



National Pg 2 Disconnection of water services



National Pg 4 TBS introduces online systems



National Pg 5 US awards grants civil societies



National Pg 6 Govt to review school curricula



Local firms want priority under EACOP project deals

By Correspondent James Kandoya

AS parties await the signing of the Host Government Agreement (HGA) to kick-start implementation of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), the local private sector wants Tanzanian firms to be given priority.

The HGA is expected to be inked anytime between the government, Total SA and the

China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd (CNOOC).

Francis Nanai, executive director of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said in an interview last week that TPSF has started engaging banks on the matter, and some have expressed readiness to issue loans to local firms should they win tenders in the pipeline

TURN TO PAGE 2



A scene from one of the sites of the laying of the 1,445-km East African Crude Oil Pipeline to run from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga Port in Tanzania, with implementation of the mega-project expected yet to start in earnest. File Photo

POSTCODE Page 5



PANDEMICS Page 6



Tourists applaud Serengeti COVID-19 testing facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FOREIGN tourists have applauded the recent decision by Tanzanian authorities to put up a Covid-19 testing centre within the Serengeti National Park, saying it saves time and resources.

The facility was rolled out by the park authorities in collaboration with the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO).

Chris Mears, the chief executive officer for the African Travel and Tourism Association (ATTA), sounded this appreciation in a letter to TATO CEO Sirili Akko, affirming that the opening of the Covid-19 testing centre at Seronera in Serengeti was well

received by ATTA members and their clients travelling to Tanzania.

ATTA is a member-driven trade association that promotes tourism to Africa from all corners of the world. Recognised as the voice of African tourism, ATTA serves and supports businesses in Africa representing buyers and suppliers of tourism products across 21 African countries.

Mears said ATTA members and tourists are impressed as the testing centre enables travellers to maximise their time in the parks and avoid cutting short their safaris to facilitate the testing required for their onward journey.

Dr. Wilbrod Slaa, the country's

TURN TO PAGE 2

Samia set for Nairobi on two-day state visit

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is starting a two-day state visit to Kenya tomorrow meant to cement ties between the two East African countries, following an invitation from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Gerson Msigwa, the director of presidential communications, said in a statement yesterday that the two leaders will hold talks and participate in other high-profile engagements.

She will address the National Assembly and the next day she will attend a joint business forum with members from the two countries' business community leaders, he said.

President Samia and President Kenyatta are expected to explore ways to further improve business relations between the two countries, particularly as Kenya is among leading investing countries in Tanzania.

A bright moment during the tour shall be the president's appearance at the Tanzania-Kenya business community forum in Nairobi, specially organised for the visit, where non-tariff barriers and facilitating investments are likely to feature high in the exchanges.

Addressing the Parliament last week, President Samia said that her administration will pursue economic

TURN TO PAGE 2

CORRUPTION Page 7



TANCDA Page 11



'Clarify charges on Z'bar goods'

By Guardian Reporters

A WEEK after the government announced lowering of charges on goods from Zanzibar at the port of Dar es Salaam, traders have called for clarity on specific goods and rates.

Reports said last week that cargo offloading at the port had been resolved and struck off, one among five contentious union issues whose solutions had been reached by the Joint Committee of the Isles and Union governments examining the issues.

Abdallah Mwinyi, a trader who leads a group of importers delivering goods from Zanzibar, said that apart from minor issues with regard to five or ten kilograms of items, bigger cargoes still face challenges in offloading and clearing.

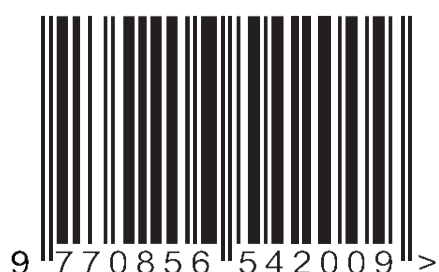
He said receipts for imported goods issued in Zanzibar can't be used to bring the consignment to Dar port, which means the situation has not changed.

In order for port receipts to be recognized on both sides, the issue of big loads or cargo must also be sorted out, where the port of Dar es Salaam needs to charge the same rates as Zanzibar, he

TURN TO PAGE 2



Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) registration officer Gabriel Girangay (R) pictured in Mwanza city at the weekend briefing (from-L, foreground) Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, Agriculture and Livestock minister Mashimba Ndaki and Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja on the agency's activities. This was at a just-ended business and tourism exhibition. PHOTO Correspondent



Local firms want priority in EACOP project deals

FROM PAGE 1
construction.

"We have a number of capable local companies that can participate in implementing the project. Some of our members are currently working on the ongoing Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project and they are doing a great job," he said.

"What we request is that the government and its partners in the project give priority to Tanzanian firms for works that we can do," he declared, noting that likewise in the SGR project, Mwanza-Isaka section, TPSF will play its role of providing members with appropriate information.

Local banks have agreed to provide loans to companies that will be awarded tenders in the EACOP implementation, with the firms only being required to submit Local Purchase Order (LPO) to get the relevant credits.

The banks are only waiting for the day when winners in the various tenders are announced and complete bank procedures, he stated.

"We are hopeful that the government will give priority to local bidders in the tenders. This will help in increasing their financial capacity and experience," said Nanai, citing the fact that many local companies have shown interest to participate in the massive project.

There are individual bidders and those who applied through a consortium, he pointed out.

Dr James Matarajio, director general of the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) said the project will kick start after the government signs the HGA,

saying that word of the signing date is still awaited from higher authorities.

Last month, Uganda, Tanzania and the two oil firms signed agreements to proceed with construction of the \$3.5bn crude oil pipeline to ship crude from fields in Hoima, northwestern Uganda to a facility close to the port of Tanga and onward to international markets.

France's Total and China's CNOOC operate Uganda's oilfields after Britain's Tullow exited the country last year.

The signatories have now agreed to 'start investment in the construction of infrastructure that will produce and transport the crude oil,' said Robert Kasande, permanent secretary at Uganda's ministry of energy.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and Tanzania's Samia Suluhu Hassan attended the signing of the three accords that included: a host government agreement for the pipeline, a tariff and transportation agreement and a shareholding agreement.

