secure funds and issuing low interest loans.

The minister commended the bank for submitting the proposal saying completion of the SGR project will see Tanzania benefiting



The minister touted the country as an excellent investment destination due to peace plus a reliable and fast growing domestic and regional market

economically and easing trade for landlocked countries in the neighbourhood.

The government has already assigned a contractor for construction of Maktupora - Tabora line, while the contractor for Isaka to Mwanza section has already started work, he specified, stating that the Isaka-Tabora line contractor will be announced shortly.

He said the government wants to see the country connected from all corners, highlighting that President Samia Suluhu Hassan wishes to see the construction of a southern railway route that connects Mtwara port and Mbambaby on the shores of Lake Nyasa. When completed, the southern line will connect Tanzania with countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) bloc, he said.

The minister touted the country as an excellent investment destination due to peace plus a reliable and fast growing domestic and regional market.

"There are a number of factors for us being the best option for investors in Africa, like our geographical position plus prevailing peace and tranquility. Investing in Tanzania would enable manufacturers to reach a wider regional market within SADC and Sub-Saharan Africa generally," he declared.

There is a reliable market in Tanzania for many products due to the size of the population and stable economic growth, with the country having maintained positive economic growth even after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an economic crunch felt around the world, he added.

Local TV channels okayed for DSTV

By Guardian Correspondent

FOLLOWING the recent review of broadcasting regulations, the government has announced that local television channels will now be carried by all television broadcasting operators.

The Minister for Information, Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye, made the



We are very happy with the way the ministry conducted this exercise

announcement yesterday as he visited DSTV Tanzania - one of the largest cable television operators in the country.

He said the government has decided to review broadcasting regulations to align them to the needs of the people, current technology and general market trends.

Before the review, local channels were restricted to digital terrestrial transmission (DTT) platforms, hence effectively barring direct to home (DTH) satellite platforms from carrying the channels. This compelled households and institutions to seek multiple decoders to access various local channels.

On a policy directive, the Tanzania

TURN TO PAGE 2

TANESCO set for 16-hour power cuts in 12 regions

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (TANESCO) yesterday issued a 10-day power rationing timetable taking off today, with 12 regions disconnected for 16 hours each day.

The power rationing is meant to enable the Tanzania Petroleum Development Authority (TPDC) and Pan African Energy (T) Ltd (PAET) to switch off parts of the Songosongo power generation facility for



renovation and installation of various power generation units to improve efficiency.

Regions that will not be affected by power cuts are Kagera, Katavi, Kigoma, Lindi, Mtwara, Rukwa, Simiyu and the Zanzibar zone, the statement noted, listing those to be affected as Temeke, Kinondoni, Ilala in the administrative region of Dar es Salaam, along with Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mara, Mbeya, Manyara, Njombe, Morogoro, Mwanza, Singida, Coast, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Tanga, Tabora, Dodoma, Songwe, Iringa and Geita.

Managing Director Maharage Chande (pictured) told journalists that the

TURN TO PAGE 2



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Local TV channels okayed for DSTV

FROM PAGE 1

Regulatory Authority (TCRA) conducted a series of engagements with broadcasting stakeholders and deliberated on amendments of regulations to effect the change, a process finalised last week.

"I am delighted to see that this process is completed and now both DTT and DTH platforms can carry local channels," said minister Nnauye, adding: "We have heeded calls by our people, who requested us to review the regulations in order to give them easy access to our local channels."

With the review, local channels including ITV, Star TV, Channel Ten, Clouds TV, EATV, Imaan TV, Upendo TV and Tumaini TV will now be carried in direct satellite platforms as well.

MultiChoice (T) board chairman Ami Mpungwe commended the government for its continuous efforts to support the broadcasting industry.

He said the recent review of broadcasting regulations was a clear indication that the government is flexible and takes into consideration submissions from the industry's stakeholders.

Jacqueline Woiso, the firm's managing director, said that the group was delighted to see the regulations reviewed after a rigorous and prudent engagement involving stakeholders.

"We are very happy with the way the ministry conducted this exercise," she said, noting that the process showed a high level of transparency and stakeholders' involvement.

Woiso elaborated: "We attended several meetings organised by TCRA and had deep discussions about the regulations. Our collective aim was to make sure that we have regulations that favour the end-users and the market in general."

DSTV has already started onboarding the channels, this meaning that the channels will gradually be available on the DSTV platform, she explained.

With the return of local channels on the DSTV platform, customers will enjoy a variety of local and international content.

Among these will be news and entertainment, education, children's and religious programmes, accommodating hundreds of television channels across Africa and around the world.



Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollle (3rd-R) cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to launch strategic master plan on the Neglected Tropical Diseases Control Programme for July 2021 to June 2026. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Analysts raise concern over ongoing killings

By Mary Kadoke

ANALYSTS have raised concerns over the ongoing killings and suicides, citing family and government engagement as among the key players in ending the menace.

Psychiatry and mental health specialists at the Dodoma-based Mirembe national mental health hospital, Dr Godwin Mwaisomba said there is a direct connection on killings and mental state of a patient if stormed with amnesia, mood swings, drug abuse, personality disorder and child violence.

"This only happens when doctors prove beyond no doubt the mental state of a patient," Dr Mwaisomba said, citing the recent incident of an 80 year-old Edward Lusito from Dodoma who hanged himself on a tree, saying such incidents are a result of amnesia, which mostly affects the elderly group.

"Amnesia disorder can lead to suicides. Due to aggressiveness and depression their hope is gone and committing suicide is sometimes their end option," he said, adding: "Drug abuse and alcoholism is not to be left as it triggers peoples' mind into committing suicide."

According to him, youth aged 14 to 35 are victimized by the use of illicit drugs and alcoholism, which in turns they ultimately end-up committing murder.

He however said that primary psychotic disorder is another burden in this battle due to high delusion of a patient that results in violence.

Dr Mwaisomba urged people to see psychiatric hospitals in early stages of mental stress as the primary battle to stop the ongoing killings.

Eunice Masangu, a psychiatrist at the Sekou-Toure Regional Referral Hospital, said that killings come as they find no room to pour their burdens; mental despair and disapproving of their self-esteem and seeing themselves as people of no value.

Masangu explained: "There is this time relatives decided to admit a mental stressed patient, in the process of stabilizing her mood, she said that a debt of 800,000/- was a result of her despair."

"She said her husband and relatives were of no help, they question as to where she would get money for refund was what stressing her a lot," she intoned.

Masangu insisted that mental illness should not be blamed on this rather; put an eye on other factors such as, traditional doctors and emerging churches that agitate the

minds of people on killings.

Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, Br. John Sulle said that due to technological growth and effects on nature peoples' shock up sober is gone as the power to reason the pain they endorse to people is gone.

"Due to technological change, there is no absolute button to be placed as the cause of killings since they are many, but on my own point of view lack of critical thinking on ecological convention as the source of all evil," Br Sulle noted

For his part, a ten cell leader at Madale street in Dar es Salaam, Antony Kanjibai said until when leaders take off an emblem on their neck and use humility in solving problems facing citizens, a lot will be revealed and shape behaviors at family level.

He said more killings seen lately are a result of lack of space for people to report their problems in the local government base which is traditionally expected to be the court on family concerns.

"I have known and solved more than walking on a leadership shell, as for the meantime five to six cases taken to police and court have been retracted," he noted.

Kanjibai added: "It doesn't make sense for a married couple to demand divorce, after all why did they marry, do they think of the parental care afterwards so when all these questions are asked they tend to lay back and begin a new life happily."

Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) executive director Anna Henga, cited on late reports on murder, giving a wakeup call to agencies involved to effectively enlighten people on this battle.

"The centre condemns the ongoing murder reports reported this January in the country and I hereby call upon psychologists, human right activists and community leaders to dedicate their time to educate people on this," she said.

The 2020 LHCR report shows that 32 women were killed by their partners, in which 23 cases resulted from jealousy.

“She said her husband and relatives were of no help, they question as to where she would get money for refund was what stressing her a lot”

TANESCO set for 16-hr power cuts in 12 regions

FROM PAGE 1

corporation had installed a 2bn/-transformer at the Kunduchi power cooling station to diminish power outages in Kinondoni District as part of the renovation and installation initiatives.

The power cooling station built in 1995 had two transformers of 65 MVA each (related to MW measurement) saying the newly installed transformer will increase efficiency and control

low voltage.

The transformer will be switched on tomorrow to address challenges during repairs at Songosongo, he elaborated.

"Work to increase capacity at this power station is finished after installing the new transformer. It will help to address challenges of low voltage in particular," he stated, assuring the general public that there are good times ahead as the renovation and installation exercise will increase efficiency.

TANESCO is in the service industry and thus obliged to tell its customers of any developments to help them take precautionary measures, he said, noting that Ubungu III power station is being expected to produce 112 megawatts from 60 megawatts at present.

Regina Mvungi, the manager for Kinondoni North Region, expressed confidence in supply outages ending with the installation of the new transformer, and effort related to warnings issued by the utility four

months ago asking customers to reduce power usage as electricity production falls in its hydropower plants.

Low power production was expected due to low water volumes in various hydropower stations, especially Kihansi, Kidatu, and Pangani.

The power utility is now increasingly looking to natural gas to mitigate the crisis, which is preceded by the maintenance of its natural gas plants, the CEO had stated.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured at Zanzibar State House yesterday fielding questions from journalists representing various media houses. It was the first on his just-introduced monthly press conferences also accessible virtually. Photo: State House

NAIROBI

KENYAN police say one suspect has been arrested after an improvised explosive device killed at least 13 passengers and injured others in a bus traveling in northeast Kenya near the border with Somalia.

Kenyan police in northeast Mandera county say the 14-seat bus was heading to Mandera town early Monday when it drove over the roadside bomb.

Kenyan media reports cited witnesses saying they heard gunfire after the deadly explosion.

The media quoted the region's

Roadside bomb hits bus, kills 13 on Kenya-Somalia border

police chief Bunei Rono as saying one suspect was arrested in connection with the bombing and was being questioned.

While no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, suspicion is expected to fall on the Islamist militant group al-Shabaab.

The Somali terror group has in the past launched several cross-border

attacks on security forces and public transportation.

The al-Qaida-linked group is blamed for most of the northeastern and coastal region's attacks, though analysts say some of the violence is due to local and political disputes.

Al-Shabaab in 2015 attacked a convoy on the same road as Monday's attack that was carrying

Mandera Governor Ali Roba, killing three people, including two police officers.

Kenyan police say suspected al-Shabaab fighters on Wednesday sprayed vehicles carrying judicial officials with bullets in nearby Lamu county, injuring several people.

AGENCIES



Amina Mgunya, an internal medicine specialist with suburban Dar es Salaam's One Health Polyclinic, pictured at the weekend having a word with local residents attending a free health camp at Kitunda-Kivule near the medical facility. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Farmers, pastoralists clash, leaving 5 dead

By Guardian Reporter, Kilindi

FIVE people have been killed in Kilindi district, Tanga region during the fight between farmers and pastoralists.

The fight happened at Lelai village in Kibirashi ward whereas the

parties failed to reach agreement on the exact border dividing the two villages.

Kilindi District Commissioner, Abeli Busalama linked the fight between farmers and pastoralists with a border dispute, noting that among the dead, there are women,

men and children.

“Three people were injured during the fight and they all admitted at the district hospital,” said the District Commissioner, adding that police are investigating the matter.

DC Busalama also called upon the two groups to stop the fight and

find better ways of resolving their conflicts. He warned that fighting would not end their conflicts, instead cause some injuries and deaths.

Kibirashi Ward Councillor, Bakari Mohamed said the conflict between farmers and pastoralists has lasted for several years. He was suspicious that one of the villagers used a gun, thus killing the five villagers whose bodies were dumped in a bush.

Tanga Regional Police Commander (RPC), Sofia Jongo confirmed the incident, urging the police force to search for the culprits so that they are taken to court.

TRA launches campaign to promote EFD receipts use

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) will from today bring to affect a special campaign targeting at making more business owners issue electronic fiscal device machine (EFD) receipts for commodity buyers and consumers.

Christened ‘Kamata wote’ literally translated into ‘arrest them all’ is an endless campaign to be executed across the country from today on where both businessmen and consumers are subject to fines if they are found of not issuing and demanding EFD receipts respectively.

However, in line with the campaign, TRA has cut down the turnover amount of businesses that are supposed to have EFD from the previous 14million/- to 11million/- with effect from today.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TRA's Taxpayers Services and Education Director Richard Kayombo said that bringing down the turnover amount is a result of the taxman's survey that has proved the existence of many businesses that generate the 11million/- turnover per year.

“Our regional and district managers will be on the streets from today on for special inspection on compliance to EFD receipts issuance. This time around we will be a little bit strict to consumers who have been neglecting demanding receipts on services or products they purchase,” said Kayombo.

According to him, consumers who will be caught not demanding EFD receipts will be liable to a fine of between 30,000/- and 1.5million/- depending on the value of the service or product they have purchased.

On the other hand, businessmen who are centrally to the directive will be liable to a fine of between 3million/- and 4.5million/- and to imprisonment of three years or altogether. Citing groups of the community that lay behind in demanding EFD machine receipts, Kayombo said that private car owners, motorcyclists and people who feed in cafeterias.

“Most of these people spend a maximum of 15,000/- at a time. Our research has found that they do ignore receipts thinking that this amount is very low for them to demand receipts. We are calling upon consumers of these services to collect

receipts,” insisted Kayombo.

He asserted that all businesses with an annual turnover of 4million/- must have a TIN number, those with a turnover of 11million/- must have an EFD machine while those with a 100million/- turnover must have an EFD machine which is connected to a VAT tracking system.

“TRA demands that professional consultants like law firms and construction companies have an EFD machine that is linked to the VAT system because of which they have a turnover that tops 80million and in that case they must have the machine to avoid complaints during tax evaluation,” added Kayombo.

Jamillah Msimba, customer service attendant at Total Energies Bandari gas station in Dar es Salaam said that most consumers who ignore EFD receipts are private car owners and motorcycle drivers.

“Most of them argue that the money they pay for the service is too low for them to collect the receipts. We have a dustbin that we dump in all left receipts that are left by our customers,” said Msimba.

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Request for Proposals

Consultancy Services for Provision of Gender Equality Assessment

RFP No. PIT/CO/061/FY22

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- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo District).
- Plan International Tanzania through a Keeping Adolescent Girls in School (KAGIS) project, has set aside fund to conduct consultancy services for Provision of Gender Equality Assessment. **Must demonstrate experience in conducting gender equality assessment, and coordinating and administering qualitative data collection and analysis studies**
- The Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders@plan-international.org Attn: Head of Procurement and Logistics. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan International Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing or submission of the bid documents.
- Bidders are requested to submit Technical and Financial Proposals each be enclosed in a separate envelope and marked "Technical Proposal" and "Financial Proposal" respectively. The two envelopes shall then be enclosed in a single envelope.
- Bidders must submit the proposals in a sealed envelope by hand to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam before 11 AM Wednesday 9th February 2022, marked the respective RFP number. Not to be opened before 11AM Wednesday 9th February 2022. Electronic and Late bids will be rejected.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCES UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the converged Licensing Framework from the following applicant:-

APPLICANT NAME	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS/NATIONALITY	SHARES
VILLAONE COMPANY LIMITED	Content Services Licence	Nelson Shadrack Kinyele (tanzanian) Yusta Fredy Kinyele (tanzanian)	50.000000000 0 5.0000000000

Pursuant to section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communication Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of the licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration

Comments should be submitted to:

Director General
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
P.O.Box 474
14414 DAR ES SALAAM Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2
Fax: +255 22 241 2009
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz



Vacancy Announcement

ASA MICROFINANCE TANZANIA LIMITED Creating Hope, Changing Fortunes.

ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited, incorporated under the Companies Act 2002 (No. 93819) of Tanzania and an affiliate of ASA International (www.asa-international.com), one of the largest microfinance companies in the world. We are hereby inviting qualified citizens of Tanzania to be part of our team for the following positions. ASA Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer who requires dynamic, loyal and committed young men and women who have passion for people's socio-economic development to fill in the following positions for immediate appointment.

Position: Chief Finance Officer (CFO) - 01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Oversee the monthly, quarterly and annual financial statement preparation and analysis and ensure the financial statements are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and company policies.
- Provide advice and counsel to direct reports, senior managers and others relating to broad scope of responsibilities noted above. Provides financial analysis to a wide range of assignments, often under tight deadlines, to support numerous business processes and initiatives.
- Ensure the company-wide implementation of superior accounting, financial reporting and financial processes and internal controls. This includes developing appropriate processes, procedures and tools to ensure that deficiencies are identified and corrected in a timely fashion.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the accounting system, so that it reflects an accurate assessment of the operating revenues and expenses of the organization.
- Ensure compliance with all Federal / Government regulations, including taxation.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the purchasing system in coordination with department heads so that acceptable controls, approvals and time frames are responsive to the requirements of the organization and generally accepted accounting principles.
- Serve as a key member of the senior leadership team providing leadership and input to management peers regarding the financial implications of all major business decisions.
- Manages annual operating and capital budget process, through review with senior management and Board. Assists with the annual business planning process.
- Directs insurance portfolio for all property and casualty insurance, workers compensation, employee health and welfare benefit programs, player disability and contract guarantee insurance, etc.
- Manage relationships with bankers, auditors and league officials, as appropriate.
- Responsible for cash management system, including daily cash management and cash forecasting.
- Other duties as assigned.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance, or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA-T) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA will be an added advantage.
- Minimum 7 years professional experiences as CFO or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).
- Ability to strategize and solve problems.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills.
- An analytical mind, comfortable with numbers.

Position: IT & MIS Manager - 01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Give support to all branch operations related with system and IT infrastructures.
- Support all branch mobile transactions need for M-PESA Operations.
- Give support, advice and solutions to the tablet problem that might arise to staffs (Loan Officers) during performing office activities.
- Visit branches for monitoring making sure all ICT policy are followed and maintained accordingly.
- Assist the department of IT with overall responsibilities of ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited to diagnose and resolve problem with printers, copier's fax-machines and networks.
- Perform system diagnosis, repair and updates to ensure data integrity and reliability of automated task.
- Interface with users (responsible staff) to identify computer related needs and provide approval software/hardware support. Assist in typing.
- Ensure antivirus software is always updated and sharing necessary information with users (staffs) potential risks.
- Provide help desk and on-site technical support of both hardware and software.
- Provide necessary instruction/information to the staff (accessing computers) on the use of computer application and system.
- Ensure routine backups are performed as outlined by the back-up and restore manual.
- Generate various reports as required and as may be instructed.
- Ensure day to day administrative activities are undertaken to maintain database in a full operational stable state.
- Undertake system monitoring and turning to ensure optimum performance.
- Assist in preparing and maintaining relevant systems documentation including creation of policy.
- Reviewing and maintaining efficient and effective database back-up procedure to enable the provision successful and accurate backup so that any data can be restored quickly and efficient.
- Maintain adequate security of data by implementing, monitoring and audit appropriate secure policy.
- Installing AMMS software, visiting branch, resolving IT related problem when it arises.
- Actively contributing and participating in all disaster recovery processes.
- Assist the staff in identifying and implementing system improvements.
- Administer database platforms and associated systems efficiently and effectively to ensure ASAMTL is meeting its business requirements and goals.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum Graduate in Information Technology, Computer Science, or similar relevant field.
- Previous working experience as an IT for 5 years.
- Previous experience in help desk support will be an advantage.
- In-depth knowledge of a variety of IT systems, databases and applications.
- Familiarity with TCP/IP protocols and LAN/WAN configuration.
- Hands-on experience with troubleshooting and repairing complex IT issues.
- Any relevant additional certification (CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+ etc.) will be an advantage.
- Well conversant with MS Office Package, Excel

Position: Internal Audit Officer (IAO) - 02 Posts

Job Responsibilities:

- Prepare reports required by the CEO of ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited and Group Internal Auditor of ASA International and submit them on time.
- Perform internal audit activities in accordance with the internal audit manual branch audit check list to help provide assurance that applicable laws, regulations and organizational policies & procedures are complied with judiciously.
- Analyse data obtained for evidence or deficiencies in controls, extravagance, fraud or lack of compliance with laws, government regulations and management policies or procedures.
- Conduct operational, financial and compliance internal audits.
- Evaluate financial and operational procedures to assure that adequate internal controls are present.
- Identify, assess and evaluate the organizational risk areas, make appropriate recommendations for improvement of accounting controls and accounting procedures.
- Prepare Internal audit reports of findings and recommendations for management and submit to Internal Audit Manager and send to ASAI.
- To be the responsible person in arranging, managing and maintain documentation of the Internal Audit section.
- To be the responsible person in the integrity and efficiency of Internal Audit related matters.
- To maintain excellent communication with the Audit Manager of ASA Tanzania and Group Internal Auditor of ASA International (ASAI) Headquarters on all tasks and projects.
- To have regular field visit for auditing purposes at least 12 days per month and to report field activities to the Chief Executive Officer of ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited and Dhaka Bangladesh.
- Prepare monthly consolidation report of audit department on time & send to ASAI Group Head of Internal Audit.
- Accomplish day to day activities regularly and on time.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA-T) is an added advantage.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 2 years professional experiences as Auditor or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Accounts Manager-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Check and prepare daily transactions bill before payment and adjustments.
- Check the daily temporary advance register.
- Check the physical cash count with cash denomination daily basis.
- Check the WHT or VAT on applicable items.
- Check the online and Cash transfer from HO to Br. bank account and Br. to HO bank account.
- Check M-pesa transactions from HO to Br.
- Check all journals with general ledgers and trial balance of AMMS system.
- Prepare monthly reporting pack as per trial balance and general ledgers.
- Prepare bank reconciliation of each bank account and fund reconciliation

- from HO to Br. and Br. HO.
- Calculate the city service levy and prepare Return of HO & all branches.
- Prepare Debit Voucher Credit voucher and Journal Voucher in the AMMS.
- Prepare the monthly reporting pack on 8th day of the following month and send to Dhaka Office review purpose.
- Prepare the Payroll Sheets monthly basis as per HR documents.
- Prepare the PAYE & SDL, LAPP, PPF, SSF and HESLB report monthly basis and submit to respective authority within timeline.
- Prepare staff loan interest schedule monthly basis.
- Prepare the fixed assets Register and Fixed assets Schedule monthly basis.
- Prepare Rent Schedule for each branch.
- Prepare the monthly WHT summary, SDL & PAYE summary and SDL return.
- Calculate monthly interest of ASAI loan and other loans. Check interest Fx loss or gain with ASAI Interest book quarterly basis.
- Preserve all documents duly in the file.
- Check the chart of accounts for new GL code opening and check the link of the reporting pack.
- To provide info and documents to Dhaka Office when required.
- To provide and fill up the funder's requirements.
- To provide all info and documents to TRA or Tax consultant.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA-T) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 4 years professional experiences in Accounting role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Finance Manager-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Check and reconcile the fund transfer from Head Office to Branch Office, Branch Office to Head Office daily basis.
- Maintain fund register and e-pesa register daily basis.
- Collect the bank reconciliation statements from each branch along with bank statement.
- Check the bank reconciliation of each branch monthly basis.
- Check and reconcile the M-pesa balance daily basis.
- Prepare the bank reconciliation of each bank account of Head office.
- Check the online transfer from Head Office to Branch, Branch to Head office and send the online documents to respective branch.
- Record the all-fund transfer transactions into system on daily basis.
- Check and prepare the bill summary of the transaction.
- Prepare monthly fund reconciliation report and Reason of Mismatch report.
- Check cash balance with system report and trial balance.
- Check the branch fund report daily basis in the system.
- Prepare the budget annually and make budget variance between actual and budget monthly.
- Preserve all documents duly in the file.
- Provide info and documents to Dhaka Office when they require.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA-T) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 4 years professional experiences in Accounting role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Financial Compliance Officer-01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- Monitoring business operations for compliance with regulatory and policy requirements.
- Works with the organization's management and employees to identify compliance risks and then create policies and implement plans to ensure adherence to regulations.
- Operating with a high degree of integrity and fairness, striving to maintain a balance of impartiality and fairness while promoting compliance excellence.
- Help develop and deliver training programs to increase understanding of regulatory requirements, compliance policies and ethical conduct within ASA Microfinance Tanzania Limited.
- Developing, implementing and managing an organization's compliance programs.
- Coordinating with Bank of Tanzania and other regulators.
- Planning, implementing and overseeing risk-related programs.
- Creating and coordinating proper reporting channels for financial compliance issues.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA-T) will be added advantage.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 2 years professional experiences in Finance role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Accounts Officer - 01 Post

Job Responsibilities:

- To maintain all petty cash on daily basis. Making monthly report and posting data on system on timely manner.
- To maintain and record keeping books of accounts and reconcile the Accounts on timely manner.
- Respond to enquiries from the Chief Financial Officer and ASAI Team resulting financial results, supporting requests and the like.
- Liaison with the respective government department, submitting return, and maintain proper compliance with them.
- Handle the company tax, pay tax and other withholding tax.
- Ensure the accurate external and internal audits.
- Ensure the timely reporting of all monthly financial information.
- Ensure the accurate and timely processing of positive pay transactions.
- Ensure monthly and quarterly Bank Compliance activities are performed in a timely and accurate manner.
- Collaborate with the other departments in the organization to support overall department goal and objectives.
- Monitor and analyze departmental work to develop more efficient procedures and use of resources while maintaining a high level of accuracy.
- Assist in development and implementation of new procedures and features to enhance the workflow of the department.
- To maintain liaison with the bank and financial institutions regarding loans and assist the controller in the daily banking requirements.
- To have frequent visit to different branches when and as necessary.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) will be an added advantage.
- MSc/MBA is a plus.
- Minimum 2 years professional experiences in Accounting role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g. SAP).

