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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8312 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER, 2021

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Msimbazi: World Bank 200bn/- loan for signing

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government is scheduled to sign a contract with the World Bank worth \$120m (over 200bn/-) financing agreement in December to facilitate implementation of the Msimbazi Valley development project set to begin in July next year. David Silinde, the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), told the National Assembly yesterday that senior officials of the ministry and the country office of the World Bank will meet in December for conclusion of discussions on the proposed project and contract signing.

He was responding to a question by Kinondoni MP Tarimba Abbas who wanted to know when the government will start to implement the Msimbazi valley development project. Plans

Minister: Swindlers fake appointments

By Francis Kajubi

CON artists have been swindling civil servants out of their hard-earned money with promises of non-existent promotions and appointments into lucrative posts, the government has cautioned.

Mohamed Mchengerwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that his office has learned of the new trend, warning that the government does not promote or appoint servants through intermediaries.

He blamed bureaucracy among senior officials in public institutions and ministries for not being open and close enough to their subordinates.

"The swindlers have been using names of prominent public servants and political leaders to entice the public and civil servants that they have connections that can assist them get appointments or promotions," he said.

He acknowledged that the government had stopped promotions for public servants in the past five years; thus swindlers are taking it for granted that targeted officers shall agree to cooperate in learning that ap-



Visiting Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo (2nd-L, foreground, in black cap) pictured yesterday during a briefing at the Arusha-based African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, where he went to familiarise himself with its activities. Left is the court's President, Justice Imani Daud Abdou. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Questions galore as teens spread terror in Tanga city

By Guardian Correspondent,

Tanga

OPINION is divided here on how to deal with gangs of teenagers terrorizing residents of Tanga city, 60 of whom have since been arrested by the police.

The ruthless mobs armed with rudimentary weapons have in recent months been threatening, attacking and robbing residents of money and belongings such as purses and cell phones.

Regional Police Commander Blasius Chatanda said here on Thursday that the law enforcers had apprehended 60 teenagers aged

"We have been asking ourselves one question: where do they take all the items and money they steal? There is no answer to this question so far,

between nine and 15 for robbery-related offences.

The young suspects were taken to court and 20 were convicted and sentenced to serve jail terms, 20 were released on bail as they are

too young to be committed to prison while cases continue for the last batch of 20 youths, he said.

The teens were arrested in various parts of the city while in possession of weap-

ons such as machetes, knives, screwdrivers and razors which they use to commit crimes, he further stated.

While the police have held the teens responsible for their acts, some residents here believe that there is more than meets the eye in the whole matter, "thus the law enforcers ought to dig deeper."

"I strongly suspect there are adults behind the scene. These children cannot do what they do on their own," said Douglas John, a city resident.

"Having come across them, their looks and confidence

"We want them to pay taxes voluntarily and settle their tax arrears through a special arrangement. We are no longer going to close their bank accounts"

pointment or promotion is one the way. "From our findings we have learned that conning incidents are spurred by bureaucracy among top officials on their subordinates. I call upon heads of departments to link with their subordinates by avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy," he urged.

The government has promoted not less than 180,000 civil servants to different positions this year and is continuing with promotions depending on readiness and budget provisions, he stated.

Mchengerwa called upon civil servants and the general public to report such swindlers to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) by sharing numbers of the culprits so that they can be investigated for legal procedures.

He similarly dwelt on efforts by the ministry to organise training programmes to equip junior public servants with knowledge, skills and right approaches in serving the general public in responsible manner.

He suggested measures to contain the spate of swin-

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Samia shining in 100 influential women's list

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is being top rated by the readers of an influential chronicle issuing an annual list of the most influential women in Africa, ranking her with Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde and World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the three most influential women on the continent.

President Samia would already be on such a list for years, following her elevation to the vice-presidency late 2015, where she would feature with leading stateswomen, diplomats, UN system administrators and a range of creative artists and activists in the ranks of 100 most influential women on the continent.

Advance Media, a leading rating, media and public relations agency

with close links to the Alliance for an Agrarian Revolution in Africa (AGRA), founded by the late Dr Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, has lately published its annual list of 100 leading women in Africa.

The agency habitually lists the names in an alphabetical order, avoiding actual rankings, whereupon other media organisations decide their pick of the most influential, in which case a Nigerian

newspaper, the Vanguard, opted for the president of Ethiopia, the president of Tanzania and the WTO chief executive as the most influential women in Africa at present.

The agency which says it is focused on creating varied contents for the global market said its list published yesterday contains names of women "who have



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Msimbazi: World Bank 200bn/- loan for signing

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The ministry is now completing preparatory processes with architectural designs and other important documents, including compensation and environmental impact assessment that are being finalized.

The project will include construction of the new 390 kilometers long Jangwani Bridge, deepening of the water inlet from Selander Bridge to Kawawa Road, to allow smooth flow of rain water to the sea.

Under the project contract, riverbank stabilization would be conducted at some areas surrounding the river mainly at Tabata and Kinyerezi to prevent rapid sedimentation by soil erosion.

Service stations will be built for removal of sand piles and terraces on the lower side of the Msimbazi River creek, especially the portion from Selander Bridge to Kawawa Road, he specified. He said the removal of sand loads would ease the construction of a city park and allow residents at Mchikichini, Sunna and Hananasif wards to use the land for other purposes.

The project will also include improvement of environment management among 18 wards traversing the lower Msimbazi valley and restoration of natural vegetation by planting mangrove trees in wetland areas including the Pugu and Kazimzumbwi forests in Kisarawe, Coast Region.

Minister: Swindlers faking appointments

FROM PAGE 1

use of this application in delivering among civil servants, urging them to use the 'Talk to the Minister' online application launched towards the end of June, as it enables civil servants and the wider public to send complaints, challenges and compliments without having to visit ministerial head offices.

Civil servants need to make full

use of this application in delivering their complaints regarding top officials in their offices who cannot work without practising bureaucracy," he affirmed.

The application is aimed at saving time used to travel from any part of the country to seek audience or channel complaints on pivotal government departments, he added.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula gifts the outgoing French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, a souvenir painting of Mount Kilimanjaro yesterday. This was at the ministry's sub-headquarters in Dar es Salaam, where the envoy went to bid the minister farewell. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Questions galore as teens spread terror in Tanga city

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also suggest that the possibility of drug use. That must also be investigated to dismantle the supply chain."

Omary Kiondo, another city resident, echoed feelings of likely adult involvement, saying that operations of the teenagers bear the hallmarks

of organized crime.

"We have been asking ourselves one question: where do they take all the items and money they steal? There is no answer to this question so far," he said.

"The job the police have started will only be complete when the sharks behind these crimes are also

behind bars." RPC Chatanda pointed at parenting weaknesses leading to the unprecedented situation whereby children who are supposed to be in school or doing homework at home traverse the streets of the city looking for potential victims to attack and rob.

"These children have parents or

guardians; if adults don't play their part in parenting the law will always follow its course," he said.

Regional Commissioner Adam Malima was recently quoted as saying that the region has registered increased cases of drug trafficking and abuse and was apparently second only to Dar es Salaam.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa participates in the burial of his uncle, Shaaban Issa, at Nandagala village in Ruangwa District yesterday. Photo: PMO.

Samia shining in 100 influential women's list

FROM PAGE 1

climbed the corporate ladder, started their own businesses, or have been at the forefront of decision making both locally and internationally."

Only two other Tanzanian women feature on the list, namely Dr Mwele Malecela, currently director of Neglected Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organization (WHO) offices in Geneva, and Elizabeth Mrema, executive secretary for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

The publication named criteria for selection this year as excellence in leadership and performance, personal accomplishments, commitment to sharing knowledge, breaking the status quo and being an accomplished African woman.

The 2021 list was put together with inspiration from the 2021 International Women's Day theme: "Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world," featuring women from 28 African countries who show resounding inspiration to the next generation of women around the world.

Prince Akpah, the Avance Media managing director, said in his foreword to the 2021 issued that the listed women qualified for the honour due to their works and accomplishments, which continue to inspire a lot of young people across the African continent and beyond.

The 100 influential African women were selected based on their leadership

and personal accomplishments, commitment to sharing knowledge and the audacity to break several status quos.

Notable names on the list include Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and leading influence on African women for decades, along with Angèle Makombo, president of the League of Congolese Democrats and thus a leading DRC opposition leader.

Other notable names include Aja Fatouma Tambjang, former Gambian vice president and Ambassador Amina Mohamed, a noted Kenyan diplomat now serving as United Nations Deputy Secretary-General.

One missing name is Fatou Bensouda, who has left a legacy of spirited independence of mind as chief prosecutor and CEO of the International Criminal Court (ICC), attracting the ire of the State Department during the Donald Trump presidency in the United States, with her travels in the US restricted.

Other notable names included, cited by African media as significant, include Angela Kyerematen-Jimoh, the first African woman to head continental operations of the the US electronics firm IBM as executive director for Africa, musician and UN system good offices household name Angélique Kidjo from Benin and Aya Namakura a French-Malian singer.

The youngest addition to the list is Namibia's deputy ICT minister Emma Theofelus, whom chroniclers said she appears in the list for the second time

High Court starts hearing terrorism-related charges facing Chadema's Freeman Mbowe

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Court (Corruption and Economic Crimes Division) yesterday started hearing a terrorism-related offences and economic sabotage case facing Chadema's national Chairman, Freeman Mbowe and three others.

The proceedings started by the continuation of preliminary hearing (PH) of the objections filed by the defendants through a panel of their 14 lawyers, led by Peter Kibatata.

Heavily equipped security officers

were deployment at the High Court (Corruption and Economic Crimes Division) as Mbowe and co-accused were brought at the court's premises. The hearing is under Judge Elinaza Luvanda.

In the objection, the defendants claim that the indictment has legal defects along with other matters claiming that the Terrorism Act with which they are accused does not specify the ingredients for the Terrorism offense and that the prosecution has not complied with the mandatory provisions of the Act of terrorism which the defendants are ac-

cused of committing.

Already the prosecution, led by Senior State Counsel Robert Kidando, begun responding to the defense arguments of the objection, presented by the defense attorneys on Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

The government is represented by a panel of five State attorneys.

According to the charge sheet, which was presented at the Kisumu Resident's Magistrate Court last month, and which has been delivered to the High Court for hearing and ultimately, judgment, the

four are facing six counts of financing terrorism and terrorism conspiracy.

They are accused of conspiring to blast several gas filling stations across the country and attempting to harm former Hai District Commissioner, Lengai Ole Sabaya.

Mbowe was arrested earlier last month in Mwanza region before he was scheduled to speak at a conference to announce demands for constitutional reforms.

He was later taken to court and charged with terrorism-related offenses.



Govt commits to improve ICT-driven postal services

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed its commitment to having vibrant, modernised, technology-driven postal services to improve living standards of people within Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) member states.

Speaking at the handover ceremony of incoming and outgoing management of PAPU in Arusha on Thursday, Minister for Communication and Information Technology Dr Faustine Ndogulile said Tanzania has always cherished supporting a drive for unified and harmonized delivery of postal services.

Dr Ndogulile told delegates at the ceremony that the 17storey building under construction in Arusha—the PAPU Investment Complex—is a clear manifestation of the government's commitment to transforming PAPU into an income generating organization.

The Minister commended the peaceful leadership change and office handover process between outgoing Secretary General of PAPU Younous Djibrine and the incoming one Dr Sifundo Moyo. The outgoing Deputy PAPU Secretary General Kolawole Aduloju also handed over the office to Jessica SSeengooba.

Gracing the event, Zimbabwean Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services Dr Jenfan Muswere acknowledged Tanzania for not only hosting the headquarters of PAPU since its inception in 1980 but also

for unwavering support and goodwill that has been unveiled to the Union over years, be it, financial, moral and material.

Dr Muswere who was chairman of the Plenipotentiary Conference of PAPU paid special tribute the President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the promise that she will continue supporting efforts in uplifting the union's performance.

He appealed to the new management to bring into fruition the PAPU complex project and align the work of the union with the Abidjan World Postal Strategy and Plan adopted during the 27th Universal Postal Union Congress.

In his welcome remarks, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Director General Dr Jabiri Bakari appealed to PAPU member states to continue playing a pivotal role of building "A Single African Postal Sector" at all times and under all circumstances.

Dr Bakari said in his speech delivered by his representative to the event, Dr Emmanuel Manasseh that the process of improving the Postal Industry calls for sustainable dialogue, collaboration, confidence building, learning and experience sharing among Member States.

He said the relationship between TCRA and PAPU are not only deep-rooted but also have manifested fruitful outcome through the on-going construction of a 17 storey PAPU investment complex at the headquarters of PAPU in Arusha.



Tanzania Tamil Sangham chairman Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (R) presents 60 desks to Adolph Rwegoshora, head teacher of Dar es Salaam's Zanaki Primary School, in the city on Thursday. The organisation extended similar support to the city's Maktaba and Lumumba primary schools. Witnesses include Lumumba Primary School head teacher Emmanuel Patrick Herman and Maktaba Primary School head teacher Mwajabu Mshana as well as Tanzania Tamil Sangham officials Karthik Palinisamy and Anandakumar Srinivasan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt is looking into possibilities to start implementing free education policy for advanced secondary education'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government said yesterday that it is looking into possibilities to start implementing the free education policy for advanced secondary school education.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Deputy Minister, Omary Kipanga said this when responding to a supple-

mentary question from Mtama Member of Parliament, Nape Nnauye (CCM).

The MP was concerned that there are some parents who cannot pay school fees for their children selected to join A-Level secondary education. He urged the government to consider implementing the free education policy for Form Five and Form Six students.

"We have been offering basic education (primary and ordinary level secondary school education) for free. We have heard your concerns and we are going to work on them," said Kipanga.

On November, 2015 the government issued Circular 5 to implement the Education and Training Policy 2014 and immediately, directed public bod-

ies to ensure that primary and secondary education is free for all children. This included the removal of all forms of fees and contributions.

Kipanga noted that the government has set a school fees of 35,000/- per year for A-Level students selected to join day schools and 70,000/- per year for those joining boarding schools.

Govt put in place strategies to increase investment in pharmaceutical industry

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has put in place strategies to increase investment in the pharmaceutical industry and empower the existing factories to achieve the target of ensuring 60 per cent of drugs and medical equipment are produced locally by 2025.

Current data from the Ministry of Industry and trade shows that 88 per

cent of human medicines used at health facilities are imported from abroad.

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade Exaud Kigahe made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday when answering Special Seats legislator, Lucy Sabu (CCM) on when the government will start construction of the planned pharmaceutical industry in Simiyu Region to solve the challenges of

importing medical equipment from abroad.

The strategies, according to the ministry include increased investments in pharmaceutical industries as well as creating a conducive environment to attract more business and investment in the sector. He said the government has continued to ensure a better business and investment climate through various reforms.

Kigahe added that for the Simiyu medical equipment factory, the government has already completed the required procedures including feasibility study and that it is finalizing processes for funding of the multibillion project.

"The Simiyu factory will not only save the billions of public funds in importation of medicines, but boost cotton production

in the region and ensure farmers with a reliable market," said the Deputy Minister.

Upon completion, the factory will produce women towel, pampers for children, drips and other medical products that uses cotton raw materials.

He said there are a total of 17 pharmaceutical industries in the country, among them, 12 industries manufacture human med-

icines and two factories produce protective equipment. He said another two factories manufacture veterinary medicines and one industry that produce medical equipment.

All the 17 pharmaceutical industries manufacture 12 percent of required medical equipment and human medicines in the country.

Kigahe added that the government has also formed a committee which

is working to see how better the project should be implemented. He said the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) have been tasked to implement the project.

He said the Medical Stores Department (MSD) is also monitoring the project's implementation process to ensure it produces products that meet the required standards.

'Construction of JNHPP 62.7 per cent complete'

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

CONSTRUCTION of the Julius Nyerere Hydro-Power Project (JNHPP) in Rufiji River basin, Coast Region has reached 62.7 per cent, according to the Tanzania Electricity Corporation (TANESCO).

The US \$2.9bn project which is expected to add 2,115MW into the national grid and is expected to be completed in June 2022.

Johari Kashwamba, TANESCO public relations manager told The Guardian that engineers at the site are now working day and night so as to ensure that the project is completed within the scheduled time-frame.

According to him, engineers are currently erecting a draft tube at the basement on the ninth turbine to be used later for removing water from power generation machines.

The move is an advanced stage for the project currently done over the concrete slab which is within 42.7 meters above sea level whereby all turbines are due to be installed in the power house.

"The work involves strengthening concrete walls for tunnels in order to allow water to pass for electricity generation. The completion of these draft tubes will pave the way for the turbines on top and finally allow power generating machines to start working," she said.

Each turbine will have the capacity to restore 235 megawatts whereas in combination will make a total of 2,115 MW on completion that will be connected to the national grid. The surplus power will be sold to neighbouring countries including Zambia, Rwanda and Burundi.

Earlier, the government had announced that the exercise of filling the dam with the estimated capacity of 32.3 billion liters of water at the site will officially begin in November this year which would continue up to April next year.

The completion of this exercise will then be followed by trials in June next year before going full operational to enable Tanzanians enjoy the reliable electricity power supply.

The water dam at the site has been designed with a width of 300 meters away on which a power house with six power machines would be installed later. These would generate hydraulic turbines with shafts on top of each and finally would be connected to the national grid.

Energy's Minister Dr Medard Kalemani had issued the update of the ongoing mega project after he had inspected the construction work in company with the visiting Egyptian Works Minister Assem Gazer

two months ago.

Tanzania and Egypt had agreed to make frequent inspection visits at the project as part of the bilateral agreement signed during the commissioning of the project because it's being constructed by a joint venture of Egyptian companies the Elsewedy Electric and Arab Construction.

When the project was first commissioned, the International environmental conservationists termed it a threat to the endangered animal species in the area especially the black rhinoceros and elephants.

This is another sticking point about this project as due to its geographical location some experts doubted whether building the dam actually makes sense bearing in mind the fact that about 2.6 million trees had been pulled down to pave the way for construction.

It was widely criticized as it involves large-scale destruction of the game reserve which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site across the Rufiji River basin in Coast Region which is in the middle of the Selous Game Reserve which is home to a wealth of flora and fauna.

Despite these overwhelming critics, the government defended the construction with reasons that it would enhance access to affordable electricity which will propel economic growth as well as attract investment in the country.

Hardly a month ago, the Tanzania government defended the endangered sanctuary which would risk deletion by UNESCO, the defense that made the acknowledged UN organization waded its decision.

The project is expected to enhance access to affordable electricity which will propel economic growth as well as attract investment in the country. It will also transform the country through generation and supply of reliable electricity for both domestic and industrial use.



Despite these overwhelming critics, the government defended the construction with reasons that it would enhance access to affordable electricity which will propel economic growth as well as attract investment in the country



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WWF-CH support to WWF Forest Landscape Restoration projects in the Water Towers Landscape, Tanzania.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Consultancy: A study to Collate and synthesize successful Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) initiatives in the Water Towers Landscape, Tanzania.

Background

WWF is implementing a two year project (2021-2022) funded by WWF-Switzerland (WWF-CH) to support enabling policy and political environment in efforts to reduce biodiversity loss and restoration of water flow in selected rivers through policy advocacy among other strategies in the Water Towers Landscape. Water Towers Landscape is one of the four landscapes/seascapes designed in the new WWF Conservation Strategic Plan. This landscape covering 158,000 km² forms the larger part of water sources in Tanzania that is critical for human wellbeing and the national economy. It covers East Usambara Mountains and lowland forests; other eastern Arc Mountain forests and nature reserves. Major threats to biodiversity and community livelihoods in the WTL include forest encroachment and illegal and unsustainable harvesting of forests, fisheries, wildlife, and water resources. The WWF-CH support will be used to increase policy advocacy and political influencing capacity of the local communities and CSOs for impactful Forest Landscape Restoration. The support is expected to contribute to collection of forest related baseline data, support finalization of the Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), support and contribute to the implementation of the National Forest Landscape Strategy and strengthen CSOs capacity for implementation of FLR in Tanzania. The project builds on the past and currently on-going FLR initiatives in the country to improve conservation in the WTL.

Faced by degradation and deforestation in the 1990s, Tanzania formulated policies and strategies with emphasis on the importance of land conservations in achieving economic growth. The government engaged in promotion of Ngoro farming practices, terracing, and implementation of soil and water conservation programs such as Hifadhi Mazingira (HIMA) Iringa, Hifadhi Ardhi Dodoma (HADO), Hifadhi Ardhi Shinyanga (HASHI) and Soil Erosion Control and Agroforestry Project (SECAP) just to mention a few. Some of these strategies registered positive impacts and it is based on this background that WWF seeks to recruit experts to collate and synthesize successful FLR initiatives in Tanzania and their potential to scale up in the WTL for impactful restoration. One key area of interest for the project is synthesized successful FLR initiatives in the WTL including where the strengths are and where improvements can be made. This type of data will be a benchmark of all the initiatives that have been and are happening within the landscape and what impact they have made. It will also identify gaps that present and future initiatives can consider while designing projects.

Objective of the consultancy

Main Objective

The main objective for this study is to collate and synthesize successful FLR initiatives data in the WTL.

Specific Objectives of the study are;

1. To document how FLR Initiatives have contributed to forest landscape restoration and assess level of effectiveness
2. To better understand how the initiatives have been adopted in the WTL and Tanzania in general.
3. To document key weaknesses and challenges and how there can be improvements in future FLR projects in the short and long term.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications

All interested applicants may get the detailed ToR on WWF websites at https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/ and also, send your full proposal (technical & financial) through procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org only softcopy proposals are accepted addressed to;

Secretary, Procurement Committee

WWF Tanzania

Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;
website. www.wwf.or.tz

Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy. Submit a concise 2 – 4 page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition and timings of the process. A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the time professional fees, and proposed implementation costs. A 2 - 3 page CV of lead should also be attached.