The planned East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), stretches 1,445 kilometres (898 miles), to cater for Uganda's crude which experts say is highly viscous, needing to be heated to be kept liquid enough to flow.

"This pipeline project can be the core of bigger deployments," said the Ugandan president. Investors could use the EACOP land corridor to put up another pipeline to ship gas from Tanzania and Mozambique to consumers in Uganda, Rwanda, Congo and other countries in the region, he added.



Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) director general of Dr Athuman Ngenya pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend addressing quality stakeholders and other guests at the launch of an integrated standards, quality assurance, metrology and testing (iSQMT) system and an e-learning portal. The systems have been developed by TBS and TradeMark East Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

stated.

Short of harmonised taxes, authorities need to clarify what goods are covered by the recent changes and what is the rate for goods not covered by the changed.

Zanzibar residents were happy about the changes, saying the move will reduce complications.

Speaking to this paper at different times, the residents said the charges they have been paying were severe as traders were being charged by both revenue agencies.

ADA TADEA chairman, Juma Ali Khatib said the move was the right thing because Tanzania is

'Clarify charges on Z'bar goods'

one country hence it is not right for one travelling with goods to the Mainland to pay taxes.

"This is the union that we want. What was going on was hurting one side of the union; we in ADA TADEA praise the step taken," he declared.

Salum Bimani, the director of public communications for ACT-Wazalendo in Zanzibar, said the step was a good one, noting however that there are bigger contentions that need to be addressed, including the Joint Consolidated Fund.

Referring to an issue that

has been cited as among those removed from contentious Union issues, he said that the fund established in 1984 has not benefited one side of the Union as its revenue was being spent in Tanzania Mainland.

"This is a Union fund for the two countries and was established by agreement from both sides hence it is not right for one side to consider itself as its sole beneficiary," he said.

Rashid Mchenga, a resident of Unguja said Tanzania was one country hence it would be better to have one rate of tax to reduce

the pangs of life facing traders and citizens in general.

He said removing the charge was a good step but its management should be properly focused as otherwise the government could lose revenues. Mainland traders would start offloading their goods in Zanzibar, he pointed out.

Maryam Juma, a resident of Amani in Unguja said when they travelling from Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam residents cannot even take presents for their relatives as such items as electronic accessories are slapped with charges upon arrival.



Dar es Salaam regional Sheikh Alhad Mussa Salum (L) serves himself iftar CRDB Bank Plc hosted in the city at the weekend. Others include the bank's CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-L) and Dar es Salaam mayor Omari Kumbilamoto (3rd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Do not disconnect water services on weekends and public holidays'

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WATER minister Jumaa Aweso has banned the practice by the country's water authorities to disconnect water supply during weekends or public holidays.

Speaking recently at a meeting with workers and staff of Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Aweso called on the water authorities to abide by the laws in regard to water provision and that water service must not be disconnected on during weekend and public holidays.

He called on EWURA to concentrate on the issues of water bills and loss of water saying these were hardcore problems.

"All public offices are close on weekends and public holidays, so where do you want water consumers to go and pay their bills? Educate consumers and being fond of disconnection water supply, besides even after one pays his bills he has 24 hours to be reconnected, reconnection is not kindness," he said.

He added: "Do not disconnect water on weekends or public holidays, and if you do that, why don't you open your offices on these days to

He said EWURA has the

responsibility to stand by the laws that clearly mention the days on which water must not be disconnected to any consumer.

He also called on EWURA to make sure water authorities improve infrastructures to control water leakages before water reaches customers.

"Water bill and water leakages are areas that you must concentrate on. For instance, in regard to Igunga-Tabora water project, I am told 60 per cent of water is lost on the way, I am surprised, you have to investigate that," he said.

In regard to water bills hardcore defaulters, the Minister called on EWURA to double its efforts in public education.

"It is a right for every Tanzanian to be supplied with water, but he must also not ignore his responsibility to pay the bills, he should be educated in order to make him proud to pay that bill, do not inflate the bills or charge him for any services which have not been endorsed by EWURA," Aweso added.

He praised EWURA for good work and called on workers and staff to work together to attain the goals for the institution's existence.

PS gives 7-day ultimatum on ensuring Hai irrigation canals are rid of all debris

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

AGRICULTURE Ministry Permanent Secretary Prof Sizza Tumbo has given seven days to the flooded irrigation schemes in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region to clear debris from all canals to allow farming activities to continue.

Prof. Tumbo gave the ultimatum at the weekend when he visited the Weruweru Irrigation Scheme that has been destroyed by flood water thereby stopping all farming activities.

"Farmers must contribute part of the cost via their communities and scheme leaders have the responsibility to ensure farmers' crops do not dry up.

"I have visited two areas, Kikavu Chini and Kimashuku at Weruweru and in both these areas the major canals have been adversely affected. I am instructing water consumers communities, in collaboration with the government to make sure they clear the canals to allow water to flow to the farms," he said.

He said it was the responsibility of the communities from the village to the national level to ensure they clean the big canals to allow water to flow.

Speaking on the two irrigation schemes, the Weruweru Councillor Abdallah Kassim said already efforts have been made to ensure the work is done in areas affected by floods. "Water from far away came in with logs and mud that broke the embankments of the canals. We have begun cleaning the canals in collaboration with farmers and more than 100 acres of rice have now received water," said.

For his part, the secretary of the Kikavu Chini Scheme Shariff Ally said already they have employed more than youth for cleaning the canals.

Samia set for Nairobi on two-day state visit

FROM PAGE 1

diplomacy with partners in the region and across the world, signaling intent to repair relations with the outside world.

The president has in recent weeks emphasised renewed efforts in economic diplomacy, urging better ties within the East African Community, the Southern Africa Development Community and facilitating accession to the recently operative Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This approach is pegged to a smoother domestic programme to attract investors, while sustaining the country's wider

engagements with United Nations agencies and several major bilateral relations.

"Our diplomats have to be competent in striking deals in investment and trade promotion as well as seek strategic partners in tourism," she had directed when swearing in permanent secretaries and top executives of key state agencies.