Position: Loan Officers (LOs) - 100 Posts

Job Responsibilities:

- To build and maintain a substantial and high-quality loan portfolio.
- To conduct members recruitment and screening.
- To orient clients to the particular loan products and services.
- To make groups in all working days in a week, minimum Total clients will be 350.
- Make a regular contact with the groups and clients in field.
- To process loan applications, verify clients income generating activities (IGA) and other related.
- Collect instalments from the clients in groups on regular basis and on time.
- To manage loan disbursements and monitor & collect loan repayments.
- Verify clients' Guarantor's house and other necessary documents.
- To provide quality and good customer service to clients.
- To accomplish day by day activities as required.
- To accomplish all the documentations for the day as required.

Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Diploma/ Advance Diploma/bachelor's degree/Masters.
- Experience is not required but will be an added advantage.
- Willing to work in field level.
- Willing to relocate.
- Ability to work independently at minimum supervision.
- Sensitive to operational risks, self-initiative and decisive with high standard of integrity.
- Ability to work efficiently in a team environment and to demonstrate good negotiation skills.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

Remuneration: Attractive salary package will be offered relating to competencies and experiences.

General Requirements for Applicants of All Posts.

- Application Letter.
- Curriculum Vitae enclosing details of Work experience, skills and with postal and telephone contacts of Three References.
- One passport size photograph attached in CV.

Mode of Application

Applicants who consider himself/herself competent with the above-mentioned position, please send your application to recruitment@asatanzania.com Or you can drop your Application in Our Head Office at Plot No. 87, Msesse Street, Kinondoni Road Dar-es-salaam before 1700HRS on 15th February 2022.

Only short-listed candidate will be contacted for interview. No phone calls are allowed for inquiry. No allowances will be admissible for interview.

Govt sets aside 507m/- for mega water project in Chunya district

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

THE government sets aside 507m/- for completion of mega water project at Sangambi ward in Chunya district, Mbeya region.

Once completed, the project will address water woes in the ward.

Speaking to the paper yesterday here, Lupa Member of Parliament (MP) Masache Kasaka said the government had already deposited the funds for the project to be completed to serve the residents.

He said the water project will provide relief to the villagers who have for a long time been suffering due to scarcity of water.

The MP added the project will bring more joy to women as they are then ones who are forced to wake up early in the morning, travelling long distances to get the precious liquid.

"The government has also commenced a feasibility study to find a reliable source of water so as to serve residents in Chunya town, I believe that with the ongoing efforts, water scarcity challenges will remain a thing of the past in the near future," he added.

He said so far water supply in the district is at 30 percent and that in collaboration with the government they continue to seek for various sources and funds to complete water projects in the area.

"Our district gets water by 30 percent only and this is due to geographical reasons, drought and lack of multiple water sources, the government has constructed a lot of water projects in some area but the challenge is still big, so what we are doing now is finding new sources and ways to get enough water," he elaborated.

MP Kasaka further said among the achievements in the efforts to facilitate water supply in Chunya is the construction of a Matwiga water project which has been completed by 100 percent.

He said the project will start producing and supplying water early this month where many areas will benefit including those in Makongolosi and Matundasi areas.

Some of the residents commended the government for its efforts to bring water services close to them as they will now take a break from travelling long distances every day to search for water.

"We are sometimes forced to share water with animals in dams and rivers which is not safe to them, so having many water projects will give relief to this problem," said Raphael Abdalla.



Aikansia Muro, NMB Bank Plc's head of personal banking, presses button in Dar es Salaam yesterday to pick 25 cash prize winners of the bank's 'MastaBata Kivyakovyakovo' monthly draw. She is with the bank's Dar es Salaam zone manager, Donatus Richard (R), and Gaming Board of Tanzania representative Pendo Mfuru. Each winner won 1m. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Seed agency increases production to 3,333 tonnes

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) has increased seed production from 1,749 tonnes in 2019/20 to 3,333 tonnes in 2020/21 to ensure farmers countrywide have easy access to the input.

This was revealed here yesterday by ASA Chief Executive Officer Dr Sophia Kashenge saying production increased twofold, terming it very big increase in the farming sector due to the government

investing in seeds production at its current 14 farms countrywide.

She said apart from the seed production increase, they were still faced with small seeds production due the current high seed demand.

She said research done in 2017/18 the country seeds demand was between 250,000 to 300,000 tonnes while ASA and other seed producers mustering only 128,000 tonnes per year.

She said the estimates stem from the

increasing number of farmers visiting shops to buy seeds, or those placing orders for seeds purchases to be sent to private firms or their own farms, as well the decrease of imported seeds.

She therefore called on seeds stakeholders to understand that they have great work to do and the issue of seeds was a crosscutting one that needs to be looked in depth by considering seeds and food security for the country.

She added that ASA have embarked in a procedure to make sure first the seeds reach farmers at affordable cost whereby already they have increased distribution centres from five to 10 centres in the country's various areas.

Dr Kashenge therefore called on farmers, especially those growing maize and other crops in 2021/22 to use seeds that can withstand drought.

She mentioned area where they opened seeds distribution centres as including ASA Headquarters Centre for bulk purchases, komoa and Kingalu in Morogoro Region, Nzega Town, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Arusha, Kigoma, Mbozi and Njombe.

In regard to sunflower seeds, she said so far a total of 1,650 tonnes have started to be distributed to farmers whilst ASA aiming to distribute 2,000 tons of the seeds.

EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND, NORWEGIAN & BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION DAR ES SALAAM PUBLIC AUCTION:

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of Switzerland, Norwegian & British High Commission We shall sell Household furniture's, Vehicles & Generator by public auction on Saturday February 5, 2022 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street.

Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am;

To build and analyze departmental work to develop more efficient procedures and use of resources while maintaining a high level of accuracy. Assist in development and implementation of new procedures and features to enhance the workflow of the department.

Vehicles & Generator Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty
1	Toyota Land Cruiser GX	Station Wagon	1HZ Diesel Engine	2011 Not paid
1	Toyota Land Cruiser VX	Station Wagon	4.2TD Diesel Engine	2005 Paid
1	Nissan Patrol Y61	Station Wagon	TD42 Diesel Engine	2010 Paid
1	Jeep Cherokee	GH-KJ37 Station Wagon	KM31 Petrol Engine	2003 Paid
1	Generator KVA	63 Silence	Perkins Diesel Engine	2012 No paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from February 2 th to 4, 2022 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

AUCTION CONDITIONS:

- The winning bidder for Furniture has to make full payment to cashier immediately. For Vehicle or Generator winning bidder must pay 25% to cashier immediately and the final payment in full within 4 working days by February 10, 2022 at 4:00pm. For payments not made within 4 working days, the Vehicle will be offered to the next highest bidder and the advance payment will be forfeited.
- Payments via CRDB and NBC Bank VISA & Master Cards will be accepted.
- All items are sold on "as is" basis with no guarantee.
- Duty and all taxes are the responsibility of the buyer.
- Bidder will remove the items after all payments and duties
- All persons entering the premises must obtain a Bid Number at the entrance.
- All persons entering auction yard must wear Mask, Wash hand with running water or sanitizer

For further information contact:
UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA)
DAR ES SALAAM
CELL NO: 0754 284 926
E-mail: universalauction@hotmail.com

Deputy minister: Urgent control measures need to be in place to ensure sustainable environmental conservation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

NATURAL Resources and Tourism Deputy minister Mary Masanja has called on for urgent measures against challenges facing environmental conservation particularly in Mwanza and Simiyu regions.

She issued the call here yesterday after receiving report on environmental conservation for Mwanza Region and appealed to the farming and livestock keeping communities living in forest reserve areas to live peacefully while protecting the environment for the benefit of the coming generations.

Masanja (pictured) said among the challenges facing residents of

villages around forest reserve areas is lack of education on environment conservation and its effects in not doing so, as well as how they can utilise the forest reserve resources in poverty alleviation and better use of land.

"I understand of the existence of an eight-man ministerial committee established to deal with conflicts in forest reserve areas, but as we wait for its findings and recommendations, we should start providing education on environmental conservation and introduce various economic projects under corporate social responsibility (CSR) that should include farming, beekeeping and poultry," she said.

For his part, Mwanza regional



commissioner Robert Gabriel said forests in the Lake Zone were not in good shape and called on concerned officials to mobilise for their conservation.

He said: "All officials should sing in

Speaking at different times, Magu and Busega district commissioners, Salum Kali and Gabriel Zakaria, respectively, and other representatives of the people living near forest reserve areas said conservation was very essential, but the most important thing is that there should be a programme on conservation training that should co in tandem with CSR projects for the benefit of the people living in the forest reserve areas.

The Tanzania Forest Agency Commissioner for Conservation, Prof Dos Santos Silayo, meanwhile said the Agency was ready to work together with officials from the Lake Zone to make sure conservation succeeds.



All officials should sing in unison, these include MPs, central government officials, officials from both public and private institutions should work together to protect our forests for the benefit of the coming generations



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FIELD PROJECTS MANAGER

IITA-TZ2022-R4D-001-NRS- MOROGORO

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has won a competitive two-year grant from **IFAD- South-South Cooperation (SSTC)** Facility to implement a project on supporting the recovery of priority food crop value chains from the effects of COVID 19 to strengthen community resilience, markets, and trade development in Tanzania. The project will operate in the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone and will provide technical input and support to the IFAD-funded Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP). The two-year grant will be implemented in collaboration with the Alliance Bioversity International -CIAT (ABC) and other partners in target regions along the Central Corridor and part of the Lake Zone.

The second project is **BASICSII** which is a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates with a vision of developing and commercializing the cassava seed supply chain—from pre-basic seed of officially released varieties to the farmers through a network of government-certified commercial cassava seed entrepreneurs located throughout the primary cassava growing regions of Tanzania. The project has been operating in Nigeria since 2020 and has been extended to Tanzania from 2022 up to 2025.

IITA is seeking to recruit a qualified person to fill the vacancy of the **Field Projects Manager** for the **IITA-led IFAD-SSTC and BASICSII** projects areas respectively. The position will be for a period of two years renewable subject to availability of funds, a successful probation period and high performance throughout the implementation of the project.

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in **Morogoro, Tanzania.**

Responsibilities:

- Provide overall leadership and coordination of projects teams to ensure that project targets are achieved within the set timelines and corresponding budgets.
- Develop elaborate work plans for all actions and activities of the projects including preparation of planning, implementation, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation studies.
- For the IFAD-SSTC project, create efficient mechanisms for synergies and extensive sharing of knowledge between the project and the IFAD-funded Agriculture and Fisheries Development Programme (AFDP)
- Managing successful relationships with the government, donor agencies, the business community, related donor-funded projects, and other stakeholders as required.
- Prepare the periodic financial and technical reports which include- quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports.
- Establish and strengthen productive partnerships with public (district) and private sector partners to facilitate learning and knowledge sharing.
- Organize coordination-planning and review meetings with the project implementing partners
- Work closely with the MEL officer to develop a performance management plan for the projects and monitor the implementation processes to track milestones.
- Ensuring daily management of the projects and assuming full accountability of projects results
- Responsible for day-to-day operational coordination of partner activities,
- Contribute to publication of action research results and success stories.
- Ensuring effective and efficient management of project's compliance with planning, monitoring, evaluation, performance, and reporting
- Work closely with the projects Finance Administrator to ensure monitoring and strict budgetary adherence
- Work closely with the projects Finance Administrator to review and ensure timely submission of regular financial reports
- Perform other activities as may be assigned by supervisor.

Qualification and Experience

The candidate should have a master's degree relevant to general agriculture, agribusiness, and seed systems or its equivalent from a recognized university with experience in agricultural technology transfer, marketing, and management of partnerships.

A minimum of five years of senior level field experience in cassava productivity and seed business system

Core Competencies:

- Experience of at least 5 years as a project manager/ coordinator of large-scale agricultural development projects, in East Africa and Tanzania in particular.
- Having experience and good understanding of production, markets, sustainable seed systems development, marketing challenges and opportunities in Tanzania
- Demonstrated ability to integrate gender, youth, and private sector engagement issues into development projects
- Ability to work collegially and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary and multi-cultural environment.
- Demonstrated communication, networking, computer, and organizational skills and ability to prepare high quality reports.
- Proven experience with engaging with public and private sector stakeholders
- Experience in marketing and business development skills is an added advantage
- Demonstrated ability in stakeholder and partner engagement and policy dialogue with emphasis to district engagement.
- Excellent leadership, interpersonal and team building skills.
- Excellent writing skills.
- Excellent resource mobilization skills

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Morogoro. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikoche Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org.

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. **Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.**

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT ZONE FACILITATOR

IITA-TZ2022-R4D-002-NRS-TABORA

Background: The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is a not-for-profit institution that generates agricultural innovations to meet Africa's most pressing challenges of hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and natural resource degradation. Working with various partners across sub-Saharan Africa, we improve livelihoods, enhance food and nutrition security, increase employment, and preserve natural resource integrity. IITA is a member of CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Please visit <https://www.iita.org/> for more information on IITA.

The project complements and builds on ongoing efforts from the Building an Economically Sustainable Seed System for Cassava in Tanzania (BEST Cassava) project that has operated since 2017 and will end this year and transition into the Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System, Phase 2 (BASICS-II) project in 2022 in Tanzania

IITA is looking for a suitably qualified person to fill the vacancy of the position of **Zone Facilitator** for the Muhogo Bora project.

Duty Station: This is a Nationally Recruited Position, and the incumbent will be based in **Tabora, Tanzania.**

Core Responsibilities

The Zonal Facilitator will be responsible for CSE recruitment and selection of appropriate rural farmers with emphasis on women and youths, supervise training of CSEs, facilitate CSEs registration and ensure formation of CSE associations.

The zonal project manager will be responsible for:

- Ensuring Strategy and Performance
- Recruitment and selection of appropriate rural farmers with emphasis on women and youths to become CSEs
- A robust training program on agronomy, seed multiplication, and business skills
- Recruited CSEs to be registered as seed dealers by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
- Linking CSEs with TOSCI for registration and inspections
- Backstopping, mentoring and monitoring for effective agronomic and business practices of CSEs
- Provide marketing and promotion support through seed grower's associations
- Build and strengthen the capacity of seed grower's associations
- Provide training to Extension staff (MoA) on commercialization and supervise them
- Management of other staff including performance— Field Area Facilitators (once recruited)
- Ensuring compliance with IITA procedures
- Administration and operation of Zonal Office
- Representing IITA in the local area business, government, other stakeholders
- Preparing monthly plans for the respective Zone and staff (to be approved by Technical Lead)
- Prepare monthly budget to correspond with activities in workplan
- Monitor expenses to budget - (staff expenses, vehicle, programming)
- Monitoring and Evaluation / Reporting
- Ensuring timely and accurate Data collection at all sites
- Monthly progress Zone report
- Tracking M&E against Performance targets and keeping Technical Lead advised
- Perform any other job-related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification and Experience

A Bachelors' degree in a relevant subject e.g. Agronomy, Agriculture general, Agribusiness

- A Minimum of 4 years' professional experience of working with Research, agri-business, marketing and farmer organizations in East Africa.
- Knowledge & practical experience of Cassava agronomy, Research, Plant protections, Value Chain Development
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good communication/social skills; Good familiarity with the area the project/program is situated

General information:

The initial contract for the position is for two years: renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The duty station for the position will be IITA in Morogoro. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikoche Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org.

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. **Please note that any applications without the reference indicated will be automatically disqualified.**

Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

KACU sets aside 10.8bn/- to buy cotton in coming harvest season

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA Cooperative Union (KACU) in Kahama District has set aside 10.8bn/- for the purchase of six million kilograms of cotton from farmers in Ushetu district and Msalala and Kahama municipality during the coming harvest season.

The money is from Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) loan; hence it will spur price competition over cotton prices with other firms buying the crop just as it was during the previous season.

In the last season the Union was able to buy cotton from farmers at between 1,100/- and 1,700/- per kilo in some places, mainly in Kishapu District, as compared to prices offered by Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) of 1,050/- per kilo.

This was revealed by KACU deputy Chairman, Godfrey Mbuto when submitting his report on estimates regarding the purchase of cotton, at the Union's 26th, and added that KACU has restored its former respect.

He said more than 16,000 hectares of cotton were cultivated and each hectare is expected to yield 250 kilograms, whereas six million kilograms of the crop is expected to be purchased from farmers.

He added that the 10.8bn/- allocated will create a big competition compared to the previous cotton buying season.

Mbuto said in the last season KACU purchased 3.469 million kilograms of cotton valued at 5.51bn/- from farmers from Ushetu, Msalala, Kahama, Kishapu and Nyang'whale

districts in both Shinyanga and Geita regions while two million kilograms of cotton was bought from Kishapu District alone.

However, Mbuto dispelled fears by farmers that in this season they will get good prices that will benefit them, but reminded them to adhere to cotton harvesting procedures to get a good, clean crop demanded in the world market.

For his part, Kahama District Commissioner Festo Kiswaga said the cooperative movement is built by farmers themselves hence they will not accept seeing the movement dying in his hands due to personal interests of some of its corrupt officials engaged in embezzling its funds and property.

He said many cooperative unions are no longer loanable due to huge past debts.

Paschal Muhoja, a cotton farmer from Kishapu District said in this season they expect to harvest more cotton compared to last season as there have been average rain needed for the cultivation of the crop.



...10.8bn/- allocated will create a big competition compared to the previous cotton buying season



Macon Dunnagan, Tanzania's Goodwill Ambassador for Tourism in the US, makes a technical climb (using a special chain) of Mount Meru in Arusha Region at the weekend as part of a special expedition organised by ZARA Tours. Photo: James Lanka

TARI to provide 3,000 farmers with new beans seeds for trial

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 3,000 farmers countrywide are expected to receive new seeds for beans for trial to see its quality and yield before distributing to other farmers.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the Uyolet Centre Director of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyolet), Dr Tulole Bucheyeki, who added that this was according to efforts by TARI researchers on food and cash crops.

Dr Bucheyeki said they have embarked with in research for new seeds of various crops that can withstand the effects of climate change.

The decision to provide farmers with new beans seeds was made after a meeting with agriculture stakeholders from four Southern Highlands Zone regions including Mbeya, Rukwa, Songwe and Ruvuma during which they agreed to make verifications in regard to beans seeds as well for other crops before distributing the same to farmers.

Seed researcher at TARI-Uyolet, Catherine Mwakabungu said the new beans seeds have been invented after considering the effects of climate change.

He said the seeds can withstand the climate anywhere and that each year 1,000 farmers will be able to benefit by the seeds, which he said they can produce high crops yields.

Seed crops processor from Ikowo in Rukwa Region, Remi Mariva said for a long time they have been getting low yields due to the type of seeds they cultivate, and hope that the new seeds will increase their harvests.

He said the seeds can withstand the climate anywhere and that each year 1,000 farmers will be able to benefit by the seeds, which he said they can produce high crops yields.



Temeke district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (2nd-L, foreground), DCB Commercial Bank public relations manager Brino Londo (to her left), DCB marketing officer Agness Ntabaye (L) among participants of an environmental cleanliness campaign. A regular month-end drive for Dar es Salaam, it was this time held at district level in Keko ward in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The bank took part in the community project via its public welfare entity, DCB Foundation, which also donated sanitation equipment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NGO targeting two wards for education about GBV

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

GREEN Community Initiatives (GCI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) expects to reach to 500 people in Puni and Nyida wards in Shinyanga district to provide them with education of gender based violence (GBV) and its effects.

The decision is part of the implementation of 'Tuwalinde' project sponsored by Women Fund Tanzania (WFT) through forums to be established at village and ward level aimed to reduce acts of gender based violence and child abuse.

This was revealed here on Sunday by GCI project manager, George Nyanda during a training seminar on gender based violence and boosting household economies for the residents of Puni and Nyida wards, saying many families were being subjected to GBV but fail to report them.

He said they have mobilised to reach 500 people of the two wards within three months, out of whom 200 will be women, youth and children and 300 adult males, adding that this will help in sensitizing the society the effects of gender based violence and child abuse and how to report them to appropriate organs.

Christopher Malengo, Shinyanga

district community development officer said one of the reasons for the existence of gender based violence in families is the absence of understanding between the fathers and mother, the situation in which the father makes decisions without involving the family.

He said 60 percent of acts of GBV are committed within the family with family members failing to report them for appropriate legal steps to be taken due to threat of being isolated from the family.

For his part, Puni Ward Executive Officer, Fumbuka Mathia said they have entered into agreement with residents of three villages in the Ward to be accompanying their children to various areas including markets places and auctions in order to protect them against adult males.

He said the aim for this is to protect girl students and making sure they learn in peace.



...aim for this is to protect girl students and making sure they learn in peace

LILONGWE

President Chakwera warns cabinet on corruption

President Lazarus Chakwera on Sunday warned his new ministers against all forms of corruption, six days after firing his cabinet and appointing a new cabinet amidst allegations of corruption by some members of his administration.

On Friday unveiled a new 30-member cabinet, dropping or demoting seven ministers, three days after dismissing the entire government over graft concerns.

During the swearing-in ceremony for the new cabinet at Kamuzu Palace in Lilongwe, Chakwera said he expected his ministers to work ethically.

"Corruption comes in many forms, and the opportunities to succumb to it in this country abound, but you must resist it at every turn. Do not accept a gift in exchange for

using your office to give someone preferential treatment in the administration of a public service. That is corruption," he said, adding that he will not shield anyone from the law.

"If you do not follow the law, the law will follow you. And if you think that I will use my office to save you from facing a law you have broken, then you are gravely mistaken," he said.

Chakwera added that an acceptance of gift in exchange for using your office to give someone preferential treatment in the administration of a public service is corruption.

"Do not accept a payment from anyone to whom your Ministry has

rendered a public service. That is corruption. Do not invent or fabricate or approve useless ministry activities in order to generate allowances for you and other public servants. That is corruption. Do not bully or push state institutions to pay or award a contractor from whom you stand to benefit and with whom you have business interests

or shares. That is corruption.

"Do not, under any circumstances or for any personal glory, violate the oath of office and related oath of secrecy you have taken, which are required by law and are designed to protect our national interests for the good of Malawi and its people. That too is corruption."

He also urged his cabinet to



If you do not follow the law, the law will follow you. And if you think that I will use my office to save you from facing a law you have broken, then you are gravely mistaken

Cabinet members to work hard.

"We have more work to do than there are hands to do it. There is therefore, absolutely no excuse for sloth, laziness, and procrastination. You must attend to your duties. You must fulfil your responsibilities. You must do your job. And when I issue a directive for your ministry to carry out, you must engage an extra gear to see that it is carried out with speed and without excuses above and beyond your regular duties," he said.

