



CONSTRUCTION



GOVT ALL OUT TO EMPOWER LOCAL CONTRACTORS **PAGE 2**

FINANCE



GOVT TASKS TIRA TO TRIPLE INSURANCE USERS BY 2030 **PAGE 3**

FISHERIES



GOVT CALLS ON FISHERMEN TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVES **PAGE 4**

ENVIRONMENT



BAGAMOYO EMBARKS ON TREE PLANTING CAMPAIGN **PAGES**

INSIDE

INFRASTRUCTURE

Page 4



TOURISM

Page 4



CHILDREN

Page 6



Mwinyi lists Cabinet ministers, offers ACT-Wazalendo two slots



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi unveils his Cabinet at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

● Appoints no deputy ministers, waiting for need to arise

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday unveiled a partial cabinet, reserving portfolios for the main opposition ACT-Wazalendo which is yet to accept election results.

The position of First Vice President has not been filled as it is also reserved for the losing party with at least 10 per cent of votes as per the Government of National Unity (GNU) framework under the Zanzibar constitution.

Speaking soon after unveiling the cabinet at the Zanzibar State House, Dr Mwinyi said ACT Wazalendo have qualified on becoming part of the government as they obtained 19 per cent of the votes in the late October general election. "That's why we've left the post of First Vice President as we wait for them to respond," he stated.

"There is room for the opposition party in the cabinet and that's why I left two ministries vacant," he stated, noting also that the four elected ACT Wazalendo members of the House of Representatives haven't reported so far and they're yet to take oath of office.

"So, we're still waiting for them to respond so that other things continue," President Mwinyi said when responding to

TURN TO PAGE 2



Pro-Bobi Wine protests: Death toll rises to seven

KAMPALA

THE death toll from protests against the arrest of leading opposition presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi, known as Bobi Wine (pictured) has risen to seven, police said yesterday.

Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesman Patrick Onyango said the toll is likely to rise

after more than 30 people were injured during the Wednesday and Thursday protests in different parts of the country.

"There are those who are badly off," he said, not explaining the cause of the deaths or the nature of their injuries.

Protests resumed for a second day on Thursday in the capital, Kampala, with protesters blocking roads and burning tyres. Police and army were heavily deployed in the capital to disperse the protesters.

Police fired tear gas to disperse Wine's supporters, who blocked roads and burned tyres after news broke that he had been arrested in the town of Luuka and taken to a police station in the city of Jinja.

Graphic videos and photos shared on social media showed several people lying in the streets covered in blood, allegedly after being shot dead.

A Uganda Red Cross statement said that

TURN TO PAGE 2

NEMC sets December 31 to end wrapping plastics

By Guardian Reporter

TRADERS and shop customers used to plastic wrappers will have to switch to organic items by the end of this year following a ban on plastic coverings by the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

NEMC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the items will be allowed until December 31, after which environmental regulations will be tightened in this aspect as well.

Apart from market traders and their customers, also to be affected are entrepreneurs



An exception was made on plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, the construction industry, the agricultural sector, foodstuffs along with sanitary and waste management products

who use the items to pack treats such as cashew nuts, groundnuts and a wide variety of other products, he said, noting that despite being on eradication shortlist, the wrappers were being tolerated because of their industrial importance and limited use.

However, the plastic coverings have emerged in diverse sizes in local markets and are now being used as carrier bags, implying that the same environmental impact as the banned plastic bags is afoot, he said.

Having plastic packing or covering material in the market was at variance with

TURN TO PAGE 2

BoT takes over troubled China Commercial Bank

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has placed China Commercial Bank Limited under its statutory administration following failure to meet regulatory requirements regarding capital adequacy.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, BoT Governor Prof Florens Luoga (pictured) said the move is reflects the fact that allowing the bank to continue operating in a



state of undercapitalization is detrimental to the interest of depositors and poses systemic risk to the stability of financial system.

BoT took over management of the lender effective yesterday to safeguard assets deposited by its customers," the governor noted, elaborating that the measure was statutory and necessary.

"Pursuant to powers conferred upon BoT under section 56(1)(g)(i) and (iii) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 the Bank of Tanzania has effective from today, the 19th November 2020, taken over and placed under statutory administration China Commercial Bank Limited," he announced.

BoT has appointed a statutory manager to

TURN TO PAGE 2





Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) chancellor former Prime Minister Judge (rtd) Joseph Warioba (3rd-R, front row) listens to a briefing by the manager of the university's Tanzania Apopo project, Dr Georgies Mgohe (L, with microphone), on how mice undergo mine detonation training. Second right is SUA council chairman former Chief Justice Mohamed Chande Othman. Photo: Correspondent Frank Kaundula

NEMC sets December 31 to end wrapping plastics

FROM PAGE 1

Regulation 4(b)(c) of the National Environmental Act (EMA) of 2004, which imposes a blanket removal of plastic wrapping or packing of commercial products.

"The regulation was made, gazetted and promulgated in order to protect the health and lives of humans, other creatures and protect the environment from potential harm posed by the use and disposal of flimsy plastic bags or coverings," he stated.

Dr Gwamaka asserted that the product tubings still in circulation had not been approved by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), meaning the tubings were being circulated in disregard of Regulation 4 of EMA 2004 which prohibits the use and marketing of plastic products that have

not been approved by TBS.

The regulations were made and gazetted in 2019 to reinforce the government ban on the use of plastic carriers and allied products, he stated.

"Having tubings in the market is essentially against the law as stipulated in the two regulations. The use has been tolerated by the government because tubings are used by petty traders to sell small items, he stated.

"However, of late there is a diverse and compound use of tubings, whose source remains unknown and the tubings have not been cleared by the TBS. Therefore, their use is banned after December 31, 2020," he further specified.

Since the ban on plastic carriers a total of 2761 groups of entrepreneurs have been producing alternative carriers to public satisfaction and creating direct and indirect employment, he

pointed out.

Petty traders have a wide range of approved products to choose from in doing their businesses, he affirmed, urging traders to turn to new approved products to ensure their businesses aren't handicapped with unusable plastic covering stock after December 31.

The government ended the use of plastic carrier bags effective June 1, last year, where all plastic carrier bags regardless of their thickness were prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied or used in Mainland Tanzania.

An exception was made on plastic packaging for medical services, industrial products, the construction industry, the agricultural sector, foodstuffs along with sanitary and waste management products.

Mwinyi lists Cabinet ministers, offers ACT-Wazalendo two slots

FROM PAGE 1

questions from media personnel.

Dr Mwinyi said he has reserved the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children and that of Trade and Industrial Development for the opposition party.

Dr Mwinyi named Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga as the Minister of State in the President's Office—Economy and Investment, while Masoud Ali Mohammed becomes Minister of State in the President's Office—Regional Administration, Local Governments and Special Forces.

In the list, Haroun Ali Suleiman becomes Minister of State in the President's Office (Constitutional Affairs and Justice, Public Service Management and Good Governance), while Jamal Kassim Ali was named as Minister of State in the President's Office (Finance and Planning).

Dr Khalid Mohammed Salum becomes Minister of State in the Second Vice President's Office (Policy, Coordination and House of Representatives), while Soud Nahoda Hassan becomes Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock. Simai Mohammed Said is the Minister for Education and Vocational Training.

Dr Mwinyi also named Tabia Mwitwa Maulid as Minister for Information, Youth,

Culture and Sports, while Riziki Pembe Juma becomes Minister for Lands and Settlements Development. Suleiman Masoud Makame becomes the Minister for Water and Energy, while Lela Mohammed Mussa is Minister for Tourism and Heritage.

Abdallah Hussein Kombo becomes Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries, while Rahma Kassim Ali becomes Minister for Works, Communications and Transport.

President Mwinyi did not appoint any deputy ministers, saying his target is to have a lean and effective cabinet. "I'll appoint deputy ministers if the need arises," he stated, with the appointed ministers set to be sworn-in tomorrow at the Zanzibar State House.

The cabinet announcement follows last month's General Election, where Dr Mwinyi emerged winner with 76.27 percent of total votes.

After Dr Mwinyi was declared winner, his main rival—Seif Sharif Hamad of ACT-Wazalendo rejected the outcome, saying the polls were marred by irregularities, including denial of access for his party agents to polling stations.

The veteran Zanzibar politician, who polled 19.87 per cent of the votes on the basis of results announced by Zanzibar Electoral Commission, further alleged that there was ballot stuffing.

Pro-Bobi Wine protests: Death toll rises to seven

FROM PAGE 1

their frontline workers had assisted 11 people who had gunshot wounds.

Meanwhile, opposition presidential candidates have suspended their campaigns, calling for fellow contestants to be released.

Retired army generals Mugisha Muntu and Henry Tumukunde also demanded that police stop violence against candidates and the public.

Campaign events for several opposition candidates have been broken up or blocked by the police.

Bobi Wine was arrested at a campaign rally in the east of the country on Wednesday. The police bundled him into a van, claiming that he had drawn a crowd larger than the

200 people recommended by the Electoral Commission, as a coronavirus prevention measure.

His lawyers said he was yet to be charged.

Wine, who has been arrested many times in recent years, has captured the imagination of many Ugandans with his persistent calls for President Yoweri Museveni to retire after 36 years in power. The election is early next year.

Meanwhile, opposition presidential candidates have complained to the Electoral Commission (EC) about police brutality and being denied access to the mass media during the campaign trail.

Six of the 11 candidates, who attended yesterday's meeting with EC, said they had been teargassed and brutalised by the police.

Govt all out to empower local contractors through essential skills and tools

By Getrude Mbago

THE government yesterday said that it is working on a special plan that aims at empowering local contractors with essential skills, knowledge and tools so as to enable them win and manage large scale projects.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication, Elius Mwakalinga said in Dar es Salaam that the government was aware of the challenges facing local contractors and it was all out to address the challenges to increase efficiency in the construction industry.

He was speaking during the special workshop organised by the Tanzania Civil Engineering Contractors Association (TACECA) aimed at deliberating civil works opportunities in the next five years.

He acknowledged that intervention is required to empower and build capacities of the local construction industry firms to be able to win tenders for big construction projects such as highways and complex buildings which would in turn boost the country's economy.

The PS noted that local contractors constitute more than 70 per cent of all contractors in the country but projects being executed by the professionals worth 33 per cent compared to 67 per cent value of the projects that are carried out by foreign contractors.

"In addition to measures being undertaken by the government, local contractors should find out why their projects value is lower than the ones being executed by their counterparts while tendering process is being done transparently," Mwakalinga said.

According to him, through the strategic plan the contractors will be capacitated through trainings to acquire skills that would enable them manage the projects, capital and equipment. "We are planning to build capacity to our local contractors

because they have different capabilities we might blame while, some of them are good financially, while others are good when it comes to machines, and others have good expertise," he said.

He however said that the government has been embarking on taking different measures to assist the industry realize its potential, including developing policies that will provide a good environment for growth of the industry.

Mwakalinga explained that the industry has the potential of creating jobs, provide income generating opportunities and livelihood for the poor, and hence reduce poverty.

He added that the government will empower local contractors through various projects which will enable them to acquire skills, capital and equipment so that they can compete with foreign contractors.

The PS further detailed under the short term plan the government will also include some sections in tender announcements which among others will indicate whether the project is open to local contractors only or both.

TACECA chairman Mohamed Versi said that Tanzania has over the last five years experienced a major national construction boom through various projects with others being currently under implementation.

He named them as Mwalimu Nyerere Hydro Power Project, Standard Gauge Railway, Ubungo interchange and investments in other sectors.

"One would have expected that such projects should have benefited local contractors and translated to increased capacity for service delivery in terms of acquired technology, enhanced experience, increased financial capability among others but it has not been the case," he said.

He said TACECA was putting in place a proposal that aimed at enabling local contractors to compete locally and internationally.



Nazneen Material Handling Company official Hafeezali Gangji (2nd-L) briefs Elius Mwakalinga (L), Permanent secretary in the Works, Transport and Communications ministry, at the firm's pavilion after the PS opened the 5th Contractors Competitiveness meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

BoT takes over troubled China Commercial Bank

FROM PAGE 1

manage the affairs of the bank and suspended its board of directors and management, he stated, noting that the bank will not be open for formal business for a period not exceeding ninety days.

During that period the Bank of Tanzania will examine its finances and credit flows to determine an appropriate resolution option, he elaborated.

"The central bank assures the public that it will continue to protect the interests of depositors and maintain stability of the banking sector," he emphasized.

The lender, owned by Tanzanian and Chinese shareholders, was licensed in 2015 and is among 36 lenders registered as fully-fledged commercial banks. Its total deposits fell by 79 per cent by the end of 2018 to 3.98bn/- (\$1.72m) while its assets declined by 65 per cent to 12.8bn/-,

on the basis of BoT data. It operated only from one branch in Dar es Salaam.

In 2018, BoT advised struggling privately-owned financial institutions to form mergers as a safe means of survival instead of going it alone and finally tumbling.

The counsel came after the government facilitated the merger between Twiga Bancorp and TPB Bank, both of them state-owned banks.

BoT deputy governor Dr Bernard

Kibesse said in Dar es Salaam that mergers of small, medium and larger banks enhance efficiency in the banking sector, fostering financial inclusion among the public.

"Privately owned banks can merge as long as they meet required aspects as per the 2006 Act, as merging of struggling banks helps them increase efficiency and attract more clients," he stated at the Twiga Bancorp-TPB Bank merger formalization ceremony in Dar es Salaam



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation grants and communication manager Sandra Oswald (L) receives information from midwife Godlove Itungi (R) on the operation of devices used to keep premature babies safe and healthy. This was the commemoration of World Prematurity Day held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ministry urges Tira: Aim for 50 per cent insurance coverage

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has tasked the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to make sure 50 per cent of the Tanzanians are enrolled with insurance services by 2030.

Currently, only 15 per cent of the population benefit from insurance services.

Assistant director of planning in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Theresia Henjewele made the remarks when addressing delegates during the 5th conference of TIRA workers' council in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Henjewele who represented the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dotto James urged the regulator to ensure an increase of income generated from life insurance from 0.1 per cent to 0.3 per cent and other types of insurance from 0.4 per cent to 2 per cent by the year 2030.

She said since most Tanzanians depend on agricultural activities and small businesses, it is high time that TIRA puts efforts in reaching and enrolling farmers with insurance services.

The government's target by 2030 is to make sure that 10 per cent of the income generated from the insurance sector comes from the agriculture sector. The move will also boost the sector's contribution in the national income.

"You must thrive to increase the sectors' contribution to the national income from the current 0.53 per cent to 3 per cent in 2030. Increased contribution of the sector in the national income would also bring positive results in value addition for agricultural crops, forest, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors", she noted calling upon TIRA to fast track provision

of insurance education to the rural population.

According to Henjewele the government has been insisting on agricultural crops being covered by insurance services because there are many risks that farmers are likely to encounter in the crops value chain.

The commissioner of insurance, Dr Mussa Juma said the authority has put in place strategies for improving the insurance sector by enhancing insurance penetration from 15 per cent to 50 per cent as well as increasing annual insurance uptake from 20 per cent to 60 per cent. He said that TIRA aims to reach 80 per cent of the country's population with insurance education by 2030.

Dr Juma added that plans are underway for establishment of a data centre for the insurance sector to enable the authority to collect statistics which will be used for planning and implementation of its strategies.

He said the authority has directed insurance companies with data centres abroad to shift them to Tanzania as it has been in previous years.

He said TIRA has in recent days met with all insurance stakeholders to discuss the available challenges and chat ways forward towards improvement of the sector. Some of the challenges facing the sector includes lack of regulations and laws for supervision of the sector.

"We have already completed preparation of the National Insurance Policy (NIP) which is now being reviewed at the ministry. Endorsement of the policy will help in the sectors' operation and supervision", he stated, appealing to the government to approve the authority's structure to facilitate supervision activities.

By Francis Kajubi

VODACOM Tanzania Plc has partnered with Infinix Tanzania to facilitate data access to Tanzanians in both urban and rural areas of the country hence strengthening internet access.

Vodacom, whose standard data tariff price stands at 40/- per megabyte, leads by 30 per cent of the local telecoms subscription market share with 14.99 million subscribers as revealed in the September Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Speaking at a launching ceremony of a new Infinix series smartphone in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Infinix Tanzania public relations manager, Aisha Karupa

Vodacom partners with Infinix-Tanzania to facilitate data access across the country

said that it was a milestone to seal a deal that will propel access of data to people in interior areas where Vodacom has a strong internet network.

"Partnering with Vodacom will not only simplify delivery of our product across the country but help Tanzanians have access to strong internet services. The new phone to be available on market from today is Infinix NOTE 8. The phone is sold in line with free 96 GB from Vodacom which will be used for twelve months" said Karupa.

According to her, the new series is

made of a strong mediatek helio G80 Octa core processor that guarantees effectiveness of the mobile phone functioning machineries. It is made of two MP 16 front view cameras and six MP 64 back view cameras and a memory card of 128GB Rom and 6GB Ram.

On her part, Nandi Mwiombella, Head of Marketing at Vodacom Tanzania Plc said that Vodacom's key strategy is to change Tanzania into a digitized nation and to realize that it is its crucial role to facilitate mobile

manufacturers to have access to all parts of the country.

"We are the leading mobile company in the country with over 14 million subscribers thus we ought to make it easier for Tanzanians to access cheap data with strong internet services. The new Infinix NOTE 8 will be available at our all point of sales and Vodashops across the country from today. Our partnership with Infinix Tanzania means that the communication sector is growing in Tanzania" said Mwiombella.

TANZANIA PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION



NOTICE OF THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation will be held on Tuesday 22nd December, 2020 at the Dar es Salaam Serena Hotel starting at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm when the following business shall be transacted:

AGENDA:

- 1. Constitution of the Meeting**
 - (a) To read the notice convening the meeting and determine if a quorum is present.
 - (b) Communication from the Chair
- 2. Ordinary Business**
 - (a) Confirmation of the minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting held on 28th September 2019
 - (b) Matters arising from the minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting
 - (c) To receive and consider the Chairperson's Annual Report from 2019 - 2020.
 - (d) To receive and consider the Work Programme for the year 2021.
 - (e) To receive and consider the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December, 2019.
 - (f) To Approve Appointment and Remuneration of Auditors for the Financial Statements ending 31st December, 2020
 - (g) Election of TPSF office bearers
- 3. Any Other Business**

To deliberate any other business that may be legally transacted at the Annual General Meeting.

NOTES:

1. Cluster meetings to elect TPSF Board Members shall be held 7 days before the AGM. All details about the elections will be sent to all members well in advance.
2. All members who have fully paid-up their subscriptions shall have the right to attend, speak and vote at the Annual General Meeting.
3. Members who are eligible to attend and vote at the AGM are entitled to appoint a PROXY to attend and vote on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Foundation's Articles.
4. Participation to the 20th AGM can also be through online platforms. Details for this option including the link to the meeting shall be provided to eligible members in due course.

Dated this Friday November, 2020.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TANZANIA PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION

Mr. Zachy Mbenna
Ag. Executive Director and Secretary to the Board
TANZANIA PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION

About TPSF

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) is the voice of the private sector and the umbrella body for private sector associations and corporate bodies in all sectors of the economy, including Business associations. TPSF is Tanzania's focal point for the East African Business Council and the SADC Business Council. Its members are business associations, corporate companies, multinationals, SMEs and startups organized under different business associations and working groups reflective of the key sectors of the economy.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation - Plot No. 1288 Mwaya Road - Msasani Peninsula - P.O. Box 11313 - Dar es Salaam
Fax: 255 22 2602368 - Tel: 255 22 2601913/1938/2751 - E-mail: info@tpsftz.org - www.tpsftz.org

@Biashara TV Tanzania @tpsftz_tanzania @tpsftz @tpsftz Tanzania



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
ACCESS FUND (UCSAF)



Congratulations



Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania
Hon. Kassim Majaliwa

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) convey heartfelt congratulatory message to Hon. Kassim Majaliwa for being re-appointed Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania by H.E. President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli.

Rest assured that UCSAF will accord you all necessary cooperation to make sure that all the plans of the fifth phase government are realized within a timeframe.

2nd Floor Old Computer Lab Building, College of Informatics and Virtual Education (CIVE),
University of Dodoma, P.O. Box 1957 Dodoma, Phone: +255262965771,
Fax: +255262965770, e-mail: ceo@ucsaf.go.tz, Website: www.ucsaf.go.tz

Govt calls on fishermen to set up cooperatives

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE government has called on all districts in Tanga Region that benefit from fishing activities to mobilise fishermen to form cooperatives in order to upraise themselves economically as well as supervising large scale seaweed farming.

Dr Rashid Tamatamah, Permanent Secretary in the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry (Fisheries Division) issued the directives early this week when inspecting the construction of office building for Kipumbwi Ward Beach Management Unit (BMU) which he said he was not pleased with construction work thereof. "Seaweed is money; it is food and also a reward from God. We must supervise its beneficial production and add value thereon to ensure reliable price for the crop farmed in shallow waters," he said.

He said as for now the government has decided to mobilise for huge investment in the fishing sector.

Dr Tamatamah said the decision by his ministry to heavily invest in the sector has been contributed by great the government's great achievements

during the first five years of the Phase V Government in controlling illegal fishing that saw increase of fish in the country's lakes and the sea.

He said the role of the local councils within areas of fishing activities was to mobilise fishermen to form cooperatives and for women to engage in seaweed farming whilst the ministry's responsibility was to find modern working tools and reliable markets for the products within and outside the country.

At Kipumbwi Beach in Pangani District, Dr Tamatamah inspected the construction of BMU offices building sponsored by South West Indian Ocean Fisheries (Swiofish) at a cost of 154m/-.

Earlier, Dr Nicholas Malila, Swiofish Coordinator said apart from supervision of BMU committees, the project has sponsored the construction of a marine laboratory in Dar es Salaam, which on completion will be the biggest in the country's fishing sector.

He said the building will also house the institution's administration that will supervise deep sea fishing activities whose headquarters will be in Mafia Island in Coast Region.



Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) public relations officer Joseph Mkonyi (R) presents a document with information relating to the supply of water to a locality official at Maweni Street in Mjimwema ward, Kigamboni District, earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

KAHAMA Town Council has allocated 2bn/- from its internal revenue collection for revamping education infrastructure including construction of classrooms and teachers' quarters for both primary and secondary schools.

The district has a shortage of 1,543 classrooms whereby primary schools has a shortage of 1,500 and secondary schools 43.

Anderson Msumba, Kahama District

Kahama Town Council allocates 2bn/- for revamping schools' infrastructure

Executive Director told reporters yesterday here that in order to address the infrastructures challenge facing the education sector in the district, closer community engagement is key.

He said apart from the allocated funds, they have received 700m/-

from the Central Government towards the effort, especially for the construction of classrooms and teachers' houses.

"Our district hospital caters between 45 and 60 births each day, equivalent to one classrooms every after so

many years, hence parents and other development sectors are required to collaborate with the government to solve the challenge posed by classrooms shortage," said Msumba and added:

He said: "Before free education was

introduced we used to enroll 7,000 pupils in elementary and primary schools each year, but now the number has risen to 25,000 causing a huge shortage of classrooms."

He said they have begun constructing houses for primary

schools' teachers in the town's peripheries in order to motivate them to teach in their work stations, adding that they have recently two (two-in-one) quarters for Ntungulu primary school teachers costing 128m/-.