This will be the president's first full blown state visit, following a short visit to Uganda early last month for the signing of the multi-billion dollar oil pipeline construction project with French oil giant Total and CNOOC, a state owned Chinese oil conglomerate.

FROM PAGE 1

Tourists applaud Serengeti COVID-19 testing facilities

ambassador to Sweden and the Scandinavia, said in a communication that key travel agents are encouraged by the move to set up the Covid-19 specimen collection center within the park.

"Scandinavian travel agents cite the rollout of the Serengeti testing center as appropriate as it uplifts the mood among potential tourists. It is major step in attracting a significant number of holidaymakers in the near future," the envoy noted.

Key tour operators confirm that the pioneer Covid-19 specimen collection center has started stimulating new bookings.

Francisca Masika, the Director of Nature Responsible, said that for a month now, the firm has seen a surge of bookings with our prospective tourists citing the pioneer center at Serengeti as having convinced them to book safari.

Over the past month the company has received a total of 48 safari booking enquiries and 39 out of them were confirmed, and the rest remain on their desks.

She praised the collaboration between TANAPA, TATO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in setting up the facility, saying it

will contribute to faster recovery of the tourism industry in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

TATO chairman Willy Chambulo said that these efforts had started to pay dividends by enhancing the flow of tourism traffic by stimulating new bookings.

Commencing its operations on 13th February, 2021, the Seronera Covid-19 sample collection center is the first of its kind in the country, located at the heart of the Serengeti.

The park authorities have also deployed a fleet of recently procured ambulances in key national parks to render urgent services in case of need, after skies were reopened mid last year, with the vehicles being allocated to the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Kilimanjaro National Park and the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem.

Recently, TATO inked a deal with North American based, CornerSun Destination Marketing, to lead its tourism recovery strategy amidst the continuing COVID-19 environment and vaccination drives in Europe and North America.

CornerSun will combine its targeted communications expertise and strong travel trade

relations in the North American market to amplify awareness and visibility of the destination, to enhance future visitation.

"We are proud to partner with an agency such as CornerSun that has the strength and know-how to help Destination Tanzania not only to recover from this pandemic, but build back better," said Akko, taking up a trending American adage.

"We are confident in their ability to broaden the reach of our recovery strategy and help position Tanzania as a safe, top-of-mind destination amongst key North American travelers as the world begins to travel again."

Akko was grateful to the UNDP for supporting TATO's efforts to diversify its marketing strategy in order to attract more visitors and boost tourism numbers in the aftermath of the pandemic.

UNDP is supporting TATO as it implements its 'Tourism Recovery Strategy' to help spur businesses, recover thousands of lost jobs and generate revenue for the economy.

Representing over 300 tour operators, TATO is a leading liaison agency for the tourism industry, with their combined earnings estimated at \$2.05bn and equivalent to 17 per cent of the country's GDP.

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TBS, TMEA devise online systems to check quality of products and services

By Felister Peter

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) has introduced online systems to be used for training, standardisation and quality control of products and services.

The systems, Integrated Standards, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (iSQMT) and the e-learning web portal will see TBS automating its core processes, standards development, product certification, import inspection, metrology and testing.

"TBS is committed to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of citizens is kept through standardization and quality control of goods produced in the country as well as those imported from various countries," said the bureau's Director General, Dr Athuman Ngenya when speaking at the launch of the systems in Dar es Salaam over the weekend.

Dr Ngenya stated that the e-learning web portal would benefit all the stakeholders in the business and manufacturing sectors such as small and medium-sized enterprises, large manufacturers and traders. He said learning online would also enable trainees to re-read materials, thus improve their skills. He added the e-learning web portal would reduce training cost because entrepreneurs will be attending learning sessions from where they are. Through online training, TBS will reach and train a good number of entrepreneurs, he noted.

According to Dr Ngenya, the iSQMT system has been integrated with the e-government payment gateway platforms which guarantee fully automated processes from application and

acquisition of the final product.

"The iSQMT has several benefits including reduction in time and transaction cost as stakeholders will no longer need to visit TBS offices for services related to standards and quality control, training, collection of permits and certificates," said the TBS boss.

With the new online system, the DG said that TBS will see reduced incidences of loss and duplication of records since all the information required to process requests from stakeholders will be hosted within one system.

TMEA Tanzania Country Director, John Ulanga thanked its sponsors, the Commonwealth Development Office, Ireland and Norway for funding the development of two systems with a contribution of \$6000,000 for the iSQMT and \$350,000 for the e-learning web portal.

He said the support to TBS is meant to ensure that locally manufactured products as and imported ones meets the required international standards. He said they have for years been working to facilitate businesses within East Africa. He said the use of automated systems has catalyzed trade growth by providing efficient market linkages and enhancing business operations.

Ulanga added that for the past 10 years, TMEA has spent 160bn/- in various projects in Tanzania and that it has spent 7bn/- to support TBS in the last five years. He said they are planning to commit another 9bn/- to TBS in the coming three years.

According to him, TMEA works to ensure growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade, and that it also operates in neighbouring Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi, Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa arrives at Dar es Salaam's Diamond Jubilee Hall yesterday to stand as chief guest at the climax of an international Quran recital contest. Photo: PMO

NCAA pledges to resolve the issue of poor roads in the conservation area

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) has pledged to solve the issue regarding its poor road infrastructures to simplify tourism activities and to become friendly the sector's stakeholders engaged in transporting visitors.

The pledge was given at the weekend by NCAA senior Assistant Commissioner of Tourism Services Paulo Sifoo.

Sifoo was responding to problems raised by tourism sector's stakeholders at a joint meeting held in Arusha at the weekend.

He said: "The issue of poor road infrastructures in NCAA is being dealt with as fast as possible so that all bad roads should be passable with ease during all seasons. "We are continuing to make efforts via our work plan so that all roads in the NCAA should be passable throughout the year.

It is our vow to ensure that all roads are repaired."

He said another issue was the shortage of water in the area, to which Sifoo said it was also in the NCAA work plan. He said any time from now the area will start harvesting water.

