

National Pg 3
Ministry announces settlement fee



National Pg 4
Content in agricultural extension



National Pg 5
New BRAC executive director



National Pg 6
Govt to boost grapes production



Malawi takes over SADC chairmanship

LILONGWE, Malawi

MALAWIAN President Lazarus Chakwera has taken over as the chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) with a call to tackle inequalities in accessing Covid-19 vaccines.

President Chakwera, who took over from Mozambique's Filipe Nyusi at the 41st SADC summit held in Lilongwe on Tuesday, said disparities in accessing Covid-19 vaccines was "seriously hindering efforts to save the lives of millions in the SADC region."

The Malawian leader said Africans had a moral duty to refuse "to be treated as second-class in the global economy."

"And now, as the world faces this global health crisis that has killed millions, torpedoed economies and disrupted social life, as Africans have a moral duty to reject second-class status in the distribution and production of Covid-19 vaccines. Vaccines are invented and manufactured in labs where some of the scientists doing such work are Africans," the Malawian leader said in his acceptance speech.

"So, the time has come for us to insist that a vaccine that preserves and sustains a person's basic right to life belongs to all nations, no matter who discovered it."

"It is our considered view that the SADC we want is untenable without

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EAC single currency 'set for use next year'



President Samia Suluhu Hassan accompanied by Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa (C) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) new chairman Malawi President Lazarus Chakwera (L) during the SADC 41st ordinary summit of the heads of state and government which ended in Lilongwe yesterday. Photo: State House

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

EAST African Community (EAC) member states are scheduled to start using the single currency from early next year.

EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki said here yesterday that the technical process to that effect will be fast-tracked in order to be completed before the end of this year.

"We are late and need to run," he said.

He was addressing a CEOs Roundtable breakfast engagement on East African regional integration organized by the East African Business Council (EABC) in conjunction with KCB Bank here.

A single EA trading and investment area will only have meaning if the biggest barrier to trade, that is different currencies, is removed into one currency, acceptable across all borders, he said, referring to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as Rwanda, Burundi and South-Sudan.

Back in 2015, central bank governors from the five EAC states (before South Sudan joined), during the 18th ordinary meeting of the EAC monetary affairs committee projected that the EAC single currency will start circulating in 2024.

The quest to form a single currency

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt alters registration for faith organisations

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene has said that religious organizations are excluded from the ongoing

exercise to change the registration status for social entities from permanent to five-years.

He made this observation on Tuesday at a meeting with various religious organisations, noting that the exercise will proceed for social

organisations.

The exercise took off on Monday this week with religious organisations also involved, but it will now concern social organizations, he stated.

"We have seen that it would be better for now for the exercise to apply to 8,851 social organisations until such time the government decides otherwise," the minister affirmed.

Emmanuel Kihampa, the Registrar of

TURN TO PAGE 2



United States ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright (R) poses for a souvenir photo with weavers from Vikapu Bomba factory at Luhindo village in Kilolo district, Iringa region yesterday moments after purchasing a basket for himself. Ambassador Wright is on a weeklong visit to the southern highlands regions of Iringa and Mbeya to inspect projects and programmes funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Photo: Courtesy of US embassy

Ifunda gleams in spray robot, fire detector feat

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

Secondary School here have separately developed a robot to be used by farmers to

TWO students at Ifunda Technical

TURN TO PAGE 2

AKIBA WAKALA
Huduma Zaidi

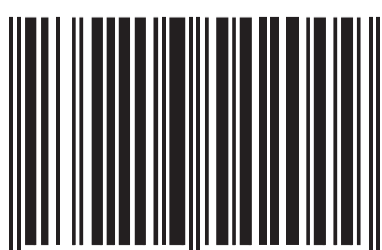
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Dodoma regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka speaks during the opening of 2022 Population and Housing census awareness in Dodoma yesterday. Others are the National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (R) and the Minister for Home Affairs George Simbachawene. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Govt alters registration for faith organisations

FROM PAGE 1

Societies in the ministry, said that following these changes, social organisations need to reach the registrar's offices at the 11th floor of Kambarage Building in the capital, to harmonise their registration and receive new registration certificates. Sheikh Khamis Mataka, the

chairman of the Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA), thanked the minister for convening the meeting.

"Today we are happy as the registrar's offices at the 11th floor of Kambarage Building in the capital, to harmonise their registration and receive new registration certificates. Sheikh Khamis Mataka, the chairman of the Tanzania Muslim Council (BAKWATA), thanked the minister for convening the meeting. "Today we are happy as the ministry's top officials are present at this meeting. This will help to solve various challenges that have been bothering religious organizations," he declared.

Ifunda gleams in spray robot, fire detector feat

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spray pesticides and a fire detector that rings alarm in real-time in case of an outbreak.

Briefing reporters who visited the school yesterday to see various innovation projects being supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, robot innovator Isaya William (14) said it is meant to protect farmers from health hazards like pesticide poisoning.

The tech whiz kid said the robot can be moved between the farm lines and sprays pesticides based on the map of the farm using a mobile phone app to be installed on farmers' smart phones.

"I have developed this pesticides spraying technology in collaboration with my fellow students. Once applicable, it will save farmers from various health hazards."

"We are going to install the app on farmers' phones together with the farm map that will allow the robot to move across the farm," he explained.

The robot will partly look like a vehicle and will have a pipe spray tank on top along with motorbike tyres to facilitate movement, he

said, noting that the technology will be ready for trials in a week's time. This innovation is to likely boost agriculture, enabling farmers to shift from subsistence to commercial farming, he remarked.

Oscar Mletwa is another innovator, a form six student at the school who has designed a gadget that will be sending information to the school management in real time in case of fire outbreak.

He said a number of schools experienced fire accidents in the past three years, hence the need to have a gadget that sensors this kind of disaster at the earliest moment.

"I spent six months working on this technology. I want to become an engineer so as to assist my country in developing various technologies," the prospective college student noted.

Ifunda Technical Secondary School headmaster Yusuph Mwangala said the school intends to further develop innovations by connecting those with such ideas to the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST), among other institutions.

Malawi takes over SADC chairmanship

FROM PAGE 1

levelling the playing field on the Covid-19 pandemic, revitalising the agriculture sector, enhancing value addition, facilitating trade and simplifying rules of origin," he declared.

South Africa has the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Africa while several SADC member states are battling a third wave of the pandemic, meanwhile as SADC countries struggle to vaccinate their

populations despite difficulties in accessing Covid-19 vaccines.

President Nyusi thanked SADC for deploying troops to help fight Islamic insurgents in Mozambique's northern region of Cabo Delgado, with SADC member states starting to deploy troops early this month after a special summit in June set out the procedure.

Rwanda deployed 1 000 soldiers and police officers last month and the intervention is already paying

off as the Islamists are being flushed out of swathes of territory in Cabo Delgado.

"We congratulate countries of the region for the brotherhood and prompt solidarity demonstrated by the deployment of the SADC Standby Force capabilities in the spirit of the SADC Mutual Defence Pact. Operations were launched on Monday, August 9 in Pemba City, in Cabo Delgado province, he elaborated

"We are aware of the need to complement these military interventions with immediate humanitarian assistance and investment in development in the medium and long term, along with the prevention and awareness of citizens against this scourge," the Mozambican leader emphasised.

At the summit, Botswana's Elias Mpedi Magosi replaced Tanzanian diplomat Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax as SADC executive secretary.

EAC single currency 'set for use next year'

FROM PAGE 1

requires establishing a joint central bank as the crucial step towards the new currency, and onwards to the East African Political Federation.

John Bosco Kabisa, the EABC CEO said that the roundtable meeting was themed 'enhancing a private sector-led integration and emerging opportunities in East Africa.'

Judith Lubuva, the KCB regional manager said financial institutions like KCB Bank have already taken the pioneering step towards regional monetary union as their clients can deposit and draw money in any of

their branches across the sub-region with ease.

EABC, in supporting the speeding up of the monetary union, sought for resolution of pending issues like the finalisation of the comprehensive review of the common external tariff (CET), harmonization of domestic taxes, harmonization of product standards, and activation of the EAC Dispute Settlement Mechanism, Dr Mathuki underlined.

Regional Commissioner John Mongella said at the roundtable that EAC intra-trade has been rapidly improving in the past six months.

Venture into family planning, reproductive health reporting, media practitioners advised

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MEDIA practitioners have been challenged to invest heavily in reporting family planning and reproductive health issues, an area, which is yet to be explored.

Advocacy Technical Manager, Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC) James Mlali made the call here yesterday when speaking here at three-day training for fifteen journalists from different media outlets in the Lake Zone.

Organized by TCDC, the training was meant to empower journalists with Family planning and reproductive health reporting skills to improve maternal health and bring change in the community.

Mlali who was one of the training facilitators said media has a crucial role to scale up family planning and reproductive health in the country outlets have been

He said that there are a number of issues to be addressed in family planning and reproductive health including effective use of contraceptives—an important factor in improving maternal, child health,

and economic growth.

"There are lots of myths on family planning that needs media to play its role," he said, encouraging journalists to wake up and work on the area and increase family planning uptake.

According to him, out of 100, 22 people are in need of family planning services in the country as they miss it due to limited health facilities especially in rural areas as well as lack of skilled health practitioners.

"The provision of family planning services contributes to the development of the community," he said, discouraging teen pregnancies, saying childbearing at a young age is dangerous.

TCDC representative Nazir Yusuph said the training is meant to help the community because journalists are agents of change.

"Children need better education and upbringing so it is important for parents to reduce the number of children they can care for that will contribute to those children getting better upbringing and fulfilling their dreams as well as writers focusing on writing it to make a difference," said Yusuph.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla (R) receives Uhuru Touch from Coast regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge at Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday for the race in the region. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mbaga

Scramble in Uganda's top circles after leak on US deal

KAMPALA

SENIOR Ugandan officials held a crisis meeting last evening to thrash out details of a plan to host at least 2,000 refugees fleeing Afghanistan.

The government was plunged into a public relations turmoil after a top bureaucrat, whom President Yoweri Museveni briefed about the secret arrangement with the US, impulsively disclosed it to juniors.

Subsequently, the new State Minister in-charge of Refugees, Esther Anyakun, confirmed to the Press that President Museveni had endorsed the deal, much to the chagrin of State House.

"We expect to host them temporarily before they can be

relocated by [the] US government. It was a request from the US government to His Excellency (President Museveni). We started preparations yesterday (Monday)," she said by telephone.

Leak of the news prompted diplomats, political and security leaders to scramble to limit potential fallout from leaking details of the incomplete arrangement. The deal was brokered between Washington and Kampala at the highest levels of government.

According to Anyakun, Uganda would host 2,000 Afghan nationals temporarily – for three months or longer – with the emergency landing of the first batch expected in the country anytime.

The first group of 500 was expected in Uganda on Monday night, but they did not land for unexplained reasons.

Uganda is among half-a-dozen African countries that the US has and courted to host fleeing Afghan nationals after Taliban fighters, deposited by American troops two decades ago, toppled President Ashraf Ghani's government and bounced back to power in a stunning takeover.

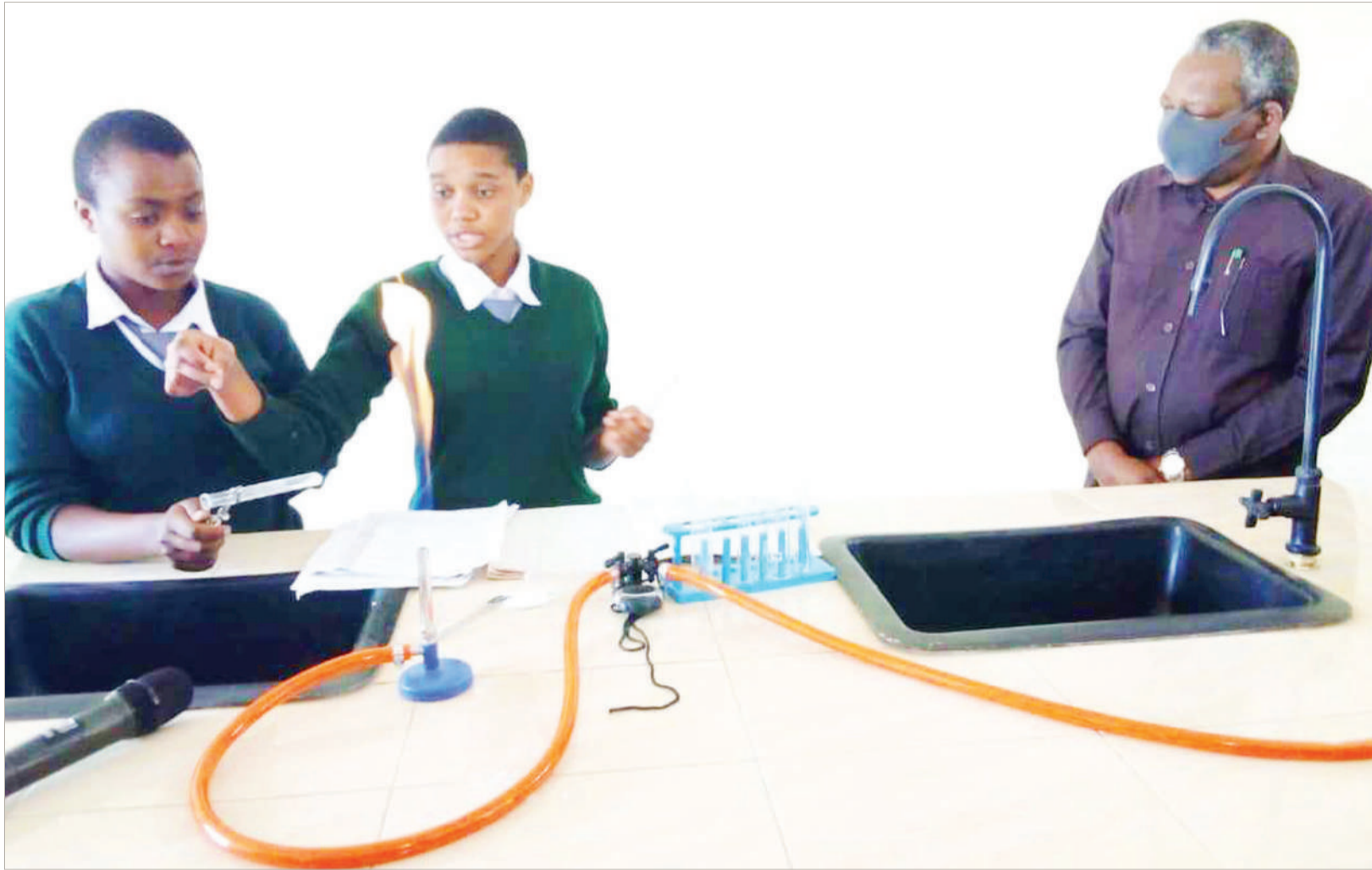
Washington pumped about \$1 trillion over 20 years ostensibly to rebuild Afghanistan, strengthen its institutions for democratic governance and improve the country's security after pushing the Taliban out. It had accused

the group of hosting Al Qaeda and its leader, Osama bin Laden, who was behind the September 11, 2001 attacks on US soil that killed more than 3,000 people.

But after two decades of a fruitless war and a rising human toll and financial costs, the US struck a peace deal with the Taliban, negotiated in Qatar, and withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, leaving President Ghani's government exposed and crumbling within weeks of Taliban's onslaught.

Taliban fighters barrelled to power with limited resistance, capturing the capital Kabul with ease to the world's surprise.

AGENCIES



Manyara regional commissioner Makongoro Nyerere (R) listens to four students from Loiborsiret secondary school in Simanjiro District Anna Joshua (L) and Irene Kaanael while explaining on a chemistry experiment during his visit at the school laboratory recently. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Informal settlement fee now stands at 130,000/-, says Lands ministry

MINISTER for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi has announced the reduction of fees for formalisation of unplanned settlements from 150,000/- to 130,000/-.

The minister made the remarks when addressing land valuation companies in Dodoma saying those with no capital will be given money by NMB bank Plc which has entered into an agreement with the ministry.

Minister Lukuvi said the exercise was a must adding that everyone who has a plot in town will have to a title deed.

"This is not something voluntary because the planning will start

conducting the exercise of planning the streets soon," he said.

He said the exercise to formalise unplanned settlements started in 2013 and will end in 2022.

Earlier, plot owners were supposed to pay 350,000 or 250,000/- then minister Lukuvi reduced it to 150,000/-.

"There is need for a sensitization campaign so that land owners should know the importance of the exercise in national development," he said.

He said the ministry was stranded due to lack of the fee saying it entered the agreement with NMB bank plc lend land owners on a 10percent interest.

The minister called upon land sector workers in all local governments to start listing the number of companies who will be able to conduct the exercise as well as committees.

He further explained that NMB bank plc will issue a 130,000/- loan where out of the amount, planning

companies will be given 120,000 while 6000 will go to district and municipal councils to fund road infrastructure.

"Let me warn that those who will be responsible for collecting money should ensure that land owners are not double charged," he said.

For his part, the director for settlement development in the ministry Deogratias Kalimenze mentioned a list of challenges which hinders implementation of the project including lack of funds.

CHRAGG, LHRC sign MoU to promote human rights, good governance in the country

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Legal Human Rights Centre (LHRC) for another five years to help promote human rights and good governance in the country.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the commission's acting executive secretary Nabor Assey said the pact signed on Tuesday this week is meant to help promote understanding of human rights and good governance throughout the country.

He said the commission has always ensured good relationship with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), adding that they have so far signed MoUs to work with 21 CSOs.

Assey explained that the move is in line with global push for all human rights organizations to work closely with CSOs among other stakeholders.

"We CHRAGG believe that human rights are cross-cutting that requires joint efforts to implement, CHRAGG alone cannot manage, the important thing is to join efforts in implementing and assisting the citizens" he said.

He added that the commission plans to start providing public education to district commissioners, councilors and other leaders on how to solve challenges of human rights and good governance for the prosperity of peace.

It also plans to establish clubs at primary and secondary schools as well as higher learning institutions, counting on LHRC with a well representation up to grassroots to help in reaching every part of the country.

According to Assey, some of the key issues that the commission focus on improving are rights of the

marginalized groups in the society like women children and disable.

The cooperation he said will also help in the preparations for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Tanzania later this year.

The UPR is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground of each of the 193 United Nations (UN) Member States.

Under this mechanism, the human rights situation of all UN member states is reviewed every five years. Tanzania in the 3rd cycle of the UPR, and is likely to be reviewed between September and October this year.

Assey noted that UPR is a state-driven process, under the auspices which provides the opportunity for each state to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

Speaking at about the extended cooperation, LHRCs Dodoma Officer, William Mtwazi said it is a move aimed at improving services to Tanzanians, especially those in the marginalized areas.

He observed this his organization is committed to working closely with key government institutions like CHRAGG to extends services to the people.

"We continue with the government to reach people at the grassroots" he said, adding that all Tanzanians deserve to know more services.

“We continue with the government to reach people at the grassroots”




Insurance Leadership Development Training Programme

Designed to train and prepare talented Tanzanians to become future company Executives.

Introduction

The Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI) was voluntarily formed in 1999 by the Insurance and reinsurance companies operating in Tanzania and its membership is made compulsory by the Insurance Act 2009.

The Association of Tanzania Insurers (ATI) in partnership with Strathmore University Business School (SBS) will conduct a nine month Insurance Leadership Development Training Program from Mid-September or early October 2021.

The ATI Management Board is keen to strengthen the succession plan of the industry for the sustainability and growth of the insurance sub-sector. Thus, ATI have seen the need to groom and develop the young energetic managers on future insurance leadership role to enhance the position.

About the programme

The Insurance Leadership Development Training Programme is designed to train and prepare talented Tanzanians through an effective development programme that includes mentorship and coaching session show to become future leaders and company executives.

The Participants are expected to acquire the key leadership competences required to lead organizational change to meet strategic objectives, enhance self-awareness of their leadership styles and unleash their potentials, effective decision-making skills, and developing new ways of approaching leadership challenges to become future Executives.

Interested young, talented managers from the Insurance (Insurance Companies, Brokers, Agents) and Banking Industries (bancassurance Agents) with a First degree in any discipline (preferably Insurance, social security and banking) are hereby invited to apply for this unique course by filling the application form through the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/ThyDM0MF0Q>



About Strathmore University Business School

Strathmore University Business School (SBS), endeavors to transform leadership in Africa in the 21st Century. It has taken the responsibility of influencing the leadership of public and private sectors in the continent. Using a mix of local relevance with well selected international collaborations and partnerships, it seeks to transform society through the development of international executive business management and leadership programs:

<http://sbs.strathmore.edu/>

For more information, contact

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 Edger Walwa - +255 762 678 334

DAR ES SALAAM OFFICE

TENDER FOR SALE OF USED CARS

UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office invites interested bidders for the sale of the following used cars:

| S/N | Model | Year of Manufacture | Year of Registration |
|-----|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Toyota Corolla ZZ122R- AWMDK | 2002 | Nov. 2002 |
| 2 | Toyota Landcruiser Prado TXL, Turbo Diesel | 2014 | Feb. 2015 |
| 3 | Toyota Landcruiser Prado 4x4, 3000cc | 2009 | Aug. 2009 |
| 4 | Toyota Landcruiser VDJ200R- GDMRZ Turbo | 2013 | Jan. 2013 |

The Vehicles may be viewed at the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office, 59 Mtwara Oysterbay Compound during the working hours from 09:00 – 12:00 Hours from 24/08/2021 – 03/09/2021. A viewing appointment should be made by contacting Ms. Lilian Bujimu on Mobile 0766 603 461 or Mr. Leonard Kisenha on 0754 288 391. The tender conditions are as follows:

- The cars will be sold "as-is where-is" basis without any warrantee what so ever.
- The bid shall be valid for a period of 10 working days.
- The opening of the bid shall take place on 06/09/2021 at 10:00AM at UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office meeting room in the presence of bidders or their legal representatives.
- The bidder/s determined to be winner of the bid shall execute the contract agreement for the sale of used vehicle/s with UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office within seven (07) calendar days of the notification of that effect.
- The successful bidder/s shall pay full tender amount within 48 hours from the notification of award. Payment shall be by bank transfer to UNESCO account in Dar es Salaam and transfer confirmation document must be provided to UNESCO.
- The buyer must pay, if any, in full of the assessed duties and taxes (Unless he or she is exempted) to the government and present the evidence of payment before the car is released and transfer papers signed.
- UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office reserves the right to reject the bid in total or partially and will not be under any obligation to accept any of the bids received.

Tender must be submitted to UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office by indicating the offer amount and currency both in figure and in word on or before the deadline date of 03/09/2021 before 2:00 PM in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

The Head of Finance and Administration
UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office
59 Mtwara Crescent, Oysterbay
P.O. Box 31473
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
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Kilwa youth all out to promote, conserve Lake Maliwe and Maliwe village forest

By Beatrice Philemon

YOUTH in Kilwa District, Lindi Region have embarked on a campaign to promote and conserve Lake Maliwe and Maliwe village forest reserve as tourist attractions.

The two are located in Ngea village, some 78 kilometres from Kilwa District Council in the Region.

Maliwe Taaluma Group Deputy Secretary, Karim Kilunda told journalists that they have also secured five hectares of land for construction of camps and lodges along the Lake.

Journalists visited Lake Maliwe together with ActionAid Tanzania staff to see some of the measures taken to conserve the Lake and listen to their concerns as they strive to accomplish their desired mission.