However, Msumba called on every person in the 20 wards forming Kahama Town Council to participate in his/her own level in the construction of classrooms and dispensaries in their areas, and praised residents of Nyandekwa Ward who built two classrooms without pay.



Richard Kayombo (L), Tanzania Revenue Authority's Director for Taxpayer Services and Education, has a word with owners of shops dealing in motor vehicle spare parts shop owners during a door-to-door taxpayer sensitisation campaign conducted in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent MirajimSala

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has been urged to set aside enough budget to empower the inclusive education in the country and thus support students with disabilities and those from the pastoralists' communities to access education without hindrances.

Fredric Mkatambo, the Director of Information Centre for Disabilities (ICD) told reporters here on Wednesday that the government's investing in inclusive education will assist various challenges faced by students with disabilities and transform the country's education sector.

Mkatambo was speaking on an inclusive education project to be implemented in Bahi District and Dodoma City.

He said as for now inclusive education is faced by many challenges including unfriendly environment for children with disabilities.

"Inclusive education does not mean mixing up normal students with those with disabilities, but is to ensure all existing challenges are worked on including infrastructures as well the

'Allocate adequate funds for inclusive education'

need for teachers able to teach children with disabilities," Mkatambo said.

He said the project was also being implemented in Katavi and Rukwa regions where revamping of schools' infrastructures was being carried out.

He further said some of the challenges they had been facing during the project's implementation in the said regions include lack of friendly infrastructures for students with disabilities in many schools.

Mkatambo appealed to the government to have in place a special policy for inclusive education including issuing directives to all local councils to have common guidelines for classroom buildings.

"As for now many schools have no slanting stairs, narrow doors for students using wheel chairs as well small windows for those with poor sight, all these challenges requires the government to have strategies to work

on them," he added.

He said many children with disabilities complete Standard VII without knowing how to read and write because teachers lack essential skills in teaching such children.

Jane Magidange, Inclusive Education Project Officer for Bahi District and Dodoma City said the project will run for two years.

She said work to be done in the project include training teachers who would in turn teach students with disabilities as well as revamping of schools' infrastructures.

"Inclusive education does not mean mixing up normal students with those with disabilities, but is to ensure all existing challenges are worked on including infrastructures as well the need for teachers able to teach children with disabilities"

Z'bar ready to cooperate with Morocco in the tourism sector, says Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has spelled out his country's intention to beef up ties with Morocco in the tourism sector.

Dr Mwinyi expressed the remarks Wednesday this week in talks with the Ambassador from the Kingdom of Morocco in Tanzania Abdelilah Benryane at Zanzibar state House.

Dr Mwinyi said since Morocco has attained great achievements in the tourism sector, it would be better for Zanzibar to learn from the north African country to expand its own sector.

He said as Zanzibar hugely depends on the sector for its economic growth, cooperation by the two countries in the sector would also enable Zanzibar achieve similar achievements as Morocco.

Dr Mwinyi also accepted the message

of congratulations from the Morocco King Mohammed VI conveyed by the Ambassador for the new role as Zanzibar President and pledged expanding ties between the two countries.

He explained to the envoy efforts by his government in strengthening the tourism sector and also stressed the need for cooperation in other development sectors.

Dr Mwinyi also used the occasion to welcome investors from Morocco to Zanzibar to invest in various sectors.

For his part, the Moroccan Ambassador to Tanzania Abdelilah Benryane told Dr Mwinyi that Morocco was proud of the good existing relationship between his country and Tanzania, including Zanzibar.

Ambassador Benryane said Morocco was ready to cooperate with Zanzibar in the tourism and other important sectors, saying his country's aim

was to offer scholarship in various fields for students from Zanzibar's higher learning institutions, including scholarships in the field of religion.

The Moroccan envoy also expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Zanzibar in training on tourism issues through its college that has ties with many European countries as well as other countries.

He also expressed the need in sharing of experience and professionalism for Zanzibar students with those from his country.

In regard to the tourism sector, Ambassador Benryane said his country has attained great achievements in the sector and received many tourists through the 'Azur Blue' programme initiated by King Mohammed VI.

Dr Mwinyi also used the occasion to welcome investors from Morocco to Zanzibar to invest in various sectors



Judith Lubuva (L), KCB Bank Tanzania's Arusha branch manager, pictured yesterday presenting an assortment of home appliances worth 5m/- to Mary Mhando shortly after the latter emerged one of the winners of the bank's countrywide entrepreneurs training for self-employment programme dubbed 'Zjajiri na KCB'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bagamoyo District embarks on a tree planting campaign

By Beatrice Philemon

Firefly Bagamoyo beach goes in collaboration with Bagamoyo District council have embarked on a tree planting campaign so as to combat global warming, for shade trees and make green spaces.

Jo Turner, the founder of Firefly Bagamoyo Beach Lovers said this yesterday during the occasion to plant tree seedlings at the Old German Boma area and on the roadsides.

She expressed thanks to Tanzania Cleanup and Conservation Initiative (TCCI), Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) for donating tree seedlings that comprise Tamarind tree species, Trichilia emetica, Jacalander tree and other species and Bagamoyo Sugar Company for donating fertilizer for tree planting exercise.

According to her, the trees will provide shade for the ground and building, an ecosystem for bird, insects and shady beauty and food sources for many people.

"We expect to make this project sustainable, we will be planting 20 tree seedlings in accordance with town planners guidelines, in the tree planting campaign, we will work in partnership with Bagamoyo district council and town planners in the Coast Region," she said.

Turner further said that that apart from tree planting, the organization also engages with waste management along the beach areas as well as wastes recycling activities.

"We recycle number of wastes including plastic bottles, glass bottles, tins, papers, flip flop, unwanted clothes, Aerosol Cans, Cardboard, Batteries, Tetra Packs, Tin Bottle Cap and mosquito nets," she said

People willing to donate towards the upkeep of this facility at the office, Trash must be washed, cardboard and

TetraPacks must be collapsed flat while glass bottles must be separated by colour in the bags.

Furthermore, Firefly Bagamoyo Beach Lovers has donated 10 dustbins and installed it in different areas along the road, beach and bus stand to collect waste, make the district clean for tourists visiting in Bagamoyo as well as ensure on the surface roads are not dirty and it doesn't give a bad smell.

For his part, Bagamoyo District Council deputy environmental officer, Fulgence Casian expressed gratitude to the Firefly Bagamoyo Beach Lovers, Mazingira Plus NGOs, TCCI) and other stakeholders to embark on tree planting campaign in Bagamoyo.

"We still need more tree seedlings from different stakeholders that will be planted along the road, beach, bus stand, in schools including other areas within the district," he said

Furthermore in a bid to attract more tourists and other people to visit in Bagamoyo, the government should also improve road infrastructures in our district as most of the roads are in devastating state

According to him, good infrastructure boosts tourism development by raising the attractiveness and competitiveness of a destination.

"Normally tourists expect facilities in their chosen destination to be similar to what they enjoy at home, he says noting that as result the government should ensure Bagamoyo have good infrastructure to attract more both local and international visitors," he says.

"We still need more tree seedlings from different stakeholders that will be planted along the road, beach, bus stand, in schools including other areas within the district"

MP begins implementing election campaign pledges

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

October 28, 2020 elections.

DODOMA Urban Member of Parliament, Anthony Mavunde has begun implementing his election campaign pledges by solving the prolonged water shortage problem.

He has so far constructed six wells in various areas of the city, including Chigongwe.

Inspecting the construction work at Chigongwe Ward early this week, Mavunde said it was the sixth water well since he was elected as MP in the

"I have begun and will continue to implement my campaign pledges to the people on solving the problem of the shortage of clean and safe water," he said.

Simon Machela, the Ward's Councilor thanked the MP by implementing his campaign pledge a move which shows how he is committed to serve his people.

He said Ng'ambala area residents have been grappling to access clean and safe water for years so the implantation

of the project has brought relief to the residents.

According to him, the intention of the government and its leaders is to ensure that people have access to water services in their local areas and thus bring relief to the residents especially women who have been walking miles away to search for water.

Chigongwe Ward residents expressed their pleasure by the efforts of their MP saying the water problem was very acute in the area for a long time.

One of the residents, Neema Joseph

said the Ward has three localities all of which were experiencing acute water shortage; hence their legislator's efforts have contributed to easing the problem.

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

Root vegetables: Kenyan schools now embracing indigenous foods

NAIROBI

TODAY, when students file into the lunchroom at Mundika High School in western Kenya, they are greeted by a spread of nutritious local vegetables with exotic-sounding names, like spider plant. But that wasn't always the case.

Just a few years ago, that fare had largely disappeared from Kenyan plates, replaced by cheaper foreign-derived foods, like cabbage and maize meal.

"The first time we introduced indigenous African leafy vegetables in a school meal programme, we didn't know how the students would respond," said Aurillia Manjella, an agricultural consultant who helped Mundika high, and several other schools, integrate traditional foods into their menus.

Turns out, she need not have worried. The greens proved to be a hit, at least before the school was closed in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mundika High School is one of several institutions across Kenya, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Turkey that have made the switch to local foods with the help of an initiative backed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and partners.

Called the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project, its aim is to address the narrowing variety of people's diets at a time when nutritionally-poor processed foods are dominating dinner plates. "This project is an example of how bringing together international and national partners across the agriculture, environment, health and education sectors can improve ecosystem health and create resilient environments and communities," said Marieta Sakalian, a senior manager with UNEP.

Globally, three staple crops -rice, maize and wheat - account for more than 50 per cent of calories consumed. In many parts of the world, these grains, and some vegetables, have replaced traditional fare because they

are cheaper to grow. But local foods are often harder and more nutritious than their exotic counterparts.

Finger millet, for example, used to be widely consumed in western Kenya but the cereal crop has gradually been replaced by rice and maize. Researchers found that cooked Kenyan finger millet contains almost twice the amount of protein, 17 times the amount of iron and 45 times the amount of calcium as white rice. Millet is also high in fiber and gluten-free.

"We wanted to provide the science to show that these indigenous vegetables and fruits are better for you, and are not detrimental to environmental or human health," said Teresa Borelli, a researcher from the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, which was part of the nutrition project.

Project partners focused much of their work in Busia, western Kenya, where both under-nutrition and obesity are on the rise, and where many people suffer from deficiencies in zinc, iron and vitamin A. Yet in home gardens, they found five species of

African leafy vegetables that could help address those shortages. For example, amaranth, a green leafy vegetable, contains 200 times more vitamin A and 10 times the iron of a similarly sized portion of cabbage.

"First, we had to create awareness about the nutritional importance of indigenous vegetables and to change perceptions that existed in the community," explained Manjella.

"Some indigenous foods have been used traditionally by healers (and are) associated with the poor, the old or the ill. People were not interested in them."

Working with community-based organizations and schools in Busia, communities were trained to cultivate high-quality indigenous vegetables at scale, making them more affordable. Cooking classes were organized, featuring recipes like sautéed cowpea and jute mallow, and schools were assisted to create lessons on the benefits of indigenous foods.

The work led officials in Busia to propose that 30 per cent of food procured for schools and hospitals should be locally sourced from family farms. Victor Wasike, Director of Genetic Resources at the Kenya Agricultural Livestock Research Organization, said the regulations are the first of their kind in the country.

Data gathered during the project is now being used to inform food policy across Kenya's 47 counties. "You can see a multiplier effect," says Wasike, who estimates the project has reached 14,000 people. "This has raised the profile of indigenous vegetables and their use in Kenya overall."

Manjella, the agricultural consultant, still stays in touch with Mundika secondary school where the new meals have been introduced.

"Malnutrition can lead to short-term and long-term health problems that can affect student performance and their studies," she says.

"This multidimensional project put nutritious, diverse diets on the table, money in farmer's pockets and (had) benefits for the whole community."



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF RECEIPT OF FUNDING

In line with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby informs the public of funds it has received from USAID for continuing implementation of USAID Kizazi Kipya project. Pact Tanzania implements project activities through 45 local civil society organizations (CSOs) and 3 Consortium partners, where a significant amount of these funds will be channeled to support implementation.

Name of project	USAID Kizazi Kipya
Funding agency	USAID
Purpose of project	To support the government in enabling more Tanzanian orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) – children, adolescents, and young people orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and other adversities – to access age-appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihoods, and psychosocial wellbeing
Funding period	October 01, 2020 - September 30, 2021
Funding amount	USD 20,000,000
Geographical Coverage	Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Coast, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Tabora, Kigoma, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma, Singida, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Ruvuma, Mtwara, Mbeya, Katavi, Rukwa and Songwe.

For any questions, kindly reach out to us through tanzania@pactworld.org

Marianna Balampama
 Marianna Balampama
 Country Director
 Pact Tanzania

Stakeholders call for further investment in sewage systems

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WATER Aid Tanzania has urged the government to invest heavily in quality sewerage systems both in rural and urban areas so as to promote sanitation and fight communicable diseases.

Addressing journalists yesterday here as part of the commemoration of the World Toilet Day, Water Aid communication and campaign officer Neema Kimaro said most of the sewage infrastructures are poor and do not meet the needs of the people.

She said that it is high time for the government to invest in urban planning and embed sanitation and hygiene in its plans.

According to her, reports show that by 2016, only ten cities had strong sewage systems of which, majority of them were still in poor condition thus failing to cover people's needs.

According to her, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes that focus solely on providing taps, toilets and one-off trainings are unlikely to deliver lasting outcomes in communities and the nation at large.

She said that access to clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights.

"For over 30 years, we have been working in partnership with the government and other stakeholders to improve access to these three essentials. We believe that water, sanitation and hygiene should be at the centre of development. When citizens have access to WASH services, this also improves their health, education, nutrition, and livelihoods," she said.

She cited rapid growth of cities and towns as one of the major causes to shortage of sewage infrastructures.

He noted that according to a study conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2017 as well as the national environmental report of 2017, it is estimated that 70 to 80 percent of

Tanzanians living in urban areas did not have strong toilet facilities and waste disposal services.

"In recent years, we have all witnessed how the torrential rains have caused havoc on people's businesses, housing and toilet facilities, leaving number of people homeless and helpless," she added.

Kimaro said that investing in proper sewage systems would also help address climate change impacts such as floods which have caused major disasters in infrastructures and people's health.

"The government and stakeholders including us (WaterAid) should sit down and discuss how we can improve infrastructures especially in urban areas so as to ensure that we help our communities to have modern toilets that will withstand climate changes," she said.

Reports show that 40 percent of households in the country have access to proper toilets, with 60 percent lacking them. Reports also show that among 100 primary schools, only 28 schools have access to proper toilets.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had said that 70 percent of diseases in Tanzania are water-borne; and it is estimated that these cost Tanzania close to 600 million US dollars a year.



In recent years, we have all witnessed how the torrential rains have caused havoc on people's businesses, housing and toilet facilities, leaving number of people homeless and helpless



Dr Fortunate Kapinga (L), Director of Mtwara-based Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute - Naliendele, takes members of institute's board of directors led by Dr Yohana Bubeda (3rd-L, foreground) around a cashewnut farm at Masigati village in Manyoni District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government has admitted that deaths of children at birth, including those born prematurely has remained a great challenge in the country, saying they contribute to 40 per cent of deaths of all children under five years.

This was disclosed by Prof Mabula Mchembe, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Children and Elders in the speech in Dar es Salaam read on his behalf by the Deputy Principal of University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Prof Andrea Pembe at the event to mark the World Prematurity Day marked on November 17 each year.

Reading the speech, Prof Pembe said statistics for 2015 and 2016 show that for every 1,000 live births, 25 die before reaching 28 days.

Deaths of children at birth still great challenge in Tanzania - PS

"These deaths contribute to approximately 40 per cent of all children under five years of age according to Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) for 2015 and 2016.

"Health Ministry's reports show that for 2018 a total of 11,524 were reported and for 2019 the number was 9,681," said Prof. Pembe.

He said statistics show deaths of infants are contributed with problems with those born under-weight, especially those stillborn.

"A child born prematurely is from a pregnancy that has not reached 37

weeks. In this country the problem is huge, reports from 'World Population Prospects' for 2013 showed that Tanzania is among 20 world countries that have attained 213,500 stillborn babies per year," said Prof Pembe.

He also said the world registers 15 million stillborn births every year who are in danger of dying.

"We must push our local councils and stakeholders to increase the number of rooms for Neonatal Care Unit, empower and motivate medical staff to provide better services to patients including stillborn babies," he said.

Sandra Oswald, Jamii Vodacom

Volunteer Unit Manager said for the past three years they have resolved to invest in the reduction of infants' deaths, by contributing 100m/- towards the effort and reached over 8,000 women.

Doris Mollel, Doris Mollel Foundation (DMF) Director General said the aim of the celebrations was to remember the children who out of the 15 million born worldwide every year, one million die.

World Prematurity Day celebrations were organised by DMF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Vodacom and NCBA bank.



Mbulu district commissioner Dr Chelestino Mofuga (L) pictured at Masieda earlier this week inspecting a gold mine run by Penniel Edward and Others Company Ltd. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GGML and NEEC support Geita's local businesses

In a bid to impart relevant knowledge and skills to entrepreneurs in the region, Geita Gold Mining Limited has funded a special capacity-building programme for Geita entrepreneurs.

The programme, which is coordinated by the National Economic Empowerment Council of Tanzania (NEEC), is a result of an agreement signed between GGML and NEEC on July 20, 2020. It partly focuses on GGML's business procurement standards.

Speaking during the official launch of the training at the External Processing Zones Authority premises in Geita, The GGML Managing Director, Richard

Jordinson said the company aspires to improve competitiveness and participation of Geita vendors by building their capacity to understand and correctly comply with necessary criteria on eligibility for supplying goods and/or services to the mining and other sectors.

He added that the training was an affirmation of GGML's commitment to the sustainable development of the communities surrounding the mine.

"We have continuously demonstrated this by actively partnering with the Government in improving social services including

education, health, water and roads as well as other economic activities for the community surrounding the mine," said Jordinson.

He added that with a budget of TZS 1.3 billion, the program targets 500 entrepreneurs with existing businesses in Geita region including youth, women and people with disabilities.

"Following amendment of the Mining Act in 2017, and introduction of Local Content regulations in 2018, increased focus has been placed on providing more opportunities for Tanzanian owned businesses to supply goods and services to the

Mining sector," he said.

On the other hand, the Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council of Tanzania (NEEC), Bengi Issa commended GGML for the initiative, which aligns with the Geita Enterprise Development Program jointly executed by NEEC and GGML.

"This program will build the capacity and confidence of entrepreneurs in Geita to effectively compete with other suppliers from across the country in the mining supply chain and ultimately improve their income and livelihoods," said Ms. Bengi Issa.

Scientists find ways to bolster cassava, as they meet at event supported by Gates foundation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

AS world leaders gather for the UN General Assembly, hundreds of emerging leaders focused on fighting global inequality came together at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's third annual Goalkeepers event in New York City.

Among them, University of Illinois scientist Amanda De Souza highlighted a crop of inequality called cassava, which has starchy, tuberous roots that sustain more than 500 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, yet cassava has been largely neglected by research and development compared to the staple crops of wealthier regions.

Recently, De Souza and a team from Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) published a study in *New Phytologist* that identified opportunities to improve cassava yields—which have not increased for more than fifty years in Africa.

"For smallholder farmers who depend on tiny plots of land to feed and support their families, cassava is a 'backup' crop when other crops fail," De Souza said at Goalkeepers, where she described her work to improve cassava through the RIPE project.

"Especially for women, who represent a majority of smallholder farmers, cassava is a savings account. It is a resource they can harvest all year to pay for things like medical treatments and their children's school fees."

The RIPE project is an international effort to develop more productive crops by improving photosynthesis—the natural, sunlight-powered process that all plants use to fix carbon dioxide into carbohydrates that fuel growth, development, and ultimately yields. RIPE is supported by the Gates Foundation, the US Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), and the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID).

Led by RIPE researchers at Illinois and Lancaster University, this study examined factors that limit photosynthesis in 11 popular, or farmer-preferred, African

varieties of cassava with the goal to eventually help cassava overcome photosynthetic limitations to boost yields.

First, the team examined the photosynthetic limitations of cassava exposed to constant high levels of light, like a plant would experience at midday with cloudless skies. In these conditions, and like many crops, cassava's photosynthesis is limited (by as much as 80 percent) by two factors: One half is due to the low speed that carbon dioxide molecules travel through the leaf to reach the enzyme that drives photosynthesis, called Rubisco. The other half is because Rubisco sometimes fixes oxygen molecules by mistake, wasting large amounts of the plant's energy.

Next, the team evaluated the limitations of photosynthesis under fluctuating light conditions. Surprisingly, and unlike most crops, Rubisco was not the primary limiting factor when leaves transitioned from shade to sunlight, like when the sun comes out from behind a cloud. Instead, cassava is limited by stomata, which are microscopic pores on the surface of leaves that open to allow carbon dioxide to enter the plant but at the cost of water that escapes through these same pores. Stomata are partially closed in the shade and open in response to light when Rubisco is active.

"Rubisco is the major limiting factor during this transition from shade to light for most plants, including rice, wheat, and soybean," De Souza said. "Cassava is the first crop that we have found where stomata limit photosynthesis during these light transitions more than Rubisco."

Illinois' Postdoctoral Researcher Yu Wang created a computer model to quantify how much cassava would gain by overcoming this limitation. According to the leaf-level model, if stomata could open three times faster, cassava could fix 6 percent more carbon dioxide each day. In addition, cassava's water use efficiency—the ratio of biomass produced to water lost by the plant—could be improved by 16 percent.



Why rural women are key in scaling up country's development

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has put in place a number of strides to improve gender equality, but, rural women still face a number of challenges such as oppressive laws on inheritance and marriage, inequalities on market availability, land ownership, outdated traditions and customs such as FGM which is at 13.1 per cent in rural areas compared to 5.5 per cent in urban areas.

Other challenges include the patriarchy system, which is dominant in rural areas, lack of better healthcare, access to education, and limited access to decision making processes, lack of employment for rural women and girls and increasing incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) which are fueled by cultural practices and traditions.

These are key issues that were raised at the commemoration of the International Day of Rural Women; themed: "Building rural women's resilience in the wake of COVID-19," to create awareness of rural women's struggles, their needs, and their critical and key role in our society.

The event was organised by Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in collaboration with the Tanzania Coalition against Female Genital Mutilation (TCAFGM).

The non-governmental human rights organizations advised the government to abolish customary laws that suppress women, especially those in rural areas. They said that in addressing challenges facing rural women, it's better for the society to ensure it abandons obsolete traditional beliefs to ensure justice to rural women is safeguarded.

LHRC Executive Director Anna Henga suggested the need to mobilize stakeholders in rural areas, zonal and national to understand the importance of women and girls and their incorporation into issues affecting them and to ensure that rural development brings on board

rural women too.

"We are asking the government to assist in forming various rural women groups so as to build women's capacity in the understanding their rights to enable them access to various opportunities as well as ensuring girls attend schools," she said.

She stressed the importance of encouraging rural women to participate in decision-making bodies, including policy debates, village planning session and formulation of better education systems.

"There is also the need of having good infrastructures, to assist rural women to get assistance on health and business when needed and abandon obsolete misleading beliefs to ensure the rights for rural women are safeguarded," she added.

TCAFGM chairperson Sarah Mwaga said despite Tanzania taking deliberate steps to ensure it attains gender equality; still rural women have been facing many challenges that need collective efforts to solve them.