All applications should reach us by or before 10.00am Tanzania local time on Friday, 24th September 2021



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday addressing members of the business community falling under the Giant Taxpayers category at a meeting meant to afford them an opportunity to air any grievances or make any suggestions they might have. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Zanzibar Lawyers Association meet to address women's political participation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Women Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) is tomorrow expected to launch a special meeting aimed at mobilizing the community to support women to hold leadership positions.

The special meeting which is geared towards sensitizing the community to realize that women are equally qualified to be leaders as much as men will be held through the Strengthening Women in Leadership Program (SWIL) project.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, ZAFELA Director Jamila Mahmoud Juma said Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Special Departments) Masoud Ali Mohamed is to be the chief guest at the important meeting.

Jamila said that after lunching the Saturday meeting, other forums will follow in all regions of Unguja between September 11 and 18, urging Zanzibaris to effectively take part.

She said that due to many challenges on the islands that face many women aspiring to leadership positions, they believe that through the program the com-

munity will mobilize and support more women and eventually more women will contest for political or even social positions.

According to her, in Zanzibar islands women's participation in decision-making, especially political decision-making, is still limited, a situation that conflicts with the goal of building a non-discriminatory society as enshrined in the National Vision 2017-2022, Zanzibar's 1984 constitution and different laws.

In another development, Jamila said that ZAFELA has already empowered 60 young people from various backgrounds who will work to mobilize the community in supporting women to hold leadership positions.

Earlier, SWIL project coordinator from Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA Zanzibar) Salma Amir Lusangi said the project aims to reach 600,000 women in all districts of Unguja and Pemba.

Salma said that a four-year project is implemented by TAMWA Zanzibar in collaboration with Gender and Advocacy Organisation (PEGAO), and ZAFELA with the support from the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania.

Wildlife crime forum unites prosecutors in 11 African countries against poachers

By Guardian Reporter

AN online forum of prosecutors working to end wildlife crime in 11 African countries will significantly speed justice against international poaching networks and their local kingpins and foot soldiers by linking 6,000 prosecutors in East and Southern Africa.

A press released by the East Africa Association of Prosecutors (EAAP) after the Forum for Wildlife and Environmental Crimes Prosecutors' Annual General Meeting in Arusha, Tanzania recently said that East African nations have made great strides in combating the illegal wildlife trade

since its peaks in the early 2010s. The meeting was held with Space for Giants' support.

During the Meeting, prosecutors from five new countries—Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia joined the EAAP, adding to its six existing members - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

"The forum is a transformative step to build on major successes already seen in East Africa in the fight against wildlife crime," said Katto Wambua, Director of Wildlife Law and Justice at Space for Giants, which supported the EAAP conference and the launch of

the new forum in partnership with TRAFFIC through USAID's CONNECT project.

He added, "The processes for different countries' authorities to offer one another what's called Mutual Legal Assistance are complex. Often you don't know who to contact in another country, if you need help with the case you are working on. You don't know the process. That slows things down and can result failure on trials."

According to him, the new forum gives a secure platform, accessible only to those with credentials, to chat and get clear what they need to do for their formal requests to be successful.

"Having a speedily-concluded trial reduces the chances that evidence is lost, damaged, or tampered with. It reduces the chances that judges, magistrates, or prosecutors change, which can effectively force a case to start over. It makes whistleblowers more confident that their courage in giving evidence is making a difference, and they should do it again," he said.

Speaking at the conference, Sylvester Mwakitalu, Tanzania's Director of Public Prosecutions and EAAP President said: "Since its inception, EAAP has strived to bring the East African Community together in pursuit of peace and security

through assisting one another in ending impunity of all kinds. Our efforts have been abridged through the close cooperation we have. The bond we have created has assisted us in collecting evidence of cases that are of great concern within the region and the repatriation of fugitive offenders."

"Moreover, we have been instrumental in helping one another in ensuring that criminals do not benefit from their ill-gotten wealth by cooperating in tracing, freezing and confiscating their assets within the region. The scourge of terrorism and illicit trafficking in persons, wildlife and drugs leave us with no option but to

cooperate and join hands in combating these crimes," he stated.

Several studies have shown that international poaching gangs have been hit hard, with many shifting their operations from East Africa to West Africa owing to the new judicial activity.

But despite the progress, significant illicit activity continues across East Africa, and the gains made have not gone as far as they might. While successful prosecutions against the foot soldiers and junior members of poaching gangs are rising, the kingpins and the corrupt networks they sustain continue to escape justice.

The EAAP has this year made wildlife crime the focus of its annual general meeting and conference and warned governments to declare wildlife crime as an economic crime, the gains of the last decade may be lost and the kingpins continue to walk free.

The EAAP AGM and Conference was hosted by The National Prosecution Services of Tanzania, with significant support from TRAFFIC, USAID's CONNECT program implemented by IUCN, WWF, and TRAFFIC, Space for Giants, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the African Wildlife Foundation.

Over 200 children visit Ruaha National Park every month

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

MORE than 200 children aged 5 to 15 years from various areas of the country visit Ruaha National Park monthly to learn about various issues on wildlife.

This was revealed here on Wednesday by the Conservation Officer of Ruaha National Park (Tourism Division), Ahmed Nasoro during a special visit by a group of women journalists from various areas whose aim was to advertise the tourist attraction.

He said the response from children to visit tourist attractions was very big saying many of them were students from elementary, primary and secondary schools who came to learn about wildlife conservation.

"Some 150 to 250 children visit the National Park every month, and it becomes a pleasure to us whenever we get such big number of children, we believe when they go back they will become good ambassadors to advertise our tourist attractions as well as on the whole issue of environmental conservation," said Nassoro.

He said the large number of children visiting Ruaha National Park comes from educational institutions and response from chil-

dren from homes was still very low, hence they continue to educate parents on the importance of children to visit the country's tourist attractions.

For her part, Ruaha National Park's Conservation Officer from Good Neighbourliness Division Emaculata Mbawi said in order to ensure people living around the Park benefit, some 3bn/- was spent in various development projects in the health, education and road infrastructures sector.

Women journalists from the country's various regions decided to join hands to advertise the country's tourist attractions aimed at increasing the number of tourists visiting the country in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan efforts.

Some 150 to 250 children visit the National Park every month, and it becomes a pleasure to us whenever we get such big number of children, we believe when they go back



Ismail Yilmaz, national chairman of Feza and Shamsiye schools, congratulates Clarice Cariou in Dar es Salaam on Thursday for emerging first winner in a Feza Nursery School swimming competition. Others are run-up Abdal Rahman and second runner-up Isabelle Mushi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government plans to increase production of certified seeds for soybean, yellow maize

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government plans to increase production of certified seeds for soybean and yellow maize following increased demand in Egypt, China and India, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The seeds to be produced at its Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) centers will be distributed to seed

manufacturing companies to ensure farmers are supplied with quality certified seeds for enhanced production.

Agriculture Deputy Minister, Hussein Bashe made the statement in response to a question from Namtumbo Member of Parliament, Vitta Kawawa (CCM) asking for government plans to revive the TARI - Uyole's Suluti centre which serves farmers in southern highland

regions.

Bashe said in the 2021/2022 farming season, TARI is expected to cultivate 12 hectares of maize to be distributed to seed manufacturing companies. He said the research institute will also increase production of soybeans seeds from 58 hectares and sunflower seeds which will be cultivated at a 200 acres farm.

"There is a demand for yellow

maize in Egypt. We need to utilize the market by enhancing our productions. Soybeans are in high demand in India and China," he said, adding efforts to increase production of sunflower seeds are intended to curtail the shortage of cooking oil in the country.

Bashe said the Suluti centre which operates under TARI - Uyole has been assisting farmers in southern highland

regions through research seed production whereas it has so far discovered and registered 13 varieties of seeds including maize (4), soybeans (4) and beans (5).

He said the centre has a total area covering 378 hectares, a house for senior officials, a warehouse, one tractor, and a milling machine. He said the ministry through TARI will continue using the Saluti ag-

ricultural research center because it is the only one serving farmers in southern highland regions.

He said the Saluti centre has been used by TARI to conduct research on maize, beans and soybean seeds. Seeds produced at the Saluti centre cannot be grown at any other farm under TARI.

The Deputy Minister informed that in the 2020/2021

farming season, the Saluti centre produced certified maize seeds at its 22 acres farm which were distributed to agricultural institutions and seed manufacturing companies. Three companies that were supplied with the certified seeds from Saluti are Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), Beula Seed Company and Consultancy Limited as well as AgriSeed Technologies.



Dodoma Youth Development Organisation director Rajabu Nhangwa tables a progress report in Dodoma city on Thursday on the implementation of a campaign whose thrust is on ending teenage pregnancies. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

More than 75 pc of urban dwellers live in unplanned settlements - RC

By Guardian Reporter, Shinyanga

MORE than 75 per cent of Tanzanians in urban areas live in unplanned settlements, the situation contributed by the government slow pace in urban planning drive.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati at the opening of a task meeting that among others, reviewed the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2020/21, and discussed challenges on solutions to land conflicts as well completing the implementation of National Land Formalization Plan on settlements for 2013-2023.

Dr Sengati said the situation has created unplanned settlements in many urban areas; this has pushed the government to introduce the National Land Formalization Plan on settlements for 2013-2023 that involves the private sector in land formalization drive aimed at increasing the pace of land planning.

The RC added that the aim is to increase the land planning and formalization pace to enhance the security on land ownership and empower the people in regards

their land as capital for their own economic development.

For his part, Shinyanga District Commissioner, Jasinta Mboneko called on land experts to make sure they finalize land conflicts in Shinyanga Region through surveying that should take consideration of community activities including areas for construction of schools.

"Land should be surveyed, but also we should set aside areas for investment as well as for social activities," said the DC.

Ezekiel Kitilya, Director of Land Department in Shinyanga Region said the task meeting has brought together land stakeholders in Shinyanga Region including the NMB Bank that is included following a new procedure that ensures people are assured of security for their land while the government receives its revenue.

He added that land stakeholders in Shinyanga Region have attended the meeting in order to build up an understanding, but also to make an assessment of the aims they set for themselves including implementing the National Land Formalization Plan on settlements for 2013-2023.

'Government, WHO working to curb spread of COVID-19'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government is working closely with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in curbing the spread of COVID-19, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa told the House.

He was speaking in the National Assembly on Thursday when responding to a question by Special Seats legisla-

tor, Halima Mdee (CHADEMA) who wanted to know government measures in curbing the pandemic because most Tanzanians are unaware of the preventive measures.

Mdee claimed that the government has not done enough in protecting health-care workers and motivating them to work for extra hours. "The pandemic has so far

claimed the lives of many people; what strategies does the government have in controlling the spread of COVID-19," she queried.

Responding, the Premier said the government continues to educate the public on the various preventive measures which includes wearing of face masks, social distancing, washing hands with soap and running

water or using hand sanitizer.

He said there are a number of Tanzanians admitted for COVID-19 at various hospitals; we still have some cases in our country. "We are working to strengthen provision of health services at all the healthcare facilities as well as ensuring availability of needed equipment," he added. "We also are learning from our neighbours on how to

curb the pandemic; we are also working closely with the WHO," said the Premier, adding efforts are ongoing to reduce new infections.

He said the government continues to consult local experts as well as traditional healers to see how alternative medicines can be used to cure and prevent the disease. He urged Tanzanians to continue praying for

the nation as it has been trend in previous months.

He urged Tanzanians to go for the jobs, saying they are safe and have been verified and approved by local experts. He said Tanzanian doctors were sent abroad to investigate the vaccines before they were endorsed for use in the country.

"We trust our doctors because they also have relatives

who will receive the jobs. We cannot recommend any kind of medication that is likely to harm our people," he added.

Tanzania is currently rolling out the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines donated by the United States government through the COVAX arrangement, at the 550 designated health facilities across the country.



A trader at Iringa municipality's main market pictured yesterday throwing litter onto a dump, amid complaints that the pace of garbage collection and disposal is appallingly slow and could lead to outbreaks of contagious diseases. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

UNESCO wins accolades for its approach to promote sexual reproductive health

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), has won an accolade for its role to educate and promote sexual reproductive health and well-being of young people in higher and tertiary institutions in the country.

Dr. Evaristo Mtitu, Assistant Director, Higher Learning within the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), hailed the agency in Morogoro mid this week during an inception meeting for a UNESCO-SIDA funded project titled Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future, (O3 Plus).

"UNESCO is helping government efforts to ensure the education provided to youth results into production of educated and health people who will contribute to the social economic development of our community and the national at large," said Dr. Mtitu.

He cited the various statistics presented during the launch of an online course of comprehensive sexuality education supported by UNESCO at the University of Iringa said they indicated the deterioration of health among youth on a yearly basis.

According to the official, the deterioration is caused by either poverty or lack of awareness or failure by institutions to provide opportunity to educate young people to behave well in a way that they can grow and acquire education without being infected by sexually transmitted diseases, HIV or become victims of gender based violence and related behaviors.

He called upon the need to ensure that educated people are health and energetic.

For his part, UNESCO Head of Office and

Representative Mr. Tirso Dos Santos reiterated the agency commitment to promote safe, inclusive and gender-equitable learning environments to improve educational access and attainment for young people.

Dos Santos said the O3 Plus project intends to reduce HIV infections, early and unintended pregnancy as well as gender based violence among young people in higher and tertiary learning institutions in SADC countries including Tanzania.

According to Dos Santos, if well implemented, the project will enable students to reach their full educational potential and contribute more effectively to the development of their countries and region as graduates, professionals and young leaders.

UNESCO is the only specialized UN agency with the mandate in higher education. The agency provides technical support to Member States to review higher education strategies and policies to improve equitable access to quality education and enhance mobility and accountability.

In Tanzania the O3 Plus project will be implemented in collaboration with the government as well as the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Dodoma.

The project comes after results from an online survey conducted by UNESCO in 2018 to enrolled university students indicated that 27% of female respondents in Tanzania had been forced to have sex at least once.

The inception meeting brought together officials from Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Tanzania Commission for Universities, National Commission for UNESCO, University of Dar es Salaam and University of Dodoma as well as UNESCO.

Police arrest 2,274 motorbike and tricycle riders

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE in Kilimanjaro Region have arrested 2,274 motorbike and tricycle (Bajaj) taxi riders for violating various road safety regulations, in a move meant to reduce road carnage in the region.

Addressing journalists yesterday here, the Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander (RPC), Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Simon Maigwa explained that, they had a special operation in August this year in all

districts of Kilimanjaro region to the reckless drivers of 'Bodabodas' and Bajaj taxis who violates Road Safety Regulations to reduce unnecessary road accidents in the region.

He said most of the roads accidents are caused by reckless drivers who don't abide with road regulations.

He said 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent of the road accidents are caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 percent of the road accidents are caused by climate change, while

only 2 percent of the road accidents are caused by bad infrastructures.

"My appeal to all drivers particularly government drivers, and other road users is to abide with all road regulations to avoid unnecessary road accidents," the Kilimanjaro RPC insisted.

According to RPC Maigwa, people don't need to be afraid of police officers, instead they should work together as a team to avoid unnecessary road accidents, crimes and criminals for sustainable safety of the public.

He further explained that, there are

other new road signs like Deaf Sign, and Disabled signs, among many others, appealing the drivers to participate in various road safety and vehicle users' training to learn them.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic (RTO), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Zauda Mohammed explained that, they have organized various radio programs meant for creating awareness on road safety matters to the public for sustainable use of road safety.

She added that, they have also organized various training to the school

pupils, students as well as different groups of drivers whereby the training entailed safety, first aid, health insurance and entrepreneurship skills.

SSP Mohammed further explained that, regular training provided to motorbike riders would reduce to a great extent the rate of road accidents in the region.

According to her, in the past three months the number of accidents in the region had more than doubled compared to the same period last year.



Songea district commissioner Pololet Komando (4th-L) and NBC Bank head of retail banking Elibariki Masuke draw curtain in Songea municipality earlier this week to launch Business Club for Ruvuma Region. The club is meant to bring together the bank's customers, including members of the business community. Left is the bank's Songea Branch manager, Simon Ntwale. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SAT initiative seeks to benefit goat farmers

By Pauline Lugaziya, SJMC

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) has come up with a special initiative aimed to equip and encourage more farmers on goat keeping so as to improve their income and livelihoods.

This scheme is embarked with a vision to help farmers and livestock keepers in Morogoro Region to have sufficient food and meat for domestic consumption as well as local trading.

SAT, which is an agricultural non-profit organization based in Tanzania, has the general vision to ensure that majority of farmers are using acknowledged agro ecological methods to improve their livelihoods, conserve the environment and reduce pressure on natural resources.

According to Janet Maro, SAT executive director said the scheme is carried out in Morogoro Region and has been seen to be comprehended by the small scale farmers. The project is implemented by SAT in collaboration with ECHO under BOTHAR Funding.

She said that in May 2021, the SAT team visited one of the women beneficiaries- Doris Yohana in Uluguru Mountains who is engaged in goat keeping.

The team was following up on a goat dairy project where as they started to collaborate with Echo and Bothar for farmers training.

The first 23 goats were then distributed among farmers in the area as well as other four zones of the Uluguru Mountains, Morogoro (Ruvuma, Tulo, Kisosa, Choma).

Doris exhaustively explained about her sick baby goat. The team diagnosed her with ORF, a common virus animal infection in Tanzania that is symptomized by noticing her having wounds and scabs around her muzzle and mouth.

The team's veterinarian immediately treated the baby goat with organic treatment since it was easy to identify and curable.

The baby goat's mouth was carefully washed using warm water with salt for three consecutive days and healed.

She elucidated that the final goal of the project is to scale-up the number of goats held by each farmer, and therefore provide more financial security.

This was attempted by distributing female goats to 19 families in the first step, while keeping one buck in each zone. After the goat has given birth to six babies, three of them are given away to other farmer families, who previously did not receive a goat.

"Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the farmers and the facilitators, 30 farmers have benefited from the project to this date. By doing so, the project has strengthened the farmers' communities and their solidarity," Maro said.

Govt set to complete procedures for tendering process to acquire potential investor for Musoma Textile Mills

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government is completing procedures for a tendering process to acquire potential investors for its Mara based-Musoma Textile Mills Tanzania Limited (MUTEX), the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The efforts are part of the government strategies to revive garments industries to reduce importation of clothes.

Industry and Trade Deputy Minister Exaud Kigahe said the tendering process will be open and in accordance with the laws to ensure a qualified investors is mandated to operate the factory. He was responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Juliana Masaburi (CCM) who wanted to know the government strategies to revive MUTEX to create jobs for youth in Mara Region.

The legislator was also con-

cerned that the factory has remained unproductive for over three years since it was nationalized.

"MUTEX is one of the industries which were nationalized by the government after investors failed to develop them. Nationalization of the garments factory was meant to revitalize textile and clothing sector, provide employment, contribute to the country's economic growth and improve people's welfare," he

added.

He said the government has a total of 12 textile mills, among them, three are not functioning properly including MUTEX which is located at Rwamlimi Industrial Area, Bwari ward, Musoma Municipality in Mara Region.

The Deputy Minister told the House that the industry has been frequently suspending operations due to various reasons. He said MUTEX is among the 20 industries

were re-possessed by the government after previous investors violated the terms of the contract and failed to develop them.

He said the government is determined to revive the garments factory and make it operate efficiently to create jobs for young Tanzanians and contribute to the country's economic growth. He said once the factory starts functioning it will not only contribute to the country's eco-

nomie growth, but improve people's welfare.

"We have already made announcement for potential investors to take over all the nationalized industries to make them operate efficiently for the benefits of Tanzanians. We are hopefully that potential investors will show interest and grab these investment opportunities," said Kigahe adding interested financiers should submit their applications as soon as ten-

dering process is announced.

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that large industries make up less than 10 per cent of the 80,969 total industries in the country as of July this year.

Industry and Trade Minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo said recently that the available factories are divided into four groups where 77,730 are micro and small scale industries, 684 medium and 618 largest industries.



St Mary's Schools director Humphrey Rwakatare presents a certificate to Hamimu Ulimwengu, one of the Standard Seven leavers of St Mary's International Academy at Tabata in Dar es Salaam, during a graduation ceremony held at the school at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Nzasa-Kilunde-Buza road section nears completion

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

REHABILITATION and upgrading of Nzasa-Kilungule- Buza 7-6 kilometre road in Temeke municipality in Dar es Salaam will be completed by October this year, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's office, Regional Administration and Local Government, David Silinde said the project under the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) is implemented by a contractor-Group Six International Ltd at a cost of 19.13bn/-

Silinde told the National Assembly that the 7.6 kilometers road under construction, 5.4 km will be tarmac level and the remaining will be on concrete specifically for the Dar Rapid Transit buses.

He gave the statistics when answering Dorothy Kilave (Temeke-CCM) who wanted to know when the project would

be completed as it connects Temeke and Mbagala residents.

The deputy minister said the project is being implemented through the World Bank loan, client being the Temeke municipal councils will also cover construction of the Buza bus terminal.

Implementation of the project started in April last year and its completion is lined up for next month whereas so far it is done by 69 per cent and 8.05bn/- has been spent.

He assured the parliamentarian that the government will be renovating and upgrading road infrastructures in Temeke depending on the financial availability for improved transport.

He noted that road accessibility is one of the necessary conditions for inclusion and socioeconomic opportunities. Roads connect people to social, education, health and financial services, labor markets and economic opportunities.

By Beatrice Philemon

Rampant attacks in Kilwa rock bodaboda business

BODABODA riders in Kilwa District, Lindi Region have expressed worrisome over the rampant attacks that prevent them from benefiting what they have learned through Local Rights Programme (LRP) that is now implemented in Kilwa District Council.

Chairman of Hunters Group located in Matandu-Njenga village, Rashid Mkomweke said right now robbery is very high in their localities, and there are so many robbers who take motorcycle criminally from the riders.

He said recently while briefing journalists, ActionAid Staff who visited the group to see what has been done since they were trained on how to access loans, good governance, leadership, civic participation, organic farming, economic opportunities and youth empowerment and land rights issues.

Many youth in Matandu-Njenga village and across the district are now engaged in boda boda business. Boda

boda riders are killed because relatives and friends are the ones who provide information to attackers and robbers which make it very dangerous for them.