Scandal brewed in December when the then minister of lands, Kezzie Msukwa, was arrested on allegations that he had received a bribe from wealthy businessman Sattar to give him land.

In the new line-up, Finance Minister Felix Mlusu has been replaced by the previous trade minister, Sosten Gwengwe, but no reason for the change was given.

The president also demoted two influential ministers - Eisenhower Mkaka, who was moved from foreign affairs to the forestry portfolio, and Richard Chimwendu Banda, who was switched from homeland security to the sports and youth ministry.

In total, Chakwera dismissed seven ministers as most of the ministers in the previous cabinet were retained in what seems more of a cabinet reshuffle.

AGENCIES

Mwinyi irked by thefts, vandalism on electrical infrastructure in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is disappointed by theft which he termed economic sabotage of stealing cables from water wells, causing the wells to not work and the people to run out of water.

The President said the incident took place yesterday at water wells in Bubwisudi and an incident that took place last year to steal cables from all street lights in the area of a bad bridge in Unguja.

He called on the security forces to track down the perpetrators of the incidents and when they are found, they will be charged with economic sabotage because they have made the city dark and the people homeless.

"I urge the security forces to ensure that these sensitive areas of water and electricity are protected instead of the usual protection so that they do not continue to be compromised," he said, adding that it's time to ban the scrap metal trade to save the infrastructure from damage.

He also said the government promised to rebuild the areas to have modern buildings and have already started the construction including Darajani area, Mwanakwerekwe Market, Jumbi Market and Chuini Market.

Dr Mwinyi said there are people who have started to get hurt in the construction of the areas for fear of being removed and will not be considered when the construction is completed.

"Let me scare you. The government's goal is to create a better environment for our entrepreneurs to work in a better environment so all those who have completed construction in those areas will be given first priority before others who are not in those areas," he said.

On his recent visit to the United Arab Emirates, Dr Mwinyi said that during the visit he had the opportunity to sign a contract for the construction of the Kizingo area with the aim of building the area to be a good image of the country and fishermen and young people using the area to benefit including built a modern fish market.

Regarding the Zanzibar Stone town, Dr Mwinyi said the Zanzibar Stone town is a world heritage site that must be protected and is more than 100 years old so that future generations know it so it is dilapidated buildings must be repaired.

He said many houses in the city were not in good condition and could not be reached for the next 100 years so the government had decided to invest in them.

He added that "the government does not intend to evict anyone from the houses but to have them repaired so that they do not continue to fall as they are now".

On the COVID-19 relief money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dr Mwinyi explained that will be used for development projects including the construction of hospitals and schools and the construction of these projects has already begun construction.

He said the intention and purpose is to have more classrooms to reduce student congestion in the classrooms, to have teaching and learning materials and to change Zanzibar education.

Dr Mwinyi urged all contractors assigned to the project to ensure that they complete on time and the government will provide funds without any hindrance in order to avoid negligence in the implementation of the projects.

He also said that the government is continuing to raise funds for the renovation of Pemba Airport so that it can resemble Unguja airport with large planes landing so that the economy can grow.

Liwale NGO rallies for sunflower cultivation, Covid-19 vaccinations

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

LIWALE Socio-economic Development Organization (LSEDO) a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that mobilises for sunflower farming has turned to mobilising people to vaccinate against Covid-19.

The organization's mobiliser, Hassan Mpako yesterday told this paper in an interview that one month had passed since they started rallying for their members to get Covid-19 vaccination.

"LSEDO has been registered with the government, hence it must carry the government agendas including mobilising for people to protect themselves against Covid-19," he said.

Mpako explained that in regard to mobilising for the sunflower cultivation, they have a slogan "Sunflower and Money" and now they have another one for the Covid-19 vaccination.

Her said LSEDO has now decided to deal in the two issues in simultaneously as a way to work together with the government and other stakeholders in the war against the disease that continues to kill people worldwide.

"As you know there has been some controversy in regard to vaccination, with same not seeing the importance for being vaccinated," he added.

He said due to the controversy, the NGO has seen that there is the need for working together with the government in the district to mobilise the people to abide by all the precautions against the disease including vaccination.

He said "our NGO has 460 members in the district's 14 wards that are being mobilised to be vaccinated after which they educate other people to do the same, just as it is in regard to sunflower education.

For his part, Liwale district Commissioner Judith Nguli praised the work done by the NGO saying it aims to bring development to the district.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA HABARI, MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI



TAARIFA KWA UMMA

MAREKEBISHO YA KANUNI ZA MIUNDOBINU YA UTANGAZAJI KIDIJITI NA KANUNI ZA LESENI

1. UTANGULIZI

Katika kuboresha mazingira ya utoaji huduma za Mawasiliano nchini, Wizara ya Habari, Mawasiliano na Teknolojia ya Habari imefanya maboresho madogo ya Kanuni za Miundombinu ya Utangazaji Kidijiti na Kanuni za Leseni za mwaka 2018.

Maboresho ya Kanuni hizi yana lengo la kuboresha mazingira ya utoaji huduma nchini, kupanua wigo wa upatikanaji wa huduma za Mawasiliano ya kielektroniki na kuboresha mazingira ya uwekezaji nchini.

2. MABORESHO YALIYOFANYIKA

2.1. Kwa Huduma za Utangazaji (Redio na Televisheni)

2.1.1 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Kanuni Na.16 ya Kanuni za Miundombinu ya Utangazaji Kidijiti, 2018 ili kuruhusu chaneli za televisheni za kulipia ziweze kurusha matangazo ya kibiashara (yasiyozidi dakika 5 kwa saa). Kabla ya maboresho haya ya Kanuni, chaneli za televisheni za kulipia hazikuruhusiwa kuweka matangazo kibiashara.

Lengo la kuruhusu matangazo ya kibiashara kwenye chaneli za televisheni za kulipia:-

- Kuweka mazingira bora zaidi ya uwekezaji yanayoendana na uhalisia wa biashara ya maudhui ya ndani ya kulipia; na
- Kuhamasisha na kuchochea utengenezaji wa maudhui ya ndani.

2.1.2 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Kanuni Na.18 ya Kanuni za Miundombinu ya Utangazaji Kidijiti, 2018 ili kuruhusu chaneli za televisheni za kutazamwa bila kulipia (Free to Air) zioneshwe bila kulipia kwenye visimbuzi vyote nchini. Kabla ya maboresho haya ya Kanuni, chaneli za kutazamwa bila kulipia hazikuruhusiwa kuoneshwa kwenye visimbuzi vya kulipia nchini.

Lengo ni:-

- Kuongeza wigo wa ufikiwaji wa habari kwa wananchi ambapo visimbuzi vya chaneli za kulipia vitaweza kuonesha chaneli zisizo za kulipia bila malipo; na
- Kuondoa uhitaji wa kuwa na visimbuzi vingi.

2.1.3 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Kanuni Na.29 ya Kanuni za Miundombinu ya Utangazaji Kidijiti, 2018 ili kuruhusu chaneli za televisheni za kulipia kurusha matukio mubashara (live events). Kabla ya marekebisho haya matukio mubashara yaliruhusiwa kwa televisheni za kutazamwa bila kulipia pekee;

2.1.4 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kufuta ada ya masafa kwa wenye miundombinu ya utangazaji Kidijiti (Multiplex Operator) ili kuleta nafuu kwa wawekezaji kwenye eneo hili;

2.1.5 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuanisha aina mpya ya leseni maalum kwa watoa huduma wanaokusanya maudhui (Content Aggregators). Lengo la mabadiliko haya ni kurahisisha utoaji wa leseni na pia kuchochea na kuhamasisha utengenezaji na ukusanyaji wa maudhui ya ndani na hivyo kuongeza ajira. Kabla ya mabadiliko haya kulikuwa na leseni za utoaji maudhui na miundombinu ya maudhui pekee;

2.1.6 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Kanuni Na.8 na Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kubadili leseni ya vituo vya utangazaji vya kijamii kuwa leseni ndogo. Hii ina lengo la kuchochea uanzishaji wa vituo vya utangazaji vya kijamii katika maeneo ambayo bado hayajafikiwa na

huduma za utangazaji hasa wa redio;

2.1.7 Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Kanuni Na.3 na Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuruhusu utangazaji wa maudhui ya elimu kwa mujibu wa mitaala iliyoidhinishwa. Mabadiliko haya yamelenga kuruhusu uanzishaji wa chaneli za televisheni au vituo vya redio maalum kwa ajili ya vipindi vya elimu, pamoja na kuhamasisha uwekezaji kwenye elimu. Mabadiliko haya yamelenga kusogeza na kurahisisha utoaji wa huduma za elimu nchini.

2.2. Kwa Huduma za Mawasiliano ya Simu na Intaneti

(a) Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Sehemu ya Kwanza ya Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuboresha mfumo wa leseni katika eneo la vituo vya kuhifadhi taarifa nchini (Public Data Centre). Lengo ni kuongeza wigo wa uwekezaji katika huduma za mawasiliano hasa katika masuala ya kuhifadhi taarifa kutokana na ongezeko la huduma mtandao (kama vile cloud computing services);

(b) Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Sehemu ya Kwanza ya Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuainisha aina mpya ya leseni kwa ajili ya vituo vya maingiliano ya Intaneti (Internet exchange Points). Maboresho haya yatawezesha kuainisha vigezo vya kiufundi vya miundombinu ya vituo vya maingiliano ya Intaneti ili kurahisisha mawasiliano;

(c) Mabadiliko yamefanyika katika Sehemu ya Nne ya Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuboresha usimamizi katika eneo hili na kuwatambua mafundi simu;

(d) Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Sehemu ya Tatu ya Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kuongeza aina mpya ya leseni ndogo kwa ajili ya huduma mtandao (e-services). Lengo la mabadiliko haya ni kutambua huduma mpya za mtandao na kuweka mazingira wezeshi kiusimamizi; na

(e) Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kupunguza baadhi ya ada za leseni. Lengo la mabadiliko haya ni kupunguza gharama za uwekezaji na uendeshaji kwa watoa huduma.

2.3. Leseni za Posta na Usafirishaji wa Vipeto (Postal and Courier Services)

Mabadiliko yamefanyika kwenye Jedwali Na.1 la Kanuni za Leseni, 2018 ili kupunguza baadhi ya ada za leseni za posta na usafirishaji wa vipeto. Lengo la mabadiliko haya ni kupunguza gharama za uendeshaji kwa watoa huduma na kuvutia uwekezaji zaidi kwenye eneo hili.

3. HITIMISHO

Maboresho ya Kanuni ni suala muhimu katika kuhakikisha utoaji wa huduma za mawasiliano unaendana na mabadiliko ya teknolojia na uhalisia wa mazingira yaliyopo. Pamoja na maboresho haya, ni dhamira ya Serikali kuendelea kufanya maboresho ya Kanuni kila itakapohitajika.

Nape Moses Nnauye (Mb.)
Waziri wa Habari, Mawasiliano na Teknolojia ya Habari.
01/2/2022

TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2022

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Alerts of dangers of abusing antibiotics are worth heeding

A situational analysis report by anti-microbial resistance core group has revealed shocking abuse of antibiotics in a worrying trend that could see more people in the southern African country dying from such ailments as cuts and grazes, diarrhoea and flu as antibiotics lose their power to fight minor infections.

Antibiotics are not effective against viruses such as the common cold or influenza; drugs which inhibit viruses are termed antiviral drugs or antivirals rather than antibiotics.

Sometimes, the term antibiotic—literally 'opposing life', is broadly used to refer to any substance used against microbes, but in the usual medical usage, antibiotics (such as penicillin) are those produced naturally by one microorganism fighting another, whereas non-antibiotic antibacterials such as sulfonamides and antiseptics are fully synthetic. However, both classes have the same goal of killing or preventing the growth of microorganisms, and both are included in antimicrobial chemotherapy. 'Antibacterials' include antiseptic drugs, antibacterial soaps, and chemical disinfectants, whereas antibiotics are an important class of antibacterials used more specifically in medicine [6] and sometimes in livestock feed.

Antibiotics have been used since ancient times. Many civilizations used topical application of mouldy bread, with many references to its beneficial effects arising from ancient Egypt, Nubia, China, Serbia, Greece, and Rome. The first person to directly document the use of molds to treat infections was John Parkinson (1567-1650). Antibiotics revolutionized medicine in the 20th century. Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) discovered modern day penicillin in 1928, the widespread

use of which proved significantly beneficial during wartime. However, the effectiveness and easy access to antibiotics have also led to their overuse and some bacteria have evolved resistance to them. The World Health Organisation has classified antimicrobial resistance as a widespread 'serious threat [that] is no longer a prediction for the future, it is happening right now in every region of the world and has the potential to affect anyone, of any age, in any country'.

Self-prescription and uncontrolled purchase of antibiotics from street drug vendors for treating domestic animals is a worrying trend that puts people's health at risk, according to the World Animal Protection (WAP)'s new report.

The report states that the unscrupulous business that incorporates inappropriate use of antimicrobials in animals is growing a global concern of looking into the matter with proper laws and policies at national levels.

According to the study conducted between November and December 2020 targeting street vendors, veterinary drug stores (Agrovets), pharmacies, farmers, and the public across 19 counties in Kenya to determine the knowledge and practices on antimicrobial resistance, 1,142 participants across 19 counties were interviewed on the matter.

Knowledge and practices related to antibiotics among respondents showed significant gaps and need an urgent effort to mitigate such practices. Antibiotics were the commonly sold product in human and veterinary stores. Every time an antibiotic is given to an animal or consumed by a human, basically it is an opportunity for those bacteria present to get used to that antibiotic and possibly mutate to be resistant.

EA participation in agricultural value chains crucial for change

THE agricultural system in Sub-Saharan Africa is a predominantly small-scale farming system with more than 50 per cent of the agricultural activity performed by women, producing about 60-70 per cent of the food in this region. While women provide the majority of the labor in agricultural production, their access and control over productive resources is greatly constrained due to inequalities constructed by patriarchal norms.

Women play a critical role in food security in this region of Africa by fulfilling their role as food providers. They make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. There are 3 basic variants of household food production systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: practices of female seclusion prevent women from engaging in fieldwork.

In many countries in Africa, there is a rigid division of labour by gender in agriculture. This division may be based on types of activities performed on the farm or types of crops grown by men and women. The division of labour is based on patriarchal norms that typically require women to care for the needs of the members of the household and men to bring money. Women are also expected to help their fathers and later on their husbands in the fields, which increases women's workload. Sometimes men help women in clearing their plots to prepare the land.

In regions where women and men work on separate plots growing different crops, women are usually engaged in subsistence farming to provide food to fulfill the needs of the members of the household, while men are engaged in the

production of a different subsistence crop and/or cash or export crops. [2] Since the early 21st century, this pattern has been prevalent in several Sub-Saharan African countries like Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, etc. This distinction can be explained as a result of gender norms that assign women with the responsibility of feeding the family and men with the responsibility of providing cash income.

Agriculture remains an important source of livelihood for most Africans, but the sector is not fulfilling its potential. The persistent gender gap in farming activities is a major obstacle to agricultural growth and development in the continent.

There are numerous issues responsible for under performance of women in the sector, however a key one remains their low access to productive resources - many customary laws and institutions around inheritance and property rights merely exacerbate this.

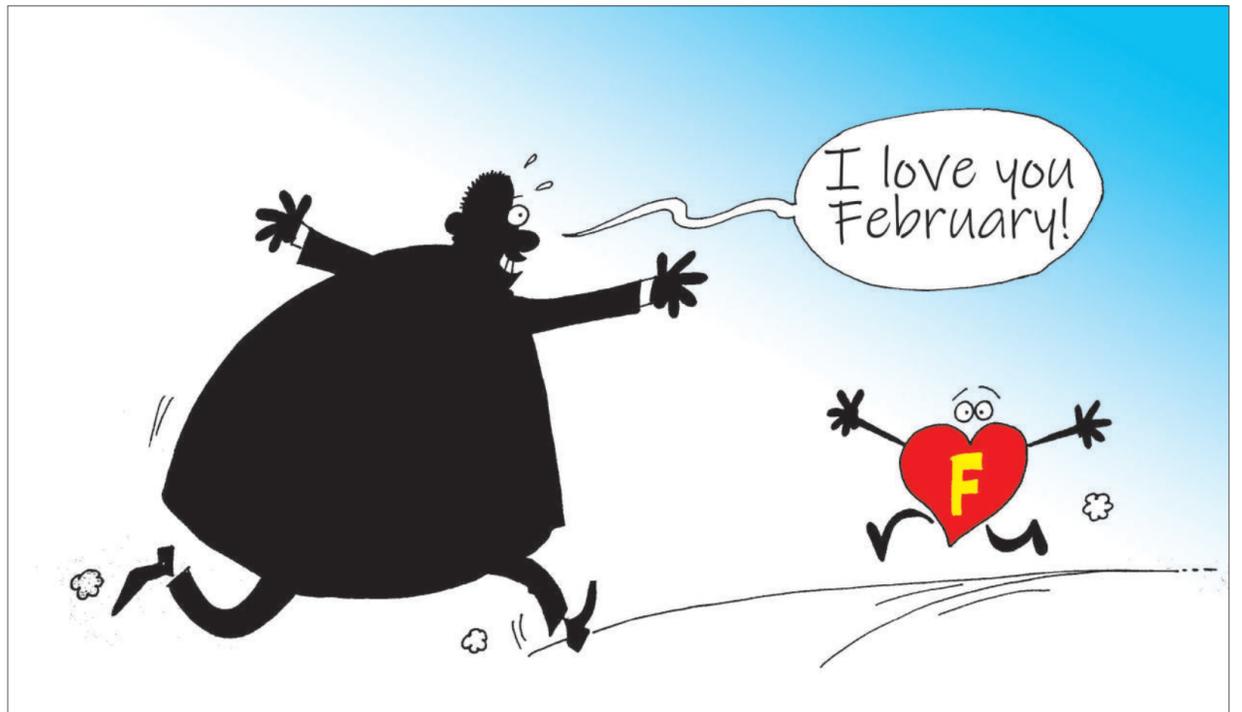
African youth face similar circumstances. Many grapple with limited access to credit and other productive resources such as land and education/vocational training necessary for agriculture productivity. Yet the sector has considerable potential to provide gainful employment opportunities to a large number of young people if it is supported with increased investment and conducive legal and policy frameworks (60 to 70 per cent of the region's population is below 30 years old).

Under a changing climate, these barriers further constrain women and youth's recognition in the sector and their ability to adapt, hence widening the gender gap.

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By Dakou Peterside

2023: Where are the masquerades?

THERE are masquerades in every culture and the life of every individual. The masquerades wear masks for different reasons - from prevarication, illusion, fantasy, fright, horror to protection. No matter the reason, masquerades thrive by covering up who they are and taking up a persona unique to the image they want to portray. This image becomes the identity of the masquerade. And the persona behind the masquerade dies for the masquerade's persona to live. In most cultures, it is a taboo to unmask a masquerade. Even at the threat of losing its life, a masquerade will fight to hide the identity of the person behind the mask.

In the past, masquerades were a rarity and often appeared on special occasions and festivities. Nowadays, both literally and metaphorically, we are all masquerades. We wear masks these days as a necessity. Facial masks existed before COVID-19, but the coronavirus, at best, only heightened its usage. The face mask, during this pandemic era, has become a symbol of self-preservation against a deadly viral infection. Besides literal masks, we also wear 'symbolic masks' to protect ourselves from emotional and psychological elements that we confront daily - financial secrets, relationship secrets, and the privacy of life and family.

Since the drumbeats of the 2023 election started, we have seen big "political masquerades" coming out to declare their interests in the struggle for power and relevance. Across party lines, powerful politicians, likened to big masquerades, and their cohorts, are showcasing introductory and essential aspects of their election dances and using both old and novel gimmicks to make their interest in the presidency of Nigeria known. Some have visited the incumbent president to formally inform him of their ambitions; some are still consulting with stakeholders; some are waiting for the call of God and their people to declare their intentions publicly; while others have gone ahead to make their presidential ambitions public via the mass media.

So far, there are no surprises yet. Those who have declared or those rumoured to be on the verge of announcing their intentions to rule Nigeria are the same old political warhorses who, to a great extent, are known by Nigerians. We expect more of them to make their declarations in the coming days and weeks. This is part of the political process, and any Nigerian is free to aspire to become president and compete for the post through any political platform of his or her choice.

In Nigeria, at least for now, only masquerades wearing the masks of the All Progressives Congress (APC) or the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are considered to have realistic

chances of winning the presidential election. But these are early days, and a third force political platform may challenge this status quo.

It is about 12 months to the general elections for Nigerians to choose the leader of the most populous black nation on earth, at a time of significant political, social, and economic turbulence. Nigeria faces, on all sides, existential threats that will require a highly skilled, competent and charismatic leader to galvanise all the human and natural resources at our disposal to tackle the vast socio-economic challenges confronting us. Among these "masquerades" declaring their interest, one will emerge as the leader. This underscores the importance of galvanising Nigerians with outstanding leadership and empathic qualities to step up to the arena and be counted. One must be in the race to win.

Nigerians often complain about the same old leaders taking political offices and doing nothing innovative to develop the country but forget that it all starts with the calibre and quality of politicians coming out for the presidency. It is from that group that the president will emerge. Therefore, I implore all Nigerians to use this opportunity to encourage proven leaders with the proper knowledge and skills to come on board to compete for the presidency. Nigeria now more than ever before needs quality leadership at the highest level.

It is a positive for democracy that so many citizens are stepping forward to lead the nation, indicating increasing political participation. However, nothing yet distinguishes one aspirant from another in terms of either ideology or public policy leaning. For now, we are stuck at the level of personality cults, geopolitical interests, and ethnic entitlement syndrome. Even where aspirants are from different party platforms, their utterances do not yet reflect the broad agenda of those parties. More disturbingly, there is nothing that indicates depth on specific national issues from any aspirant.

So far, not less than six "political masquerades" have declared their interest from the two main political parties - APC (Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, David Umahi, and Orji Uzor Kalu) and PDP (Abubakar Bukola Saraki, Anyim Pius Anyim, and Dele Momodu). There are other candidates with near unassailable profile in the fringe parties. It is time Nigerians started examining all of them from the prism of our complexities. Let us look at 'the stuff they are made of', those who gave them the masquerade and are in their company. We want to know what they are offering and what vision they are selling to Nigerians? How will they solve the multiplicity of Nigerian problems? We should not focus on inanities like what their

religion is. What geopolitical zone they represent and what financial muscle they have.

Let the Presidential "masquerades" come forth and canvas ideas and proffer solutions. Twelve months is enough time to know which of these political masquerades we want to take seriously or ignore. For the political masquerades that have declared their intention, let us now hear their ideas. However, I acknowledge by trend analysis, that it is not the candidate with the most brilliant takes on issues that will win. As the factors that determines who wins elections in Nigeria do not have much to do with sound policy ideas.

Unlike the previous election period, Nigeria is in a precarious situation; inexperience, vacuity, incompetence, lack of proven service record, absence of ideas to drive positive change among candidates will not be overlooked nor tolerated by Nigerians. Between June and August this year, the parties will present masquerades dressed in party attire. Our options will be limited to the masquerades presented to the electorate by the parties. To a certain degree, the party will shield the person behind the masquerade from Nigerians. We may be denied the opportunity of knowing what the one behind the masquerade said as distinct from what the masquerade said.

The party-political machinery takes over immediately after primaries, and all forms of spin doctors and election pundits are engaged to convince the electorate of the rightfulness of the candidates. This powerful party campaign machinery will set out to use unfounded marketing tools, lies, half-truths, innuendoes, and propaganda to convince or confuse the electorate to vote for its candidate even though he/she may have apparent shortcomings that make him unfit for the presidency. That is why when a president is elected, there are lots of things the electorate assumes he said or stood for or championed that turns out completely different from what the president does. Maybe it is still too early in the day, but I strongly feel that now is the time to engage with the masquerades and try to figure out the man behind the mask.