She said rural women have been facing many suppressive laws especially in regard to marriage and inheritance, land ownership especially in village land and the rampant existence of obsolete customs.

"The patriarchal system that is widespread in rural areas, lack of quality health services and education, nonparticipation of women in decision making and in leadership, and child labour are among challenges facing rural women" said Sarah.

In Tanzania, 77.9 per cent are rural-based women and 22.1 per cent are urban-based. A lot of rural women suffer from isolation, as well as lack of information, lack of access technological development to improve their work and personal life. So, this group is unable to get into a competitive labour market and they are vulnerable to traditions and customs and gender inequality, hence denying them to get their rights when



being sexually abused.

According to activists, there is no special legal system in Tanzania that protect rural women, despite the fact that the country endorsed different international human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), which guarantee comprehensive rights to rural women—the right to take part in the political process, to social and political equality with men, improved autonomy in their reproductive health decisions, and an end to female genital mutilation.

Article 14 of CEDAW urges state parties to take into account

the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas. It also wants States Parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels; to have access to adequate health care facilities,

including information, counselling and services in family planning; to benefit directly from social security programmes; to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency; to organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment; to participate in all community activities; to have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment inland and agrarian reform as well as inland resettlement schemes; and enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Adopted in 2016, CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34 calls for states parties to legally enforce the right to decent work conditions for female agricultural workers. The marginalization of those in the informal sector and the changing of economic policies leave female farmworkers susceptible to exploitation and unable to access fundamental services. While women are overrepresented among agricultural workers, they are underrepresented in farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives. The CEDAW Committee has recommended that States parties facilitate gender-responsive agricultural development programs and establish a gender perspective in all rural development policies.

The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008. This new international day, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, recognizes "the critical role

and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty."

The idea of honouring rural women with a special day was put forward by international NGOs at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. It was suggested that 15 October be celebrated as "World Rural Women's Day," the eve of World Food Day, in order to highlight the role played by rural women in food production and food security. "World Rural Women's Day" has been celebrated, primarily by civil society, across the world for over a decade.

In 2007, at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed in the Quito Consensus their decision to promote the adoption of an International Day of Rural Women "as an explicit recognition of [rural women's] economic contribution and the development of their communities, in particular with regard to the unpaid work they perform

It's estimated that rural women - a quarter of the world's population—work as farmers, wage earners, and entrepreneurs. Less than 20% of landholders worldwide are women. In rural areas, the gender pay gap is as high as 40%.

Reducing the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25% by the year 2025 could raise global GDP by 3.9%.

If women in rural areas had the same access to agricultural assets, education, and markets as men, agricultural production could be increased, and the number of hungry people reduced by 100-150 million.



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FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We can vastly mitigate impact of future floods

THE Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) has announced that during the rainfall season in November to December, this year several regions will experience above normal rains. It will be recalled that in 2015 we witnessed flash floods killing at least 38 people in Shinyanga Region after strong winds and hail battered villages. Also in Dar es Salaam Region this year 12 people were killed or swept away as a result of flood waters.

We had also witnessed in 2011 at least 23 people were killed and thousands displaced in the worst flooding to hit Tanzania in 50 years.

The statement from the agency is wake up call that we should look back at what are the causes of flood and what to do in case of floods. Floods generally occur as a result of bad weather for example storms, cyclones, tornadoes or thunderstorms, heavy or persistent rain or the sudden discharge of water.

These events lead to a rise in the water level of major riverbeds or to an accumulation of flow water, to the resurgence of underground rivers or to thaws in low-lying areas adjoining stream banks or river estuaries. In mountainous areas, landslides, earthquakes, and avalanches can cause the overflowing or rupture of hydraulic dams or cause unstable blockages at certain points on rivers, and thus threaten or destroy people and the infrastructure located in the lower parts of valleys.

Bursting or overflowing of hydraulic dams, as well as seismic/tidal waves are special cases which require specific protective measures.

Damage caused by floods can vary greatly according to the nature of the phenomenon at the origin of the flood.

They can affect whole regions or certain limited sectors. Moreover, their impact will vary according to whether the event is sudden and violent or a steady but relatively slow rise of flood waters which will inundate a vast area, especially plains situated near or at the mouth of rivers.

The danger is obviously highest in mountainous areas or steep valleys where depressions will be totally leveled or momentarily drowned then covered in debris carried by the flood water (rocks, sand, gravel); this will result in the destruction or burial of all or some of the dwellings, of the economic infrastructure and of vital installations (energy grids, communications and drinking water).

This also happens when torrential rainstorms occur in arid regions and deserts where the water cannot penetrate the impermeable soil and, depending on the topography, runs off as surface water destroying homes and settlements over a wide area.

All types of floods have grave consequences, mainly because of their secondary effects. Localised flood, or one involving a small rise in water level can lead to large-scale damage, to the interruption or destruction of communication routes (road, rail, etc.) or the loss of infrastructure and damage to the environment (economy, supplies, crops).

As opposed to other natural phenomenon (landslides) or the causes of certain floods (tidal waves, bad weather), the risk of flood from rising water levels is predictable, although it is difficult to know when it will occur. It is therefore possible to determine the areas at risk.

We urgently need sustainable solutions to the problems facing our blood banks

BLOOD performs many important functions within the body, including supply of oxygen to tissues bound to hemoglobin, which is carried in red cells. Supply of nutrients such as glucose, amino acids, and fatty acids (dissolved in the blood or bound to plasma proteins).

Blood provides the body's cells with oxygen and removes carbon dioxide. Blood absorbs oxygen from air in the lungs. It transports the oxygen to cells throughout the body, and it removes waste carbon dioxide from the cells. In other words, blood is a body fluid in humans and other animals that delivers necessary substances such as nutrients and oxygen to the cells and transports metabolic waste products away from those same cells. In vertebrates, it is composed of blood cells suspended in blood plasma.

Plasma, which constitutes 55 per cent of blood fluid, is mostly water (92 pc by volume), and contains proteins, glucose, mineral ions, hormones, carbon dioxide (plasma being the main medium for excretory product transportation), and blood cells themselves. The blood cells are mainly red blood cells. The most abundant cells in vertebrate blood are red blood cells. Blood is circulated around the body through blood vessels by the pumping action of the heart.

A collaboration of stakeholders in the public and private sectors across sub-Saharan Africa has launched the Coalition of Blood for Africa. This reflects a growing consensus that progress toward adequate, safe and sustainable blood in Africa requires multi-stakeholder, multi-pronged and innovative approaches to impact lives across the continent.

Blood is a vital healthcare resource. It is most often used in Africa to treat pregnancy-related complications and severe childhood anemia that is caused by a variety of contributors including malaria and sickle cell disease. Blood is increasingly important for patients with kidney failure who are on dialysis and to help cancer patients.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that the number of units of blood needed to sustain an adequate

level of health equals 1 per cent of a nation's population - 10 units per 1000 people. Yet many African countries fall well short of the minimum goal. The lack of infrastructure and equipment for collection and processing of blood components is a key impediment to providing a sustainable blood supply. Though blood and safe transfusion services are essential parts of any strong health system, the safety, sustainability and adequacy of blood remains a major health challenge in many African countries.

The coalition's goal is to support the World Health Organisation's commitments and aligns with global mission to serve more patients. Providing safe access to blood in Africa is one way to achieve this.

The coalition is anchored on three pillars that include reflection - supporting informed-decision making with research, policy analysis and data collection, dialogue - Creating awareness about the need for blood and blood safety and action - providing technical assistance to support initiatives, capacity-building programmes and activities like blood collection drives; helping with technical inputs to strengthen blood-related legislation and policies, such as guidelines for the management of sickle cell disease.

The coalition brings together an unprecedented array of health experts, including public-sector research institutes, ministries of health, academia, not-for-profit research and development organisations, NGOs, international organisations and funders all committed to finding solutions to address the challenges facing access to safe, sustainable blood in Africa.

The scale of the challenge is clearly beyond the scope of a single organisation and we are confident that the Coalition will facilitate a coordinated approach to address the challenges facing blood in Africa and find sustainable solutions," says Gavin Evans, Executive Director, Global Blood Fund. The launch of CoBA was convened by Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, a global leader in blood component, therapeutic apheresis and cell technology, in collaboration with Global Blood Fund, Africa

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Take Floods as an Opportunity...

JOHANNESBURG

WOMEN'S Entrepreneurship Day (WED) is a global initiative celebrated

each November 19 at the United Nations and in 144 countries, the direct participants including 65 universities and colleges.

WED ignites women leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs to consider developing their own businesses, drive economic expansion, and advance communities worldwide.

The movement also educates the world on the importance of why it's pivotal to empower women in business globally. It is spearheaded by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organisation (WEDO), founded by Social Entrepreneur and Humanitarian Wendy Diamond.

"When women are elevated financially, communities and countries prosper. We believe this blueprint could alleviate and eradicate poverty," says WEDO Founder Wendy Diamond.

This year, today's United Nations

SA commemorates UN's Global Women's Entrepreneurship Day

#WEDO2020 Summit will be held virtually, opening up an opportunity for everyone interested in making a positive impact for women in business worldwide to join an inspiring and powerful collective of WEDO Change Makers to empower, celebrate and support women in business.

The agenda will also include a focus on helping women navigating the difficult economic climate. In addition to the Summit, a series of virtual and in-person events will be hosted across the globe.

The 3rd annual Bio Summit, the headline event in South Africa, will also be held virtually this year - tomorrow. The event, themed: "Evolving, the only way to thrive", boasts an all-star lineup of corporate and entrepreneur speakers from Africa and Europe

sharing their pivot strategies to thrive through the global Covid-19 pandemic.

"Resisting this change and remaining the same will not work with everything changing around us. What brought us here will sure not take us to the future," says Nokuthula Magwaza, BioSummit Host and WEDO SA ambassador.

The Summit brings together business leaders, change makers, government officials and civil society to collaborate and find solutions in critical areas of entrepreneurship ecosystems, education and policy creation to empower women in business.

The format includes keynote speeches, masterclasses, fireside chats, matchmaking and an awards ceremony.

"The Women's Entrepreneurship Day events are an invitation to

African women leaders pioneering transformation and gender equality in politics, business and communities to share their journey with a strategic intent of empowering the next generation of women leaders," says Magwaza.

Meanwhile, Diamond notes: "Our message for #WEDO2020 of supporting and empowering women in business to help uplift girls living in poverty is more needed, pivotal and impacting now more than ever.

"It is estimated that the global (Covid-19) pandemic is having a deeper effect on women's jobs, and gender inequality is rising. We are very thankful to our partners across Southern Africa for working tirelessly with us to support the economic development of women."

By Special Correspondent

THE COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the challenges and opportunities of Africa's development landscape,

former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said in Abidjan,

Côte d'Ivoire, formerly Ivory Coast in a lecture organised by the African Development Bank's African Development Institute (ADI).

"We have the same problems but what we also have is vastly increased urgency...not so much a wake-up call but a wake-up command," he said.

The former UK Prime Minister addressed a virtual audience on "Building Back Better in Post COVID-19 Africa: The Role of Technology and Governance", as part of the Kofi A. Annan Lecture Series.

The series, launched by the AfDB's institute in 2006, has covered a range of African and global development topics, among them economics, finance, regional integration, human development and the environment.

The lectures have been a forum for eminent persons to share policy insights on development challenges in Africa.

Over 4,500 delegates from across the globe including government officials, AfDB Group governors, executive directors and senior management as well as leading experts and heads of institutions tuned in to the lecture.

In opening remarks, Rabah Arezki,

Coronavirus pandemic surely a wake-up command to address Africa's challenges

AfDB's Chief Economist and Vice President for Economic Governance and Knowledge Management, described the task ahead as "vast and challenging".

Blair outlined three aspects which he said would make a big difference to Africa: investing in industrialisation, accelerating technological innovations, and building capacity for institutions to get things done.

"There are components to the AfDB's High 5 priorities. All of those things which define the challenges that Africa has - all of those are now given added urgency by Covid-19 and its impact," he said.

To build back better, West Africa, for instance, could capitalise on its rich source of cotton for garment production and the textile industry. Elsewhere on the continent, Africa was already leading in the digital technology space which can be scaled up.

"Around the world you are seeing governments use technology effectively... I know this is a great ambition of the African Development Bank. This is critical," Blair said.

He highlighted the four Ps of government delivery - prioritisation, policy, personnel and performance

management. Commenting on prioritisation, the former PM called on African governments to identify and focus on their comparative advantages, delivery and key transformative projects as well as manage expectations.

"In the end, only Africa can do it. We are partners in Africa's story...in Africa's progress," he said.

Blair's speech was followed by a conversation with AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina, who said the lecture series brought global and national perspectives to the development issues discussed.

"We need to constantly push the frontiers of dialogue in the public sphere," Adesina said, adding: "Nothing is more topical today than the challenges posed by Covid-19. The pandemic has upended economic growth."

Agreeing with Blair about the importance of the culture of delivery, Adesina said agriculture offered Africa its best opportunity for industrialisation.

"The key is: How does Africa raise productivity in agriculture...? How does it develop the integrated infrastructure in those rural areas...that will allow the creation of new economic sources of

prosperity out of what it has?" he asked. Adesina noted that AfDB's Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) initiative had allowed it to reach millions of farmers with agricultural technology and is boosting yields in wheat, but there is still the need to scale up.

"We have a lot of pilots...The name of the game is scale," he said.

He cited other key interventions by the bank, including a \$10 billion Covid-19 response facility meant to provide budget support to African countries and its innovative \$3 billion Covid-19 social bond, to save livelihoods.

After leaving office, Blair launched the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, which works to equip leaders to build open, inclusive and prosperous societies in an interconnected global world.

Prof Kevin Urama, Senior Director of the ADI, said after the seminar that the priorities are well mapped out for Africa to build back better.

The institute has been at the forefront of accelerating capacity development, technical assistance and policy dialogue on the continent.

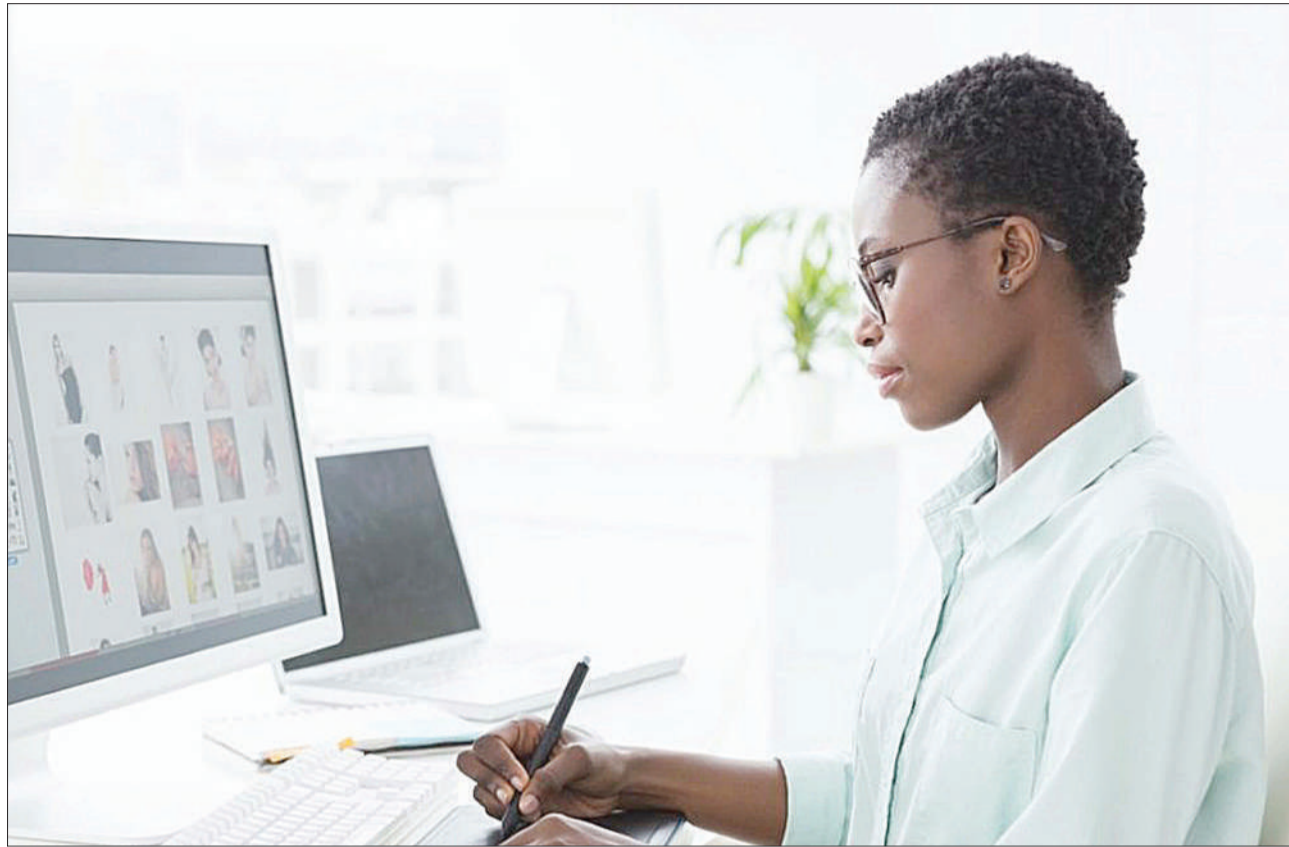
• Agencies

They lead, others follow

As a leader in the work place whether the head of a department, a team leader, CEO or a human resource officer, you ought to be a great leader, give direction and allow your colleagues be themselves.

It means you are a visionary and have attempted to shoe the same to the team. You listen to your colleagues whenever they need someone to listen to and their go to person when they want to bounce off ideas on how to get things done even if their ideas seem not to make sense, you have a way of just giving the listening ear.

Colleagues will certainly celebrate working with you because you are genuinely a team player. You actually want the best for the team. You want only what works well for the team and thus enjoy being around you. They want to be associated with you in a lot of the things that they will do. Notice that even colleagues who are not in your department seem to want to be part of your departmental initiatives. Then it means they do enjoy working with you and thus celebrate you too.



As a mentor for the aspiring colleagues and a coach to those already within the system, colleagues will tend to value your counsel. You are full of wisdom and understanding in dealing with issues. You are able to identify in them their talent and work

with them on the same. Ability to correct them as a professional

If you are the kind of colleague that makes others feel important and make them feel that they matter. You are the kind that hold other colleagues regard in what they

say or do irrespective of together rank in the organization. Then indeed you are the ripe for celebration within the organization and this will not go unnoticed.

Physical hygiene is an important aspect to uphold as a leader because there are



certain things that colleagues take for granted in the work place and yet form a very integral part of the work environment. Yes, personal hygiene cannot be ignored in any way. To be honest, if this is a major issue then the converse comes to play. Colleagues will tend to tolerate you just because they have to work with you. Thinking of the times when you take that puff and the previous night's drink and then you run a one to one session with your staff. Now I digress to the negative yet there is better to be found here. Think of the way you will enter and office and they will know, you were there. The celebration of such a person is as a leader who is conscious about his hygiene is beyond measure

as colleagues want to associate with well-groomed and hygienic colleagues.

Finally, but definitely not the least, you will be celebrated as long as you carry a genuine smile. I know recently I had a BAD day when things were just not working in my work place. And it was clear they knew I had lost my smile for that day so I knew I was being tolerated. Because if you are that kind of colleague who never produces positive vibes and energy, colleagues avoid you. And indeed that day, I was totally avoided and my rabbit teeth were no longer visible. Check it out, in your work place, the energy boosters are people who make you laugh and smile even in the midst of all the drama. I have had

a few of them in my work life and indeed they have been so helpful and I celebrate them. Are you that one who colleagues know to go to when their energy levels are very low? Are you with the magic smile? Does it give the 'abra kadabra' feel? Then if they don't tell you this, I am telling you, I celebrate you my dear colleague. It is not easy to maintain a smile in the midst of work place drama so if you do, I salute you with my whole being.

The work environment can bring out certain qualities that may bring both features of tolerance and celebratory in the same breath. Be conscious enough to know when you are being tolerated or celebrated, either way, let the latter tips the scale at all times.

Remembrance of victims of road accidents should not be in vain

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA joined other countries to commemorate the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims which takes place the third Sunday of November yearly, as an appropriate homage to victims of road crashes and their families.

It has become a vital moment of reflection in global efforts to reduce road casualties as it provides a platform for various stakeholders, from road traffic victims or loved ones, to officialdom and even those engaged in commerce, to take note of people killed or injured on the roads. There are others remembered during this moment, like those providing crucial emergency services as many lives are saved by their efforts.

Car accidents have far-reaching consequences, with the survivors having to deal with months of physical aches and pains, trouble at work, trouble finding work, and other costs that are common after any such collision.

Abdulaziz Shambe (43), a resident of Magomeni suburb in Dar es Salaam is one victim who sustained injuries in an accident. He now has fewer options in life, using a wheelchair to move from one place to another, and this for the last 17 years.

His life totally changed as he could not work anymore, I started to depend on family, relatives and well wishers for his daily bread.

He earlier worked at football club based in Morogoro (Moro United F.C) as club secretary, then pursued a two year diploma in coaching, or team management in Sweden and qualified.

However, his dreams were shattered two weeks upon his arrival back in 2003 with the car crash, which disturbed his upper spinal code disc.

Narrating his story, Shambe says that his car was on high speed when a front tyre burst, so his driver lost control, on the Tanga and Morogoro border line.

"It is an unforgettable day in my life," he said. Some people who came to the accident scene started to steal instead of rescuing him, he remembers in astonishment.

He was rescued from his car and transported to the nearby health centre using a passenger bus before being transferred to Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), a series of activities that took five hours to be completed.

"When my driver was pulling me from my car this caused more injuries on the back of the neck, which led to dysfunction of the lower parts



Abdulaziz Shambe, a victim of road traffic accidents, talks to The Guardian reporter ahead of World of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims commemoration, on Sunday (November 14). Photo: James Kandoya

of the body," he says.

Elaborating, Shambe says that after consultation with experts at MOI he was transferred to South Africa for intense examinations.

The medical bills piled up while the injuries kept him away from work, and with the loss of income comes stress, guilt and anger.

He says it cost him about 60m/- with accommodation taking 100dollars per day all donated by his fam-

ily members, relatives and friends.

"Even after three years consecutively of treatment in bed, I could not move without a wheelchair" he narrated.

Shambe who also worked with Tanganyika Investment Oil & Transport formally lost his job, could not be paid insurance as his car was in the category of third party insurance.

"Education about road safety should be given to

upper schools and undergraduates in all universities to enable them to be careful and thus reduce reckless and unnecessary accidents," he says.

Aware of nationwide activities related to road accidents, he says he supports amendments on the Road Traffic Act of 1973 and regulations that experts say tolerate drivers so they continue making mistakes that cause deaths and injuries.

"I call on the government to extend insurance cover for people with disabilities, in particular those caused by road crashes, with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to enable them to get quality healthcare," he stated.

The government needs to make tax exemptions to enable the disabled to get devices, especially imported ones like wheelchairs, as their prices are too high.

"I think it is also time

for all these devices to be in the lists of health insurance packages to enable all those affected by such problems to have them at affordable prices," he says in advice

Injury is the leading cause of deaths globally where injured patients in low and middle income countries are nearly three times as likely to die as those in developed countries.

This assessment was made by Dr Lutfi Abdallah of the Emergency Medicine Department (EMD) at the Muhimbili National Hospital.