"They give them your mobile number, where you pack your motorcycle, what time you start work and once they get all information, they make a phone call to you to go pick them in areas where they are, once you reach there, they give the direction the destination area, if you reach in area where there is a forest or there is no people they start to beat you and at the end take your motorcycle, unfortunately others are killed," he said.

According to him, on July this year, two boda boda riders were killed at Nangulukulu area near Mwarabu Gas filling Station and Somanga Mtama.

The Boda boda riders noticed the incident when the police conducting patrols in

the district to investigate people who were involved in both incidents so that can take legal action against them.

Although ActionAid Kilwa has been trained them on how to access loans and utilize it to buy boda boda and other business, right now security is not good for the business they do, "We have opted to pack our motorcycles by 6pm fearing robbery," he said.

Mkomweke, 31 year-old who is a father of two, is one of 574 youth who have benefited from Local Rights Programme, implemented by ActionAid Kilwa.

He said without ActionAid Kilwa trainings "I could not reach where I am today, one thing I'm proud of is the fact that I managed to take loans from Kilwa District worth 2.5m/- and buy a motorcycle that is now I use as boda boda taxis.

He applauded the Action-

Aid Kilwa for introducing the programme in the District, which he described as an eye-opener to him as it completely changed his life.

Through the knowledge and skills gained from ActionAid Kilwa, he has been able to build a modern solar-powered house and shift from mud house.

Also he has been able to buy mattresses, generated income and opportunities for other youth in the area something which was a dream in a pipe in the past and engaged in sesame and paddy farming.

Also youth are now active, very interested to join the group after identified the benefits they obtain in business they have. In 2020 elections, he managed to contest in political position and was elected to be UVCCM Chairman for Matandu Njenga village located in Kivinje Ward.

Before joining the Hunters

Group, he worked as boda boda rider to a private person, now has left his job and joins Hunters Group to get more funds for himself and his family because his salary was not sufficient to support his family.

For his part, Shaban Nyoni, Secretary of Hunters Group said "Boda boda riders are killed, motorcycles are also taken, we are scared we don't know how we will manage to pay back our loan repayment to the district because we are required to pay 800,000/- per month," he said.

So far Kilwa district has issued 10m/- to Hunters Group, the group has been able to purchase four motorcycles and give it to four members.

The group was officially established in March last year, so far it has 10 members.

He said the money I get from boda boda business, I used to buy a PC Laptop, right now I used my laptop to learn how

to flash an Android Phone and other mobile phones in our localities," he said.

"Before Joining Boda Boda activities, I was trading sardines in different areas; I quit that job because I earn little money that could not cater to my family. That is why I chose boda boda job because it helps and sustains my life and family." Youth are now engage in boda boda business because we are not knowledgeable on Good Agricultural Practices, they just cultivate their crop traditionally that cannot raise productivity and income as well.

"I am very proud of my current job because is better than selling sardines," Nyoni added. "I get some money for hospital when one of my family members is sick and food for my family. And it depends, in one day I can earn 10,000/- to 15,000/- per day."

He said before ActionAid

Kilwa Intervention, he was not aware on how to access 4 per cent loans provided by the district for youth, now he is very competent on it.

He called upon Kilwa District Police force to assist them obtain training on how to defend themselves against robbers because robbery incidents is very high in Kilwa district and cannot ride midnight hours.

For her part, Commanding Officer at Kilwa Police Station Anna Tembo says, "We are not preventing Boda Boda riders to operate their business at night-time but they have to be carefully for their life because it is not necessary to do their business in the night-time, police will work on it to ensure they do business in a conducive environment.

When they get the opportunity catch the robbers, they are advised not to take action on their own hands because it is important for the police to make more investigation on how and who they operate with so that we can identify the market of those motorcycles.



Religious leaders and people living with HIV/AIDS in a group photo in Dar es Salaam last week shortly after attending seminar on ways to fight discrimination against the latter. It was organised by clerics in Tanzania living with – or personally affected – by HIV/AIDS (TANERELA) in collaboration with the National Council of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NACOPHA) and funded by UNAIDS. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Climate disasters block access to women's healthcare - report

By Special Correspondent

CLIMATE change-related disasters are worsening the vulnerabilities of women and girls as essential health services including family planning get overlooked during such times, a report says.

The report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) says that events such as extreme storms make it difficult to access sexual and reproductive health services, leading to increases in child marriage, gender-based violence, unintended pregnancies and risk of maternal death.

"During climate emergencies, we often witness a disruption of service deliveries," says Angela Baschieri, population dynamics adviser at the UNFPA East and Southern Africa regional office.

"This includes access to health facilities for childbirth, access to family planning and other lifesaving interventions. These impacts are particularly important to the less fortunate and the vulnerable."

The report reviewed key climate change documents known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and evaluated how gender and health issues, including sexual and reproductive health

and rights, were considered in national climate action frameworks, plans and strategies.

The review reveals critical gaps in countries' national climate policies and proposes adaptation measures to respond to the impact of climate change on women and girls, offering hopes of achieving good health and gender equality.

Researchers assessed 50 NDCs from five UNFPA regions: the Arab States, Asia and Pacific, Western and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to Baschieri, domestic violence, rape, trafficking, early and forced marriages, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse are some of the types of gender-based violence common in humanitarian emergencies.

She adds that increasing drought means women and girls travel longer distances to collect water and firewood, exposing them to sexual and gender-based violence.

In Zimbabwe, which has suffered years of successive drought, whereby women account for 65 per cent of people involved in fetching water, compared to 35 per cent men, according to its Nationally Determined Contributions for 2021.

Tobacco farmers in Tabora, Kigoma happy with NBC, NHIF's health insurance scheme

By Guardian Reporter

TOBACCO farmers in Tabora and Kigoma regions have expressed satisfaction with the farmers' health insurance scheme known as 'Ushirika Afya' implemented by the National Bank of Commercial (NBC) in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) through cooperative unions in the regions.

Through the scheme, the bank is responsible for directly submitting health insurance contributions to the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) on behalf of farmers who will be registered through the bank's account.

The farmers expressed their sentiments at a brief signing ceremony between NBC Bank, the NHIF, and the major tobacco growers' associations in the regions held recently in the regions and attended by various stakeholders including government officials and tobacco stakeholders in regions.

Speaking during the events, the Chairman of the Western Zone Tobacco Growers Co-operative Union (WETCU) Hamza Kitunga and the Vice Chairman of the Kigoma Tobacco Growers Co-operative Union (KTCU) Elikana Bwenda apart from commending the bank for its services, also asked the lender to look into ways to introduce crops insurance product to give them a guaranteed income through the important sector.

"Due to the fact that most agricultural stakeholders

have a seasonal income, we have often found ourselves in very difficult times when we face health challenges at a time when we have no money. We congratulate NBC Bank for considering us in this regard," said Bwenda.

They also called on the bank and the NHIF to ensure the availability of quality health care through the scheme to avoid unnecessary complaints.

Speaking of the product, NBC head of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Raymond Urassa said, it was a continuation of an agreement reached a few weeks ago in Dar es Salaam between the bank, NHIF, and the Registrar of Cooperatives.

"Basically, the product aims to ensure that farmers who are among our key partners get proper health services. We realized that it is not enough to give them agricultural loans without even considering the status of their health. That's why we decided to come up with this product as health is always the first priority for us as human beings," he explained.

According to Urassa, through the scheme, a farmer will be contributing a total of 76,800/- per year. If the farmer has a spouse or children, a sum of 76,800/- and 50,400/- per child will be contributed respectively.

"This insurance will be provided by NHIF and will be available at all NBC branches across the country. I urge farmers to take advantage of this opportunity," he said.



NBC Bank's head of SMEs, Raymond Urassa (L), NHIF's acting regional manager for Kigoma, Gwamaka Mwakyome (R), and Kigoma Tobacco Growers Co-operative Union vice chairman Elikana Bwenda show copies of an MoU document signed by the three institutions in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality at the weekend. The pact is aimed at enabling farmers with NBC accounts and those who have landed agricultural loans from the bank to benefit from healthcare through a farmers' health insurance scheme known as "Ushirika Afya". Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NHIF Tabora region Acting Manager, Dia Liundi and his counterpart from Kigoma Region Gwamaka Mwakyome said, despite the number of opportunities that are given

to farmers; including loans, they may still be unable to overcome the challenges they face if only health agenda will not be given priority.

"The most important pri-

ority for farmers should be their health first. That is why we congratulate NBC Bank for seeing this, because if farmers are not healthy enough they will also not be

able to produce as much as expected," explained Mwakyome.

Cathbert Dongwe, Assistant Registrar of Cooperatives in Uvinza District, Kigoma Re-

gion, praised NBC Bank and NHIF for the initiative and advised for the program to be sustainable so that it can be of benefit event to members of other cooperatives.

Kilwa District Council issues 34million/- for extension services in FY 2020/2021

By Beatrice Philemon

KILWA District Council has for the 2020/2021 fiscal year issued 34m/- to support provision of extension services to farmers engaging in sesame production.

The move aimed to support the farmers engage in production of quality crops that meet market needs as well as fighting shifting agriculture and deforestation.

Kilwa District Executive Director, Abushiri Mbwana said this recently while briefing journalists and ActionAid Tanzania Staff who visited the council to discuss various development initiatives.

"With funding from the dis-

trict, farmers were trained on how to use environmentally-friendly farming practices and good agricultural practice so that can stop from shifting agriculture and fire burning in their localities," he said.

Nanjilinjji, Likawage, Zinga Kibaoni villages have been affected with deforestation due to sesame production that's why the district has begun to embark on this programme.

The main goal is to help them produce high quality sesame that meet market needs, prevent deforestation, have good farming that increase productivity and stop people from cutting trees for farming.

For his part, Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) Pro-

ject Coordinator, Steven Bernard said also ActionAid Kilwa has been trained farmers engaged in seaweed farming, paddy, sesame, maize, millet and cassava on climate change and how to cope with it in their farms so that they can benefit from what they grow.

This has been possible through Local Rights Programme that is being executed in eight villages in Kilwa District that includes Njinjo, Lihimaliao Kusini, Lihimaliao Kaskazini, Matandu, Mandawa, Kiwawa, Singano and Nanguluku villages.

Under the programme, farmers were also trained on organic farming, how to use best seeds, extension officers

to obtain appropriate knowledge and produce crops that meet market requirement or obtain best results in their farming activities.

"Also during the on-going training, we advice them to stop shifting agriculture, fire burning that cause deforestation and encourage them to use agro-ecological practices in their farming activities. We have decided to train them because farmers lack awareness on the link between climate change and its impact on their livelihoods," he said.

Secretary of Tumaini Jipya kwa Wanawake Kilwa (TUJIKWA) Pili Kuliwa said so far three wards that includes Njinjo, Mitole and Kilwa Kivinje

wards have already affected with climate change.

"We expressed thanks to Actionaid-Kilwa for this training that in turn has changed women's mindset and cultivate their crops in accordance with the on-going climate change within their localities," she said

According to her, Between January and February last year people from Matandu and Njinjo ward were badly affected with flood, left homeless, crops were also damaged and 13 people die according to the report from the Regional Commissioner that was issued to the people last year.

"I'm thankful for the LRP programme because has

brought positive changes to farmers because right now they don't conduct shifting agriculture, burning trees for agriculture and are aware of the effect of climate change in the areas they lived and where they do farming activities," she said.

Although have been trained on those issues, lack of extension officers is the main challenge facing them to operate their farming activities.

"We depend on only one extension officer who provide extension services in Miguruwe ward, the ward has four villages that includes Mtepela, Miguruwe, Namatewa and Zinga villages," she said.

She said, they grow different

crops but they don't get extension services, as result, they called on the ministry of Agriculture to help them obtain extension officers because the demand is very high.

Miguruwe Ward Secretary, Mariam Mkalipa expressed thanks to ActionAid - Kilwa for the training because has helped to change women's mindsets and right now they know how to access loans from the district council for the farming they have.

So far the district has already issued loans to six groups engaged in sesame production at Miguruwe ward, but the main challenges is lack of pesticides to prevent pests that destroy their sesame crop.

SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Govt issuing 15bn/- for maize shows major agro-sector crisis

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has calmed fears that plenty of maize in the Southern Highlands regions will be destroyed when he told the National Assembly that the government has in the past week provided 15bn/- to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for the purchase of maize in the zone.

This amount is an addition to funds provided earlier following reports of piled up maize in the major producing regions of Katavi, Ruvuma, Njombe, Songwe, Mbeya, Rukwa, Iringa and Tabora. What the premier appeared to say was that the government expects maize to be offloaded to markets, not piled up.

This is one reason why the premier dwelt on the point that the government permitted traders to sell maize stocks to markets in nearby countries in particular, even with limited requirements to report to district officials on such transactions, either for purposes of keeping records or even for taxation, etc. Traders can now sell maize in Zambia, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique, but it doesn't appear that the market is booming in these areas. There was a blockade of maize into the Kenyan market earlier despite sharp demand, but prices have since dropped, even hugely.

Despite that, the government was aware of piled up maize stocks in Katavi and surrounding regions, it had to make a renewed effort so that NFRA's purchasing power is boosted. As the premier underlined, the government will continue to allocate more funds to enable it to purchase all the grains, which was clearly reassuring but making the salient point of market failure and perhaps in a big way, that we can't expect to be maize production

specialists in the region. A previous story we ran said maize was around two thirds of crop acreage in the major farming regions, and the pile up shows that this situation is simply untenable.

While market outlets pose intense problems, the more intractable facet of the issue is the pricing mechanism, where the government can offer few if any remedies, for instance when Kwela MP Deus Sanga expressed concern on declining maize prices, apart from the piled up stock. His remark that farmers in the Southern Highlands depend on maize farming as their main source of income wasn't just directed at the failure by NFRA to purchase the grains on time, but also at the pricing. On the basis of what the premier said, the maize will be bought; it is uncertain if the government is sweetening the price.

Data that is currently being circulated by the various authorities indicates that farmers spend 356/- to 479/- to produce one kilogramme of maize, while they earn 310/- to 475/- in the market, which the Kwela MP referred to. Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda was even less assuring on the future of maize production as a sustainable activity when he said just recently that prices were even lower in some regions where a kilogramme of the item fetches 200/- to 250/- lately. It means farmers abandon key inputs while soil fertility is declining and rains are sparse, requiring special seeds nearly all the time. All this drives a nail into traditional systems where farmers don't privately own the land and thus assured of input credit, even if at times they may have to sell land and leave if they fail to pay credits. Customary titles won't do.

Why it's so important to provide public with clean and safe water

SANITATION refers to public health conditions related to clean drinking water and adequate treatment and disposal of human excreta and sewage. Preventing human contact with faeces is part of sanitation, as is hand washing with soap. Sanitation systems aim to protect human health by providing a clean environment that will stop the transmission of disease, especially through the fecal-oral route. For example, diarrhea, a main cause of malnutrition and stunted growth in children, can be reduced through adequate sanitation. There are many other diseases which are easily transmitted in communities that have low levels of sanitation, such as ascariasis (a type of intestinal worm infection or helminthiasis), cholera, hepatitis, polio, schistosomiasis, and trachoma, to name just a few.

According to a new report from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) billions of people around the world will be unable to access safely managed household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in 2030.

The report estimates on household access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services over the past five years, and assesses progress toward achieving the sixth sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Titled, Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report - Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000 - 2020 - it intends to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030 presents

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General said: "Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of

COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, yet millions of people across the world lack access to a reliable, safe supply of water. Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene must be a global priority if we are to end this pandemic and build more resilient health systems."

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "Even before the pandemic, millions of children and families were suffering without clean water, safe sanitation, and a place to wash their hands. Despite our impressive progress to date to scale-up these lifesaving services, the alarming and growing needs continue to outstrip our ability to respond."

Fore added: "The time has come to dramatically accelerate our efforts to provide every child and family with the most basic needs for their health and well-being, including fighting off infectious diseases like COVID-19."

In 2020, around 1 in 4 people lacked safely managed drinking water in their homes and nearly half the world's population lacked safely managed sanitation. COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent need to ensure everyone can access good hand hygiene.

At the onset of the pandemic, 3 in 10 people worldwide could not wash their hands with soap and water within their homes.

However, the report noted some progress towards achieving universal WASH services. Between 2016 and 2020, the global population with safely managed drinking water at home increased from 70 per cent to 74 per cent; safely managed sanitation services grew from 47 per cent to 54 per cent; and hand washing facilities with soap and water increased from 67 per cent to 71 per cent.

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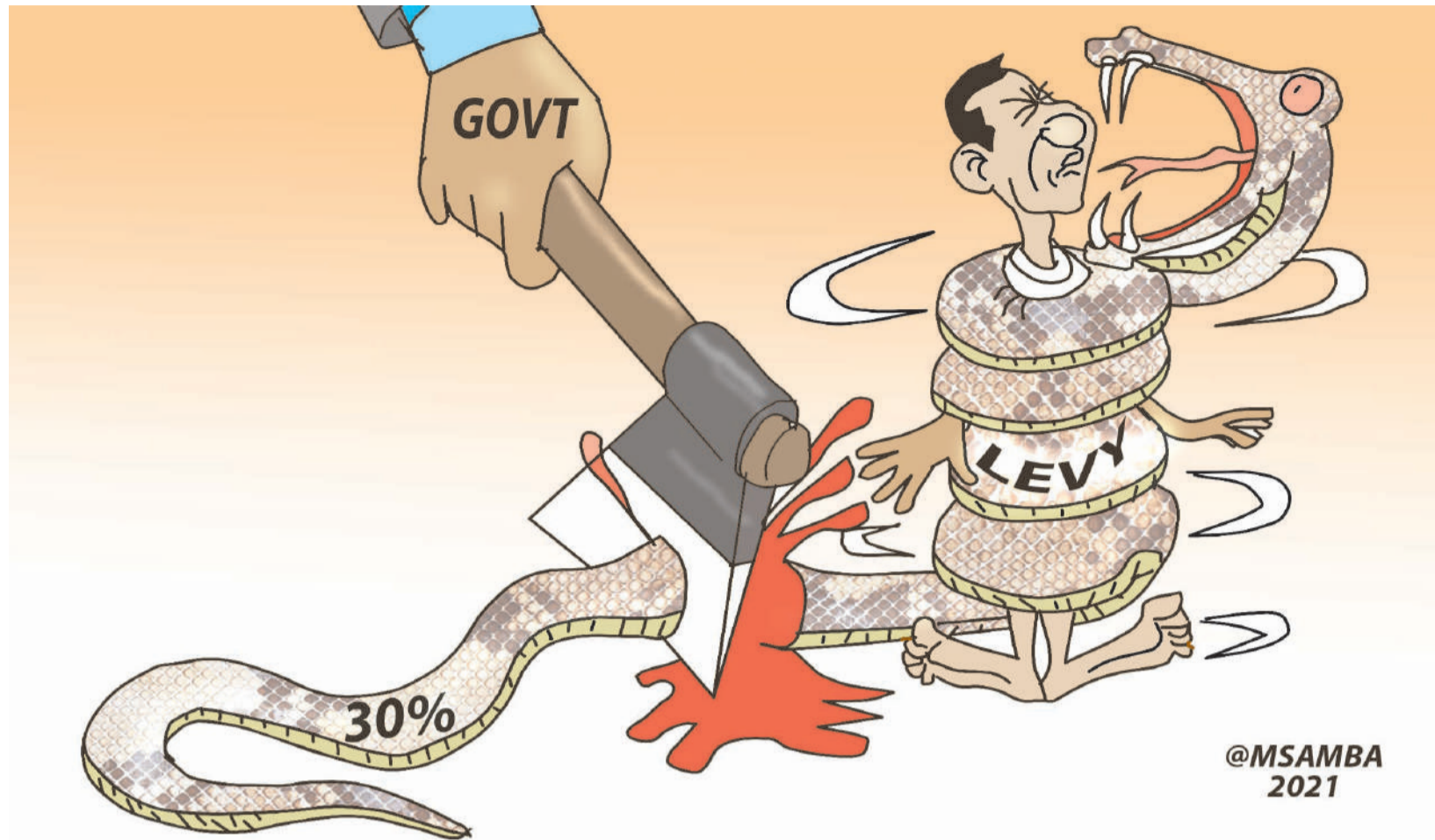
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China investment in Africa continues to expand

By Stephen Ndegwa

THE partnership between China and Africa has now gone too far to ever turn back. Particularly in the areas of economic development, the two partners have become Siamese twins. It is now almost impossible to separate the duo economically.

But while cooperation between the two sides has been largely based between both governments' commercial and diplomatic institutions, the Chinese private sector has been taking on an increasing role in the continent's socio-economic growth and development.

The newly launched report, "Market Power and Role of the Private Sector: Chinese Investment in Africa" published by the China-Africa Business Council documents the two-decade economic cooperation between the two partners. Launched in Beijing on August 26, the document addresses topics including the history of Chinese enterprises in Africa - their development stages to the current prominence, and the role of these enterprises in the countries socio-economic development. The 136-page report also highlights the challenges in Sino-African investment cooperation during the period under review.

Chinese enterprises have made significant socio-economic impact in countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Angola, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Congo-Brazzaville, Ghana, Algeria

By Manzoor Qadir

UNDERSTANDING the scale and intensity of the COVID-19 virus and its emerging variants, predicting the pandemic's direction, and developing and refining associated management response options are challenges likely to confront public-health officials and national governments worldwide well into the future.

Diagnostic testing capacity for COVID-19 varies widely from country to country and often is insufficient. Hospital admissions can lag infections by weeks and asymptomatic or mild cases go unreported.

One diagnostic option drawing growing attention and application: Detecting COVID-19 in community and urban wastewater. Monitoring wastewater for COVID-19 offers near real-time insights into the scale of the virus' presence among a vast number of people, and can reveal the community's transmission trajectory - rising or falling.