Meanwhile, Sifoo warned drivers of vehicles transporting tourists, especially those of NCAA who violate driving laws in the area, including speeding, that stern measures would be taken

against them including heavy fines.

Earlier, some of the tourism stakeholders - Msangi halifa and Ridas Laizer said the main problem in the NCAA was the issue of poor road infrastructures.

They also thanked the Authority by resolving various challenges raised by tourism stakeholders that have been obstructing tourism activities in the conservation area and Olduvai.



Legal and Human Rights Centre training coordinator Joram Bwile makes a presentation at a capacity building workshop for under-18 mothers held at Kahama in Shinyanga Region. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

Enduimet, L. Natron and village scouts receive wildlife monitoring equipment

THE Tanzania natural resources forum, in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund have equipped local wildlife management areas authorities with equipment to enable them collect and document wildlife data and reports in their respective precincts.

The WWF country representative Prof Noah Sitati handed the gadgets to the managements of Enduimet and Lake Natron wildlife management areas shortly after the completion of training sessions for village game scouts.

Among the donated pieces of equipment include modern data-ready smartphone handsets, Power Banks for electric backup, binoculars and Wi-Fi Routers as well as physical suggestion boxes to collect information and opinions from local residents.

Meanwhile more than 40 Village Game Scouts from the two Wildlife Management Areas have completed three-day training on 'Community based natural resource management,' as well as Climate Change, aimed at enhancing local people's participation in active conservation activities.

Organized by the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF), the training sessions were held at Boma-Ng'ombe ward of Hai District in Kilimanjaro Region

and was attended by Game Scouts from Enduimet and Lake Natron Wildlife Management Areas. "Game scouts need to change their approach in handling issues of conservation through involving and in cooperating other citizens in the locality to make their work easier as well as reducing animosity that existed between conservators and community members in the past," stated the TNRF Director Faustin Zacharia.

TNRF in collaboration with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Centre for Research Cooperation (CRC) on the Village Game Scouts were trained on Management Oriented Monitoring Skills (MOMS) - a simplified conservation monitoring system that enables VGS to collect, store and relay on wildlife related matters on real time.

Some of the participants, including Juliana Paschal from Enduimet Wildlife Management Area and Ismail Jacob from Lake Natron WMA admitted that the training sessions provided them with new knowledge and skills to improve their knowledge on how to handle their day to day activities.

It was stated during the closing ceremony that Fauna and Flora

conservation in Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) was key to boosting local ecotourism and livelihoods related activities for the communities living these wildlife rich locations outside National Parks.

Chairperson for Lake Natron WMA Lee Olduka said the TNRF and WWF have been assisting conservation issues in his locality as well as ensuring that local villages benefit directly from wildlife; "For instance, they recently dug a watering trough for local livestock," he added.

On his part, the Manager in charge of Enduimet WMA Peter Milanga said the donated equipment will come in handy in ensuring sustainable measures in wildlife monitoring, patrols and habitat assessment, adding that data was important in assisting authorities to make proper decisions through correct information and accurate data.

TNRF's mission is to bring together diverse stakeholders and improve communication and understanding between them to secure consensus and better management of natural resources so that people are able to make a living and the resources are protected and made sustainable.

Kilombero farmers embrace organic cultivation of cacao

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Morogoro

SMALLHOLDER farmers within Kilombero valley in Morogoro Region have began organic cacao farming an initiative that also seeks to conserve environment.

The programme is implemented by African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) through support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Global Nature Fund (GNF).

Through the 'Inclusive Green Growth for Agrarian Communities' in Kilombero, cacao growers in the precinct are being assisted to go about the trade differently, balancing farming and environment conservation to save the country's most important water catchment area.

"We want farmers to be fully responsible in environment protection through profitable Agroforestry activities," said AWF Programme Manager, Pastor Magingi in an interview recently.

AWF through support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development BMZ and GNF started implementing a project targeting to reach 2,000 cocoa and rice smallholder farmers in Kilombero District.

The initiative covers 16 villages located within Mngeta division, of Mlimba Council, including Mofu, Ihenga, Namwala, Mngeta, Mbingu, Ikule, Njage, Makutano, Kisege, Udagaji, Lukorongo, Chiwachiwa, Igima, Vigaeni, and Mchombe.

There are over 100,000 smallholder farmers in the area with about 90 per cent of the population depending on agriculture, where more than 70 per cent grow rice and almost 20 per cent grow cocoa. At least 35 per cent of all farmers happen to be women.

"The main driving factor in encouraging cacao farming is the availability of ready markets, but this also demands quality produce, that is why we have growers working in groups to ensure that through the unions they get to reach set standards," added Alexander Mpwaga the AWF Agricultural officer.

Though almost 99 percent of Tanzanian cocoa is grown organically. Cacao farmers in the Kilombero Valley not only practice

organic farming, in the complete absence of any inorganic inputs but actually yearn to be recognized as such, beyond borders and continent.

Tanzania produces about 70,000 tons of raw Cacao seeds in a year, from mostly the Southern Highlands farms. The figure is a far cry compared to West Africa's annual output of 2.5 Million tonnes.

The crop, from which candies, edible chocolates and drinks as well as cosmetics products are made from, commands over US \$ 1 billion, cash flow annually.

But for growers in Kilombero their competing edge comes from the fact that, theirs is totally organic Cacao.

"Though farmers here are yet to receive international organic certification, so far all their activities carried out as organically as possible producing naturally healthy Cacao," said the local extension officer, Ally Mmolwa.

John Victor Somola is among the local growers, through mixed farming, where Banana Plantains grow alongside Cacao trees in symbiotic arrangement, with banana leaves providing the badly needed shade for Cocoa.

Somola makes more than 11m/- from Cacao per season. "I am planning to send my son abroad for studies due to the same crop," he explains, indicating that the fruit does pay.

The beans grown by farmers in the Kilombero Valley are of Trinitario type and while nobody knows for sure where they originated from, one thing for sure is that cocoa has been grown in the country, precisely Southern Highlands, since the 1880s.