A presentation entitled "experience in responding to victims of road crashes" gives statistics showing that men are chronically present in accidents, by 76.3 percent while women come at a distance, with 23.7 of the casualty figures.

He has a special message, that there is an opportunity to reduce trauma injury by working together, and that law enforcement is highly beneficial to reduce the burden of trauma from accidents.

Proper trauma care communication is needed to improve post accident care services and to give some form of management at the crash site, he says.

From the final hospital outcome more than 85.9 percent had moderate disability, 10.6 percent were in good health, 3.3 percent of those hospitalized with injuries died, 0.2 percent remained with severe disability and scarcely any one lived long in a vegetative state.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has proclaimed the 2021-2030 decade as one of Action for Road Safety, the second time it makes such a dedication with the goal of reducing road traffic deaths and injuries by up to 50 per cent. It urged member states to continue action on road safety-related targets as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, identified as target 3.6 in the sequence.

In her presentation,

Mary Kessy of the WHO Tanzania Office said that the UN agency encourages member states to focus on political commitment and responsibility at the highest possible level for improving road safety, develop and/or implement road safety strategies and plans by involving all relevant stakeholders.

It also encourages member states to strengthen pre-hospital care, including emergency health services and the immediate post-crash response, hospital and ambulatory guidelines for trauma care and rehabilitation services and requests the organization to support member states in these endeavors.

The principal legal officer at Traffic Police headquarters, Deus Sokoni noted that road crashes in the January-June 2019 period compared to January-June 2020 dropped from 1517 to 978, with deaths dropping from 744 to 616 and injured persons similarly dropping from 1529 to 1128.

"We have so far revoked 37 licenses of drivers who misbehaved when driving. We are still conducting an awareness programme for road users to reduce unnecessary accidents," he said.

Traffic Act review advocacy is championed by the Road Safety Civil Societies Organizations Coalition, where the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) is a member and host.

TAWLA project coordinator Isabella Nchimbi said that the World Day for Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims provides a platform for the families and advocates to think over the issues and offer ideas on enhancing improvement of safety on our roads, to reduce accidents.

TAWLA, leading the road safety coalition, has been on the frontline to champion the need to assess the current legal framework and make suggestions to the relevant authorities, she stated.

By Ismail Lagardien

There may come a time, within the next three to four decades, when we have robots that are smarter and more independent than we want them to be.

I have for a long time held the belief that we humans are on a collision course with ourselves because of our stubbornness and stupidity, and, in more tangible terms, because scientific and technological achievements can end up in the wrong hands. I have never doubted any of these beliefs. I have been especially perturbed by the dangers of nuclear power, war (again) and the climate crisis, which have, I believe, run away from us, with no apparent way back.

With respect to scientific achievements, there is no way that we can “un-discover” or retreat from the frontiers of, say, physics, that we have expanded to the point where people have (wrongfully) suggested that physics may have reached a dead end. This notwithstanding, the stand-out example of scientific achievements ending up in the “wrong hands” and being used to sow death and destruction is the way in which the Manhattan Project led to the US killing and maiming of at least a million Japanese at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 1936, the physicist Francis Aston warned about the dangers of atomic research being used for destructive purposes.

“There are those about us who say that [atomic] research should be stopped by law, alleging that man’s destructive powers are already large enough... Personally, I think there is no doubt that subatomic energy is all around us, and that one day man will release and control its almost infinite power. We cannot prevent him from doing so and can only hope that he will not use it exclusively in blowing up his next door neighbour.” Aston said.

There is enough evidence to suggest that the climate crisis may be beyond the point where we can reverse the damage, and, well, there are wars around the globe, with the US and China in a showdown over who has the right to be the next global hegemon. The US has the military might, but China has the arc of history on its side, but never mind all that - and this is not

Artificial intelligence and robotics: Be careful with what you wish for



hyperbole - there is a clearer and more ominous threat facing humanity with artificial intelligence and robotics. For brevity I will refer to both as AI&R

AI and the world we don't want but may get anyway

There is many a critic, public intellectual, or crusty Marxist professor who hasn't noticed that the world has changed significantly since the early 19th century. There are also folk who have real fears that AI&R will take away jobs. The ones we can ignore are those who would insist that we should not worry about the future, because today's problems - not the 19th-century imaginings - are overwhelming. We cannot ignore the real concerns about job displacement, or (today's) problems of hunger and need. There are, however, very many things happening in the world concurrently. It is possible to pay attention and invest in the development of vaccines, or AI&R, without

negating the very real problems of hunger, homelessness and unemployment.

One of the problems we face with AI, at least in my mind, centres on ethics, application (when scientific or technological achievements end up in the wrong hands); when AI&R inevitably overtake human intelligence, and carry out tasks faster, more accurately, and more efficiently - and when they start making decisions without any human input. Put more bluntly, can we create robots, without losing control over them?

Are we another step closer to self-destruction?

There are a range of responses to the progress and achievements in AI&R. Some folk are dismissive, others are sceptical, others think it is some conspiracy, and then there are political knuckle draggers who would consider it an improbability, because we can't even maintain a steady flow of electric-

ity, or “they can't even run SOEs”.... I am not going to contest any of these claims and assertions. Well, I will insist that we should not be dismissive of advances in technology. To those who are dismissive, I have these questions: How much faster, and smarter is your cellphone than it was a decade ago? Or, how much smarter is your computer than it was two decades ago? I am willing to wage a bet that everyone who has a cellphone or a computer wishes it were faster or smarter. This is precisely what drives research and development in AI&R. Of course, workers may have cause for concern when robots can (and already do) assemble cars faster and more accurately than do people on assembly lines. Again, these are legitimate concerns.

But it's impossible to conceive of a world where all advances in AI&R (and technology, in general) are stopped. Though it's really difficult to wrap your

mind around it, we could, some day, produce robots that improve themselves, or that “don't need” humans. We could reach the point at which, the statistician IJ Good remarked (back in 1965), we created an ultra-intelligent machine, “that can far surpass all the intellectual activities of any man, however clever”. Such a machine would design “even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an ‘intelligence explosion’, and the intelligence of man would be left far behind”. Such a machine, he suggested, may turn out to be the “last invention that man needs ever make”.

At that point, a bigger question arises, of what use are people to a utilitarian society controlled by Homo economicus? A bigger, more frightening development would be when these machines we create decide, for themselves, what may be better for them - and by extension, better for us. The problem, such as it may be, is that we purposefully give robots the power and ability to process information - hence the “intelligence” in AI. Can we, should we, or would we have the foresight to place limitations on machines acquiring or developing general intelligence - the ability to think across domains? I doubt that very much, because notwithstanding potholes or faulty traffic lights, scientific and technological advances in medicine continue, and we want AI&R to help us fight

or detect diseases - and provide assistance with what seems like humdrum medical nursing routines.

This topic is as marvelous, as it is exciting, as it is foreboding. The one thing that I would dare say is that we cannot possibly stop, or reel back the expansion of intellectual endeavour. We can't uninvent robots because they're taking someone's job - not unless you're stuck, intellectually, in the English Midlands of the mid-1800s.

My fears, as explained in the opening passages of this essay, are that we, humans, will, in the next 100 years cause our own extinction. It may be by nuclear war, unconventional war (with the use of drones), technological warfare (when we simply destroy the technological infrastructure of our enemies), or it may be that the climate crisis will decimate whatever we hold precious in life.

As for AI&R, and technology, in general, there may come a time, within the next three to four decades, when we have robots that are smarter and more independent than we want them to be. Already there are machines that repair codes faster than any human. It will not be long before intelligent machines will be able to do every daily mundane task or high-level statistical computation better, faster and more cheaply than humans.

“Rightly or wrongly, one industry after another is falling under its spell, even though few have benefited significantly so far. And that raises an interesting question: when will artificial intelligence exceed human performance? More specifically, when will a machine do your job better than you?” the MIT Technological Review asked, somewhat rhetorically.

Farm murders: Creating a thriving and integrated rural economy behind harmonious community relationships

By Roland Ngam

The murders of white people in rural farming areas have become South Africa's racial flashpoint. But a community divided against itself cannot fight crime. It begins with better economic opportunities for both black people and white people in rural areas.

South Africa was recently rocked by another gruesome farm murder, this time the horrific killing of 21-year-old farm manager Brendin Horner. He was tied to a gate on the De Rots farm outside Paul Roux, tortured with a knife and possibly clubs, before being murdered.

Irate white farmers stormed the local magistrates' court where they vandalised a police cell and roughed up a female warrant officer in their attempt to get to the two murder accused, Sekola Piet Matlaetsa and Sekwetje Isaijah Mahlamba, undoubtedly to exact revenge. This episode was a prelude to several weeks of tense confrontation between different interest groups in the country.

White farmers, who mobilised in unprecedented numbers in person or over social media, are increasingly convinced of two things: 1) that the South African government does not care about their lives and 2) that farm murders constitute genocide motivated by black resentment towards white



people in general.

These feelings recently found their way to influential Murdoch-controlled media in the United States (Fox News, New York Post), where they were picked by Donald Trump, who then despatched an emissary to South Africa to investigate what was going on.

Black people, in rural towns especially, also believe that white people are generally racist, still control economic power and “... it is not a rainbow nation”. Subject to this tense standoff and driving some of the resentment towards whites in particular, and the governing political establishment in general, is rural poverty and the unresolved land question.

Several thousand people showed up in Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) regalia under the hastily concocted but implausible banner of protecting public property. EFF leader Julius Malema doesn't use dog whistles any more. He uses overtly rac-

ist tropes because he knows that there are major unresolved issues of poverty, inequality and unemployment in rural areas in particular, and those who bear the brunt of those scourges are willing listeners, ready converts, if you will, of his gospel. The EFF's aggressive messaging on land reform, its favourite cudgel against the ANC, is finding resonance with the poor, landless unemployed.

Now, recent election results also show that rural white people are fleeing the DA in droves for the Freedom Front Plus (FF+), notably due to its tough “Slaan Terug” (Fight Back) messaging. Basically, we have communities that live next to each other who dislike, are indifferent to or constantly suspect each other - the perfect conditions for criminals to exploit.

The schism between blacks and whites was palpable once again in Senekal on 16 October 2020 ahead of and following the bail hearing of murder accused Matlaetsa and

Mahlamba, driven, on one side, by Frans Jooste's KommandoKorps which vowed to create a Boer Republic in the Free state, and on the other side, by Julius Malema who vowed that “we want to move on to the land, we want to occupy the land, we want to produce food for ourselves. We don't want white farmers' food.”

White South Africans account for just under 8% of the country's population and most of them live in urban areas. The few who live in rural areas belong to small, tight-knit communities. This helps explain the general sense of frustration and helplessness that they feel whenever another neighbour is killed.

According to the South African police, there were 47 farm murders in 2018-2019. At the same time, the Victims of Crime Report 2018/19 reveals that a total of about 32,000 murders were committed around the country over the 2018-2019 period, and most

of the victims were black. A total of 1.3 million cases of home invasions were also reported over the same period, of which the majority of victims were whites in urban areas.

While condemning Horner's brutal murder in his weekly letter to the nation on 12 October 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa insisted that there was no generalised hatred towards white people. “The claim that violent crime on farms is part of an orchestrated campaign by blacks to drive white farmers off their land is simply not borne out by fact. Numerous studies show that crime in farming communities is largely opportunistic,” he wrote.

He added that: “The brutal killing of a young white farmer, allegedly by black men, followed by the spectacle of white farmers storming a police station to get to a black suspect has opened up wounds that go back many generations. If we are to succeed in tackling violent crime, particularly in rural communities, we must confront this trauma and challenge the racial attitudes that prevent a united response... The farming community is an integral part of our economy. The farming community produces the food that we eat. Violent crime on farms poses not just a threat to the safety of our rural communities, but to our nation's food security.”

President Ramaphosa is

certainly right that most farm murders are opportunistic in nature, judging by the crime statistics. However, we cannot completely dismiss the possibility of racial animus, given the unspeakable violence that goes with some of these killings, and at the same time, one life lost is one too many. Regardless of the motivation, farm murders must be stopped.

A community divided against itself cannot fight crime in all its forms effectively. Policing experts will tell you that keeping a community safe is not the police's job alone. All community members must have each other's backs. They must be each other's eyes and ears. The path to peaceful communities goes through a number of things.

It begins with better economic opportunities for both black people and white people. Although we often have this image of whites in rural areas as well-to-do landowners, the reality is that most of them do not own land and are also barely getting by.

Aggressive investment in rural communities must be prioritised. Let's remember that we are talking about areas where there is no robust private sector to replace the state when delivery of basic services (water, electricity, security, etc) is weak or absent.

President Ramaphosa's recently announced Economic Reconstruction and

Recovery Plan barely mentions rural economies. Yet, data produced by Statistics South Africa shows that 31.6 million people were living in poverty in 2006. By 2015, that number had hardly changed, dropping only ever so slightly to 30.4 million. Former Bantustan areas still bear a disproportionate burden of poverty, and poverty in these communities is being further exacerbated by persistent drought conditions. Where opportunities are few, it is easy for schisms to exist, opening the way for criminals to come in and do damage.

Rural municipal capacities must be strengthened to help them provide better services. Police stations can also strengthen relations with communities in order to protect better and pick up tips about imminent or recent criminal activity.

The school system must be improved, including community centres, playgrounds, libraries, etc. If you come from a community where there are no perspectives, and your surest way to escape the poverty trap is by getting a good education and the school system in your community is not very good, the chances that you will not be significantly better off than your parents and that your children will not be significantly better off than you increase exponentially. That has to change.

Witchcraft accusations and cataracts: Effects of open-fire cooking in Tanzania

By Rumbi Chakamba, Gaborone

THREE years ago, 66-year-old Christine Chizimu woke up to find a dead snake in front of her house in Kihumulo village in northwestern Tanzania.

Soon afterward, her brothers accused her of being a witch, causing her to believe it was all orchestrated by her family in a bid to run her out of the village and grab her land. But she said many people in the community were quick to believe these accusations because of her appearance.

Chizimu, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, has a full head of gray hair and bloodshot eyes. She said that at the time of the accusations, she could not see properly and would often stumble as she was walking or ask those she was speaking to to move closer so that she could recognize them.

"Many of the children in the village were already afraid of me, and they would say I am a witch and run away from me. When a family member came forward and accused me of witchcraft, many began to believe this as it was coming from within my family," she said.

Though activists for the rights of older adults have largely succeeded in educating communities that symptoms – such as bloodshot eyes – are caused by smoke from cooking and not a sign that someone is a witch, emerging research has shown that the negative effects of smoke on the eyes may go beyond these traditional beliefs.

Household air pollution has been identified as a risk factor for cataracts, the number one cause of blindness in low- and middle-income countries. Experts have called for improved access to modern energy cooking services to counter this and meet the clean-cooking target under Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Although both witchcraft and accusing someone of practicing witchcraft are illegal in Tanzania, a Pew Research Center poll conducted in 2010 showed that more than 90% of Christians and Muslims, who make up nearly 97% of the population, believe in witchcraft.

According to HelpAge Tanzania, older women like Chizimu are often the targets of witchcraft accusations. Such accusations can lead to abuse from their families and community members and, in some cases, murder. In 2013, 765 older people were reported to have been



murdered as a result of witchcraft accusations; two-thirds of these were women.

Joseph Mbash, program manager at HelpAge Tanzania, said that most of these issues arose from perceptions and little understanding. In some areas, women were considered to be witches if they had bloodshot eyes, despite the fact that they spend a lot of time cooking using firewood or cow dung, which affects the eyes.

In response, the NGO, along with other civil society organizations and the government, initiated national awareness and sensitization training sessions with community members in various groups. Between 2014 and 2018, HelpAge Tanzania trained over 160,000 people in its project catchment area in the Lake Zone regions of Shinyanga, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Geita.

"The situation has really calmed down. It has almost normalized. We are now receiving very few cases of witchcraft killings. For the last year overall countrywide, we had 11 cases that were reported. In the previous year, we had 29, and the year before was 56, so it is really lowering down," Mbash said.

When accusations were leveled against Chizimu, she approached Kwa Wazee, a local NGO that focuses on the rights of older adults. It assisted her in reporting the case to the community leader, who intervened on her behalf.

Last year, the organization also referred Chizimu to a mobile eye screening clinic, where she was found to have cataracts in both her eyes. She has since had cataract removal surgery on her left eye, with a recom-

mendation to also have the procedure for her right eye.

According to Edimund Revelian, program officer at Kwa Wazee, many of the women that the organization has assisted with witchcraft accusations and other problems have also needed cataract removal surgery.

"Most of them had cataracts. And normally when they go to the hospital, they are advised not to stay in a place with a lot of smoke, as this can affect their eyesight," he said.

A 2013 research paper found strong evidence to suggest that there is an association between solid household fuel use and cataracts in LMICs. Researchers concluded that "given the high burden associated with these conditions, the widespread use of solid fuels for cooking, and the plausibility of associations, appropriate investigations are needed."

A separate study that compared self-reported eye and respiratory symptoms among women who used wood as fuel with those who used natural gas in southern Pakistan also found that overall eye and respiratory symptoms were significantly associated with wood use in this setting.

"Women bear a disproportionate share of the negative health risks from household air pollution, as well as the time poverty associated with traditional household cooking."

– A spokesperson for the World Bank

The cost of household air pollution

A report from the World Bank estimated that 4 billion people – around 50% of the world's population – still lack access

to clean, efficient, convenient, safe, reliable, and affordable cooking energy. In sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of access to modern energy cooking services, or MECS, stands at only 10%.

Writing to Devex, a spokesperson for the World Bank said that "women bear a disproportionate share of the negative health risks from household air pollution, as well as the time poverty associated with traditional household cooking, leading to opportunity costs," because in most lower-income countries, women like Chizimu have the primary responsibility for household cooking and rely on polluting stoves and fuels.

Though it is difficult to determine the direct cost of the negative effects of household air pollution on the eyes, the bank's report estimated that failure to meet the clean cooking target under SDG 7 would cost the world \$2.4 trillion per year through the negative impacts for health, gender, and climate. The health impact alone was estimated to be \$1.4 trillion per year.

Finding solutions

To counter this, the World Bank spokesperson noted that there is a need to improve the overall cooking energy ecosystem by adopting several priority actions. These include creating high-profile coalitions to prioritize access to MECS in global and national arenas, ensuring that cooking energy is incorporated into national energy plans and development strategies, and dramatically scaling up financing.

"Progress toward universal access to MECS has been hindered by a lack of interventions

and solutions that are fully responsive to the underlying needs of lower-income and rural households. In many countries, this situation is driven by a combination of higher up-front capital costs, low household awareness, and low availability of fuels, owing, in part, to underdeveloped infrastructure," the spokesperson said.

In response to these challenges, SNV Tanzania has introduced an affordable solution to clean cooking. In 2013, the nonprofit development organization introduced affordable improved cooking stoves to the market through a project supported by the Energising Development program.

Hassan Bussiga, project manager at SNV Tanzania, said that through the project, training has been provided to over 100 people across 10 regions and 36 districts in Tanzania to produce improved cooking stoves known as matawi. Available in ceramic and metal versions, the stoves are dual fuel, able to use charcoal and firewood. Their prices range from roughly \$2 to \$12, depending on the size and material used, Bussiga said.

"They have been designed to ensure that they are using very little firewood and charcoal, and the rate of emission is also reduced significantly. ... We also encourage users to use dry firewood, as it produces less emissions," he added.

Though Chizimu has not been able to purchase a clean cooking solution, she said she too has started to use dry firewood for her cooking, as she was advised that it produces less smoke and will cause less damage to her eyes.

YANGAMBI: Planting the roots of vegetation classification in Africa

BY AHTZIRI GONZALEZ

BEGINNING in the late 19th century, effective classification of Africa's bounteous vegetation became a major preoccupation for European geographers and botanists. Seeking to gain a better understanding of the vast territories that their countries had colonized, they hoped to contribute to more efficient land use, resource and environmental management.

But they soon realized they faced an enormous task. Africa is a megadiverse continent. From the East Sudanian savanna to the Central Zambezi miombo woodlands, Europeans found themselves describing and mapping a diversity of vegetation types on a scale unlike any other in the world.

Scientists embarked on ambitious efforts to produce useful literature and vegetation maps, but due to lack of international cooperation, divergent methods and concepts made it impossible to systematically classify the work done by different authors.

To deal with these challenges, in 1956 the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara (CSA) convened a phytogeography conference held in the Belgian Congo's Yangambi Research Station (in what is now Democratic Republic of Congo).

Located near the city of Stanleyville (now Kisangani), at the heart of the Congo Basin's dense evergreen rainforest, Yangambi served as the headquarters of the National Institute for Agronomic Study of the Belgian Congo (INEAC). Founded in the 1930s, it soon became Africa's most reputable tropical forestry and agriculture research center, hosting hundreds of scientists and technicians specialized in diverse disciplines such as botany, climatology, silviculture and ecology.

The Yangambi Conference, which spanned 10 days, was the first attempt to address language divergences between English- and French-speaking scientists and to promote collaboration between colonial powers. Notable participants included forester André Aubréville and explorer Théodore Monod from France, and botanist Ronald William John Keay and Paul Westmacott Richards from Britain, as well as a dozen government representatives from Belgium, France, Britain, Portugal, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (now Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi), and the Union of South Africa (now Republic of South Africa).

The conference concluded with an international agreement that recommended a unified nomenclature and definition for tropical and subtropical Africa's types of vegetation. This classification served as the foundation for the first bilingual "Vegetation Map of Africa South of the Tropic of Cancer", published by

UNESCO, the U.N. cultural agency, in 1958. "Unlike other initiatives, the Yangambi classification did not focus on listing species, but instead gave detailed descriptions of the vegetation of each type of forest," said Hans Beeckman, head of the wood biology service of Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA). "This information remains very useful to quantify forests' biomass and map carbon stocks."

Following a series of revisions to address the agreement's shortcomings, in 1983 British forester Frank White published a new version of this map. Ever since then, numerous publications have suggested changes and additions, but the Yangambi classification remains the basis of all modern systems.

"The Yangambi agreement had a great influence on the following generations of foresters studying the African continent," said Robert Nasi, director general of the Center for International Forestry Research. "The switch of focus from botany (looking at species) to phytogeography (vegetation types) was really a tipping point for forestry and vegetation ecology."

In recognition of Yangambi's scientific contributions to reconcile biodiversity conservation with sustainable use, in 1978 UNESCO declared 235,000 hectares of forest in Yangambi a Man and Biosphere Reserve. Following decades of budget cuts and neglect, Yangambi is once again positioning itself as an important center for the study of Africa's forests. Since 2007, CIFOR has received funding from the European Union to lead several projects aimed at consolidating Yangambi's role as an "open air laboratory" at the heart of the Congo Basin.

An outstanding example of international academic collaboration between Congolese and foreign institutions, these interventions focus on applied research to protect DRC's rich biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

Researchers from the RMCA and the University of Kisangani (UNIKIS), for example, are studying how to support the natural regeneration of *Afromosia* (*Pericopsis elata*), an endangered tree species with a high value in the timber market. This research has been facilitated by the recent construction of a wood biology laboratory in Yangambi.

Moreover, experts with the Meise Botanic Garden and the Congolese Institute of Agronomic Research (INERA) are studying Yangambi's wild coffee species in a quest to support Robusta coffee growth in a climate change context, and potentially contribute to develop the country's coffee industry. They are also digitizing and modernizing the dried plant collection found in Yangambi's herbarium – a rare botanical treasure of 150,000 specimens.