Sewers offer an early warning system for COVID-19 outbreaks. Wastewater with higher concentrations of the virus corresponds to higher numbers of infected people. Compared to systematic testing of individuals, wastewater analysis is not only less invasive and simpler, it requires fewer resources, equipment, and skilled professionals.

Detecting viruses in a community this way has been practiced since the

and Tanzania. It is bound to get deeper into the continent with the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative which will open ancient international trade routes.

Chinese enterprises will play a crucial role in the growth of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the continental trading bloc that was launched in January 2021. It is expected that Chinese enterprises will plug into the vast business opportunities that AfCFTA offers. China can also use this platform to explore the massive untapped potential in the continent's services sector.

Significantly, the launch of the report comes in the background of the 2021 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) to be held in Dakar, Senegal. African countries are hoping for more Chinese commitment in the growing relationship. Since the establishment of FOCAC in 2000, Sino-Africa trade has grown 20-fold. Between 2000 and 2019, trade between China and Africa was over US Dollars 200 billion.

The upcoming FOCAC will undertake a major audit of the "Ten Major Cooperation Programs" and the "Eight Major Initiatives" jointly formulated and implemented within the FOCAC framework in 2018. These include investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, mining, agribusiness and industrial parks.

Africa has a lot to offer. First, the continent is a massive market con-

sisting of 1.3 billion people at the last count in 2018. The amount of goods and services needed by these growing population is stupendous, particularly the highly consuming youth. Almost 60 per cent of Africa's population is under the age of 25 years old, making Africa the world's youngest continent.

Africa also has some of the world's rarest minerals and raw materials in vast quantities. These include diamonds, sugar, salt, gold, iron, cobalt, uranium, copper, bauxite, silver, petroleum and cocoa beans. This is an invaluable asset for any private sector both intracontinental and intercontinental. But Africa should leverage on this comparative advantage, something which China is exploiting for mutual benefit.

There are very fertile areas for Sino-Africa economic partnership in energy and hydro-power production, agro-processing, Information and Communication Technology, housing and sanitation, and transport. Much of this is happening through thriving Public Private Partnerships in many African countries. China's vaccine manufacturers are expanding their concerns in Africa at a time when the Western world is engaged in both vaccine hoarding and colonialism. Already, two major Chinese vaccine companies have established localized production lines in Morocco and Egypt, with more coming up in

South Africa and Zambia. This is the kind of investment partners Africa needs in order to build its capacity to manufacture its own goods and work towards value addition and self-sufficiency.

Chinese firms are also encouraged to participate in the upcoming Africa Investment Forum set for November 17. Postponed in 2020 amid coronavirus concerns, this premier business event to be held in Johannesburg will be a showcase of the vast array of business opportunities across the continent. In the 2019 forum, the African Development Bank says that 57 deals valued at US Dollars 677 billion were tabled for discussions, out of which 52 deals worth US Dollars 40.1 billion secured investment interest.

Ultimately, Africa needs quality investment based on specific criteria. Any massive investment must enhance the resilience of national economies by building on local supply chains. Africa also needs investment that is socially responsible and environmentally conscious. Overall, investment in Africa must absorb the enormous trained labor force, improve the living standards of the majority in the continent and eradicate extreme poverty.

The writer is the Executive Director of South-South Dialogues, a Nairobi based research and development communication think tank.

Needed in the global south: Wastewater collection

early 1990s when extensive wastewater surveillance supported efforts to eradicate polio. Such experience over the years has proven that monitoring wastewater for pathogen traces is a reliable and effective disease surveillance technique. Armies of researchers with enhanced pandemic funding worldwide have been pursuing wastewater monitoring since the WHO's initial COVID-19 alarms last year.

A Google search of "COVID and wastewater" shows over 53 million results, and Google Scholar reveals around 20,000 publications on the subject, one-third of them produced since the beginning of 2021.

One expert paper this year proposed an archived time series of urban sewage samples as a record of pandemics and other features of the evolving Anthropocene - an invaluable resource for future anthropologists.

Most success stories about COVID-19 surveillance in wastewater and sewage sludge have come from developed countries. In the developing world, however, the picture is very different. Unfortunately, about 90% of wastewater generated in low-income developing countries is not even collected; it is released to the environment untreated. In lower-middle-income countries, about 57% of wastewater is uncollected.

Monitoring wastewater for COVID-19

enables timely preventive and coping measures, which would help developing nations immensely. The "dirty secret" in many such countries, however, is that wastewater goes untreated into the environment - often entering freshwater bodies through hidden or visible pipes, for example, or contaminating groundwater.

Wastewater monitoring, collection, treatment, and safe reuse or disposal is essential for protecting human health and the absence of such practices leads to massive water pollution. Sadly, it also creates a missed opportunity for near-real-time disease surveillance, depriving about half of the global population of the benefits of timely response to outbreaks of COVID-19, with similar virus-induced diseases and pandemics foreseen. The international disparity in these pathogen early warning systems is a wakeup call for the world at large, which aims at halving the volumes of untreated wastewater by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal SDG, 6.3.1 of the 2030 Global Sustainability Agenda). Six years into the SDG era, the assessment of wastewater treatment status at the national level reveals a gloomy scenario in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, which are far from achieving the wastewater treatment and safe reuse target agreed to in 2015. With more frequent

pandemic-like situations expected in years to come, a radical rethinking is widely needed, and efficient wastewater management and monitoring must be established in developing countries to protect our environment and countless lives.

Establishing wastewater collection and conveyance networks, and constructing wastewater treatment plants equipped with near-real-time diagnostic systems for diseases like COVID-19 are key to improving human health in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Beyond expanding these disease early warning systems globally, effective wastewater collection and management in developing countries would yield important resources to offset costs. Wastewater is a source of valuable water, nutrients, precious metals, and energy. From every viewpoint, the investment required to properly manage wastewater globally pales by comparison to the multidimensional benefits available.

Manzoor Qadir is Assistant Director of the UN University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, which is supported by the Government of Canada and hosted at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. The Institute marks its 25th anniversary this year.

Mobile levies deduction logical, but govt likely to lose its target

By Francis Kajubi

THE adage: 'Half a bread is better than none'. Meaning that, something is better than nothing, even if it is less than one wanted. For example, one asked for a new car but got a used one.

This is what one can conclude after the government caved in on the taxpayers' outcry on the mobile money transaction levies. The levies that came into effect on July 15 this year, triggered anger among mobile money services consumers that led to some refraining usage while others reducing usage.

Late August this year, the treasury opted to garner at least a portion of the intended 1.254trn/- revenue collection from mobile money transactions. The treasury announced a substantial deduction of the controversial levies by 30 percent that came into effect on September 1 this year. What does this deduction mean?

The 30 percent deduction means that the treasury has agreed to lose certain amounts of money from what it earned previously through the levies thus affecting the 1.254trillion/- mobile money revenue collection target.

The new levy rates are expected to be revealed in not less than seven days from September 1st this year according to the Finance and Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Observation by The Guardian established that as of September 2, 2021, three telecommunication companies operating with a large local market share, had charged almost the same amounts on sending and cash withdrawals.

Sending money on net, shows that a transaction of 10,000/- one is charged with between 670/- and 710/- (levy and fee altogether), sending 50,000/- is charged with between 2,650/- and 2,700/- while sending 100,000/- is charged with between 3,330/- and 3,375/- and sending 1,000,000/- is charged with between 9,000/- and 10,000/-. However, sending off net between 10,000/- and 100,000/- is subjected to levies that range from 350/- and 2,010/-.

On net withdrawals, transaction worth 10,000/- is levied between 1,720/- and 1,750/-, 50,000/- levied between 4,750/- and 4, 835/-, while 100,000/- levied between 6,130/- and 6,170/- and 1,000,000/- levied between 16,900/- and 17,040/-. The charges are a sum of fees and levies altogether.

On the other hand, off net withdrawals worth 10,000/- charged between 870/- and 875/-, 50,000/- charged between 3,300/- and 3,310/-, while 100,000/-



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

charged between 4,130/- and 4,140/-. However, withdrawing 1million/- off net, the levy stood at a lowest 14,900/- and 15,400/-.

In this case, the 30 percent deduction means that the treasury will lose 201/- from levied 670/-. Will lose 784/- from the levied 2,650/-, there will be a loss of 961/- from the levied 3,330/-, there will be a loss of 3,000/- from every 10,000/- levied before and a loss of 5,100/- from 17,000/- levied as of September 2, 2021.

The Treasury had earlier said in its official statement on the deduction of the levies that it already held talks with mobile services providers who have also agreed to deduct rates they charge consumers in sending and withdrawing cash by 10 percent.

"The government believes that the decision will provide relief to the people and still enable them contribute towards implementation of various development projects as intended when such levies were approved by the parliament for execution during the current fiscal year," reads part of the statement.

The decision by the treasury has caught the general public with different perspectives and opinions. Some of the consumers are in support of the treasury deci-

sion while others doubt it with reasonable arguments.

Those who doubt and even oppose the levies are of the view that there is still double taxation whereby both senders and withdrawals are levied on the same transaction.

Those who support the levies, however, argue that though double taxation has been maintained, the levied amount is reasonable for consumers and mobile operators.

Speaking to this paper, Twaha Abdul (28), a retail seller of second hand clothes alias in Swahili as 'Mitumba' at Mwenge market is happy with the transaction levies reduction.

"For me, the deduction of the levies by 30 percent sounds logical. I am ready and willing to pay taxes for the development of my country though levies should be reasonable. I had stopped using mobile money services but with the deduction I am considering continuing using the service," said Abdul.

According to him, it is high time that consumers continue using the services so that the government can source development funds for mega projects, but, he cautioned the treasury to make sure that the collected

money is fully directed to the intended development projects.

"The problem comes when the government wants us to pay taxes but once the money is collected they don't even care about improving social services such as construction of roads, schools infrastructure and even health services, instead, the money is allocated to luxurious expenditures," added Abdul.

In the same views, Noel Kisiga (26) an electronics devices retail seller at Mwenge market was also positive with the deduction of the levied amounts.

"Though am not so sure if the deducted levies will hold without unreported changes in between, I am convinced to continue using the service," said Kisiga.

Zainabu Mkami (24) a local chef, literally known as 'Mamantilie' at Makumbusho bus stop, said that she is not satisfied with the deduction of the levies for what she blamed as double taxation prevalence.

"To me, nothing has changed. This is just an attempt that is intended to deceive us and treat us like kids. Look how we sweat away all day long to make this meagre amount of money then here comes somebody with nuisance levies;

I used to save my money on my mobile account but I have switched to saving my money in a piggy bank as I am considering opening a bank account," said Mkami.

Kambangwa Ismail (41) a commuter bus driver plying Makumbusho to Mbagala Rangitatu said that nothing has changed so far though he already heard that the levies have been deducted.

"This is just petty propaganda. I don't believe that there will be reasonable changes," said Ismail.

Finance and Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, defended that double taxation existed even before the levies were introduced in the Finance Act 2021/22.

"There is a street saying 'send me cash with a withdrawing amount'. The saying has been there even before the levies were endorsed. It means that people were being levied twice on the very same transaction. In fact, cash withdrawing levies were even higher than the send-cash levies," said Dr Nchemba.

Dr George Kahangwa from the school of education at the University of Dar es Salaam, commended the government for bringing in some deductions but warned about the ongoing double taxation.

"The deduction is reasonable but what about the double taxation? All parties involved in the same transaction are being levied. By my account, this issue calls for further negotiations between mobile companies and the government," said Dr Kahangwa.

Studying abroad truly gives students unique experience

RECENTLY, Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) organized and conducted the 16th Exhibitions for the higher learning Institutions in Dar es Salaam. The theme for the week long exhibitions was sustaining a middle income economy and promoting growth through higher education, science and Technology. Our correspondent GERALD KITABU caught up with Ramadhan Chomoka, Managing director, of Sangeni international, one of the exhibitors and an overseas students' recruitment agency in Tanzania and here he sheds light on scholarship opportunities. Excerpts:

QUESTION: Recently, Tanzania Commission for Universities organized exhibitions for the Higher Learning Institution in Dar es Salaam. What was the main objective of these exhibitions?

ANSWER: This year the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has organized exhibitions for Higher learning Institutions to create marketing platform within and outside the country. When you look at how this event was organized, you will realize that it aimed also to inform students and the general public on their academic programmes and schedules.

According to TCU, specific objectives were to demonstrate the role played by higher education institutions, professional bodies, as well as research and development in the country's overall development and to foster Higher Education Institutions -industry partnerships.

Q: What is your role in these exhibitions?

ANSWER: We have many roles in this event. First is to participate in the exhibitions and support the government which has just attained middle income economy and the general public at large to provide necessary information on different courses provided by overseas' Universities.

Q: Do you mean our Universities cannot do what Universities



Managing director of Sangeni international Ramadhan Chomoka (right) explains to students various scholarships and programmes available at overseas universities. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

abroad are doing?

A: No, our Universities are very good with very useful programmes but studying abroad is a global phenomenon, whereby students from various backgrounds cross countries, continents and oceans to get their choice for specific programs or career they want to pursue. Besides programmes, they are also exposed to various products and services available at overseas' Universities. Some students look for some specific or new courses which are not provided in the country. For example, in the past there were no oil and gas courses, therefore, students had to look for them abroad. Studying abroad is a normal, every

year students cross countries, continents and oceans to get the best education possible.

Studying abroad gives students unique experience such as learning new culture, new language and making new friends they had no before. They also get an opportunity to engage some useful stakeholders and research institutions to build confidence and competence

Q: What courses do you target in your scholarship?

A: As you are aware that Tanzania is in the middle income economy as such it requires adequate human resource to foster socio-economic development. We therefore target science, technology, medical, Engineering and innovation among other courses. We want to support the government advance technologically. We all understand that Asia countries like India are well advanced in tech-

nology and medical fields. So, we take students abroad and destined where they can acquire specific skills useful for the human resource development in the country. Tanzania is not an island; we need to collaborate with the rest of the world and by doing so we are exchanging knowledge, experience and new ideas on academic field. I believe that when we combine the two we are going to get better knowledge useful for our nation.

In some countries, medical field has been practiced for many years which also gives graduates opportunities for practical training. That's why I said is our duty to support the government efforts to move from middle income economy to more advanced stage.

Q: What is your call?

A: Currently President Samia Suluhu Hassan has opened doors of investment in different fields.

Local and foreign investment in agriculture, minerals, oil and gas are welcome. This is a great opportunity for Tanzanian students who wish to pursue these fields abroad. When they complete their studies they will have added advantage of working in these fields and foster economic development of our country. I therefore call on all Tanzanian students to come forward and apply. We are here to support them attain their dreams. Currently Tanzania has better relations with almost all countries across the world. Sometimes costs of pursuing studies at overseas universities are cheaper than studying at home. For those who need to join overseas universities, they should not worry we are here to support them, to support the government so that together we can build the nation.

The truth about why Covid is never going away will make you angry – and it should

By Umair Haque

I want to tell you a story about one of the greatest heists ever. You might not know it, but you were probably both an accomplice and a victim, tricked into picking your own pocket. This is the story of the Great Covid Heist.

Covid-19 is exploding all over again in America. Averaged, cases are hitting levels they haven't since last autumn.

But averages can be deceiving things. On August 23 there were 266,000 cases. That is so far the fourth highest total for Covid-19 cases in America – ever.

On one level, this story is one that is all too familiar, dispiriting and stupid. America's Red States became the world's Covid Belts, some of its hottest hot zones.

And so when a new variant surged across the globe, Red Staters did what they are what now laughed at for around that world. They refused to wear masks. They screamed and threw huge baby tantrums. They called making children wear masks "tyranny" and "fascism".

Of course, they didn't get vaccines. And because American Idiots like this are in control of Red States, governors like DeSantis in Florida and Abbott in Texas, already prodding marching backwards into the middle ages, declared basic public precautions like masking and social distancing the enemies of "freedom".

There's a kind of direct, dismal relationship between the American Idiot and Covid-19. And so the Delta wave did what it was always going to do: rip across America with a special vengeance.

America is not New Zealand or even Australia, countries which – for all their shortcomings and flaws – aren't completely backwards, naive and self-destructive. For the American Idiot, Covid is a kind of apocalyptic test which separates the strong from the weak, the faithful from the faithless, the pure from the impure.

But you know all that. And the truth is that this particular story cuts much, much deeper than that. If you really want to think clearly about it, let's try to, from a more fundamental level altogether, using as much reason and logic and directness as we can muster.

Why is Covid ripping across America? Because there's a new variant. There are a lot of new variants, in fact. Delta is just the first. Then there's Delta Plus, Lambda, and so on.

These variants are going to reach every country on the globe. The question is just whether a nation is prepared for them. America clearly wasn't – it's a society made of about half idiots at this juncture in history, like all those poor morons who denied that the pandemic was a problem, and then died from it, acknowledging only in their very last breaths how wrong they'd been.

But a society should never be at the mercy of people so foolish that they only acknowledge reality when it's too late. How many such people are there, though? The answer to that question is a lot grimmer than Americans realize. Let's continue our little analysis to illuminate it.

Covid's ripping across America because it ripped across the world yet again because there was a new variant. Why was there a new variant? For a painfully simple reason. The world is not vaccinating people fast enough. What does that mean?

As Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has pointed out – he's the head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) – Covid is infecting people faster than they are being vaccinated. That is at a global, civilisational level. It is a profound, epic, immense, historic failure.

I'm not exaggerating. We eliminated smallpox and polio, or close enough to it. And yet with Covid, we barely made an effort as a civilisation.

That's a colossal, jaw-dropping example of human stupidity. Why? Because when infections outpace vaccinations, the result is predictable, obvious and capable:

New variants go on arising. More infections, more incubation, more mutation. More mutation, more variation.

It doesn't take much – just a handful of mutations here and there – to breed harder, fitter, tougher variants.

That is why vaccine resistance is already dropping. You've heard about it, maybe – if you shouldn't, you should have. The vaccines we have are already dropping in efficacy pretty calamitously. The latest data from Israel suggest that vaccine efficacy may drop from 95 per cent to 39 per cent in just three to four

months.

That doesn't mean that you shouldn't take vaccines. It means that you are going to need to, probably forever.

None of this had to happen. Remember – we eliminated smallpox, and came close to eradicating polio. Those are probably the greatest accomplishments of the 20th century – they saved literally millions of lives.

If we could stop smallpox and polio, we could have stopped Covid, too. But we didn't. Why not? Because a political choice was made. By whom? By the leaders of the West.

Vaccines for Covid were all created as public goods – all of them. Developed at public institutions, funded by public investment. The point of public goods is to share them as widely as possible. I benefit when you use a public good, like a library, a park – or a vaccine.

But the West privatised Covid vaccines instead. Why? On the urging of billionaires like Bill Gates. Because its pundits and intellectuals wanted leaders to do so. Nobody much in the West made the case for Covid vaccines to be true public goods like polio and smallpox vaccines were.

Do you know what Jonas Salk said about patenting the polio vaccine? "Can you patent the sun?" he asked.

What a beautiful mind, what a noble soul. Our leaders are different. They could only see dollar signs. So they gave – let me repeat it – gave licences for Covid vaccines to Big Pharma (the global pharmaceutical industry).

[Incidentally, Jonas Edward Salk (October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American virologist and medical researcher who developed one of the first successful polio vaccines. He spent his last years searching for a vaccine against AIDS.]

You, my friend, have been victim to one of the biggest rip-offs in human history. Let's call it the Great Covid Heist. It worked like this: You paid taxes, all your life. Those taxes paid for the public institutions and investments which ultimately created Covid vaccines.

Universities, labs, experiments, research – all this was done on your dime. And you deserved the benefits of those public investments, too.

What were those benefits? Well, one, you deserved to have Covid vaccines, for free. Maybe some of you got those. But you deserved them for life.

You're not going to get those, and I'll come back to why. Two, you deserved to have a Covid-free future – these vaccines were created to be public goods, which means benefiting you by being distributed freely as widely as possible, so that you would have a Covid-free future, too.

None of that happened. Instead, capitalism did something astonishing. It pulled off one of the greatest scandals, robberies in human history.

No, I'm not exaggerating. Let me keep going. You paid for the development of the vaccines. Along came Big Pharma – capitalism, essentially. It didn't even have to ask. Our leaders simply gave it licences to Covid vaccines – in perpetuity, forever.

In other words, Big Pharma internalised the gains of a public good – and it externalised the costs. Just like banks internalise the gains of a financial system, and need to be bailed out, or just like Big Dirty Energy internalises the gains of utilities, externalising the costs, which at this point include killing the planet.

See the pattern here? This is what me-



ga-capitalism does: it internalises gains, and externalises costs, both unfairly, in deeply and profoundly unjust and destructive and harmful ways.

What does "capitalism internalised the gains of a key public good the entire world desperately needs, Covid vaccines" mean in the real world?

Well, it means that the world can't get enough vaccines. The reason that infections are outpacing vaccinations is very simple. Capitalism has no incentive whatsoever to produce enough vaccines.

Its incentive is to create conditions of artificial scarcity so that it can eke out maximum profit. That's exactly what is happening. Big Pharma won't let Covid vaccines be produced anywhere, really, and so the world can't get Covid vaccines.

Result? Variant after variant, surging around the globe. Think Delta is bad? Lambda's worse. That's coming up this winter, probably. And on and on the story will go.

This is capitalism's dream scenario. It's the stuff Pharma executives have wet moaning orgasms over. They get to sell you vaccines...forever. Too bad if a few million of us die along the way. Profit are to be made – staggering ones.

I called the Great Covid Heist one of the greatest robberies in human history. And I said I wasn't exaggerating.

Let me now run a few numbers for you to prove it. Big Pharma wants to charge a few hundred dollars for a Covid vaccine – that's not according to me, it openly says that. Let's call it US\$250.

Now let's assume that just half the world's population is to get a vaccine. That's one trillion dollars. That's how much Facebook is worth. It's a staggering amount of money. But that's how much stands to be made, every single year. Forever.

Over fifty years? That's fifty trillion. That's more than half the world's GDP.

Tell me Covid isn't going to be around for, say, at least another decade. How much are we talking about? Ten trillion dollars. That's more than Amazon and Apple are worth, put together.