Kilunda said they aim at generating revenues from eco-tourism activities and help communities living close to the forest and lake to benefit from conservation activities.

"Doors are open for potential local and foreign investors. Construction of camps and lodges would provide a good shelter for tourists," said Kilunda.

He said villagers are also conducting beekeeping activities at the forest, appealing for support from donors to train villagers on modern beekeeping methods. He said the beekeeping project was introduced as part of efforts to protect the Lake.

He commended ActionAid Kilwa for providing them with training on leadership, social entrepreneurship skills and how to use opportunities available within their localities. He said the training has helped them to properly manage the conservation projects.

The group leader noted that Lake Maliwe is endowed with hippopotamus, crocodile, fish, bird species and seven islands. Maliwe forest reserve is a home to indigenous trees species which are suitable for medicinal and research

purposes.

He said villagers are not allowed to harvest the trees since they are purposely conserved to protect the Lake.

He said the conservation activities are meant to control human activities in the forest such as agriculture, illegal logging, timber production and cattle grazing.

The group's General Secretary Said Mkoba said the group was established in 2019 with 19 members. He said the training provided by ActionAid Kilwa has helped in changing the mind-set of youth as many of them have now joined the group.

"We now want to be trained on environmental conservation to be able to conduct our activities professionally," he said, adding youth also need to be educated on how to establish tree nurseries as well as its management.

He said some of the wild animals that disappeared from the forest have now started to come back. They are elephant, lion, tiger and several others.

One of the group members, Fadhile Kumbenda called upon Kilwa district council to construct the road to facilitate smooth transportation services for tourists.

Kilwa District Executive Director, Abushiri Mbwana, said they are consulting the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) for construction of the road.

Mbwana said the district is also supporting the villagers in promoting the tourists attractions as the increased number of tourists would also boost revenue collections.

"We will ensure they operate their activities effectively; we are also assisting them to find investors for construction of accommodation facilities," he said

He said they are working closely with the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) in identifying other tourist attractions within the district.



Family representative Muhammad Shaban (2nd R) greets with people with disabilities shortly after donation of two tricycles and a wheel chair at Kivukoni Ward in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (R) is the Ward Councillor Sharik Choughule. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MBEYA Regional commissioner, Juma Homera has given 24 hours to Kyela District executive director, Ezekiel Magemeha to write a letter suspending Mababu village executive officer, Faudhia Mbilinyi for her involvement to sabotage the village water project.

In his directive Homera also called on Mababu village chairman, Yahaya Nsusa to be disciplined for his involvement.

The RC gave the directives here yesterday after inspecting the water project and received a report on the officials' involvement for the loss of water pipes sent to the village for the project.

"It is unacceptable for a government official to involve

Mbeya RC gives DED 24 hrs to suspend village executive officer

herself in the sabotage of public assets acquired from taxpayers' money. I direct you, director within 124 hours to write the letter suspending the official until such time her case is settled," said RC Homera.

He said he, as supervisor of government business in the region, cannot tolerate seeing some officials involving themselves in undermining people's development, instead of working together with them.

Earlier, Kyela District Commissioner, Ismail Mlawa said

he reported to Kyela after being appointed and received complaints from the people on acts of sabotage to the water project by village officials.

He said he was told by villagers that seven water pipes that were brought for the project disappeared in suspicious circumstances while in the hands of the two officials.

Mlawa added that when he received the complaints he instructed the district Police commander 90CD to arrest the officials involved and take them

court as well as writing a letter to the district director to take disciplinary action against the village executive officer.

He said the police implemented his directives, but the District Director was yet to take disciplinary steps against the village executive officer.

Submitting his report on the project, Kyela District RUWASA Manager Eng Tanu Deule said when the project is completed, it will benefit more than 5,121 residents from three villages of Mababu ward.

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

AGRICULTURE minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has said his ministry did research and found out that in order to make huge development strides in the agriculture sector it is essential to use extension officers for better achievements.

He said that extension officers are the 'eyes' of the ministry, hence for the country to have quality agriculture for profitable crops production it is essential for farmers to be educated on better farming practices.

The minister made the remarks on Tuesday this week when addressing a task meeting with Kongwa District extension officers during his one-day official visit in the district.

Extension officers are ministry's 'eyes' for quality agriculture - Prof Mkenda

He said the government has prepared training for all agriculture extension officers countrywide to strengthen the farming sector, and every extension officer from study regions of Dodoma, Singida and Simiyu regions will be provided with a motor cycle to simplify their services to enable them reach as many farmers as possible in a day.

He added that in addition to the motor cycles, the government will also provide them with mobile phones to simplify communication with farmers including record keeping of their activities.

Prof Mkenda added that all extension officers are supposed to

demonstration farms which the government will prepare a system to supply them with farm inputs to make them good examples to farmers in their areas. "Whenever I want to know if an extension officer performs his duties as required, when I go to his area I will ask to be shown his farm thereafter I will know whether he is fit to become an extension officer," said Prof Mkenda.

In regard to sunflower farming, Prof Mkenda said extension officers have been performing duties that do not relate to farming, but the government is in strategies to return to their proper duties to spur the country's agriculture.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (R) inspects the ongoing construction of Kilimatambo dispensary in the district earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



Save the Children

Invitation to Tender

ITT/SCITZ/2021/018

Provision of Medical Insurance Save the Children - Tanzania National Staff

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Number of beneficiaries: 450 (anticipated)

Detailed information;

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In case of clarifications and all other queries, please contact our Contracted Insurance Broker; MIC Global Risks (Tanzania) Limited through telephone number +255 22 212 0431.

Sealed bids marked: "Provision of Medical Insurance for Save the Children - Tanzania Staff" should be delivered at the address below latest by September 8th 2021 on or before 1400hrs (2.00pm).

Address to;

Tender Committee
Save the Children International - Tanzania
Country Office, Plot No. 257 Kiko Avenue, Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni A
P. O. Box 10414, Dar es Salaam

Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc human resources officer Gervas Mfubusa (L) speaks during ICT training dubbed: 'Code a Girl' in Dar es Salaam yesterday which the firm hosted through dLab aiming at sensitising girl students to undertake science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TDB removes substandard milk products from supermarkets in Dodoma Region

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) has seized and removed from the market some counterfeit and unlicensed milk products alleged to be smuggled into the country by unscrupulous traders.

The crackdown conducted by the state-owned board at different retail shops and supermarkets within the Dodoma capital city also saw TDB removing into the markets some expired milk products.

The board registrar, Dr George Msalya named some of the illegally imported milk products as Nura, KCC, Brookside, Aptamil, NIDO Forti Croissance, Cow & Gate, and sma PRO.

"The government has allowed importation of milk products for different reasons, the imported

products must be of the required quality and standards," said Dr Msalya urging traders to abide by the set regulations and importation procedures.

He said the board will take measures against any of the traders violating the country laws by allowing importation and circulation of substandard milk products into the market.

"Importation and selling of substandard and unlicensed milk products have multiple health risks for consumers. It also weakens the country's economy because importers do not pay the relevant taxes to the government," he noted.

Dr Msalya said traders will face legal punishments and pay fines to a tune of between 2.5m/- and 5m/- . He said that traders are required to seek approval from TDB and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

before importing such products.

According to him, most of the products are smuggled from South Africa, Germany, Netherland, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, USA, Ireland and Dubai.

He said the board will continue to inspect retail shops and supermarkets to ensure all the sold products are of recommended standards.

TDB's Legal Officer, Edwin Bantulaki, said they have so far conducted similar inspection exercises in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Shinyanga and Kahama regions.

"We found most of the counterfeit and expired milk products in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma supermarkets. We are working to ensure no such products are circulated in our local market," said Bantulaki, adding that the board will conduct inspections to the remaining regions.

By Grtrude Mbago

THE Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSI) is in October, this year set to host the "6th Psychosocial Support Forum" aimed to discuss new measures that will help promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth in Africa.

Themed "Innovate. Integrate. Thrive", it will be blended by a main physical forum in Maputo, Mozambique, with satellite forums in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and virtual for partners from around the globe.

Speaking during a virtual press conference held yesterday, REPSI chief executive director Patrick Mangan said the platform also aims to influence policy formulation and implementation to promote mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth.

"The forum which will be held from October 13 to 15, will create dialogue that will lead to the development of innovations and integration in programmes that promote mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)," he said.

Mangan said the forum creates opportunities for policy makers, researchers, youth, practitioners, and media representatives to share evidence and promising

REPSI to host 6th Psychosocial Support Forum this October

practices, discuss challenges and develop new solutions, to influence policy formulation and enhance programming on mental health.

"Over the last decade REPSI has convened five regional gatherings or Psychosocial Support Forums to share experience, knowledge, issues, research on more effective ways of promoting the mental and psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth. This has proven to be an effective platform to engage and share new MHPSS trends," he said.

He noted that agenda 2063 focuses our energy on the need to reach all girls, boys and youth, so we need to sharpen psychosocial support (PSS) lesson sharing and reflection to achieve effective knowledge exchange for enhanced services and programmes.

He said the forum will also facilitate research collaboration, learning communities and communities of practice across disciplines, sectors, and initiatives to promote resilience in girls, boys, youth, families and communities.

"COVID-19 has further weakened the safety net for children and young women. Reports have shown an increase in violence against children and gender-based violence (GBV) during different lockdown

measures. Studies show the negative long-term psychosocial and mental health impacts of abuse, violence, neglect and exploitation," he noted.

Increasingly, studies also show that PSS interventions are an effective protective mechanism against child abuse and violence. There is growing advocacy for a child protection system in which policies, financial and human resources and preventive and responsive services are delivered in a coordinated way, accountable and responsive to children and their families.

The CEO further said the forum's programme will have a range of different formats including plenary sessions, abstract-driven presentations, skills building and discussion sessions.

"The children's pre-forum will bring together children and youth from Mozambique and other countries in the region, to share knowledge, information, skills and experiences on issues which enhance or hinder their mental health and psychosocial wellbeing especially during this Covid-19 pandemic era," he said.

Edwick Mapalala, REPSI country director, said in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam and Kagera regions will be centres of the forum.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Amb Batilda Buriani has instructed Tabora Municipal Council officials to embark on a clean-up operation in various areas by arresting people throwing trash in the streets.

She said the state of cleanliness in many areas of the municipality was not satisfactory and called on council officials to apply existing laws to punish all those destroying its environment.

The RC issued the directives here on Tuesday this week at the event to launch Tabora Municipal Council Business Council.

Tabora RC orders officials to punish people who throw trash on streets

She said the environmental protection law and the municipal bylaws should be applied by fining those throwing trash on streets thereby destroying the environment.

She said it is essential for residents to be educated to like clean surroundings as a way to beautify the municipality and for protection against infectious diseases.

Dr Buriani further added that residents of other urban areas such as Mwanza and Moshi have been

applying the same laws and have succeeded to make their towns clean, "hence why should Tabora fail?" she asked.

She said Tabora has a great history hence it must be a good example in all issues including environmental cleanliness.

She praised Tabora District Commissioner, Dr yahya Nawanda for instituting a cleanliness campaign around the central market area.

By Guardian Correspondent

BRAC Tanzania has announced the introduction of Shameran Abed as its new Executive Director.

The new official is expected to oversee and guide the organization's strategies, programmes and organisational development for scaled impact and sustainable growth.

In a statement issued yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the organisation said the new boss will also contribute to BRAC's global strategy to reach 250 million disadvantaged women and their dependants, youth, and people living in poverty by 2030.

"The Board of BRAC International is confident that Shameran is the right person to steer the organisation at this time, driving innovation and positive transformation while ensuring continuity."

The statement said BRAC believes Shameran's extensive experience and his strong strategic and collaborative skills will help to further align goals and objectives to achieve its vision.

Shameran joined BRAC

BRAC Tanzania announces its new executive director

Bangladesh in 2009 and BRAC International in 2012 and has been instrumental in bringing BRAC's flagship programmes of microfinance and ultra-poor graduation to global scale.

Under his leadership, BRAC's microfinance portfolio has seen impressive growth and a renewed focus on client impact. Since 2016, Shameran has also led BRAC's ultra-poor graduation work and played an instrumental role in setting up the UPGI to spearhead global advocacy and provide technical assistance to governments and other organisations.

Shameran also comes with significant management experience on several non-profit and corporate entities, including the boards of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), BRAC Bank and bKash.

"As we confront unprecedented

challenges due to the pandemic, we are reminded once again of the urgent need to build resilience and create sustainable pathways out of poverty for the world's most marginalised," commented Shameran.

"BRAC holds a truly unique position, as an organisation from and for the Global South, to continue to demonstrate the same commitment and tenacity in designing and delivering practical, scalable, community-led solutions as we have done for almost 50 years.

Shameran holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Hamilton College in the United States and is a qualified Barrister in the UK.

BRAC started as a limited relief operation in 1972 in a remote village in Bangladesh and has grown to become the largest development organisation in the world impacting the lives of 125 million people.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose primary aim is to contribute to address public health priorities of the people of Tanzania and the world at large. These priorities include communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child health (RMNCH); Nutrition; Non-Communicable Diseases of public health significance; as well as Health System Strengthening. MDH strongly believes in and works in partnership with various local and global institutions, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGEC); President's Office Regional Authorities and Local Government (PORALG); donor agencies; academic and non-academic institutions; implementing partners; civil society, community-based and faith-based organizations and others. MDH under Global Fund - TB Grant seeks to recruit a qualified individual to fill the vacancy of Project Manager who will support national efforts in improving case detection and management of TB in seven (7) regions of Kagera, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Tanga, Mbeya and Ruvuma.

Position Title: Project Manager

Project : Global Fund - TB Project

Location : Dar es Salaam

Reports to : Deputy Director of Programs Technical Support

Position Summary:

The Project Manager will be responsible for the direct management of TB project including; planning, execution, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of project implementation, budget management, CSOs and CBOs management. The project manager will lead a team of other project staff and offer them technical support in project implementation geared towards accelerating TB case detection and management. He/ She will also be responsible for managing communication among key project stakeholders including MDH's senior management, project primary fund recipient, project community stakeholders, donors, government and non-governmental stakeholders.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Develop annual costed project work-plans in-line with agreed project plan, objectives, outcomes and deliverables, and national guidelines.
2. Coordinate overall implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities as per approved work plan and budget and ensure that MDH attains and exceeds assigned targets.
3. Supervise, provide technical support on program implementation and perform periodic performance evaluation to other project staff under him/her.
4. Mobilize and engage all key project stakeholders, including central and local government authorities, community stakeholders and direct project beneficiaries, in the planning, implementation and evaluation of project implementation.
5. Oversee and ensure efficient management project expenditure and other resources as per approved work-plan and budget.
6. Work with the project M&E manager to put in place an efficient system for routine project data recording, cleaning, reporting and utilization.
7. Lead and actively participate in programmatic and scientific analysis of project data to inform planning, decision making and resource allocation in project implementation as well as wider dissemination of project findings.
8. Prepare routine and ad-hoc project reports, share them for review and approval by supervisor and MDH senior management, and submit them to the project prime/ donor and other stakeholders as per agreed timelines.
9. Organize periodic project review meetings, as per approved work-plan, and ensure active engagement of all relevant key stakeholders.
10. Perform any other relevant duties as assigned by his/her supervisor.

Required Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

1. Medical Degree and Post graduate training in Public Health.
2. At least five (5) years relevant working experience in the area of TB /project planning and implementation at both facility and community settings.
3. At least five (5) years working experience in an NGO environment or donor funded project. Experience with Global Fund projects will be an added advantage.
4. Knowledge in National and International TB Policies/ Guidelines.
5. Good knowledge of the National Health System.
6. Demonstrated outstanding leadership, strategic thinking, organizational and representational skills.
7. Expertise in research and with ability to identify, adapt best practices to specific project contexts.
8. Excellent verbal, written, interpersonal and presentation in English as well as in Kiswahili.
9. Ability to coach, mentor and develop technical capacity in regional and national projects as well as technical staff.

TO APPLY:

Interested candidates should submit an application letter indicating clearly the position applied for, a detailed copy of their CV, and names and contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three work related referees.

Applications should be submitted by 31st August, 2021, to the Director of Human Resource through e-mail hr@mdh.or.tz. Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Please note MDH don't have any recruitment agents and don't charge any fees to the interested candidates.

P.O.Box 79810; Telephone 255-22-2771656/2771623; Fax: 255-22-2771615; E-mail: mdh@mdh.or.tz
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Mikochehi area (B) 802 Old Bagamoyo road

Chamwino grapes farmers in fresh production dawn

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Chamwino

CHAMWINO is one of the districts in Dodoma Region with potential for grape cultivation, but the 600 acres farm at Chinangali has remained unproductive for years.

District Agriculture Officer, Geoffrey Mnyamale said that during its production heydays, the potential modern farm located alongside Morogoro road, more than 37.3 km from Dodoma city, used to produce up to 637 tonnes of grapes.

To make the farm productive, the government has embarked on various initiatives including construction of irrigation and drainage infrastructures and installation of electricity services. The renovation activities has cost the government 22m/-.

Operating under the Chabuma Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS), farmers intend to revive cultivation of the cash crop at some 295 acres in the first phase.

Interim chairman of grape farmers at Chinangali farm David Mwaka said they have come up with strategies to further develop the farm and enhance productivity for the benefit of both farmers and the nation.

Mwaka said they also plan to uproot the old grape trees and replace them with fresh seedlings—Makurupora Reds and Whites.

He said with support from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) farmers have established a nursery of at least 500,000 seedlings of Makutupora Reds varieties, which are expected to be planted in the field in December this year.

During his recent tour at the farm, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the government is determined to improve the grapes subsector directing the Ministry of Agriculture to inject 400m/- to support procurement and installation of new dripping systems.

Apart from Dodoma, grapes are now grown in other places such as Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Babati, Karatu, Tabora, Bunda, and

Peramiho in Ruvuma Region.

Tanzania is the 2nd largest producer of wines in Sub-Saharan Africa after South Africa. During 2018/19, the country produced 16,139 tonnes of grapes, as reported by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Grapes were first introduced in the country by members of the Roman Catholic Congregation of the Holy Ghost in 1938. The missionaries from the Hombolo Catholic mission planted their first vines in Kondo District in Dodoma.

The vines were used for production of wine for religious practices and domestic consumption.

In 1957, Father Irioneo Maggioni of the Bihawana Mission started his own commercial farm from three vine seedlings out of curiosity and the farm grew rapidly to a commercial scale.

In 1961, local government in Dodoma took interest in the industry and made their first investment into a four-acre grape farm at the Isanga Prison.

The programme was very successful and in just three years expanded to 5 of the nearby villages surrounding the prison. In 1963, the national service camp in Makutupora joined the scheme and began growing grapes in the village that created a new centre for grapes growing around the village.

In 1979, the central government invested in a new company and created the Dodoma Wine Company, which procured grapes directly from farmers for wine production.



Apart from Dodoma, grapes are now grown in other places such as Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Babati, Karatu, Tabora, Bunda, and Peramiho in Ruvuma Region

MP, UCSAF donate learning items to five secondary schools in Masasi

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), Geoffrey Mwambe in collaboration with the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) has donated five computers, monitors, extension cables, and printers to five secondary schools in the Masasi constituency.

The beneficiary schools are Mtandi, Masasi Day, Marika, and Mtapika located in Masasi District, Mtwara Region.

Mwambe who is also an MP for Masasi said that his office is committed to supporting the government to address various challenges facing communities so as to bring development.

In his statement which was read on behalf by his secretary Imani Mkumbo during the handover event, the minister commended UCSAF for supporting the initiatives which will help improve the academic performance of the schools.

"We hope that these facilities will play a crucial role in supporting teaching as well as children's learning. They will specifically help to boost development of science and technology," he said.

He tasked the schools to protect the equipment so as to help produce intended goals.

"Our aim is to see more youth succeed in their education by getting the right knowledge and skills that will help them compete well in the market but also be creative to establish innovative solutions for the country's development," he added.

Rehema Mchemba, headmistress

at Marika Secondary School expressed her gratitude to the lawmaker for his support which she said will help improve teaching and learning environment in the schools.

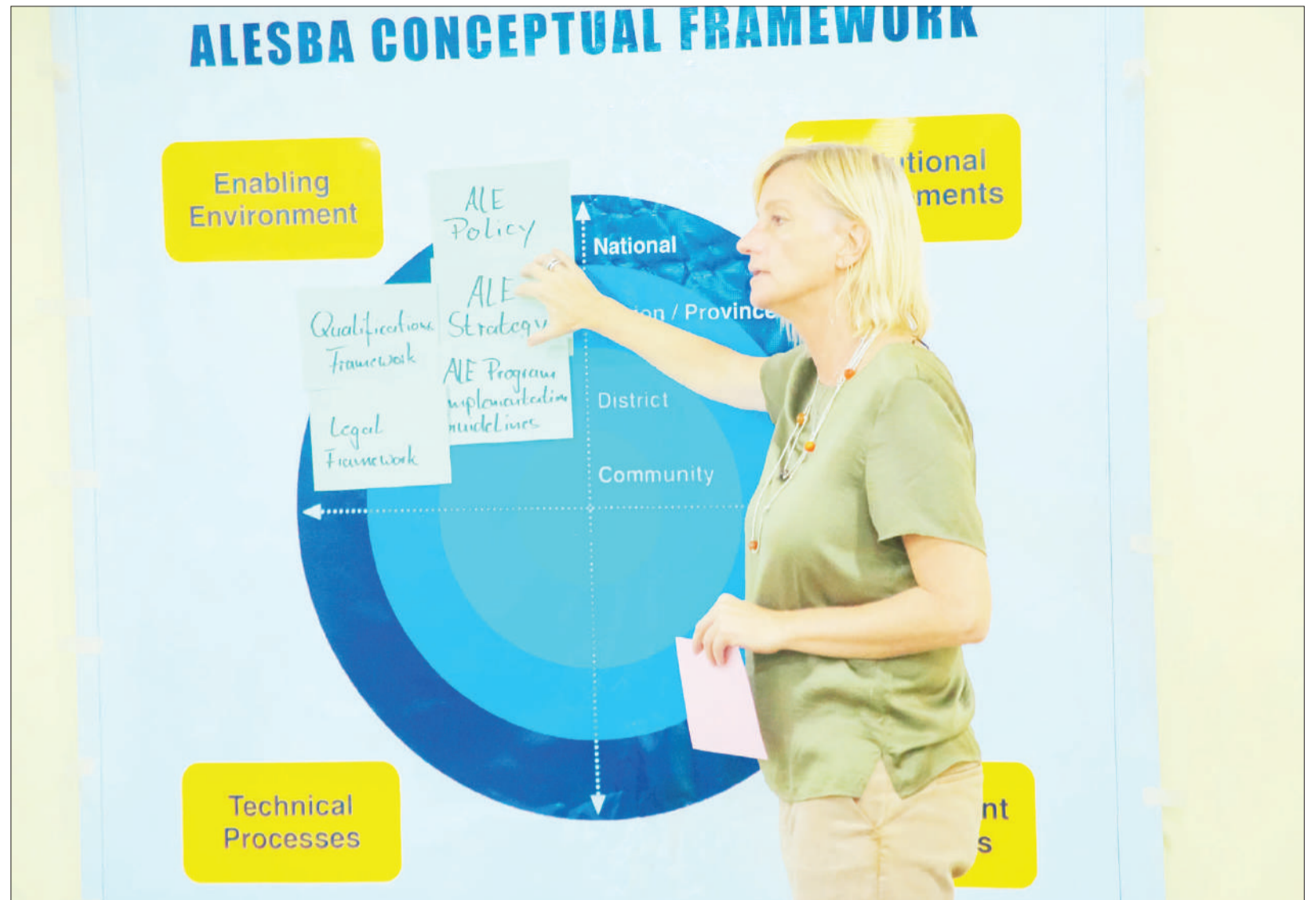
Mchemba who spoke on behalf of the beneficiary schools said the support will also raise and produce more young innovators who will later contribute immensely in addressing challenges facing communities.