Solar PV can play a key role in tackling Africa's energy crisis

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

"Solar PV can play a valuable role in alleviating the South African electricity crisis whether via utility-scale or distributed investments in solar PV and other technologies," according to Dr Jarrad Wright, Principal Researcher at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

With many African countries struggling to keep up with the energy consumption demands of its citizens, the argument for a move away from unreliable coal-fired power stations has never been greater.

This has left many African countries scrambling to adopt more integrated energy supply and demand systems across

the board, with smart technologies, partnering with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), rigorous planning and holistic decision-making.

Speaking at the leading solar and energy storage event in Africa – Solar Power Africa, Dr Wright said solar PV can play a valuable role in alleviating the South African electricity crisis whether via utility-scale or distributed investments in solar PV and other technologies to assist in ensuring adequate power systems and driving electricity access.

Wright explains that similar principles can be applied to the rest of the African region, to ensure sufficient supply to meet every-increasing energy demands. "This is where solar PV should likely play



a significant role, considering the lead-time for investment, technology cost reductions, availability of favourable financing, and its ability scale up and down."

He pointed out though that to solve Africa's energy challenges, it goes beyond just the technologies. "Key to solving the energy crisis is ensuring that enabling policies and regulations are developed with a focused and committed

approach to implementation of projects."

While steps have been taken, like that of the South African Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) gazetting new regulations outlining a commitment to sourcing over 11,800MW of power from IPPs over the next decade, there have also been calls towards giving greater independence to municipalities to produce or

procure power directly from IPPs.

Amendments to regulation

In May of this year, draft amendments to the Electricity Regulations Act on New Generation Capacity were published proposing a conducive regulatory framework to allow this to happen for municipalities that have a good financial standing. At the time, however, greater clarification was needed

– something that both municipalities like the City of Cape Town as well as industry players like South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA) sought clarity on.

With bouts of loadshedding and South Africa being unable to keep up with the demand, major municipalities like the City of Cape Town have argued for municipalities to have the authority to produce or procure their own power.

This action was noted by President Cyril Ramaphosa, who in his recent address on his Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan said that applications for own-use generation projects are being fast-tracked.

The efforts are slowly starting to yield results, at least for municipalities like City of Cape Town and the City of Ekurhuleni who would potentially be able to go ahead subject to the municipalities complying with various requirements and receiving approval from the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy based on recent court rulings.

What would make this work is not just municipalities being able to procure their own power through IPPs, but also through

the development of regulatory frameworks and policies that aim to encourage greater Small Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) across the public, private and residential sector – with the ultimate aim of being able to feed electricity into municipal grids.

As far as the choice for renewable energy sources go, solar PV energy is a no brainer. According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2020, the world's best solar power schemes now offer the cheapest electricity in history.

"Over the last two decades, solar PV costs have declined dramatically thanks to the combination of technology cost declines, efficiency improvements and governments across the world boosting clean-power targets combined with enabling policies and legislation as they seek to combat climate change," Dr Wright adds.

In a report published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) it detailed the numerous benefits that renewables have for cities, from cleaner air, improved living spaces and an increase in modern services.

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TALIRI seeks ways of boosting indigenous chickens ecotypes

INDIGENOUS chickens production plays a significant role in contributing to nutritional status of various societies and is a major source of income. This is due to advantages over other species of livestock which include short generation interval, low initial cost and maintenance cost compared to other livestock.

Treasury budget estimates for 2020/2012 showed that Tanzania had about 83.28 million chickens where 38.77 millions are indigenous chickens which provide almost all the poultry meat in the rural areas. Nearly 90 percent of the indigenous chickens are raised by smallholder farmers in the rural areas.

The demand for meat and eggs from indigenous chickens has been increasing because of their perceived image as nutritious, healthy and being natural products. The supply of these products is low and has continued to depend on smallholder farmers who keep five to 15 chickens per household.

Consumption of meat and eggs in Tanzania are reported to be 12 kilograms and 75 eggs per annum respectively which is low compared to the world average of 50 kilograms of meat and 300 eggs, on the basis of data from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLDF, 2010). Moreover, indigenous chicken ecotypes have neither been evaluated nor purely bred. As a result their performance varies considerably.

Some initiatives to commercialize indigenous chickens by a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) broke down due to shortage of quality day old chicks in the country.

Recently, NGOs have been introducing different exotic chickens for meat and egg production. These introduced chickens need delicate management and most of them are heavy feeders. Most farmers in rural areas cannot afford to keep those exotic chickens due to high cost of production and many are prone to diseases from any localized viruses.

Regarding the above challenges with indigenous chickens, a researcher at the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Mary Magonka, conducted a survey to identify and evaluate indigenous chickens' ecotypes in order to come out with potential ecotypes for grand and parent stocks to be used in commercial poultry production.

The main purpose was to improve incomes and food security of smallholder farmers through commercialization of indigenous chickens.



How the study was done?

The researcher, a livestock scientist, said the study took place in the central part of Tanzania. Dodoma in Mpwapwa district which involved four ecotypes namely Horasi, Kuchi, Kishingo and Sasamala collected from farmers.

The chickens were managed under a semi intensive system and provided with compounded feeds according to body needs. The flock was provided with water throughout the day and a disease control programme was included.

Information on body weight, external egg characteristics, day old chick weight, body weight gain, weight at 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24 weeks were collected.

Age at first egg and egg number were also determined.

"During data collection a training manual was prepared to suit the farmer's situation and farmers from nine villages were trained on chickens management," she said.

What were the key findings?

The study which was funded by the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), shows that among the four ecotypes, Horasi and Kishingo (naked neck) were found to be good in terms of survival rates, hatch ability and egg production. However Kuchi frizzled and did not perform well on the same parameters and this reduces their numbers, mostly dying from week one to week eight.

Average age at first egg for Horasi and Kishingo were 15 weeks and 16 weeks respectively. Average egg numbers per clutch for Horasi and 'Naked Neck' were 16 and 18 eggs respectively.

Magonka explained that Sasamala ecotypes had low survival rate when reaching two months of age, noting that this needs more investigation at molecular level to find out the causes for this tendency. Kuchi ecotypes were found with more cocks in their chicks than hens.

New innovation on reducing chick mortality and increasing the number of clutches per year was introduced.

A total of 238 farmers were trained on chicken management whereby 61.8 percent were females from nine villages namely Isinghu A, Isinghu B, Ving-

hawe, Manghangu, Kisokwe, Mjimpya, Igovu, Idilo and Chamuhawi. About 238 copies of the training manual booklets were prepared and distributed to farmers for checking and reference.

Study generalisations
Indigenous chicken under a semi intensive system perform better. Horasi and Kishingo were good in terms of production and can be raised to produce quality day old chicks for stakeholders, enabling increased income among smallholder farmers. Kuchi can be used to crossbreed other ecotypes for increasing the weight of other chickens, it said, specifying that further studies need to be undertaken on that point

On a molecular level on production and health, with potential impacts for beneficiaries were also examined.

Production of a large number of indigenous chickens particularly Kishingo and Horasi will make availability of quality chicks easier for chicken meat dealers, dealers in eggs, restaurants, hotels, farmers, traders, public agencies and other consumers.

Quality production of indigenous chickens will create employment for youth and women at different stages of rearing, with employment at hatchery machines, chicks rearing, feed processors or vaccine distributors. Large numbers of chickens of the same size and age at once will increase household income, food security and overall GDP figures, she elaborated.

Applied technologies related to rearing, feeding and disease control obtained from training with assistance from researchers and

extension workers effectively assists farmers to make the poultry sector profitable.

Use of new technology of chicks rearing will increase flock numbers from five to 100 per household, reduce chicks mortality from 80 percent to five percent, thus increasing productivity.

The disease control programme in place will reduce indigenous chickens' mortality and ultimately increase household income.

Wider recommendations from the study:

Semi intensive systems should be promoted as the best option to improve productivity and increase income, while discouraging the scavenging system.

Policy makers at local government authorities should bring extension officers to work closely with poultry keepers as they do for other livestock like cattle and goats.

"But also, establishment of private hatcheries is suggested as the best way for producing a large number of indigenous chicks in collaboration with the institute," she said.

"Knowledge transfer to different stakeholders on indigenous chickens management for improving production is highly needed," the researcher underlined.

Using artificial chicks rearing should be encouraged among farmers to increase the flock size, reduce chick mortality rates from 80 percent to five percent and increase clutch number per hen per year from three to four to reach six to seven. This is possible by including extension staff, use of media and field days, the study noted.

Commercialization of indigenous chickens being a new thrust, farmers should be encouraged to keep large numbers of chickens on the basis of the knowledge provided, thus ultimately meet the current demand of indigenous chickens in the market, it added.

By Special Correspondent

The return of yellow fever in Nigeria

The recent outbreak of Yellow fever in some parts of the country is a disturbing development. It is bad enough that no fewer than 72 deaths have been recorded, most of them in Enugu and Delta States. When the current outbreak was detected in both states, it lingered for over one month with the affected communities describing it as a 'strange disease'. The communities in these two states had raised the alarm of an undiagnosed ailment, with those infected coughing blood and becoming feverish. Eventually, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) came in to test samples before the confirmation that it is Yellow fever. By then, so many lives had been lost.

The renewed spike is a wake-up call for the federal government to be more proactive in dealing with the disease. Following the fatalities recorded during the 2017 outbreak which were in dozens, more than three million people were vaccinated in an initial emergency campaign, with the aim of quickly containing it. However, the virus continues to spread in parts of the country where people remain largely unprotected and that is why all the relevant stakeholders must join hands with the government this time around.

Fortunately, the disease is a completely vaccine-preventable one. A single shot provides immunity for



a lifetime. It is important that all Nigerians get vaccinated. An added advantage is that the vaccine is freely available in all primary health care centres in Nigeria. It is also curable with vaccines known as 17D. Since we live in the tropics, and cannot completely eliminate mosquitoes, prevention remains the most potent weapon against the disease.

It is a crying shame that Yellow fever still kills dozens of Nigerians every year. In the first half of 2019 alone, no fewer than 506 local government areas in 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) recorded over 2000 cases of the disease, according to NCDC. Another bout of the outbreak commenced in August 2019, which also swept across several states and lingered until the beginning of 2020. According to WHO, no human should die from preventable

diseases, and Yellow fever is one of such. What appears to be the broad cause of the spike in cases of the disease is the country's new focus on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. But we cannot afford to neglect yellow fever, or indeed, any other diseases for that matter.

The interruption of regular mass vaccination campaigns in Nigeria have contributed mainly to the current resurgence of yellow fever. On the continent, the resurgence started in equatorial Africa, followed by Cameroon where no fewer than 173 fatalities, mostly children under the age of 10, were recorded in 1990. The disease then moved to West Africa and since 1995 this has been the region most affected by Yellow fever. To control the spread, there is an urgent need to commence a massive reintroduction of the vaccination

programmes, especially at child-birth. This should be done through enlightenment campaigns through the 774 local governments of the federation. All international travellers into Nigeria should also be advised to undergo vaccination before entering the country.

An epidemiologist with the NCDC, Adesola Yinka-Ogunyele, had expressed concerns that the more children are unvaccinated, the more likely there will be outbreaks. When it comes to health, a country is only as strong as its weakest link. If all efforts are targeted at fighting COVID-19, and other preventable diseases are killing Nigerians, then we are only chasing shadows.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad

in the northeast, Cameroon in the southeast, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous kingdoms and states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern Nigeria Protectorate in 1914. The British set up administrative and legal structures while practising indirect rule through traditional chieftdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation

in 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With 186 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world, after India and China, with more than 90 million of its population under age 18. The country is viewed as a multinational state as it is inhabited by 250 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 250 different languages and are identified with a wide variety of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims, who live mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to the Igbo and Yoruba ethnicities.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It overtook South

Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. The 2013 debt-to-GDP ratio was 11 percent. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. However, it currently has a "low" Human Development Index, ranking 152nd in the world. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies. It is also listed among the "Next Eleven" economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a founding member of the African Union and a member of many other international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and OPEC.

The name Nigeria was taken from the Niger River running through the country. This name was coined in the late 19th century by British journalist Flora Shaw, who later married Lord Lugard, a British colonial administrator. The origin of the name Niger, which originally applied only to the middle reaches of the Niger River, is uncertain. The word is likely an alteration of the Tuareg name egerew n-igerewen used by inhabitants along the middle reaches of the river around Timbuktu prior to 19th-century European colonialism.

To be continued

Should engineers refuse to work on coal power plants?

LONDON

A group of international engineering advocacy bodies have called on engineers worldwide to stop hiding behind technical competence and to commit to doing good in the face of the global heating crisis.

They want three new requirements added to the International Engineering Alliance's "Benchmark for Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies," an update of which is now being developed for release next year.

In an open letter, Engineers Without Borders International, along with Engineers Without Borders organisations from Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, the Netherlands, the Philippines, UK and USA call on engineers to think critically about the role of engineering itself.

They worry that the revised Benchmark perpetuates a narrow view of engineering that ignores the impact engineering has on people and the planet. "We have no planet B and time is running out," they write. "To ensure engineering is beneficial for all, the engineering mindset must shift to include reflecting on and thinking critically about the role of engineering itself."

The new competencies they want added to the Benchmark are: The ability to analyse the impact of engineering itself on humanity; Understanding ethical issues involved in engineering and the skills needed to navigate them; and Acknowledging the value of the social sciences in helping engineers understand the implications of their work.

"Don't be evil"
 GCR asked Katie Cresswell-Maynard, chief executive of Engineers Without Borders UK (pictured), if the letter urges engineers: "Don't be evil." "Great question," she replied by email. "I think we're saying much more than 'don't be evil', we're saying 'be proactive and make a positive difference' and that's a whole different mindset. Rather than seeking out what you should avoid doing, we're emphasising that your primary concern is what is the good that you can achieve for all people on this planet."



Katie Cresswell-Maynard, chief executive of Engineers Without Borders.

Airtel Africa to sell 4,500 towers to reduce debts

LAGOS

Airtel Africa plans on selling 4,500 of its tower assets across five countries. According to Bloomberg, the company is attempting to reduce its debts of US\$3.5 billion, while at the same time prepare for upcoming bond repayments. The five countries where Airtel Africa will be divesting its mobile masts include: Chad, Gabon, Madagascar, Malawi and Tanzania.

The news comes after Airtel Africa's CEO, Raghunath Mandava said in an interview that the company is "constantly seeking to bring down our debt, and we prefer to bring it down even faster with the tower deals." At present, the company has a repayment due in May 2021 in the amount of \$890 million, with an instalment of \$505 million due in March 2023, based on Airtel's annual report.

Airtel Africa launched its first IPO in London and Nigeria in an attempt to raise \$750 million last year. The followed Airtel Africa being spun out from Bharti Airtel as a business in its own right. The IPO lowered the company's debt from \$7.7 billion to \$3.5 billion said Mandava to Bloomberg. The remain sum includes \$1.8 billion of bonds that have "cross-default clauses with Bharti Airtel, still its biggest shareholder," Bloomberg explained.

Despite the sale of much of its towers, Mandava says the company will lease back the towers from the buyers - who so far remain unnamed. Instead, Mandava says the company will continue to its fibre assets adding 9,000km of fibre this year alone, bringing the total to 47,000km "our focus is to grow in the countries that we are in."

SERENA HOTEL DEPLOYS SENSOR-FITTED BODY TEMPERATURE READING GADGETS

By Property Watch Reporter, Arusha

IN a bid to contain the spreading of the coronavirus pandemic, Serena Hotels' franchise in Tanzania has deployed sensor fitted body temperature reading thermometers at all main receptions in the country.

The move which makes the hotels chain to become a pioneer to deploy the technology in the local market, also guarantees the safety of guests as hotels remain the most vulnerable places in the world.

"We are obliged to keep the safest environment for our dearest tourists and workers. This cutting-edge technology supports us in our mission in real time," said General Manager of Tourism Promotion Services, which runs Serena Hotels, Rahim Azad.

Azad said guests who stayed and experienced the technology at Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge say the equipment represents the best of what technology can offer for the wellness of all who visit the facility.

"The technology is highly accurate because it detects temperature and doesn't allow individuals with abnormal body temperatures to access the lodge. We are very impressed with the hotel's attention to safety," said a Swiss tourist, Goncala Louren who stayed at Ngorongoro Serena Safari



Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge, from where one can easily view the magnificent Ngorongoro Crater.

Lodge.

The hotel's Manager, Nickson Kanyika seconded Azad and Louren by saying that the gadget used is fixed on the main door

reading to the reception where all guests and staff are scanned. Others are face recognition for temperature check up popularly known as forehead

temperature measurement, automatic hand sanitizer and soap dispenser. "We have also key card UV sterilizer, ultraviolet sterilamp, for dining ta-

ble sterilizer, a 50ml sanitizer and facial mask in the room for guests use," Kanyika explained adding that the hotel also deployed clinical officers in

all of its premises to facilitate health protocols for guests and staff.

Serena hotels chain has been open for business since July, after the government lifted a temporary ban imposed in March against international flights and foreign tourists to curb the coronavirus outbreak. Tanzania was the first country in East Africa to welcome tourists and allow them to go direct to their destinations.

The Serena Hotels portfolio in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar includes a collection of ten up-market hotels, safari lodges and camps located in some of the most exquisite areas within the Northern Safari Circuit, Selous Game Reserve in the Southern regions, Dar es Salaam and Stone town in the Zanzibar.

With a focus on product, service standards and guest satisfaction, Serena Hotels, offers quality accommodation, conference and holiday solutions in a collection of 24 up-market hotels, resorts, safari lodges and camps strategically located in some of the most exquisite and prime locations within 6 countries in the Eastern Africa region Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zanzibar.

Serena Tourism Promotion Services is the tourism arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), an international development agency.

Kangnas Wind Farm starts commercial operation

CAPE TOWN

Kangnas Wind Farm is the first wind farm in the government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) bid window four wind farm to achieve its commercial operations date (COD), just two years after commencing construction.

Situated outside of Springbok in the Northern Cape, this wind farm will generate enough clean power to satisfy the needs of 154,625 average South African households, as it is expected to generate over 513GWh of renewable energy each year, during its 20-year operations period.

This 140MW wind project comprises 61 turbines, and is one of 12 wind farms in this part of this REIPPP procurement round. Following industry trends, as set up by the Department of Energy's local content requirements, the wind farm achieved very high local content levels, exceeding 45%. This includes both locally manufactured turbine towers as well as the project's mega transformer, helping to drive the demand for local manufacturers to offer items previously only available through import.

Construction commenced during June 2018. As with all the wind farms that were under construction at the time the country's national Covid-19 lockdown kicked in, construction at this Northern Cape wind farm was halted and gradually picked up the pace after 19 May 2020.

This renewable power plant will also help the country reduce its greenhouse carbon emissions, eliminating approximately 550,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year when compared to traditional



Kangnas Wind Farm of Springbok in South Africa's Northern Cape

fossil fuel power plants. In addition to zero carbon emissions and reduced use of fossil fuels, the country

There is only one other wind farm to commence commercial operations during 2020, namely Perdekraal East Wind Farm, in the Western Cape's town of Ceres, owned by the same equity partners

as Kangnas Wind Farm, Communities of Nababeep, Springbok, Concordia, Matjieskloof, Bergsig, Okiep and Carolusberg are the direct beneficiaries of developmental programmes, designed to create social resilience and local capacity. The wind farm has already been active during the construction

period, and will continue to benefit these communities throughout the operations period. To-date community scholarships have been awarded; welfare and Covid-19 relief project funded; Early Childhood Development support provided; and enterprise development programmes implemented.

"As we enter this new phase, we are pleased to note that a number of our impactful development programmes are already in place, all of which drive socio-economic and enterprise development initiatives, in support of local communities," says Christo Loots, construction programme manager, for Kangnas Wind Farm.

TOTAL CEO MAKES FIELD VISIT TO PUMP STATIONS IN DAR, SERVING CUSTOMERS

By Francis Kajubi

CLIENTS of Total Tanzania Limited's products and services have been promised genuine quality as the global energy company intensifies investments in more pump stations.

The company's Managing Director, Jean-Francois Schoepf said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week while on a field visit to pump stations that Total is committed to building strong and durable relationships with its customers over the long term.

The visit which was part of the French energy giant's annual customer care week, witnessed Schoepf and some of his senior management team members serve customers while urging attendants at pump stations to accord customers quality services.

"This is the second year since the company embraces customer week across the African continent. Once again this year, Total's teams on the continent are geared up to embody its business to business and business to customers promises in an environment of exchange, attentiveness and local presence through customer-focused events," he said.

Schoepf explained that this year's



Total Tanzania Limited's managing director Jean-Francois Schoepf attend to a customer's car at Mbezi Africana in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo courtesy of Total Tanzania.

customer week opens a chance to get a better understanding of the challenges and expectations

of customers so that the energy company can offer products and services that meet their needs more

effectively.

Seconding his boss, Total Tanzania's Trading Manager, Msafiri

Shigella urged customers to come forward and express their opinion about services and products being offered by the company for improved deliveries in future.

Shigella said since Total Tanzania's inception in 1969, its business has focused on the marketing, supply and blending of petroleum products, heavy furnace oil and lubricants, which are sold through its service stations and specialty departments within its organization.

He said Total has extended its expertise in offering reliable, secured and convenient services through its Total Card system for lubricants purchase, excellium fuels and car service at all service station in the market. As part of its diversification, through the Total Access to Solar (TATS) project it supports the distribution of solar systems across the county.

"Every day, Total Marketing Services serves more than eight million customers through its network of over 15,600 service stations in 71 countries across the globe. As the world's fourth largest distributor of lubricants and the leading distributor of petroleum products in Africa, Total Marketing Services has production sites all over the world," he noted.

Land prices fall, rents up after easing of lockdown

NAIROBI

Land prices have dropped further in Nairobi and the surrounding counties of Kiambu, Kajiado and Machakos in the three months to September despite the ongoing recovery from coronavirus hardships that lifted rent.

HassConsult, which conducts a quarterly property pricing index in Kenya, said Thursday that land prices dropped 0.94 percent in quarter three, compared to a growth of 0.22 percent in a similar period last year. This is the third quarterly drop in a row on reduced demand, defying the recovery of the economy after a phased reopening of the country from a Covid-19 lockdown on July 6.

The easing of coronavirus restrictions has seen firms stop layoffs and raise the number of workers on their payroll, driven by improved cash circulation amid re-opening of businesses and schools. The improved business environment has eased pressure on landlords to cut or defer home and office leasing costs.

HassConsult said that on average rents increased 2.5 percent in the three months to September, compared to a growth of 0.2 percent in the quarter to June and 0.9 percent in the same period a year earlier. But home prices rose marginally by 0.3 percent from a drop of 0.2 percent in the quarter to June and 0.9 percent in the three months to September last year.

Housing has been one of Kenya's fastest growing sectors over the last decade, fuelled by a growing middle class, with returns from real estate outpacing equities and government securities. This fuelled a boom in land prices, which have increased nearly four-fold in Nairobi and surrounding satellite towns like Kiambu, Ongata Rongai and Kitengela.

The feverish rise in house and land prices has led to a bubble, setting the stage for multi-billion shilling loan defaults from property developers who had pegged their bets on Kenya's real estate. The recent marginal rise in land and fall in home prices hit property developers and speculators while offering a bargain to investors with money for real estate.