This really is one of the largest sums, one of the most immense fortunes, in human history, period. That's why I call

it the Great Covid Heist.

I don't think that you – most of you – really understand just how badly you've been played. Let me try and summarise all the above.

You paid for Covid vaccines. With your taxes. Which funded universities, laboratories, research.

You didn't just pay for Covid vaccines for you. You paid for Covid vaccines for the whole world. That is the entire point of public goods.

Just as we don't say, "if you're Indian, you can't come to university here", or, "you can only read this book if you're American", so too, we shouldn't have said, "these vaccines are only for us". The moment we said that, we became accomplices to our own robbery.

Let me say it again. You paid for Covid vaccines for the whole world. Already. That is the point of the public goods you funded.

Maybe there is a justification for saying, well, there should be a tiny, tiny charge for production. But US\$250 a shot? No way. Not even close. You already paid for these vaccines, for yourself, forever, and for the world.

So why can't the world get them? Why are you going to be charged for them, in a year or two? Think boosters will be free, forever? Think again – the government's going to pay Big Pharma, even in nations with public healthcare systems, for vaccines you already paid for.

In most cases where capitalism internalises gains and externalises costs, it's hard to really pin down the scale of the crime, the failure.

When banks are bailed out, for example, it's hard to say with certainty just how much was really conned out of societies and towns and cities and people, how much, even, in the end, the bailout amounts to.

But this case is different. We can say, already, with lethal precision, how big the scale of the gains internalised and costs externalised really are.

The internalised gains we are talking about – you paid for vaccines for the whole world, and yourself, forever, but nobody is going to get them for free, they are going to have to pay over and over and over again, if they can get them at all, because they are not public goods

anymore – those internalised gains? They amount to one of the greatest fortunes in human history.

A trillion dollars a year. Ten trillion dollars a decade. Over a human lifetime – if Covid lasts that long – that's the GDP of the whole world. That's how much the internalised gains from the Great Covid Heist are.

That's what capitalism has gotten away with – again, while liberals smile and spout dumb nostrums. They might blame the American Idiot for Covid spreading – but they're wrong.

It's not just the American Idiot, the Red Stater, who is at fault here. So is the good liberal. Who defended this corrupt, odious robbery? Joe Biden and Emanuel Macron and Angela Merkel and Justin Trudeau did, blocking open access to vaccines at the WTO.

So did the liberal columnists and pundits who defend them, and so did the gullible masses who take their cues from that venal, foolish infrastructure of punditocracy.

You are probably an accomplice to one of the greatest robberies in human history. You probably helped pick your own pocket, by defending and backing this malign, idiotic, stupid and decadent system which has left the world without vaccines, at the mercy of a disease we could and should have stopped by now. All for the sake of more, more, more profit.

How big is the Great Covid Heist? Call it a trillion dollars a year. How big is that? That's way, way more than America spends on public schools. It's far more than America spends on infrastructure. It's more than America's entire defence budget. It's a colossal, immense, staggering amount.

Maybe that's why it was so dismally, painfully obvious from the beginning. Capitalism was going to use the deadliest pandemic in a century – and the first new global disease in a millennium – as an excuse to pull off one of the greatest robberies in history.

And you, you poor sucker, you sad idiot – well, you were going to be tricked into picking your very own pocket. Congratulations, I guess.

• **A dispatch by Eudaimonia and Co.**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xinyang city in China's Henan Province.

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Domestic workers among hardest hit by COVID-19 pandemic in Tanzania

By Jenifer Gilla

THREE years ago Janet Michael's life changed for the better when she was offered a job as a domestic servant in Dar es Salaam, about 1,365km from her home in Bukoba located on the north-western part of the Lake Victoria shores. Janet was extremely lucky to get a job where she was earning 50,000/- (US\$21.57) to support her two children and aging parents. Janet even started saving some money to put up her own house.

All these plans aborted since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. For starters, her employer who lived in the Tabata an outskirts of commercial city in Dar es Salaam was among who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

"I could not believe it when she gave me a payment 50,000/- and told me that was the last monthly salary I would receive. She told me she would henceforth reduce my salary to 30,000/-. When I protested, she told me I could leave the job," recounts Janet.

Faced with the option of being unemployed and without any support for her two children, Janet worked for a few months and struggled to stretch the 30,000/- to cover as much of her family's needs as she could. Six months later, Janet was lucky to get another job where her new employer promised to pay her 60,000/- per month.

For Janet, the new job came with new challenges. While she previously worked in a small household, her new job entailed looking after a family of six including 4 children. Working from the break of dawn until late into the night, Janet eventually fell sick and at the hospital, she was told she was suffering from exhaustion and fatigue and was advised to rest, something she could not do as she risked losing her job!

Janet is among 1,087,401 domestic workers in Tanzania constituting five percent of the working population who are juggling increased challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Majority of the domestic workers are women whose hours and wages were reduced during the lockdown period and have not been reinstated after these initial measures were eased.

A survey of domestic workers in 14 African countries conducted by the International Federation of Domestic Workers indicated that 85 percent of domestic workers, who were laid off, received no severance pay. Those who retained their jobs have had a reduction in their income which has had a dramatic impact on their households. Ris-

ing food and fuel prices amidst widespread price speculation has made the situation worse.

Due to the intimate nature of domestic work, Janet and others like her are at high risk of contracting the disease from the household they work in. They are especially at risk as they are expected to continue working even in a situation the employer or the family contracts the virus. Without personal protective equipment, domestic workers like Janet have no option but to take whatever precautions they can such as buying their own masks.

Like many others, Janet's salary was docked for the two days she was unwell. According to the survey, 53% of domestic workers do not have access to paid sick days which increases the risk of infection and undermines their ability to take care of themselves and their families. The stressful nature of the work means that many of the workers may also have pre-existing conditions such as high blood pressure, respiratory diseases and even diabetes which makes them vulnerable to contracting the virus. The risk of succumbing to the virus is further exacerbated by the deterioration of health care services and access to medication.

This is what happened to an 18-year old Mary Michael, a domestic worker from Masaki suburb in the country's commercial capital. When Mary contracted the virus, her employer sent her back to the Quiz Cup Center—the NGO which provides training and placements for domestic workers.

"My boss also had similar symptoms. When he took me to hospital, I was tested for COVID-19 and given some medicines. I returned the next day and was told I had the virus. The employer sent me back to the agency. I felt so bad, I thought maybe they sent me back because they think I was the one who gave the disease to them," Mary says.

The high rate of informality in domestic work means that the workers have no job security and have little protection. It is estimated that 81% of domestic workers do not have written contracts and work on the basis of oral agreements. More than 60% of the workers have no social security or medical insurance.

Jenifer Mwavula, a domestic worker lost her job when she sneezed in front of her employer. We found Jenifer at Precious Daywaka, a Dar-es-Salaam-based domestic worker employment agency where she had gone looking for another placement.

Domestic Workers in Tanzania

■ Domestic workers ■ Total working population



Domestic Workers who lost their jobs and income due to COVID-19

■ Domestic workers who lost their jobs ■ Domestic workers who remained at work



Sources: ILO | www.wiego.org

Agents protects workers

An employment placement agent, Eliwanjela James said she had received numerous complaints from domestic workers who have faced increased harassment, have been overworked, have been sacked or have had their rights infringed upon by employers who are afraid of contracting the virus from these workers.

She said the demand for workers had dropped drastically since the pandemic started from the pre-pandemic 25 job placements monthly to less than seven placements since March last year. "We have had no alternative but to release the girls to return to their homes, many of them from the rural areas, as we are not able to get those jobs," he said.

Education

Margaret Tibaijuka, the Manager of Precious Daywaka said her agency has been educating the domestic workers on the virus and how to protect themselves such as using bleach to clean surfaces, wearing gloves, masks and eye protection if caring for those infected, personal hygiene and observing the other basic safety measures.

An employer, Veneranda Chisel said even though she wanted to provide the necessary support for her domestic worker, she did not have the money to provide the protective clothing and other necessary equipment. "I have been out of employment for more than a year and at one point I had to sack my domestic worker as I did not have the money to pay her," Veneranda said.

Government response

Unlike other countries that instituted social protection measures to help vulnerable communities such as the unemployed meet the challenges presented by the pandemic, there were no substantive measures that the government instituted or implemented. According to the survey, only 30% of domestic workers contribute to social insurance which however do not include support such as unemployment benefits.

While other countries introduced income support measures, these were targeted at those in formal employment and ignored the majority of those in the informal sector which includes domestic workers.

The director of Children Affairs in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Sebastian Kitiku conceded that there has been little that the government has done to support domestic workers or those in the informal sector. He said his department has not received any requests for assistance even though he conceded that there is need for such assistance in the community.

On the harassment, infringement of rights and other challenges faced by domestic workers, Kitiku said more awareness and information on where to report incidents was a priority.

Law Deficient

An official of Conservation, Hotels, Domestic and Allied Workers Union (CHODAWU) in Ilala and Temeke Districts, Wagala Chunga said the union had been educating its members on occupational health and safety standards, their rights and employer responsibilities.

She said even though the rights of domestic work-

ers are clearly protected in the constitution, there was urgent need for the government to ratify the Domestic Workers' Convention No 189 of 2011, adopted by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

She however said that although the rights of domestic workers are clearly protected in the constitution, there should be clear-cut registration for this group of workers. "Lumping domestic workers with other workers is unfair because of the nature of their work, the working hours, social protection and environment. For example, many of them live and sleep in their workplaces, those who return home at night receive an extremely low wage ranging between 30,000/- and 150,000/-," Chunga says.

Important to the economy

"Those in formal employment and in the offices are able to work hard because they know they have left people that they trust at home, who are raising their children, cooking food and taking care of their homes. How could anyone ignore the work of the domestic workers when you talk of developing the country's economy?" added Chuga

The ratification of Convention 189 would improve the plight of domestic workers. For now, governments should include this cadre of workers in any social protection programs that they have initiated or will initiate to help vulnerable groups deal with the challenges presented by COVID-19.

What is Workers' Convention 189?

Under the Convention, domestic workers are entitled to the same basic rights as those available to other workers in their country, including weekly days off, limits to hours of work, minimum wage coverage, overtime compensation, social security, and clear information on the terms and conditions of employment. The new standards oblige governments that ratify to protect domestic workers from violence and abuse, to regulate private employment agencies that recruit and employ domestic workers, and to prevent child labor in domestic work.

The ILO estimates that over 67 million domestic workers over the age of 15 worldwide, 80% of which are women. About 17% of domestic workers are migrant workers. In many developing countries, it is due to the labour of domestic workers that other women have succeeded in entering the paid labour market in increasingly larger proportions and in breaking the glass ceiling.

This is because when women engage in paid work outside the home, they either have to reduce their rest and leisure time, enlist the help of partners or other family members or - if the family or woman can afford it - pay someone else to do the care work that they would normally do. This makes the domestic workers' contribution to economic growth substantial, enabling an increase in dual-income families.

Towards AGRF, UN food systems summit: Tanzania seeks to increase the share of global agribusiness

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is working historically with the private sector and other stakeholders to increase its share of global trade in agriculture produce and products for the benefit of smallholder farmers, who comprise the majority population.

"Everything we produce in the agriculture sector is needed somewhere in the world," noted Prof Siza Tumbo, Deputy Permanent Secretary-Ministry of Agriculture, opening up the 2021 Agribusiness Dealroom in-country launch for Tanzania on 26/08/2021, an event organised by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The in-country deal room was attended by agriculture line ministries officials, private sector members, AGRA Vice president Vanessa Adam, IFAD Country officer Jacqueline Machangu, among others. It was moderated by Peniel Lyimo, retired Permanent Secretary, who has served

different dockets involved in agriculture development.

In addition to ensuring Tanzania remains food secure, Prof Tumbo was adamant that more exports of agricultural goods would lead to significant productivity, leading to the creation of agriculture driven wealth among smallholder farmers.

It was paramount for Tanzania to gain more access to the global market for agriculture produce so as to propel smallholder farmers to increase production significantly and be able to compete by lowering prices while still earning comfortable profit margins, he noted.

To catalyze the growth of agribusiness, the government and private sector must work together to open up market opportunities for smallholder farmers in a way that ensures youth and women are not left behind, he noted.

Prof. Tumbo cited soybeans exports in 2019/2021 as about 3500 tonnes, but in 2020/2021 had risen to

60,000 tonnes after concerted public-private partnership efforts. Such a milestone indicates other crops can find markets worldwide, and join the traditional agricultural exports like tea, coffee, tobacco, cotton, and cashew nuts.

The deputy PS called for strong public-private partnerships (PPPs) at home and, on the other hand, with investors from around the world to make sure Tanzania agriculture produces reliable markets from around the globe.

He said the world market was huge for the maize compared to the about 1 million tonnes Tanzania had to offer, so market linkages were needed. "Our strategy is to become more competitive by increasing productivity," he noted.

The Agribusiness Deal Room is a matchmaking platform at the annual African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), which will take place in Nairobi from September 6th 2021.

Agriculture deputy Minister, Hussein Bashe has previ-



AGRA Tanzania Country manager Vianey Rweyendela

ously indicated that Tanzania will bid to host the forum in 2023.

Vianey Rweyendela, AGRA Tanzania Country Manager, explained that the deal room enables public and private sector as well as investors to link up to transform small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in agribusiness into bigger enterprises that can support big numbers of smallholder farmers. It makes the whole value chain more

profitable, he noted.

"We aim to reach more smallholder farmers. Partnerships that promote inclusiveness agribusiness growth are essential," Vianey said, urging Tanzanians in agribusiness to participate in big numbers in the 2021 Deal Room and pitch to access finance and partnership opportunities.

Thanks to last year's dealroom, two Tanzania SMEs and a cooperative society - G2L Co, Wakulima Agri-Food

Company and Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), were at advanced stages in negotiations with financiers. "The entities are likely to clinch deals which will potentially open up room for them to grow exponentially," noted Rweyendela.

He noted that Tanzania's participation in AGRF, including dealroom and thereafter UN Food Systems Summit (FSS), was vital in the battle to achieve a sustainable food system, and in the case of Tanzania, where the smallholder farmer is at the centre stage.

Private sector representative Mr Geoffrey Kirenga, also Southern Agricultural Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) CEO, noted that the private sector in Tanzania works closely with smallholder farmers, and public and private sector partnerships are vital for growth.

He warned that food imports were like importing jobs, whereas in Tanzania, the

country is more than capable of producing enough for food security and sale to the global market.

He called for concerted efforts to grow agribusiness into a formidable export business and help create over eight million jobs in the coming five years.

He expressed gratitude to AGRA for facilitating increased participation of private sectors in Tanzania, including crafting the Tanzania Agro-industries Development Flagship (TAIDF).

Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), which facilitates investors to establish manufacturing projects in THE country, among other investments, noted there were myriad investment opportunities in the agriculture sector. Ms Diana Ladislav reported investment opportunities ranging from manufacturing agriculture implements and machinery, processing, sugar, cotton, edible oils, livestock, and fisheries.

A tale of two celebrity trials: How the media have come in

By Jon Allsop

IN-PERSON jury selection only days ago began in the trial of Elizabeth Holmes, the founder of the Silicon Valley blood-testing startup Theranos. She faces fraud charges over claims she made aggrandizing the company's technology.

Prospective jurors were asked extensive written questions about their media diet, including their knowledge of a specific longform book, documentary, and podcast series about Holmes.

Around half of two hundred or so possible jurors had followed some media about the case and, per Holmes's lawyer, thirty or so were familiar with one of the longer works.

The lawyer argued that the judge in the case shouldn't even screen the latter group for bias, lest his questions contaminate the jury pool as a whole.

The judge seemed to balk at that suggestion, but he took care to steer clear of substantive details in his questions about media consumption, instead asking when possible jurors last heard about Holmes.

One candidate was dismissed because he works at a radio station. Another said he had been pinged by a news alert about the start of jury selection and thought, "yeah, yeah, I know".

Holmes has long been hard for news consumers to avoid - various reports about the trial referred to her as a one-time media darling.

In the heyday of Theranos, Holmes aggressively styled herself as a dazzling Silicon Valley success story with a Steve Jobs aesthetic and a juicing regimen, and many reporters lapped it up without scrutinizing the many

mysteries of the technology she was hawking.

Holmes astutely played the tech-media access game and won glowing profiles in major media outlets at key moments for her company.

As Benjamin Wallace wrote recently for New York, journalists "in some sense created Theranos, splashing Holmes and her Jobsian black turtle-neck on the covers of magazines like Forbes, Fortune and the Times's T".

Roger Parloff, who wrote the Fortune cover story, later admitted that he had been duped by Holmes. He may now be called to testify in Holmes's trial, with prosecutors making the case that she intentionally courted over-the-top media coverage as part of a ploy to excite investors.

"The articles made it a lot easier for these investors to be defrauded," a prosecutor said in May, adding that Holmes's lies, and her failure to correct them, were "an important tool the defendant used to commit the fraud".

If journalists in some sense created Theranos, in another sense they took it down. In recent years, the company has been the subject of some excellent investigative reporting, most notably by John Carreyrou. He published a damning series of articles about Theranos in the Wall Street Journal starting in 2015, and later wrote Bad Blood, the book about the company that appeared on possible jurors' questionnaires.

The credulous coverage of Holmes was one reason that Carreyrou decided to start investigating the company, particularly puzzled by a passage in a New Yorker profile which referred to her "comically vague" description of a Theranos machine.

("A chemistry is performed so that



Elizabeth Holmes

a chemical reaction occurs and generates a signal from the chemical interaction.")

As publication neared, Carreyrou had to face down a series of threats from Theranos - an army of lawyers marched into the Journal's newsroom and threatened to sue. Holmes tried, without success, to have Rupert Murdoch, the Journal's owner and a Theranos investor, kill the story.

"Elizabeth and her henchmen pulled out all the stops to try to keep me from reporting what I'd discovered," Carreyrou says in Bad Blood: The Final Chapter, a new podcast pegged to the trial.

"They had my sources followed by private investigators... They threatened doctors who had spoken to me and tried to get them to recant," he added.

The media have been similarly central to another high-profile trial that is playing out: that of R. Kelly, the R&B singer who faces charges of racketeering and sex trafficking linked to his reported abuse of women, girls and a boy.

As with Holmes, the media bur-nished Kelly's legend for years - as

CJR's Alexandria Neason wrote in 2019, the press assumed "a passive role, giving Kelly magazine covers, features and positive music reviews" - and dogged investigative reporting, including articles by music journalist Jim DeRogatis and dream hampton's documentary Surviving R. Kelly, aided his fall from grace.

There are important differences between the two cases, not least the fact that DeRogatis first reported allegations against Kelly way back in 2000. Still, media complicity and accountability are clearly both at issue in both.

As with the Holmes story, the media have also been a player in Kelly's trial itself. There was a concern, during jury selection, that Kelly's high media profile would make it hard to seat unbiased jurors.

Press coverage has also been at the core of some of the allegations against him. Last week, a witness told the court that Kelly barred women living in his home from watching hampton's documentary, forcing them to "immediately change the channel" should it come on.

The same witness alleged that Kelly lurked in the shadows when Gayle King, of CBS News, interviewed her and another woman about Kelly's alleged abuses in 2019, coughing to remind the women of his presence and keep them on message. King also interviewed Kelly, who cried and angrily jumped to his feet in response to questions.

Both trials, of course, are playing out under an intense spotlight; Kari Paul, who covered the start of the Holmes trial for The Guardian, referred to the scene at the courthouse yesterday as a "media circus".

In his new podcast, Carreyrou previewed Holmes's likely legal strategy: present herself as a puppet of Sunny Balwani, an older Theranos executive who was once Holmes's romantic partner, and, essentially, try to convince the jury - and, by logical extension, the press and public following the trial - that she's still the Elizabeth Holmes that starred in so much glowing media coverage.

"Elizabeth knows how to tell stories that strike an emotional chord," Carreyrou said.

(He and other observers have even speculated that Holmes recently had a baby as a piece of "theater".)

The image softening may not work, Carreyrou added, but "after years of reporting on her, I have to say: if anyone is brazen enough, sly enough to pull this off, it might just be Elizabeth Holmes".

More: R. Kelly, I: As R. Kelly's trial got under way in New York, news organisations learned that they and members of the public would not be allowed to observe directly in the courtroom.

"Attorneys representing multiple media outlets requested to have at least a limited pool of reporters allowed into the courtroom," CNN reported at the time, but the judge said NO, citing "the need to spread out jurors in the gallery" and the inappropriateness of "seating jurors with members of the public, including reporters".

R. Kelly, II: Also, as the trial got under way, Slate's Nitish Pawha asked DeRogatis how it would feel to see Kelly take the stand after reporting on him for so long.

DeRogatis said that he spoke ahead of the trial with hampton,

and that they "both agreed that, despite all the work we have done in reporting this story, we are fully expecting to be shocked by some of the things that come out in court".

DeRogatis added that while he doesn't think his feelings matter, he has "always been extraordinarily proud of the fact that in twenty years of reporting, there has not been a single clarification, correction, or legal threat".

Elizabeth Holmes, I: The potential witness list for the Holmes trial includes numerous very high-profile people who either invested in Theranos or served on its board, including Murdoch, Henry Kissinger and Trump's former defence secretary James Mattis.

In addition to Parloff, who wrote the Fortune story about Holmes, Carreyrou could also be called to testify. He told Bloomberg that, while he has yet to receive a subpoena, he'd be willing to do so - as long as it doesn't interfere with his podcast.

"I would be a very good witness for the prosecution and a terrible one for the defence," he said.

Elizabeth Holmes (x) II: As Elizabeth Holmes went to trial, another Elizabeth Holmes, an author and reporter for the Journal, reshaped an essay she wrote for Marie Claire, in 2018, on "the perils of having an infamous name twin".

"The web has made it much easier to find your name twin," the latter Holmes wrote, adding: "and name confusion online can be a problem IRL, resulting in misfired emails, inaccurate search results, and social media firestorms. The 24/7 news cycle fans the flames, speeding up the time from unknown entity to household name."