"We are so grateful for this, our students are going to benefit heavily through the use of these equipment, something which will also raise performance in classes and national exams," she said.

Since he was elected as MP for Masasi, Mwambe has been investing his efforts to help address various challenges facing the constituency including in areas of water, education, health and infrastructures.



We are so grateful for this, our students are going to benefit heavily through the use of these equipment, something which will also raise performance in classes and national exams



Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association DVV International Tanzania regional director Frauke Heinze makes a presentation during a four-day consensus and road mapping workshop on adult learning and education in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OFFICIALS in the lands sector in the country have been called upon to employ various strategies to mobilise for the formalisation of land plots including political institutions to increase the pace in the issuance of title deeds.

The call was made yesterday by Dr Angeline Mabula, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, at a meeting with officials from the lands sector held at the Planning College here. "We need to mobilise

Use political institutions to mobilise people for formalisation of land plots - Dr Mabula

the land formalisation exercise and we can involve political institutions for help," said Dr Mabula.

During her recent inspection visit in Tabora Region, Dr Mabula visited CCM offices where she was told by the party's regional chairman, Hassan Mwakasubi that they were ready to assist in mobilising the people on the importance of having lands title deeds.

She said political institutions can help to mobilise people to formalise their land plots and obtain title deeds instead of leaving the task to the government alone as these institutions have been close to the people.

She also told the officials who included assistant regional land commissioners and registrars of title deeds that it is better, when

preparing title deeds, to set for themselves targets to enable them issue as many title deeds as possible.

Earlier, speaking to the officials, William Lukuvi, the Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development said people have to be mobilised as people should know the importance of the exercise for construction of infrastructures in their areas.



Technicians at work constructing rain water harvesting trench along Kinondoni-Mwanayamala road in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ensure proper upbringing of your children, parents urged

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister of State in the First Vice President's Office, Dr Saada Mkuya has called on parents and guardians to be at the forefront to make sure children have better upbringing as foundation for good behaviour.

She made the remarks here on Tuesday this week when addressing members of the 'Tuongee Faraja Club' (TFC) forum organised by teachers and students of Faraja School at the school's conference

hall, adding that parents should not be satisfied with results they obtain in schools but should be making follow ups on their behaviours.

Mkuya said the establishment of the club will help students to correct themselves and adopt good behavior, the basis for community development and reduction of acts of child abuse in the country.

"Acts of child abuse are now rampant in our society hence it is better for all of us to be at the forefront in better upbringing of our children as well as fighting the vice, I

praise you teachers and students for establishing this club," he added.

She also appealed to students of the school to be obedient to their teachers and develop the club that aims to assist the government in its fight against gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse.

For his part the Director of investigations and Control of the Narcotics Commission Juma Abdulrahman Zidikheiry, called on the society to shun drug abuse to protect the country's labour force.

He said the government continues

to plan for effective legislations to control drug abuse in order to eradicate the vice.

In regard to HIV infections, a representative from Tanzania HIV/AIDS Commission (TACAIDS) Halima Ali Mohamed, said youth of 15 - 35 age group have been more affected from the disease due to their engaging in sexual relations at a young age.

She explained that the increasing acts of sodomy, drug abuse and social decay contribute significantly in the spread of HIV infections.



Water Aid Tanzania technical services director Eng Gloria Kafuria (2nd L) speaks at the opening of a joint session between Matuli village officials and government water experts in Dodoma on Tuesday about water well project worth 231m/- to be drilled by the firm in the village. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Bajaj distributing firm in free-technical services provision programme

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOHAMMED Enterprises Tanzania Limited (MeTL) has embarked on a countrywide programme to provide technical services to three-wheel tricycles taxis 'bajaj' to enhance technology transfer and boost operators' incomes.

MeTL Group is Tanzania's largest home-grown firm—the authorized sole distributor of bajaj in the country.

More than 100 three wheel tricycle operators in Morogoro municipality have benefited from the programme.

MeTL's representative, Zakayo Edward said the target is to meet 1,500 bajaj operators in the country as part of company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

There are more than 1,500 bajaj supplied across the country by the company including RE4s and Maxima to help Tanzanian youth's who are faced with unemployment generate income.

Regions that received three-wheel tricycles include Iringa (200), Dodoma (250), Kigoma (150), Arusha (150), Dar es Salaam (300), Kilimanjaro (200), and Lake Zone (500).

Edward called on operators to inculcate a habit of doing regular maintenances on their vessels after every 4,000 kilometers to prolong engine's life.

"Our study shows most 'bajaj' operators don't consider distance, in which the vessel traveled, a situation that makes them incur unnecessary costs. That's why we're asking them to be very careful on the matter," he said.

He also advised the operators to use the right oil and change it after

4000 kilometers. The official also pledged to work on the shortfalls outlined by some operators such as fixing radios as well as coming up with low-cost bajajs particularly in fuel consumption.

Firm's central zone marketing officer, Kenny Mwangosi called on manufacturers to come up with bajaj which are friendly with Tanzanian roads.

One of the three wheeler tricycle drivers, Juma Ahmad, thanked the MeTL group for coming up with the programme because apart from providing technical services, they educate drivers on the importance of maintaining their vessels on time and the use of proper oil to avoid unnecessary mechanical faults.

“Our study shows most 'bajaj' operators don't consider distance, in which the vessel traveled, a situation that makes them incur unnecessary costs. That's why we're asking them to be very careful on the matter”

African scientists call for policy shift to attain biodiversity goals

By Special Correspondent

THE attainment of biodiversity restoration targets agreed by the international community, governments and donors will be realized subject to policy reforms, sufficient funding and greater community involvement, African scientists have said.

According to the study titled "Integrating biodiversity targets from local to global levels", there is an urgency to reshape policies and legislation governing the conservation of habitats, ensuring

they are people-centered and inclusive.

The study called for action on social and economic drivers of biodiversity loss, adding that strengthening the resilience of local communities should run concurrently with the conservation of habitats.

David Obura, lead author of the study and Director at Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO East Africa), said conserving biodiversity hotspots should aim at sustaining livelihoods and

boosting climate resilience at the grassroots.

Obura said that subsistence farmers, pastoralists and indigenous people should be involved in restoring pristine landscapes that are a source of water, food, fiber and timber.

He said pursuing a conservation model that is naturally positive and people-centered will hasten the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that outlines ambitious targets for restoring degraded habitats.

The African scientists and

conservationists involved in the study on the paradigm shift in habitat protection said outcomes of the 15th conference of parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity slated for Kunming, China from Oct. 11-24 will determine how humanity relates with nature in the future.

Fred Kwame Kumah, vice president, External Affairs at Nairobi-based African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) said that future efforts to conserve habitats must factor social, economic and cultural needs of local communities.

By Special Correspondent

IOM calls for enhanced support for Mozambique

INTERNATIONAL Organization for Migration (IOM) Director-General António Vitorino is on a three-day visit to Mozambique to assess and support the humanitarian response to ongoing displacement due to insecurity, as well as IOM's interventions on recovery, community resilience and peace building.

The director general has visited Metuge district, which hosts over 125,000 of the more than 732,000 individuals displaced since late 2017.

"I urge the rapid expansion of humanitarian assistance to support the hundreds of thousands of individuals displaced by the continuing insecurity in Cabo Delgado," said DG Vitorino, who wraps up his visit on Wednesday.

"IOM has significantly scaled up operations to reach tens of thousands of families every month. Significant additional funding is required to cover life-saving humanitarian needs and work towards durable solutions, especially before the next rainy and cyclone season in December."

Families continue to be on the

move, seeking shelter, humanitarian assistance and means of support while uprooted from home. During the week of 28 July to 3 August, more than 9,200 displaced people were on the move, half of whom have experienced multiple displacements, according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

Between January and July 2021, IOM Mozambique has provided assistance to more than 600,000 people in Cabo Delgado, including shelter construction or reconstruction support, emergency shelters, retrofitting roof kits and non-food or household items.

However, IOM operations are underfunded, especially in camp coordination and camp management, shelter and non-food items, protection, mental health and psychosocial support, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health in emergencies. Through these programmes, IOM provides vulnerable and conflict-

affected individuals with essential support. This includes psychosocial assistance; assessing the mental health needs of displaced people, providing referrals and enhancing awareness within communities.

"Our responses must also address the drivers of fragility and violence, and promote sustainable peace and recovery," said DG Vitorino. "Critical support is needed for IOM's peace building programming; the need is more urgent than ever, considering the rapidly changing context in the northern districts of Cabo Delgado."

Since 2019 IOM's Community Resilience and Peace building portfolio has worked to strengthen community resilience to address the underlying causes of crisis in support of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

IOM Mozambique continues to operate in the south, centre and north of the country in cooperation with the government and humanitarian, development and peace building partners.



Technicians at work. More road projects soon to ease Dar's traffic congestion. Chang'ombe and Nyerere flyover in progress. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUPPLEMENTARY RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN AND LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION PLAN FOR EACOP PROJECT REF: 0010006870

TOTAL East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an international energy company, invites experienced and reputable specialist Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Companies to express their interest in providing services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda, to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania. Land has been acquired in Chongoleani Peninsula for the construction of the Marine Storage Terminal impacting local communities whose livelihoods are both land and marine based.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES :

The COMPANY requires the services of specialist Resettlement and Livelihood Restoration Companies to:

- Develop a supplementary Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for Project Affected Persons in Chongoleani Peninsula communities.
- Undertake a community livelihoods assessment (land and marine based).
- Develop a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for Project affected Chongoleani Peninsula communities.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
- Evidence of the development RAPs and LRPs for industrial projects in Africa.
 - Evidence of experience in undertaking resettlement planning and livelihood restoration plan design for large infrastructure projects with investor financing.
 - Proposed key personnel including land and livelihood (land based and marine based) specialists and their relevant experience in providing such services.
 - Proof of registration of individual senior practitioners with relevant Tanzanian Professional bodies or associations.
 - Application for registration with the EWURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.

Interested companies which have the capacity and resources to provide the services listed above should express their interest by sending together with the above listed documents an email to robin.schroh@external.totalenergies.com (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on Wednesday August 25th.

Note: The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

Why Africa needs journalists' spring

AFRICA values neither its journalists nor its newspapers. They are poorly paid and often treated badly by proprietors. Consequently, journalism is perceived as a lowly profession which does not carry with it the respect and job satisfaction that is accorded to and experienced by lawyers and accountants, for instance.

This means that the profession does not attract the best graduates and school leavers. How did this wretched state of affairs come about? African state owned papers, from which the majority of senior journalists still active in the African press emerged, believed journalism to be a reflection of state activity and thus it was the function of the journalist to reflect state policy.

This led to a lickspittle approach where journalists became sycophantic cyphers of the state. They served not the people but those in power. Indeed many of the journalists I worked with in East Africa and Europe were trained in the old eastern bloc, or in China, or even North Korea. In an environment such as this, the pursuit of transparency was impossible. As for the concept of accountability, that was considered irrelevant.

No wonder journalists in Africa never achieved that glossy hero must-do job status that their equivalents in the west aspire to. Now, with the burial of the socialist era and with the constraints of rigid and doctrinal centralised economic policy being rapidly eased, and in some cases altogether abandoned, with business booming, with African raw materials being hunted down by China, with cities like Dar es

Salaam experiencing extraordinary change, journalists, and particularly business journalists have much to catch up with. A new economic order requires a new journalistic approach. How will this be achieved? First and foremost through training. And second, by imaginative use of available resources.

Training takes time and costs money. It is a long-term investment. The training schemes which have existed for years, primarily courses taught in university, need to be overhauled because they are blind to the new political, cultural and economic revolution that has coursed through the veins of the continent.

They are still rolling out graduates who can write a 20,000 word political treatise but find it difficult to put together a running news story on the finance minister's emergency budget. Much money has been spent training journalists over a generation. Experts from the UK and Europe and the US have delivered thousands of workshops. But this approach has plainly not worked. Why? Because it is piecemeal and sporadic and bogged down in the workshop culture.

What does work, however, is to embed experts and young journalists together for long periods. This, of course, costs money and time.

Africa needs to establish new training schools where young trainees can be taught by Africans, not academics who have never set foot on an editorial floor and would not recognise a follow up from a feature. The training must be practical, targeted and delivered quickly. Turning out trained, competent, ethical journalists is, however, not enough.

What are the ways to produce state skilled human resources?

ONE of the strategic components in fostering economic growth and technological progress is investing on human resource development. Skilled professionals engagement in all walks of life has the potential in creating new innovations, hastening technology transfers and creating job opportunities. The secret behind their progress is skilled human resource potential.

To this effect, every year Tanzania allocates a huge portion of its budget for the education, health and agriculture sectors. The government has given due emphasis to human development.

Every year, the country invests on human resource development and graduates new professionals. Establishing vibrant learning institutions has the potential to transform the country and create far reaching impacts on economic development. Hence, the country's higher learning institutions, apart from their key duties, have to give due attention to the transfer of technology and new innovations.

Universities shall be a place where fate-reversing skilled human power are created. Higher learning institutions have to conduct trouble shooting researches in the priority areas. Besides, learning institutions have to nurture the culture of conducting research and easing the country's bottlenecks.

In light of this, Tanzania has placed focal attention on producing skilled human power development and expanding higher learning institutions all over the country. Currently, over 30 public universities have discharged their responsibilities focusing on the teaching learning processes, conducting problem solving researches and community services.

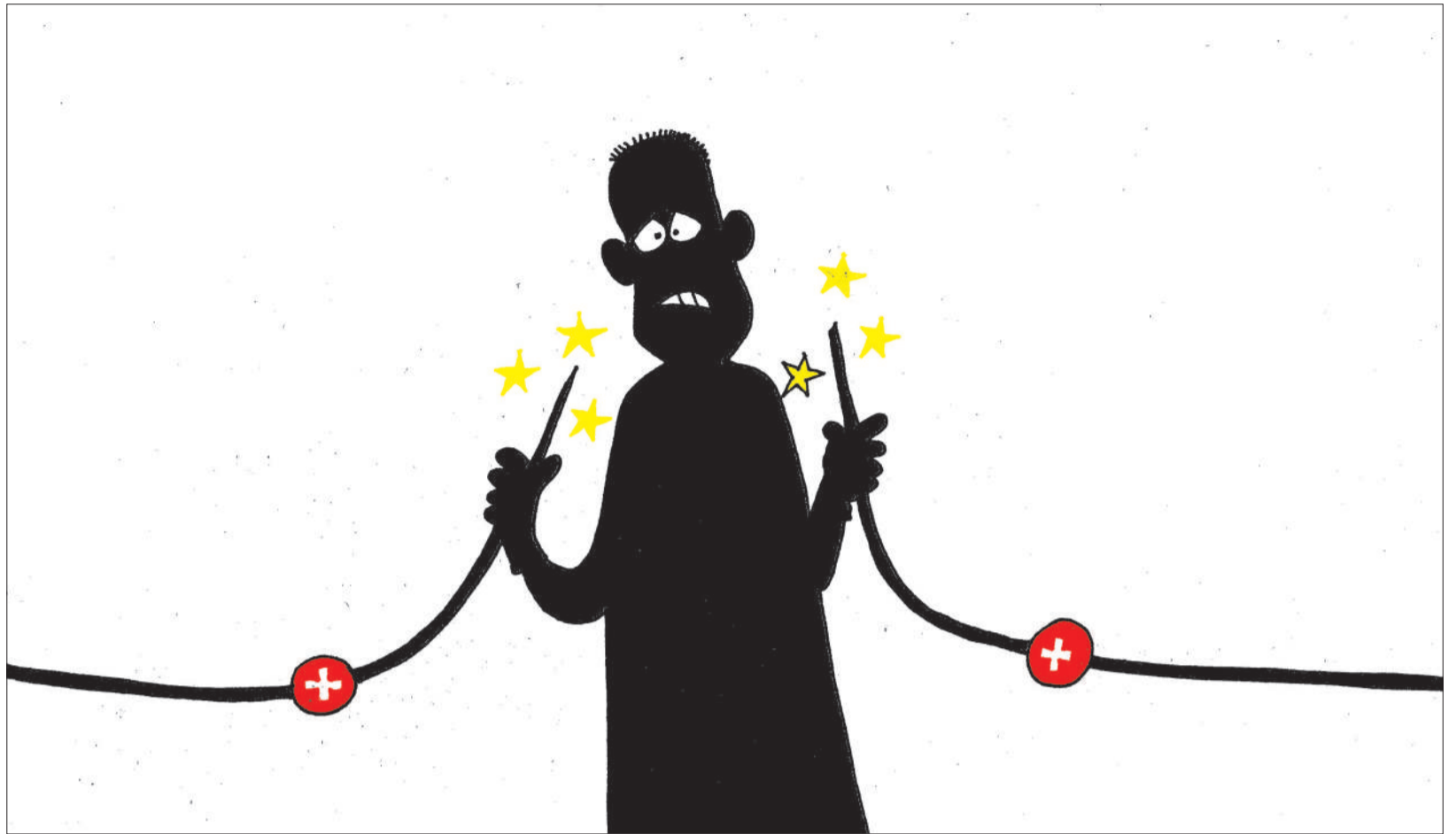
Nowadays, those higher institutions, excluding private higher learning institutions, graduate over hundred thousands annually. Hence, new graduates are expected to spur the county's economic development journey. Without skilled human power, the nation could not speed up its developmental pace. Besides, Tanzania has planned to throw poverty into the dustbin of history, undertake economic transformation and has become a middle income country.

It has endorsed conducive legal frameworks, policies and strategies. But, all these lofty development goals could be realized if the country produces enough skilled human power in respective fields of studies. The nation has planned constructing small and mega projects and improving citizens' standard of living. To do so, expanding higher learning institutions and producing human resource development have become a prerequisite agenda.

Above and beyond these, the nation currently needs more technology transfer and various expertise to leap to industrial-led economy. Of course, all these ambitions are gradual processes, happen step by step but their importance is unquestionable. Ethiopia has to produce its own skilled professionals in very sector. To become a competitive country in the global arena, it needs innovators, problem solver citizens, confident individuals and job opportunity creators.

It as well needs climate change effect resilient or adaptive technology innovators and task forces that help increase production and productivity. Hence, this year's addition of graduates contribution will have immense importance in implementing the above mentioned objectives.

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WHD: Enduring conflicts, coping with climate change amidst Covid-19 plague

By Johnson Mwamasangula

TODAY, the August 19, we commemorate World Humanitarian Day (WHD). It is an opportunity for the UN and partner organizations to review the contingency plans set in securing the planet's future especially for the most vulnerable communities that require emergency humanitarian assistance. With political instabilities and climate challenges on hand, Covid-19 poses a new challenge to both the humanitarian workers and the vulnerable communities.

Resiliency progress is hampered as newly emerged conflicts in prone climate-challenged areas suffer from the Covid outbreak. Many humanitarian workers are not on the field due to international travel restrictions and few are working remotely because of the Covid-19 pandemic which poses more risk to the vulnerable populations in conflict zones prone to climatic challenges. These communities lack access to clean water and sanitation, protective measures like wearing masks and often are forced to stay in congested places, making them more susceptible to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Global Humanitarian Overview report of 2021 estimated about 235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This means the humanitarian system needs to revisit its plans and ensure they will accommodate multiple areas of concern from conflict resolution, emergency public health, to climate action. These new articulated approaches and priorities should be defined by the gravest and most immediate threats that require a combination of protection and assistance to mitigate.

Climate action as a theme of 2021 World Humanitarian Day reflects the reality of countries enduring conflict on how less they are able to cope with climate change because their ability to be resilient is weakened by the conflict. This makes people living in conflict zones the most vulnerable to the climate crisis and often neglected by climate action.

Indirectly, the climatic change increases the risk of conflict by exacerbating existing social, economic, and environmental factors. People's ability to cope with climate shocks is limited while on the other hand, violence limits access to humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable communities. In conflict situations, authorities and institutions are not only weak but also preoccupied with security



priorities thus often they leave behind climate action and other public health emergency issues.

The natural environment is often a casualty of conflict damaged by warfare as sometimes attacks lead to water sources and harm wildlife. For example in the Armenian conflict, the shelling of forests to clear cover of insurgent attacks, the conflicts have significantly impacted the landscape and geodiversity. Conflict debris and toxic remnants of war pose a threat to people, livelihoods, and biodiversity in general whereby some of the landscape fires were likely caused by incendiary weapons. Let's not forget this country is in a water scarcity crisis.

In Ethiopia, a seasonal drought-prone country is facing a worsening political conflict in the Tigray region with a catastrophic hunger crisis that impacts more than 400, 000 people according to UNICEF while UNOCHA expects the number to rise to 12.9 million people that will be experiencing a crisis- or emergency-levels of food insecurity due to poor March and May rainy season. Furthermore, more than 100, 000 children are at risk of suffering life-threatening malnutrition, and at least half of the pregnant and breastfeeding women are on acute malnourishment.

Despite vulnerability to seasonal drought and worsening political instability, many humanitarian workers are not on the field due to international travel bans; a few are working remotely because of the Covid-19 plague and for fear of violence arising from political conflicts. Doctors are walking more than two kilometers to reach their duty stations, of which only a few are operating and are flooded with patients. Hospitals lack specialist doctors and community health workers to assist sensitization of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Amnesty International Secretary General

commenting on Tigray conflict, Agnes Callamard, sexual violence, and other war crimes are highly prevalent and aid routes have been blocked. In Haiti, 59% of people who live below the poverty line have to endure a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that destroyed thousands of homes and left more than 2800 injured with a death toll exceeding 700 and unknown number of the missing.

Amidst this catastrophic event that requires humanitarian assistance, the country is already reeling from a political crisis following the assassination of its president last month. This day should remind us to take further actions to protect the vulnerable especially girl children and women who have been primary victims of the conflicts, the Covid outbreak as well as climate change. But also, we are laden with the duty to honor and protect the aid and health workers in conflict zones and climatic challenges-prone areas.

The UN and its partners should emphasize observation of International Humanitarian Law which provides protection to the natural environment. This includes greater respect to the rules of war so as to reduce the harm and risks that conflict-affected communities are exposed to as a result of climate change. Many areas have experienced water scarcity and unavailability of arable land because of such issues.

The Security Council, on the other hand, ought to partner with multiple stakeholders in climate action to ensure the prohibition of attacks on objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population such as agricultural areas and drinking water. The International Humanitarian Law protects these resources from additional conflict-related violence.

Time is running out for the world's most vulnerable people as they contribute least to the global climate emergency yet

hit the hardest by losing their homes, livelihoods, and their lives. Campaigns focused on slowing down conflicts should incorporate also campaigns to contain the Covid 19 outbreak and secondly to slow down climate change and ensuring the communities affected that their voices are heard and their needs top the agenda at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November.