"Kenya has weird landlords who would rather retain empty units than drop prices to attract or retain tenants," said Sakina Hassanali, head of property development consulting and research, at HassConsult. "That is the reason rental units continue to attract high prices as tenants are looking at units they can afford."

Agribusiness CEOs upbeat on better production in spite of Covid-19

By Property Watch Reporter

ALTHOUGH the coronavirus outbreak has negatively affected global markets for commodities and disrupted agricultural supply chains, agribusiness CEOs in Africa remain determined to steer their organizations forward.

According to the Africa Agribusiness Outlook, a new report launched by Alliance for a Green Revolution and KPMG East Africa last week, about 41 percent of interviewed CEOs for the survey indicated that they will forge ahead with their pre-Covid-19 investment plans.

The AGRA and KPMG report however said that 43 percent of the companies reviewed, the majority of them being small and medium sized enterprises, said will be scaling back their operations due to the pandemic.

For such agribusinesses, revenues fell between 50 - 80 percent as soon as lockdown procedures were implemented and identified managing cash-flow as critical to surviving the Covid-19. The report which was released in Nairobi earlier this week further highlighted that major challenges are facing the CEOs during this period but more importantly, showcases the resilience of the agribusiness sector in Africa.

The report which surveyed 182 CEOs and senior executives across 16 African countries, identified several priorities for urgent action and they include:



AGRA president Dr Agnes Kalibata.

Access to finance which emerged as the greatest priority with most of them saying the issue is not just about access to finance, but the cost of finance and availability for the agricultural sector.

Next is technology which is supposed to be a great enabler hence afforded companies to respond and adapt their operating models after lockdown measures were imposed across the continent.

"Going forward, technology will be the lever that will help Africa leapfrog into the future," the report noted.

In addition, the report stated that the future of African agribusiness must include the smallholder farmer while acknowledging that agribusinesses are incorporating more smallholder farmers into their business models which is critical for sustainability.

"We believe that there are opportunities for African agribusinesses during this period, which is unprecedented for many businesses. The collapse of global markets has led to the rise of the 'buy local' movement," AGRA President, Dr Agnes Kalibata said.

Dr Kalibata pointed out that there is a chance to optimise local value chains hence helping mitigate the devastating effects

of the pandemic on the economy. "But for this to happen, we need innovative financing solutions to support the agribusiness sector. Financing, specific to the agricultural sector, will help build resilience and enable them to seize the moment," she added.

The inaugural Africa Agribusiness Outlook Report is a survey that was conducted on CEOs in the agribusiness ecosystem early to mid-2020. Conducted by KPMG East Africa on behalf of AGRA, the survey sought to gain insights into their top priorities, understand how they are addressing challenges and what they see as opportunities in these Covid-19 times.

Anis Pringle, Partner at KPMG noted that "it is about making agriculture attractive, viable and profitable rather than being looked at as a risky endeavour."

Pringle said technology also emerged as a game-changer in this period with about 52 percent of the companies surveyed indicating that technology was crucial to achieving their business goals in this period.

"Businesses switched not only to the use of e-commerce platforms to deliver products to consumers but also to deliver services to smallholders in their supply chain," Pringles added saying technology is expected to dominate operations, impacting costs, and business models in the near future.

Uganda's Raxio Data Centre secures Tier III status

KAMPALA

Raxio Data Centre said it has officially become the first Tier III certified datacentre in Uganda after receiving the Uptime Institute Tier III Certification on 20 October, 2020.

This follows an assessment and evaluation by expert teams from The Uptime Institute in the United States and the United Kingdom. The teams evaluated all aspects of design and equipment, such as power, cooling, and fire suppression and detection. According to a statement, with this certification, Raxio Data Centre becomes one of just 15 Tier III, privately-owned, carrier-neutral datacentres in Africa and the

second in East Africa.

An excerpt from the statement reads: "A Tier III data centre requires no shutdowns for equipment replacement and maintenance. A redundant delivery path for power and cooling is added to the redundant critical components of Tier II (Redundant Capacity) so that each and every component needed to support the IT processing environment can be shut down and maintained without impact on the operation and provision of services to customers."

"Concurrent maintainability across all critical subsystems is actually one of the most important driving design characteristics

that many clients look out for when outsourcing their data centre needs as it also ensures full redundancy in the event of unexpected shut downs or failures."

Raxio Data Centre General Manager James Byaruhanga described this achievement as a turning point for Uganda and the East African region: "The Tier III Certification by the Uptime Institute demonstrates our ambition to achieve the highest standards, and validation that we meet global standards of modern datacentres. This also demonstrates our long-term commitment to existing and future customers as we provide colocation of their data infrastructure."



Residential apartment in Nairobi.

CONSTRUCTION

DUBAI'S SOBHA REALTY TARGETING DH2.5BN IN SALES IN 2021 ON HOPES OF MARKET RECOVERY

DUBAI

Dubai developer Sobha Realty is targeting Dh2.5 billion (\$680.7 million) in sales next year and plans to launch a number of new projects within its \$4bn Sobha Hartland master development in Mohammed bin Rashid City as the market recovers, according to its president.

"A large chunk of sales will come from different projects within Sobha Hartland. We will be launching projects continuously," Jyotsna Hegde told The National. She declined to put a value on the projects being undertaken, but said they would be financed through a mix of debt and equity. Sobha Hartland is an 8 million square foot (743,223 square metre) project first announced in 2014. The master development is being built in phases and is expected to be complete by 2025.

Sobha Group was founded by chairman PNC Menon, who began his business with an interior decorating company in Oman in the 1970s. His group now develops properties across India, Oman and the UAE.

Dubai-based Sobha Realty had targeted sales of Dh2bn this year, but the company "lost about three months [of sales]" after movement restrictions were enforced earlier this year. It now expects to achieve about 70 per cent of this target, or Dh1.4bn, Ms Hegde says.

"We did very well in the first two and half months and we are doing well now. From June onwards, there has



Dubai developer Sobha Realty targets Dh2.5 billion in sales next year and plans to launch a number of projects within its \$4bn master development in Mohammed bin Rashid City.

been a revival and things have started improving. July, August, September and October have

been fairly good."

Residents living in the UAE have been actively buying property, Ms

Hegde said. She expects this trend to continue in the coming months as changes to visa rules open

opportunities to target retirees and vaccine developments offer more optimism for the global

economy. "There has been interest from outside [from those who are] looking to invest in Dubai as a second home. Retirement visas and a lot of visa rules have been relaxed, that will support the market."

Dubai, a Middle East trade and tourism hub, said in September it would grant visas to wealthy foreign retirees that are renewable every five years. The UAE government earlier this week also widened its 10-year "golden" visa system to attract foreign professionals and to encourage them to settle for longer.

Medical doctors, a wide range of scientists, data experts and PhD holders will be able to easily secure long-term residency. Pupils who leave high school with top marks would also be eligible - along with their families. Students leaving universities with a GPA of 3.8 will also be included. Sobha Realty surpassed its sales target of Dh2bn in 2019, with 1,491 units sold to local and international investors, Ms Hegde said.

"We have established ourselves as a very serious player in the market with the ability to deliver what we promised. In the last few deliveries, we have been able to communicate to the market how we are different from others." Dubai's residential sector enjoyed a more active third quarter, as pent-up sales demand drove transactions and lower rents led to tenants relocating, according to consultancy Chestertons.

Residential transactions totalled 7,849 units in the third quarter, representing a near 50 per cent quarter-on-quarter rise. However, total transactions dropped 21.7 per cent year-on-year due to the economic slowdown induced by the coronavirus pandemic. Apartment prices fell 11.4 per cent year-on-year during the third quarter, while villas prices fell 5.6 per cent.

Stamp duty holiday sparks September house price surge

LONDON

UK average house prices increased by 4.7 per cent on the year in September to hit a record high of £245,000 (\$324,321), as Rishi Sunak's stamp duty holiday ramped up demand, according to official data.

September's House Price Index shows that house prices rose 1.7 per cent from August, when they recorded a 3-per-cent annual rise, with the average property in the UK now valued at £244,513. Britain's property market has seen a flurry of activity over the summer, after Mr Sunak introduced a stamp duty land tax break at the start of the July for residential properties worth up to £500,000.

The holiday, which expires on March 31, means that nine in 10 people buying their first home or moving up the property ladder will pay no stamp duty at all, with the measure delivering an average saving of £4,500, HM Treasury said.

The HPI is based on completed housing transactions, with a typical house purchase taking between six and eight weeks to reach completion, so September's data will reflect "those agreements that occurred after the tax changes took place", according to the Office for National Statistics.

The September surge in prices was led by England, which experienced a 4.9-per-cent increase with the average house price now at £262,000. In Wales, prices rose 3.8 per cent to £171,000, in Scotland they were up 4.3 per cent to £162,000 and Northern Ireland saw prices rise 2.4 per cent taking the average house price to £143,000. Meanwhile, London's average house price hit a record high of £496,000, with an annual rise of 4.1 per cent.

Earlier this month, the Halifax House Price Index showed that British house prices rose at the fastest annual rate in October since June 2016, with the average home now selling for more than £250,000 (\$326,261) for the first time, according to Halifax. How-



A row of apartments in Maida Vale, London. Average house prices in the British capital hit a record high of £496,000 in September - an annual rise of 4.1%.

ever, there were signs the market is slowing, with only a 0.3-per-cent rise in prices in October from the previous month, when house prices rose 1.5 per cent.

Asking prices for British houses edged down in November, according to property website Rightmove, as sellers sought to offload their properties ahead of the expiry of the tax holiday in March. Prices fell 0.5 per cent in November from October, when they jumped by the most in more than four years, Rightmove said.

"Given the ongoing mini-boom, prices might have been expected to rise again this month," Tim Bannister, Rightmove's director of property data, said. "But instead we have a slight dip which could be a result of some new sellers pricing more realistically to have a better chance of agreeing a sale in time to benefit from the stamp duty savings on

House prices in US jump at the fastest rate in seven years

NEW YORK

Prices for single-family homes across the US increased 12 per cent in the third quarter, the biggest annual jump in seven years, according to the National Association of Realtors.

The cost of housing is rising across the country, adding to affordability concerns as millions of Americans lose income during the pandemic. Prices rose from a year earlier in all 181 metropolitan areas measured by the group, and 117 regions had double-digit gains, compared with only 15 in the second quarter, according to a report on Thursday.

Mortgage rates near record lows have fuelled a surge in demand, pushing buyers to compete for a scarce supply of listings. Many are rushing to the suburbs, looking for extra space to quarantine in comfort - searches that are likely to intensify now as Covid-19 infections soar to the highest levels in months. Unless borrowing costs fall much further, first-time buyers will increasingly be priced out of home ownership.

"Favourable mortgage rates will continue to bring fresh buyers to the market," said Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the association. "However, the affordability situation will not improve even with low interest rates because housing prices are increasing much too fast."

The average rate for a 30-year mortgage climbed to 2.84 per cent, up from a record-low 2.78 per cent last week, government-sponsored homes loans company Freddie Mac said on Thursday. The nationwide median price of a single-family home in the quarter was \$313,500, according to the association. The 12 per cent year-on-year increase was the largest since the third quarter of 2013, when prices jumped 12.4 per cent.

Fairfield County, Connecticut - home of enclaves like Greenwich, as well as Bridgeport, one of the state's poorest cities - had the biggest increase in prices, with 27.3 per cent. Following were Crestview, Florida; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Kingston, New York; Atlantic City, New Jersey; and Boise, Idaho. At the end of the quarter, 1.47 million previously-owned homes were available for sale in the US, 19.2 per cent fewer than a year earlier. It would take just 2.7 months to sell those homes at the current rate of deals.



The Delta Coves housing development under construction on Bethel Island, California. Prices for single family homes jumped 12% across the US in the third quarter, according to new statistics.

WORLD

Ahead of recount results, Georgia officials say Biden likely to remain the winner

WASHINGTON

A key battleground state in the 2020 presidential election was expected yesterday to affirm Democrat Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump, which would lead yet another setback to Trump's scattershot efforts to hold on to power.

Georgia's top election official, a Republican, has said a labor-intensive hand recount likely will not erode Biden's initial 14,000 vote margin enough to hand Trump a victory in the state.

That would leave Trump with a dwindling number of options as he

tries to overturn the results of an election in which he drew 5.8 million fewer votes than Biden nationwide.

To remain in office, Trump would need to overturn results in at least three large states to flip the results of the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner.

Biden has captured 306 electoral-college votes to Trump's 232.

Trump's campaign has met with little success so far.

In Wisconsin, election officials say a partial recount underway in the state's largest Democratic-leaning counties probably will likely only add to Biden's 20,000-vote margin.



Joe Biden

Trump's campaign can request another recount in Georgia after that state certifies its vote tally, expected today.

In Michigan and Pennsylvania, Trump's lawyers have met with a string of defeats as they argue those states should declare Trump the winner, despite unofficial results that show Biden ahead by 158,000 votes and 83,000 votes, respectively.

Those legal motions, sprinkled with factual errors, have been dismissed by Biden's campaign as "theatrics" that are

not based on sound law. Several prominent law firms have pulled out of the operation, leaving Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani to spearhead the efforts.

State and federal election officials, as well as outside experts, say Trump's argument the election was stolen from him by widespread voter fraud has no basis in fact.

However, it does appear to be affecting public confidence in American democracy. A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Wednesday found about half of Republicans believe Trump "rightfully won" the election.

Arizona's top election official, Katie Hobbs, said she and her family had been getting violent threats. Hobbs, a Democrat, called on Trump to stop casting doubt on the result.

Trump himself has no public events scheduled for Thursday. He has largely stayed in the White House and kept out of public view since the election.

His administration so far has refused to recognise Biden as the winner, which has held up funding and security clearances to ease the transition from one president to another ahead of the Jan. 20 inauguration.

Biden said on Wednesday the delay is preventing his team from being able to plan new efforts to fight a third wave of coronavirus infections, which is putting immense strain on the U.S. healthcare system.

Agencies

Post-Brexit UK announces military spending boost

LONDON



BRITAIN pledged to end the "era of retreat" by announcing the biggest military investment since the end of the Cold War, despite the coronavirus crisis pummeling the economy, as it seeks to define its post-Brexit role on the world stage.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the extra spending reflected the need to upgrade military capabilities, with plans for a new space command and artificial intelligence agency.

In a speech to parliament yesterday outlining the first conclusions from the biggest review of foreign policy and defense in three decades, Johnson will announce an extra 16.5 billion pounds (US\$22 billion) for the military over the next four years. The defense budget is currently just under 42 billion pounds a year.

"I have taken this decision in the teeth of the pandemic because the defense of the realm must come first," Johnson said in a statement.

"The international situation is more perilous and more intensely competitive than at any time since the Cold War and Britain must be true to our history and stand alongside our allies. To achieve this, we need to upgrade our capabilities across the board."

New global role

Britain was the main battlefield ally of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, and alongside France the principal military power in the EU. But its 2016 vote to leave the European Union has made its global role uncertain.

The military spending announcement comes just a week after Johnson promised US Democrat Joe Biden that Britain was determined to remain a valuable military ally.

Christopher Miller, acting US defense secretary in Trump's outgoing administration, welcomed the extra spending.

"The UK is our most stalwart and capable ally, and this increase in spending is indicative of their commitment to NATO and our shared security," he said. "With this increase, the UK military will continue to be one of the finest fighting forces in the world." The government said the increase will cement Britain's position as the largest defence spender in Europe and second largest in NATO.

Agencies

China willing to boost strategic coordination with Russia

BEIJING

CHINA is willing to promote bilateral comprehensive strategic coordination with Russia to a higher level, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

In a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, Wang congratulated the Russian side on successfully hosting the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS summit via video link which have achieved fruitful results.

Caught between the most serious pandemic in the past century and momentous changes never seen in the last 100 years, the global political and economic situation and international order are facing a strong impact, Wang said, noting that for this reason, China and Russia have attached more importance to strengthening strategic

cooperation than ever before and played a mainstay role amid international changes.

The two countries have insisted on running their own affairs well, and successfully completed their respective domestic political agendas, he said, adding that China and Russia have jointly defended multilateralism and international fairness and justice, keeping the bottom line of the basic norms of international law and relations.

The two countries have also actively participated in international anti-pandemic cooperation and promoted political settlement of various regional hot issues, and played a role of the global stabilizer, Wang said, noting that China-Russia strategic coordination has continuously achieved new results.

The China-Russia relations have withstood the test of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wang said, adding that mutual trust be-



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Sochi, Russia, on May 13, 2019. File photo

tween the two countries has deepened continuously and bilateral trade has rebounded.

Noting that the China-Russia Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation has been launched successfully, Wang said that the people-to-people relations between China and Russia have been strengthened continuously and bilateral ties are facing new develop-

ment opportunities.

For his part, Lavrov said despite the pandemic, Russia-China relations have continued to move forward rapidly, which reflects the high level of bilateral ties.

Russia congratulates China on its great achievements in fighting the pandemic, and is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with China, ensure the success of

the Russia-China Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation, and promote the practical cooperation between the two countries in various fields to continuously achieve new results, he said.

Noting that Russia supports the Eurasian Economic Union and the Belt and Road Initiative, Lavrov said that Russia is ready to coordinate closely with China under the mechanisms of the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS, jointly safeguarding the stability of the international and regional situation, support countries in the region in their fight against extremism and support the ASEAN-centered East Asian regional cooperation framework.

The two sides also exchanged in-depth views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Xinhua

US House Democrats back Pelosi for another term as speaker

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS in the US House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to keep House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in her job for another two years, despite the party losing seats to Republicans in the Nov 3 election.

The full House still must vote for speaker in early January, when Republicans will put up their own candidate for the job, but are likely to lose since they will be in the minority in the 435-seat chamber.

As speaker, Pelosi, 80, sets the agenda in the House and is second in line for the presidency should there be a vacancy.

During the virtual closed-door meeting of House Democrats at which she was chosen by a voice



vote with no opponents, Pelosi said one of her top priorities would be passing a law enforcement reform bill, along with legislation addressing healthcare and the environment.

"We have the coronavirus here

that shows the injustice in our healthcare system that we must address to crush the virus, to honor our heroes, to put money in the pockets of the American people," Pelosi said, according to remarks released by her office.

At a news conference, Pelosi sidestepped a question about whether this would be her last term as speaker, but acknowledged she pledged in 2018 to step aside as speaker after four more years. "I don't want to undermine any leverage that I may have but I made the statement," she told reporters.

Democratic President-elect Joe Biden called Pelosi to congratulate her, a statement from his office said. Biden said "he looks forward to working with her and Democratic leadership in the House on a shared agenda to get COVID-19 under control and build our economy back better," the statement said.

Democrats have been at odds for months with Republicans over

a new pandemic aid bill. If the two sides fail to reach an agreement in the next few weeks, it will likely be at the top of the agenda in early 2021.

Also re-elected to the House Democrats' team were Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Majority Whip James Clyburn and others currently holding leadership jobs.

Leading up to the election, Democrats were optimistic they would build on their 232-197 majority, with one Libertarian and five vacancies. Instead, with the outcome of some races still to be determined, Democrats could possibly lose up to a dozen or so seats, making it more difficult for them to push their legislative agenda through the House.

Agencies

Pioneering area of Shanghai thriving with reform, opening-up

PUDONG in East China's Shanghai, home to the country's first bonded zone, the first free trade zone (FTZ) and the Lingang special area, a special economic function zone, is always committed to deepening reform and opening-up as a pioneer that makes new explorations and advances with the times.

As China decided to open up and develop Pudong in 1990, the first area in China under special customs supervision - Shanghai Waigaoqiao FTZ was established, placing Pudong on a critical position in China's international commerce.

Two years later, Waigaoqiao FTZ issued its first business license for foreign enterprises to Itochu, a general trading company from Japan, thus making the latter the first wholly foreign-owned

trading company in China.

"We were trying not to get our hopes up when we submitted the proposal to establish a trading company here," said Moritsune Taka, general manager of Itochu (China) Holding Co., Ltd. According to him, Itochu Shanghai Ltd. has become a regional headquarter of the corporation. "Thanks to the opening-up and development of Pudong, we are rooted and developing here," he told People's Daily.

The establishment of FTZs is a strategic measure of China to comprehensively deepen reform and expand opening-up under new circumstances, and Shanghai and Pudong shouldered the important mission of establishing China's first FTZ.

At the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), Chinese President

Xi Jinping demonstrated China's firm resolution to expand opening-up, and announced to expand the China (Shanghai) Pilot FTZ to include a new section, launch a science and technology innovation board at the Shanghai Stock Exchange and experiment with a registration system for listed companies, and support integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta region and make it a national strategy.

A big part of the Lingang Special Area of China (Shanghai) Pilot FTZ is in Pudong. Since the inauguration of the area in August 2019, 46 of the 78 policies and institutional innovations in line with the overall plan for the development of Lingang have been implemented.

Twenty-two of them have been made into schemes, attracting total investment of over 310 billion yuan (\$46.86

billion).

Pudong issued China's first negative list of foreign investment access on the second day of the inauguration of the China (Shanghai) Pilot FTZ, which included 190 items of special management. Over the past years, only 30 items remain on the list now.

Apart from the negative list, Pudong has also applied a registration system for foreign investors, thanks to which it only takes foreign investors a day to establish a company in the area, while the process used to take more than a week.

At present, over 95 percent of foreign-funded enterprises are established in Pudong under the registration system. So far, a series of basic and core institutional innovations have been formulated in Pudong, including the negative list and a "single-window system" for foreign trade.

Pudong has been making continuous efforts to expand the fields of opening-up. On one hand, it is opening wider its service and manufacturing industries, issuing 54 opening-up measures in 2 batches for over 3,500 enterprises. Fifty-five projects in wholly foreign-funded hospitals, automobile manufacturing and vocational training implemented in Pudong were the first of their kinds in China.

On the other hand, Pudong is also enhancing the opening-up in its financial sector. It launched China's first free trade account system in 2014, which offered a testing platform for the opening-up of the financial industry and met the demand of enterprises to integrate their domestic and foreign trade businesses.

So far, the total overseas financing in both RMB and foreign currencies re-

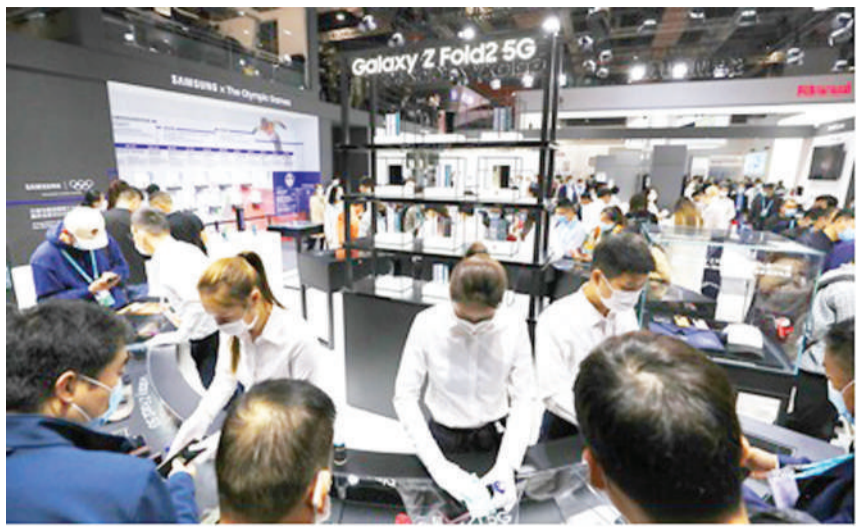
ceived by enterprises under the system has hit 2 trillion yuan.