Our current crisis correlates with the electoral decisions and leadership choices we have collectively made in the past. All elections have serious consequences. This underscores the importance of careful consideration of the masquerades to eliminate the wrong candidates from the presidential race and have people with clarity of vision, proven leadership skills and a good knowledge of the Nigerian context vis a vis the complexity of our religious, social, and ethnic makeup.

The only actual path forward is

using the 2023 election to usher in good leadership with demonstrable capacity to implement a pan-Nigeria agenda. Nigeria is in dire need of positive change. But who will drive this change? More of the same masquerades - Nigeria's political elite. Unpleasant and scary as today's Nigeria has become, our present reality should force us to question our prior assumptions about leadership selection. We should not allow primordial sentiments to becloud our judgement in seeking out and choosing a competent and visionary leader as president.

We have a choice now facing all Nigerians: we can make use of the next 12 months to put our acts together and engage in positive politicking to seek out good leaders for the 2023 general elections, or we can decide to play politics as usual without seriously considering post-election governance. Elections are a means to an end and not an end in themselves. If we do not elect good leaders, we will bear the brunt of the consequences - debilitating poverty, insecurity, unemployment, and constant internal crisis and call for secession.

We are at the beginning of electing the president of Nigeria. We must get it right at this stage to have a realistic chance of electing a President that will make a difference. There is no doubt that the flawed election process in Nigeria is probably the cause of failed governance and leadership in Nigeria. I argue that we must reassess that process and start on time to get it right if we must make meaningful progress in getting the right president.

The president derives his power from the people who vote for him and elect him to lead them in a democracy. So, the president rises and falls with the people. A government by the people, as represented by a voted president, contextually assumes responsibility for the success or failure of the people. Democracy affords the people an opportunity to hold the president accountable through periodic elections. 2023 is another opportunity for the people to get it right.

Nigerians must carefully choose a leader with incredible qualities to take Nigeria to a new frontier. What are these qualities we require of the next president? The aspirant must have a clear vision of where he wants to take Nigeria to in terms of development and how he will achieve that given our current resource realities. The aspirant must have proven skills and competencies in management and leadership. He must have empathy for the plights of many Nigerians and must have a burning desire to work to ameliorate the sufferings. Based on association or ideology, the aspirant must be above board - not an ethnic or religious chauvinist, supporter of secession activities, or terrorism.

With seven tests in a month, N.Korea calls for world to accept its missiles

SEOUL

NORTH Korea's unusually active month of missile testing appears aimed at securing global acceptance of its sanctioned weapons programmes, analysts said, whether through concessions or simply winning tired acquiescence from a distracted world.

North Korea may feel safe taking advantage of the pandemic and Washington's preoccupation with crises such as Russia and Ukraine to fulfil leader Kim Jong Un's orders to advance its nuclear weapons and missile capabilities during his five-year plan, analysts said.

"The world's distraction on other issues actually seems to be working to North Korea's benefit right now," Markus Garlauskas, a senior fellow with the Atlantic Council think tank and former U.S. national intelligence officer for North Korea.

On Sunday North Korea tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile for the first time since 2017, its seventh test in the past month. U.S. and South Korean officials say they fear the launch could be a step toward fully resuming tests of its longest-range missiles or nuclear weapons.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden says it is open to talks with North Korea without preconditions, but those overtures have been rebuffed and the White House has not made the standoff a major talking point.

After North Korea tested several "hypersonic missiles" in early January, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said they were "profoundly destabilising" and that "some of this is North Korea trying to get attention."

Analysts say that although North Korea clearly has messages for Washington and other countries, it is unlikely that seeking attention is a major goal.

The idea that Kim Jong Un orders tests of missiles just to "get attention" is one of the most frustrating and stubbornly held misconceptions about North Korea today, Garlauskas said. "The North Koreans are not spoiled children 'acting out' ... nor are these missiles just for show as propaganda ploys," he said. "These weapons programmes are very real, they are making meaningful strides much quicker than many give them credit for."

North Korea is heavily sanctioned, including by U.N. Security Council resolutions, over its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programmes. Talks aimed at persuading Pyongyang to give up or limit its arsenal in return for sanctions relief have been stalled since 2019.



A railway-born missile is launched during firing drills according to state media, at an undisclosed location in North Korea, in this photo released January 14, 2022 by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). File photo

'NORMALISING' WEAPONS TESTS

Raising U.S. awareness of North Korea is one reason behind the tests, but may not be the main goal, said Rachel Minyoung Lee, a former open source analyst for the CIA who is now with the Washington-based Stimson Center.

Kim Jong Un only officially attended one of the seven tests - his first in more than a year - and state media coverage has focused more on technical achievements and less on political messages than in 2017, for example. Sunday's Hwasong-12 test was not covered on the front

page of the ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper, as it was in 2017.

Lee said North Korea appears to want to keep the emphasis on the economy while proceeding with its defence development plan, "normalise" weapons tests and not make too big a deal out of them, and modulate the tone of the media coverage. "North Korea has emphasized time and again that it has a right to develop and test weapons like any other sovereign country," she said. "And Pyongyang seems to have realized that in

order for its weapons tests to not be perceived as being different from what other countries are doing, it itself needs to start treating its weapons tests like a normal part of state affairs, just like most other countries in the world."

Analysts say North Korea has made its missiles more capable of evading missile defences, developed new systems that can be hidden or attack from a range of locations, and ensured that existing models are reliable and effective - improvements that all must be tested.

The tests also help project government power at a time when the country is grappling with economic troubles and are likely seen as a tool for encouraging national pride ahead of major holidays marking the 80th birthday of Kim Jong Un's late father Kim Jong Il, on Feb. 16 and the 110th birthday of his late grandfather Kim Il Sung on April 15.

Even if Washington had the bandwidth to pay more attention to the North Korean nuclear issue, Pyongyang would likely continue to refuse direct talks because of

the pandemic, keep perfecting its weapons technology, and maintain its high price tag for talks, said Duyeon Kim, with the U.S.-based Center for a New American Security.

"An automatic benefit (of the tests) is simultaneously building leverage ahead of any future diplomatic talks," she said. "But they've made it pretty clear that they're squarely inward focused right now... I don't think it's a cry for attention at all."

Agencies

Omicron variant poses new risks to Asia-Pacific, vaccines still line of defence

HONG KONG

THE rapidly spreading Omicron variant is fueling new infection waves and putting many Asia-Pacific countries, which have paused for breath in the last quarter of 2021, in a tough situation.

Just after a holiday season filled with gatherings and travels, many countries, which have witnessed a sudden spike in new COVID-19 cases and deaths, are now grappling with the more contagious variant, with mandatory mask-wearing, social distancing, and even lockdowns back in place.

DANGEROUS VIRUS

"Let's be clear: While Omicron causes less severe disease than Delta, it remains a dangerous virus, particularly for those who are unvaccinated," World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in mid-January. Daily cases in the Philippines, Australia and Japan have surged to record highs.

In the Philippines, Omicron has replaced Delta as the dominant variant, as more and more people, including those wearing masks and the vaccinated, are contracting the variant.

Japan's daily cases topped 70,000 on Wednesday for the first time, compared to the previous peak of 25,992 in August 2021. India reported over 300,000 daily COVID-19 cases for five consecutive days in January.

The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium said that Omicron is currently in community transmission in the country and has become dominant in multiple cities.

Massive surges in cases and hospitalization, fueled by both the Omicron and Delta variants, are putting a heavy burden on healthcare systems in the Asia-Pacific region, after many healthcare workers and laboratory technicians contracted the virus and needed to isolate.

"Every third doctor is either symptomatic or positive. There is an acute shortage of staff. And there is an acute crisis," Dr. Anuj Aggarwal at New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital, one of India's largest government hospitals, was quoted as saying by media on Jan. 10. Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan, among others, have



also witnessed cases skyrocketing amid the spread of Omicron. In Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, sales of face masks, gloves and sanitizer, mostly made in China, have exploded in the past weeks.

"Due to soaring infections, products like masks and sprays are selling out almost as quickly as they go on the shelves," pharmacist Jobayer Hossain said. Many Nepali families are struggling due to reduced job opportunities amid surging infections, with the monthly consumer price inflation climbed to 7.11 percent in December, the highest in 64 months.

WORST TIMING

Experts have attributed the recent COVID-19 surges to high mobility during the holiday season, poor compliance with health protocols, and the high transmission rate of Omicron.

"It's just really been the worst timing you could possibly have for Omicron to come essentially," Nancy Baxter, head of Melbourne University's School of Population and Global Health, told Xinhua recently. "Omicron came quite early to Australia," she said.

"One of the reasons why we have peaked so high here is because unfortunately, it coincided with plans for reopening and the Christmas season." Some countries, including Australia, began the march to reopening the economy after achieving high vaccination rates late last year, shortly before the Omicron variant started to sweep across the world.

Although many countries have declared they would prepare for the Omicron variant since late November, the virus is "more formidable" than first thought as described by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Earlier this month, Japanese officials blamed cluster infections at multiple U.S. mili-

tary bases for the Omicron surge in Japan.

Sanjeev Dimri, a microbiologist at the Saraswathi Institute of Medical Sciences, said "in my opinion, people in India had become complacent after taking two doses of vaccines and started flouting COVID-19 norms.

Most of these cases were asymptomatic and spread to others, particularly when the carriers traveled by trains and flights." Officials and experts are trying to figure out when the current wave in their countries will peak.

Australia's Chief Medical Officer Paul Kelly said in mid-January that he was optimistic that the country's Omicron outbreak was close to its peak, as national daily cases showed a downward trend in the following days.

However, Aussie experts worried that there would be further spread, and hospitalizations and deaths have yet to peak. Philippine Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the Omicron-fueled surge in metro Manila has peaked, though experts warned that infections in regions outside the capital will continue to rise. "Ideally, what we would do is we'd ensure that people continue to wear masks," Baxter said.

"And we need to have much, much more rapid triggers for some public health measures when cases get high."

BOOSTING BOOSTERS

Facing the Omicron challenge, many in the region believe that vaccines are still the first line of defense against the virus, thus highlighting the necessity to accelerate booster campaigns and vaccinate children.

Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines, among others, are expediting booster shots, while Australia and India have extended their vaccination coverage to younger groups. Furthermore, Cambodia has rolled out its fourth dose program to priority groups in Phnom Penh in response to the Omicron variant.

Meanwhile, governments are trying to introduce more flexible anti-infection measures, given many valuable lessons learned from the past two years.

Japan has put 34 out of 47 prefectures under a quasi-state of emergency. Officials said the entry ban on non-resident foreigners will be kept in place until the end of February.

Authorities in several Indian states are bringing in restrictions like night curfews, lowered the cap on gatherings and closed

shopping malls and recreational venues.

Hundreds of areas in metro Manila and other parts of the Philippines with high virus clusters are under granular lockdown. In contrast, there are limits on gatherings but no lockdowns in New Zealand after it moved to Red Light settings due to Omicron cases detected in the community. Some countries are also aiming to ease the burden on hospitals.

A "code brown" in the Australian state of Victoria gives hospitals the power to defer non-urgent health services and redeploy staff to areas of the greatest need. India and Indonesia are bolstering teleconsultation services for mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in home isolation, while Cambodia allows all Omicron patients to get treatment at home if they want.

Xinhua



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ANC's disciplinary body tying itself in knots to get party comrades off the hook

By Rebecca Davis

WHEN the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) released its final report into corruption in the government's Covid-19 procurement this week, its findings on former Gauteng Health MEC Bandile Masuku were unequivocal.

Masuku, the report found, "failed to fulfil his obligations to comply with the Constitution; with his general oversight responsibilities in respect of the department which contributed thereto that the department failed to comply with the prescripts of the Constitution, and his obligations in terms of the PFMA [Public Finance Management Act]".

This has been known since September 2020, when the SIU reported these findings to the Gauteng premier and Masuku was subsequently sacked as health MEC. At the time of the controversy, Masuku was also a member of the ANC's Gauteng Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) and faced separate charges of violating the ANC's constitution within his own party.

For the first time, we now have access to the record of Masuku's ANC disciplinary proceedings relating to this matter - recently released by the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture as part of documentation supporting the testimony of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

DMI68 can reveal that the picture painted by this record raises serious questions about the ability and will of the ANC's disciplinary committee to hold its members to account. This emerges when the party's disciplinary body is already in the spotlight, amid calls for it to sanction Tourism Minister Lindiwe Sisulu for the insults she aimed at the judiciary and the South African Constitution.

Disciplinary committee minutes

As part of a bundle of documentation requested by the State Capture inquiry, ANC legal adviser Krish Naidoo sent the commission the minutes of sittings of the ANC's national disciplinary committee between 2014 and 2021. If this is the full record of the committee during that eight-year period, it appears the body met 26 times - just fewer than four times a year - to deliberate on cases.

The matters being considered by the national committee had already been ruled on by the ANC's provincial disciplinary committees, with the national body tasked with fulfilling a review or appeal function on the lower committee decisions.

The cases the national committee heard in this period ranged from allegations of brawling by lesser known ANC members to sexual assault charges against former ANC Western Cape leader Marius Fransman and two cases related to the personal protection equipment (PPE) corruption scandal: that of Masuku and that of Ramaphosa's former presidential spokesperson, Khusela Diko.

The minutes in general are legalistic and procedural in nature, but the record of deliberations over Masuku and Diko's cases offer rare insight into the reasoning of the ANC's disciplinary committee. Masuku's case is particularly instructive because, in total, four separate entities either investigated the matter or heard evidence relating to it: the ANC's Gauteng provincial disciplinary committee, the ANC's national disciplinary committee, the SIU and the Gauteng High Court - after Masuku attempted to overturn the SIU's findings in early 2021.

Although these four entities were not assessing overlapping territory - the two ANC bodies were concerned only with potential violations of the party's constitution - the stark differences in the tone and findings of the ANC's national disciplinary committee, when compared with the conclusions drawn by the other entities, are revealing.

Background to the Masuku saga

On 26 July 2020, the Sunday Independent newspaper ran a lead story alleging that Masuku's close friend Thandisizwe Diko - the husband of Ramaphosa's erstwhile spokesperson Khusela Diko - had been irregularly awarded a contract through his company Royal Bhaca to supply the government with various Covid-19 PPE items at inflated prices.

The article implied that Thandisizwe Diko had been awarded the contract as a result of his close friendship with Masuku, the then Gauteng health MEC.

The allegations caused immediate uproar and were the source of intense political embarrassment to Ramaphosa because of the apparent proximity of his spokesperson to potential corruption.

The Gauteng PEC of the ANC requested its provincial disciplinary committee to investigate both Masuku and Diko. On 7 April 2021, both were found guilty by the provincial disciplinary committee of charges revolving main-



Former MEC Dr Bandile Masuku (L) and Thandisizwe Diko.

ly around bringing the ANC into disrepute, and both were suspended as PEC members. Both Masuku and Diko appealed the decision.

Some six months earlier, the SIU had informed the Gauteng premier of its findings that Masuku had failed in his oversight obligations. Masuku took the SIU to court to try to overturn the findings, and on 12 April 2021 the Gauteng High Court dismissed Masuku's application.

The ANC minutes show that just over a month later, on 17 May 2021, the party's national disciplinary committee (NDC) met to consider Masuku's and Diko's appeals. The committee chair then was Mildred Oliphant, and she was joined by Nathi Mthethwa, Nocawe Mafu, Boitumelo Mollo and Faith Muthambi as committee members.

How the ANC disciplinary committee dealt with the case

The minutes show that the NDC resolved to hear Masuku's and Diko's cases together, on the grounds that the issues involved were "the same or substantially the same". This in itself seems a strange decision. Although Masuku and Diko faced the same formal charges in terms of Rule 25.17 of the ANC constitution - "engaging in any unethical or immoral conduct which detracts from the character, values and integrity of the ANC"; and behaving in a manner that could bring the ANC into disrepute - the circumstances of the two individuals were vastly different.

Masuku was under suspicion of having - at best - failed to exercise appropriate oversight in his position as political head of the Gauteng Health Department when inflated contracts were awarded to Royal Bhaca, a company that was not authorised to deal in medical equipment. Diko had no oversight responsibilities or involvement in government or provincial health matters; she stood accused instead of having essentially demonstrated poor judgement in failing to disclose her husband's business interests.

When it came to Masuku, the NDC concluded that even if he had failed in his oversight responsibilities this did not necessarily amount to "unethical" conduct in terms of his relationship with the ANC.

"For a disciplinary committee to adjudicate on a charge of unethical conduct against a public representative based on how he performs his oversight responsibilities in government is, in the view of the NDC, a clear case of over-

reach," the committee concluded.

Reiterating that its preoccupation is only with "organisational discipline", the NDC also states explicitly in the minutes that the ANC disciplines members only for "acts of commission and not omission" - in other words, the ANC "does not purport to discipline a member for not doing or not saying something that he or she should or ought to have done or said".

The source of this extraordinary notion, which appears to give ANC leaders effective carte blanche to turn a blind eye to wrongdoing, is unclear. Such a principle is not mentioned anywhere in the ANC constitution, nor in other key ANC policy documents such as the "Eye of the Needle" report.

Turning to Diko, the committee states (correctly) that there is currently no formal policy banning the family members of ANC politicians from doing business with the state. The NDC then goes further, suggesting that expecting Diko to disclose the business dealings of her spouse in the absence of a clear policy requiring her to do so would be an "unreasonable burden".

In a particularly jaw-dropping passage, given the circumstances of the case, the NDC concludes: "Placing a responsibility on politicians to disclose the business interests of their spouses, in circumstances where there is no legal or ethical requirement to do so, could contribute to the subliminal narrative doing the rounds in some quarters that Black politicians are inherently corrupt and, once they get into public office, they will dispense patronage to their spouse and children.

In other words, they are self-serving and have no interest in serving the people."

The NDC found that there was no clear evidence that Masuku and Diko had violated the ANC constitution and declared their appeals successful. Both were accordingly reinstated as Gauteng PEC members.

What the court found

At the time of the NDC meeting, the committee members were clearly aware of both the SIU findings against Masuku in particular and the Gauteng High Court judgment against him. In fact, the minutes quote from the relevant court judgment, noting that the court found that Masuku's "reputation as a public office bearer has been dented. In the short term his political career has clearly

been truncated."

Astonishingly, however, the context in which the court is quoted by the NDC gives the impression that the court is expressing sympathy for Masuku's plight. This could not be further from the truth. The Gauteng High Court found that: "... Dr Masuku was neglectful in his duties ... despite being in a critical leadership position.

This conduct justifies an adverse inference about his lack of professionalism and lack of care in discharging his functions. His conduct shows a lack of judgment and of diligence. His version as given to the SIU was faithfully reproduced. What he is criticised for is not for lying; his ignorance was taken at face value, despite the scepticism it fully deserved, but for neglect. Prima facie, Dr Masuku's own version is a confession of unprofessionalism and dereliction of his duties."

The court also found that:

"As the political head of the GDoH [Gauteng Department of Health], which had taken on the frontline role of centralised PPE procurement agent for the entire provincial government, in the face of the greatest public health risk in a century, and being the co-chair of the command council of the province, and, necessarily, being aware of the perils of irregularities if appropriate controls were not in place to regulate the fraught and vulnerable process of emergency procurement, [Masuku] was so deaf and blind to these risks that he took no steps at all to lead and protect his department from stumbling into the predictable chasm."

How the NDC could read the judgment and come to the conclusion that these scathing words alone did not constitute Masuku bringing the ANC into disrepute by association is anyone's guess.

But for anyone expecting the ANC's internal disciplinary machinery to act decisively in a matter like that currently involving Lindiwe Sisulu, the NDC's historical minutes do not hold much hope. **DMI68**

CAPITAL RADIO

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 UMJUUYO 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

Agriculture ministry sets out to promote use of improved seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

POOR response in the use of improved seed varieties has been cited among the factors impeding the much-needed improved production and productivity in the key agriculture sector in which the national economy hinges.

Despite a major growth in the country's seed production sector in recent years, it has been unveiled that huge percentages of the indigenous farmers are still using un-certified varieties, resulting in low yields.

Senior agriculture officer from the crops development department at the ministry of agriculture, Samson Poneja, said the sixth phase government has strived and succeeded to create conducive environment which has so far helped to attract giant stakeholders from the private sector to chip in and invest into the seed production sector.

"Contrary to the past years, availability and accessibility of improved seed varieties in the country has currently increased to an impressive tune, but it's discouraging that most of the farmers are yet to adopt the certified varieties," he observed.

He added that the parent ministry was working closely with potential seed investors, including the Tanzania Seed Trade Association (TASTA) to push for increased product and availability of crop varieties, the development which will automatically help to reduce prices of seed.

"The government's chief focus is to discourage seed importation trends and ensure local farmers are

getting certified varieties at affordable prices," he expressed.

Poneja observed that the country's seed demand was standing at 187,000 tons annually, saying what was being produced was however low, at least 70,000 tons.

"Despite the tall existing gap in meeting the country's actual annual seed demand, the current seed being produced (70,000 tones) are underutilized by the farmers, hence we keep on experiencing seed's carryover in each year," he stated.

To help improve the situation, he expressed that the ministry of agriculture has embarked on a program to educate and sensitize the farmers over the importance of applying use of improved varieties.

"The target is to promote use of certified seed among the farmers countrywide. Local agro-researchers are doing great work to innovate and breed hybrid and Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) that are disease free, drought tolerant and with high yield in order to ensure farmers are yielding bumper," he insisted.

Adding more information, he said the goal was to see the farmers use varieties that have been inspected and certified by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and refrain from use of local (landrace) seed.

According to Director General (DG) of TOSCI, Patrick Ngwediagi, the state-owned seed institute is implementing a special strategy to equip the country's agricultural sector with abundant improved varieties, the move aimed also at cutting-down mass importation of seeds from outside the country.



He informed that TOSCI was continue to encourage and assist available seed producers to increase production levels in order to cater for the increasing demand of seed within the country.

He said the country was currently with at least 586 plant varieties of at least 33 different crops registered by the institute.

He disclosed the crop species with number of available varieties in brackets as maize (160 varieties), rice (20), wheat (25), sorghum (15), beans (30), cowpea (5), pigeon pea (6), sesame (4), sweet potato (15) cassava (15) and sunflower 7 varieties.

Others are vegetables (210), coffee (15), cashew nuts (40), sugar cane (7), tea (7), and round potato 7 varieties.

"The institute is also working closely with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) which has mandate on variety development as well as other private breeders so that new plant varieties can be released and registered by TOSCI to provide better choices to farmers," he assured.

A countrywide seed analytical research conducted lately last year by the African Seed Access Index (TASAI) established that at least 64 varieties were released in Tanzania for the four crops between 2018 and 2020. Among the released seeds, 42 were maize varieties, three varieties for rice, 11 for bean and eight varieties were for sunflower.

However, of the 64 varieties released, 45 varieties (35 maize varieties, one rice variety, two bean

varieties, and seven sunflower varieties) came from the private sector, while the remaining 19 were produced by the public institutions.

According to the research, the record is noteworthy since most of the breeders (29 of 36) work in the public sector.

One of the contribution factors to the high number of varieties released by the private sector, the research report suggests was the mutual collaboration between seed companies and institutions like International Maize and Wheat Improved Centre (CIMMYT).

Impeccable records from the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) depicts that up to 2020, there were a total 218 registered seed companies in Tanzania involved in the production

and marketing of seed and planting materials. Out of which, 43 companies were involved in the production, import; export and marketing of seed of at least one of the four focus crops.

In 2016, Tanzania had a total of 104 registered seed companies, whereby by 2020, the number improved to 218, which is an increase of at least 110 percent.

In 2019 the quantities of seeds importation in terms of tones were, maize (9267), sunflower (152), paddy (4) round Potatoes (970) and vegetables seeds 482 tones.

But due to achievement in improving seed production within the country, at least 81percent of the total of certified seeds used in the country are currently produced home.

Govt to eliminate lymphatic filariasis challenge by 2030

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole, Dodoma

THE government is putting strategies to ensure that 60 surgeries are done every day for people who suffer with lymphatic filariasis as a move to fasten the process of eliminating the problem by the year 2030.

Health deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel issued the stand yesterday when speaking in Dodoma during the climax to commemorate Neglected

Tropical Diseases (NTDs) which is celebrated every January 30 worldwide.