This November the world leaders will meet at the UN Climate Summit (COP 26) to accelerate climate action. The agenda should consider the situation of children who can no longer go to school due to a combination of Covid 19, conflict and climatic shocks and women who carry the burden of bearing children in harsh conditions and poor deprived healthcare services. It is important for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November to address the needs of the conflict zones-climate vulnerable communities.

Learning from the Ebola outbreak in Central and West African countries with conflict and severe global warming and climatic phenomenon, the humanitarian system needs to review its approach to not fall in the past mistakes. As the day focuses on bringing together partners from across the humanitarian system to advocate for the survival, well-being, and dignity of the people affected by crises and for the safety and security of aid workers, climatic action should further be incorporated in contingency plans set.

This new course of action addressed by World Humanitarian Day gives us a new insight, an approach that the development planners should take into high consideration. Climate change has been a global topic but lacked efficacy and support in conflict areas.

Johnson Mwamasangula is a Tanzanian sociologist; he can be reached via richejohns@gmail.com.

How awareness on GBV empowered women in Kilwa

By Beatrice Philemon

ACTS of Gender Based Violence (GBV) which previously went unreported in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, are now recorded and culprits brought to book, thanks to a capacity building initiative which empowers women to stand up for their rights.

Kilwa Local Rights Programme funded by ActionAid Kilwa has since 2017 been creating awareness on GBV in its various forms and how to report the same to authorities such as police, land councils, social welfare officers and courts.

Beneficiaries have since opened 14 platforms for creating awareness and so far 2,500 victims of GBV have been trained as trainers. Also, through other channels such as phone calls, community radio stations, farmers' exhibitions and village meetings, the initiative has reached over 10,000 beneficiaries.

Speaking during a recent field visit, Pili Kuliwa who is secretary of the organization formed by beneficiaries named Tumaini Jipya kwa Wanawake Kilwa (TUJIWAKI)—New Hope for Women in Kilwa, said the initiative has changed the position of women in the district for the better.

"One thing we are proud of is the fact that women can now stand up and defend their rights; this is in sharp contrast with the past when acts of GBV were largely swept under the rug," she said.

TUJIWAKI was officially established in 2017 and so far it has 520 members in 14 wards of Kilwa District.

The programme as an eye-opener to women and girls because are now aware of GBV related challenges, the effect it has for them and how to demand their rights something that was not there before.

According to Kuliwa, some of the achievements of TUJIWAKI include



Pili Kuliwa (standing) secretary of Tumaini Jipya kwa Wanawake Kilwa (TUJIWAKI) explains how awareness on Gender Based Violence has empowered women and girls in Kilwa District, Lindi Region. Photo/Beatrice Philemon.

the stories of two women who were divorce who were kicked out of their marital homes after divorce with husbands retaining everything. The organization managed to help them negotiate divorce settlement which they used to start new life.

"We have so far rescued five underage girls from early marriage and took them back to school and they are all doing very well," she said.

Also, TUJIWAKI has also managed to secure child support for four children who were abandoned by their fathers after divorce. They

are now getting monthly maintenance allowance from their fathers, she said.

The organization also helped victims take to courts four men who were suspected to have impregnated schoolgirls. After their arrest and arraignment, all were convicted and three jailed for 30 years and another for 60 years.

"We are very happy with the outcome of the four cases; as a result of the convictions, cases of teenage pregnancy and early marriage have begun to decline," Kuliwa said.

"It is now a common practice in Kilwa District for authorities offici-

ating marriage including religious leaders to demand birth certificate from those seeking to tie the knot; this is a milestone achievement."

Because of the initiative, Kuliwa says women in Kilwa are now more engaged in socioeconomic activities such as farming as means of income generation and food vending than before.

With income from these ventures going directly into their wallets, women now have more decision-making power on issues such as expenditure hence healthier families because of improved nutrition.

With a donation of 83mn/- from

ActionAid Kilwa, TUJIWAKI is now building its own offices at Kilwa Masoko from which it will plan and monitor implementation of its projects in eight villages in Kilwa District, said Kuliwa.

Highlighting trends on teenage pregnancy and early marriages in both primary and secondary schools, she quoted official reports showing that in 2019, a total of 160 students were impregnated in Lindi Region.

In 2020, some 75 students were impregnated in Kilwa District and between January and March this

year, a total of 40 students were impregnated, according to reports from police gender desk and social welfare department that were submitted to TUJIWAKI recently.

Although the numbers appear small, she said the real problem could be bigger because "we don't have enough resources to reach all villages and create awareness because for far we depend on only one donor namely ActionAid Kilwa," she said.

Officer Commanding Kilwa Police Station Anna Tembo said GBV is very high in the district, attributing the situation to poor parental care and traditional initiation ceremonies that prepare young girls to be wives at a time when they are supposed to be in school.

In a bid to reverse GBV trends, Kilwa Police Station has embarked on a new programme aimed at sensitizing students on GBV in schools so that they report the incidents to authorities at the right time for action to be taken.

"To start with, we have already visited five primary and secondary schools that are Kilwa Masoko Primary school, Mnazi mmoja Primary School, Kilwa day Secondary School, Kwa Sultan Primary and secondary school and Kilwa Masoko Primary School to create awareness and so far we have reached a total of 1,079," the OCS said.

Zuhura Kiulanga, one of the beneficiaries from Njenga village said she is very happy to get education on GBV, saying that things have changed for the better since women and girls are now free to speak before men and successfully fight for their rights something which was not the case in the past.

"I can now speak out when my right rights or rights of other women are violated; I managed to assist my friend to get her land back on which she has built a house and that makes me very happy," she said.

Kigoma farmers start replacing old oil palm trees with new commercial tenera variety

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

AS the new agricultural season approaches, oil palm small-holder farmers in Kigoma region have started clearing their farms and others opening up new fields for planting the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety which has proved to produce fruits in three years time.

Speaking during a tour of Kigoma district council some 20 kilometres from Kigoma town by Tanzania agriculture research institute (TARI), the small holder farmers said they are preparing their farm to heed the government's directives that require them to uproot the low yielding dura variety which were established long time in the 1920's and plant the higher yielding variety.

Shabani Jafari (44), a resident of Mahembe village, Mahembe ward in Kigoma district is one of them. He has cleared and uprooted a total of 100 acres of land where he had planted the old dura variety. He has received the new improved tenera commercial variety from TARI ready for planting.

"I have been impressed by the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety which starts producing bunches of fruit at very short time of only three years," he said.

I went to ask for the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety from researchers at Tanzania agriculture research Institute in Kigoma (TARI-Kihinga) and they gave me 300 seedlings. They said I should manage them well and ensure they all grow up," he said.

At this period of drought, Shaban depend on a nearby Kaseke river which flow throughout the year. He has dug three dams and filled water in for irrigation purposes as he wait for the short and long rains which normally begins in October and November.

George Onyango is another farmer expanding his 20 acres of land. He heard about the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety some few years ago, he collected them from TARI-Kihinga in Kigoma and planted them across his field.

"I also own a nursery of seedlings where the seedlings are at different



TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo (right) assisting a farmer Shabani Jafferi to collect and remove pieces of the old oil palm trees. Shabani is replacing them with the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

stages. I want to expand my farm so that I can get more profit," he said.

Onyango who is a lawyer, commended the government's efforts to support seedlings for the farmers saying the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety has attracted many farmers to revamp their abandoned fields. The government gave him the seedlings and now he is working to clean up the weeds from his field.

Sought for comments on the planting exercise of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety for the 2020/21 year, Kigoma district acting agricultural officer Ramadhan Amri said the district has produced a

total of 32,665 seedlings. The district has also received a total of 53,400 seedlings from other different research and production institutions including TARI adding that the seedlings are distributed for free.

He explained that for the year 2020/21, Kigoma district council planted a total of 86,065 seedlings which is equivalent to 1,509.95 acres of land.

"A total of 1,129 farmers have benefited from Kigoma district produced seedlings. Out of the seedlings, 1,121 are individual farmers and eight are different institutions," he said.

He said for the year 2020/21, the district received a total of 200,000

seedlings from TARI adding that the district is expected to plant a total 55,538 seedlings for the year 2021/22. The seedlings are all still at nurseries.

TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said the government through the Ministry of agriculture which is led by Prof. Adolf Mkenda and Permanent Secretary Andrew Massawe has given the oil palm crop a very high priority to address shortage of edible oil in the country.

When he visited TARI Kihinga in Kigoma recently, Prof. Adolf Mkenda said the country require a total of 570,000 metric tons of vegetable Oil but current production stands at 40 percent of the required edible

oil while 60 percent is actually imported which cost approximately 44 bn/- annually

Therefore, he said the government has decided to boost oil palm by facilitating farmers and institutions with the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety, training extension officers to ensure adequate knowledge on good agriculture practices trickle down to the target small holder farmers in the villages.

After being impressed by the farmers move to cultivate the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety, Dr. Mkamilo directed TARI Kihinga in Kigoma to provide Shaban a total of 1,000 seedlings free of charge to

plant on his farm.

"I have been satisfied by the collaboration between Kigoma regional secretariat, district councils and TARI. The act of appointing the regional coordinator of oil palm and other district council coordinators is a vivid example of commitment and determination, the region has on the development of the crop.

He said the Ministry of agriculture through the Minister and permanent secretary has directed that all farmers who want to grow or expand their farm should get the seedlings of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety on time.

"I want to say that these seedlings should be managed well. The district councils should make regular and close follow up as per the government's directives to increase palm oil availability, he said.

According to Dr. Mkamilo, Several important interventions have been taken. The first intervention is to produce enough improved commercial oil palm tenera variety and supply to all farmers farmers. The second intervention is to deploy all the potential area for palm oil production in Tanzania by planting Tenera variety.

The third intervention is to replant the old oil palm trees existing in Tanzania with Tenera variety.

Commenting on the progress, management and development of oil palm, Kigoma regional coordinator for oil palm engineer Bathlomew Nkoronko said the region's statistics shows that a total of 533,072 seedlings of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety which were sufficient to cover 10,661 acres, were planted in different district councils between October 2020 and March 2021.

He said TARI-Kihinga in collaboration with the region and other public and private institutions are continuing to produce and multiply the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety and distribute to different district councils.

"To ensure proper management of the seedlings and those already planted, a special team from the region was formed to make close follow. Foreexample, from June 16th - 21st 2021, the special team led by Kigoma region assistant administrative secretary made a tour of the district councils to inspect the progress and development of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety.

Commenting on the budget for the development of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety for the year 2021/2022 he said for sustainable development of the improved commercial oil palm tenera variety, the district councils have been directed to set aside reasonable budget.

Local engineer seeking 509.85mn/- to invest in a low cost LPG plant

By Francis Kajubi

A LOCAL engineer is seeking US\$220,000 (509.85million/-) to invest in a simple technology liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plant that will help serve domestic consumers with the energy source for households, vehicles and small scale industries.

Iringa based Founder and CEO of Syntroleum Petrochemical Group Limited, Abraham Baisi, has invented a cheap technology of converting natural gas into LPG. The 37 year old chemical engineer said he had presented the technology to the ministry of energy three years ago and got approved.

The technology he developed is capable of converting Methane which is the main component of natural gas to HD5 Grade Propane which is commonly known as liquefied petroleum gas by using a complex natural gas compressor.

According to him, the technology to convert methane into propane using a device called Fischer-Tropsch Chemical Reactor is known as Steam Methane Reform (SMR). Due to the lack of support from the government in obtaining capital for executing the technology, he has come up with an alternative way

of producing the energy source and supplying the local market.

Baisi is currently working for the Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) under a six months contract that lasts next October to mobilise US\$220,000 for procuring a complex natural gas compressor from Germany that is used for converting natural gas into Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

The US\$220,000 purchasing price of the compressor is inclusive of VAT, customs tax and transport costs from Germany to the port of Dar es Salaam. The compressor itself goes at US\$180,000.

In an interview with The Guardian, Baisi said his struggles to establish an LPG plant go back in 2019 when he sought support from the central government through the ministry of energy to execute his technology, the effort that is yet to yield fruits, forcing him to find alternative ways of sourcing the money that includes selling off his valuable possessions.

"From my point of view, innovators and new technologies developers have no support from the central government. I have struggled to obtain support from the ministry of energy to secure a loan that would help me purchase the complex natural gas compressor since 2019 but nobody seems to care about it,"



Founder and CEO of Syntroleum Petrochemical Group Limited, Abraham Baisi.

said Baisi.

According to him, he gave up the struggles of obtaining support from the ministry earlier this year and decided to start selling out his valuable possessions to source money for the investment.

"I have sold almost everything valuable I had in raising the money for the compressor. I sold my 15 acres in Ndolela village in Iringa region at 4.5million/ just in April. I sold another 22 acres at 5.6million/- in Kiponzelo village of Iringa; I sold my 50/50 residential plot in Salasala suburb of Dar es Salaam at 11mn/- the plot I bought at 13mn/- in 2011. If not enough, I have sold my motorcycle," added Baisi.

He said among other simple machinery he has bought, also used the money to buy a Pressure Valve Reducer (PVR) at US\$4,000 (9.270mn/-). The valve reducer is used for reducing the natural gas high pressure so that it can be easily converted to LPG by using the compressor. Currently, natural gas is being supplied by the ministry of energy through the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

If managed to procure the compressor, Baisi said, will be capable of producing 100 LPG cylinders of 30 kilograms each in the space of every 30minutes (half an hour). He told The Guardian that he already own a 60/60 plot in Ubungo district where he will build his LPG facility. He expects to mobilise at least 46mn/- by the end of next October from his salary and profits generated from shares he owns in one of the mining companies in

Kahama.

"I also have plans of finding a venture capital company to which I will bargain and sell part of my company shares to raise capital. I have not consulted financial institutions because I have no record for the business;

BOT demands a guarantee or compulsory savings of 500mn/- to obtain a loan. So, you need to negotiate with a commercial bank that will offer you half of the money and I as a borrower provide the rest half of it which I can't afford for now," said Baisi.

After graduating with a Chemical Engineering bachelor degree at the University of Nairobi in 2011, Baisi joined a six-month course at University of South Africa specializing in synthesis materials in 2012. "I also have the technology of converting vehicles from using diesel or petrol to LPG. I will offer the services for free at my plant under special agreements with consumers so as to create new customers for my company. The cost for converting a car stands at between 2mn/- and 3mn/-," added Baisi.

Energy Deputy Minister Stephen Byabato said that the ministry has nothing to do with innovators or entrepreneurs in the gas sector be it empowering them financially or linking them to financial institutions to obtain loans.

"That is not the responsibility of the ministry. Our responsibility is just going through the technology itself and see if it is viable. If the technology is viable then it is approved so that the innovator or entrepreneur can be allowed to

purchase natural gas from TPDC for his own use;

My advice to young entrepreneurs in the gas sector is to establish businesses with capitals that they can afford. They should not look for big capitals to start businesses," said Byabato.

He asserted that natural gas production in the country has increased to 56.13 billion cubic feet for the period of July 2020 to May 2021 compared with 53.10 billion cubic feet for the corresponding period of 2019/20. The increment is equivalent to 6 percent.

"Until March this year LPG gas supply network has increased to 129.60 kilometers compared to 102.50 kilometers in June 2020. The increment is equivalent to 26.4 percent;

As of June this year, 1,191 households have been connected to the network from 500 households connected in June 2020 an increment of 138.20 percent. About 700 vehicles have been installed with the LPG system compared to 400 vehicles of the corresponding period. This is equivalent to an increment of 75 percent," added Byabato.

Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) 2019/20 report, imports by LPG marketing companies (LMCs) grew by 12.9 percent, up from 107,083 tonnes in 2016/17 to 120,961 tonnes in the financial year 2017/18.

Imports also grew by 20 percent in the following year, reaching 145,800 tonnes that led to a 30 percent growth with 190,248 tonnes in 2019/20.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Anti-FGM battle continues, as perpetrators now target infants

By Correspondent Rosemary Mirembe

AS the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) looms closer to deliver on the global pledge of zero Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by 2030, UNFPA and UNICEF have jointly launched a special initiative aimed to accelerate fight against FGM.

The 2021 initiative dubbed "This is no time for inaction. Unite, fund, and act to end FGM" aims to ensure that no one is left behind the struggles towards making free FGM society.

Although the slogan of sustainable development emphasizes not to leave anyone behind, there are some traditions and customs that have left communities behind the drive.

Infant FGM of babies less than one year old is one of the customs and traditions that seem to be practiced in some parts of Serengeti District in Mara Region.

The Guardian visited Yarara, Liki-cha and Nyamisilisi villages that have more than 2000 residents and observed how they are still living in a net of harmful tradition of FGM.

Some members of the Watatonga and Taturu tribes in Serengeti District practice infant mutilation in secrecy, as this is a new trend of perpetuating these traditions after the government and various national development stakeholders strongly opposed it.

Previously, girls were traditionally cut when they were below 18 years old, to 'prepare them for marriage' but are now being disfigured earlier so offenders can escape legal measures.

According to Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHS-MS) 2015-2016, this harmful practice is still common in some communities and of concern as Perpetrators are increasingly targeting children below one year, which represent 35 percent of women that have undergone female genital mutilation in Tanzania while infants.

"One in ten women in Tanzania

(aged 15-49) has undergone FGM. Of these, 35 per cent underwent FGM before the age of one," stated TDHS-MS report.

Regions with the highest prevalence include Manyara at 58 percent, Dodoma 47 percent, Arusha at 41 percent and Mara 32 percent.

Helena Tokanga of Iharara village in Serengeti District explains how her tribe of the Watatonga mutilates infants from one month old until one year.

"Our tribe believes in FGM as a tradition that must be kept and no matter where a girl child is born, the moment she steps to the village, she should be cut."

Helena says traditional elders of the Watatonga tribe believe a girl child cannot get married without being cut as the situation will later bring challenges in her marriage.

Mwajuma Mahega, a retired traditional circumciser from Serengeti District, Mara Region says during the practice they had to lay an infant girl-child on animal skin, use a razor blade to cut clitoris and outer labia of the baby then presses raw milk and flour on the bleeding cuts.

Mwajuma could still remember the compassion she felt from how bitterly the young babies cried because of the unbearable pain they felt.

"A child would cry for over two hours because of the sharp pain, others would even bleed to death," says Mwajuma.

According to Mwajuma, she used to circumcise girls because of negative cultural beliefs and myths which were emphasised by traditional elders who consider a girl who is not circumcised as impure, have little chance of getting married and have no right to inheritance.

She says they realized it was better to perform the circumcision to young infants because they get healed faster compared to older girls whose wound could take time to completely heal and later lead to more medical expenses.

"I was doing this harmful practice with payment of 10,000/- per child,



I really regret this now and call for others to stop doing so," she says.

Mwajuma recalls making a U-turn from the traditional practice in 2016 when she was educated on the long-term and short term physical and emotional damages of FGM.

Dr Tanu Warioa, chief physician at Nyerere Hospital in Serengeti District says some mothers still believe that uncircumcised girls add no value to the society.

According to Dr Tanu, FGM in the Mara Region often involves partial or total removal of the clitoris and labia minora and is clearly a violation of girls' and women's rights, which can cause long-term physical and emotional damage. In the worst cases, it can lead to the death of mothers and babies during childbirth.

"It can also cause complications such as severe pain, shock, haemorrhage (bleeding), tetanus or sepsis (bacterial infection), urine retention, open sores in the genital region and injury to surrounding genital tissue," says Dr Tanu.

He says, there is no medical justification for FGM. Instead, it is practiced for a variety of complex cultural reasons dating back thousands of years, such as the belief that it helps preserve chastity, cleanliness and family honor and that it prepares a girl for marriage.

Girihunda Gegasa from the Watatonga tribe and regional secretary of the traditional elder's network says some communities among the watatonga see FGM a rite transformation into womanhood while others as a matter of hygiene.

"Girls were traditionally cut when they were around 10 years old and above, to 'prepare them for marriage', but are now being mutilated earlier so offenders can

escape justice, this has become a big challenge in our region," says Girihunda.

According to him, the network of traditional elders' leadership has been formed in Serengeti, Tarime, lulya,Butiama, Bunda and Musoma to intensify efforts to address the problem and discourage female genital cutting. "Most Serengeti traditional elders have been trained on how to fight against FGM in their communities of Watatonga, Waongoleme and Kurya, we have also gone as far as forming anti-FGM committees of women that collaborate with the elders in eradicating the practice," explains Girihunda.

UNFPA estimates there may be as many as 2 million cases of female genital mutilation by 2030 that would have otherwise been averted due to the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2021 alone, there are 4.16 million girls around the world, who are at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation.

Mary Mcharo, a social worker in Mara acknowledged the existence of FGM on infants among some districts of the region.

"However spreading awareness against FGM has been successfully in schools and societies," says Mcharo.

Gabriel Simioni, director of a Paralegal organization located in Serengeti district, says they are committed to ending FGM, thus are working with communities to ensure that this practice once known as rite of passage can be rejected.

"Most of the people here are still not aware of the health risks and impacts of FGM. Efforts at a grassroots level, alongside policy work, are key to changing the

attitudes in Mara Region," says Gabriel.

Cosmas Qamara, Serengeti District Administrative Secretary (DAS) says most tribes in the Region have deep-rooted traditional beliefs towards FGM.

"Practicing FGM to infants is very common among the Taturu tribe but for the Kurya, Ngoreme and Ikoma tribes are known to circumcising older girls," Cosmas explains.

However, Cosmas says the situation has now decreased as all health centres are working closely to ensure that every child who comes for clinic services is checked to find out if she has been cut.

Tanzania criminalized female genital mutilation in 1998. The country has also adopted a National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children and is committed to ending violence against women and children in all its forms, including female genital mutilation, by 2030.

The Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (SOSPA) 1998, specifically Article 21 that amended Section 169 of the Penal Code, criminalizes and punishes the performance and procurement of FGM on girls under the age of 18 years in Tanzania.

Communities around Malawi's Lake Chilwa hit by abnormally low rainfall

By Special Correspondent

THE Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned Monday that already, greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere are high enough to guarantee climate disruption for decades if not centuries. This is already taking its toll on Malawi's second largest lake, Lake Chilwa.

Thousands of people in Malawi depend on the country's second largest lake, Lake Chilwa, to make a living. Professor Sosten Chiotha, Regional Director of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), says that climate change has introduced "extremity in weather", resulting in less rainfall and abnormally low water levels in the lake.

"Water variations are normal however the connection with climate change is that the factors that drive the drying are actually periods of low rainfall. In our project, the Lake Chilwa Climate Change Adaptation project, we actually elaborated that if you have three consecutive rainy seasons, with rainfall below 1,000mm, then the lake is likely to dry."

According to Professor Sosten Chiotha, Records show the lake has dried completely several times in the last 100 years... according to published literature, it was a cycle of 20 to 25 years. From the 1990s, the frequency of the drying has increased and this is connected to the impacts of extreme weather events typical of climate change.

"Climate change has introduced extremity in weather. So, we are having more dry spells and that is why the lake seems to be drying more frequently than it



used to in the past. So, the current drying is not normal. The current fluctuations in water levels is not normal and that is because of the extremes in the rainfall."

One-and-a-half million people live in the areas on the Lake Chilwa basin, which is one of the most densely populated areas in southern Africa.

UN climate report comprehensive, but regional gaps persist

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that generated shock waves on Monday is the most detailed assessment of climate science ever undertaken, advancing our un-

derstanding of how – and how fast – greenhouse gas emissions are changing the planet.