CJR

THE LAW & YOU

Does the law compel one to testify against one's own spouse?

By Telesphor Magobe

SUPPOSE your spouse is wanted by the police in connection with a criminal offence you are aware of and you are summoned to testify as a prosecution witness, what are you entitled to?

Generally speaking, in the light of Section 127(I) of the Evidence Act: "Every person is competent to testify in court unless the court considers that the person is incapable of understanding questions put to him or her or of giving rational answers to those questions due to tender age, extreme old age, bodily or mental disease or any other similar cause."

However, Section 130(I) provides that "where a person charged with an offence is the husband or the wife of another person, that other person shall be a competent, but not a compellable prosecution witness". Thus, you may be a competent witness, but you are not compelled to testify against your spouse.

One shall only be a competent and compellable prosecution witness in

any case, where one faces charges under Chapter XV of the Penal Code or under the Law of Marriage Act.

Chapter XV of the Penal Code concerns offences against morality such as rape, sexual assault, indecent assault, defilement of idiots or imbeciles or by husband of a wife aged below 18 years, sexual exploitation of children, grave sexual abuse, sexual harassment, procurement for prostitution, detention in any premises with intent, or in brothel, living on earnings of - or aiding - prostitution, conspiracy to induce unlawful sex and attempts to procure abortion, procuring own miscarriage and supplying drugs or instruments to procure abortion.

Others are unnatural offences, indecent practices between males, incest and indecent communication of photos, videos, pictures or images.

Under the Law of Marriage Act, one shall be a compellable witness with regard to provisions relating to marriage, personal and property rights as between husband and wife, separation, divorce and other matrimonial reliefs and other related



matters.

One shall be a competent and compellable prosecution witness in any case where the person facing charges is charged in respect of an act or omission affecting the person or property of the wife or husband, or any of the wives of a polygamous marriage of that person or the children of either or any of them.

Where a person who the court has reason to believe is the husband or wife or, in a polygamous marriage, one of the wives of a person charged with an offence is called as a witness for the prosecution the court shall, except in the cases specified in Section 130(2) of the Law of Evidence Act, ensure that the person is made

aware, before giving evidence, of the provisions of Section 130(I) and the evidence of that person shall not be admissible unless the court has recorded in the proceedings that this subsection has been complied with.

Section 130(4) provides further: "Every person charged with an offence and the wife, or in a polygamous marriage, one of the wives, or the husband, as the case may be, of the person so charged, shall be a competent witness for the defence at every stage of the proceedings where the person facing charges is charged solely or jointly with any other person, but a wife or the husband of the person so

charged shall not be called as a witness except upon the application of the person charged."

The law stipulates also that where any person is charged with an offence and a wife or the husband upon being called as a witness for the defence fails or refuses to give evidence as required, the prosecution as well as the court may, each in its own discretion, comment upon that failure or refusal to give evidence for the other spouse.

In light of Section 131, in all civil proceedings, the parties to the suit and the husband and wife or wives of any party to the suit, shall be competent and compellable witnesses.

In Matei Joseph v Republic [1993], the only eyewitness was the wife of the appellant, who testified as the first prosecution witness (PW1). Nevertheless, the provisions of Section 130 on the competence and compellability of spouses to give evidence against each other in criminal cases were not complied with by the trial court. The judge argued that the evidence

of a spouse, such as PW1, which was given contrary to the relevant mandatory provisions, was inadmissible and was of no legal effect.

In Akechi v R, Kisanga J, said: "It is not enough for the court of law to ask the spouse if he/she has objection to the other spouse to testify. The court shall ensure that the spouse is made aware of the provision of Section 130(3) and that has to be recorded."

In Kotia Mwamahusi v R, the appellant had two wives and decided to get rid of one of them (by killing her). During trial one of the co-wives was compelled to testify. On appeal, the judge quashed the conviction although there was other compelling evidence to implicate and convict the accused.

Therefore, it is good to be acquainted with the above provisions and know what you are compelled or not compelled to do when you are summoned to testify against your spouse.

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RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Table with 7 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY. Each column lists a detailed daily program schedule with times and program names.

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One [Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter] Radio One

BUSINESS



Amoako Boafo's piece of art.

ON-RECORD

Blue Origin successfully launched Amoako Boafo's artwork into space

ACCRA

The paintings by Ghana artist Amoako Boafo were on three parachute panels on the outside of the capsule at the very top. Boafo painted a self-portrait as well as portraits of his mother and a friend's mother, explaining "a mother's love comes from a place that is out of this world"

Blue Origin launched artwork painted on a capsule and a moon-landing navigation experiment into space Thursday, a month after sending founder Jeff Bezos on the company's first passenger flight. No one was aboard for Thursday's 10-minute flight, which included other experiments from NASA and others.

The paintings by Ghana artist Amoako Boafo were on three parachute panels on the outside of the capsule at the very top. Boafo painted a self-portrait as well as portraits of his mother and a friend's mother, explaining "a mother's love comes from a place that is out of this world," said Blue Origin launch commentator Kiah Erlich, a company official.

Schoolchildren from Ghana tuned into the launch webcast, according to Blue Origin. The Utah-based Uplift Aerospace Inc. commissioned Boafo's work, "Suborbital Triptych", as part of its new art-in-space program.

Queen Elizabeth recognises young Mozambican social entrepreneur

MAPUTO

Marta Vânia Uetela, representing Mozambique, aged 25, is the founder of BioMec, an organisation that produces high performance prostheses made of recycled plastic from the ocean. After seeing the difficulties a friend faced in acquiring a prosthesis, Marta developed an artificial leg using the plastic residuals from six bottles collected from the sea. [Photo courtesy: British High Commission Maputo]

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as Head of the Commonwealth, has today, 3 September, recognised Marta Vânia Uetela, representing Mozambique, as the 193rd Commonwealth Point of Light in honour of her exceptional voluntary service developing a prosthesis made from recycled plastics to sustainably benefit people with disabilities.

Marta, aged 25, is the founder of BioMec, an organisation that produces high performance prostheses made of recycled plastic from the ocean. After seeing the difficulties a friend faced in acquiring a prosthesis, Marta developed an artificial leg using the plastic residuals from six bottles collected from the sea.

Realising she could produce further high-performing prostheses which could not only help lift people's lives by increasing access to affordable artificial

limbs, but also promote sustainability and reduce plastic pollution by repurposing material, Marta launched her own start-up. 'BioMec' is now manufacturing further prostheses custom-made for individuals based on their ability needs, using a technology which increases compatibility between the residual limb and the prosthesis to create comfort.

As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London 2018, Her Majesty The Queen - as Head of the Commonwealth - is thanking inspirational volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations for the difference they are making in their communities and beyond, by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week. By sharing these stories of service, the Commonwealth Points of Light awards celebrate inspirational acts of volunteering across the Commonwealth and help inspire others to make their own contribution to tackling some of the greatest social challenges of our time.

Marta said: "It is with great enthusiasm that I receive the Commonwealth Points of Light award, thank you for sharing enthusiasm for the initiative and give motivation. I hope we can make people with mobility challenges have a life without limitations, full of possibilities and self-esteem."

ACTIVISM

Activists ask workplaces to have 'breastfeeding corners'

KIGALI

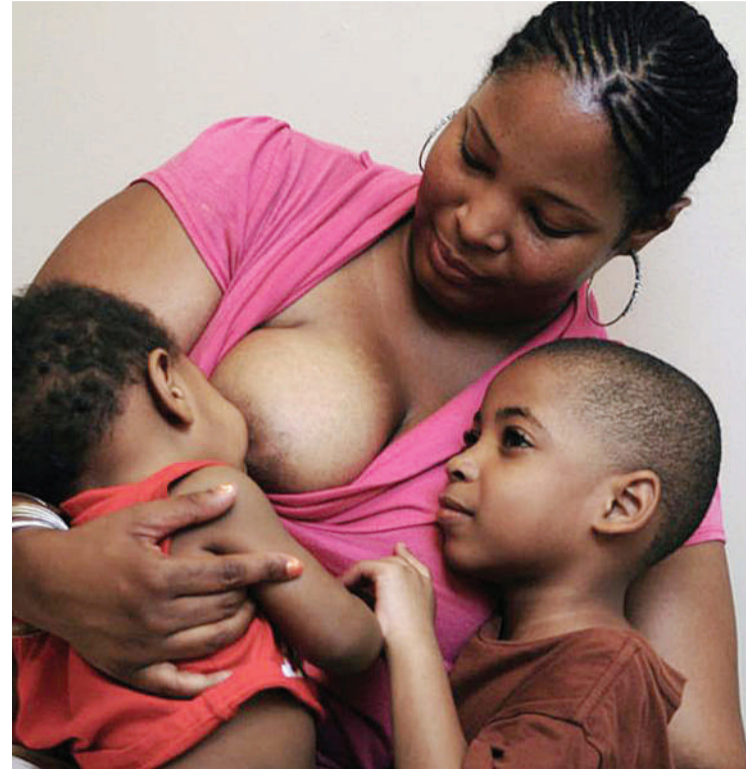
Local activists have called for more efforts towards sensitizing mothers about modern breastfeeding techniques.

Every first week of August, the world celebrates breastfeeding, the week aims to highlight the huge benefits that breastfeeding can bring to both the health and welfare of babies and mothers. This year's edition of the week was held under the theme: "Protecting breastfeeding: A shared responsibility."

Speaking about the current situation of breastfeeding in the country, different activists who were interviewed by The New Times cited challenges are facing the practice, as they called for modern ways to address them.

According to Sylvie Nsanga, a Social Justice Advocate, due to lack of comfortable places, some mothers - for example, those of working-class, tend to stop breastfeeding their children at an early age. "We can't call upon mothers to breastfeed responsibly ignoring the challenges they face," she said.

Here, she urged that policy-makers to work hand-in-hand with employers to ensure that comfortable places are reserved in working places such that mothers can breastfeed their children without compromising on their



Rwandan mothers breastfeeding at work.

work output. In addition to this, she suggested the use of modern techniques such as the breast pump, especially for working mothers.

"A breast pump can still be a solution to working-class mothers. But they need room to pump the milk and store it for their babies," she said, adding that such modern breastfeeding tips for safe

breastfeeding "should be taught to mothers." According to experts, breastfeeding is said to be the best source of infant nutrition, a robust diet that is easy for the baby to digest.

In addition to containing all the vitamins and nutrients that babies need in the first six months of their lives, breast milk is packaged with disease-fighting substances

that protect them from illness. In Rwanda, the percentage of exclusively breastfed infants decreases from 94 per cent among infants aged 0 to 1 month to 81 per cent among those aged 4 to 5 months.

Gilbert Munyemana, the Acting Director-General of the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) says that employers should give women longer maternity leave, and create for them safe places for breastfeeding at the workplace. He says one of the challenges that breastfeeding mothers face is related to the lack of time to go home and breastfeed.

Here, the proposed solution in that regard is the establishment of Early Childhood Development Centres settings at the workplace or breastfeeding rooms for mothers to breastfeed or pump milk for their babies.

Learning from the Covid-19 situation, Munyemana says they are examining the idea of fronting the option of having breastfeeding mothers work from home for at least three months after their maternity leave. "Mothers can be facilitated to exclusively breastfeed their children for 6 months," he said.

He further argued that, in the same line of thinking, fathers could also be considered for the work-from-home scheme so that they can support their wives in caring for their children in the first months of their life.

CAUTION

How maternal obesity increases cancer risk in unborn children

NAIROBI

Mercy got married in 2020 and was planning to have a baby this year. But after consulting with her doctor, she was advised to wait much longer, until her body is in optimal health or condition before conceiving.

As a 39-year-old woman suffering from obesity and high blood pressure, Mercy's doctor advised that it would be beneficial for her lose some calories and enjoy a healthy weight before becoming pregnant. "I discussed it with my husband and we decided that it was best to follow the advice given and wait, so as to prevent complications that could affect me or the baby because of the obesity," she states.

Mercy is now working with a nutrition and fitness expert to get guidance on healthy diets and exercises that will help with the weight loss. Obesity cases in Kenya are on the rise. Statistics from the Ministry of Health (MoH) indicate that 27 percent of Kenyans are either overweight or obese. But the percentage is slightly higher in women (38 percent) than men (17 percent).

For women of reproductive age, health experts caution that being obese predisposes them to certain health risks that aside from harming them, can also lead to long-term complications for the unborn child. Indeed, research shows that obesity increases the risk of pregnancy-linked hypertension (preeclampsia) and diabetes, which are major causes of maternal deaths.

Obese mothers are also likely to have stillbirths, preterm or premature babies, children with birth defects or deliveries of babies that are larger than normal. All these adverse effects increase the health risks for the child.

Aside from these health problems, research studies are increasingly finding a link between maternal obesity and



Pregnant mothers at a clinic in Nairobi.

cancer risk among babies born to affected women. A new study published in the Gut Journal indicates that infants born to obese pregnant women may have a heightened risk of developing colorectal cancer later in life.

The disease is a major contributor to the increasing cancer deaths in the country. It affects the colon and rectum, which are parts of the large intestine. Common symptoms include blood in the stool, a change in bowel movements (diarrhoea, constipation or lump in the abdomen), unexplained weight loss and fatigue.

The new research, which was led by public health experts at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston (UTHealth), state that maternal obesity and pregnancy weight gain may increase colo-

rectal cancer risks among offspring of affected mothers in two different ways.

"First, these maternal characteristics increase risk of obesity in adult offspring. And obesity is a well-known risk factor of colorectal cancer. Second, they may affect the developing gastrointestinal tract in the womb, making offspring more sensitive to colorectal cancer later in life," said Dr Caitlin Murphy, co-author of the study and an associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioural Sciences at UTHealth School of Public Health.

During the study, the research team analysed data from women who were pregnant between 1959 and 1966. After delivery, the health of more than 18,000 of the offspring was tracked for 60 years, to deter-

mine which ones had developed colorectal cancer in adulthood through 2019.

In the end, the results of the study showed that adult children whose mothers were obese during pregnancy faced more than double the risk of developing colorectal cancer, compared with those of healthy weight or underweight mothers.

Timing of maternal weight gain was also associated with risk, regardless of a mother's obesity, according to the study. For mothers whose entire weight gain during pregnancy was below nine kilograms, having more weight gain early in pregnancy further increased the risk of colorectal cancer among their adult children.

Another determinant was birth weight. Based on the study, infants who weighed more than 4,000 grammes at birth had a greater chance of developing colorectal cancer as adults. The researchers noted that the findings of the study come at a critical time - given the increasing prevalence of maternal obesity and pregnancy weight gain - amidst the growing cases of colorectal cancer globally.

Current projections indicate that the global burden of colorectal cancer is expected to increase by 60 percent to more than two million new diagnoses and a million deaths by 2030. "Rates of colorectal cancer have increased rapidly in younger adults, but we know very little about what may explain this increase. These findings suggest that exposure in the womb is an important risk factor of colorectal cancer and may contribute to increasing rates of disease," noted Dr Murphy.

Due to low awareness on underlying conditions like obesity that can have monumental effects on pregnancy, health experts advise women to undergo health check-ups or screening before conceiving because once pregnancy happens, it may be too late to avert some of the adverse complications.

EQUALITY

The rise of female e-hailing entrepreneurs in Africa

ACCRA

Given the high rate of unemployment, the rise of entrepreneurs in sub-Saharan Africa is growing at an exponential rate with different individuals being drawn to the flexibility of being a business owner as well as the sustainable earning opportunities.

To celebrate Women's Month, we are putting the spotlight on Uber's female drivers who wear many hats and continue to be industrious, focused and resilient. Meet some of the Uber drivers from across Africa, as they give us a glimpse into their lives and show what inspires them, what they enjoy most about their work, and what the future holds for them.

Palesa Sempe - South Africa

Palesa started her career as an Uber driver four years ago, after being retrenched from her then job and being without work for four years. Palesa is now back in the driver's seat of her own life as an Uber driver. Palesa, a single mom to two boys, is now able to provide for her children and is breaking barriers as a woman in what is traditionally viewed as a man's job.

"Being an Uber driver has helped me survive as I don't bother anyone for financial help. I am able to put food on



Mavis in Ghana.

the table and take care of my kids. I would really encourage anyone looking for financial freedom to consider driving for Uber, as it has helped me maintain my family."

Jane - Kenya

Jane joined Uber after losing

her job and staying at home with nothing to do for five months due to unemployment. Before driving with Uber, Jane was a volunteer driver and then worked as a driver for a Nairobi family for a few months. She says driving comes naturally to her. Jane has been an

Uber driver for almost four years and has a rating of 4.93 which she believes is a testament to her good service and reliability as a driver.

When asked about what she appreciates most about driving with Uber she says, "Uber's customer care service is good to me

as a driver and our customers. In case of anything, they are always able to sort it out."

Mavis - Ghana

Mavis joined Uber after working for the now-defunct UT Bank for 13 years. She wanted to start her cooking business and also make enough money to support her family. Mavis explains, "It wasn't an easy period but I had to look for another source of income immediately. I started cooking on a contract basis for events and cooking for individuals in their homes. After some time, I realised I couldn't depend solely on that so the idea of using my vehicle for Uber came up."

She said most people were excited to ride with women as women were more careful in driving. "The compliments I receive from my customers are encouraging. Users of the app are able to rate the driver after the service. The highest rating is 'five stars' and currently I have '4.86', which is commendable," she noted. As we celebrate Women's Month, Uber continues to uplift local residents with its economic opportunities that will empower them and their lives.

OUTSTANDING

SA woman beats 30,000 hopefuls to become Africa's first Toastmasters World Champ

CAPE TOWN

Winning an international championship is something 46-year-old Capetonian, Verity Price, doesn't take lightly. It's surreal.

She may have beat 30 000 participants from 149 countries to become the sixth woman and first African to win the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking, but she wasn't always an exceptional public speaker. She tells W24 that she suffered terribly from fear of public speaking when she was younger.

"In fact, I would bunk school if it was my turn to read the bible in assembly," she says. Her saving grace came when she discovered her musical talent, and started writing songs. She realised that she needed to overcome her fear if she wanted to sing on a stage.

"The thing that got me to face my fear was having a dream and message that was bigger than my terror. That got me to take the first step, but from there I surrounded myself with people who built me up and helped me to feel more confident," she says.

"I can't recommend Toastmasters enough as a programme to help people overcome their fear of speaking in public. It provides a safe place to find your voice and learn how to speak with confidence." After that, Verity became one of the world's first online crowdfunding when she pre-sold 2 000 copies of her debut album back in 2005 as a professional singer.

"When I was singing professionally, I hit an obstacle of not having money to record my first album. After a brainstorming session with my sister, we came up with an idea to ask people to buy my album before I recorded it. This was 2005, so long before crowdfunding was a thing. I sold 2 000 copies in 25 countries and became a lot more famous for thinking differently than singing," she remembers. Little did the psychology and anthropology graduate realise that her affinity for speaking would lead her on a new path.

EXERCISING

NAIROBI

When Fred Oyugi first heard about bouncing on a trampoline, he was curious. A fitness aficionado, he wondered if these rebounding, aerobic exercises would be effective in the shedding of extra pounds and improve the body's stability. The only to do that was to try it out.

"I was apprehensive because trampolines are for children. But I jumped right on it. Three months in, rebounding as a fat-buster is no child's play. I've lost 16 kilos jumping up and down this mini-trampoline for an hour, four to five times a week. The cherry on top is that it's so much fun," Mr Oyugi says.

Rebounding exercises are gaining popularity as mini-trampolines find their way into gyms as fitness equipment. The recent craze is driven by the appeal a trampoline possesses. Rebounding is an enjoyable and easy way to exercise, age-friendly and tremendously improves the body's health and fitness levels.

"The exercises are also low-impact which means you don't have to worry about your joints as in typical aerobic exercises like jogging and running, making them more beginner-friendly," says Isaac Okoth, a fitness instructor at SDG Fitness in Nairobi.

For the past one year, Mr Okoth, has been offering rebounding exercises to his clients who include Mr Oyugi. He says he had introduced mini-trampolines as a way to add variety to the aerobic exercises but was not prepared for the reception he got. "We only have 10 trampolines and there's not a time when the class is not

Losing weight on a trampoline



SDG gym trainer Isaac Okoth leads a trampoline class at the gym in Nairobi.

full," he says.

The benefits of rebounding exercises abound. They enhance balance and coordination, build strength, boost endurance, reduce stress levels, and increase the heart rate which in turn leads to burning more calories. Mr Oyugi also shares that these exercises can also improve knee and ankle injuries.

"Trampoline exercises mainly work on the back, legs and core," the 31-year-old fitness instructor says. They may be low-impact but what they don't lack in intensity. The bouncing up and down drives up oxygen intake and the force exerted back to you by the trampoline requires

your core muscles to work harder to maintain balance all through the workout session. That is what makes this work out unique and exciting." With that, the demonstration exercise session begins.

First up is a warm-up to activate the joints and the body muscles. It includes slow jumps on the trampoline, side steps and slow high knees. All participants have to do is follow the instructor, Mr Okoth, and the music which guides the tempo of the workout.

With the body juiced up, it's time for the real workout session. I watch as the participants jump up and down the mini-trampolines. They are to

follow the pace of the instructor, follow his instructions and maintain balance. Mr Okoth is not going slow on them.

Some of the exercises done include fast jogging, jumping jacks, high knees, speed punches and speed bounces. Fifteen minutes later, they are drenched in sweat with elevated heartbeats and broad smiles.

"It's a lot of heart-pumping and balancing acts which are really good for your cardiovascular system and body balance," reveals Mr Oyugi after the session is done. Other exercises that can be done include pelvic floor exercises, jumping twists, squat lunges among others. To make it even more challenging, you can carry weights. Furthermore, the trampoline comes in handy in working out the biceps and triceps, for core exercises like mountain climbers as well.