Dr Mollel said currently government has facilitated all regional hospitals with different modern facilities including CT SCAN so medical practitioners can organize medical camp in regions and district to fasten surgeries for people with that problem who are estimated to be 29,500 all over the country.

He said the speed of national programme to conduct surgeries for people who suf-

fer wish that problem is not enough and if intervention is not done it will take many decades to end the disease because the statistics indicate that until last year only 8,191surgeries were done.

"I don't direct you to go and conduct 60 surgeries per day from now but it is my idea that if we sit to gather and strategies it is very possible. Come in my office so that we discuss on how to go about it I believe is possible because to do surgeries for people who have such problem don't need

super specialist, my worry is that if we continue with this trend it will take us many decades to finish this problem" Dk. Mollel

According the current statistics, only 1,200 surgeries is done annually for people who have lymphatic Filariasis which is the estimates of three surgeries per day the trend that according to the Deputy Minister will take many decades to finish 29,500 surgeries for people who have the diseases countrywide.

"But honorable president

recognize your efforts and she is happy with your performances. We know the difficulties you face during the executions of your daily activities but be proud that government recognize your efforts and will support you to ensure by 2030 we eliminate all tropical diseases," said Dr Mollel

Meanwhile, the deputy minister said he is not optimistic that all people who suffer with that problem can afford surgeries costs so he promised to advise President Samia

Suluhu Hassan to provide for free as a move to end fast the problem in the country.

Coordinator of National programme to eliminate NTDs, Dr George Kabona said currently one lymphatic Filariasis surgery cost up to 250,000 adding that until the programme has managed to do 8,191 surgeries all around the country.

He said in 2008 they did 200 surgeries, and respectively in 2013 (680), 2015 (315), 2016 (709), 2017 (1,239) and 2018 (1,441) while in 2019 the

programme did 1,387 surgeries, 2020 (1,054), 2021 (1,116) adding that the National Programme to eliminate neglected tropical diseases was introduced in 2009 in collaboration with USAIDS.

He said until 2016 the National Programme services reached the whole country and he commended donors and other government department which has been working to gather to enable the smooth operations of the programme all over the country.

EABC intensive experimental work at Kabanga-Kabero post to bolster trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) CEO John Bosco Kalisa has called for 24hrs service operations to be piloted at Kabanga/ Kabero One-Stop Border in a bid to ease the movement of cargo and persons between Tanzania and Burundi.

Each day approximately 100 trucks from Tanzania enter Burundi and 50 trucks from Burundi enter Tanzania via Kabanga / Kabero One-Stop Border Post (OSBP). Tanzania exports to

In 2020, Burundi exports to Tanzania hit \$8.5million while Tanzania exports to Burundi reached \$77.9 million. Top Burundi exports are Beverages & spirits and fruits.

Kalisa said improving infrastructure, promoting consumption made in East Africa goods & services, boosting trade facilitation and product diversification is key to transformation, resilience and growth of the EAC bloc into a middle status economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

EABC Board Director Amelie Niganza urged for trade facilitation

agencies to permit cross-border traders located near Kabanga / Kabero border to trade without the COVID-19 mandatory testing.

Principal Economist Charles Omusana from the EAC Secretariat said business should be facilitated as EAC integration is people-centered and private sector-led.

Uwngabire Amida, a cross-border trader and member of the Traders Association of Burundi (ACOBU) called for the harmonization of COVID-19 testing charges. She explained that on the Burundi side COVID-19 testing costs 15,000 Burundi Francs while on the Tanzania side is free of charge.

She emphasized that the pandemic reduced their cash flow resulting in delays in remitting loans payments and eventually collapse of businesses. She appealed to the Government of the Republic of Burundi to reduce loan interest rates.

The traders urged the Regional Police Commander (RPC) to remove the checkpoint for sanitizing vehicles placed 2 KMs from the Kabero border. The traders said, "Sanitation of vehicles at the checkpoint only needs health officials hence



other trade facilitation officials such as military and police should not be involved."

The traders also appealed that all vehicles exporting perishable goods such as fruits from Burundi to Tanzania should be given a green light on all police checkpoints along the route to boost trade and reduce the cost of doing business.

Kalisa urged for the abolition of business visa charges for East Africans. Currently, a single entry busi-

ness visa into Tanzania costs \$100 while a 3-day valid visa into Burundi costs \$40 for East Africans.

Bobby Ndzizeye, the representative of EAC Ministry in Burundi, thanked EABC for organizing the Public-private dialogue where the Government officials and traders discussed issues that hinder trade in EAC. He said that the Government of Burundi together with the associations of traders will take all the traders' concerns to the decision makers.

The public-private dialogue recommended for implementation of the EAC Simplified Regime, more trade facilitation staff to be deployed to fast track 24hr operations at the border, creation of Burundi-Tanzania cross border association, joint border management committees to be held monthly, automation of customs and clearing processes and improvement of the road on the Burundi side, setting up trade information center, empowering

Burundi border officials to make decisions, adoption of One Network Area on Telecommunication and use of National Identity Cards as travel documents.

The EABC-TMEA public-private dialogue at Kabanga OSBP attracted over 45 delegates composed of Officials from the Ministry of EAC Affairs, ACOBU, trade facilitation agencies, importers, exporters, transporters & freight forwarders and women cross-border traders.

Tap community to stop human trafficking, says survivor

KINGSTON

ASINGLE line at the end of the United States State Department 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report made headlines in Jamaica and had many perturbed. "Some police allegedly facilitated or participated in sex trafficking," it read.

While the report cited no incidents, investigations, or police officers' convictions for sex trafficking, Jamaicans on social media called for investigations. People cited the increasing levels of sexual abuse reported during the COVID-19 pandemic as justification.

US authorities have categorised Jamaica as "a source, transit, and destination country for adults and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labour".

Manager of the Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Secretariat Chenee Russell Robinson told journalists recently that more than 110 victims of sex trafficking were rescued in the last ten years. At an average of ten per year, she believes the number is far too high "because this number represents only the tip of the iceberg".

Some matters are before the court, and investigations into other activities were ongoing, noting that while girls make up the majority of sex trafficking victims, there are a growing number of boys, too, she said.

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of teens reported missing on the island averaged approximately 1,400 a year, data from the Child Protection and Family Services Agency shows. With numbers increasing annually and the figures

for those returning home or recovered declining, the spectre of a rising sex trafficking trade is becoming one of the biggest worries for local authorities.

Child protection activists believe that most missing children who do not return home are victims of sex trafficking. Here, it is not uncommon for families, including mothers, to traffic their girl children in exchange for monetary or material payment, police say. This form of child sex trafficking may be more widespread in some communities.

Experts say that children who are sent by their parents to live with their more affluent relatives in urban areas regularly become victims. And according to the State Department report: "Sex trafficking of Jamaican women and children, including boys, occurs on streets and in nightclubs, bars, massage parlours, hotels and private homes, and resort towns".

So, while the report commends Jamaica for its strides and multi-agency approach to combatting human trafficking, it scolds the government for reduced spending, a fall-off in apprehension and training. It also criticised the absence of "long-term services to support victims' reintegration, prevent re-exploitation, or sustain protection throughout lengthy court cases".

The report noted that Jamaica "does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so." These efforts included a trafficking conviction with significant prison terms and restitution paid to the victim, a national referral mechanism that aims to standardise procedures for victim



Trafficking survivor turned activist and consultant Shamere McKenzie trains authorities and mentors survivors on the use of technology and awareness of how to spot and avoid traps used by human traffickers.

identification, referral to cross-government entities services and an annual report.

Significantly, authorities hold up several improvements The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act, first enacted in 2007. Amendments speed up the prosecution of cases by introducing bench trials and increasing the penalties.

On July 9, 2013, the government amended the Act to increase incarceration periods to 20 years. The 2021 amendments removed the alternate and often controversial fine in place of imprisonment.

"Now a person convicted of trafficking can only be imprisoned or impris-

oned and fined, so you cannot be fined only," Russell explained.

Trafficking survivor turned activist, and consultant Shamere McKenzie told IPS in an interview that community awareness, involvement, and the use of technology to enhance the safety of possible victims could be the tools that tip Jamaica into Tier 1.

"There's a lot we can do as a community to help our young people shape their morals and values and build their sense of awareness," she said, noting that traffickers can recognise people with low self-esteem.

Since 2016 authorities have funded the development of two apps - Stay Alert and Travel Plan - to make it safer for especially young girls and women who use public transport. McKenzie believes communities and parents must learn to use technologies to keep their children safe.

"We should be teaching people how to protect themselves, how to memorise numbers, develop code words, develop safety methods and use text messages to protect themselves," said McKenzie, who mentors survivors and educates others on how to spot and avoid the traps.

A former student-athlete, she was lured by someone she thought was a caring friend into 18-months of living hell. Sidelined by a serious hamstring injury, the young Jamaican's athletics scholarship to a top United States university was suspended. She was forced to work for the extra money she needed for school fees and rent when she accepted a friend's help.

The short-term offer of a rent-free basement apartment and 'extra work' at the trafficker's nightclub turned into forced sex work after being beaten into submission by a man she believed to be her friend.

While this episode took place in

the US, it is not uncommon for Jamaicans and foreigners to be lured young women into prostitution by offering them jobs or simply 'a better life'.

In 2016, a court sentenced Rohan Ebanks to 40 years and imprisoned and fined his common-law wife Voneisha Reeves after trafficking a 14-year-old Haitian girl. The judge convicted Ebanks for rape, trafficking, and facilitating trafficking in person while his co-accused had pleaded guilty to facilitating trafficking.

The fisherman had met the girl's father on one of his many trips to Haiti and had convinced him to send her to Jamaica for a better life. Three years after the ordeal began, police rescued the teen from Ebanks and Reeve's home, where she had been looking after the couple's children.

As the pandemic progresses, Robinson and other members of the Traffic in Persons (TiP) task force warn parents that traffickers have gone online, making it more difficult to track them. They've also warned teens and their parents that families are also trafficking their relatives.

The 110 rescued by the TiP task force are among the .04 per cent of the estimated human trafficking survivors worldwide identified. The number is an indicator that most go undetected.

Experts conclude that assessing the scope of human trafficking is difficult because many cases go undetected. However, estimates are between 20 million and 40 million people in modern slavery today earn the perpetrators roughly 150 billion US dollars annually. Some 99 billion US dollars comes from commercial sexual exploitation.

"We must begin to teach our youth to use the technology we have to protect themselves," McKenzie said.

IPS

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 213 00--

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

3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE
 4 letters LOU, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP
 5 letters EYES, KAKA, HARE, GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU
 6 letters STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
 7 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
 8 letters ALLOTTED
 9 letters TUG OF LOVE

CLUES: Across
 1 recent times
 2 used to express good wishes in meeting
 7 Qatar's Capital
 8 famous for majorelle Garden
 9 manage a living with difficulty
 10 lacking interest
 11 the longest continental mountain range in the World
 12 letters and parcels sent by post in addition
 14 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye
 19 Ioanian
 21 length of a time a person existed
 23 confess openly
 24 pass 26. argon (symbol)
 27 mouse 28. a diazo copying

Down:
 1 largest Port in Kenya
 2 defied
 3 bring or recall to the conscious mind
 4 a small space setback in a wall
 5 monetary unit of Tanzania
 7 Tanzania's Capital
 13 to or at a distance
 15 process digestive products
 16 urge / goad into doing something ahead
 20 hereditary classes of Hindu society
 22 escape, avoid
 25 give money due for work

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS
 M O U N T A I N S
 D R O U G H T
 D P R R A R E
 F A I C I Z E
 E A N E N E T
 Y A C K E R
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CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS
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By Magezi: 0755429240 | telixmagezi@gmail.com

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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CURRENT NEWS

TanGold sells over 17.9 million common shares at 14.7bn/-

Page14



TOP VIEW

Central Bank faults KNBS on agriculture growth numbers

Page14



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Amref Africa to improve economic status of thousands of women and youths in Iringa

Page15

Pakistani High Commissioner says business middlemen exploiting Tanzanian consumers

By Smart Money Reporter

TANZANIAN business people have been requested to make contacts with manufacturers and dealers from the Asian nation to reduce prices of goods such as machinery, medical appliances and clothes which are currently imported by third parties.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Tanzania, Mohammad Saleem said in Dar es Salaam last week that most imported goods from Karachi are imported into Tanzania by middlemen mainly from Asia, Europe and Africa.

"We manufacture tractors, mining equipment, medical equipment of high quality which when they arrive in Tanzania the price is more than twice the original price, let Tanzanian businessmen come and import directly from Pakistan manufacturer," High Commissioner Saleem said.

He invited the country's business people to attend

the forthcoming Pakistan Engineering and Health Care Exhibition for Africa and Central Asian Republics to be held in Lahore between February 25 and 27.

"The majority of the products that will be displayed are agricultural machinery, farming implements, electric products, construction material, iron and steel products and many more," he said while noting that bilateral trade between Dodoma and Karachi remains dismal.

High Commissioner Saleem pointed out that over 250 manufacturers will showcase their products during the two days exhibition which has been organised by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan. He revealed that the same group of middlemen sell Tanzania's commodities including minerals and cashew nuts to Pakistan manufacturers are hiked prices.

"For example a kilogram of cashew nuts here is paid 2,000/- to farmers but when it reaches the Pa-



Pakistani High Commissioner to Tanzania Muhammad Saleem.

kistan market, it may fetch up to US\$6 per kilogram," he stated saying such excessive exploitation will be ended once local busi-

ness people export commodities directly to the Asian nation.

He noted that the exhibition presents an

opportunity for Tanzania to seek markets for its commodities which are consumed in Pakistan which include coffee and tea.

He argued that Pakistan which has a bigger gross domestic product of more than US\$200 billion is a huge market for Tanzanian and African goods and that business people should exploit the opportunity.

"East Africa should be doing more trading with Pakistan which has a bigger population that consumes much of the commodities that you have here," he argued saying the Asian nation has better technology which the country needs to boost agriculture and industrial production.

Official data shows that in 2019, Pakistan exported US\$7 million to Tanzania with main products being rice, used clothing and alcohol. During the same year, the country's exports to the Asian nation were valued at US\$19.6 million with tea, dried legumes and raw cotton as main products.

Diageo half-year net sales jump to 15.8 pc buoyed by premium spirits, bar restocking

LONDON

UK - British multinational alcoholic beverages company Diageo has recorded a 15.8% rise in half-year net sales to £8 billion (US\$10.71 billion), driven by growth across all of its regions.

The producer of Guinness beer and Johny Walker whisky reported broad-based growth across most categories, with a particularly strong performance in scotch, tequila, and beer. For the six months to 31 December, Diageo's operating profit increased 22.5% to £2.7 billion (US\$3.6 billion), 16 percent more than a year ago and also higher than the same period in 2019.

The company has benefited from shoppers stocking up during the pandemic, often trading up to more expensive types of alcohol. Limited editions of Johnnie Walker sold particularly well, Diageo said. Other strongest performers were the tequila brands Casamigos, acquired from actor George Clooney in 2017, and Don Julio, with sales in the category up more than half year on year.

The world's largest spirit maker reported that sales of premium products made up more than 50% of net sales. Meanwhile, the company has



Diageo chief executive Ivan Menezes.

benefitted from the continued recovery of the on-trade channel - particularly in Europe, where net sales were up 21%, and North America, where sales were up 10%.

Diageo chief executive Ivan Menezes said that consumer demand has remained resilient in the off-trade channel. "I am very pleased with our financial results, which build on our growth momentum in fiscal 21. We delivered strong organic net sales growth across all regions and operating margin expansion," said Menezes.

Yet in the latest sign of continued supply chain disruption, Diageo executives said the company, whose brands include Gordon's gin, Smirnoff vodka, and Baileys Irish Cream, had struggled to meet the demand for some products.

Glass shortages have prevented it from sourcing enough bespoke bottles for Bulleit, its Kentucky bourbon, while a lack of aged liquor supplies has held back growth of tequila and its Canadian whisky brand Crown Royal.

Menezes however expressed his confidence in Diageo's ability to navigate disruption caused by global supply chain constraints through the remainder of the year. "The London-listed company said it was planning to accelerate the return of up to £2.6bn in capital to shareholders as part of a goal to complete a £4.5bn capital return program by June 2023, a year sooner than scheduled.

Shares in Diageo, which have lost almost 11 percent so far in 2022, rose 0.4 percent in early trading, continuing an upward trend that dates back to November last year when the company said it expects organic net sales growth to be between 5% and 7% for its 2023-2025 financial years.

Bolt set to onboard 200,000 drivers this year as it expands across Africa

JOHANNESBURG

ESTONIAN mobility tech giant, Bolt, has announced that it will be onboarding 200,000 drivers this year as it seeks to expand into many cities across Africa. This is part of its plan cited in its recent \$711 million raise which took its valuation to 7.4 billion euros (\$8.38 billion).

In a recent interview of Bolt's Africa regional director, Paddy Partridge with TechCrunch, he stated that the firm "has experienced a spike in on-demand transportation services, and that the current drivers - especially in Ghana and Nigeria where "there's a real shortage of cars" - are not enough to meet this growth."

Founded in 2013, Bolt is an Estonian mobility company that offers vehicle for hire, micromobility, car-sharing, and food delivery services headquartered in Tallinn and operating in over 300 cities in 45 countries in Europe, Africa, Western Asia, and Latin America. Bolt claims it currently has over 700,000 drivers catering to about 40 million riders across its existing seven markets in Africa.

"One of the challenges we have with our growth at the moment is that on the ride-hailing side, the demand for our services is growing faster than we're able to onboard drivers, particularly in West and Southern Africa. We're just not able to continue keeping up with that growth because drivers are not able to access vehicles at an affordable rate," said Partridge.

"We are having to find ways to really attract as many drivers as we can... like make their earnings potential as good as possible so that we can bring people (drivers) onto our platform...to solve this issue around access to cars."



Bolt's Africa regional director, Paddy Partridge.

The mobility tech company has been coming up with strategies to address this challenge. It recently announced a partnership with Metro Africa Express (MAX) to expand the Bolt vehicle financing program in Nigeria. The program enables ride-hailing drivers to own vehicles with low equity repayment, support and improve earnings for drivers while allowing them to maintain flexibility as vehicle owners. The program involves financing for 10,000 energy-efficient vehicles (both electric and gas-powered).

Bolt also announced that it is also planning to enter at least two new markets within the North and West Africa regions before the end of 2022. Its other current markets are Tunisia, Tanzania and Uganda.

Disney heiress says skip theme park visits to help worker rights

NEW YORK

ABIGAIL Disney, an heiress to the Walt Disney Co. fortune and advocate for income equality, said a consumer exodus from businesses that don't treat workers well - including the company's theme parks - is a key way to push for change.

"This is an Amazon problem, and a Walmart problem and a McDonald's problem," she said during an online question-and-answer session after screen-

ing her documentary at the Sundance Film Festival on Monday night. "You do have the ultimate power, more power than any CEO, as a consumer, to withhold your money from companies that are doing it wrong and spend it at companies that are doing it right."

Abigail Disney, whose grandfather was the company's co-founder and Walt's brother, co-produced the film "The American Dream and Other Fairy Tales," which follows the

lives of several theme-park workers as well as her own progression into corporate activism. She's been a critic of work conditions and low pay at Disney, once criticising former Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger's compensation as "insane."

The documentary notes that when her grandfather Roy O. Disney was CEO in 1967 he earned about 75 times the lowest-paid worker, and Disneyland employees in the 1950s and 1960s could afford to raise fami-

lies, buy cars and houses with their incomes.

Current workers profiled in the film live with their parents and get groceries from food banks. In 2018, Iger earned more than 1,400 times the median employee's pay. Recent negotiations will allow workers in its largest union in California to earn \$18 an hour by 2023.

The company said in a statement it offers leading entry-level wages and benefits such as affordable medical coverage, tu-

ition-free higher education and subsidized childcare. "The wellbeing and aspirations of our employees and cast will always be our top priority," it said.

Abigail Disney said the company has been "just as abusive and exploitative of their customers" as they have been of their employees in recent years, "driving prices up to ridiculous levels and charging unbelievable amounts for hamburgers and so forth and stripping services away."

"Withhold your money from the companies that are exploiting people," she said. "You don't really need to take a trip if you feel like it's not a reflection of your values." The activist said PayPal Holdings Inc., Best Buy Co. and Costco Wholesale Corp. are examples of companies "on their way to the better thing." "I think there's a natural affinity between customers and workers and they need to make common cause together to change companies," she said.

TanGold sells over 17.9 million common shares at 14.7billion/-



Workers at Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita district.

By Smart Money Reporter

OVER 17.9 million common shares have been sold by Tanzanian Gold Corporation to an undisclosed institutional investor for US\$6.4 million (over 14.7bn/-), money that will be invested in Buckreef Gold Mine in Geita.

In a recent report, the Toronto based company which jointly own Buckreef Gold Mine with State Mining Corporation said, it successfully closed the direct offering with a single institutional investor who purchased 17,948,718 of the company's common shares at a purchase price of \$0.39 per share last week.

TanGold said it also issued to the investor warrants to purchase up to an aggregate of 17,948,718 common shares with an exercise price of \$0.44, and will be exercisable at any time upon issuance and will expire five years thereafter.

"Net proceeds from the offering were approximately US\$6.4 million and the company intends to use the net proceeds to

accelerate execution of its business plan, including: the continued build out of the 1,000 plus tons per day processing plant expansion (mine plan represents less than 10 percent of Buckreef Gold Mineral Resource) which is expected to be completed in calendar Q2/Q3 2022 and is forecast to produce 15,000 - 20,000 ounces of gold per year," the report stated.

It further noted that the exploration drilling with the goal of expanding mineral resources, discovering new mineral resources and converting mineral resources to mineral reserves, including the Buckreef Main Zone northeast extension, Buckreef West Zone and the Anfield Zone.

The money will also be invested in advancing the metallurgical study for the first 5-7 years of production, one of the longest lead items on the Sulphide Development

Project, which contains less than 90 percent of the Buckreef Gold Mineral resource.

"A total of 19 holes (2,367 meters) have been completed for the metallurgical program and these metallurgical sample holes have been logged and are in preparation for shipment; and (iv) general corporate purposes," TanGold said.

The Buckreef project is anchored by an expanded mineral resource published in May 2020. Measured mineral resource is 19.98 million tonnes at 1.99 grams per tonne containing 1,281,161 ounces of gold.

The indicated mineral resource is 15.89 MT at 1.48 g/t gold containing 755,119 ounces of gold for a combined tonnage of 35.88 MT at 1.77 g/t gold containing 2,036,280 oz of gold. The Buckreef Gold Project also contains an inferred mineral resource of 17.8 MT at 1.11g/t gold for contained gold of 635,540 oz of gold.

Central Bank faults KNBS on agriculture growth numbers



Central Bank of Kenya governor Patrick Njoroge.

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has flagged the reported economic performance of the agriculture sector for 2021, casting doubts on the numbers that show the sector contracted by an estimated 0.9 percent.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that agriculture lagged by a wide margin the performance of other sectors of the economy last year, attributed to erratic weather conditions in the key food growing areas.

In the first three quarters of the year, the sector recorded negative growth of 0.1 percent, 0.7 percent and 1.8 percent respectively, with estimates showing a further contraction of 1.3 percent in the last quarter of the year.

While admitting that the low growth numbers might be due to a high base effect—where a sector is coming from a stellar performance in the previous year—CBK governor Patrick Njoroge flagged the

poor performance on concerns about data quality and expects it to be revised.

"2020 was a very good year for agriculture, but beyond that, there is some concern about the numbers. It is true that we had some unfavourable weather conditions such as uneven rain in the food growing areas...but this also points to some data issues," said Dr Njoroge.

"We are working with the KNBS and the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the principal source of some of the numbers. We flag that and wouldn't be surprised if this is revised once better numbers are provided."

Overall, the CBK estimates that the economy grew by eight percent last year—compared to a contraction of 0.3 percent in 2020—buoyed by a strong recovery in sectors such as hospitality, education and services which had been the worst hit by Covid-19 in 2020.

A positive review of the performance of the agriculture sector would boost this overall performance, given the large share of the sector in contributing to overall GDP. The sector accounts for 23 percent of Kenya's GDP, making it the single largest contributor ahead of trans-

port and storage at 10.8 percent and real estate at 9.3 percent.