But experts caution that the comprehensive global review contains blind spots – overlooking regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change but where data on those impacts is severely lacking.

In its 40-page Summary for Policymakers, the IPCC presents three maps of the world, with regions divided up into hexagons.

Each of the maps shows observed changes in extreme heat, rainfall and drought.

While there is a strong ob-

served increase in extreme hot weather nearly everywhere, when it comes to rainfall and drought, South America, Africa and the Pacific Island states in particular are nearly blank slates.

Of the seven sub-regions of South America, only one – the southeast – has reliable rainfall data, and just one other – the northeast – has sufficient data on drought.

"It's important to mention that we can only use and assess the available literature," Paola Arias, associate professor at Colombia's University of Antioquia and an IPCC author, told AFP.

"South America has a very important role in regional climate but also an important source of moisture to Central America," said Arias, who helped design the three maps.

"We need more observational data. We don't have enough of it to study extreme events on a daily or hourly scale."

-Lack of research -

The IPCC provided a two-page fact sheet on observed and projected climate trends in Africa, but the paucity of data is inescapable in the maps.

Of the nine African sub-regions,

the IPCC noted an observed increase in extreme rainfall for just two – western and eastern southern Africa.

For the other seven it said "limited data and/or literature" were available.

Only half of the sub-regions provided sufficient data to determine an increase in rates of drought. Mohamed Adow, director of the Nairobi-based climate and energy think tank Power Shift Africa, likened the lack of data to the old philosophical adage: If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?

"People in Africa are certainly aware of the overwhelming heat, rising seas and extreme weather on the continent, but if they are not being recorded by scientists it will be much harder for African voices to be heard in the climate debate to tackle it," he told AFP.

The IPCC report makes it crystal clear that "human activities" were responsible for the 1.1C of warming above preindustrial levels observed so far.

But Adow underscored a basic injustice: most climate-vulnerable nations are virtually blameless for the emissions that are driving ever more extreme weather.

"Africa is most affected and yet least responsible for climate change," he said.

"Sadly, it's also producing the least scientific research, and this lack of research is hurting the region's ability to adapt.

"We need to urgently address this and ensure researchers and funders come together and invest in filling these glaring gaps in climate research."

-Male-dominated-

Although more than half of the IPCC's report authors were first timers, their composition is still imbalanced, both geographically and in terms of gender.

Of the 116 authors credited with drafting or contributing to the report's summary, just 13 come from non-G20 nations, for example.

And the overall writing team is 72 percent male.

Maisa Rojas Corradi, coordinating lead author of the IPCC report's opening chapter and director of the Centre for Climate and Resilience Research in Chile, said efforts had been made to make this team more diverse.

"I know that this was a worry that was actively worked on when the author team was selected, they really tried to have more women and more regional representation," she told AFP.

Corradi said there were still too many obstacles stopping research conducted in regions where climate change is already hitting hard.

These include studies not written in English or not published in mainstream scientific journals, she said.

"If you live in a country where the scientific community is small or some aspects aren't being investigated comprehensively, then the IPCC can't really say anything."

And better representation within the IPCC author team is not just a case of equality: bringing in more data and regional perspectives will foster better scientific outcomes, Corradi said.

"It's critical to get a balanced report," she said. "You cannot monitor what you don't observe."

Why Tanzanian youth's participation in agriculture vital for food security, sustainable, resilient food systems

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

FINDINGS show that Tanzania has one of the world's youngest population with 45 percent being under the age of 15, 35 percent between the ages of 15-35, and with a median age for the population of 17.3 years in 2015.

The UN, for instance, identifies youth as individuals between 15-24 years. In Tanzania, youth are defined as individuals between the ages of 15-35, and the Affront sample includes youth headed households up to and including 35 years.

Presenting a paper on Food Security in Tanzania: Investing in Youth for Sustainable and Resilient food systems, during Policy Forum's Breakfast debate recently in Dar es Salaam, Werner Hillary from Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC), has called upon the youth to come in front and grab the available opportunities that can be found in agriculture and agricultural related issues, such as food processing.

She further noted that the youth who were the manpower and the engine of the economy were very vital on transforming the agricultural sector and eventually make sure the country has food security, sustainable, resilient food systems.

Hillary however, highlighted some of the challenges facing the food systems in Tanzania, such as climate change, poor food storage systems, and post harvesting losses, challenge of food transportation from farm to markets and the COVID-19 pandemic, all have negative impacts to the accessibility of food.

Other challenges hampering the agricultural sector include poor infrastructure, low use of irrigation, limited use of improved farm inputs and high pre- and post-harvest losses. Youth constitute a majority of the total labour force, yet they are faced with limited access to resources and inputs.

Agriculture is highly dependent on land, which is incredibly politicised,

which in turn makes agriculture or farming unattractive especially for youth without the political connections or financial capital.

Food system stability can be assured by Food availability, food access and food utilization. Food Security is underpinned by Food Systems and is affected by natural and human changes. 2 billion people in the world had no regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

She further said that if the youth are properly involved in the production of food systems would among others enable all people to be well nourished and healthy, promote and create demand for healthy and sustainable diets and reducing wastes.

Furthermore, she noted that if the youth are well organised can ensure there is climate action, ensure emissions are reduced and there is an increased carbon capture' regenerating and protecting critical ecosystems and reducing food loss and energy usage, without undermining health or nutritious diets. And eventually ensuring there is continued functionality of healthy and sustainable food systems.

For her part the discussant to that debate Special Seat Member of Parliament Neema Lugangira said that it was a high time to ensure the agricultural systems and policies are restructured so as to strengthen food security systems without undermining health and nutritious diets.

Another discussant Dickson Alex who represented the youth entrepreneurs, he said that after graduating from the Sokoine University of Agriculture he decided to make agriculture his occupation. He said "Agriculture, fisheries and livestock are opportunities if well utilised."

According to Alex large part of the people engaging in agriculture are old people men and women. So, he suggested that if the government wanted to attract many youths into agriculture who at the end would cause food security, they should have land ownership, be given fi-



Humphrey Polepole.

nances that would easily support them to run productive agriculture. "Banks are not ready to give as loans because they say we don't have collateral."

Alex further called upon the government and other key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to come up with special programmes that would nurture the youth from the grass root to grow and become good farmers.

In order to make agriculture become productive and a lovable occupation to the youth, the market trends need to be sustainable and capitalize on the domestic market.

Humphrey Pole Pole, who was also a discussant to the debate noted that

the government has shifted from collateral to some form of guarantee. He has therefore urged the youth to make use of the 10 per cent loans offered by the government through district councils across the country to overcome the challenges of access to funds.

"Get yourself organized and demand for the money from district councils, it is your money."

In order to overcome food insecurity there should be a balance between food supply side and food demand side.

"There is a lot of money in this country. The government has set aside around 60 billion shillings to

support local young entrepreneurs make use of it for your prosperity," he urged.

He further noted that there is a wide agricultural value chain. Challenges are there and will remain, but let's use them as opportunities. "If we want to benefit from agriculture, we need to be full time farmers. And we need to have long term plans. Take anything from the that value chain and concentrate on it."

"My call to the youth, look where you fit and then grab that opportunity, whether you are an engineer, an accountant, an IT among others."

Professor Adolf Mascarenha said there are very many opportunities for the youth, but need to be organized.

Other literatures have indicated that in 2050, it is projected that Tanzania's population will be one of the world's ten youngest populations. Furthermore, with an annual population growth rate slightly over three percent (in 2017), the population is expected to double in 23 years. While not neglecting the ongoing rapid urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) including Tanzania, still a majority of the Tanzanian population resides in rural areas.

Thus, to a large extent this is also where the population increase will take place. While it has been recognized that each new generation grows up being better educated than their parents, expansion of employment opportunities has not increased at the same pace.

Currently, there is a strong mismatch between the newly created jobs of 50,000-60, 000 yearly and the 900, 000 young Tanzanians who yearly enter the labour market.

The Global Youth Development Index (YDI) which considers, among other indicators, health and well-being, education, employment opportunities and political participation ranked Tanzania as number 168 out of 183 countries in 2016. Employment opportunities were especially low ranked.

A rapidly growing population puts high pressure on Tanzania's agricultural sector to meet its domestic demands and guarantee food security. Potentially, the agricultural sector could absorb and employ a large share of the young population and help them form their independent livelihoods, and potentially the youth could play a key role in addressing the challenges related to domestic food demands and food security. The youth then need to be included in the sector, and in the development of the sector.

In the National Youth Development Policy youth are highlighted as "the driving force behind social economic and political reforms in the sphere of rapid global changes."

Therefore, they play a central role in the national socio-economic development and need to be included in planning and building the future. The policy, furthermore, recognizes that youth in Tanzania are a vulnerable group due to an insufficient labour market and the surrounding negative perceptions of youth regarding farming and agriculture.

Meanwhile, the agricultural sector (including production and agro-industries) is identified as one potential area for employment creation, however the issue of land is problematic in Tanzania. Land is a key resource to achieve economic empowerment, however youth have limited access to land as well as capital to purchase land. Girls are especially vulnerable in this regard since customary practice excludes them from inheritance and land ownership. Equitable access to land needs to be promoted, and rural youth and gender should be emphasised in this regard.

The current national guiding framework on agriculture and youth consists of two policies: The National Agriculture Policy and the National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture (NSYA) 2016-2021. These two policies recognize the importance of agriculture for the national GDP, labour force and livelihoods.

By Omotoye Olorode

THE Socialist Congress of Nigeria (SCON) strongly condemns the widely-reported armed attack and disproportionate use of force by security operatives on the private residence of Mr Sunday Adeyemo (also known as Sunday Igboho) at Ibadan, Oyo State, in the middle of the night of Thursday July 1, 2021.

In this growing frequency and intensity of the deployment of heavy armed force during civil disturbances, we recall the heavy military barrage against, and the resultant carnage on, the compound of Mr El-Zak Zaky a few years ago in the city of Zaria; the massive and unprovoked military attacks and killing of unarmed peaceful protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos on October 20, 2020; and the current entrenchment of routine attacks on peaceful protests including the recent police murder of a student protesting against increases in school fees in Kaduna State. This sustained state terror across Nigeria, of course, has its antecedents in the brutal economic and social policies imposed with impunity especially since the late 1970s!

On the specific case of the attack on Igboho's residence, it is unacceptable in a law-governed society that a full "shoot-out" military operation was carried out on a citizen's residence, reportedly, without a search warrant or any invitation by police to such a citizen to report at a designated police establishment; even when law-enforcement agencies claim to be in possession of "intelligence reports"! These questions arise because of the numerous instances of what amounted, in the past, to summary executions and disappearances of "suspects" by police!

We must add that the intractable fundamentalist militancy in the North East of today and the current militarization and state-sponsored violence in the South East are traceable to the impunity of state power and state actors ahead of the current separatist, secessionist, ethnicized and religionized phase of violent conflicts in Nigeria! Over time, a police state developed in our country because the ruling coalitions had failed consistently in the last two decades at least to deliver on the simple responsibility of securing the lives and property of citizens!

We must declare that we in SCON

War against the masses and separatism



believe that any peaceful separatist or even secessionist program is, or may be, legitimate; but we know that there are hardly any antecedents or examples of such peaceful secession! Even the possibility or actual peaceful breakup of Nigeria as it is today, with the generalized socially irresponsible and looting mentality of the ruling class, will simply sustain the interests of the ethnic faction of the Nigerian ruling class against that of the oppressed and marginalised

masses of people in the putative "new" country! These are the lessons of the history of separatisms; not figments of our imagination.

Assuming that a breakup of Nigeria can be achieved peacefully, immediate and practical problems of creating and maintaining new borders, massive refugee problems (housing, food, water, health care, jobs, agricultural land, etc.) and attendant security crisis in the "new countries" and their borders will fester

for decades to come. T

he poor and marginalized masses, not the various ethnic wings of the Nigerian ruling class, will necessarily bear the burdens of these consequences.

We must also state emphatically that a break up Nigeria, peaceful or not, will lead to loss of the inherent advantages of the beauty and diversity of the geographical, resource, and cultural diversity which have enabled, and continues to enable, the masses of ordinary people to build, exchange, and sustain authentic solidarity and fraternity, livelihoods, and opportunities!

Clearly these advantages are realizable only if the struggles of the masses produce a Nigeria that is owned truly by the masses.

For the reason of all of the foregoing, we condemn, in very strong words, the continued irresponsible deployment of the police and the army and other multiplying wings of Nigeria's neo-colonial, largely punitive occupation "law-enforcement formations" against our people across Nigeria.

At the same time, the ruling class cannot secure the life and property of our people; not just in the increasing ethnic and religious conflicts, but also in ruling class-instigated inter-community, intra-community, and religious clashes!

Imposing "disaster" economic and social policies, divide-and-rule, and repressing popular resistance: how constantly-regrouping elites from all over Nigeria stay in power to accumulate wealth.

It is looking more and more obvious that the instigation of ethnic and religious conflicts in Nigeria is a ruling-class program of manufacturing "disasters" to divert the attention of the masses from the violent economic and social policies imposed on them especially in the last 20 years or so—policies that generate and multiply poverty, inequality, hopelessness, and manifested in unemployment, unpaid salaries and pensions, cuts in workers' salaries, increases in fuel and electricity prices, abandonment of infrastructure and public-funded education, security and health care.

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



Thursday 19 August 2021

Equity Bank Tanzania chief basks in Best Regional Bank award

By The Banker Reporter

THE Africa Banker Awards' recognition of Equity Bank Group as 'Best Regional Bank in East Africa in 2021 is a reflection of the good services and professionalism that the Nairobi based lender and its Dar es Salaam based subsidiary offer to the market.

Equity Bank Tanzania Limited's CEO, Robert Kiboti said in Dar es Salaam this week that the award will only motivate them to work harder and conquer the local market. "Our bank is determined to continue increasing touch points and serve a broader part of Africa through investment in digital products," Kiboti said.

He said Equity Tanzania and its holding company have continued to demonstrate a strong and consistent financial performance during the 2020 financial year. "The Group continues to pioneer technological innovations that have led to more convenient banking and transaction cost reduction for customers," he noted.

The African Banker Awards had earlier nominated Equity in two additional award categories including the nomination of Group Managing Director and CEO, Dr James Mwangi as the African Banker of the Year for his stewardship in democratising access to finance, for adopting a twin-engine business model that both socially and economically drives Equity's championing of shared prosperity and for its adoption of a high-volume, low-margin business model.

Commenting on the award, Equity Group MD and CEO, Dr Mwangi said the award is a big honour as it recognises the regional bank's contribution to growth. "This is a testament to the success of our digital strategy and regional presence as we continue to drive financial integration, inclusive banking and to play a catalytic role in championing the socio-economic prosperity of the people of Africa," Dr Mwangi said.

He pointed out that the bank has continued to support customers, staff, and host communities during the coronavirus outbreak by, among other measures taken, waiving mobile transaction charges, loan rescheduling fees, accommodated and restructured customers' loans beyond regulatory timelines and supported frontline health workers and hospitals.

"In addition, our operations in the six East and Central African countries that we have presence in have been standardized to reflect the one Equity brand, providing inclusive financial services and cementing our positioning as a local bank with a strong regional presence," he added.

Omar Ben Yedder, Group Publisher of African Banker also showered praises on Equity Group's performance saying, despite the numerous quality entries this year, the Nairobi based lender triumphed.

"I was really impressed by the entries this year. It showed that the banking sector is healthy and resilient, which will be critical if it is to support the economic recovery post-COVID-19. What will be fundamental to our recovery is the sup-



Equity Bank Tanzania Limited's CEO, Robert Kiboti.

port of the real economy, especially SMEs, and also a focus on more equity investments and investments in general," Yedder said.

"For that, as our African Banker Icon suggested, we will also need to increase our savings rate across the continent. However, I should add that the institutions that were recognised in our ceremony all had strong gender programmes, both in terms of supporting women-led businesses but also strong programmes to promote women and have women leaders within their organisations," he noted.

The Bank was cited for its contribution in providing financial services and its active role in driving economic growth in the larger East African region. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Equity demonstrated strong and consistent financial performances in all of its subsidiary countries with improvements in revenue, profits, capital, assets and market share.

Notably, in the full year 2020 results, the group weathered the COVID-19 disruption to register a 51 per cent growth in its balance sheet with total assets growing to US\$9.48 billion up from US\$6.73 in 2019.

Exports valued decline in June on Covid-19 onslaught

By Geoffrey Tusiime - TUDARCO

THE value of exports of goods and services in June this year slightly declined to US\$8,850.3 million compared to US\$9,347.4 million recorded during the same period last year, Bank of Tanzania's latest Monthly Economic Review said.

The report attributed the decline to falling travel receipts as people stay home due to the coronavirus outbreak. The report said imports of goods and services during the period declined to US\$9,869.7 million from US\$10,043.7 million with significant decrease reflected in travel payments, building and construction materials as well as transport equipment.

Exports of goods increased by 10 percent to US\$6,457.9 million, owing to good performance of non-traditional exports while the value of non-traditional exports rose to US\$5,567.8 million from US\$4,574.9 million, with a significant increase registered in exports of gold, manufactured goods, horticultural products and other exports.

Gold exports, which accounted for 54.4 percent of total non-traditional exports, increased by US\$437.5 million to US\$3,028.8 million, the highest level of earnings ever reached. "This was due to an increase in gold prices in the world market and ongoing government initiatives to revamp the



Bank of Tanzania governor, Professor Florens Luoga.

mining sector," the BoT report stated.

The central bank further noted that the value of manufactured goods increased by 36.2 percent to US\$1,090 million, while horticultural products increased to US\$324.6 million compared to US\$194.6 million recorded in same period last year. During the period, other exports surged by 73 percent to US\$665.5 million, arising from significant increase in exports of rice and beans to neighbouring countries.

"On a month-to-month basis, export value of non-traditional goods increased to US\$525.7 million from US\$406.8 million in June 2020, owing to an increase in other exports particularly rice and oil seeds," the report added. In contrast, the value of traditional exports declined to US\$578.4 million during the period compared to US\$995.9 million recorded during the same period 2020.

The decline was observed in all traditional export crops save for coffee and sisal. On a monthly basis, traditional exports remained broadly the same around US\$14.1 million. Payment for services, on the other hand, amounted to US\$1,282.7 million in June 2021, compared to US\$1,608.3 million registered during the same period last year thanks to lower travel payments.

"On month-to-month basis, payment for services increased to US\$124.5 million in June 2021 from US\$87.5 million recorded during the corresponding period last year reflected by an increase in freight payments, consistent with the rise in monthly import bill," the report stated.

Global sukuk issuances rose 20pc to record-breaking \$175bn in 2020, IIFM says

RIYADH

ISSUANCES of Islamic bonds globally hit a record high in 2020, rising 20 per cent annually to \$175 billion, driven by demand in Asia and the Middle East as the market remains attractive to issuers and investors, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the International Islamic Financial Market (IIFM).

The longer tenor sukuk issuances by sovereigns and financial institutions, along with an increase in short-term sukuk issuances, drove last year's record growth, the IIFM said. More than 90 per cent of the \$648bn sukuk outstanding globally were issued by Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, the UAE and Bahrain, while the market share of Pakistan, Oman, Nigeria, Egypt and regions such as Africa is increasing, the organisation said. About \$98.4bn in sukuk, with an issue size of \$100 million or above and with tenor of more than a year, is set to mature in 2021 and 2022.

"Although the effects of the unprecedented situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic continued during the year, the impact of pandemic was confined and limited to a few corporate issuers and overall sukuk remained an attractive instrument and the positive growth trajectory continued during first half of 2021," Khalid Al Hamad, chairman of the IIFM, said in the 219-page report.

Global sukuk issuance is set to increase 11 per cent to as much as \$155bn in 2021, driven by low interest rates and abundant liquidity, S&P Global Ratings said in a separate July report.

A continued economic recovery, accelerated vaccination campaigns and oil prices of about \$65 a barrel this year will also support growth in sukuk issuance, the ratings agency said.

A global economic recovery, fiscal and monetary easing, as well as liquidity injected by major governments and central banks globally are expected to drive the post-pandemic growth of Islamic finance assets, Alpen Capital and Alpen Asset Advisers said in June.

Central Bank of Nigeria freezes accounts of six fintech startups over illegal FX trading

ABUJA

A federal high court based in Abuja has granted the request of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to freeze accounts of six fintech companies for 180 days.

The six fintech startups affected are Rise Vest Technologies Limited, Bamboo Systems Technology Limited, Bamboo Systems Technology Limited OPNS, Chaka Technologies Limited, CTL/Business Expenses, and Trove Technologies Limited.

According to a report by TheCable newspaper, CBN said it was investigating 'illegal foreign exchange transactions' carried out by the startups. It sought the court injunction to freeze their bank accounts for 180 days pending the completion of investigations.

In the ex parte motion filed on August 4, by the apex bank through its counsel Michael Kaase Aondoakaa, it stated that "the investigation being carried out concerns what has

been discovered to be serious infractions by the defendants/respondents in connection with some foreign exchange transactions, and non-documentation by the defendants/respondents in violation of the extant laws and regulations, particularly the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act and the Central Bank of Nigeria foreign exchange manual."

"That more specifically, there is a grave allegation that the defendants/respondents are engaged in illegal foreign exchange transactions, accessing/procuring of foreign exchange via their banks from the Nigerian foreign exchange market via several bureaux de change, international money transfer operators and have transferred cash deposit of more than \$10,000.00 (Ten thousand dollars) to various accounts overseas contrary to provisions of extant laws and regulations and also traded in foreign securities and cryptocurrencies in contravention to CBN Circular

referenced TED/FEM/FPC/GEN/01/012 and BSD/DIR/PUB/LAB/014/001 dated February 5, 2021, and July 01, 2015."

"It is evident that Rise Vest Technologies Limited, Bamboo Systems Technology Limited, Chaka Technologies Limited and Trove Technologies Limited are complicit in operating without license as asset management companies and utilising FX sourced from the Nigerian FX market for purchasing foreign bonds/shares in contravention of CBN's directive."

In his ruling, Ahmed Mohammed said: "having listened to senior counsel to the applicant, on the motion ex parte filed in August, it is granted as prayed." He added that any person who feels aggrieved about the freezing order is entitled to approach the court within the period to seek redress. He then adjourned the matter to February 20, 2022, for hearing.

In April this year, the Security and Ex-



Godwin Emezie, CBN governor

change Commission (SEC) in Nigeria warned that online investment and trading platforms in Nigeria should stop selling securities of foreign companies listed on Securities Exchanges outside Nigeria.

In response some of the affected companies including the six that have had their bank accounts frozen, responded by assuring their customers that they are working with SEC to ensure that they are in compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Parliamentary Committee chair hails banana investor targeting global market

By The Banker Reporter

AMOSHI based agri-business investor, James Powell of Macjaro Company Limited has been praised by Parliamentary Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee Chairperson, Dr Christine Ishengoma for producing quality bananas targeted at the global market.

Dr Ishengoma who led her committee's members on a field visit to Macjaro's Hai based farm earlier this week, commended Powell for the investment which underlines the importance of banana farmers securing reliable markets.

"We are so overwhelmed by the horticulture industry's achievements and promise to be good ambassadors that will spread the word in our constituencies as part of a campaign to lure farmers embrace banana cultivation," Dr Ishengoma said.