Mr Oyugi shares that the first few sessions of the workout are hard for newbies as one is trying to figure out the moves and body coordination. "The last 30 minutes are a lot of fun. Once you get the hang of it, you don't want the class to end." In search of an interesting way to challenge her body, lose weight and keep fit, Ivy Njeri decided to try out rebounding exercises.

"At first I was scared because falling is a real possibility but the more I kept showing up, the more comfortable I got," the 30-year-old says. As a result of bouncing up and down the mini-trampoline, Ms Njeri has lost 11 kilograms.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Fashion label Bulga is reviving traditional Egyptian shoes with artisanal touch

CAIRO

If modern-day Egyptians were to step into a time machine and set the dials to a few hundred years past, they would find themselves in a Cairo where the most common kind of shoe among all social classes was the balgha or bulgha. This backless, heelless slip-on design is now witnessing a comeback.

In Cairo, one brand in particular is keeping the centuries-old shoemaking tradition alive. Founded in 2016, Bulga is a fashion label owned and managed by two very different women: one, a western-educated former journalist and political activist with a cutting pragmatism, and the other a softly spoken artist who spent a great deal of her life diligently studying the various kinds of craftsmanship Egyptian tribal artisans specialise in.

"We came together because

of our love for crafts, but we wanted to do it in a different way. The bulgha, as it is called in Arabic, is an authentic aspect of Egyptian heritage that used to be worn in all of North Africa in the 1800s," says Gigi Ibrahim, who manages the sales, PR and advertising aspects of the company.

Ibrahim's business partner, Mona Sorour, brings to the table an encyclopaedic knowledge of now unconventional artistic mediums, which she studied at one of Cairo's governmental art schools. Sorour is Bulga's principal designer and oversees the brand's production wing.

She is also an avid user of alternative materials in her art and, during her chat with The National, exhibited some of her works. One item in her varied portfolio is a sketch of a shoe designed around the incorporation of a dried fish skin, leftovers from one of her

meals. "I was eating feseekh one time and I just loved the way the skin looked. I treated and dried it to get the smell out and pasted it into my sketchbook," she recounts.

The introduction of mass-produced items, often made in China, seriously diminished the role of traditional craftsmanship in the Egyptian fashion market, says Ibrahim. She says the loss of this kind of perspective was one of the main reasons she and Sorour decided to launch Bulga and breathe new life into traditional craftsmanship.

"Our main mission was to revive old traditional Egyptian crafts [and bring them] back into the modern market, so first and foremost we had to ensure our designs could be made in a practical and functional way."

Both women also ensure they would wear the designs themselves before pumping them out into the market. Made

at various workshops across Egypt, Bulga's shoes are sourced and manufactured with all-Egyptian raw materials and labour. It also manufactures select items for other brands the duo collaborate with.

At the heart of Bulga's business philosophy is a pride in the artisanal prowess of various indigenous tribes who live in some of Egypt's most distant and least explored corners, just beyond the reach of urban development and modernity.

Shalateen, one of Bulga's most popular collections, is the result of a collaboration with Ababda women. They hail from the city of Shalateen in the south of the country, on the coast of the Red Sea, and have spent most of their lives working with leather. "Leather is the bread and butter of Ababda women, they craft it in a way that was passed down from woman to woman for centuries," explains Sorour.



Bulga's head designer, Mona Sorour, oversees operations at the fashion label's Cairo workshop.

WORLD

Taliban co-founder Baradar 'to lead new Afghanistan govt'

TALIBAN co-founder Mullah Baradar will lead a new Afghan government set to be announced shortly, sources in the Islamist group said yesterday, as its fighters battled forces loyal to the vanquished republic in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul.

The new government's most immediate priority, however, should be to stave off the collapse of an economy grappling with drought and the ravages of a conflict that killed an estimated 240,000 Afghans.

Baradar (pictured), who heads the Taliban's political office, will be joined by Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of late Taliban co-founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, in senior positions in the government, three sources said.

"All the top leaders have arrived in Kabul, where preparations are in final stages to announce the new government," one Taliban official told Reuters, on condition of anonymity.

Haibatullah Akhunnzada, the Taliban's supreme religious leader, will focus on religious matters and governance within the framework of Islam, another Taliban source said.

The Taliban, which seized Kabul on

Aug 15 after sweeping across most of the country, have faced resistance in the Panjshir Valley, where there have been reports of heavy fighting and casualties.

Several thousand fighters of regional militias and remnants of the government's armed forces have massed in the rugged valley under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud, the son of former Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud.

Efforts to negotiate a settlement appear to have broken down, with each side blaming the other for the failure.

While the Taliban have spoken of their desire to form a consensus government, a source close to the militant movement said the interim government now being formed would consist solely of Taliban members.

It would comprise 25 ministries, with a consultative council, or shura, of 12 Muslim scholars, the source added.

Also being planned within six to eight months is a loya jirga, or grand assembly, bringing together elders and representatives across Afghan society to discuss a constitution and the structure of the future government, the source said.

All the sources expected the interim government's cabinet to be finalized



soon but differed over exactly when, with some saying it was expected to be settled later yesterday while others felt it would take until the middle of next week.

Humanitarian catastrophe

The government's legitimacy in the eyes of international donors and investors will be crucial. Humanitarian groups have warned of impending catastrophe and the economy, reliant for years on millions of dollars of foreign aid, is near collapse.

Well before the Taliban took power, many Afghans were struggling to feed their families amid severe drought and millions could now face starvation, aid agencies say.

"Since August 15, we have seen the crisis accelerate and magnify, with the imminent economic collapse that is coming this country's way," Mary-Ellen McGroarty, the director of the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, told Reuters from Kabul.

The administration of US President Joe Biden has no plans to release billions in Afghan gold, investments and foreign currency reserves parked in the United States that it froze after the Taliban's takeover, read more

In a positive development, a senior

executive of Western Union Co said the remittance firm was resuming money-transfer services to Afghanistan in line with a US push to keep up humanitarian work.

Recognition

The Taliban enforced a form of sharia, or Islamic law, when it ruled from 1996 to 2001.

This time around, the movement has tried to present a more moderate face to the world, promising to protect human rights and refrain from reprisals against old enemies.

The United States, the European Union and others have cast doubt on such assurances, saying formal recognition of the new government, and the resultant flow of economic aid, was contingent on action. The Taliban have promised safe passage out of the country for any foreigners or Afghans left behind by the huge airlift that ended when US troops withdrew ahead of an Aug 31 deadline.

Thousands of Afghans, some without documents, others with pending US visa applications or whose families have mixed immigration status, also wait in "transit hubs" in third countries. **Agencies**

West continues imposing standards on other countries despite Afghan lessons, says Putin

VLADIVOSTOK

THE West continues the policy of imposing standards on other countries, despite the Afghan lessons, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) yesterday.

"Is this an end to some hegemony of the West? What is the matter? The matter is that these lessons, and these lessons do exist, should be correctly understood to make changes to real policy.

They say about Afghanistan: we got into there and made a lot of mistakes. However, they continue doing the same in relation to other countries. What do sanctions mean? This is the continuation of the same policy of imposing their standards," Putin said.

This concerns not only Russia but also other countries, including those in the Asia-Pacific region, the Russian leader said. "This also holds true of Latin America and elsewhere in the world.

If some major conclusions are made, then we can witness some global changes in world politics. Whether this is an end to dominance or not depends, first of all, on the economic potential of the countries that are present on the international scene," the Russian president said.

The task is to pull efforts working jointly with partners to achieve the best results in developing our own country, Putin stressed.

Then Russia's voice and significance will be growing and this will benefit both the Russian people and all of Russia's partners, he said. **Agencies**



Trudeau on defensive over poll call, few big blows at 1st debate

MONTREAL

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, struggling ahead of a Sept 20 election, came under concerted fire at a debate on Thursday from opponents who said he had no business calling an election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trudeau (pictured) and the leaders of three other parties took part in a sometimes heated two-hour French language debate, often speaking over each other. But unlike previous encounters, none of the four appeared to land a knock-out blow.

Trudeau triggered the vote last month just two years into a four-year mandate, saying Canadians needed to decide whether the Liberal government was right to spend billions of dollars to protect people and businesses from the pandemic.

Trudeau's ruling Liberals had a minority government, which left him dependent on other parties to govern. Surveys show that the Liberals' early big lead has vanished, leaving them neck and neck with the Conservatives of Erin O'Toole.

"We can work to do big things during a pandemic but we need a clear mandate ... to understand what Canadians want for the next years," Trudeau said.

"This is not the time for an election, during a pandemic," O'Toole retorted. Yves-Francois Blanchet then told Trudeau that the Parliament could easily have lasted four years.

A few minutes later Trudeau said that if he only obtained another minority there could be another election in 18 months' time, which would make it the eighth federal vote in 19 years.

The debate - the first of three - took part in Montreal, the largest city in the influential and predominantly French-speaking province of Quebec.

Liberal insiders say public unhappiness with the election, which is taking place two years early, is partly responsible for the party's slow start.

They also cite voter fatigue with Trudeau, who took power in late 2015 and retained office with a minority in 2019.

Quebec accounts for 78 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons and is crucial for any party seeking office.

The four leaders spent considerable time discussing Quebec matters, including a 2019 law on secularism which bans public employees from wearing religious symbols such as hijabs and turbans on the job.

Polls show the law - currently being challenged in the Quebec courts - is popular. But critics denounce it as racist and Trudeau said he would if necessary be prepared to challenge it federally, which could cost him political support. **Agencies**



Xi unveils new measures to facilitate trade in services

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Thursday unveiled a slew of new measures to facilitate trade in services in the country's latest efforts to share its development opportunities and boost global economic recovery.

China will explore the development of national demonstration zones to promote the innovative development of services trade and increase support for services sector in countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, Xi said while addressing the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) held in Beijing.

The country will optimize the rules for the services sector by supporting Beijing and other localities in piloting the alignment of domestic rules with the ones in high-standard international free trade agreements and in building digital trade demonstration zones, Xi said.

A stock exchange will be set up in Beijing to serve innovation-oriented small and medium-sized firms, Xi said.

"Let us join hands to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and get through these tough times," Xi said.

"Using peace, development and win-win cooperation as the 'golden key', we



Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2021 China International Fair for Trade in Services via video, on Thursday. Xinhua

will be able to address the challenges facing the world economy and international trade and investment, and create a brighter future for all," he said.

Themed "Towards Digital Future and Service Driven Development," the 2021 CIFTIS will last from Sept. 2 to Sept. 7. As a massive exhibition and trading platform dedicated to trade in services, the CIFTIS played an important role in

boosting worldwide trade last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global trade.

Addressing the CIFTIS in 2020, Xi made three proposals, calling on all countries to jointly foster an open and inclusive cooperation environment, work together to invigorate momentum for cooperation driven by innovation, and break new ground in win-win cooperation. **Xinhua**

European Union stresses support for upcoming Libyan elections

TRIPOLI

THE ambassador of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Libya stressed here on Thursday the EU's support for the upcoming elections in Libya.

Jose Antonio Sabadell (pictured) voiced this view dur-

ing a meeting with Emad Al-Sayeh, chairman of the Libyan Higher National Commission of Elections.

The meeting "covered developments of the elections according to the current political data, as well as the level of readiness of the Commission, especially following the

voter registration process, and the most important preparations for the next stage," said a statement issued by the



commission.

Sabadell praised "the commission's efforts for voters registration, which contributes to holding the elections on time," the statement said.

The ambassador expressed his delegation's readiness to cooperate with the commission to organize successful

elections.

The UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum in February selected a new executive authority of a unity government and a presidency council, whose main task is to prepare for the general elections to be held on Dec. 24 this year. **Agencies**

THERE'S nothing Washington can use to tarnish China in its politicized and intelligence community-led report on origin tracing of COVID-19.

However, U.S. politicians are still making arbitrary and irresponsible remarks to seek "presumption of guilt" against China, wrongly claiming that China "continues to hinder the global investigation, resist sharing information and blame other countries."

Just like how Washington fabricated Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction years ago, the so-called origin tracing report is another example of the U.S. deceiving and misleading the international society.

It once again proved that what these U.S. politicians truly want is

Blame game can't hide US failure in pandemic control

to discredit China with the lies they have fabricated, and cover up their failure in pandemic control and pass the buck to China under the disguise of origin tracing.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, some U.S. politicians have spent huge time on political manipulation and blame game, rather than pandemic control and saving lives. They called the once-in-a-century pandemic a "big flu" and missed the window period, refused to launch restrictions on social activities, and even ended lockdowns in advance to cater to capital.

Besides, they deceived U.S. citizens with multiple approaches, such as

information blockage, blocking and even blacklisting the experts who told the truth. They followed the "America first" principle and preached egoism in COVID-19 response, and arbitrarily defunded the WHO, withdrew from multiple organizations and hoarded anti-pandemic materials.

Politicizing the pandemic, the U.S. has laid down the powerful weapons of science and solidarity, and thus lost its bearings in the pandemic.

According to statistics from the Johns Hopkins University, the US has recorded over 39 million COVID-19 infections and 630,000 deaths. Both of the figures rank the first in the

world.

To cover up their failure in pandemic control is what motivated the U.S. politicians to manipulate origin tracing.

Over the past year, the U.S. has trapped in a weird cycle of "deterioration-alleviation-resurgence" regarding pandemic control. Recently, the vaccination process has become stagnant in the country, and there is also a serious resurgence in the daily numbers of new infections, deaths and hospitalizations.

An authoritative expert in public health from the U.S. admitted that the U.S. is failing to contain the Delta vari-

ant surge and is paying the "terrible price."

The U.S. failure in pandemic control is a serious lesson. However, U.S. politicians are not learning from it. On the contrary, they are doing everything to blame and frame up other countries.

Which one is more important, the lives of Americans or the private interests of U.S. politicians, the lives of the people around the world or the geopolitical strategies of the U.S.? When will Washington stop labeling the virus and politicizing the origin tracing?

Manipulating origin tracing and

ignoring science and facts, the U.S. believes it can cover up the truth by waving the big stick of hegemony. However, the opposing voices from the international society are only getting stronger. Even the U.S. public despises the ugly performance of U.S. politicians. In June this year, a former official of the U.S. Department of State revealed how Washington fabricated the "lab leak theory" in an open letter.

The former official said, to tarnish the Wuhan Institute of Virology, U.S. politicians even exaggerated the institute's budget for central air-conditioning by 1,000 times, so as to prove there's something "unusual" about it. However, they only proved that it's ridiculous to verify a lie with a lie.

People's Daily

The Guardian
www.guardian.co.uk

SPORT



Msama Promotions' Director, Alex Msama (C), speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam mid this week when the official made this year's gospel music festival's date change public. He has been flanked by a section of artists that will perform at the festival. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

2021's gospel music festival pushed back

By Allen Henjeweje & Erica Kyomo, TUDARCO

THIS year's gospel music festival, which had been set to take place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on October 31, has been pushed back.

Originally the festival, organized by Msama Promotion, was to be held on October 3, with various prominent gospel artists including Upendo Nkone performing.

Speaking to reporters in the city mid this week, Msama said the organizers have changed the date due to various reasons including health issues.

"Fans should be ready, as we have organized ourselves well and various popular artists will sing live," Msama noted.

He said the high-profile gospel music festival will go hand in hand with praying for the nation and giving thanks to God.

He added that Tanzanians and neighbouring countries' people, who love and follow the festival, should expect to witness the wonders and blessings of gospel songs that will be performed on the day of the festival.

Msama maintained Tanzanian gospel music fanatics and their fellows in

countries within the East Africa region will be treated to the most glorious entertainment.

"This season's festival stands to be well organized, as it will be carrying an exhibition of gospel music that will be accompanied by special thanks to God, attendants will pray for the country to rise safely in this tragedy of COVID 19," the official disclosed.

Msama said his committee will strive to bring the genre's prominent musicians according to the festival's worth.

The official pointed out he hopes the event will have a different impact, as compared to the previous ones, and urged lovers of gospel music to be ready to receive God's blessings.

Msama, through his company, Msama Promotions, has contributed significantly to the growth of gospel music in the country through the firm's innovation to coordinate genre's events, ranging from the Easter Festival to the launch of the works of various gospel singers.

Msama Promotions' efforts have made gospel music so popular in and out of Tanzania that the genre has created employment for talented young artists ready to serve God via music.

Muumin composes single for lauding President Samia

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

NEWLY formed Dar es Salaam dance music troupe, Special Band, led by popular vocalist Mwinjuma Muumin, recently completed the production of two new songs, 'Hongera Mama Samia' and 'Salaam Maria'.

Muumin revealed in the city mid this week the two songs feature in the troupe's initiative, which centers on composing songs every month.

The musician revealed the troupe will begin working on videos for the two singles' videos this weekend.

Muumin noted: "We will start working on videos for these two singles from this weekend to make sure our followers enjoy the singles, we will keep on composing other songs."

The vocalist pointed out that the 'Hongera Mama Samia' song is all about good deeds which have been accomplished by the President from the date she was sworn in.

The artist stated: "Special Band felt there are many good deeds President Samia has accomplished in her regime, for that matter we felt we should compose a track for praising her."

The musician pointed out his troupe

is seeking to come up with a new track and they will tour several regions for shows and introduce the new album that was completed in June this year.

The 'Mkongwa wa Tembo' track, according to the artist, was the last song in the new album.

Muumin noted other songs, namely 'Fenesi', 'Kwa Mpalange Sihami', and 'Yumbi la Congo', are other tracks making the album.



Dar es Salaam's Special Band's vocalist, Mwinjuma Muumin.

Exciting ties boost 2021 Advanced Players League

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2021 Advanced Cricket Players League (APL) has not been short of pulsating ties, with duels that were played in the first two days of the showdown giving fans the much-needed enthusiasm.

One of the tournament's first-day ties brought together Royal Rhinos and Buffalo Blasters.

Royal Rhinos were led by Arshaan Jasani, a talented left-hander, and assistant skipper Ali Mpeka.

Buffalo Blasters were captained by experienced cricketer Kassim Nassor assisted by Jitin Pratap Singh.

The tie started with Nassor winning the toss and electing to bat, which was a good decision, but Buffalo Blasters' openers, Issa Kikasi and Dinesh Rabadiya, got out quickly.

Singh had a bit of bad luck as Nassor hit a straight drive, which came off Royal Rhinos' Kartik Syal's hand and hit the stump at the non-striker end, only to get Singh out of the crease same way Nassor got run out.

And with a lot of ups and down, Buffalo Blasters reached 110 runs all out in the 19th over with credit going to Royal Rhinos' pacer Kibwana Salum for taking five wickets.

Jasani, a proper batsman, showed the rest how to bat in slow pitches, proving cricket fanatics, who believe fresh pitches are always slow and not friendly to batsmen, wrong.

He ensured Royal Rhinos come out with a win with no hiccups, and the opener, along with fellow opener Nandakishan Potachira, put up a 98-run partnership.

With Potachira getting run out on 35 runs, which included two sixes, Jasani came not out ensuring the side wins with the cricketer posting the first score, which surpassed the half-century mark.



Royal Rhinos cricket team's players in a group photo after confronting Buffalo Blasters in a 2021 Advanced Players League (APL) clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. The squad is regarded as one of the enterprising outfits in the event. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Jasani just knows how to score runs in any condition and that is what a batsman should do.

A cricketer who gets his hands on the bat in a competition should never complain of the pitch condition.

It is all about applying and supplying, the youthful batsman applied himself and supplied runs, which is what is required in the game of cricket.

The performer, whose father, Ayzaz, is a well-known veteran cricketer that has helped Aga Khan Sports Club clinch silverware in many tournaments, is certainly following in the veteran's footsteps.

The opening day ties' best players' prizes went to Royal Rhinos' Kibwana Salum and Tembo Stars' Ankit Baghel, whose squad beat Twiga Titans by four wickets in the first clash.

Salum and Baghel as well turn out for Aces Cricket Club in regional club showpieces.

The second day's first game, which brought together Simba Kings and Tembo Stars, culminated with Tembo Stars having the last laugh after recording a six-wicket win.

Tembo Stars had won the toss, chose to bowl, and got Simba Kings all out for 110 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs courtesy of Harsheed Chohan's four wickets.

The in-form Chohan claimed wickets of Simba Kings' top three batsmen, openers Ivan Ismail and Kheel Suchak, and Jatin Darji, a cricketer slotted in at number three.

The youthful cricketer's showing made inroads through Simba

Kings' batting lineup.

Darji was the performer with the most runs as the top-order batsman ended with 46 runs, notching three boundaries and a six.

In reply, Tembo Stars did not have much to worry about, given they had lined up such gifted openers like Ankit Baghel and Nisar Ahmed.

The opener backed their power with clean hitting, cricket lovers saw Ahmed clear Simba Kings' Darji for four huge and flat sixes.

Ahmed was the cricketer with the most runs, he was eight runs short of a half-century, cracking three fours and four sixes.

Ultimately Chohan and captain, Riziki Kiseto, batted to close the game to ensure all was well for Tembo Stars.

Kiseto posted 14 runs not out, Chohan chipped in with seven runs not out.

The agile Tembo Stars mounted a successful chase for the loss of four wickets in 18.4 overs.

Tembo Stars have managed to maintain a solid showing, which has seen them lead the rest of the pack having posted four wins in as many fixtures as of Thursday.

Tembo Stars and Royal Rhinos had started the event well and were tipped to become some of the tournament favourites based on their game tactics.

Chohan won the best player of the match for this game, thanks to his four-wicket haul. Unity Computer firm sponsored the prize.

With the league fixtures having been set to come to an end yesterday, league leaders, Tem-

bo Stars, second-placed Buffalo Blasters, Royal Rhinos, and Simba Kings, who came third and fourth respectively, were well-placed to progress to the last four.

Tembo Stars' four wins in four matches have the league leaders notching a 0.8700 net run rate, Buffalo Blasters recorded victory in three fixtures out of four and ended with a 0.2500 net run rate.

Royal Rhinos had taken part in five clashes, commanding victory in two games and losing three matches, ultimately settling for a 0.5400 net run rate.

Much as Simba Kings were level with third-placed Royal Rhinos on matches won and lost, Simba Kings had ended with an inferior net run rate -0.1100.