In 2022, the CBK projects that the agriculture sector will grow by 6.3 percent. This is the second time the CBK is differing with the KNBS over agriculture sector performance, having earlier done so over the first half of 2020 growth numbers.



2020 was a very good year for agriculture, but beyond that, there is some concern about the numbers. It is true that we had some unfavourable weather conditions such as uneven rain in the food growing areas...but this also points to some data issues

Zimbabwe dollar's second death seen as only a matter of time

HARARE

WHEN Zimbabwean businessman Nigel Chanakira asked 100 chief executive officers at a seminar in Harare on Jan. 27 if they were willing to use the local currency, only one raised his hand.

That reluctance is a stark demonstration of the government's failure to win confidence in the Zimbabwe dollar, the reintroduction of which Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube has staked the stagnating economy's recovery on.

At restaurants, a simple request for "the rate" sees one's bill halved if it's met in hard currency, and supermarkets openly offer discounts for goods purchased in U.S. dollars. The government paid public workers their Christmas bonuses in dollars, and the revenue service collects a third of its income in greenbacks.

"We can't deny the reality," Chanakira, the founder and former CEO of now-closed bank Kingdom Financial Holdings, said in an interview. "When you get the Zimbabwe dollar you spend it quickly. No one wants to save in that currency."

Between 2009 and 2019, Zimbabwe's economy was dollarized after hyperinflation led the government to print trillion-Zimbabwe dollar notes before abandoning its currency, leaving the country's name synonymous with economic malfunction. While the subsequent dollarization tamed price growth, it hurt businesses as neighbouring countries using their own depreciating currencies undercut Zimbabwean manufacturers.

"Zimbabwe had become uncompetitive by 2013 and was burdened by an expensive workforce," John Legat, CEO of the country's oldest brokerage, Imara Asset Management Ltd., said in a note to clients.

In February 2019, the government dropped a peg that kept a precursor of the Zimbabwe dollar at parity with the U.S. dollar. In June, it was rechristened the Zimbabwe dollar and use of foreign currency was briefly outlawed. Today the currency trades at 115 to the greenback, and more than twice that on the black market.

While inflation slowed from a 12-year

high of 837% in July 2020, it was at 61% in January, still rapidly eroding the value of the local unit. Officials including Ncube, a former Oxford University lecturer, and Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya, said government policy is to stick with use of the Zimbabwean dollar.

"The country is not re-dollarizing," Mangudya said in an interview on Jan. 17. "We need to find a home for our currency." Ncube and his ministry didn't respond to requests for comment. Alois Burutsa, the lone defender of the Zimbabwe dollar at Chanakira's meeting, said in an interview that "without our own currency, our exports become uncompetitive." He's general manager of Buy Zimbabwe, an organization that promotes local goods.

Yet central bank figures show that 44% of transactions in the country are conducted in greenbacks. The American currency is used to pay for everything from fuel to food, passports, medicines and school fees. Econet Wireless Zimbabwe Ltd., the country's largest mobile phone operator, offers additional airtime and data if purchases are made in U.S. dollars.

With the Zimbabwe dollar untradeable outside the country, companies need foreign currency to pay for imported equipment, consumer goods, and to placate an increasingly dissatisfied workforce. And it's not only businesses that are seeking alternatives to the local currency.

The government itself is increasingly finding it has to pay in U.S. dollars if it wants to get things done. Already it's told public workers that they'll be paid partly in hard currency this year.

According to Imara, the brokerage, 45% of infrastructure contracts are being met in dollars and the government has undertaken to partially compensate depositors for the loss in value of their savings when it dropped the peg to the dollar.

"Dollarization is the ultimate outcome of a failed economic policy," said Gift Mugano, executive director at Africa Economic Development Strategies, a Harare-based consultancy. The Zimbabwe dollar "will be in the graveyard" by June, he predicted. Imara says it'll be largely obsolete by the end of the year.



Zimbabwe's Finance minister, Mthuli Ncube.

Binance CEO explains restriction of Nigerian accounts

LAGOS

BINANCE CEO, Changpeng Zhao, has given the reason for the restriction of some Nigerian accounts. According to the crypto firm's boss, there was a need to comply with international money laundering laws.

This was in response to some recent complaints from some Nigerian users that the Binance global exchange had blocked their accounts for weeks without any explanation or reason. A campaign was even launched to boycott the exchange based on this.

In a letter to Nigerian customers dated Jan. 29, Changpeng Zhao said the decision to restrict some personal accounts was to ensure user safety while more than a third of the affected accounts were restricted at the request of international law enforcement.

He also stated that the company had restricted the personal accounts of 281 Nigerian users, saying "currently, we have resolved 79 cases and continue to work through others. All non-law enforcement-related cases will be resolved within two weeks."

"User security remains our top priority. We love and are devoted to our Nigerian community, but we must ensure that our users are safe. As such, protection mechanisms such as KYC, anti-money laundering measures, collaboration with law enforcement, and account restrictions are in place to ensure our community remains protected and that fraudulent activity is prevented. This is a global approach applied in every country," adds Changpeng Zhao.

After the ban of cryptocurrency transactions by the Central Bank of Nigeria in February 2021, a lot of Nigerians have resorted to participate in the crypto market through P2P exchanges. A cryptocurrency exchange is a business that allows customers to trade cryptocurrencies or digital currencies for other assets, such as conventional fiat money or other digital currencies.

Binance, however, has been facing increased scrutiny globally with the recent ban in South Africa from conducting margin trading and the ban by the UK's financial regulator to conduct operations in the country.

Amref Africa to improve economic status of thousands of women and youths in Iringa



Amref Health Africa's programme manager for WASH, Engineer James Mturi, speaks during the launch of two projects meant to improve the health and economic status of women and youths in Iringa Region last week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Friday Simbaya

A project to improve health and economic status of women and youth in Kilolo and Mufindi districts of Iringa region was launched last week by Amref Health Africa.

Dubbed WASH and Women Empowerment project (WAVE) is targeting to reach at least over 180,000 people in the two districts famous for coffee and tea cultivation. WASH is an acronym for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Universal, affordable and sustainable access to WASH is a key public health issue of international concern as the United Nations' sixth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6).

The project which is funded by Starbucks Foundation has an objective of improving the health and economic status women and youths by eradicating barriers to WASH, education, health and nutrition.

Speaking during the launch in Iringa last week, WASH Program Manager, Engineer James Mturi said WAVE project targets the two vulnerable groups in the community. Mturi who represented Amref Tanzania Country Director, Dr Florence Temu urged the public to support the project which will be implemented by Amref Health Africa in collaboration with Kilolo and Mufindi District Councils.

Eng Mturi said WAVE also intends to support coffee and tea producing communities to meet their most critical socio-economic needs through empowerment of an estimated 184,500 women and youth.

Other objectives of the project include: to establish functioning entrepreneurship groups of women and youths; to promote access to safe drinking water; improved sanitation facilities; and change bad hygiene behaviour among the targeted groups.

The Amref Tanzania Programs Manager for WASH further noted that at the impact level, WAVE project theorizes that formal and informal women and youth groups in coffee and tea growing communities are supported through economic empowerment.

"If women and youth are provided with skills and mentored to engage in horticulture and other value chain activities with a government supported enabling environment for their businesses, then the project will achieve its principal outcome of empowering them," he said.

Eng Mturi added that

a community which is economically viable can afford medical expenses by joining Community Health Fund. "The launch of this project is one of Amref's initiatives in enhancing access to clean and safe water in tea and coffee growing communities in addition to economic empowerment of women and youth," he stated.

In an official speech to launch the project, acting Iringa Regional Administrative Secretary, Wilfred Myuyu thanked Amref Health Africa and other stakeholders for bringing the projects to the region and promised to provide them adequate cooperation to achieve its intended goals.

Myuyu added that the government had instructed stakeholders in the health sector to also be involved in fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic. "Let's work together so that this virus should not destroy our communities," he advised.

Meanwhile, Amref Health Africa Tanzania also launched a one year project dubbed Water and Development Alliance (WADA) which will be implemented in nine villages

within three regions. Iringa region, the project will benefit seven villages, Njombe and Morogoro regions will have only one village each.

According to Amref Health Africa Programme Manager for WASH, Eng Mturi, implementation of the project will include, drilling of three new wells in three villages, construction of toilets in five schools, renovation of toilets and water infrastructure in five schools and nine health facilities.

The project is funded by USAID, The Coca Cola Foundation and World Serve International and has a goal of sustainably improving the health and socio-economic status of the targeted communities especially women and youth.

"The WADA project will join hands with Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to provide clean safe water and better sanitation services in the targeted villages for improved social and economic development," he added.

State working on law for salary cuts, unpaid leave

NAIROBI

KENYA is reviewing the labour laws to guide employers on how to impose unpaid leave, salary cuts and remote working.

This follows shifts in the jobs market in the wake of Covid-19 economic hardships, which triggered pay cuts and unpaid leave. The Labour Ministry says the country's three pieces of legislation that govern the conduct of employers and employees do not cover forced pay cuts, unpaid leave policies as well as remote and hybrid work models.

"While the labour laws provide for what people should do, they did not anticipate this kind of situation. So there's a need now to relook into the same laws to factor in the emergence of such challenges," said Labour PS Peter Tum.

The job market is guided by the Employment Act, the Labour Institutions Act and the Labour Relations Act, all enacted in 2007. Industries and other businesses cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease, leading to layoffs as well as unpaid leave and salary cuts for retained staff as profitable firms move into losses.

The labour laws allow employers to cut workers' salaries in periods of financial crisis like the one brought home by Covid-19. But this happens after consultation and obtaining consent from the employees or where a worker has been demoted.

The law also provides that an employee aggrieved by salary deductions can file a complaint with the labour office or sue within three years after the pay cut. The Employment Act is silent on how employers can provide unpaid leave. But it allows employees to access unpaid leave.

Legal experts say the proposed law will seek to clarify the period when the pay cuts remain in force as well as conditions for unpaid leave and salary deductions. At the height of the pandemic, the Labour ministry entered into a memorandum of understanding with employers' and workers' lobbies in a deal that allowed pay reductions and unpaid leave to keep firms afloat.

The deal reached with the Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE) and the Central Organisation of Trade Unions (Cotu) was, at the time, seen as temporary. Although a significant number of firms have vacated pandemic-induced pay cuts, some are yet to reinstate workers' salaries to pre-Covid levels.

"What we had in mind was that these become temporary measures to ensure that employees don't suffer during the time of the pandemic. We were doing that under an environment that was not put together in law," said Mr Tum.

"We have to undertake some form of research – which we have started – where we are describing a work environment. This will help us to come up with a concept, which we can generate into a draft law that will go to Parliament for the changes. That might take six months."

Remote working is here to stay while companies are set to leave the options of pay cuts and unpaid leaves open if they struggle to lift profits and sales. With the rise of technology, work from home has been a steadily growing trend for many years.

Remote working has exploded with quarantines, workplace closures and lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Research shows that the majority of employees want their organisation to offer a mix of remote work and in-office time, and many see the hybrid workweek model as a path to better work-life balance.



Labour PS Peter Tum.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

S African shoppers exercise caution as Covid recovery rollercoaster continues

JOHANNESBURG

ACCORDING to a new NielsenIQ report, two-thirds of South African consumers remain convinced of the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and believe the country will only be free of its direct impacts during 2023.

This is the highest percentage amongst the 16 countries surveyed in the newly released NielsenIQ 2022 South African Consumer Outlook Study, which has revealed a substantially altered picture of local consumers.

The report has significant implications in light of consumers' changed priorities and is critically important in terms of evaluating how these will affect their spending habits and product choices.

NielsenIQ South Africa MD Ged Nooy says: "The last two years have been a roller coaster as consumers have looked for signs of recovery and hoped that they could move on with their lives but for many, as they look ahead, they still face an environment of uncertainty.

Looking at how consumers plan to approach the world as they begin to re-engage, it becomes clear that the majority realise that Covid is likely to continue to impact the way they navigate their daily lives."

Delving deeper, 41% of consumers (vs 47% globally) said they would live with some caution if Covid-19 continues to impact the country in the next 12 months.

An additional 41% said they would be more vigilant (vs 33% globally) and will go so far as avoiding certain settings, while only 14% said they will carry on their lives without fear of Covid-19.

Nooy comments: "In this environment, the majority of consumers realise that the carefree life of pre-Covid is a thing of the past and moving forward, they are constantly reviewing and evaluating associated risks with lifestyle choices and arming themselves accordingly with various precautions.

Global gold demand up 10% in 2021 on jewellery sales and central bank purchases

GENEVA

GLOBAL gold demand rose 10 per cent in 2021 to 4,021 tonnes, recouping much of the coronavirus-induced losses sustained in 2020.

The growth was driven by a surge in jewellery purchases and central banks, which shored up their bullion reserves, according to the World Gold Council. However, investment demand was mixed as high inflation competed with rising yields for investor attention, the WGC said in its annual report on Friday.

"On the investment side, the tug of war between persistent inflation and rising rates created a mixed picture for demand. Increasing rates fuelled a risk-on appetite among some investors, reflected in ETF outflows," said Louise Street, senior analyst for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at the World Gold Council.

"On the other hand, a search for safe-haven assets led to a rise in gold bar and coin purchases, buoyed by central bank buying. Declines in ETFs [exchange-traded funds] were offset by demand growth in other sectors. "Jewellery reached its highest level in nearly a decade as key markets like China and India regained economic vibrancy."

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hammered jewellery sales, forcing investors to stockpile as they sought a safe place to store wealth. That trend reversed as economic growth



Louise Street

Louise Street, senior analyst for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at the World Gold Council.

rebounded, boosting consumer spending and weakening investor appetite.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, gold demand jumped 50 per cent a year to 1,147 tonnes, its highest quarterly level since the period from April to June 2019. This was due to a rise in jewellery purchases at the end of the year, according to the WGC. Jewellery fabrication made a solid recovery in 2021, growing 67 per cent to 2,221 tonnes – the highest since 2018 – to meet the strong rebound in consumer demand for jewellery.

Jewellery sales grew 52 per cent to 2,124 tonnes in 2021, matching the total in 2019. This was partly due to fourth-quarter demand,

which – at 713 tonnes – was the strongest three-month consumption since the second quarter of 2013. "India was a key driver in the fourth quarter but jewellery demand in markets across the globe – almost without exception – was stronger year-on-year", the WGC said. "Continued economic recovery and, crucially, the less widespread use of strict lockdown measures to contain Covid, were key reasons."

Indian gold jewellery demand almost doubled annually in 2021, surging past pre-pandemic levels to hit a six-year high of 611 tonnes. Record quarterly demand of 265 tonnes in the fourth quarter sealed the

"remarkable" annual performance, the council said. Markets in the Middle East all registered significant double-digit annual growth in demand for jewellery in 2021.

The UAE led with a 57 per cent increase in annual demand to 34 tonnes. This was due to the continued improvement in tourist numbers, especially from India and the effective containment of Covid-19 that boosted local demand, the WGC said. Central banks accumulated 463 tonnes of gold in 2021, an 82 per cent increase from 2020, to lift global reserves to close to a 30-year high. However, the pace of buying slowed in the second half, falling 22 per cent in the fourth quarter. A diverse group of central banks in both emerging and developed markets added to their gold reserves.

Thailand, which last added to its gold reserves in 2017, was the largest buyer in 2021, the WGC said. According to data from the International Monetary Fund, central bank gold reserves around the world rose to about 35,600 tonnes in 2021, the highest level since 1992.

Gold bar and coin demand rose 31 per cent to an eight-year high of 1,180 tonnes as retail investors sought a safe haven against the backdrop of rising inflation and continued economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the WGC said.

WORLD

World ushers in Lunar New Year with celebrations

By Liu Yimeng in Los Angeles

CELEBRATIONS for the Chinese Lunar New Year are underway across the world as people from various cultures come together to usher in the Year of the Tiger, which starts today.

The Chinese New Year is based on a 12-year Zodiac cycle of animals. In Europe, British people welcomed the Chinese Lunar New Year with a day of celebration at the National Maritime Museum in London on Saturday.

Lion dance, tai chi demonstrations, printing workshops, fanmaking, and other fantastic performances and activities designed for all ages attracted many local families to visit and enjoy the festive mood of the Spring Festival. A Chinese New Year photo exhibition was opened in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Friday featuring 65 photos, which show how Chinese people celebrate the traditional holiday.

As Australia's largest city Sydney prepares to celebrate the festival, the streets and laneways of Chinatown are

being transformed into an immersive artwork for the Year of the Tiger.

Chinatown is buzzing with cultural performances, market stalls, DJs, food trucks, and lion dancers on Saturday.

In the United States, from lion dances to kung fu demonstrations, folk music performances, lantern exhibitions, street fairs and screening of Chinese movies, organizers across the country are going all out to spread joy and provide people with unique cultural experiences of this festival.

"The Chinese New Year is one of the most significant holidays on the calendar, and so we think it is important that The Huntington celebrate the holiday, bringing people together to learn and enjoy," Sian Adams, strategic initiatives director of The Huntington, told China Daily.

The California-based institution is treating visitors to a series of programmes on Feb 5 and 6, including performances of scenes from The Peony Pavilion, a mask-changing show, lion dances, traditional arts, music and



People watch a traditional Chinese lion dance performance during a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration held at the National Maritime Museum in London on Saturday. XINHUA

martial arts. The Huntington has been celebrating the Chinese New Year since the early 2000s.

"People have been so excited to be immersed in learning and experiencing the Chinese culture through performances, exhibits, and demonstrations. Everyone is appreciative, and the expressions of happiness on the faces of young and old alike, in celebrating the Chinese New Year, say it all," said Pamela Garrison, The Huntington's manager for membership events.

After a hiatus last year due to COVID-19, many museums, cultural institutions and shopping centers in New York City are bringing back in-person celebrations to ring in the Chinese New Year.

The New York Chinese Cultural Center is one of them.

"For Lunar New Year, we go out to local communities to celebrate this festive holiday. We share Chinese per-

forming and visual arts to support Asian communities and help build cross-cultural understanding across communities," said Yen Ying, its executive director.

In collaboration with organizations such as the US Postal Service, artists from the center will put together ribbon dances and calligraphy demonstrations throughout January and February.

San Francisco's Golden State Warriors ushered in the Year of the Tiger when it faced the Brooklyn Nets on Saturday. Fans were entertained with martial arts and tai chi demonstrations. San Francisco native and former Miss Chinatown Desiree Choy also sang the national anthem.

Chinese New Year celebrations are also happening in cities such as Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Seattle, Boston and Las Vegas.

Blinken, Lavrov likely to have talks next week – US under secretary of state

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov are likely to have more talks next week, Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said in an interview with CBS on Sunday.

According to Nuland, Washington sees signs indicating that Moscow is interested in discussing the United States' responses to Russia's proposals on security guarantees. "We've heard some signs that the Russians are interested in engaging on that proposal, including the fact that Secretary Blinken and Foreign Minister Lavrov will likely speak this week," she said.

"We want to settle these issues through diplomacy, through arms control. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has given himself that option, but he has also given himself the option of a major invasion [in Ukraine]. So we have to be ready for that, too," she claimed.

When asked whether there are any signs of de-escalation on the part of Russia, she said, "On the contrary, he [Putin] has moved more forces since we've been encouraging him to de-escalate."

Blinken said on Wednesday he expects contacts with Lavrov as soon as Moscow analyzes the United States' responses to its security proposals.

On December 17, 2021, the Russian foreign ministry released a draft agreement on security guarantees between Russia and the United States, and a draft agreement on ensuring the security of Russia and NATO member states.

The proposed measures include guarantees that NATO will not advance eastward, including the accession of Ukraine and other countries into the alliance, as well as non-deployment of serious offensive weapons, including nuclear ones.

The sides have had several rounds of consultations in various formats but no agreements have yet been announced. On Wednesday, the US side handed over its written response to Russia's proposals.

Recently, Western and Ukrainian media outlets have been echoing claims about Russia's possible aggression against Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov earlier slammed such statements as "empty and groundless" and their goal is to whip up tensions.

He stressed that Russia doesn't pose any threat to anyone, but did not rule out possible provocations to justify the remarks in question and warned that attempts at using force to settle the crisis in southeastern Ukraine would have the most serious consequences.

Iran's Khamenei urges boost in production to offset US pressures

TEHRAN

IRAN'S Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday called for the boost of production to offset US economic pressures.

The enemies waged an "economic war" against Iran in order to collapse the country's economy, but the US pressures against Iran's economy have turned out a "humiliating defeat," Khamenei said during his meeting with a group of industrialists, entrepreneurs and economic activists, according to his official website.

The resistance against the enemy's efforts to prevent the sale of oil and gas and to cut access to foreign exchange resources has been in fact a "jihad," he added.

Khamenei urged the acceleration of production, employment and development of Iran, as "a holy defense against the economic war with the United States."

Iran's economy needs a leap in production to overcome problems and to deal with internal and external shocks, because a jump in production leads to improved economic indicators such as sustainable employment, export boom, foreign exchange earnings and lower inflation, Khamenei noted.

He also highlighted the delinking of Iran's economic growth from the results of ongoing nuclear negotiations in Vienna and the removal of US sanctions. Agencies



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Give back the money, UK tells COVID-19 fraudsters

NAIROBI

BRITAIN'S public spending chief yesterday urged fraudsters who swindled billions of dollars of COVID-19 support money from the state to give the cash back.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Simon Clarke said the tax service, known in Britain as HM Revenue & Customs, would pursue anyone who had taken money fraudulently.

"We will now pursue anybody who has taken this money fraudulently," Clarke told LBC radio. "And I would urge anyone who's taken that money and didn't really need it to make contact with HMRC."

"Anyone who thinks that they can escape the long arm of the HMRC is making a great mistake," he said.

The exact amount of COVID-19 fraud is unclear but various estimates put it at around 5 billion pounds (\$6.7 billion). Meanwhile, Britain is looking at pos-



Workers wearing personal protective equipment sanitizes the dugouts during half-time of the Group A Africa Cup of Nations 2021 football match between Ethiopia and Cape Verde at Stade d'Olembe in Yaounde on Jan 9, 2022. AFP

sibly changing rules on mandatory vaccination for health service staff, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Simon Clarke said yesterday.

"We do recognize those realities and

that does open a space where we can look at this again," Clarke told Sky.

Africa

The number of confirmed COVID-19

Agencies

cases in Africa reached 10,760,599 cases as of Sunday evening, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The specialized healthcare agency of the African Union said the death toll across the continent stands at 238,874 and some 9,711,762 patients have recovered from the disease so far.

South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia and Ethiopia are among the countries with the most cases on the continent, said the Africa CDC.

South Africa has recorded the most COVID-19 cases in Africa with 3,601,630 cases, followed by the northern African country Morocco with 1,129,140 cases as of Sunday evening, it said.

In terms of the caseload, southern Africa is the most affected region, followed by the northern and eastern parts of the continent, while central Africa is the least affected region, according to the Africa CDC.

UN chief: Spirit of solidarity urgently needed before Olympics

UNITED NATIONS

THE Olympic spirit, which represents a spirit of solidarity, is urgently needed for the international community to address the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told Xinhua in a written interview on Friday.

The Olympics and Paralympics send a fantastic message of "peace and of mutual respect between people of all cultures, all civilizations and all ethnicities," said Guterres, days before his trip to China to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

It is necessary to shine a light on the Olympic spirit, which also means mutual understanding, tolerance,



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

respect and dialogue, said Guterres, adding that the spirit is "is very much in line with the values of the UN."

The spirit is "absolutely essential" to face increasing xenophobia and racism, spreading white supremacy, rising

geopolitical tensions, and the unacceptable ways that migrants and refugees are being treated, he said.

Unity and solidarity are especially important during the pandemic, said the UN chief, noting that developing coun-

tries are in need of vaccines and financial help. He also urged developed countries to help those who are most vulnerable.

Commenting on the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President

Xi Jinping last year, Guterres said that China's experience of lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty can provide valuable lessons to other developing countries.

"I sincerely hope that this initiative will provide an opportunity to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals globally and especially in other developing countries," he said.