She said with reliable markets, banana smallholder farmers can increase yields and earn more income while also earning the country foreign currency. "This modern farm for bananas and macadamia crops growing under one roof, is what modern Tanzanian farmers need," she added.

Briefing the lawmakers, Powell said his plan is not only export to the Middle East market but also globally. "My immediate ambition is to make inroads into the Middle East market, but before that, I need to ensure I and out-growers, can produce sufficient volume and high quality of banana crop for export," he told the legislators.

According to a Statista research expert covering Angola, Kenya and Tanzania, Julia Faria, the production of banana in Tanzania hit 3,407 thousand metric tons in the season 2018/19 season which was minimal growth in comparison to the preceding season when 3,396 thousand metric tons of the fruit were produced. Banana is part of the staple diet in the country.

In Tanzania, most of the bananas (over 70 percent) are grown in the Kagera, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya regions. Other regions producing significant amounts of bananas are Morogoro, Kigoma, Mara, Arusha, Manyara, Ruvuma, Tanga, and Coast.

The global export value of the banana



Minister of Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenda (3rd R) and Parliamentary Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee chairperson, Dr Christine Ishengoma (4th R) in a souvenir photo lawmakers who were on a file visit of banana farms in Hai district of Kilimanjaro region earlier this week. Left is Taha Group CEO, Jacqueline Mkindi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

trade was estimated to be US\$8.9 billion before the outbreak of the coronavirus last year with a retail value standing between \$20 and \$25 billion annually.

Millions of smallholder farmers in the country rely on bananas as a staple food and as a major source of income. Tanzania and Uganda produce over half of all the bananas grown in Africa, with the region's annual banana crop export valued at US\$4.3 billion.

Minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenda told the visiting lawmakers that plans are underway, to unleash the full potential of the fruit for food security and commercial purposes.

Prof Mkenda said the government in collaboration with Tanzania Horticulture Association will soon rollout a major drive to spur mass

production of bananas. "We have agreed with Taha to convene a major roundtable discussion that will bring together all banana crop stakeholders including crop scientists, researchers, marketing experts and export companies to deliberate on how to unlock the full potential of the commodity to meet domestic consumption and get a lion's share of Africa's export market," he said.

Echoing the minister's argument, Taha Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi said the planned conference will ponder on opportunities and challenges facing the banana industry and chart out sustainable strategies to unleash its full potential.

The Taha Group chief executive assured the lawmakers that her

organization will mobilise its expertise and vast experience in nurturing a horticulture industry in the country to spur growth of banana cultivation.

"The meeting will come up with a blueprint that will spearhead a large scale production of bananas in the country to cater for food security and commercial purposes," Dr Mkindi who has led Taha for the past 16 years during which has amassed over 4.5 million both large-scale and smallholder farmers into commercial fruit and vegetable production, noted.

With an annual growth rate of between 7-8 percent and an export value of US\$779 million annually, the horticultural industry has turned into the growth driver of entire agriculture sector in the country.

Most miners are falling short of carbon cuts needed for UN goal

NEW YORK

THE mining industry is falling short on cutting greenhouse-gas emissions enough to limit global warming, even after stepping up efforts to help combat climate change.

Only 11 out of 46 metal and mining companies analysed by Bloomberg Intelligence have carbon-reduction targets that match levels needed for the United Nations' goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence report. The group includes global giants such as Anglo American Plc and Newmont Corp., the world's largest gold producer.

Australia's Fortescue Metals Group Ltd and Sweden's Boliden AB are the leaders of the group, indicating better preparedness for a low-carbon transition and suggesting the best combination of current and forecasted performance on curbing emissions, according to Bloomberg Intelligence's carbon score ranking.

The BI ranking measures the companies on reduction trends, current and future carbon-dioxide intensity, planned cuts and positioning to the end of the decade compared to a temperature-aligned benchmark, using data through April 1. Of the companies analysed, only Fortescue has set a carbon-neutral target for 2030. Fourteen companies aim to zero out emissions with the target date ranging from 2030 to 2050 as part of a long-term transition.

The mining industry faces increasing scrutiny from investors



Workers at AngloGold Ashanti's Geita Gold Mine.

and regulators demanding greater emphasis on environmental, social and governance issues. Big miners have been working to improve sustainability reports showing awareness of how hard their business can be hit if they ignore those calls, and a number of producers have set goals to reduce emissions or adopted more ambitious targets in the past couple years.

Aluminum producers face the highest risks due to carbon-intensive operations, according to the BI report. Those companies need to reduce emissions 49% by 2030, compared to the 20% cut-back needed by other diversified and precious metals miners.

"Having carbon-reduction goals is important to aluminum companies because they're more carbon-intensive than most other metals," Shaheen Contractor, a Bloomberg Intelligence analyst, said. "That might be why for other miners like precious metal companies, few have set carbon emission goals as of April 1."

European aluminum companies could see costs of as much as 1.5% of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to 2024, according to the report. A proposal to cut emissions in the European Union 55% by the end of the decade "may mean more headwinds."



TymeBank CEO, Tauriq Keraan.

Patrice Motsepe's TymeBank enters Philippines market

JOHANNESBURG

DIGITAL bank TymeBank is taking its business global, exporting its business concept and experience to its newly-established sister company GOTyme in the Philippines.

The bank announced yesterday that GOTyme, which recently received its digital banking licence from the Philippines Central Bank, will benefit from TymeBank's high-tech banking model and technology, to bring banking simplicity and financial empowerment to Filipino consumers.

TymeBank started exploring international opportunities in February after securing R1.6 billion in funding from investors in the UK and Philippines. The investors included Apis Growth Fund II, a private equity fund managed by London-based Apis Partners, and JG Summit Holdings, one of the largest investment conglomerates in the Philippines, owned by the Gokongwei family.

The financial injection was to be used to expand TymeBank's range of banking products, grow its lending portfolio locally, and also fund the bank's offshore expansion opportunities. Now, the bank says it is partnering with the Gokongwei family, to launch the new digital bank in the Philippines.

"We are proud of TymeBank's South African roots, and we look forward to sharing our knowledge with our international partners at GOTyme in the Philippines and replicating TymeBank's success on the global stage," comments Dr Patrice Motsepe, chairman of African Rain-

bow Capital, the majority owner of TymeBank.

"The approval to apply for an international banking licence represents an important milestone in our plans to expand and grow over time into select emerging markets." TymeBank in SA reached 3.5 million customers at the end of July.

Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO of JG Summit Holdings, wants to replicate the same success in the Philippines. "Together with our South African partners, GOTyme will bring about opportunities for improved financial inclusion for Filipinos. We see our model of digital banking, with onboarding and education in retail networks and a well-designed app for transacting, as the best way to provide greater financial empowerment to our customers," he says.

Commenting on the development, TymeBank CEO Tauriq Keraan says: "TymeBank's rapid growth and high customer satisfaction scores have made us the benchmark as our international sister company Tyme begins to expand its footprint into other emerging markets to the benefit of consumers who require simple, digital banking.

"TymeBank is a proudly South African success story, and we look forward to sharing our experience and the expertise we have acquired over the last two-and-a-half years with our partners at GOTyme for the benefit of Filipino consumers." TymeBank has seen a rapid rise in customers since its official launch in 2019 and has strengthened its position locally, to better contend with digital-only competitors Discovery Bank and Bank Zero.

Iron ore's plunge deepens as BHP flags 'stern test' from China

SINGAPORE

IRON ore extended its rout as BHP Group warned it sees an increasing likelihood of "stern cuts" to China's steel output this year.

The prospect of much lower steel production in the second-half is "testing the bullish resolve of the futures markets", BHP wrote in a commodities outlook report on its website. Iron ore in Singapore has plunged by a third since spiking to an all-time high in May.

China's steel industry is under pressure after pledging to reduce output this year, a goal that requires huge second-half curbs to offset booming output earlier in 2021. Production in July was more than 8% lower year-on-year, data on Monday showed.

Futures in Singapore fell 2.4% to \$154.45 a ton by 12:37 p.m. local time, and are heading for a fifth weekly loss. In China, futures dropped 1.2% to head for their lowest close since November.

While investor attention is very focused on China's output curbs in the second half, the nation's demand trends will also be critical. Beijing is pushing a range of measures to control the property sector, which accounts for big chunk of steel usage and has traditionally helped drive surges in iron ore prices.

"Policymakers are clearly concerned about over-investment and concentrated credit risk in the property sector," Commonwealth Bank of Australia wrote in an emailed note. And even if China swings to more pro-growth policies to battle recent weakness, "there's a good chance that the property sector is left out." Shanghai steel futures also dropped, with hot-rolled coil down 2.7% and rebar down 3.4% by the close of morning trading.

Employee, independent contractor relationship and associated tax implications

By **Suzana Kilele**

MOST companies that are looking to lower their operational costs opt to enter into consultancy agreements rather than hiring full-time workers. Consultancy agreements offer more flexibility since businesses are capable of controlling their costs in terms of entering and terminating contracts. Additionally, it reduces the company's regulatory burden as an employer.

Prior to contracting for work, it is important that the parties understand, among other things, their tax responsibilities and likely outcomes of failing to adhere to the applicable tax laws. Businesses should determine whether the contract entered is a contract of service or a contract for service.

That is, has the person been engaged to carry out services as a person in business on their own account, or as an employee. What exactly is the intention of the working relationship between the business and the individual?

Employees and independent

contractors are taxed differently in Tanzania. Employers withhold and pay taxes up to 30 percent on employment income and are required to make other employer statutory contributions such as Skills and Development Levy (four percent), and contributions to both the Workers Compensation Fund (less than a percent) and National Social Security Fund (10 percent).

On the other hand, companies are required to withhold tax at the rate of five percent on payment of a service fee to resident independent contractors. Where a misclassification of a contractor by a company occurs and the contractor is later deemed to be an employee, the company is likely to face additional employment taxes, interest and penalties for failing to withhold correct taxes to Tanzania Revenue Authority.

It is therefore pertinent that businesses understand the difference between an employee and independent contractor. This difference is determined by various factors usually centred on the nature of the work-



ing relationship and independence of work performed by the worker. Below are some of the factors to be considered, to establish whether an individual is an independent contractor or an employee:

A clear indication of the nature of the working relationship should be described on the contract entered between the parties. The contract should clearly identify the permanency nature of the working relationship. Is there an expectation that the relationship will continue indefinitely rather than for a specific task or period at a determinable fee? Then there could be intent that the contract was to create an employer-employee relationship.

Are independent contractors provided with benefits usually bestowed to employees like annual leave, sick leave days, medical cover, regular allowances or benefits, and standard hours of work? This could blur the lines on the difference between a contractor and an employee.

To what extent does the principal exert control over the contractor? While both employees and independent contractors perform services under the directive of the principal, only with employees can an employer dictate how the service can be performed.

Does the principal provide the contractor with essential equipment that is fundamental to the job to be done? Independent con-

tractors generally work under their own terms using their own materials.

To what extent is the work tied to personal service of the particular person? Is the contractor free to hire someone else to perform the task? Independent contractors are free to engage themselves with other work that can be performed concurrently and regulate their own work plan in terms of work hours and subcontracting or engaging others to assist with the contracted work. Does the contract limit the contractor to perform their work in any capacity?

Being an independent contractor, is that person free to perform work for other customers? ; And lastly, how is the consideration for that service paid? Is it upon invoicing or via monthly wages?

It is important to note that a contract simply stating that the worker is an employee, or a consultant is not sufficient to determine the status as such. Businesses need to reassess their consultancy contracts to understand how to effectively manage any tax implications that may arise as a result of any misclassification.

Suzana Kilele (pictured), is a senior associate at KPMG in Tanzania. Views expressed here are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG. (skilele@kpmg.co.tz)

Bolt facilitating urban transportation while benefiting Tanzanian drivers

By **The Banker Reporter**

WHEN 32-year-old Fabian Shao decided to quit his frustrating job, take a car loan and employ himself as a driver on the Bolt application platform, it wasn't all easy sailing. "I spent sleepless nights tossing, turning and trying to make a decision."

"Even my wife cautioned me against the move because she wasn't sure I'd succeed. But two years later, and here I am today!" He exclaimed with a broad smile. With the web transformation sweeping the globe, more and more entrepreneurial spirits like Shao are exploiting digital tools like the Bolt application to earn extra cash.

Tanzania has witnessed how digital ride-hailing services are transforming the transportation industry. More and more people are opting to hail a car, motorbike or a rickshaw especially in big cities, including; Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza, using Bolt ride-hailing application. This mode of transportation provides a reliable and affordable alternative to owning and maintaining private cars.

Currently, Bolt which is a popular ride-hailing platform in the country, provides everyone with an opportunity to be a driver and earn cash, which means if you have a suitable car to offer a ride-hailing service and relevant documents, you can immediately become a driver and start earning some real money on Bolt.

This exciting reality has dawned on an

increasing number of drivers signing up on the platform, thus increasing the number of vehicles available to riders especially in big cities where public transport is chaotic. As a result, it's now easier and faster for customers to get a ride within minutes on Bolt platform.

This opportunity has positively impacted drivers' lives in the country as it gives them a tool to create a sustainable living, take care of their families and fulfil their duties. "Since signing up on Bolt, I have even been able to start a chicken keeping business that has increased my revenue streams," Shao explained.

He is just one of the many drivers who are grateful to Bolt for bringing more value into their lives. "I set clear goals, was committed, and now I can say that I've succeeded. I've repaid my car loan, opened a poultry business for my wife and ensured that my family's needs are well taken care of," Shao added.

"Bolt makes use of innovative modern technology to assign drivers to customers adding to the transformative nature of the digital economy where drivers can make a living through their mobile phones," said Bolt Tanzania Country Manager, Remmy Eseka.

Eseka said improving the transportation industry by making it possible for people to secure a ride from their smartphone at any location in the cities where Bolt operates, has been a game changer in urban transportation.

"Bolt is committed to making transport fares more affordable to our riders. Therefore our pricing model is more affordable than most of those in market, both for drivers and riders. We are excited and optimistic to be at the centre of the digital transformation enhancing productivity and creating opportunities for economic growth," he added while explaining that people like Shao also end up becoming employers after some years due to growth associated with Bolt platform.

Talking about the keys to his success, Shao noted, "For me, the important thing is the driver induction training that Bolt provides once you join the platform through a smartphone. It enabled me to plan my time and focus on important tips to improve and grow my business."

It's been five years since Bolt launched its operations in Africa and has thus far grown its presence in over 70 African cities in at least seven countries including Tanzania where it has been operating for the past three years.

BANKING & FINANCE



Bolt Tanzania country manager, Remmy Eseka speaks at a past event.

Americans turn against China stocks as crackdown angst deepens

LONDON

INFLUENTIAL investors like George Soros have trimmed their China exposure, and Cathie Wood's ARKK ETF no longer holds any such shares. Many others got hit with losses, according to their 13F filings.

Betting against the country's stocks was one of the most crowded trades among managers surveyed by Bank of America Corp. In London, Marshall Wace – one of the world's largest hedge funds – says Chinese ADRs are now uninvestable.

This is a huge turnaround from earlier in 2021, when global investors pumped more money into the country's domestic equities than any time in history and the MSCI China Index rallied to a 27-year high. Now global fund managers are grappling with trillion-dollar losses as China's government targets industries that threaten its goal for "common prosperity." Selling continued this week even as the MSCI China Index trades at the lowest level since 2005 versus the S&P 500.

Regulatory pressure in both China and the US is intensifying. Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Gary Gensler on Monday warned about the

risks of investing in Chinese companies and asked SEC staff to take "a pause for now" in approving IPOs of shell companies that Chinese firms use to list. The Nasdaq Golden Dragon China Index – which tracks 98 of China's biggest firms listed in the US – fell for a sixth straight day on Tuesday after Beijing issued a new set of rules aimed at preventing unfair online competition.

Paul Marshall, co-founder of \$59 billion investment firm Marshall Wace, said China's crackdown on its technology and education sectors has repelled investors, even if authorities have sought to limit the damage. It's now more likely that the country's listings will be largely confined to the mainland, the billionaire predicted in a letter to clients last week.

The MSCI China Index has dropped almost 30% since its peak in February, dragged down by declines in the education sector that top 90% for firms like Tal Education Group and Gaotu Techedu Tencent Holdings – China's biggest listed company – is near a one-year low. By contrast, the S&P 500 is up 13% in the period, while the MSCI All-Country World Index has gained 6.9%. And while Wall Street strategists keep downgrading their China recommendations, analysts

A Losing Trade Chinese stocks at lowest since 2005 relative to U.S.



Graph of performance of Chinese stocks since 2005.

haven't been this upbeat on S&P 500 companies in two decades.

Betting against Chinese shares is increasingly popular. According to Bank of America's latest survey of fund managers, about 11% of investors surveyed viewed "Short China Stock"

as the most-crowded trade, trailing only "Long US Tech Stocks" and "Long ESG." It got more votes than "Long US Treasuries." About 16% of those surveyed said "China policy" is the biggest risk now, up from almost zero in July. It ranked just behind

inflation, a taper tantrum, Covid-19 and an asset bubble.

The rout in Chinese shares means the nation's companies are disappearing from the rankings of the world's biggest by market capitalisation. Tencent is the only

Chinese firm still among the 10 largest publicly-listed companies, at no. 10, and is close to being overtaken by Visa Inc.

Some investors are seeing value. Aberdeen Standard Investments bought the dip in Tencent and kept most of its other big-tech holdings in China largely unchanged during the recent selloff, according to Hugh Young, the chairman of its Asian unit.

"I don't think anything strategic has changed" in China and regulations will benefit the responsible players, said Young. Staying the course is proving a tough test as losses mount. While a gauge of mostly Chinese tech shares in Hong Kong rose 0.9% on Wednesday morning, that came after a five-day, 9% decline. The index is down 25% this year.

WORLD

Pope Francis urges everyone to get COVID-19 vaccines for the good of all

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis issued an appeal yesterday urging people to get inoculated against COVID-19, saying the vaccines could bring an end to the pandemic, but needed to be taken by everyone.

"Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19," the pope said in a video message made on behalf of the nonprofit U.S. group the Ad Council and the public health coalition COVID Collaborative.

"They grant us the hope of ending the pandemic, but only if they are available to all and if we work together."

Vaccines are widely available in mainly

wealthier nations, but mistrust and hesitancy over the newly developed shots have meant that many people are refusing to take them, leaving them especially vulnerable as the Delta variant spreads.

By contrast, poorer nations still do not have access to large-scale vaccine supplies.

Medical experts have warned that ever-more dangerous variants might develop if the virus is allowed to circulate in large pools of non-vaccinated people.

Pope Francis was himself vaccinated in March, saying at the time that it was an ethical obligation.

"Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for



Pope Francis speaks during the weekly general audience at the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican, yesterday. REUTERS

each other, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love," the pope said in his latest video message.

The Ad Council and COVID Collaborative launched vaccine public service announcements to the U.S. public in January across television, websites and social media.

In a statement, the Ad Council said the pope's message represented its first campaign designed for a global audience.

Agencies

US claims on virus origin tracing groundless - diplomat

KUALA LUMPUR

THE so-called "lab leak" conspiracy theory being hyped up by the United States against China is "totally groundless" and merely an attempt to cover up their incompetence in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, reported The Star newspaper of Malaysia.

In an article published on Tuesday, Lu Shiwei, Chinese consul general in Penang, Malaysia, pointed out that the United States is continuously and wantonly attacking China, politicizing the pandemic and stigmatizing the virus in a bid to shift responsibility for their botched pandemic response



A syringe is filled with a first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a mobile vaccination clinic at the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA in Los Angeles, California.

and achieve the political motive of discrediting and suppressing China.

The dirty tricks played by the United States trying to sabotage China's image are not

only undermining global cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, seriously disrupting global economic recovery, but also failing to help improve its domestic COVID-19 situation or save lives, said the article.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has upheld the principles of openness, transparency, science and cooperation in tracing the origins of the virus, it said, adding that China maintained close communication with the WHO and many countries and provided great support to the work on origins tracing.

The United States has remained silent on the serious concerns raised by the inter-

national community about the Fort Detrick bio-lab and the more than 200 biological laboratories overseas, it observed.

"The United States should prove itself responsible and start revealing the truth to the world instead of muddying the water," the article said.

As a responsible country, China is willing to work with the international community to jointly safeguard the scientific nature of the origins study, jointly resist the retrogressive trend of politicizing the issue and maintain a sound atmosphere for global anti-pandemic cooperation, it said.

Xinhua

Biden scrambles to limit damage to credibility from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON

WHEN US President Joe Biden appeared in the White House East Room on July 8 to stress that the US pullout from Afghanistan was proceeding apace, he declared that a Taliban takeover of the country was not inevitable.

Five weeks later, the Taliban are in charge, scenes of chaos at the Kabul airport from the evacuation of Americans and US-aligned Afghan citizens has transfixed the world, and Biden is scrambling to defend himself from a series of miscalculations that have damaged US credibility.

While insisting that "the buck stops with me," Biden has doled out blame to others over America's humiliating end to the 20-year involvement in Afghanistan that included missteps by four administrations - two Republican and two Democratic.

He has assailed the Afghan military for refusing to fight, denounced the now-ousted Afghan government and declared he inherited a bad withdrawal agreement from his Republican predecessor Donald Trump.

"I made a commitment to the American people when I ran for President that I would bring America's military involvement in Afghanistan to an end. And while it's been hard and messy - and yes, far from perfect - I've honored that commitment," Biden said in a speech on Monday.

Biden came to office promoting himself as an international statesman with a steady hand on the tiller after Trump's four storm-tossed years in office.

He quickly rejoined international agreements abandoned by Trump and sought to rejuvenate traditional alliances that Trump had spurned.

But his first big international challenge is generating an intense political backlash as Democrats and Republicans alike raise questions about his strategy.

A prediction by US intelligence that the Taliban could be held off for three months following US withdrawal proved to be wrong. US military commanders who sought a more deliberate approach to the withdrawal were dismissed.



Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan took the White House podium on Tuesday to offer a broad defense of Biden's actions. He said that signaling support for the Afghan government "was a considered judgment" that did not save it, however.

"When you conclude 20 years of military action in a civil war in another country, with the impacts of 20 years of decisions that have piled up, you have to make a lot of hard calls. None with clean outcomes," Sullivan said.

Calls for investigations

Members of the US Congress, increasingly frustrated with events in Afghanistan, want to investigate what went wrong.

Senator Mark Warner, the Democratic Intelligence Committee chairman, had said on Monday he intended to work with other committees "to ask tough but necessary questions" about why the United States was not better prepared for the collapse of the Afghan government.

Republicans continued their harsh criticism of Biden's poli-

cies.

"The security and humanitarian crisis now unfolding in Afghanistan could have been avoided if you had done any planning," Republicans on the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee said in a letter to the White House yesterday.

The crisis appears to have taken a toll. Biden's approval rating dropped by 7 percentage points and hit its lowest level - 46 percent - since he took office in January, a Reuters-Ipsos poll conducted on Monday found.

Biden, managing the crisis from the presidential retreat of Camp David in Maryland's Catoctin mountains, went several days without talking to any foreign leaders about Afghanistan. He spoke to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday.

"The prime minister stressed the importance of not losing the gains made in Afghanistan over the last 20 years, or protecting ourselves against any emerging threat from terrorism and of continuing to support the people of Afghanistan," said a Downing Street spokesman.