Commercial Cocoa production started in the country during the 1960s, though up to now sixty years later, there hasn't been much promotion of the cacao or efforts to develop it as a serious cash crop.

In that aspect, therefore, the African Wildlife Foundation has started working with farmers groups in Kilombero to improve Cacao farming post-harvest handling and finding them market outlets, now that global demand for cocoa is reportedly rising while at the same time West African countries are encountering challenges in their cocoa production.



Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi (L) presents an award on May Day (Saturday) to Ikungi district executive director Justice Kijazi, who emerged as this year's Best Employer in the region. Photo: Correspondent Jumbe Ismailly

Govt calls for implementation of residential postcode system

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication Permanent Secretary Dr Zainab Chaula has called upon local government leaders to properly supervise implementation of the national postcode system for residential address currently executed at different regions across the country.

Dr Chaula made the directive in Mwanza during her meeting with 175 leaders from local government authority and ward executive officers from Ilemela and Nyamagana districts. She said the leaders are responsible for ensuring successful implementation of the project which will see houses placed with

identification numbers.

The PS added that the government has started to implement the national postcode address in twelve districts. She said that Mwanza city has been earmarked as a pilot where two districts—Ilemela and Nyamagana will be given priority.

Dr Chaula noted that the postcode addresses would help in identification of residential areas of as well as houses. He said it would also be easily to identify people residing in particular houses. She said the leaders would be responsible for ensuring each of the streets is given names.

Speaking during the meeting, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aifelo Sichelwe said the postcode address would help improve provision

of health services. He urged the leaders to closely monitor operations at health centres and dispensaries and ensure availability of essential drugs.

According to him, the local government leaders are responsible for supervising health workers, hence the need to make sure they implement their duties accordingly.

The national postcode address contract has been awarded to the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) subsidiary to set the marks in 12-councils.

The areas to be covered under the postcode contract are cities of Mwanza, Dodoma and Tanga while Morogoro, Moshi, Shinyanga, Ilemela, Geita, Kibaha, Chamwino, Chato and Bahi will get them at

their council levels.

According to the ministry, communication authorities have already finalized the initial formulation of formulating the post code for the entire country and what has remained is for the exercise to identify wananchi's settlements to be provided with physical addresses.

The post code system for physical addresses of people's residences is a basic method that will help to identify permanent structures for them to be given addresses including street names and house numbers.

The system is important for the country's development especially in tax collections and easily enabling the wananchi's access to loans from financial institutions.

United States awards grants to 11 registered civil societies

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States ambassador to Tanzania Dr Donald Wright has awarded grants to 11 registered civil societies, nonprofit, and faith-based organisations from across Tanzania to implement community-led monitoring projects that aims to improve HIV services in the country through the Ambassador's Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR).

Funding for the grants comes from the U.S President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which represents the U.S government's commitment to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Since PEPFAR's inception in 2003, the U.S government has contributed more than \$5 billion to address HIV in Tanzania.

Grant recipients responded to an open call for proposals to implement community-led monitoring (CLM) activities in their local communities. The projects will focus on improving the quality of HIV services by gathering data about HIV patients' problems, challenges, and barriers related to HIV service access, uptake, and retention at health facilities.

Results from these monitoring efforts will assist health facilities and local government to make continuous quality improvements to the HIV services offered.

The efforts will advance the standard of care and make the process more straightforward and customer service oriented for people living with HIV. The goal is to ultimately improve the quality of life for PEPFAR beneficiaries.

The AFHR was started in 2009 and has provided grants to more than 140 community-based and nonprofit organizations in Tanzania.

The U.S government is proud to continue the strong tradition of partnering with these organizations in pursuit of

Tanzania's HIV epidemic control goals.

The 2021 AFHR awardees includes the Thubutu Africa Initiative (TAI) that is expected to reduce barriers that hinder people living with HIV from accessing care and treatment services in Shinyanga DC, SIKIKA which will enhance availability of and access to quality HIV services in Ukerewe district, Mwanza and Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) to address barriers of health services delivery in Shinyanga DC, Shinyanga.

The Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO) will enhance HIV service delivery at Nyasa district, Ruvuma, Women to Children Foundation (WOCHF) will improve quality of HIV services through Community-Led monitoring in Ludewa district, Njombe and Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organization (KWIECO) will improve access to HIV health services to people living with HIV in Moshi district, Kilimanjaro.

The Tanzania Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (TNW+) will utilize people living with HIV/AIDS experiences to promote and improve HIV and TB services in 25 wards of Ukerewe district, Mwanza, STEPS Tanzania will improve access, uptake, and the quality of HIV services among HIV beneficiaries in Kisarawe district, Pwani and Education Outreach Tanzania (EDOTA) will improve HIV service delivery in nine health facilities in Mpanda district, Katavi.

Others are Agape AIDS Control Programme will promote feedback mechanisms for people living with HIV and encourage data driven changes in care and treatment at health facilities in Shinyanga district, Shinyanga and Community Development Trust Fund of Tanzania (CDTF) will build capacity of HIV and health services in Kisarawe district, Pwani.

AFRICAN UNION

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: DRIVER/MESSENGER (AU ABC)

The African Union is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of Driver/Messenger (local position) within the AU Advisory Board on Corruption, based in Arusha, Tanzania.

Job Purpose: To render transportation services within the city and surrounding areas

Major Duties and Responsibilities: (a) Operate and maintain official vehicles in a clean and serviceable condition; (b) Ensure day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle(s), checks oil, water, battery, tires when necessary; (c) Transport Officials of the Organization and visiting Personnel to and from all Diplomatic Missions and or/international Organizations and Government offices; (d) Handle and distribution of documents/messages within office; (e) Deliver official documents and check/or pick up and deliver light office equipment using official passenger motor vehicles, or light pickups trucks or vans; (f) Perform any other duties as assigned by Supervisors.

Qualifications and Experience Required: (a) Candidates must have a minimum School Leaving Certificate ("O" Level). A higher qualification will be an advantage; (b) Holder of a valid Grade 4 and above Driving Licence; (c) Minimum of five (5) years of progressive experience in a similar position, preferably in an international organization;

Language Requirement: Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages. Knowledge of any or several other working Language(s) will be an added advantage.