As the Chinese New Year is approaching, Guterres also extended his wishes to the Chinese people for the Lunar New Year of the Tiger.

"The tiger denotes strength, vitality, courage, tenacity, and boldness. These are qualities we need as we face the unprecedented challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis," he said.

Xinhua

Foreign enterprises confident in China's economic prospects

MANY foreign enterprises in China said they are optimistic about China's economic prospects given what the country has done to further open up and improve business environment. They said they are willing to further develop in the Chinese market and share development opportunities.

China's total foreign trade in goods hit \$6.05 trillion the last year, occupying an increasingly larger share in the global market. The country's actual use of foreign capital surged 14.9 percent year-on-year to a historic high of about 1.15 trillion yuan (\$181 billion).

According to statistics released by China's Ministry of Commerce, China had been the world's second

largest destination of foreign capital for four years in a row between 2017 and 2020, and ranked first globally in outbound direct investment in 2020.

Last March, materials science leader Dow signed a memorandum of cooperation to build a manufacturing base in Zhanjiang, south China's Guangdong province, with initial investment of \$250 million.

Xu Yang, vice-president of Dow Greater China said the inking of more and more multilateral and bilateral trade and investment pacts, as well as the continuously facilitated cross-border trade have made China an important part on the

global and regional supply chains, and the company's second largest market globally.

According to an HSBC survey, 97 percent of the interviewed enterprises are planning to expand their investment in China, saying the country boasts a huge market, prospects for long-term growth, and a complete supply chain system.

A recent report issued by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed that Japanese enterprises in China attach high importance to the Chinese market and are generally satisfied with the business environment in the country. Ninety-one percent of the respondents said they will

keep expanding their investment in China in the next three to five years.

The attraction of the Chinese market for foreign capital comes from the country's efforts to expand opening-up and improve business environment. In the newly released 2021 version of the national negative list and pilot free trade zone negative list, the number of items has been cut by 6.1 percent and 10 percent, respectively. This marked the fifth year in a row for China to shorten the lists, which mirrored the continuous efforts made by China to make its business environment more market-oriented, law-

based and internationalized.

A study by the Union Bank of Switzerland said that the gigantic and rapidly expanding Chinese market, as well as China's continuous opening-up, will keep attracting foreign investment. As the global supply chain restructures, the role of Chinese upper-stream suppliers will be further underlined.

Honeywell is one of the earliest American enterprises to enter the Chinese market. Now, China has grown into the largest single market outside the U.S., as well as the fastest growing market of the company.

Steven Lien, president of Honey-

well China noted that China is opening its market both extensively and intensively, and ensuring national treatment for foreign-funded enterprises to further release the market's vitality of innovation. China has offered perfect development opportunities for Honeywell and other transnationals, reinforcing the company's confidence in developing in China, Lien added.

Citing a report by Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler, Reuters said in an article published on its Chinese website that China will continue to attract foreign investors in the new year, particularly in the wealth management, new energy, and high technology sectors.

People's Daily

Egyptian villagers return home in North Sinai as terrorism defeated

ZUWEID, Egypt

VILLAGERS from the town of Sheikh Zuweid in North Sinai governorate, east of Cairo, have returned to their homes after terrorism there was eradicated.

Terrorist groups spread in Egypt after the June 30 protests in 2013, especially in North Sinai, which forced many locals to flee. Egypt has been fighting against the terrorist groups that killed hundreds of policemen, soldiers, and civilians in North Sinai.

More than 1000 terrorists have been killed in the military crackdown over the past seven years. Fierce battles between the two sides caused the displacement of the villagers in the towns of Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid, especially after their homes and farms were destroyed during the battles.

With the success of defeating the terrorist groups, the government allowed the residents to return to their home villages.

Sheikh Arafat Khader, tribal leader of Sheikh Zuweid, said that the residents have returned to the villages located in the south of the town, such as Abu Rafai, Al Dhaher, Abu Al-Araj and Abu Faraj, which is the gateway and entrance to Sheikh Zuweid.

In the west part of Sheikh Zuweid, families from the villages of Al-Ghara, Qabr Omair, Al-Nakhlata, Al-Khrouba also returned, he added.

However, some residents have not returned yet due to the security operations that the armed forces are still carrying out in these villages against the remnants of terrorist groups.

Abdel-Latif Zammam, a resident of Sheikh Zuweid, said that people returned with great joy, despite the destruction of their homes and farms. "Families erected tents next to their demolished houses until they are rebuilt," Zammam told Xinhua.

Hussein Eid, another resident of Sheikh Zuweid, lamented that villagers, who were forced to leave their hometown seven years ago, were living a difficult life in Ismailia or Bir al-Abed, north of Cairo.

"Fearing the explosions, the IS kidnapping, and intimidation, we left our homes and settled in other areas," Eid, who found his home totally destroyed, told Xinhua. Eid built a small tent for his family, next to his demolished home, while waiting for the government to pay for the reconstruction as promised.

Salman Salim, 38, who returned to his village west of Sheikh Zuweid after years of displacement, faced the same difficulties. "We tried to live under terrorism to avoid displacement, but we could not. Death was crawling around us from every direction because of the war. My family and I fled with light luggage and left the furniture of the house," Salim told Xinhua.

He added that they went to a village in the nearby city of Bir al-Abed, leading a miserable life for seven years. "When we returned after the villages is purified from terrorism, we did not find our homes as they were. I found my house in ruins," Salim said sadly.

The good news is, Mohamed Abdel-Fadil Shousha, governor of North Sinai, recently visited the villages, reassuring people that their demands and all the needs of services and facilities would be met.

He said that compensations will be paid to house owners for partially and completely destroyed homes, adding that more residents are returning to the rest of the villages in the area.

South African Parliament fire allegedly started by boxes, paper, 10-rand petrol

CAPE TOWN

THE man who is suspected of setting fire to South African Parliament early this month allegedly used boxes, paper and petrol worth 10 rands (about 0.64 U.S. dollars) to start the fire, which eventually gutted parliament buildings in the legislative capital Cape Town, read a statement of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of South Africa.

The prosecution alleged Zandile Christmas Mafe, the suspect, "purchased petrol in a bottle, made his way to Parliament, using stealth, broke into Parliament and after spending some time in Parliament, used boxes, paper and the petrol to set parliament alight causing devastating damage to the facility," said the statement issued on Sunday, which told the proceeding of Mafe's bail application at Cape Town Regional Court on Saturday.

The prosecution opposed the application. The 49-year-old, who is charged with housebreaking with intent to commit terrorism and arson, terrorism, arson and theft, could face life imprisonment if convicted.

While Mafe pleaded not guilty, an affidavit of an investigating officer submitted by the prosecution said Mafe had confessed that he committed to the crime because he wanted South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to resign with immediate effect, demanded the release of Janus Waluz, a convicted murderer in the assassination of former South African Communist Party leader Chris Hani in 1993.

The parliament fire starting in the morning on Jan. 2 lasted more than 70 hours, severely damaging the building of the National Assembly (NA), the lower house, and completely burned down the NA chamber. It also caused extensive damage to the century-old Old Assembly building that houses the National Council of Provinces, the upper house.

The affidavit said Mafe appeared to be pleased with himself after he was shown a video clip of the burning parliament and voluntarily pointed out a petrol station where he purchased petrol for 10 rands, as well as the gate and window he used to enter the parliament. Bail judgment will be delivered on Feb. 4, according to the statement.

The fire forced the parliament to move its flagship program, the State of the Nation Address, to be delivered by Ramaphosa on Feb. 10, from the NA chamber to the historic City Hall of Cape Town. Geordin Hill-Lewis, Cape Town mayor, will on Monday officially hand over the City Hall to Parliament's Presiding Officers.

Xinhua

Americans rate White House poorly on COVID-19, economy; divided on Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

THE White House continues to lose ground with the American public on such issues as response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recovery, while Americans are divided on the Supreme Court, according to a new poll released on Sunday.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who just marked the one-year anniversary of his term, has lost the approval of almost one fifth of Americans on his response to the coronavirus, dropping from 69 percent approval in January 2021 to the current 50 percent, the ABC News/Ipsos poll showed.

Views of the veteran politician, the survey presented, remain strongly tied to partisanship with four in five Democrats approving his handling of the pandemic versus less than one in five Republicans.

The United States has reported more than 74 million COVID-19 infections and 884,000 deaths as of Sunday night, both the highest in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently said 99.9 percent of new infections in the country are driven by the Omicron variant, which is believed to spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has recently warned of a COVID-19 variant that can evade vaccines and natural immunity.

"The worst-case scenario is we're on our way there and we get hit with another variant that actually eludes the immune protection," Fauci told Yahoo Finance during an interview last week. "I hope that's not the case."

Biden has lost similar levels of support on his handling of economic recovery, down 18 points from the 60-percent approval in March 2021 to 42 percent now, the poll underlined, although his administration has recently cheered the country's economic growth rate.

The poll found only one in four Americans would describe the U.S. economy as excellent or good, while 75 percent of the surveyed saw it as not so good or poor.

Prices for most consumer goods in the United States have continued rising in the new year, as real wages are falling. U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, tweeted on Saturday that "Americans can't afford more Bidenomics."

"Inflation is a problem," Biden acknowledged during an event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on Friday. "It's real and a lot of people are being hurt by it."

The ABC News/Ipsos questionnaire also asked how Americans think of the Supreme Court -- the highest court in the federal judiciary -- and Biden's handling of



US President Joe Biden

a new justice. According to the findings, 38 percent of Americans said they believe the court, where conservatives currently have a 6-3 advantages over liberals, decides cases "on the basis of law" while 43 percent argued it acts "on the basis of their partisan political views."

The findings also showed that up to 76 percent of Americans believe Biden should "consider all possible nominees" rather than stick to "only nominees who are Black women."

Biden last week reaffirmed his commitment to nominating an African American woman for the Supreme Court after liberal Justice Stephen Breyer announced that he will retire this summer. The president is expected to announce a pick in February.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, said on Sunday that it was too early to consider anyone a "front-runner" for the role. "I think suggesting there's a front-runner or this person is now moving ahead, that's unfair to all the nominees."

This is in the hands of the president as it should be," Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, told NBC's "Meet the Press" during an interview.

U.S. Senator Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, said on Sunday that she thinks the way Biden has approached the nomination has been "clumsy at best."

"It adds to the further perception that the court is a political institution like Congress when it is not supposed to be,"

Collins said on ABC's "This Week."

Public approval of other facets of the Biden administration is also more negative than positive, including two-thirds disapproving of his handling of gun violence and 64 percent disapproving his handling of crime, the ABC News/Ipsos added.

The research was conducted on Friday and Saturday and based on a nationally representative probability sample of 510 adults age 18 or older, with a margin of error of 4.9 points.

Xinhua

Beijing 2022 successful practice of new Olympic motto

By He Yin

THE 2022 Winter Olympics, the first international multi-sport event to be held as scheduled since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a successful practice of the new Olympic motto - "Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together," said Chinese President Xi Jinping in a recent meeting with International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Thomas Bach in Beijing.

The notion of "Together," championed by the Olympic Movement, is needed more than ever, Xi noted.

"Instead of riding separately in some 190 small boats, countries around the world should stay together in one giant ship and sail toward a brighter future, and this is why we came up with 'Together for a Shared Future' as the official motto for Beijing 2022," Xi said.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ravaging the world, with the variants of the virus evolving rapidly. This is a time when countries around the world need to work together. Only mutual assistance and solidarity can help them defeat the global challenge.

The world needs solidarity more than ever to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and the huge challenges facing mankind, said Bach, who proposed to add the notion of "Together" to the Olympic motto the last year. It marked the first time that the motto has been updated since it was incorporated into the Olympic Charter in 1913, which mirrored the common aspiration of mankind to address challenges with solidarity.

As the first international multi-sport event to be held as scheduled since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beijing 2022 is supported by both the Chinese people and the international society.

In his meeting with Xi, Bach wished for a world of greater unity. Abdulla Shahid, president of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly also solemnly appealed to all UN member states to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

Besides, there have been voices supporting the Beijing 2022 made by political dignitaries of many countries and IOC officials. It proves that the Beijing 2022 will be not only a grand sports event, but also a platform demonstrating the solidarity and friendship of mankind.



Photo taken on Jan. 21 shows a decoration in Qianmen Street, Beijing set up to celebrate the upcoming Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games and the Chinese New Year. (Photo by Guo Junfeng/People's Daily Online)

The 2022 Winter Olympics is a bond linking the hearts of the people around the world.

Pupils at Millburn Primary School in Northern Ireland sang "Meet Me in Beijing," a song that will be played during this year's Olympics opening ceremony in Chinese, as a tribute to Beijing 2022 Winter Games. Two years ago, they also dedicated a Chinese song to the people of China suffering from the COVID-19 outbreak.

A Russian retired medic wrote a song for Beijing Winter Olympics; a South Korean artist made Winter Olympics-themed paintings; a Brazilian girl drew a picture of the Beijing Winter Olympics in her imagination.

In different ways, people have expressed the same aspiration for solidarity and a better future. What they have done embodies the Olympic spirit that transcends national borders.

Sports is a common language of mankind. Nearly 3,000 athletes from around 90 countries and regions are expected to gather in Beijing soon, and some countries will send delegations to the Winter Games for the first time.

Vice secretary general Varin Tansuphasiri of the National Olympic Committee of Thailand believes that winning is not the most important part of the Olymp-

pic Games, and what matter are the opportunity for athletes to join the games, and the friendship and peace of mankind.

As Sri Lanka marked the 30-day countdown to the opening of the Beijing 2022, the country's Cabinet Minister of Youth and Sports Namal Rajapaksa noted that the people in his country will embrace the Winter Games and the Olympic spirit together with the rest of the world, though Sri Lanka is a tropical island country that doesn't have many winter sports resources.

Another tropical country Colombia will also send athletes to Beijing. Colombian President Ivan Duque said the Beijing 2022 bears significance for the entire world. To hold the Winter Games amid the pandemic indicates that the world is passionately looking forward to the future, he added.

As the Olympic Flame is once again lighted in Beijing, spreading the light of unity, friendship, peace and justice to the world, the Beijing 2022 will set the stage for athletes to chase their dreams and showcase the solidarity of mankind.

The notion "Together" will definitely have its extraordinary influence at the Beijing 2022, and encourage the world to create a brighter future. **People's Daily**

Ukraine not ready for NATO membership, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

UKRAINE is not ready to be a NATO member country, it will bring nothing useful to the Alliance, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in the Voskresny Vecher (Sunday Evening) program on Channel One.

"It turns out each time that the line they are supposed to defend is moving further east. Now, it has already come close to Ukraine. They want to also pull this country into there."

Thought it is clear to everyone that Ukraine is not ready and it won't make any contribution whatsoever to the strengthening of NATO's security," the foreign minister said.

Ukraine's NATO membership will seriously affect Russia-NATO relations, he said. "This will really undermine relations with the Russian Federation as it will be a gross violation of obligations taken by the presidents of the US and other member states of the alliance," Lavrov said.

"Let them console themselves with saying that it is 'defensive'. It does not make things easier for us. The line of defense has already come close to us," the top diplomat stressed.

Ukraine's membership in NATO

Ukraine's membership in NATO will undermine the alliance's relations with Russia, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

"This will really undermine relations with the Russian Federation as it will be a gross violation of obligations taken by the presidents of the US and other member states of the alliance," Lavrov said.

Requests to NATO and the OSCE

Russia is sending requests to NATO and the OSCE, asking to explain whether they intend to comply with the key security commitments, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told.

"Today, we are sending an official request to our colleagues in the countries of the Alliance and the OSCE via the Foreign Ministry with a pressing request to explain how they intend to fulfil the commitment not to strengthen their security at the expense of security of the others," he said.

"If they don't plan this, then they should explain why. This will be the key question in determining our further proposals that we will report to Russian President Vladimir Putin," Lavrov added.

On December 17, 2021, the Russian Foreign Ministry published draft agreements between Moscow and Washington on security guarantees and measures for ensuring the security of Russia and NATO member states. The proposed measures include guarantees that NATO will not advance eastward, and not grant membership to Ukraine and other countries into the alliance, along with the non-deployment of serious offensive weapons, including nuclear ones.

SPORT

Dar comedian-cum-pastor issues advice on coronavirus vaccine

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

TANZANIAN comedian, Emmanuel Mathias, who is also the pastor of the Love Church, has urged the church's members to adhere to government directives on coronavirus vaccine to ensure the safety and security of their health.

Mathias, popularly known as 'MC Pilipili', said so during the official inauguration of the new church, located at Mwenge in Dar es Salaam, last weekend.

He was adamant the government had declared the vaccine voluntary.

He said with the vaccine being voluntary, everyone should look at the importance of protecting their health, as no one is forced to get vaccine.

Mathias stated all the members need to do is looking at the possibility of protecting themselves from the disease.

"Our church is called Love Church, we love each other, so we have to focus on God as well as focusing on what the government is instructing us about the whole issue of coronavirus vaccine," he said.

He said health experts had given all instructions on how people should protect themselves from the disease, including wearing masks, washing hands with running water, using hand sanitizers and avoiding unnecessary gatherings.

"The government points out that the issue of vaccination is voluntary, but it is not



Emmanuel Mathias, popularly known as 'MC Pilipili'.

wrong for us to take action instead of just keeping quiet because the government has declared that vaccination is voluntary," he said.

The pastor said that when the community adheres to the guidelines for controlling the disease through intermediate control measures without compromising their involvement in economic activities, believers will not be able to isolate themselves from the drive.

"My call is that the government says vaccination is voluntary, but we can be active and protect ourselves against the disease, as our country is not on an uninhabited island," he said.

He said religious leaders have a role to play in encouraging worshippers to follow such important instructions, so that they can continue to serve God and carry on their daily activities in good faith.

TBF all out to improve basketball promotion

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) held its election four years after its constitution had directed the leaders to stay in power for the mentioned duration.

The election was held in Dodoma and ushered in the new TBF president, Michael Kadebe, ousting Phares Mageza while vice-president, Rwehabura Barongo, defeated Mboka Mwamabusi.

Another senior position of secretary-general went to Mwenze Fiston Kabinda that will be assisted by Benson Nyasebwa.

The elected Executive Committee members are Fredrick Mtandu (Planning and Development Commission), Bakari Juma (Children and Schools Commission), Robert Manyerere (Coaches Commission), Daniel Patrick (Technical and Competition Commission), Leonard Haule (Finance Commission), and William Mziray (Referees Commission).

Currently, one month after the leadership came to power, The Guardian conducted an exclusive interview with the federation's vice-president, Barongo, outlining various aspects of the leadership.

"At first I was just making it a hobby, later I saw I could help at the national level, in the past, I was thinking of leadership but the act of campaigning for voting was getting me out of line but it came when I saw if you really see things going as unexpectedly you decide to enter yourself to develop them," Barongo stated.

Barongo explained that TBF plans to come up with a program for good health starting with young people and people with disabilities together with other changes from the regional associations to the level that the federation operates.

The TBF official revealed: "If you look at our neighbours, they beat us every day, if you get those results you know that something is not right, our programs are not the same in schools, the system is not the same."

"I was shocked to find that regional associations are not paying fees to the National Sports Council (NSC) when the government is our main focus, how are we going to work with the government if we do not achieve what we are supposed to do?" Barongo queried.

"Each association must pay a fee of 50,000/- per year, which is an increase from 20,000/- and clubs must also be registered in accordance with rules, regulations and laws."

"These issues are known but they were not implemented because of the system that existed from the national to the lower levels."

The former basketball player spoke on the importance of having a well uniformed bank account for every regional basketball association in order to have a better inspections in terms of auditing so as to how the invested money is used.

"I saw it as a very big issue, from then on we can be more successful even with sponsors, for example associations do not even have bank accounts."

"Even if the sponsor gives our the money, will he deposit it into any personal account?"

"If you look at the NSC policy, the council

states that each association must be audited, now when the council inspect, what will the associations say if they do not have bank accounts?"

"There are issues that will help us even get more FIBA aid, if we put them right, because our neighbouring countries have completed and received aid," the TBF official, who had played the game for 14 years in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division League at Idaho State University, USA, noted.

"There are challenges that we have found and started working on including meeting and negotiating with our regional stakeholders," he said.

"The process is already underway and we have now opened communication by e-mail, there will also be meetings and letters, we want to know how many teams the regions have, their RACs and regional club registrars."

"In order to continue with the program you have to know what the regions are like and sometimes we will have to even use players who have experience in leadership, for example, the Mara Regional Basketball Association has set up its annual budget, the association has sought a patron, so, it has shown the light."

"Every region should have a treasurer, who has studied the profession, the criteria is in the NSC sports policy, so that inspectors will know what kind of person they are dealing with when they go for their duty," Barongo revealed.

"We have agreed with the NSC that we will have our office within three months so that when people come to get services they know where they are getting, as opposed to the past, we have looked at several areas for the office."

With TBF lacking a media officer, a situation that has been a hindrance to getting clear information on the federation's activities and the sport's development, the federation has highlighted major plans to make sure this problem comes to an end.

"We will have a TBF spokesperson who will be in charge of the media directly and we will announce him soon to ensure the media gets regular updates, as we have to promote our game and our federation including our products," Barongo said.

"We will provide guidance to regional associations leaders to influence the community, from parents to schools, and government, so that they know the sport."

"Children should know and love the game, especially in schools, by improving the curriculum and teaching children to love the game by following the level and stage of children's age," he added.

The former Kurasini Heat official highlighted on how TBF should use its capabilities to earn revenues.

"There are about seven sources of funding, such as sponsorship, membership fees, players' data (registration will compell outfits to pay transfer fees when a player moves from one team to another, especially for regional teams), through local competitions where teams pay participation fee, when we organize a national competition there is money we get."

"It should be noted that the fees paid by the regional associations in the NSC as well as clubs that also pay there and in the regional associations but even TBF also pays the NSC fees," he disclosed.

SPORTS

Hopes abound for domestic netball

By Correspondent Lloyd Elpokea

DESPITE its huge promise, it is a bald truth that local women's netball has endured some trying and challenging times in recent years.

Indeed, netball tourneys have been conspicuously few and far between in the last few years and this coupled with the deleterious impact of the pandemic have doubtlessly contributed to the woes facing domestic netball.

Still, the fact that the Union Netball League started last Saturday in Zanzibar clearly demonstrates that the stewards of the sport, Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta), are deadly serious about reviving the flagging fortunes of this enchanting sport.

Indisputably, the unfolding Union Netball League on the Isles is an encouraging and laudable development, especially when one recalls that few netball competitions have been staged on our shores for some time.

It is fervently hoped that the Union Netball League is merely the first of a plethora of netball championships on the home front this year, which would stand our national netball team, the Taifa Queens, in good stead.

Let us segue neatly now to the ongoing showpiece football event, the Africa Cup of Nations finals, which has now approached the business end of the biennial football tournament.

The championship has already served up unforgettable moments of high drama like the shocking and unceremonious ouster of continental heavyweights Algeria and Ghana at the preliminary phase.

In addition, teams hitherto viewed as veritable small fry like Comoros, Gambia, Malawi and Equatorial Guinea have left jaws slackened by the impressive manner in which they have slain many a giant of continental football.

Apart from the praiseworthy heroics of the aforesaid giant-slayers, though, some teams at the tournament have lived up to their top billing as the continent's pre-eminent sides.

One such team is the host of the football extravaganza itself, Cameroon.

Indeed, right from the get-go, the In-



Netballers battle it out in a past East Africa Club Championship which took place in Dar es Salaam.

domitable Lions of Cameroon got their campaign off to a flying start by winning their opening encounter of the championship.

And, since then the Lions have never looked back as they most recently got the better of minnows Gambia 2-0 in the quarter-finals last Saturday.

By dint of that triumph, the Indomitable Lions have progressed to the semi-finals where they are set to encounter Burkina Faso, who have punched above their weight at the competition.

Despite being one of the continent's good teams, Burkina Faso has never

really consistently bedazzled onlookers with scintillating football in the rich history of African football.

However, in a striking departure from the past, Burkina Faso has shone in match after match at these AFCON finals, with their latest hour of luminous glory coming in the quarterfinal last Saturday when they pipped the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia to a stunning 1-0 defeat.