China urges US to honour agreements on Taiwan and stop arms sales

BEIJING

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson urged the United States to abide by the provisions of the three China-U.S. joint communique, sever military links with Taiwan and stop arms sales to the island.

There is only one China in the world, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory, said spokesperson Hua Chunying at a daily press briefing on Tuesday, which marks the 39th anniversary of the issuance of the August 17 Communique.

Citing relevant U.S. commitments made in the August 17 Communique concerning arms sales to Taiwan, Hua said the three China-U.S. joint communique constitute the political foundation of bilateral relations, the essential core of which is the one-China principle, which the U.S. side should strictly follow.

Hua said that, in fact, the United States has conducted "official" exchanges with Taiwan and sold various kinds of weapons to the island in constant breach of its own promises, to help Taiwan expand the so-called international space. She cited multiple batches of arms sales to Taiwan by U.S. administrations, including a plan recently announced by the Biden administration to sell weaponry to Taiwan worth around 750 million U.S. dollars.

"We'd like to try our best to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification with utmost sincerity, and at the same time, will reserve the option of taking all necessary countermeasures against foreign intervention, as well as a few 'Taiwan independence' secessionists and their activities," said Hua.

No one should underestimate the firm determination, strong will and powerful capabilities of the Chinese people in defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity, she said. No matter how many weapons the United States provides to Taiwan, there is no possibility it will change the general trend of cross-strait relations, and still less that it will impede China's reunification process, added Hua.

The spokesperson urged the United States to clearly recognize the highly sensitive and harmful nature of the issue of arms sales to Taiwan, abide by the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communique with concrete actions, stop official exchanges and military links with the island, cease arms sales to Taiwan, to avoid doing further damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Xinhua

Over half mln children affected by Haiti earthquake - UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday that 540,000 children are estimated to have been affected by the powerful earthquake that hit Haiti on Saturday.

To make things worse, the hardest-hit departments of Haiti are now being drenched by Tropical Depression Grace, which is further disrupting access to water, shelter, and other basic services.

Flooding and mudslides are likely to worsen the situation of vulnerable families and further complicate the humanitarian response, said UNICEF in a press release.

Search and rescue efforts are under way, with official reports of over 1,400 deaths and 7,000 injured.

More than 84,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, along with public infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and bridges, said UNICEF.

Criminal violence and insecurity complicate the humanitarian response, and the main road from the capital city of Port-au-Prince to the south of the country is controlled by gangs.

Nevertheless, UNICEF was able to reach affected areas with medical supplies within hours of the earthquake, it said.

A UNICEF truck delivered six medical kits to three hospitals in Les Cayes, with enough supplies, including gloves, painkillers, antibiotics and syringes, to treat 30,000 earthquake victims over three months, it said.

UNICEF and partners are distributing tarpaulins for emergency shelter, latrines and showers; water reservoirs for safe water distribution; and hygiene kits, including water treatment tablets, soap, menstrual hygiene material, and jerrycans.

Additional supplies, including education and recreational kits will be rapidly mobilized, and UNICEF is planning community-based engagement activities to prevent family separation and to ensure protection and psychosocial support for children, it said.

UNICEF is working closely with the government and partners to carry out rapid assessments of children's needs. UNICEF estimates that it will need 15 million U.S. dollars to respond to the most urgent needs of at least 385,000 people, including 167,000 children under the age of 5, for a period of eight weeks.

This initial funding requirement will be reviewed and adjusted in the coming weeks as the impact on children and families becomes clearer, it said.

Xinhua

Pudong New Area drives key technological breakthroughs with large-scale scientific facilities

AT a lab in the Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, Pudong New Area of Shanghai, a superintense ultrafast laser facility called "Xihe" is busy performing experiments on proton and electron acceleration and the generation of plasma ultraharmonics and attosecond pulses.

As one of the first batch of major projects launched by Shanghai for building a sci-tech innovation center with global influence and a world-class sci-tech infrastructure cluster, the scientific facility, officially known as Shanghai Superintense Ultrafast Laser Facility (SULF), serves

as an important platform of the Zhangjiang Comprehensive National Science Center in Pudong New Area as well as a powerful scientific tool of China.

The key of self-dependent innovation lies in original inventions, which require new discoveries and breakthroughs in basic science and depend on the support of large scientific facilities like the Xihe laser facility, according to an official with Shanghai office for promoting the construction of sci-tech innovation center.

On Oct. 24, 2017, Xihe laser facility, which was still under con-

struction, achieved 10.3 PW laser amplification output, breaking the record of 10 PW in photon research. On Dec. 7, 2019, the equipment saw its average peak power reach 11.7 PW and its output peak at 12.9 PW.

According to researchers, the output power of the laser facility is equivalent to the total solar radiation from 10 suns to the Earth gathered together on a single human hair.

On July 22 this year, the research result of smaller free-electron lasers made by the State Key Laboratory of High Field Laser Physics of China based on the

Xihe laser facility was published in Nature, world's leading multidisciplinary science journal, as the cover story.

Peer-reviewed academic journal Science referred to the SULF as the world's fifth milestone achievement in increasing laser pulse power since the first laser was invented in 1960.

The Xihe laser facility is expected to detect and form images of the motion of active constituents of organisms and help uncover the mystery of life, promote the research and development of laser proton knife for cancer treatment, generate antimatter

for research into the origins of astrophysics and the universe, said Leng Yuxin, deputy director of the Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, legal entity of the SULF.

Pudong New Area is building a cluster of such large scientific facilities already completed or under construction. During the first half of this year, its soft X-ray project achieved optical amplification of free-electron lasers at a wavelength of 2 nanometers, and its hard X-ray project completed the assembly of the first set of

superconducting accelerator modules.

Meanwhile, the area is actively planning the construction of a new batch of sci-tech infrastructure projects, which will attract various innovators and infuse new impetus into innovation in the area. Pudong New Area plans to put into trial operation the Tsung-Dao Lee Institute this year, complete the construction of the Zhangjiang Institute for Advanced Study under the Shanghai Jiao Tong University by the end of the year, and push forward with other key projects including the Shanghai processor technol-

ogy innovation center, Shanghai Institute for Advanced Study under the Zhejiang University, and the natural killer cell functional platform of the University of Science and Technology of China.

Pudong New Area will also carry out many sci-tech projects for original innovation, according to a guideline jointly issued by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council of China on supporting Pudong New Area in advancing high-level reform and opening-up and growing into a pioneer area for socialist modernization.

People's Daily

World leaders, experts criticise US policy in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS

WORLD leaders, political commentators and foreign affairs experts have joined the international chorus denouncing the U.S. policy in Afghanistan, under which a 20-year military deployment suddenly came to a chaotic end.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Tuesday the sudden downfall of the Afghan government and the Taliban's swift takeover has cast a "long shadow" over the West's efforts to build a stable and lasting community.

"Scenes of despair at Kabul airport are shameful for the political West," Steinmeier said in a statement.

The "failure" of the West's years-long efforts in Afghanistan "raises questions about the past and future of our foreign policy and military engagement," he said.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday that the international deployment in Afghanistan was "disappointing," urging countries to learn lessons from the failure in Afghanistan.

Also on Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron called for "a responsible and united response" within the United Nations Security Council on Afghanistan where the Taliban has regained power, warning against the risk of irregular migration flows to Europe caused by the destabilization of Afghanistan. In an interview with Parliament's Listy newspaper yesterday, Czech

President described the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan as cowardice and a dramatic failure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), warning of intensifying mistrust within NATO of the legitimacy of the U.S. existence as a so-called world leader.

It has been rather catastrophic. It has been a long-term commitment for 20 years to make a better Afghanistan," former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt told Swedish Television on Monday.

Describing the U.S. withdrawal as "unforgivable," Bildt questioned the move, saying that he was surprised by "the lack of preparation, the fact that one or the other knew what was going to happen."

In an interview with Belgian newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws, David Crikemans, professor of international politics at the University of Antwerp in Belgium accused U.S. President Joe Biden of making a monumental mistake in withdrawing all U.S. military troops from Afghanistan.

"President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw all military forces is simply the West's biggest strategic mistake since the turn of the century," he said.

French national daily Le Monde on Monday listed "the painful questions after the mistakes in Afghanistan." "U.S. President Joe Biden, by decreeing a military withdrawal from Afghanistan before the 20th anniversary of 9/11, put an end to a double error.

On one hand, the West had no reason to deploy in Afghanistan in 2002, the year following the



People line up to board a French military transport plane at the Kabul airport on Monday, for evacuation from Afghanistan after the Taliban's stunning military takeover of the country. AFP

victory of the anti-Taliban forces -- one does not occupy militarily a country where there is no longer an enemy to fight," it wrote.

"On the other hand, their very presence served as a magnet for the Taliban to resume the fight, fueling an Afghan civil war that did not exist at the end of 2001," said Le Monde when analyzing the mistakes of the West.

"Now that the Taliban have reconquered Kabul and will exercise power, there are only painful questions left," it said.

Newspaper Le Figaro quoted congressmen who criticized Biden for his failure to plan the

withdrawal, now a humiliating failure being played out in front of cameras around the world. "This is an absolute disaster, of epic proportions," "Joe Biden has blood on his hands," "The very fact that we did not even succeed in securing the civilian area of Kabul airport speaks volumes about our moral and operational shortcomings," the congressmen was quoted as saying.

Peter Neumann, a German political scientist at King's College London, told state broadcaster ARD yesterday that the Taliban was often presented as a terror-

ist organization but neglected as a Pashto militant deeply rooted in the local religious and social establishment, whose support has been always there.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said there was a need for "an honest, clear-eyed assessment of NATO's own engagement in Afghanistan," adding that the collapse was "swift and sudden."

"Despite our considerable investment and sacrifice over two decades, the collapse was swift and sudden. There are many lessons to be learned," said Stoltenberg.

Xinhua

South Sudan says clashes within opposition not affecting peace process

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's government yesterday downplayed the recent clashes between rival opposition forces saying they will not disrupt the ongoing implementation of the 2018 revitalized peace deal.

Michael Makuei Lueth, Minister of Information and Broadcasting said that the recent clashes between troops loyal to First Vice President and chairman of Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army-in opposition (SPLM/A-IO) Riek Machar and those loyal to his former chief of staff are an internal problem that will not spill over. "It (violence) will not affect the ongoing peace process because any problem within one of the partners, this partner will resolve their problem because their problem has nothing to do with the peace agreement," Makuei told Xinhua in Juba.

A fierce battle erupted on August 7 after Machar's rivals declared on August 4 they had deposed him as the head of the party and military leader of the SPLA-IO. But Machar's allies on August 5 maintained that he was still in full control of the party.

The regional body Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) that mediated the 2018 revitalized peace deal recently dispatched its Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu to mediate between the belligerent parties. Stephen Par Kuol, Minister for Peacebuilding and member of SPLM-IO, confirmed that efforts are being made by the regional bloc and the revitalized transitional unity government to resolve the conflict.

China's financial sector holds growing appeal for foreign investment

IN recent years, China has advanced the opening-up of its financial markets in an orderly manner, approving the establishment of a total of more than 100 foreign-funded financial institutions in fields including banking, insurance, securities, and payment and clearing.

In June this year, DBS Securities (China) Limited, China's first securities joint venture controlled by a Singaporean-funded enterprise, received its business license from China Securities Regulatory Commission, thus being permitted to officially commence business operations in China.

The development of the controlling shareholder of DBS Securities (China) Limited, DBS Bank (China) Limited (DBS China), which is among the first wholly foreign-owned banks in China, the first participants in the Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) for RMB, and the first banks designated by Shanghai International Energy Exchange to carry out overseas customer deposit management business, well reflects the course of opening-up in China's financial sector.

"Over the past more than four decades, China has established a huge modern financial system, and its financial sector has enjoyed rapid development.

During the course, China has opened up its markets step by step, achieving universally recognized results," said Neil Ge, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DBS China, adding that foreign-funded financial institutions have witnessed fast growth of businesses in China.

China announced that it



A visitor tries buying products with digital RMB at 2021 World Artificial Intelligence Conference, July 7, 2021. File photo

would significantly broaden access to its financial markets in 2018, and this round of opening-up surpassed that in 2001 when the country joined the World Trade Organization in terms of the breadth of licenses for financial services and the depth and speed of qualifications of businesses, pointed out a report on new opportunities generated by China's financial opening-up released by the financial research center of McKinsey Greater China last October.

China's importance and influence in the global economy and the global financial systems will continue to expand, which, combined with the accelerated implementation of the country's measures for further opening up its financial markets, will make global investors and market participants more optimistic about the Chinese market, accord-

ing to a research team from Deutsche Bank.

Since the country officially removed all items on the 2020 negative list for foreign investment access to its financial markets, wholly foreign-owned and foreign-controlled financial institutions have sprung up all over the Chinese market continuously.

On July 17, 2021, Ueda Yagi Money Broking (China) Co., Ltd., the first wholly foreign-owned money brokerage company on the Chinese mainland, officially opened for business.

A month before that, BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, became the first foreign asset management company that was licensed to start a wholly owned onshore mutual fund business in China. On July 1, 2021, BlackRock reported its first public offering product, which meant its first public offering fund will soon

be unveiled.

China's efforts to implement the Foreign Investment Law and its supporting rules and regulations and cut the negative list on foreign investment still shorter have created for foreign investors and foreign-invested enterprises a business environment that is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards, which impressed Tomoyuki Ota, chief economist at Japan's megabank Mizuho Financial Group.

The law helps foreign-invested companies develop better in China and enables Chinese people to enjoy better services, said Ota, who believes that the continuous efforts of China to further open its financial markets are beneficial to both China and the world.

Financial opening-up signals the elevation of China's opening-up to a higher level, and reflects further integration of the Chinese economic development into the global market, according to Wang Yifeng, an analyst with China Everbright Bank.

Speeding up opening-up helps China introduce new management experience, product system, and risk management techniques, and improve the capacity of China's financial sector for serving the real economy, Wang said.

While expanding opening-up of the financial sector, China needs to enhance its risk prevention ability, strengthen macro prudential management, and make financial regulation more professional and effective, Wang added.

People's Daily

Philippines' Duterte tables bill seeking to ease bank secrecy rules

MANILA

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has included a bill seeking to ease the country's strict bank secrecy rules in his list of legislative priorities in his final year in office, the central bank said yesterday.

The move comes weeks after a global dirty money watchdog - the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - added the Southeast Asian country to its grey list of countries under increased monitoring, along with Haiti and South Sudan.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has vowed to work to ensure compliance with FATF recommendations and exit the list no later than 2023.

The Bank Deposits Secrecy Bill will give the BSP increased investigative powers, making it easier for the regulator to



examine suspicious bank accounts, and impose heavy penalties. It will equip the BSP with tools "necessary to prove the commission of fraud, serious irregularity or unlawful activity if reasonable basis exists", the central bank said in a statement.

The BSP has long pushed for such measures, but attempts by previous administrations

to amend or repeal the law to combat tax fraud failed amid fears about breaches of privacy or being used to harass political opponents.

Business groups, including the Bankers Association of the Philippines, have thrown their support behind the bill.

In a bid to allay concerns about privacy, the BSP said the results of any probe would not be arbitrarily disclosed, and may only be shared with courts and other regulators if it was necessary to prevent or prosecute a crime.

Despite its strict anti-money laundering rules, the Philippines was at the center of some high-profile bank frauds in recent years, including the US\$81 million cyber heist in 2016 involving money stolen from the Bangladesh central bank account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Agencies

Bolsonaro's disapproval reaches record with Lula gaining ground

By Bloomberg

PRESIDENT Jair Bolsonaro's disapproval rating rose to the highest level of his term as the Brazilian leader finds himself enmeshed in multiple crises just a year ahead of a re-election bid.

A poll conducted by XP/Ipsos showed 54 percent of Brazilians rate Bolsonaro as "bad or terrible," up from 52 percent in July. His popularity also slid with 23 percent giving him a "good or great" rating, down from 25 percent, according to the survey, which was released yesterday.

Bolsonaro (pictured) is



currently ensnared in a slew of criminal investigations for alleged irregularities in the procurement of vaccines and for efforts to cast doubt on Brazil's electronic ballot system.

At the same time, a senate inquiry is digging into the government's hands-off approach to containing the coronavirus outbreak, which has claimed nearly 570,000 lives. The president has de-

nied any wrongdoing on all fronts.

The scandals have been a boon to the president's opponents. If elections were held tomorrow, the poll found that 40 percent of Brazilians would vote for former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, up from 38 percent in July. Only 24 percent of respondents said they were for Bolsonaro, down from 26 percent.

Bolsonaro trails all potential candidates in a runoff vote, according to the survey, which also showed 61 percent of respondents would not vote for the incumbent under any circumstance.

Malaysia's search for next leader yields 2 frontrunners



This combo photo shows Malaysia's former deputy prime minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob (right) and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim. (PHOTOS / AFP & XINHUA)

MALAYSIA'S Barisan Nasional alliance has chosen former deputy prime minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the bloc's choice for prime minister, Ahmad Maslan, secretary general of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), said in a tweet.

"Only one name as prime minister candidate was sent by UMNO/BN MPs on 17/8/21 which is Ismail Sabri, MP for Bera," he wrote on Wednesday. The Pan-Malaysian Islamic party has also rallied behind him, Malaysiakini reported, citing party Deputy President Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

Ismail Sabri was deputy prime minister in former premier Muhy-

iddin Yassin's coalition. As a leading figure in Malaysia's battle against the pandemic, he appeared almost daily in televised press briefings to update the public on movement restrictions. Still, virus cases continued to sky-rocket as the government oscillated between tightening and loosening restrictions on movements.

Lawmakers from the opposition Pakatan Harapan coalition are backing An-

war Ibrahim as prime minister, Fahmi Fadzil, com-

munications director for the People's Justice Party,

told Bloomberg News. The Sabah-based Warisan party, which is not a part of the alliance, will support Anwar as well, according to Borneo Post, which cited president Shafie Apdal.

Malaysia's lawmakers must submit their choice for a leader to the palace by 4 pm local time Wednesday as the king searches for a successor to Muhyiddin Yassin, who resigned on Monday. Muhyiddin is staying on as a caretaker

prime minister until a new leader is named.

The king is expected to meet with the nation's other royal rulers on Friday to discuss the new prime minister candidates, according to a statement from the palace. Once appointed by the monarch, the new premier should table a confidence vote in parliament as soon as possible to legitimize his majority, according to the statement.

Under constitutional law, any lawmaker who can command a majority in parliament can stake a claim to form the government, and the king needs to give his assent to formalize the appointment.

UMNO Youth leader Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki said he informed the party's supreme council meeting last night that the prime minister candidate should not attempt to retain the structure of Muhyiddin's cabinet. The new cabinet must work together with all political parties to tackle the pandemic and revive the country until an election is called, he wrote on Facebook.

Agencies

SPORT



Tanzania's new genre musician, Judith Wambura 'Lady Jaydee'.

Dar musicians ought to create local musical taste

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA will, by the end of this month, have more than 30 dance songs composed by local artists which are sung in the style of South Africa's new music genre, popularly known as 'Amapiano'.

Tanzania's musical scene is vibrant, with young artists tossing themselves into the industry daily.

Most often than not, they come as either individuals or groups.

And the biggest issue is that all new genre 'Bongo Flava' artists who sing 'Amapiano' sing by imitating everything which is done by South African artists.

When we say everything we mean everything—copy and paste, that is, the rhythm, the type of poetry and its arrangement, the pronunciation of words, and even the singing style.

If that is not enough, the music videos are too produced the same way the Amapiano artists' videos do.

That is, if a local music follower does not know 'Bongo Flava' artist Naseeb Abdul, alias 'Diamond PlatinumZ', and do not understand the artist's new song 'Iyo' dance, which is an 'Amapiano' genre, the music follower may think the musician is a South African.

I do not think 'Amapiano' is a very good music genre, especially when it is played in comfortable places, but I do not see why 'Bongo Flava' artists use a lot of energy to push music that is not part of their culture.

Understandably, an artist has the freedom to try different tastes as well, but when it comes to the level at which Tanzania's artists try to play 'Amapiano', it becomes annoying.

For example, 'Bongo Flava' artist Rajab Abdul, aka 'Harmonize', has no less than five 'Amapiano' dance songs.

Other artists, Omary Mwangi 'Maroo', and Mbwana Yusuf 'Mbosso', as well have such genre tracks.

Many more tracks produced by musicians from different places across the country are incoming, why is this so?

Artists would have been better understood if they had taken the 'Amapiano' music and added tricks to create new music that has never been heard elsewhere.

They would be terrific, had they done so because usually all the music in the world is made that way, by mixing more than one type of music.

We are proud of Bongo Flava, a mixture of Tanzanian Hip Hop, R&B, and Pop.

This has come about because of the taste of our culture in it, according to the producers who created various songs that include Paul Matthyse, alias 'P Funk'.

Even the Taarab music that is mostly sung and loved by people hailing from the coastal regions is a product of soft Egyptian music with Kiswahili flavour.

Following trends leads to losing focus on promoting our music.

If we want to cross borders properly we have to go with our music.

Nigerian musicians did not hold sway in Tanzania by using 'Bongo Flava' taste, they came up with their unique taste and captured the market.

South African artists did not bring their 'Amapiano' music and dance styles in Tanzania through 'Bongo Flava'. They came with their 'Amapiano', and we loved the trend.

If we want to go beyond borders the same way South African artists have done and won music lovers' hearts, we have to send our products, send our music.

And even if we tried and saw it did not penetrate other countries' music industry, then maybe we should have used this time to find out why we have not lived up to expectations.

One cannot go to South Africa and surprise them by singing the 'Amapiano', because that is their music, there is nothing strange there.

Our Kenyan neighbours had a campaign against Disk Jockeys on radio and Television stations, who were playing songs by non-Kenyan musicians and abandoning Kenyan artists.

The campaign, known as 'Play Kenyan Music', helped Kenyans get to where they are now, enjoying hearing their musicians' songs in abundance on radio and Television stations.

In Tanzania, an attempt to come up with such a campaign would be very useful, but why go for the campaign if Tanzania's artists do not want to change by making music of Tanzanian origin.

South African music is an already established industry. The country's musicians are out there and have working mechanisms that push their music.

Tanzania's music might not entirely be up to standard, but we surely need artists to be aware that it is time for the country to push its music.

Tanzanian music defies all values of perpetual art, from the production of content to its dissemination.

The industry cannot be either aesthetic or commercialized because it lacks originality.

Much as 'Amapiano' is good, there is no reason for local artists to use a lot of energy to advertise it.

They should put a lot of effort into promoting Tanzania's music.

'How will an increase in professional footballers boost Mainland Premier League?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

LAST year, the Football Association (FA), the English Premier League (EPL), and the English Football League (EFL) reached an agreement on criteria to be considered for foreign players after England withdrew from the European Union (EU).

The recommendations made by the Governing Body Endorsement (GBE) were submitted to the government by the FA and have now been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The criteria have created a mechanism used by the Premier League and the EFL, which organizes the Carabao Cup, to register foreign players after England completed their EU withdrawal on December 31, 2020.

Under the new rules that will be used to issue work permits, clubs will not be allowed to register a player under 18 years, while three players under the age of 21 will be allowed.

In other words, Arsenal would not have signed Cesc Fabregas from Barcelona, nor would Manchester United have taken Paul Pogba from France's Le Havre.

Players from the EU will not be registered for free as it was previously when they were benefiting from the free labour market for member states.