The showpiece, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), is one of the tournaments hosted on regular basis, seeking to improve cricket promotion in the country.

The showpiece final will take place on September 5 at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval.

According to TCA information officer Atif Salim, Reliance Insurance firm and Azania Bank are this season's APL main sponsors.

The showdown's co-sponsors are GI Security, Harab Motors, Hitech Sai, Sterling, General Petroleum, and Pepsi.

Twiga Titans are the 2021 APL defending champions, they laid their hands on the 2020 competition's trophy after commanding a four-run victory over Chui Challengers in the final played on August 16.

16 countries set for 2021 Miss East Africa pageant

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

SIXTEEN countries have made themselves available for the 2021 Miss East Africa pageant, slated for November 26 in Dar es Salaam.

The pageant's organizer, Tanzanian Rena Callist, revealed in the city mid this week the event has been improved as there is an increase in prizes set aside for winners.

"A lot of issues have been improved in this year's contest, first of all, is the increase in the number of countries which will field models in it, the awards have also been improved compared to the past pageants," Callist disclosed.

The official mentioned countries that have confirmed to field models in the pageant as Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. Eritrea, Somalia, Malawi, Seychelles, Comoro Islands, Madagascar,



The Miss East Africa beauty pageant's president, Rena Callist (R), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam this week on the contest, slated for November 26. Looking on is the pageant's vice-president, Joy Mutesi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mauritius, and hosts Tanzania are the other participating countries.

He said: "You can see those that have confirmed to take part in the contest, this proves the level of improvement that has been accomplished, the awards are also impressive."

According to Callist, the contest's organizers have in this season set

out to hand over an award valued at 146m/-.

"This year's pageant's will be presented with a new car Nissan X Trail, which is worth 110m/-, the first runner-up will get 11m/-, the second runner-up will walk away with 5m/-," Callist disclosed.

The official revealed the organizers will hand over awards to the rest of the participants.

Callist pointed out: "We expect this pageant will be watched by over 300 people from all over the world via television and social media."

Callist revealed the pageant will benefit Tanzania, given the country will accommodate a lot of foreigners set to turn up for the event.

He added that Miss East Africa will offer Tanzania the opportunity to promote its tourist sites and boost the number of tourists.

Slimani hits four as Algeria crush 10-man Djibouti in World Cup qualifier

CAIRO

ISLAM Slimani scored four goals as Algeria equalled the widest winning margin for an African World Cup qualifier by crushing 10-man Djibouti 8-0 in a Group A rout on Thursday in Blida.

The Lyon forward netted twice in each half and the other scorers for the Desert Foxes were Ramy Bensebaini, Baghdad Bounedjah, captain Riyad Mahrez and Ramiz Zerrouki.

Former Leicester City player Slimani took his national team goal tally to 36, matching the record of retired Abdelhafid Tasfaout.

Slimani and Zerrouki were promoted by coach Djamel Belmadi in the only changes from the team that beat Senegal 1-0 in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations final in Cairo.

Victory stretched the African record for an unbeaten run by a national team to 28 matches with Algeria last losing away to Benin in October 2018.

Djibouti began the match as rank outsiders, lying 152 places below Algeria in the world rankings, and had defender Batio Mohamed Youssouf sent off midway through the first half having conceded once.

Burkina Faso, widely regarded as the only threat to Algeria, scored twice within three minutes through Lassina Traore and Mohamed Konate to defeat Niger 2-0 in Moroccan city Marrakesh.

Niger had to play the home fixture at a neutral venue because they are among eight countries, including Burkina Faso, whose stadiums were declared unfit to host World Cup fixtures.

Meanwhile, goals from Nayef Aguerd and Abouagla Ahmed, who put the ball into his own net, earned Group I favourites a 2-0 win over Sudan in Rabat.

Collecting maximum points took the Moroccans to the top of the table, two points ahead of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, who drew on Wednesday.

Democratic Republic of Congo, who are among the 10 top seeds, could only draw 1-1 at home to Tanzania in Group J in the southern city of Lubumbashi.

- Recalled Mbokani scores -

Appearing for the Congolese after a three-year absence, 35-year-old Dieumerci Mbokani scored after 23 minutes for a country that featured at the 1974 World Cup when called Zaire.

But the lead lasted just 13 minutes before Simon Mounie scored his second goal of the qualifying campaign to equalise, having netted in a preliminary match.

The stalemate allowed Benin to become leaders of the section a few hours later thanks to a 1-0 victory over Madagascar in Antananarivo.

Former English Premier League forward Steve Mounie scored the match-winner midway through the first half to give Benin a lift after recently failing to qualify for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations.

Charles Hambira scored for both sides as Namibia and Congo Brazzaville drew 1-1 in Group H, which two-time World Cup qualifiers Senegal lead after defeating Togo on Wednesday.

The centre-back headed in a Deon Hotto free-kick during the opening half, but had the misfortune of seeing a rebound off the post strike him and trickle into the Namibian net after half-time.

Namibia hosted the match in Soweto on the outskirts of Johannesburg because no stadium in Windhoek met international standards.

AFP

Argentina cruise against Venezuela as Brazil stay perfect

RIO DE JANEIRO

ARGENTINA maintained their unbeaten start to their World Cup qualifying campaign, cruising to a 3-1 victory at 10-man Venezuela on Thursday night.

But Brazil continued their perfect start to qualifying with a seventh win out of seven as Everton Ribeiro scored the only goal in a 1-0 away victory over Chile.

In his first match for his country since moving to Paris Saint-Germain, Lionel Messi struggled to stamp his authority on the match in Caracas, but it mattered little.

Lautaro Martinez opened the scoring in first half injury time after Venezuela had been reduced to 10 men by Luis Adrian Martinez's red card for a reckless challenge on Messi.

Argentina did not impress but the extra man told in the final quarter when substitutes Joaquin Correa and Angel Correa broke through.

Venezuela did not go home empty handed, though, as Yeferson Soteldo scored a cheeky "Panenka" penalty deep into injury time at the end of the game.

Argentina travel to Brazil on Sunday in a repeat of July's Copa America final, which they won 1-0 to end a 28-year wait for a major trophy.

"It will be a great, important match after the final we played," said Lautaro Martinez.

"We have to rest and then approach the match like we did to the Copa America final."

AFP

Sterling, England continue to rise above whatever abuse is thrown at them

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

RAHEEM Sterling is used to leading the way for England on and off the pitch. He shouldn't have to do so in such ugly circumstances as those witnessed in the Puskas Arena, but one powerful positive from such an unedifying evening is the reminder of what a remarkable talisman the 26-year-old has become.

The sizable minority came to the Puskas Arena on Thursday to spread fear through hate. They left silenced and bruised by England's crushing 4-0 win, Hungary's heaviest home defeat in a World Cup qualifier.

Plenty was made of the hostile atmosphere in Budapest in the build-up. Hungary already have to play their next two UEFA matches behind closed doors after incidents of discriminatory fan behaviour during Euro 2020, but this World Cup qualifier against England fell under FIFA's organisation, and so more than 60,000 fans packed into their €533 million stadium to create a raucous atmosphere.

Raucous is one thing, racist is another. The tone was set before kick-off as England's players were loudly booed for taking a knee, as they've done all summer as a means of making a statement against racism.

There has been some debate about how long players would continue with the gesture. The



Manchester City winger Sterling had a ball put on a plate for him by Mason Mount as he tapped home after half time. (Daily Mail)

reaction here was evidence of why they will not stop.

England went a long way toward winning the argument during Euro 2020. Their warm-up games in Middlesbrough against Austria and Romania were overshadowed by booing from sections of their own supporters as they took a knee, but that animosity gave way to applause on their run to the final.

But as the team has to start again in a footballing sense following that agonising final defeat to Italy, England had their resolve tested in one of the off-field issues this group has proudly and defiantly tackled under Gareth Southgate's thoughtful stewardship.

Sterling stands as a proud campaigner for racial equality and allied championing that cause with being England's best player at the

Euros, scoring three crucial goals and driving the team forward with purpose and conviction. After a summer in which he was linked with a move away from Manchester City -- possibly as a makeweight in a deal for Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane -- he picked up that duality of purpose with aplomb here, netting the opening goal 10 minutes into the second half, which sparked England into life.

After a tepid first-half display, the opening goal was the product of an excellent move as Declan Rice won the ball in midfield, then Jack Grealish fed the overlapping Mason Mount to pull the ball back for Sterling to finish first-time from 7 yards out. Several teammates gathered around Sterling as he was pelted with projectiles from the crowd, including plastic cups, one of which Rice

picked up and mimicked drinking from.

Sterling himself was too busy sending another message of his own, a poignant one at that. He took off his shirt to reveal an undergarment with the words "Love you forever Steffie Gregg" written in white letters, in honour of his friend who died recently from COVID-19 aged just 26.

England continued unbowed. Calvin Phillips won the ball back high up the pitch and suddenly Sterling was in space on the right wing. He saw Kane unmarked and opted to drive a cross in that took a slight deflection off Hungary defender Adam Szalai. Kane reacted first to head home. Harry Maguire met Luke Shaw's 69th-minute corner to extend England's advantage still further, prompting one fan to throw a flare onto the

pitch in among the other projectiles.

ITV reporter Gabriel Clarke, sat behind the goal England were attacking, then reported incidents of monkey chanting toward Sterling and substitute Jude Bellingham as he warmed up on the touchline. As the Hungary team collapsed, their fans' behaviour sank lower still.

Rice added a fourth with a tame shot from outside the box that squirmed under goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi to secure a result that takes England into a commanding position in Group I after just four games, holding a 5-point lead over Poland and Hungary. That notable achievement, however, was overshadowed as Southgate fielded questions about another shameful night for football off the pitch.

"I'm just getting an understanding of what's happened because we weren't really aware of it on the bench," said the England manager. "So it sounds like there have been some incidents."

"Everybody knows what we stand for as a team and that's completely unacceptable. Everything has been reported to UEFA and we have to see what happens from there."

"The [players] recognise that the world is changing and although some people are stuck in their ways of thinking and their prejudices, they are going to be the dinosaurs in the end because the world is modernising."

"Hungary isn't any-

where near as diverse in its population as our country is and so inevitably, it is still taking us a long, long time to get to where we need to get to. And if other countries don't have the same level of diversity, it is probably not been in their thinking in the same way it has in our country. We will continue to do what we do."

Southgate's rhetoric has always contained an element of self-admonishment, mindful of England's problems closer to home -- a concern exacerbated this summer by the crowd trouble that took place at Wembley prior to the Euro 2020 final and the racist abuse three of his own players received online after missing penalties in the ensuing shootout defeat.

Yet he also, regrettably, has had plenty of practice in dealing with this sort of chastening European night. In March 2019, England's Black players were abused as they beat Montenegro 5-1 in Podgorica. Similar scenes overshadowed their 6-0 win in Bulgaria later that year.

Yet on both occasions, England held their nerve on the field to deliver emphatic victories. Sterling scored once against Montenegro, twice against Bulgaria.

He now has 16 goals from his past 24 caps. And it is now 17 goal involvements in his past 12 qualifying matches across the Euros and World Cup.

No matter what is thrown at him, Sterling continues to rise above it all.

Man United hand Ronaldo iconic No. 7 shirt

LONDON

MANCHESTER United confirmed Cristiano Ronaldo will wear the No. 7 shirt after he rejoined the club from Juventus.

The Old Trafford side announced Ronaldo had officially signed on Monday after posting confirmation of an agreement with the player to make the move the previous Friday.

And on Thursday, moments after posting a teaser clip of a United shirt with Ronaldo's name on the back, the club announced he would wear the No. 7 shirt that has become part of his CR7 brand and which he wore during his first spell at the club.

Edinson Cavani had initially been handed the No. 7 shirt at the start of the campaign, having worn it last season, and appeared in Sunday's victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers in it.

United announced Cavani will take the No. 21 shirt -- vacated by Daniel James following his departure to Leeds United -- which he wears while playing for Uruguay.

United posted a tweet with an image of Ronaldo and Cavani arm-in-arm during an international match, along with the words "mark of the man" and a statement from the Portugal captain which

read: "I wasn't sure if I would be able to wear the No. 7 shirt again, so I would like to say huge thank you to Edi for this incredible gesture."

After leaving United, Ronaldo spent a season as Real Madrid's No. 9 while club legend Raul Gonzalez kept the No. 7 for his final season. Since then, Ronaldo has exclusively worn the No. 7 while at Madrid and then at Juventus, as well as for Portugal.

The No. 7 shirt holds iconic status at United, having previously been worn by George Best, Bryan Robson, Eric Cantona and David Beckham.

Since Ronaldo's departure in 2009, the players who wore it struggled to live up to expectation. Michael Owen took the No. 7 shirt for three seasons when he arrived that summer.

It was handed to Antonio Valencia in 2012 for a campaign but he returned to the No. 25 after suffering a dip in form.

United went into the 2013-14 season without a No. 7 before Angel Di Maria took the shirt, but Di Maria left for Paris Saint-Germain less than 12 months later. Next, it went to Memphis Depay and Alexis Sanchez before Cavani eventually took it in 2020.

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo is on course to make his second Manchester United debut



Cristiano Ronaldo

against Newcastle United on Sept. 11 after being released from the Portugal squad six days earlier than originally scheduled following his world

record goals against Republic of Ireland on Wednesday.

Ronaldo, who completed a €15 million transfer from Juventus

to United on Monday, moved clear of former Iran striker Ali Daei as the all-time leading goalscorer in international football by scoring his 110th and 111th goals for Portugal in the 2-1 World Cup qualifying win against Ireland in Faro.

But a yellow card issued by Slovenian referee Matej Jug after Ronaldo removed his shirt while celebrating his second goal resulted in the 36-year-old being suspended for Tuesday's qualifier against Azerbaijan in Baku.

Ronaldo had been due to play that game and Saturday's friendly against Qatar in Hungary, but with the goal record now secure, Portugal coach Fernando Santos has released the player from his squad for the Qatar encounter to enable him to fly to

Manchester and extend his preparation time ahead of the Newcastle clash at Old Trafford.

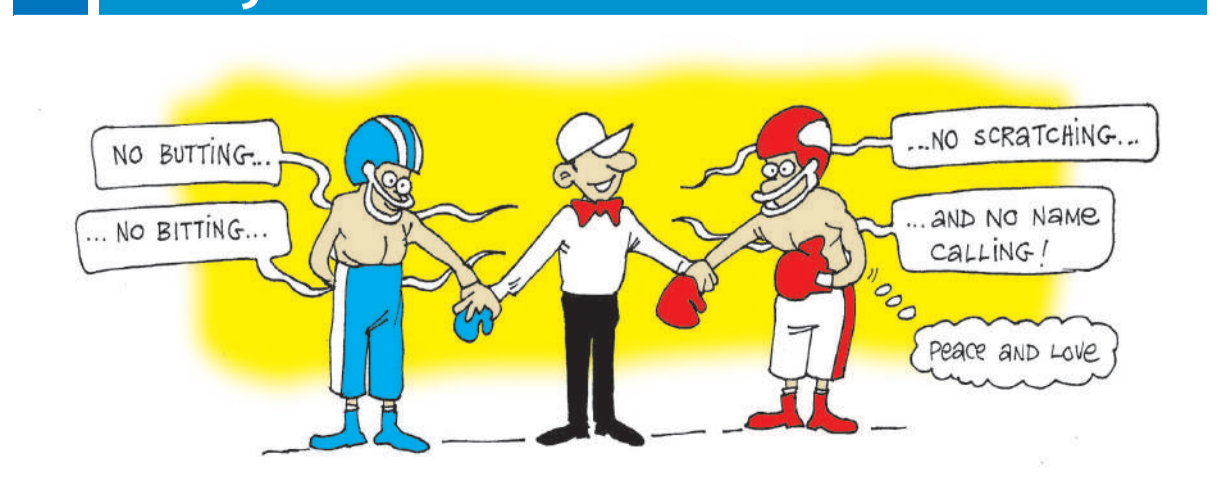
The decision saves Ronaldo two trips to Eastern Europe and will be regarded as a major boost for United and manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Ronaldo has not played for United since the 2009 Champions League final defeat against Barcelona in Rome, with the forward completing a then-world record £80m move to Real Madrid shortly afterwards.

But after making his first debut for United against Bolton in August 2003, he will now have at least a week in training with Solskjaer's squad before being available to make his second debut against Newcastle.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United hand Ronaldo iconic No. 7 shirt

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Kim Poulsen impressed by Taifa Stars' displays against DR Congo



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players shape up for African Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup's match against Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which took place in Lubumbashi on September 2. PHOTO: TFF

By correspondents Joseph

Mchekadona & Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, has hailed his charges for performing well against Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in African Qualifiers for 2022 World Cup's match on Thursday.

The Danish coach appealed to his players to work hard for next week's encounter against Madagascar, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Taifa Stars on Thursday settled for 1-1 draw against DRC at TP Mazembe Stadium in Lubumbashi in the World Cup Qualifiers' Group J fixture and the former will host Madagascar on Tuesday next week.

In a monitored interview, Poulsen said his charges should be hailed as they

played according to the instructions in the Thursday game.

"It was a tough game, to many, we were the underdogs but I'm happy that my players played according to instructions, we must now focus on our next week game against Madagascar at our backyard," he said.

The Danish coach said his players made some technical mistakes against DRC and he promised to work on them before the Madagascar game.

The coach sounded confident that they will do well against Madagascar.

"After this game, everything is looking good. The players are in good shape. The morale is high and I'm sure of good results in our next week encounter at home, we need to work hard," he said.

However, the coach must urge his players against complacency as they will be facing a team which is coming from a 1-0 defeat in the hands of Benin.

During the game, in which Taifa Stars featured a mixture of experienced players and youthful ones, the team was superior in tactics than the hosts.

Kuwait-based attacker, Dieumerci Mbokani, now playing for Kuwait SC, notched for the home team while Morocco-based Simon Msuva equalized for Taifa Stars.

Poulsen said: "Our game was tough, given our opponents were better and able to hold the ball for a while in the first half and get a goal that we were able to equalize."

"The players deserve congratulations for having done a great job against strong opponents."

"There are mistakes we committed and we will work

on them ahead of our next game against Madagascar."

"We will fight for victory and we believe that we will get cooperation from the fans," he said.

The towering Mbokani had DRC squad leading 1-0 on the 25th minute, effortlessly slotting in from close range, making the most of a cross floated in by Cédric Bakambu from the left.

Taifa Stars fought back and notched via Msuva in the 36th minute with a powerful shot that beat DRC squad's keeper and left the visitors posting vital point in the away fixture.

5 EATV

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SJELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

UJENZI

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Dar set to host Women Festival

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE maiden edition of Women Festival will be held mid this month at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, National Sports Council (NSC) disclosed.

Najaha Bakari, NSC Information Officer, said the festival will be held for three days starting from September 16 to September 18 at the venue, and it will involve a lot of activities involving women.

She said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is expected to be the guest of honour on the opening day of the festival.

She mentioned some of the activities scheduled for the day as sports, business exhibition, music performances and other activities.

The NSC official could not mention local female musicians who will perform at the festival, saying discussions with the musicians are in progress.

"Next week Dar es Salaam will be abuzz with activity as the city will host a series of events in the maiden Women Festival, there will be eight sports events, namely women football, netball, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, and basketball bringing together able-bodied ballers, jumping, tug-of-war, athletics, and boxing," she said.

The NSC Information Officer said the festival which will be held annually is aimed at showing the world women's potential in social and economical sectors.

She said NSC Acting Secretary General, Neema Msitha, is heading the organizing committee which is made up of women of substance drawn from several sectors in the country.

Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) Secretary General Lukelo Wililo said his body will be represented by two women boxing teams namely JKT and Ngome which will participate in three bouts.

He said there will also be professional boxing bouts, while Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) Chairperson, Devotha Marwa said they will be represented by JKT Mweni and Uhamiaji netball teams.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) head of technical committee, Michael Washa, said they will be represented by teams from national security services and plans are underway to feature female pupils and students who performed well at this year's national inter-primary schools' games (Umitashumta) and inter-secondary schools' games (Umisseta), which was held in Mtwara.

Officials of national sports associations for volleyball, basketball and football could not be reached to issue names of their teams which will take part in the festival.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's Yanga has intensified its preparations ahead of next weekend's CAF Champions League's preliminary round's match against Rivers United Football of Nigeria, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Razak Siwa, Yanga's assistant coach, said they will give their all in their quest to win the encounter.

He said although the side is training without some of its key players who are with their respective countries' national teams, he is confident that by the time they play the Nigerians, the team will be ready.

"We are doing all we can to prepare for our game against the Nigerians, yes we are missing the players who are with their respective countries' national teams but the players who are available are giving their best," he said.

Siwa, who serves as Yanga goalkeeping coach, said so on Thursday after his side beat Dar es Salaam's Friends Rangers 3-1 in a friendly at Avic Town ground in Kigamboni.

Yanga goals were scored by Ditram Nchimbi, Fiston Mayele and Yusuph Athuman.

He said Yanga will travel to Arusha today to play another international friendly match against Tusker FC of Kenya at Sheikh Abeid Karume Stadium on Sunday.

"If all goes well we will play an international friendly match with a Kenya team (Tusker FC)... then we will see what will happen next week, but I'm sure by the time we host the Nigerians we will be ready," he said.

After his side suffered 2-1 loss to Zanaco of Zambia in their first international friendly fixture, Siwa told his club's supporters not to lose hope as they are building a team.

Siwa said they are building a team and the Sunday international friendly match was used to try new combinations and techniques.

"People should not look too much in the clash's results, we used the game to try new combinations and new game plans, that is why you saw that we made several changes, our aim is to see which players can have a good partnership," he said.

Yanga steps up preps for CAF Champions League ties



Yanga's forwards, Yacouba Songne (L), and Dickson Ambundo, take part in training with their teammates in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's local and continental tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WILL YOU EAT WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT OR EAT WHAT YOU HAVE TO EAT?



EAT, I WILL!