"The process of reform and opening-up in Pudong is beyond our expectation," said Pu Xueqian, chairman and CEO of J.P. Morgan Chase Securities China.

Today's Pudong has become a prioritized destination for more and more multinationals to locate their headquarters in. This year, the world's largest industrial software provider Dassault Systemes moved its Asia Pacific headquarters to Pudong.

At present, the area is home to 350 headquarters of multinational corporations, and many enterprises have upgraded their single-function headquarters into compound ones that integrate the functions of investment, management, trade and settlement.

People's Daily



Participants experience 5G mobile phones at the booth of Samsung during the third China International Import Expo, Nov. 6. File Photo

China endeavors to open up new vistas for win-win cooperation

AS China is about to achieve the goal of finishing building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty, and embrace a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country, attentions are being casted on how the country will join hands with the rest of the world to achieve better development.

"Answering to the changing circumstances and new requirements, we have set out to foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other," said Chinese President Xi Jinping at the opening ceremony of the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Nov. 4.

"What we envision is not a development loop behind closed doors, but more open domestic and international circulations. We will do so not only to meet China's own development needs but also for the greater benefit of people in all countries," Xi added, delivering an encouraging message to the world.

At the new stage of development and under the new development paradigm, China will share new opportunities with the world and open up new and immense prospects for win-win cooperation.

As a Chinese saying goes, a wise man changes as time and event change. China gains a keen appreciation of the underlying trend of the times and firmly advances with economic globalization.

Establishing the new development paradigm is a strategic decision China made in line with the changes in the country's development stages, environment and conditions. It is also a systematic and profound reform concerning the overall situation of the country, and an objective requirement for its economic development.

To build the new development paradigm is a proactive instead of a passive response. It is by no means an expedient measure, but a long-term strategy.

Accelerating the establishment of the new development paradigm is also an important measure for China to adapt to the new situation and stay committed to safeguarding and championing economic globalization and taking it forward.

In China's new development paradigm, domestic and international markets and resources have a dialectical relationship.

China has a population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million. The vastly huge China market is the most promising in the world. Total import into China is estimated to top \$22 trillion in the coming decade. Chinese manufacturing now makes an important and positive part of the global industrial and supply chains. Demand on the massive domestic market in China will continue to unleash endless potential for innovation.

Just as Xi said, promoting a large-scale and smooth domestic economic circulation will help better attract

global resources, meet domestic needs, elevate industrial and technological development and foster new advantages in global economic cooperation and competition.

In the process of fostering the new development paradigm, China will possess a more important position in and have a closer tie with the world economy, and will provide more extensive market opportunities for the rest of the world, becoming a huge magnet that attracts international commodities and resources.

Openness has become a trademark of China and the CIIE an important window for the world to understand the country's determination to open up. Over the past three years since its inception, the CIIE has enabled exhibits to become traded goods and exhibitors to spot more investment opportunities, and facilitated an exchange of new and creative ideas.

Recently, the fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the CPC adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, which called for giving full play to the role of important exhibition platforms such as the CIIE.

"China will stay committed to openness, cooperation and unity for win-win results. We will steadfastly expand all-round opening up and explore more efficient ways to connect domestic and foreign markets and share factors of production and resources. Our aim is to turn the China market into a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all," said Xi at the opening ceremony of the third CIIE. This way, China will bring much-needed positive energy to the global community under the current circumstances.

Multinational corporations also voiced their anticipation for the broad prospects of China's new development paradigm, saying they are ready to seize new opportunities in China's accelerated opening-up and transformation through the CIIE, and will continue to root in China, serve the country and work with Chinese enterprises for win-win results as the country speeds up the construction of the new development paradigm.

China today is a proud member of the global community. Remaining committed to a win-win strategy of opening-up, it will seek development impetus from the world and contribute more to the world with its own development.

China's establishment of the new development paradigm will help global countries foster a development pattern featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, inject positive energy into the global economic recovery, and make new contributions to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

Senegal to further facilitate convergence of views between Africa, China - FM

DAKAR

SENEGAL will continue to facilitate the "convergence of views" between China and Africa on key issues such as global governance, poverty reduction and the fight against COVID-19, said Senegal's Foreign Minister Aissata Tall Sall.

In an article published Wednesday on local newspaper Le Quotidien, the top diplomat commended "the long journey made by Africa and China" through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, leading today to "a perfect convergence of views and interests" within the framework of the global strategic partnership. She said that between China and Africa, there is "a long tradition of friendship, exchanges, and cooperation based on a solid foundation of values and princi-



ples that defies all the divisions inherent in the vicissitudes of time and the international environment."

"Today, China contributes to Africa's economic and social development through important economic, technical, scientific, and socio-cultural achievements. It has built thousands of kilometers of roads, railways, airports, stadiums, universities, schools, hospitals

across the African continent," the minister said. Sall said that in 20 years, Sino-African trade has multiplied by 20, from 10 billion U.S. dollars in 2000 to 208.7 billion U.S. dollars in 2019.

China has been Africa's top trading partner for 11 years, and is also a leading partner of the African Union in the bloc's implementation of Agenda 2063 and the African Peace and Security Architecture, Sall noted.

"What has become the strength of the China-Africa partnership is its pragmatism, that is, its ability to intervene at the right time to provide concrete answers from the concerned parties," Sall said. "This has been reconfirmed recently when, in the face of the health crisis caused by coronavirus, China and Africa supported each other and fought together against the disease," Sall added.

Xinhua

BRICS lays out path to better future, say experts

By Yang Han in Hong Kong and Karl Wilson in Sydney

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's speech at the 12th BRICS Summit showed the world a blueprint of the emerging-market bloc, experts say.

Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist for global consultant IHS Markit, said Xi had delivered a speech in which the future of BRICS was well laid out.

Addressing the summit in Beijing via video link on Tuesday, Xi called on the BRICS countries to uphold multilateralism, and safeguard peace and stability in the world. He also said countries need to pursue openness and innovation to promote global economic recovery.

BRICS groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The meeting was hosted by Russia, which holds the rotating BRICS presidency this year.

The BRICS economic cooperation agenda has broadened significantly in recent years, including the infrastructure project lending program of the New Development Bank (NDB) that was founded by the BRICS members, Biswas noted. NDB, headquartered in Shanghai, formally opened in July 2015.

Beyond the joint economic cooperation initiatives among the BRICS countries, the group has engaged with other countries to provide global leadership for the wider grouping of developing countries, he said.

"Therefore, it is to be hoped that the long-term economic development vision and commitment to multilateral cooperation under the umbrella of the BRICS Forum will prevail among the BRICS member nations despite geopolitical differences that arise between some BRICS members," said Biswas.

Despite geopolitical tensions, the participation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BRICS Summit "signals that the long-term benefits of the BRICS grouping remain an important common goal among the BRICS member nations,"



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the 12th BRICS summit via video link in Beijing, capital of China, on Wednesday. XINHUA

Biswas said.

Xi's comments about "upholding multilateralism" was worth noting, said Tim Harcourt, J.W. Neville Fellow in Economics at the University of New South Wales Business School.

Harcourt said the recent signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), of which China is a member, gives the world "some hope for open regionalism and multilateralism". Signed on Sunday, RCEP is the biggest trade pact in the world. It is a trade agreement between 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and its major trading partners China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

During his speech, Xi called for international solidarity and cooperation to jointly cope with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He put forward proposals for the bloc to overcome global challenges including the pandemic and global economic recessions. He also said China will "actively consider providing vaccines to BRICS countries where there is a need".

"The global problems have global solutions and no individual country is in

a position to fight this kind of pandemic alone. So we all have to work together," said Bilal Ahmad Butt, consul general of Pakistan in Hong Kong.

"President Xi Jinping is absolutely right that we all will have to come together to find a solution to the global problems."

At the summit, Xi explained China's "dual circulation" strategy, which aims to foster a new development paradigm under which domestic demand will be the economic pillar and the international and domestic circulations reinforce each other.

Noting "dual circulation" is a key focus in China's 14th Five-Year Plan, the diplomat said Pakistan can be a good partner with the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong. "In the future, we can collaborate more in a number of areas," he said.

He was speaking to China Daily on the sidelines of the Greater Bay Area Conference on Nov 18. The event was organized by China Daily and the Silk Road Economic Development Research Center in Hong Kong, with the Council for the Promotion of Guangzhou-Hongkong-Macao Cooperation as the co-organizer.

Agencies

Russia's pioneering Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine sent to Geneva for approval from WHO

MOSCOW

THE creators of Sputnik V, the world's first registered Covid-19 vaccine, have applied for official certification from the World Health Organization (WHO). The groundbreaking Russian vaccine is currently being evaluated in Geneva.

Speaking to radio station Echo of Moscow, the WHO's representative in Russia, Melita Vujnovic, explained that the vaccine is under examination by the preminent international health agency.

"WHO has not yet spoken up and has not announced any vaccine because vaccines are undergoing a system of evaluation," she explained. "We

know that the Sputnik V vaccine has been submitted for certification to Geneva, to the WHO headquarters."

Vujnovic also gave a vote of confidence to the Russian pharmaceutical industry, confirming that she would take a Russian vaccine once it had passed international certification.

On Wednesday, she told the Rossiya-24 TV channel that a dialogue had been established between the creators of Sputnik V and the WHO, with the official noting she is "optimistic" about the global health agency deciding to recommend the vaccine.

On October 27, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) revealed that it had applied to the WHO for accelerated registration, allowing the vaccine

to be approved quicker.

On August 11, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the country had registered the world's first Covid-19 vaccine, named Sputnik V. Developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology, it is currently undergoing a third-stage clinical trial involving 40,000 volunteers.

Exactly three months later, on November 11, the Russian Direct Investment Fund announced that Sputnik V is 92% effective, based on results from the first 16,000 trialists.

In October, Putin announced that Russia had created a second vaccine called EpiVacCorona, produced by Siberia's Vector Center.

Agencies

No news from talks could mean good news, says Brexit expert

LONDON

As British negotiators are currently in Brussels for intensified talks with their European Union (EU) counterparts, this week's talks were preceded by a warning of the need to make "big progress" to avert a possible no-deal situation.

Against a backdrop of the EU team's departure from London last week with little news of progress, David Phinnemore, professor of European politics at Queen's University Belfast, told Xinhua that no-news might not necessarily mean that developments were not happening.

"There's been so little coming out of the negotiations. It's gotten very, very quiet, which in many respects is good, because they're very focused," Phinnemore said in a recent interview.

"They don't want any media noise around what's happening. I think this week's (negotiation) obviously (is) going to be really important, because we are, and again, people say we keep repeating this, we're getting towards the final point by which you need an agreement so that it can come into force in January (2021)," he said.

Both London and Brussels acknowledged that there are still big gaps between them on such sticking points as fisheries, state aid and dispute settlement mechanism.

According to Phinnemore, Britain and the EU are really "up against it" in terms of reaching an agreement in time for it to be ratified by the European Parliament.

He is looking to this week's negotiations as crucial for predicting a deal or no deal. "What they are all flagging is that there are still outstanding issues, particularly on fish, level playing fields etc ... And now this issue of whether there should be a ratchet clause, which would mean that UK standards might have to develop in line with the EU's, but that may just be a negotiating ploy on the part of the EU," he said.

"It's difficult to say, but with the negotiations still going, I think they obviously believe there is the prospect of getting a deal," he added. But there are also a number of factors that took place last week, both internationally and closer to home, that could hold significant bearing on the way British Prime Minister Boris Johnson approaches the latest Britain-EU negotiations.

Last week, two top advisors of Johnson's government, Dominic Cummings and Lee Cain, who were known for holding a strong position on Britain leaving the EU at all costs, resigned.

Phinnemore said that he believes the fact that two such influential figures behind the Leave Campaign were now out could affect the way Johnson approaches the next round of negotiations with the EU.

"There's a sense that it gives them a little bit more leeway," he said. "Because both Cain and Cummings are very much associated with the hardest form of Brexit and might have been in the sort of the No Deal camp who wouldn't have been too concerned, at least by terms of media reports, about the possibility of these negotiations not leading to a deal."

"But I think as far as Johnson is concerned, all the indications are from around him that he should really be aiming for a deal. So in some respects, the voices are still there but they're obviously not as influential as they were before," he noted.

Xinhua

Ethiopia pushes for Tigray's capital as rebels promise 'hell'

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA predicted swift victory but defiant northern rebels promised them "hell" on Wednesday in a two-week war threatening the vast country's unity and further destabilizing the Horn of Africa.

The war has killed hundreds, sent 30,000 refugees into Sudan, and called into question whether Africa's youngest leader, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, can hold together his nation's myriad fractious ethnic groups.

Ignoring international appeals for talks, Prime Minister Abiy

Ahmed's government says its forces are marching on Tigray's capital Mekelle and will soon triumph over the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which he accuses of revolt.

The rebels say they have captured tanks and artillery in a string of victories despite being massively outnumbered.

"Tigray is now a hell to its enemies ... The people of Tigray will never kneel," they said in a statement.

The TPLF says Abiy, their ex-military comrade and one-time political partner, has removed Tigrayans from senior security and government posts since he took

office in 2018 and now wants to dominate them completely.

Abiy's government has put former officials - many Tigrayan - on trial for crimes like torture, murder and corruption, but denies any attempt at ethnic domination.

"The federal government... denounces, in the strongest of terms, mischaracterization that this operation has an ethnic or other bias," the government's task force on the crisis said.

Debretson Gebremichael, elected Tigrayan president in polls that Ethiopia does not recognize, told Reuters by text that his forces had fallen back but

denied government allegations they destroyed bridges and a road leading to the capital.

"We have shifted our defense line and as a result they get into some towns of South Tigray," he added.

The Tigrayan leaders accused federal forces of targeting civilians, churches and homes. The government says it is only targeting TPLF targets and has accused Tigrayan forces of using civilians as human shields.

The northern state is largely cut off as media are barred, most communications are down and aid workers are pulling out, meaning Reuters could not verify

assertions from either side.

Hundreds of thousands have been uprooted from homes, while internet, electricity and banking services have been blocked.

"Attempting to rule the people of Tigray by force is like walking on a burning flame," the Tigrayan statement added.

"Tigray will be the graveyard of dictators."

Refugees have said militias from Amhara, the neighboring state, attacked them because of ethnicity and that airstrikes were killing civilians. However, Abiy's government has repeatedly denied an ethnic undertone, saying

it is restoring law and order and guaranteeing national unity.

Aiby's parents are from the Oromo and Amharic ethnic groups - the largest and second largest respectively. Tigrayans represent about 5 percent of Africa's second most populous country. They dominated national leadership between 1991 and 2018, before Abiy took the premiership and began opening up both the economy and a repressive political system that had jailed tens of thousands of political prisoners.

In a rare comment on the activities of a past prize winner, the Nobel committee in Oslo ex-

pressed deep concern this week and urged peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The TPLF has also fired rockets into neighboring Eritrea, escalating the war beyond national borders. It has a long-standing enmity with President Isaias Afwerki's government. Abiy won his 2019 Nobel prize for a peace pact with Afwerki.

Ethiopia's army is one of Africa's best, but many senior officers were Tigrayan and much of its heavy weaponry was based in Tigray, which was on the front line of the two-decade standoff with Eritrea after a 1998-2000 war.

Agencies



Simon Patrick

Yanga suspend Acting Secretary General

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

YANGA leadership has suspended the side's Acting Secretary General, Simon Patrick, who is also the outfit's Head of Legal and members.

A statement issued by the club yesterday said the decision came after an emergency meeting, which took place on November 11, as issued by the club's Chairman, Mshindo Msolla.

"Yanga's Executive Committee has suspended the outfit's Acting Secretary General, Simon Patrick, who is also the Head of Legal and members," read the statement.

According to the statement the decision-

came after an emergency meeting of the executive committee held on November 17 this year to hear the allegations against him.

"In an effort to ensure that justice is done, the Executive Committee will appoint an independent committee to look into the matter and make effective decisions for all parties," the statement stated.

"The Executive Committee will therefore wait for the independent committee to complete its investigation in order to settle the matter."

Patrick was appointed as the outfit's Acting Secretary General after the team's former Secretary General, David Ruhango, had been fired by the club mid-June.

Women soccer development program launched in Dar

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

KARIBU Tanzania Organization (KTO), a non-governmental organisation working as an umbrella of Folk Development Colleges (FDCs), has launched a soccer development program for young women, known as 'Football is an Opportunity'.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, the organization's director, Maggid Mjengwa, said the aim of the four-day training is to empower participants to be able to impart the game's skills to girls in primary schools.

He said 'Football is an Opportunity' is a program which was found by KTO, which as well manages the program in cooperation with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The program, he stated, is as well implemented in 43 community development colleges, including 41 institutions which are implementing the skills program for young women who have been deprived of their studies due to various reasons.

The program, according to him, also involves the handing over of various sports equipment to participating colleges.

Speaking during the event, Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports,



Karibu Tanzania Organization (KTO) Managing Director, Majid Mjengwa (R), speaks to college principals and sports teachers from Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) at a launch of a women soccer development program, known as 'Football is an Opportunity', which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Yusuf Singo, thanked KTO for motivating sports teachers who participated in the program.

Singo asked the teachers to successfully implement the knowledge they have gained from the training.

Director of Technical and Vocational Education Training at Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Noel Mbonde, noted: "Football is an Opportunity" is a quite good program, for

many years, girls have been sidelined as far as promotion of the game is concerned but we have recently seen the need for involving them in the initiative."

The program's Head, Mia Mjengwa, noted: "The program has targeted to support government's efforts to empower a woman by presenting the lady with opportunities, given football is one of employment opportunities."

She said: "We also gear towards

seeing to it the woman knows her rights."

Some of the participants disclosed participation in sports boosts girls' confidence, as well as giving her courage to deal with such vices like sexual harassment and others.

They thanked the KTO for hosting the training and promised to effectively implement the skills they have gained in the training.

Foreign athletes arrive for 2020 NBC Dodoma Marathon

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

FOREIGN athletes have started arriving in Dar es Salaam, ready for the 2020 NBC Dodoma Marathon, which is slated for Sunday in Dodoma.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) information officer, Tullo Chambo, said Kenyan athletes have arrived in the country while those from Uganda were expected to arrive yesterday-night and those from Malawi arrive today.

"Foreign athletes have started arriving in the country for the NBC Dodoma Marathon and the ones from upcountry have started arriving in Dar es Salaam, ready to travel to Dodoma for the marathon," he said.

Speaking upon his arrival, Kenyan athlete Jerop Massah, who will compete in men's half marathon, said he is prepared for the event.

He noted he has come to Tanzania to emerge as the champion in the category so as he can take the race's prize money to his native country.

"I'm here to collect the money, I'm prepared and I had trained well for that, I don't think anyone will stop

me from winning the top position," he said.

Other Kenyan athletes who will compete at the event are half marathoners, Judith Cheron and Esther Chesang Kakuri, who will compete in women category, and marathoner, Euliter Jepchirchir Tanui.

Edward Kiprop and Elijah Cheruiyo will compete in men's half marathon while compatriots that will compete in marathon are Isgah Cheruto, Ruben Kipkemboi, Abraham Kipkosgei Too and Wilson Kiprop Tuitoe.

Philip Kiplimo and Vincent Chelimo are Ugandan runners set to compete in marathon, while compatriot Julius Ochieng will compete in half marathon's men's category.

Ugandan female athletes who will compete in half marathon category are Doreen Chemutai and Melly Chelimo.

Tanzanian athlete, Sara Ramadhan from Arusha, said she is prepared to carry the nation's flag high in the NBC Dodoma Marathon.

Sara said she is ready to defeat Kenyan athletes in women's marathon category so that the prize money can

remain home.

"I'm ready and prepared to carry our nation's flag high in the Sunday race in Dodoma, I have trained well for the marathon and there is no way the prize money will go to Kenya," she said.

Other local marathoners who have promised to do well at the event are Singida-based Hamis Misai and Jafary Rajab.

National Service (JKT) top runner, Grace Jackson, who will compete in 10km category, has also promised to do wonders at the event.

The most entertaining and competitive category is expected to be the half marathon, given many top athletes have registered to compete in the race.

Female Tanzanian athletes, who will compete in the category, include Failuna Abdi, who has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, and Angelina Tsere.

Domestic male athletes that will battle it out in the category are Gabriel Geay and Ezekiel Ngimba.

The 2020 NBC Dodoma Marathon is recognized by World Athletics (WA) and World Race Measurement (AIMS)

Stars have chance to make it to AFCON finals, says coach

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, is adamant the squad can still do well and qualify for the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals, if only some issues are to be given priority.

Ndayiragije made the remarks after his team drew 1-1 with Tunisia in the return leg of the AFCON Qualifiers' Group J, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

He mentioned the key things to be done, should Taifa Stars make it to the continental showpiece, as going for right preparations and investing in the side.

He also went on to say that if Taifa Stars are to scale great heights in continental competitions, they have to improve preparations and efficiency.

"If we prepare and invest strength in our national team, the same way

the clubs do, I believe there is still chance for the side to do well," he disclosed.

Ndayiragije also noted there is a need for the country's players who ply their trade outside the country to be monitored and they should, if possible, earn selection for the squad with a view to building a competent squad.

Tunisia lead the rest of the pack in Group J with 10 points and have already qualified for the AFCON finals.

Equatorial Guinea are placed second with six points, Taifa Stars sit third with four points and Libya are rooted to the bottom of the group with three points.

Each of the squads have played four games and, with two games remaining, each of the remaining three squads have chance to qualify for the AFCON finals.

Tanzania will, in the next game, be away to Equatorial Guinea in March next year, the former will later host

Libya in Dar es Salaam.

Coach Ndayiragije said before meeting Equatorial Guinea, there would be the African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, slated for Cameroon next year, with Taifa Stars set to feature in the showpiece.

He asked for good preparations for the squad, noting players that will earn call up for the side, should join it early with a view to getting better coordination.

The coach further congratulated his players for putting spirited performance in the AFCON Qualifiers' match against Tunisia, although the hosts did not have much time to prepare for the clash.

He also commented on striker Adam Adam, who played for the first time for the squad in the Tuesday match, saying the player has shown potential.

He pointed out the forward needs more preparation, if he is to prove his worth.

Prisons play host to Mtibwa Sugar in VPL

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

After a two-week break, the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League gets back to action on Friday when Prisons host Mtibwa Sugar at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa.

Ajabu Kifukwe, Prisons' secretary general, disclosed his side's charges are ready for the encounter against Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar.

He asked his team's supporters to turn up at the stadium in large numbers to cheer the team.

With 10 games played so far, Prisons have been placed eighth with 15 points while Mtibwa have been placed 12th with 11 points.

"We are ready for today tomorrow's (today) encounter against Mtibwa Sugar, we are well prepared to collect maximum points, I'm asking our supporters to come in their large numbers to cheer the team," Kifukwe said.

Thobias Kifaru, Mtibwa Sugar information officer, said his outfit is prepared for all three away games, with the first being today's game against Prisons.

Mtibwa Sugar will later lock horns with Polisi Tanzania and Mbeya City FC.

"We are prepared for all three games, our

aim is to collect nine points, we will start that mission with a game against Prisons at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Sumbawanga...then the focus will shift to the coming games," he said.