A work permit will be issued for a points system. That is, points will be collected by looking at the clubs from which he comes from the top 10 of FIFA ranks, and the number of matches he has played for his country to be at least 50 percent in two years.

The number of matches he has played for the club he comes from and the quality of the club and league he comes from will also be put into consideration.

The number of foreign players is more-over reduced from 17 to 13. This means clubs will focus more on local players and thus promote local football.

The value of local players will also increase, while the criteria will ensure England gets the best players from abroad and thus protect the value of the world-famous league.

I cite that example as I know many speak very easily of the decision of the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to increase the number of foreign players in the Mainland Premier League from 10 to 12 but impose conditions on starting only eight foreign players on domestic matches.

It is easy to trace the examples of European countries, but the seemingly large number of continental clubs are based on EU labour laws that allow a resident of those countries to work anywhere unconditionally.

Therefore, Chelsea can arrange for the whole squad, but only two foreigners,



Simba SC's newly recruited midfielder, Pape Ousmane Sakho. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

those from either Africa or non-EU countries.

Also, players from countries like Latin America often take dual citizenship, thus becoming European citizens.

That is why when a club reaches the required number of foreign players, it advises a player whose country allows dual citizenship, to take up dual citizenship and thus leave room for another foreign player.

So it is different here in Tanzania, given a player from, for instance, East African countries, Kenya and Uganda, is deemed as a foreign player.

But we have also seen how the rules on who requires a player to be the best, how many matches he has played for his club and his national team, and

his country's place in the world rankings.

But we have also seen how the issue of young players has been addressed.

This means that if the club has a lot of youth players in its senior squad, it will not be allowed to have them in excessive number, but only three under the age of 21.

How did we consider all of that until we decided to increase the number from 10 to 12?

What rules have we put in place that will force clubs to promote the youth players?

To what extent have we partnered with the government to establish regulations regarding labour law?

If five foreign players were not able to develop our youngsters, and later seven players, then 10, we have set what standards to make sure these 12 will help us and how long it will take.

Football stakeholders should remember three foreign players, who took part in the 2020/21 season, have left.

The foreign professionals include Tuisila Kisinda, Clatous Chama, and Luis Miquissone.

All three footballers are foreigners, whereas domestic footballers, including those who turn out for the national team, continue to play in domestic competitions.

Football stakeholders should also remember that Tanzania is still the smallest football nation in the world and it, therefore, needs laws and regulations that address this aspect.

Geita Town Council opens up on benefits of stadium construction

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GEITA Town Council's Director, Zahara Michuzi, has disclosed the construction of a 2.4 bn/- worth sports stadium at Magogo, Bombambili Ward, in the region will open up economic opportunities for the region's people.

She said the opportunities will be availed to them due to the arrival of many visitors that will head to the region to attend Mainland Premier League matches that will be played in the stadium.

She mentioned some of the opportunities as hotel services for guests who will need accommodation, various food services, transportation, and many more.

Zahara said they have improved their management by arriving at the project site regularly to ensure the construction is completed on time to start opening up economic opportunities for the people of Geita Town such as the hotel business and food services for visitors arriving for the league's matches.

In addition, she clarified that the construction of the project is expected to be completed in November this year because the contractor implementing the project is well equipped and the Council officials are supervising him closely.

Zahara stated after inspecting the construction of the stadium recently.

She was accompanied by some experts of the Council, namely Geita Town Council Staff Officer, Thecla Gasembe, City Information Officer, Trovina Kikoti, and the Council's Construction Engineer, Samwel.

The construction started immediately



Geita Town Council's Director, Zahara Michuzi, speaks to journalists after inspecting the ongoing construction of a football stadium in Geita. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

after the Geita Gold Football Club, which is owned by Geita City Council, won promotion to the next season's Mainland Premier League.

With the construction completed in November this year, Geita City Council has now decided to renovate the Nyankumbu Girls Secondary School grounds for all of Geita Gold FC home games, while waiting for the modern Geita Stadium to be completed in the first phase of construction.

Council Engineer, Samwel, said the construction is being done by a local contractor, who has joined his colleague in Mwanza under the supervision of the Director's Office through the Engineer's office.

He said construction has reached 21% and so far no contractor has been paid as an indication of the contractor's ability to implement the project.

He added that in the first phase of the construction, they are building a pitch, a two-lane track, officials' podium, players' changing rooms, a press room, and a first aid treatment building.

He explained that the stadium is expected to accommodate 12,000 people at a time after the completion of construction and the venue has been designed for the use of the natural pitch.

The stadium is being built with funds provided by the Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML) as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Holdings Algeria and Ivory Coast renew Cup of Nations rivalry

YAOUNDE

ALGERIA will face the Ivory Coast, the only team they failed to defeat in winning the last Africa Cup of Nations, when Cameroon host the 2021 edition between January 9 and February 6 2022.

The teams drew 1-1 after extra time in the quarter-finals and the Desert Foxes advanced by winning a penalty shootout.

Matches decided by spot-kicks are officially classified as draws by FIFA, and it was the only time in a seven-match march to the title that Algeria needed a shootout to succeed.

Algeria and the Ivory Coast were placed in Group E with Sierra Leone and Equatorial Guinea when the draw was made in Yaounde on Tuesday.

It would be a shock if the Algerians and Ivorians did not fill the top two spots, leaving the other two countries to fight for possible qualification as one of the four best third-placed teams.

"We have a very good group, with quality, very young, with a lot of ambition," former Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba told AFP after taking part in the draw. "I think we will be up to it."

Although ranked third in the continent this month behind Senegal and Tunisia, Algeria are the form team as they boast an African record 27-match unbeaten run since November 2018.

Cameroon, seeking a sixth Cup of Nations title, were put in Group A with Burkina Faso, who they will face in the opening match in Yaounde, Ethiopia and Cape Verde.

It is hard to imagine the Indomitable Lions failing to make the last 16 and Burkina Faso will also be confident of progressing.

Record seven-time African champions Egypt share Group D with three-time winners Nigeria, Sudan and Guinea-Bissau, who have been transformed from minnows to qualifying three times in a row.

Egypt can call on Liverpool star Mohamed Salah as they seek to atone for a poor showing as 2019 hosts, falling to South Africa in the round of 16.

Sadio Mane-inspired Senegal, beaten by Algeria in both the group stage and the final two years ago, will be hotly fancied to top Group B, which includes Zimbabwe, Guinea and Malawi.

Tunisia, who have qualified for every Cup of Nations since 1994, are in Group F with Mali, Mauritania and the Gambia, who along with the Comoros are debutants.

Morocco, whose only Cup of Nations success came in 1976, and four-time champions Ghana look the strongest contenders in Group C, which the Comoros and Gabon complete.

Speaking ahead of the draw, Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe said he hoped for an "exciting, competitive and successful" tournament as Cameroon play hosts for a second time.

Cameroon were originally due to stage the African football showcase in 2019 but fell behind with preparations and Egypt stepped in as late replacements.

The 2021 tournament dates have changed twice, first because of fears that torrential seasonal rains could affect the tight schedule, and then because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Draw

Group A: Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Cape Verde

Group B: Senegal, Zimbabwe, Guinea, Malawi

Group C: Morocco, Ghana, Comoros, Gabon

Group D: Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan, Guinea-Bissau

Group E: Algeria, Sierra Leone, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast

Group F: Tunisia, Mali, Mauritania, Gambia

Note: Group winners and runners-up and the four best third-placed teams qualify for knockout stage **AFP**

Ronaldo fuming at 'disrespectful' transfer talk

LONDON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has lashed out over the transfer rumours regarding his future, accusing people of being "disrespectful" yet stopping short of committing his future to Serie A giants Juventus.

The former Real Madrid forward, who scored a record 451 goals during his nine years at the club from 2009 to 2018, was linked with a shock return to work under Carlo Ancelotti again this week. Ronaldo joined Juventus for €100 million in July 2018, and Spanish late-night TV show El Chiringuito claimed on Monday night that a sensational return to LaLiga was on the cards.

Ancelotti distanced himself from reuniting with Ronaldo before the Portugal international addressed his future on Instagram.

He wrote: "Anyone who knows me is aware of how focused I am on my work. Less talk and more action, this has been my guiding motto since the start of my career. However, in view of everything that's been said and written recently, I have to set out my position.

"More than the disrespect for me as a man and as a player, the frivolous way that my future is covered in the media is disrespectful to all the clubs involved in these rumours, as well as to their players and staff. My story at Real Madrid has been written. It's been recorded. In words and numbers, in trophies and titles, in records and in headlines. It's in the Museum at the Bernabeu Stadium and it's also in the minds of every fan of the club.

"I remember that in those nine years I had a relationship of deep affection and respect for 'merengue afición,' an affection and respect that I retain to this day, and that I will always cherish. I know that the true Real Madrid fans will continue to have me in their hearts,

and I will have them in mine."

As well as being linked with a move to Real Madrid, Ronaldo also has been mentioned as a possible target for Manchester City, who are continuing their battle to land Tottenham striker Harry Kane, as well as linking up with Lionel Messi at Paris Saint-Germain.

While Ronaldo did not fully commit his future to Juventus, the 36-year-old said he needed to address the reports regarding his future and that anything else is "just talk."

"As well as this most recent episode in Spain, there have been frequent news and stories associating me with a number of clubs in many different Leagues, with nobody ever being concerned about trying to find out the actual truth," he added.

"I'm breaking my silence now to say that I can't allow people to keep playing around with my name. I remain focused on my career and in my work, committed and prepared for all the challenges that I have to face. Everything else? Everything else is just talk."

Ancelotti worked with Ronaldo for two seasons during his first stint as Real Madrid manager.

In that time, they won the club's long-awaited 10th European Cup -- beating rivals Atletico Madrid 4-1 after extra time in the 2014 Champions League final, with Ronaldo scoring a late penalty -- before Ancelotti was sacked in 2015.

The Italian manager was reappointed by Madrid in June on a three-year contract after the resignation of predecessor Zinedine Zidane.

Madrid, who have added only the free transfer signing of David Alaba to their squad this summer, began the 2021-22 LaLiga season with a 4-1 win away at Alaves, with Karim Benzema scoring twice.

(Agencies)

Can Rafa Benitez win over the Everton fans despite his Liverpool past?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

RAFAEL Benitez has never been the type to take the easy option for the sake of a quiet life, so those who know the 61-year-old were not surprised when the former Liverpool manager embraced the challenge of taking charge of Everton earlier this summer.

Having described Everton as a "small club" during his six-year reign as manager at Anfield between 2004 and '10, when he masterminded Liverpool's fifth Champions League triumph in 2005, Benitez had always vied with former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard for the dubious distinction of being public enemy No. 1 in the eyes of many Evertonians.

But the noise surrounding his appointment -- and the threatening banners close to his house, warning him against taking the job -- did little to dissuade Benitez from trading red for blue in a football-crazed city. In the end, he did what he always does, refusing to be affected by outside influences. "One of Rafa's greatest strengths, and some would say his biggest weakness, is his honesty and refusal to say or do anything other than what he believes in," a long-time associate of Benitez told ESPN.

"I remember one occasion when he was in charge at Real Madrid and was asked whether Cristiano Ronaldo was the best player in the world. Anyone but Rafa would have said, 'yes, he's amazing, the best footballer I've ever seen,' because that's the way to operate if you coach Real and you are asked that question about their star player. But instead, he said that Ronaldo was simply the 'best I've coached' and you can imagine how that was received!"

"But that's Rafa: he won't go against his principles just for an easy life, and that's why he has taken the Everton job. He sees it as a great chance to manage an ambitious Premier League team again and his Liverpool past was never going to be a problem for Rafa."

Benitez's Liverpool past is still a problem for some in the blue half of the city. When it became clear that Everton owner Farhad Moshiri wanted Benitez to replace Carlo Ancelotti, who left Goodison Park in May for a second spell as Real Madrid manager, social media erupted with anti-Benitez messages from some Everton fans who had not forgotten his "small club" comments, which date back to a verbal spat with former Everton manager David Moyes in 2007.

At the same time that Everton fans were raging, however, the #AgentRafa hash tag began to trend on Twitter thanks to merciless Liverpool supporters goading their neighbours.

As for those banners, some were personally insulting towards Benitez and others openly threatening -- "We know where you live - Don't Sign." -- also highlighted the ill-feeling towards Moshiri's first choice to succeed the popular Ancelotti.

"Talking about banners, it was maybe one or two people, you never know," Benitez said at his introductory press conference last month. "It is better to think about positives and a lot of people are encouraging me to do well, and I am happy with that. I am not scared: it is the opposite. I want to win, be competitive and ambitious. I am sure we will do it."

Those close to Benitez believe that the animosity towards the former Chelsea, Inter Milan, Napoli and Newcastle coach actually helped win over some skeptical Evertonians, who were appalled by the hostility from a minority of the club's fans.

"Those banners turned 75% of fans around and made them throw their support behind Rafa," Benitez's associate told ESPN. "They rallied out of decency because they didn't want to be associated with that kind of thing, especially because of Rafa's connection to the city, which goes beyond managing Liverpool."

Dave Kelly, an Everton fan for over 50 years, is backing Benitez to succeed and he is urging the more pessimistic Evertonians to give him a chance.

"I want Rafa Benitez to be our manager for 10-15 years," he said. "If that happens, it will mean that Everton have been successful and that's the only way I will judge him -- what he does for us rather than what he did for Liverpool. I'm sick of hearing fans saying that they have thrown their season ticket back because we've appointed



Rafa Benitez

Benitez. They would happily take Mo Salah from Liverpool, so the same should apply to the manager.

One central factor in Benitez's determination to take the Everton job are his deep roots to the city.

Since leaving Valencia to succeed Gerard Houllier as Liverpool manager in 2004, Benitez has maintained a home in nearby Caldy, with wife Montse and their two daughters continuing to use it as a home base while Rafa continued his coaching career away from Merseyside following his departure from Liverpool in 2010. During that time, Montse has established a foundation that raises funds for vulnerable and disadvantaged children to enjoy respite trips, and the couple have also consistently contributed money to local hospitals.

It has also been well-reported that Benitez donated £96,000 to the charity representing the families of the 96 Liverpool supporters who lost their lives in the Hillsborough disaster in 1989. Less well-known is that Benitez also made a donation to the family of Rhys Jones, the Everton-supporting 11-year-old, who was murdered by gunshot while walking home from football practice in August, 2007.

"Rafa didn't do that for publicity or spotlight," his associate told ESPN. "He was upset by what happened and moved by the family's grief. He asked a friend to find the boy's parents and give them his donation, and it ended up with Rhys's mum being given a cheque while she was working in a local supermarket."

Benitez has also contributed to local charities during his time in Naples and Newcastle, helping food bank charities while in charge at St James' Park, while his efforts to help those in need of help on Merseyside has been recognised by fans on both sides of the football divide.

"When Rafa was in charge of Liverpool, I used to look across at them with envy," Kelly, who is Chair of Fans Supporting Foodbanks, told ESPN. "Not because of what he did for Liverpool on the pitch, but because of the way he worked with, and for, the community. I know he was also heavily involved with charities in Newcastle, so it is a good thing in my opinion that he is now in charge of my team."

"The Walton area of Liverpool is unique in England in that it is home to two Premier League teams -- Everton and Liverpool. They are two iconic clubs, businesses with huge financial wealth, yet the 68 wards [regions] of Walton are among the most deprived in the country and food insecurity is on every street corner. So I am looking forward to having Rafa Benitez involved with Everton and continuing the work he has done in the city over the years."

But while Benitez the man has earned the respect of the majority of the city of Liverpool, regardless of football affiliation, Benitez the manager has still to prove he can be the right pick for Everton.

His last Premier League job was a three-year spell at Newcastle between 2016 and 2019, when he had to juggle the task of managing a huge club with few resources at the same time as managing supporter anger towards owner Mike Ashley. Benitez kept Newcastle in the Premier League, but his days of competing at the highest level in Europe were behind him and a subsequent two-year spell in China, managing Dalian Professional, took him even further away from the heart of the action.

His desire to work in the Premier League again made him hungry for the Everton job, though, and his former captain at Liverpool, Gerrard, told ESPN that he was not surprised by his old manager's readiness to cross the divide.

"Rafa wasn't born in the city, he's not a red through-and-through, and he never played against Everton for 20 years and competed against them," he said. "He is his own man and will make his own professional decisions, so there's no surprise that he wanted to get back in the Premier League at a big club and have the opportunity to compete against all the top teams in the league. I wasn't very shocked and surprised at all, in all honesty."

While Benitez is the first manager to take charge of Liverpool and Everton, several players have made the same transition over the years, and only a small number endured a hostile reaction from the supporters of their previous club.

Don Hutchison spent two years at Everton after four years with Liverpool earlier in his career, and enjoyed some of the best times of his playing days in the blue shirt. But with a knowledge of the demands and sentiments of the Evertonians, Hutchison admits he struggles to see Benitez's move to Goodison having a happy ending.

"I really hope to be proved wrong because I still have a great affection for Everton, but if Rafa gets past Christmas as manager, he will have done well," Hutchison told ESPN. "His appointment reminds me of Jose Mourinho going to Tottenham: it just doesn't feel right and I worry that it will all end in tears."

"If you look at Everton's early fixtures this season [they won their opening game 3-1 at home to Southampton], they are quite soft and it gives Rafa the chance to get off to a winning start, but that gives him a problem. If they don't start well, he will be on the back foot right from the off and it will be so difficult to turn it around. And if he does start well, he will build optimism and expectation up to a point where it will be difficult to sustain it and then you have to deal with the negativity that would bring."

The first Merseyside derby of the season is scheduled for Nov. 30, when Liverpool visit Goodison Park, and it will be crucial for Benitez that Everton impress in that game.

With some Evertonians still waiting to be convinced of his commitment to the cause, what he says or does prior to the derby will be interesting for a man who has always made his relationship with the fans his No. 1 priority.

"My first game as a fan was in May 1966, a week before we won the FA Cup, and I was so proud of the team and our stadium," said Kelly. "I was hooked from that point on, but I am sick of telling my grandkids what a great club Everton are because they have never seen us win a trophy. So I just hope that Rafa can bring the success that enables my grandkids to discover the joy of supporting a club that wins trophies."

That, ultimately, is the challenge that has proved too big for the past eight full-time Everton managers, who have all failed to end a trophy drought stretching back to the 1995 FA Cup final. But Benitez is ready to meet that challenge head on in his usual fashion.

"For me, managing Everton is an opportunity to show I am still competitive and capable of competing against anyone," he said. "It depends on your team -- but I am ready to compete and try to do really well in every single game."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Can Rafa Benitez win over the Everton fans despite his Liverpool past?



Volleyball players from Dar es Salaam clubs compete in a tournament, which was played at SabaSaba venue in the city recently. PHOTO: FARU VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Dar es Salaam set to host 2021 Uhuru Marathon

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Uhuru Marathon will be held at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam in December, the marathon's organizers disclosed yesterday.

Innocent Melleck, who is one of the organizers of the marathon, said it will be held on December 9.

It will involve a full marathon (42km) half marathon (21km), 10km, 5km, 3km, and two and a half kilometers' races for adults and children respectively.

He said the marathon aims to promote unity and togetherness among all people in the country.

He disclosed: "This year's Uhuru Marathon will be held on December 9 at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam, this is a special day for the country as it will also mark 60 years of the country's independence."

"We are asking all people to register and take part in the event which is among the best in the continent," he said.

Melleck said preparations for the marathon are going on very smoothly and promised that it will be a very unique event.

He said they plan to have President Samia Suluhu Hassan as the patron of the marathon.

The organizer asked organizations and the corporate world to sponsor the marathon, saying the aim is to see many people compete at the event.

"I hope that as a Nation we will stand together and unity will show that through sports, especially athletics we can maintain peace, unity, and togetherness, we are asking the organizations and the corporate world to sponsor Uhuru Marathon, which is a sister to London Marathon, being a sister of London Marathon is special, and this means Uhuru Marathon will attract top international runners and publicity," he said.

Kagera Sugar FC breaks silence on Yusuph Mhilu saga



Yusuph Mhilu

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar Football Club's management has revealed the side's striker, Yusuph Mhilu, has entered a contract with Simba SC without an agreement between two sides.

Simba SC introduced Yusuph Mhilu last month as one of the footballers that will form their squad for the 2021/22 season.

Kagera Sugar secretary-general, Ally Masoud, said Mhilu's case was clear, he was their legitimate player.

Masoud said the matter is legal and they have not rushed to make public the legitimacy of Mhilu's contract with Kagera Sugar.

Masoud said: "Yusuph Mhilu's relationship with Kagera Sugar is clear and he is our player and he is under contract for the entire season starting in September (2021/2022). Mhilu is a legitimate Kagera Sugar player."

The Kagera Sugar leader disclosed: "So far we have a petition about Mhilu as we make follow up with TFF, while we are still in the process until Monday next week."

"He has sent a petition to ask us to sit down with him so he can break the remaining contract with us."

"In that sense, even Yusuph Mhilu knows he has a contract with Kagera Sugar."

The issue, Masoud revealed, is still confidential and Kagera Sugar do not mention the figure (price) on the media or social media.

"The value of Yusuph Mhilu is between us, Simba and the player, if we reach an agreement, we will mention how the offer went and the sale fee should we see the need to do so."

The official revealed: "Negotiation to buy-out Mhilu's contract, which is ongoing, is still a secret and we can not mention the figure (price) on the media or social media."

"There will be information on how the offer went and the amount of the fee."

"He (Mhilu) has asked, he has sent a petition to ask us to sit down with him and he has broken the remaining contract with us"

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Tanzania set for Africa Volleyball Championship in Rwanda

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

The senior national men's volleyball team is expected to compete in the coming Africa Volleyball Championship slated for 7-15 September in Kigali, Rwanda.

Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA) secretary-general Alfred Selengia said the country's team will be formed by 15 players and they are expected to enter camp soon.

He said the continental championship, which is organized by the African Volleyball Confederation (CAVB) will also serve as African qualifiers for the 2022 FIVB World Championship.

"We will take part at the coming Africa Volleyball Championships which will be held in Rwanda in September, the team will make up of fifteen players and it will enter camp soon, we hope it will do well at the event which will be used as qualifiers for 2022 Volleyball World Cup," he said.

He mentioned the players selected for the national team and their clubs in brackets as Ezekiel Robson, Nassoro Mohammed and Rashid Mustafa (JKT), Dismas Dick (Mageresa), Ramadhan Mase and Shaban Julius, (Chui), and Abdulrahman Yusuf (Jeshi).

Joseph Mafuru (Jeshi), David Evarist (Equity Bank of Kenya), Khamis Sadala and Said Ali (Mafunzo, Zanzibar), Ford Edward (Tanesco), Jackson Mmari (Rukinzo Police of Burundi) are the other volleyballers in the squad.

Ally Mohammed from Police Zanzibar is the senior national men's volleyball team's head coach, he will be assisted by Nassor Shariff from Jeshi. He said the team plans to depart the country for Rwanda two days before the kickoff of the event and needs more than 48m/- to prepare well for the championships.

"We are asking companies, organizations, and well-wishers to help us with money and materials, we need more than 48/m to successfully send the team to Rwanda for the Africa Volleyball Championships" he said.

Twenty African Nations have confirmed their participation at the tournament.

They are Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, and Mali.

Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Rwanda are also the championship's contenders.

EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Mnosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kail Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

DADAZ. A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

east africa RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