Another team whose place in this rollcall of the 2021 AFCON finals' most illustrious teams is assured is most surely Egypt.

Indeed, the Pharaohs of Egypt have bounced back impeccably from their opening 1-0 defeat to Nigeria and since that setback, they have gone from strength to strength as was illustrated by their 2-1 triumph over Morocco in the quarterfinals last Sunday.

Egypt, who are perennially one of the continent's most sublime football sides, will be fancying their chances of hoisting aloft the coveted trophy in victory.

But, then again, so will the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon.

Thus, with the identity of the competition's eventual champions still pretty much up in the air, it is crystal clear to see that the plot thickens in the captivating narrative of the AFCON finals this year.

All in all, a fitting way for Nadal to get No. 21

By HOWARD FENDRICH

WHEN Grand Slam title No. 21 belonged to him, when the Australian Open final was over after 5 hours, 24 minutes of twists and turns and he somehow completed a comeback from two sets down, Rafael Nadal dropped his racket to the court, covered his face with his taped-up fingers, then shook his head and smiled.

"Just unforgettable," is how he described his 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 victory over Daniil Medvedev, a result that seemed particularly unlikely when Nadal faced three break points midway through the third set.

Tapping his heart with his right hand, Nadal added: "One of the most emotional matches of my tennis career, without a doubt. Means a lot to me."

This was, in various respects, a fitting way for Nadal to set himself apart, at least for the moment, from Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic: coming off a hiatus forced by a painful left foot, doubting his health and his form, worried about his future in tennis and, to cap it all off, climbing out of a huge hole – the match began Sunday night and concluded in the wee hours of Monday – with unrelenting play backed by unrelenting belief.

The last man to win an Australian Open final after dropping the first two sets was Roy Emerson, 57 years ago.

Medvedev's summation: "Unreal."

Nadal, a 35-year-old from Spain, is the first member of the Big Three – and, of course, the first man in the history of tennis – to surpass 20 major singles championships. His rivals each got a chance to do so first: Federer lost to Djokovic in the 2019 Wimbledon final; Djokovic lost to Medvedev in the 2021 U.S. Open final.

Now Nadal stands above both.

It is the first time he's ever had more Grand Slam trophies than Federer, who is 40 and sat out the Australian Open while recovering from the latest in a series of knee operations. The No. 1-ranked Djokovic, who is 34, also missed the hard-court tournament he has won a record nine times; he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 and was deported after an 11-day legal saga that began when his visa was canceled upon arrival in Australia.

And yet, when play began two weeks ago, no one seemed to give Nadal much of a chance to go all that far, let alone win the whole thing.

The skeptics included Nadal himself. He was thrilled merely to be back in action after playing two matches in total over the last half of last season because of chronic foot pain.

He went months without being able to practice. He essentially had zero idea how well he would be able to perform at Melbourne Park. How well his strokes or his body could hold up over the course of five sets, if need be. Worst of all, how many more of these tournaments he'd have left.

And then, once into the final, Nadal found himself so far behind against a significantly younger (25) and higher-ranked (No. 2) opponent, someone who more recently had won a Grand Slam title and more recently had reached an Australian Open final (last year, losing to Djokovic).

This triumph came 13 years after Nadal's other Australian Open title and follows four runner-up finishes in 2012 (against Djokovic), 2014 (Stan Wawrinka), 2017 (Federer) and 2019 (Djokovic).

Those instances of coming up short in Rod Laver Arena flashed through Nadal's mind.



Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye (C), speaks to journalists and DSTV Tanzania's staff when he officially announced the approval of the broadcast of all Tanzanian television channels on DSTV yesterday. Sitting (L-R) is MultiChoice Tanzania's Chairman and CEO, Ami Mpungwe, and the company's Managing Director, Jacqueline Woiso. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Canada stun US to close in on World Cup berth

HAMILTON

CANADA took a giant step towards their first World Cup qualification in 36 years on Sunday after scoring an upset 2-0 victory over arch-rivals the United States in CONCACAF qualifiers.

A Cyle Larin goal after just seven minutes and an injury time effort from Sam Adekunle secured all three points for the Canadians at a frigid Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton to extend the home side's lead at the top of the CONCACAF standings.

The unbeaten Canadians now have 22 points from four games with four fixtures remaining, pulling four points clear of the USA who are second with 18 points.

Canada have emerged as the surprise package from the Central America, North America and the Caribbean qualifying region, and are now firmly on course for only their second trip to the World Cup after reaching the Mexico finals in 1986.

"We're turning into a football country," Canada's jubilant English coach John Herdman said afterwards.

"(The USA) are a great team, a very good team, they had great quality today. But we matched their spirit.

"And that's what I said to our lads - we've got our own quality, and it came through."

Goalscorer Larin admitted a World Cup berth was within reach.

"We're almost there," he said. "But we never settle for anything. We'll keep pushing."

Mexico are third in the standings level with the USA on 18 points after drawing 0-0 with Costa Rica in Mexico City on Sunday.

The top three sides in the eight-team round-robin table qualify automatically for this year's finals in Qatar.

- 'Result hurts' -

But the defeat piles pressure on USA coach Gregg Berhalter, whose team face Honduras at home on Wednesday before a tricky final three games in March which includes away trips to Mexico and Costa Rica and a home game against Panama.

"It's hard for me to remember a performance away from home this dominant without getting a

result," Berhalter said afterwards. "The result hurts, the performance doesn't hurt."

The United States, aiming to atone for their shock failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, dominated possession and territory on Sunday but fell behind after a defensive lapse that allowed Turkey-based striker Larin to fire the hosts into the lead.

A Matt Turner goal kick was won by Kamal David who headed forward.

Larin gathered all too easily just outside the US penalty area and played a neat one-two with Lille forward Jonathan David before brushing off US defender Miles Robinson and rifling a finish past Turner.

It would be Canada's only meaningful chance on goal for the rest of the half with the USA enjoying the lion's share of possession thereafter.

But for all the US territorial dominance the Americans were unable to make it count, failing to find the incisiveness in attack to trouble the Canadian defence.

Chelsea forward Christian Pulisic looked the likeliest source of invention for the USA, but was often isolated and on the receiving end of a some rugged Canadian tackling.

The Americans finally got a shot on goal two minutes before half-time.

A Pulisic corner was met with a firm glancing header from Weston McKennie but Canada keeper Milan Borjan reacted superbly to tip the effort onto the underside of the bar.

The similar half followed a similar pattern, with the US having plenty of the ball without really testing the Canadian defence.

As the game wore on, the US became more ragged and deep into injury time the hosts broke clear, with defender Adekunle skipping clear and racing towards goal before blasting past Turner for 2-0.

In other games on Sunday, 2018 World Cup qualifiers Panama moved into the qualification reckoning with a 3-2 home win over Jamaica.

Panama are fourth in the standings with 17 points, one behind the USA and Mexico.

AFP

Ecuador urged to 'stay strong' as rare World Cup qualification nears

MINNOWS Ecuador's coach Gustavo Alfaro told his team to "stay strong" as they travel to Peru today knowing victory would book their ticket to the World Cup for just the fourth time in their history.

A controversial and eventful 1-1 draw at home to Brazil on Thursday has left Ecuador in an enviable position with just three games left to play in the single South American qualifying group.

Brazil and Argentina have already qualified and Ecuador will join them if they claim victory in Lima.

"It's not easy for Ecuador to play at the World Cup," said Argentine Alfaro. "I need the team to keep going, to stay strong."

Against Peru, they will have to do without suspended pair Enner Valencia, the captain, and goalkeeper Alexander Dominguez.

The latter was sent off after just 15 minutes against Brazil when a rash dash from his box saw him catch forward Matheus Cunha in the neck with his studs after trying to hack clear a bouncing ball.

Forward Valencia is suspended due an accumulation of yellow cards and Ecuador will miss the leadership and predatory instincts of a man that has scored 34 goals in 68 internationals.

Only Brazil have scored more qualifying goals than Ecuador, who also have the third best defense.

But back in June they were stunned 2-1 at home to Peru who boosted their qualification hopes with a smash-and-grab last-gasp 1-0 win in Colombia on Friday.

Dominated throughout, Peru defended doggedly before hitting Colombia on the break five minutes from time through Edison Flores - although

the hosts' goalkeeper David Ospina did not cover himself in glory as he was beaten at his near post from a tight angle.

Three matches ago, Peru were second bottom of the qualifying table but a maximum nine points out of nine since, including two away wins, has propelled the Andean nation into the last of four automatic qualification spots.

Having guided Peru to a first World Cup finals appearance in 36 years in Russia 2018, Argentine coach Ricardo Gareca - who also took the team to the 2019 Copa America final - is homing in on a remarkable turnaround.

"We all know the reality of the tale, but we're a group with a lot of faith and a lot of confidence. We will keep fighting," he said.

- Uruguay eye 'wonderful' finish -

Another team that was in danger of missing out were two-time former world champions Uruguay, who host rock-bottom Venezuela on Tuesday.

Four successive defeats in which they conceded 11 goals and scored just one saw iconic veteran coach Oscar Tabarez given his marching orders in November after a record-breaking 15 years at the helm.

New boss Diego Alonso got off to a winning start as Luis Suarez struck on Thursday to hand Uruguay a 1-0 win away to Paraguay.

That result virtually ended Paraguay's hopes of reaching Qatar while lifting Uruguay into fifth - which qualifies for an inter-continental play-off - just one point behind Peru, who must travel to Montevideo in March.

"What is ahead of us is going to be wonderful as long as we keep our heads in order," said Alonso.

Egypt and Senegal into AFCON semis as crush stadium confirmed as venue for final

YAOUNDE

MOHAMED Salah starred as Egypt reached the Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals on Sunday and were joined in the last four by Senegal, while the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde where eight people died in a crush a week ago was given the green light to host the final.

The Confederation of African Football gave the stadium the go ahead to host the second semi-final on February 3 between the hosts and Egypt, and the final on February 6 after lifting the temporary suspension of the venue where eight died, including a child, on January 24.

"Having noted the recommendations and undertakings from government in regard to additional security provisions...the CAF Organising Committee unanimously agreed to lift the suspension imposed on the Olembe Stadium," African football's governing body said in a statement.

"The Local Organising Committee and the government of Cameroon having significantly increased security and resources at the Olembe Stadium, (CAF) are confident that the safety and security of spectators and visitors will be assured."

The disaster happened prior to last Monday's last-16 tie between hosts Cameroon and the Comoros, when supporters were caught in a crush at the south entrance gate of the stadium.

Thirty eight people were also injured in the disaster. Witnesses told AFP that a mass of people were crushed up against gates at the southern entrance before police eventually opened them.

Hundreds of supporters then broke through, causing a stampede.

Cameroon's sports minister on Friday blamed a "reckless decision" by security forces to open the closed gate for the tragedy and announced a raft of measures aimed at ensur-

Is it dribbling or is it showboating? And where do you draw the line?

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent

JAVIER Pastore, Neymar and Lucas Paqueta all have some things in common in their careers: they are all from South America, they are all playing or have played in Ligue 1, they all wear the No. 10 and they are also the last ones to have done a "rainbow flick," when a player manages to flick the ball from behind his back over his head and over the head of the defender and back in front of him, in the French league.

Pastore did it against Metz, Neymar vs. Toulouse and Paqueta, the most recent one, pulled it off against Troyes back in September. That evening, the Lyon playmaker received a yellow card from referee Stephanie Frappart, without really knowing if it was for showboating or for vehemently asking for a foul after an opponent appeared to handle the ball. Regardless, it felt like Paqueta had done something wrong.

It was the same feeling when Neymar did it, too - so much so that the Paris Saint-Germain superstar took to social media to defend Paqueta that same evening. "Very sad, this incident. Being booked because of a dribble. It is an asset, regardless of where you are on the pitch or the minute of the game. Last season, it happened to me. This year, it is Paqueta. Honestly, I don't understand the reason. It is the end of Joga Bonito..."

The "Paqueta incident" sparked a big debate in France over dribbling and showboating. Are there any limits? Is there a point up to which you can go before it becomes excessive? When is dribbling an act in order to get past an opponent, and when is it an attempt to humiliate them? It is not the first time and not the last time that we will have this conversation.

There are three very important words in what Neymar wrote in Paqueta's defense. The first one is "asset" - dribbling is a skill for a technical player, like pace or height are assets for other types of players. Dribbling is a huge quality.

Former France defender and World Cup winner Lilian Thuram always used to say that the most impressive thing about Lionel Messi, when they were together at Barcelona, is that Messi would always wait for the de-



The Olembe stadium in Yaounde, scene of a deadly crush last week which killed eight people, has been given the green light to host the Africa Cup of Nations final (AFP)

ing that the Olembe Stadium could be reopened. Olembe, a 60,000-seat venue built for the tournament, was then stripped of the quarter-final due to be played there, with the match instead moved to the Ahmadou Ahidjo stadium also in Yaounde.

That meant a double-header at the stadium on Sunday, with Egypt coming from behind to defeat Morocco 2-1 in extra time before Senegal beat Equatorial Guinea 3-1.

- Goal and assist for Salah -

Morocco took the lead through an early Sofiane Boufal penalty only for Egypt captain Salah to equalise early in the second half, following up to score after a Mohamed Abdelmonem header was saved.

Egypt goalkeeper Mohamed Abou Gabal then tipped a late Nayef Aguerd header onto the crossbar as the game went to extra time, and the record

seven-time continental champions found the winner in the 100th minute.

Salah made it with some excellent play on the right before his low delivery to the back post was turned in by Mahmoud Trezeguet.

"Our goal is to make the people in Egypt happy," said Salah while his coach, Carlos Queiroz, dismissed suggestions the Pharaohs are a one-man team.

"I agree that the best players need to show up but without the team that we saw out there on the pitch today it is not possible to win games," he said.

- Mane stars for Senegal -

As he was leaving the stadium, Salah bumped into his Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mane arriving for Senegal's match.

Mane set up the opener for Famara Diedhiou in the last-eight encounter but Equatorial Guinea fought back to

equalise through Jannick Buyla early in the second half.

However, substitutes Cheikhou Kouyate and Ismaila Sarr then both found the net to seal Senegal's place in the semis and a meeting with Burkina Faso on Wednesday at the same Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium in the Cameroonian capital.

Burkina Faso defeated Tunisia 1-0 on Saturday to give some relief to a country rocked by the ousting last week of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré in a military coup.

Hosts Cameroon beat Gambia 2-0 in their quarter-final in Douala in their first outing since the Olembe disaster, and they will now return there to face Egypt on Thursday in a meeting of the two teams with the most Cup of Nations titles.

AFP



Neymar

fender to make the first move before deciding which kind of dribble he'd use to go past him. When a "normal" player would already have in mind what he was going to do with the ball, Paqueta's genius was different. Depending on the move from the defender, Leo would immediately select the adequate dribble to beat the player. Even if the "little hook" was his favourite dribble, he could decide to do anything in front of anyone and could do it in a split-second, which made (and still makes) defending against him such a nightmare.

For Pastore, dribbling is an "art." The former PSG playmaker was one of the most gifted players technically Ligue 1 had ever seen and he, for ex-

ample, had the most nutmegs in his time in the French capital. That's what he used to do. That was his thing. Interestingly enough, most football data analysts have now started recording successful nutmegs throughout the season.

French international midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa, formerly of Marseille and Newcastle United, sums it up well. "When I am in a situation on the pitch, I always assess my dribbling options to find the best move for where I am and what I want to do," he tells ESPN. "So it could be a nutmeg, a turn, a step-over or a rainbow flick. But it's always to make a difference, to bring something to the game for my team. If I can score or create a chance

with a dribble, then of course I do it. Dribbling is being efficient and I don't care how I do it and what people think.

"For me, showboating doesn't exist in football. It is just all part of dribbling."

However, the other two very interesting words in Neymar's message are "Joga Bonito" ("play beautifully" in English). This is the spirit of football for Brazilians. It is playing with a smile on your face, with skills, enjoyment. Maybe sometimes, for some players all around the world, it could mean dribbling for the sake of dribbling. Remember Kerlon and his seal dribble? Remember Adel Taarabt's skills? Remember Nani with Manchester United against Arsenal back in 2008? The Portuguese winger started doing keepy-uppies with the ball on his head and while running with his team 4-0 up.

"Some of our guys were upset that he did that," Gilberto, the Arsenal midfielder player, said after the game. "I spoke to him and told him it wasn't necessary for him to do that. I told him he could get a bad kick doing that."

Showboating is seen as a wind-up by some players, though dribbling is part of football. What is not part of football, however, is everything unnecessary that could come sometimes with dribbling. As one former French international tells me, "you can tell by the attitude of some of the players that they are trying to humiliate you. You know it. I used to hate it so much. For me, a rainbow flick is disrespectful. You don't need to do it."

For others, a rainbow flick is a piece of art. Ultimately, it's all in the eye of the beholder.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Egypt and Senegal into AFCON semis as crush stadium confirmed as venue for final



Azam FC midfielder, Kenneth Muguna (R), negotiates his way past Transit Camp FC player as the clubs faced off in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup's round of 32's duel which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC technical bench's changes fuel PL title chase

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer Abdulkarim Amin has revealed that the club's goal is to win this season's NBC Premier League trophy despite the presence of Simba SC and Yanga.

The team recently opted for changes in its technical bench by sealing a three-year contract with head coach Abdihamid Moalin and his assistant, Omar Abdikarim Nasser.

Since their debut season in the Premier League, Azam FC lastly won the league in 2013/14 and since it has been finishing in one of the top three positions and landing the opportunity to play in the CAF Confederation Cup.

"Our goal is to win the Tanzania Premier League at the start of each season, although there has been a lot of competition from Simba SC and Yanga, the oldest teams in the country, we are trying to penetrate them."

"At the beginning of the league, everyone wrote us off, but now we get a real picture of the league and Azam FC has started to do well seeking to move back to one of top three positions and possibly winning the title," Amin revealed.

Azam FC won this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 32's clash against Transit Camp FC 1-0. Skipper, Aggrey Morris, posted the goal.

Amin disclosed his club will open the doors for Morris to join the technical bench when the player retires.

"Morris is our player, he has played for a long time at our club, as he began to develop his coaching career while still playing football is a good thing."

"Whenever he decides to retire from football he will get that opportunity."

The club now has an unbeaten run in the Premier League this year since losing 2-1 to Simba SC, with the former missing three foreign footballers that earned a call-up to Zimbabwe's national squad that competed in the 2021 AFCON finals.

The trio is the club's top scorer in the Premier League last season, Prince Dube, Never Tigere with one assist, and Bruce Kangwa.

In an interview with The Guardian, the top official highlighted the benefits Azam FC harnessed from the players' participation in the AFCON finals.

"For us, it is a great advantage, firstly they have gained international sports experience, their return will help us in the league, secondly whenever they were playing match commentators were introducing them as Azam FC players at club level, this will attract many players to come and play at our club, for some reasons to have the chance to play in the major African club showpieces."

Azam FC hopes to use more youngsters in the coming seasons to reduce the arrival of foreign players some of whom lack the opportunity to grace the pitch because of league rules.

Premier League rules are requiring eight foreign footballers to start in a match while four do not participate directly.

"We want to get there, we can only use the eight players we are registering as the Premier League rules stipulate, out of the 12 foreign players we have now, the coach is failing to use the remaining four because of league rules."

"We have our academy, coach Moalin has shown us a vision that youngsters can get us to a place we want, he is not the sole tactician to have done so, every season Azam FC has been producing more than five young players."

Azam FC now sits fourth in the Premier League log with 21 points after 13 clashes.

The club's next Premier League tie will pit the squad against Dodoma Jiji FC at the Azam Complex, followed by an away game to Biashara United at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

"We want to get there, we can only use the eight players we are registering as the Premier League rules stipulate, out of the 12 foreign players we have now, the

Geita Gold FC players win praise

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's NBC Premier League outfit Geita Gold FC has hailed the squad's players for making it to round 16 of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Geita Gold FC's information officer, Hemed Kivuyo, issued the comments after his side beat Tunduru Korosho FC 2-0 in the tournament's round of 32' tie which took place in Geita last week.

He said the team had delivered beyond expectations. He applauded the players for a well-fought battle.

He said: "The players have been working very hard. The game plan worked well, the goals scored by Pius Joseph and George Mpole were fantastic and as the club, we are very happy," he said.

Before the game which was played at Nyankumbu Stadium, Kivuyo said Geita Gold FC will not underrate the opponents.

He said the Fred Felix-coached side had intensified preparations for the encounter.

"We will face Tunduru Korosho FC in Azam Sports Federation Cup, our opponents are not known to many, but in football, anything can happen so we will not underrate them."

"We are preparing well, the good thing is that all players are ready for the game," the official noted before the match.

Geita Gold FC will in the ASFC's round of 16 lock horns with First League club, Arusha's Mbuni FC.



Geita Gold FC's head coach, Fred Felix 'Minziro'. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

Paralympic Committee in need of financial support



Tanzania's national amputee football team 'Tembo Warriors' attacker, Frank Ngailo (L), dribbles past the Sierra Leone team's player when the sides faced off in the quarterfinal clash of 2021 Cup of African Nations for Amputee Football (CANAF) played in Dar es Salaam. Tanzania won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) says it needs more than 380m/- to execute its activities this year.

The committee disclosed the information when it held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, said the main source of generating the required money includes International Paralympic Committee (IPC), fundraising activities, the government, partners, and well-wishers.

He said this year TPC has lined up several local and international activities which require a lot of money.

Namkoveka mentioned the activities for this year as consultation meeting, secretariat meeting, and Power Lifting Championships which will be held this month, adding TPC will host Para Athletics Championships and Para-Swimming Course next month.

The TPC official pointed out it will send athletes to Dubai Grand Prix Athletics, South Africa Athletics Nationals, National Swimming Championships, and World Para Swimming Championship which will be held in Germany.

In April, Namkoveka said there will be World Para Swimming Championships in Indianapolis, USA, the Para Powerlifting World Cup which will be held at a place to be announced later, and the Technical and Fundraising Committee meeting.

The TPC official stated that in

May, there will be a Fundraising Committee meeting, the TPC will thereafter host an executive committee meeting the following month and Commonwealth Games will take place in the United Kingdom in July.

He said in August TPC will send athletes to the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan, there will be Powerlifting Coaching Course in September, Para Athletics Coaching Course has been slated to take place in October.

A Secretariat and Executive Meeting has been scheduled for November while in December, TPC will host a bonanza on the Day for People with Disabilities.

"To successfully execute our activities this year we need 384,702,000/-, we have many activities, we are appealing to our stakeholders to help us," he said.

The TPC official also asked the National Organizations of Sports for People with Disabilities (NOSD) to organize national and regional competitions, classifications, and training for coaches and athletes.

He lamented that many NOSDs leaders are not active, a situation that affects efforts by athletes with disabilities to successfully compete in international events.

"There are many international sporting events for athletes with disabilities but we fail to send our athletes as NOSDs do not host championships to select athletes," the TPC official noted.

"This year, we are requesting NOSDs leaders to host events which will help the country identify new talents... if leaders feel that

they can't do their jobs well they should step down," Namkoveka stated.

"The IPC has as well directed that all NOSDs should be affiliated to international associations as this is the best way to help athletes compete at international events," he said.

Namkoveka stated at the AGM that this year one of the TPC agenda is to engage an auditing company to audit the committee finances.

He revealed that in the absence of an auditing report, the committee is failing to get sponsors as many prefer to deal with organizations that have audited reports.

The AGM also discussed the committee's amended constitution which the body said has taken into consideration the real situation, needs, and interests of persons with disabilities in the country and economic, political, and social changes taking place in the world.

The AGM applauded the executive committee, through its treasurer general, for presenting a clear and clean budget report.

Before Sunday's AGM, Namkoveka told The Guardian that the meeting is important as it provides the platform for affiliates to endorse, reject or amend proposals from the board.

TPC affiliates that honoured the AGM came from Para Athletics Association, Wheelchair Tennis Association, and Para-Swimming Association.

Para Powerlifting Association, Amputee Football Association, and Wheelchair Basketball Association are the other affiliates that attended the AGM.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV
TONIGHT @ 9:00
TUESDAY

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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