Applications should be addressed to the following not later than May 11, 2021:

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
P.O. Box 6274
Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: +255 27 2970 430 /431/432/433/434
E-mail: Human.Resources@african-court.org

NB: Applicants should visit the Court' website: www.african-court.org for more information.



www.camfed.org

tanzania@camfed.org

+255 22 276 1065 / 1066

Ursino Estate South, Plot No 44, Uporoto Street,
(PO Box 33835), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

JOB ADVERT-TRANSPORT OFFICER AND OFFICE ASSISTANT (1 POST)

CAMFED Overview
CAMFED (the Campaign for Female Education) is internationally recognised as a leader in education for girls, for its child protection policy and practise, and as a voice for girls' education and women's empowerment at the highest levels. Founded in 1993, CAMFED supports young women throughout their primary and secondary schools years, into economic training and further education, and onto leadership, as role models, activists and philanthropists. CAMFED Tanzania is looking to recruit Transport Officer: Office Assistant to fill vacant position in Dodoma.

Job Title	: TRANSPORT OFFICER AND OFFICE ASSISTANCE (1 Post)
Accountable to	: Human Resources Manager
Salary	: Competitive
Start Date	: ASAP
Location	: Dodoma

Job purpose:
Under the direction of HR Manager, Transport officer and office assistant is responsible for driving office vehicle including the maintenance records and ensures that routing maintenance is carried out on schedules. Transport Officer will be responsible for inspecting country vehicle on daily basis to ensure that it is clean, undamaged and in working order.

- Specific Accountabilities:**
- Drive vehicle around Dodoma and upcountry trips in Tanzania.
 - Maintain defensive driving plus presenting safety briefing to passengers prior to each trip departure.
 - Maintains vehicle maintenance records and ensures that the routine maintenance is carried out on schedule.
 - Maintains accurate, up to date records on trip sheets, fuel purchases, incident reports, accident reports vehicle condition reports and other records that are requested from management.
 - Serves as a positive role model while providing transportation services to staff.
 - Reviews staff car requests with the HR Manager finalize/maintenance schedule on a daily basis. Notifies the HR Manager of any deviations from the approved schedule in order to ensure staff requests are honoured or different arrangements made.
 - Inspects vehicle on a daily basis to ensure that it is clean, undamaged and in working order. Notifies the HR Manager, verbally and in writing, of any damage to or non-working vehicle.
 - Dispatches program office documents/emails/items around Dodoma by car to different vendors, partners and customers as assigned.
 - Collects and posts letters, sending parcels,
- recording all incoming letters in the special log book, distributing to respective officers under the supervision of line manager.
- Maintaining proper records for fuel and reports for any shortage before the start of journey.
 - Office assistant duties; Process admin requisitions, where applicable ensure generator is working-proper check-ups, support preparation of meetings, act as receptionist from time to time.
 - Photocopying, sorting and collating related office documents.
 - Ensuring the stationery store and all stationery stock are well arranged and in attractive manner.
 - Supports office errands as assigned.
 - Other duties as assigned from time to time.

Person Specifications

- Essential:**
- Holders of at least Form IV Certificate.
 - Holder of valid Class A, B, D, E driving license.
 - Must have certificate from either VETA or National Institute of Transportation (NIT)
 - Having driving experience of at least five (5) years from reputable organisations.
 - Must be fluent in both written and spoken English and Swahili languages
 - Computer literate.
 - Not above 40 years of age
 - Able to work under pressure and as part of a team.
 - Must be Tanzanian citizen.

Application Details

Do you feel you meet the criteria for this exciting opportunity? If so, please send your CV, academic certificates and covering letter to hr@camfed.org on or before 9th May 2021.

'Govt must address how public should respond to pandemics'

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Dodoma

The COVID-19 outbreak has led schools across the country to assess their level of preparedness for a pandemic. We should have statutes and/or regulations that govern how schools and the public should respond to a disease outbreak, according to Actionaid Tanzania.

The government has therefore been urged to review policies, laws and guidelines to address specific needs of the youth when disease outbreak like COVID-19 happens.

This is according to a study conducted by Actionaid Tanzania on the impact of COVID-19 measures to income and decent work opportunities to young people in Tanzania.

The study conducted in March this year, through the project titled youth empowerment and influence in Tanzania (YEI) said the policies, laws and guidelines have many gaps and others are obsolete, recommending that there is a need for review to accommodate recent changes, challenges and community needs.

Disseminating the report in Dodoma over the weekend during a one-day stakeholders' meeting, Chief Executive Officer of East African Human Rights Institute (EAHRI) Neema Ole Ndemno said failure to review these policies regularly have resulted into using old policy approaches to address modern societal challenges such as COVID-19.

"The study reviewed and analysed a number of laws, policies, guidelines and plans in relation to disaster management in Tanzania, in particular COVID-19. This study assessed how implementation of those policies amid COVID-19 responses has impacted on the livelihood, income and decent work for young people," she said. The findings indicate that many policies and guidelines are not youth and gender sensitive. Most of these policies were developed without incorporating regional and international standards on management of disaster and risks reduction. COVID-19 interventions were of more disease control and did not address impacts and hit-backs associated with COVID-19 responses. Majority of youths in Tanzania suffered economically at the middle of COVID-19 interventions because there was no special economic relief and stimulus packages designed to create economic resilient among youth groups.

The study said the young people in Tanzania have numerous needs and rights. They are entitled to employment, skills in labour market, capital income,

education, markets, sports and many more. Amidst COVID-19 disaster, many policies, seemingly, are silent on the rights and the needs of youth. Since March 2020, no any policy guideline or plan was specifically developed to address economic challenges and the loss of livelihoods posed by the pandemic.

As the result, majority of people mostly the young generation suffered financially because of the uncontrolled economic hit-backs caused by skewed COVID-19 interventions. "These policies have blind and insensitive directives on youth related challenges such as market force, labour market, and job opportunities among many others," she said.

Citing an example, she said the 2004 Disaster Management Policy is old and lacks modern approaches and standards in disaster management.