Other games today will see Dodoma Jiji FC host Biashara United while Ruvu Shooting will play Mbeya City FC.

There will be a lot of premier league action tomorrow, Polisi Tanzania will host Ifhefu FC but two matches are set to be the pick of the day.

In the first, the VPL defending champions, Simba SC, will lock horns with Coastal Union at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha, the second will see KMC FC host Azam FC at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC head coach Sven Vandebroek was reported to have said his side is prepared to collect three points in the game against Coastal Union.

The coach said his charges are aware of the importance of collecting three points tomorrow.

"Our aim is to defend the VPL silverware, having that in mind we cannot allow to lose points, we will face them with the aim of col-

lecting three points," he said.

Simba SC, placed third in the VPL with 20 points, will welcome their players, John Bocco, Aishi Manula, Meddie Kagere, Shomari Kapombe, Erasto Nyoni, Jonas Mkude, Mohamed Hussein, Joash Onyago, Luis Miquisone and others who were with their respective national teams which featured in Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

Coastal Union are placed 10th in the VPL standing with 12 points and they are expected to welcome their head coach, Juma Mgunda, who is also assistant coach at the senior national football squad, Taifa Stars.

The KMC FC placed sixth in the domestic top flight standing with 15 points faces an uphill task when the squad takes on the VPL leaders Azam FC at Uhuru Stadium tomorrow.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC information officer, said her outfit is well prepared for the encounter.

She said the Azam FC match will mark the beginning of new result to be recorded by her side.

"We started the league on a good note, but we lost the rhythm on the way, the game

against Azam FC will take us to where we belong. All players are in good shape and ready for the encounter," she said.

Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zacharia, said they are looking forward to the match.

He said Azam FC is prepared for the encounter as the aim is to consolidate their lead in the premier league.

"Preparations for the game against KMC FC are going on very well and the good thing is that some of the players who were with their respective national teams have joined the squad," he stated.

"We are doing all we can to collect three points," he said.

On Sunday, Kagera Sugar welcomes Mwadui FC at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera but the day's tussle, which will attract much attention, will pit Yanga against Namungo FC in what promises to be another entertaining match.

Yanga, who are coached by Burundian Cedrick Kaze, seem to have regained their rhythm as they are now playing attracting football, only that they are not sharp upfront.

Coach Kaze is reported to have said that his side is ready for any encounter in the pre-

mier league.

He said this season, Yanga are geared to win the VPL trophy and to realize that they need to win all of their games.

"For us to win the VPL silverware, we need to win all of our games, there is no need for dropping points," he disclosed.

Yanga have been placed second in the VPL table with 24 points.

Namungo FC that is reported to have parted ways with the outfit's head coach Thierry Hitimana and replace him with Hemed Morocco are placed ninth with 14 points.

Namungo FC secretary general, Kindamba Namlia, in a previous interview, vowed that his team will do well in their coming premier league and CAF Confederation Cup games.

"We have not done well in some premier league games, but now everything is in place and we are ready for all of our games both domestic and continental," he said.

On Wednesday, Namlia told The Guardian that the team played two friendly matches in Zanzibar against Chuoni and Mlandege FC, posting 2-1 victory over Chuoni and settling for 1-1 draw with Mlandege FC.

Lionel Messi 'tired' of being blamed for Barca's problems

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi says he's fed up with being blamed for Barcelona's problems after Antoine Griezmann's former agent accused him of running a "regime of terror" at the club.

Messi, 33, was met by a pack of journalists at El Prat airport in Barcelona on Wednesday upon his return from international duty with Argentina.

He was asked him what he thought about Eric Olhats' claim last week that he had too much control at Barca and had failed to help accommodate Griezmann at the club.

"I am tired of always being the problem with everything that goes on at this club," Messi said.

Griezmann has always maintained that his relationship with Messi is good and sources close to the France international say it has been years since he spoke with Olhats.

The two combined to good effect on the pitch in Barca's final game before the international break, with Messi's dummy setting up a goal for Griezmann.

But Messi's latest comments will only increase speculation that he could leave Barca when his contract ends next summer.

The Argentina forward wanted to leave in August after the 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich, with sources telling ESPN that Manchester City had sounded out a deal, but Barca wouldn't let him go.

Speaking in September, Messi,

who has been at Barca for 20 years, said his main problem was with former president Josep Maria Bartomeu and his management of the club over the past few years.

But Bartomeu resigned in October, paving the way for his successor to open talks with Messi over a new deal.

A new president will not be elected until late January and their first task will be to convince Messi that they can build a winning team around him for the final years of his career.

As things stand, Messi will be able to negotiate a pre-contract with any club in January and can leave for free next June.

"When you are lucky enough to have the best player in the world in your team, you need to retain that talent," said Victor Font, one of the candidates for the presidency, in an interview with Reuters.

"If Messi goes to a competitor we will not find an alternative easily as there is no alternative to Messi. So that's why retaining him in the short term is critical."

Messi returned to Spain on Wednesday following Argentina's draw with Paraguay and win over Peru in qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

He will return to training with Barca on Thursday ahead of Saturday's game against unbeaten Atletico Madrid, who will be without his close friend and former teammate Luis Suarez after he tested positive for the coronavirus.

(Agencies)

Mourinho: I'm now 'The Experienced One'

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho has dubbed himself "The Experienced One," a riff on his self-described "A Special One" moniker.

When Mourinho arrived at Chelsea from Porto as a Champions League winner in 2004 he famously described himself as "A Special One" and the nickname has stuck throughout his coaching career.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Tencent Sports, an ESPN partner in China, Mourinho said that he is now stronger than ever before because of his experiences coaching Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Chelsea a second time and Manchester United.

"The 'Experienced One.' I am very experienced," Mourinho said when asked how he would call himself now. "Basically everything that happens to me in football now is deja vu, is something that has happened to me before."

"There are jobs that you need a special fitness condition like a football player. A 40-year-old does not have the same potential like a 20-or 30-year old, unless you're Zlatan Ibrahimovic."

(Agencies)

Xavi can be Barcelona's Sir Alex Ferguson - Font

BARCELONA

WITH Barcelona's glory days rapidly becoming a fading memory, presidential hopeful Victor Font believes luring former midfielder Xavi Hernandez back to the club could spark another golden age for the Catalans.

Xavi, one of the architects of Barca's decade-long rule of world football, is the coach of Qatari side Al Sadd but has agreed to play a leading role back with Barca if Font wins the club's election on Jan. 24.

While Font expects to see Xavi, 40, in the Barca dugout at some point, he is equally enthusiastic about the long term role he can play.

"We decided some years ago the best person to help us build our organisation is Xavi," Font told Reuters in an interview.

"Ideally we can have Xavi as a general manager for many

years like Alex Ferguson was at Manchester United. But if he needs to play a different role, he can be flexible. Few people have the leadership qualities he has."

Ferguson is the most successful manager in British football, having won 49 trophies during his 39-year managerial career, including 38 with Manchester United.

Font is also determined that Xavi will stay at Barca for many years and does not export his expertise to rival European clubs.

"I have told Xavi we cannot afford to have another case like Pep Guardiola," Font said.

"Pep coached the first team very successfully for a few years then he moved on and went to the competition [Bayern Munich and then Manchester City]. We need to have Xavi in the club for the next 10 years."

(Agencies)

Africa Cup of Nations 2022 Qualifying: Who's in? Who's out?

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

FOUR rounds of matches down, two to go in the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign, and the 12 groups have firmly taken shape.

A quartet of nations have already confirmed their place at the biennial continental showcase to join hosts Cameroon, but still there's much to play for ahead in the final two round of qualifiers in March.

Here's how each of the 12 groups are looking after four matchdays, and here's what each of the continent's teams need to do to avoid missing out on the 2022 Africa Cup of Nations.

Group A Who's in?

Mali confirmed their place in the finals with a pair of victories over Namibia, taking their tally to 10 points from four matches.

Even without Moussa Marega, they were too much for the Brave Warriors, and their robust, athletic style could make them dark horses for a long run at the tournament itself.

Who's out?

With one point from four matches -- secured at home against Guinea on Sunday -- Chad are already out of the running.

What's still to play for?

Guinea, on eight points, are firmly in the driving seat to join Mali in Cameroon, even though their failure to win away in N'Djamena opens the door for third-placed Namibia.

Namibia's Brave Warriors need two wins from their outstanding two matches -- including a home fixture against Guinea -- while hoping that Mali can defeat Guinea away on matchday five.

Group B Who's still to play for?

Burkina Faso lead the group on eight points, and are still unbeaten, although they could cede top spot away at second-placed Uganda (seven points) in their next fixture.

Uganda should already have secured qualification, but the Cranes were handed a shock defeat by tiny South Sudan on Monday, with Tito Okello scoring the only goal of the game from the spot.

Malawi (four points) need to beat South Sudan (three), hope that Uganda fall to Burkina Faso, and then beat the Cranes in Blantyre to qualify.

Group C What's still to play for?

Ghana, with two-goal Andre Ayew, dispatched Sudan at home on matchday three, but their defeat away in Omdurman on Tuesday denied them the chance to confirm qualification already.

The Black Stars will qualify with a draw against South Africa (also on nine points) away in their next match, although Sudan remain in the running. Sudan's final match, against South Africa, could be winner-takes-all if they defeat Sao Tome e Principe in late March.

Sao Tome are already eliminated after losing all four of their fixtures to date. Their -9 goal difference is the worst of any team in the qualifying campaign.

Group D What's still to play for?

The controversy that preceded Gabon's fixture away at Gambia -- as the Panthers spent the night before the match sleeping rough at Banjul International Airport -- overshadowed a fascinating double-header, with the teams claiming one victory each.

Those results left Gambia (seven points) in pole position to qualify for their first ever major tournament, continuing the excellent work of Tom Saintfiet.

The return of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and his winner in Franceville saw Gabon retain second place, and they could seal qualification when they host third-placed Democratic Republic of



South Africa won their two Afcon qualifiers against Sao Tome and Principe 6-2 on aggregate. (Agencies)

Congo (six points) in March.

DRC took four points from bottom side Angola (one point) in the latest international break, but the latter could still qualify with victories in the remaining two matchdays.

Group E What's still to play for?

All four teams could still qualify, although Morocco are all but through. Morocco must lose both matches -- including a hammering at the hands of Burundi -- to miss out, and they will advance with a point against neighbouring Mauritania in March.

A win for either Burundi or Central African Republic when they meet in Bujumbura could take them into second place heading into the final round of fixtures.

Group F Who's in?

Hosts Cameroon will automatically feature on home soil, but they boosted optimism of a strong showing at the tournament with six goals and six points in their latest two matches against Mozambique.

What's still to play for? Mozambique, Cape Verde Islands (both four points) and Rwanda (two) are competing for one qualifying berth, but Mozambique are in the strongest position by virtue of the fact they've already played Cameroon twice and avoided defeat away in Cape Verde last year, scoring two away goals.

Group G What's still to play for?

Egypt, uninspiring against Togo, and Comoros Islands stand equal

atop the table on eight points, and they meet on matchday six.

Third-placed Kenya (three points) need wins and for other results to go their way in the remaining matchdays to stand any chance of progression. That's an almighty task for the Harambee Stars, who may regret replacing head coach Francis Kimanzi ahead of the double-header against Comoros. Togo, World Cup qualifiers in 2006, are already out of contention. They have unravelled spectacularly under Claude Le Roy, and the iconic coach's job surely hangs by a thread.

Group H Who's in?

Algeria extended their undefeated streak to 22 matches, the eighth-longest streak in the history of international football, and the longest of all international teams in the world today, with four points against Zimbabwe in the latest international break.

Those results ensured that Algeria qualified for Afcon 2021.

The reigning champions, they will be among the favourites to win the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

What's still to play for? The other three teams in the group are all firmly in the running, although Zambia -- bottom of the pool on three points -- have it all to do after their recent malaise continued with a 1-0 defeat in Botswana.

Failure to beat Algeria at home in their next game, and a win for Zimbabwe (five points) over Botswana (four), will mean curtains for Milutin Sredojevic's

Chipolopolo.

Group I Who's in?

Back-to-back wins for Senegal against Guinea-Bissau have taken them to Cameroon, and the Teranga Lions are the only team in qualifying to boast a 100% record.

Who's out?

Eswatini. A 0-0 draw at home against Congo-Brazzaville on Monday was an admirable result, but it hasn't been enough to save the King's Shield from elimination.

What's still to play for?

Congo (seven points) and Guinea-Bissau (three) could both join Senegal, and their meeting in Bissau in matchday six could be winner-takes-all.

Group J Who's in?

Tunisia, with their usual unfussy pragmatism, qualified for Afcon 2021 after taking four points -- not entirely convincingly -- from Tanzania.

They've qualified for the past 15 editions of the tournament, stretching back to 1994, and will be hoping to at least emulate their fourth-placed finish from 2019.

What's still to play for? Taking a point from Tunisia at home means that Tanzania (four points), who don't need to face the group leaders again, will be confident of overhauling Equatorial Guinea (six).

Equatorial Guinea lost their first two fixtures but transformed their prospects by scoring twice in second-half stoppage-time to come from behind to defeat Libya 3-2 in North Africa before defeating the

Mediterranean Knights in Malabo in the latest round of matches.

Nzalang Nacional have the wind in their sails, and their meeting with Tanzania in Malabo in March has the potential to be blockbuster.

Group K What's still to play for?

Madagascar were the surprise package of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations cycle, qualifying for their first tournament and then defeating Nigeria en route to the quarterfinals.

They're poised to repeat the feat having amassed seven points from four matches, including a home draw against group leaders Ivory Coast on Tuesday.

Victory away at third-placed Ethiopia (six points) will take them to Cameroon, although the Walias will also fancy their chances of qualification.

Niger (three points) aren't yet out of the running, but they must beat the Ivorians at home in Niamey to remain in the hunt.

Group L What's still to play for?

The expanded Africa Cup of Nations format sees Nigeria remain in top spot in the group, needing two more points to qualify, despite despite their pair of draws against Sierra Leone.

Their next match, against Benin away in Porto-Novo, represents a tough assignment, they shouldn't slip up at home against Lesotho.

Either Sierra Leone (three points) or Lesotho (two) could overhaul second-placed Benin (seven) with two wins.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Africa Cup of Nations 2022 Qualifying: Who's in? Who's out?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00



Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Dar boxer set for GBC world title fight

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional Super Featherweight boxer, Ibrahim Mgendera, is expected to step into the ring to defend his Global Boxing Council (GBC) World Super Featherweight title in a bout against Zambian, Simon Ngoma, at the PTA Hall in Dar es Salaam on November 27.

Mgendera has twice won the title, including his first victory for the GBC World Super Featherweight title in a bout against Jose Forero, which took place in Germany.

In his last fight, Mgendera managed to beat fellow Tanzanian boxer, Nassib Ramadhani, by points two months ago.

Speaking on the coming fight, Mgendera said: "I can tell Tanzanians that I won this title abroad and I cannot lose it to our neighbouring country's boxer, I will continue to defend it when the day comes, I am still fit and ready to step onto the ring to trade punches," the 30-year old boxer disclosed.

Mgendera currently has fought in 21 bouts, claiming 15 wins and posting six losses, as per Boxrec, a network which holds records of all professional boxers in the world.

The network recently erased all results Tanzania's professional boxers have posted in domestic bouts, which means Mgendera's domestic bouts' results have not been put in his record.

Ngoma, a 20-year old boxer, despite suffering an unexpected defeat in his third professional outing, is considered by many as one of the most promising Zambian prospects on the scene.

His record stands at six victories and one loss, with four of the victories coming via Knockout (KO).

Ngoma made his professional boxing debut in November 19, 2017 against compatriot Joseph Chewa at the Government Complex in Lusaka and the former succeeded to come out with a win.

The boxer, who is coached by Anthony Mwamba, had few words to say heading into the fight: "I am ready for this fight and I hope to emerge victorious, as many know me as 'The hitman', I promise to do the same at the PTA Hall on November 27".

The fight will be the main event of a card promoted by Mopao Entertainment, and it is expected to be another tough test for Ngoma because Ibrahim is more experienced than the former.

Ngoma, a graduate of Exodus Boxing Academy, has won his last three fights by KO, all in the third round, and will be looking to also get rid of Mgendera within a few rounds.

Ruvu Shooting lock horns with Mbeya City FC in VPL



Ruvu Shooting defender, Juma Nyoso (R), challenges Simba SC winger, Luis Miquissone, when the clubs met in a Vodacom Premier League match at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last month. Ruvu Shooting won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) resumes today with three matches as the battles at the top and the relegation zone intensify.

The league gets back to action after the international break that paved way for senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' back-to-back Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers matches against Tunisia.

In Dar es Salaam, Ruvu Shooting

will look to continue their strong form when they host Mbeya City FC at the Uhuru Stadium in the afternoon, kick-off at 4pm.

Ruvu Shooting are unbeaten in their four home games this season, picking up two wins and draw in two matches.

Under head coach, Boniface Mkwaya, Ruvu Shooting claimed a third win from their last five league matches when they defeated Coastal Union 3-1 at home on November 1, thanks to goals netted by Mohamed Issa 'Banka', Fulgence Maganga and Eradius Mfulebe.

As a result, Ruvu Shooting have risen to fifth place in the VPL standing and are only four points behind the domestic top flight defending champions Simba SC, placed third in the log.

On the other side, Mbeya City FC broke a seven-game winless streak by claiming an emphatic 2-1 away victory over Kagera Sugar on October 24.

They have lost just once in the last six outings, yet the Mbeya side has still taken just seven of the last 24 points up for grabs. They need to improve and turn the draws into victories.

Speedy and skillful youngster, David Ulomi, and experienced Maganga will be the main players for Ruvu Shooting while Siraji Juma and in-form Dennis Kibu will be key for Mbeya City

FC. In head-to-head stats, Ruvu Shooting and Mbeya City FC have met in 12 league matches since 2013/14.

Each team has claimed three wins while six matches have been drawn in the rivalry.

In the capital city, Dodoma Jiji FC will entertain fourth placed Biashara United.

The home side's last game ended in a 3-0 defeat in the hands of Azam FC and are now down to 11th place.

A win for the visitors will see them go level on points with Simba SC who play on tomorrow.

Prisons will seek a home victory over Mtwara Sugar at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa.

Coach Salum Mayanga's charges will be eager to build on their previous home outing when they defeated struggling Ihefu FC 1-0.

Visitors Mtwara Sugar come into this game having lost back-to-back matches and are down in 12th place and currently four points behind their hosts.

Gymkhana Cricket Club batsman in pursuit of 2020 DC Caravans T20 tournament's best batsman prize

By Guardian Reporter

THE race for the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's best batsman prize has gained momentum, with Gymkhana Cricket Club's experienced all-rounder, Abhik Patwa, currently being placed at the top of the competition's top batsmen list.

Patwa, who is too a key player for senior national cricket team, has scored 263 runs in five outings he has featured for his club, which was placed in Group B of the competition.

Latest statistics released by the competition's organizers, Caravans Cricket Club in cooperation with DC, shows the skillful batsman has cleared the boundary on 38 occasions, notching 32 fours and six sixes.

Much as he did not post not out spell in his five innings, he managed to showcase his virtuosity, given he surpassed half century mark in two outings.

His best performance with the bats has seen him score 70 runs. Patwa still stands to lay his hands on the competition's best batsman prize, despite Gymkhana Cricket Club having crashed out of the showpiece's last four stage.

Patwa's outfit succumbed to four-wicket loss to Aces Cricket Club in the first semi-final, termed as Qualifier 1, which took place in the city two weeks back.

Gymkhana Cricket Club has, nevertheless, been handed a reprieve, as the squad will lock horns with Aga Khan SC in the last



Gymkhana Cricket Club's skipper, Abhik Patwa (R), is presented with the best player of the match prize by Mlimani City Mall's Operations Manager, Girish Kumar, shortly after the side had taken on Annadil Burhani in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's clash, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CLUB

four stage's second match, termed as Qualifier 2, which will take place this weekend.

Aga Khan SC's promising all-rounder, Arshaan Jasani, has been placed second in the list of the competition's top batsmen as he has notched 262 runs in five innings.

Jasani, whose team was in Group A of the competition, posted four not out spells in the five innings, blasting 18 fours and eight sixes.

In his best performance at the crease, he scored 94 runs not out in a match against GP Pak Stars, which took place on October 4

and saw Aga Khan SC beat GP Pak Stars by six wickets.

He has further surpassed half century mark in three outings. Jasani, will have chance to boost his pursuit of the competition's best batsman prize when Aga Khan SC confronts Gymkhana Cricket Club in the Qualifier 2.

Union SC's Shiraz Shokat has been placed third in the list, as he has scored 141 runs in four matches.

Shokat will certainly miss out on the best batsman honour, given Union SC crashed out of the group stage of the tournament.

Union SC ended fourth in Group A of the showpiece,

one place above bottom-placed Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Club.

The Union SC batsman cleared the boundary on 20 occasions, notching 12 fours and eight sixes. In his best performance with the bat, he posted 49 runs.

Caravans Cricket Club's Jitin Singh comes fourth in the DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's top batsmen list, he has posted 137 runs in four innings.

Singh has nailed 18 fours and one six, with his best performance with the bat coming in his squad's game against Annadil Burhani, which took place on October 10.

The duel had the batsman nailing unbeaten 62 runs as Caravans Cricket Club recorded 36-run victory over their opponents.

Aga Khan SC's Issa Kikasi is positioned fifth in the DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's top batsmen list, having scored 131 runs in five matches.

Kikasi, who is as well an experienced wicket keeper, has notched nine fours and three sixes in the five innings.

His best batting showing ended with the senior performer notching 45 runs. He, as it is the case for teammate Jasani, is still in contention for the prize.

Caravans Cricket Club's youthful batsman, Mohamed Omary, has been placed sixth with 119 runs in five innings.

Omary has had one unbeaten spell and has cleared the boundary on 13 occasions, notching eight fours and five sixes.

In his best batting showing, the youthful player posted 52 runs. He stands to miss out on clinching the competition's best batsman honour, as Caravans Cricket Club crashed out of a knockout game, dubbed 'Eliminator', with defeat to Aga Khan SC.

Abdullah Jabiri of GP Pak Stars, Annadil Burhani's Abbas Adamjee, Strikers A team's Jatin Darji and GP Pak Stars' Zafar Khan wind up the top 10 list of the competition's top batsmen.

The youthful Jabiri has posted 113 runs in four innings, notching 10 fours and six sixes, Adamjee has amassed 108 runs in four outings, posting 17 runs

and one six.

Darji, whose team ended third in Group B, has as well scored 108 runs but he has cleared the boundary on 13 occasions, in comparison with Adamjee's 18.

The Strikers A team's batsman has recorded eight fours and five sixes, in his best performance at the crease he blasted 50 runs.

Khan has amassed 106 runs in four outings to stay 10th, he has had one unbeaten spell, posting 14 fours and four sixes.

He too recorded 50 runs in his best batting showing, which came in GP Pak Stars' clash against Union SC on October 18.

Caravans Cricket Club has organized the tournament, which is an annual feature, in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

This season's DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament brought together 10 clubs, which were grouped into A and B.

Union Sports, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), GP Pak Stars, Aces Club and Aga Khan Sports Club made Group A.

Group B was made up of Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Gymkhana Club, Strikers and hosts, Caravans Club.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