She said during the pandemic, many entrepreneurs youth closed their restaurant when it was no longer possible to generate profit at the height of the deadly disease.

She said many laws, policies and guidelines reviewed by this study have failed to address social protection issues amid COVID-19 interventions or any similar disaster.

Lack of social protection policies for people in the informal sector, tourism and extractive industries during COVID-19 measures was the major blow to the incomes and livelihood of young populations and their families. Other countries in the region such as Kenya provided special economic relief funds and other subsidies to the affected communities and those working in tourism and other sectors, the study said.

According to the report, during the COVID-19 interventions a big part of youth groups was involved or included in COVID-19 management committees and organs. However, the government's COVID-19 responses did not grow thirst for knowledge and skills in schools and colleges. For instance, schools were closed without having a proper contingency plan for alternative learning for students especially those from poor families residing in rural areas. The abrupt school closure affected both students and teachers. Some teachers in private schools, even lecturers did not get paid and others lost their jobs.

"These policies have blind and insensitive directives on youth related challenges such as market force, labour market, and job opportunities among many others"



Wide Spectrum Ltd marketing manager Khamis Saleh Fakir (R) presents medical supplies to Zanzibar Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui for use in Zanzibar health centres. Left is Zanzibar chief pharmacist Habib Ali Sharif. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

BRELA happy with development of online business registration system

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

BUSINESS Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) has said the improvement of its systems has resulted in increased efficiency as it only takes a single day to register a business name and license.

This was revealed in Mwanza over the weekend by BRELA Registration Officer, Gabriel Girangay when briefing the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki on the agency's activities.

The Minister visited BRELA pavilion during the three days Business, Investment and Tourism Exhibition that was held at Rock City Mall from April 30th in Mwanza city.

Girangay said BRELA has improved its services for stakeholders including the reduced time for business registration. He said customers are also attended through the newly established free call center.

"Business name registration takes

only one day and not more than three working days while company registration takes up to three days and not more than five working days," he said adding that trade mark registration and services is done for 90 days as per requirements of the law.

"Getting industrial license or business license class A is done within a day and not more than three working days," he said.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition, Minister Ndaki commended the agency for the improvement which includes reducing the time of business registration.

He urged business communities and entrepreneurs in Lake Zone regions to take advantage of BRELA's presence at the exhibitions to seek solutions to their various challenges as well as registering their businesses.

"There are some challenges in formalization of business so it is high time for you to use this opportunity to solve them, you should visit the BRELA

pavilion to present your quarries," said Ndaki.

However, Girangay added that BRELA participated at the exhibitions as part of its program to reach its stakeholders in their specific areas and educate them on the importance of registering and formalizing their businesses.

The exhibition was part of the Tanzania Business Summit which attracted more than 1,000 business people and tourism stakeholders from within and outside the country.

Participants to the summit came from different countries including Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa.

The event is part of strategies to promote tourism and investment opportunities in the region as well as connecting Mwanza traders with their counterparts from various places across the globe whereas they can exchange ideas and chart ways to end the various challenges facing traders in Africa



Tanzania Breweries Ltd Plc workers participate in style in May Day celebrations held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is in the next fiscal year planning to review various school curriculums to incorporate vocational skills, a move which will enable produce competent graduates and promote self-employment.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology Omar Kipanga said this over the weekend in the House when responding to a question by Special Seats MP, Nusrat Hanje (Chadema).

In her basic question, the legislator queried why the government was not taking measures to review the current education system as most of the things which children learn in class do not help them in the future.

The deputy minister responded saying that in reviewing the curriculums the government incorporates life skills and other steady techniques to help students to be able to deal with various challenges including the issue of employment.

"The government has been reviewing curriculums whenever

Government plans to review various school curriculums

needed to do so, and will we continue improving them in line with the current changes in science, political, economic, culture and technology," he said.

"The 21st Century skills include investing heavily in innovative thinking, creativity, collaborations, leadership and the information and communication technology (ICT), these skills and techniques will help build young people's competitiveness in the job market," he said.

In his supplementary question, Hanje sought to know the government's plans to introduce a special subject on 'vocational skills' so as to build and produce more graduates who will be able to supervise and employ themselves. Kipanga responded saying that review of school curriculums is a long process which needs engagement of stakeholders and key players.

Minister Joyce Ndalichako hinted on the note calling on lawmakers who have more ideas

and views to support changes of curriculums to submit them to the ministry for further actions.

Meanwhile, the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government has set aside 7.15bn/- for production of 710, 000 desks to address shortages in various primary schools in the country

Deputy minister David Silinde said this in the Parliament when responding to a question by Emmanuel Mwakasaka (Tabora Urban, CCM)

In his basic question, the MP sought to know the measures taken by the government to address the shortage of teachers and desks facing public schools in the country.

Responding, the deputy minister said the government has continued to employ primary and secondary school teachers where from 2016/17 to 2020/21 fiscal year, a total of 33,684 teachers and 497 certified laboratory technicians have been employed.

'Agriculture stakeholders in Pemba short of knowledge, skills on modern farming practices'

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE stakeholders in Pemba island have cited lack of prerequisite knowledge and skills on best farming practices as one of the major challenges which makes the majority of producers fail to attain their development goals.

According to them, the majority of spices, veggies and fruits producers in the Isles are still ignorant of the best farming practices which could enable them to improve their harvests

and thus reach more markets inside and outside Zanzibar.

Speaking during the meeting which brought together farmers, traders and other key players to discuss challenges facing the sector, the stakeholders called for coordinated efforts to campaign for change of mindsets of farmers so as to promote quality farming.

The meeting was organized as part of the implementation of the 'Viungo Project' which benefits thousands of small-scale farmers in Unga and Pemba.

Mbarouk Mohamed Hamad,

a farmer, underlined the need to invest in more educative programmes to train farmers on best farming practices so as to enable them produce quality crops which will be able to secure the market.

"Most of us (farmers) are ready to produce quality crops but due to poverty and lack of required skills and tools, we fail. We have been producing a lot of crops, but we end up getting nothing because our products are poor in quality," he explained.

Dadi Omar Dadi, one of the

participants cited multiple levies and taxes as one of the setbacks which affect both farmers and traders in the Isles.

"Obtaining permits and standard quality marks have a lot of processes and it is expensive as well, all these put back farmers and traders from improving the value of their products," he said.

For his part, Saleh Said Suleiman said that experts have been not fulfilling their duties well on educating farmers to engage in the production of several crops instead of focusing on few crops.

"Despite the government having many institutions in the agriculture sector but majority of them put much of their efforts in some crops forgetting expanding knowledge into other crops which could improve lives of farmers in the Island," Suleiman said.

Agriculture officer from Chake Chake, Juma Khamis Rajab said apart from facing acute shortage of agriculture experts, Zanzibar also lacks experts with enough knowledge and skills on spices and vegetable crops.

"Available education

curriculums have been producing experts who have knowledge on few crops, and majority of experts have been also not going to improve their education even after working for many years, so this is why we don't have enough experts on species, veggies and fruits."

Earlier, Arafa Abdallah Juma, coordinator of the Viungo project said that the project wants to see vulnerable farmers in the Isles improving their livelihoods through modern vegetable, fruits and spices farming.



Andrea Massarelli, an agricultural and rural development programme officer with the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania, speaks on EU sponsorship meant to add value to coffee farming in the country's southern highlands regions. This was at a coffee stakeholders meeting held in Mbeya city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

WLAC urges govt to come up with policies and laws to promote, protect rights of workers in informal sector

By Getrude Mbago

THE Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) has urged the government to come up with policies and laws which promote and protect rights of workers in the informal sector.

Speaking during an event which brought together some workers from the informal sector in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Consolata Chikoti, a legal officer from WLAC said there is a need for coordinated efforts to campaign for rights, laws and policies for informal workers.

Chikoti cited some of the workers as house maids, technicians in garages, cleaners, waste collectors and many others whose rights are still violated in their work places.

"To commemorate the International Workers' Day, we have decided to bring

together informal workers in the community to educate them about their rights and enable them recognize their huge value in the country's development," she said.

She said there are a number of employers who have been failing to protect rights of their workers especially in their businesses, homes, farms which include denying to pay their required dues, something which is against human rights.

"We are appealing for the government and private sector to continue valuing employees by strengthening security and safety at work places, form policies and laws to further ensure protection and progress of the group," Chikoti said.

She urged the government and private sector to continue creating more employment opportunities

to hire more youth and women in the informal sector.

"The government should come up with strategies and laws to protect workers in the informal sector, this is one of the areas which contribute immensely in the country's economy," she said.

The event was also part of the implementation of the centre's two-year project dubbed "Community Legal Empowerment", which is funded by Legal Services Facility Tanzania (LSF) with a focus on training members of trade unions, employers' associations and labor officials in all districts of Dar es Salaam Region.

Chikoti noted that poor people in general and women in particular lack information about their rights and about access to mechanisms to enforce them,

so with the implementation of this project more women will be reached with training and educational programmes to support them understand their rights.

"Poor awareness of rights, responsibilities and laws in general among workers in the country has been one of the major factors that lead to conflicts and discriminations in work places; so, this project has come at the right time to help the majority," she said.

Makumbusho ward councilor Mohamed Ally commended WLAC for bringing together the workers in the informal sectors as most of the events always consider workers in the formal sector.

He said that educating the workers to have correct knowledge about their rights was key for their growth.

Trust in journalism is the ethical challenge of the information age

By Getrude Mbago

Media practitioners and journalists have been urged to read more books and various researches to attain great capability to write better and in-depth reports. Much has changed in the world of journalism since then.

They should as well join forces, promote professional solidarity and have one voice when speaking on various issues facing the industry in the country.

This was said by a section of media industry stakeholders over the weekend during the virtual meeting to discuss the recent speech of President Samia Suluhu Hassan on media freedom.

The meeting themed "The Impact of the President's Speech on Reopening of Media Outlet That Were Closed and Review of Media Laws". It brought together representatives from various media stations in the country.

Neville Meena, secretary of the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) said that Samia's recent speech showed great hope for media freedom in the country.

He noted that media practitioners have lived in 'darkness' for over years but with the recent speech of President Samia, hope has been restored.

He said that in order to ensure that the media industry remains one of the most respected industries, all practitioners should do one thing, work in unity when defending for their rights.

Meena also reminded the media practitioners to always stick to professionalism and journalistic ethics, he intoned.

"We should now sit and discuss the way forward of the media industry development in the country," he added.

According to him, as the country joins others to commemorate the 'World Press Freedom Day' today, authorities have to ensure

that they work hard to protect journalists' rights.

Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

MISA Tanzania Chairperson Salome Kitomari also hinted on the note that

She said the President's statement meant a lot in the freedom of media in the country.

She also said that professional solidarity is needed so as to protect the industry and rights of all practitioners.

Samwel Nyalla from Media Owners' Association of Tanzania (MOAT) underscored the need to form a special committee so as to identify the challenges before presenting them in the government's regulatory bodies.

"We should sit down and pinpoint key issues in laws and policies, we have to be clear on the challenges we face before presenting them to the government," he said.

Joseph Oleshangay from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) said media stakeholders should also support the push for media laws review and amendment.

Jesse Kwayu, TEF member said: "We should form one robust union for all media associations and clubs, so as to be able to speak one language whenever we face challenges in the profession."

Deodatus Balile, acting chairman of TEF urged journalists to work hard, adhere to professional ethics for them to be respected and valued.

"We will continue working closely with the government so as to ensure that the media industry has government laws and policies which promotes its growth and sustainability," he added.

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Police warned against graft and use of excessive force

POLICE officers have been warned on engaging in corrupt activities, colluding with criminals and the use of excessive force when executing their daily activities.

The force's head of operations and training, Liberatus Sabas stated that despite regular statements and warnings, there are some police officers who have turned a deaf ear as they continue with the prohibited ethics which tarnish the police force's image.

He said stern measures would be taken against any officer proved to collude with criminals to commit crimes or engage in corruption.

Addressing the members of the force during a ceremony for 1,709 police officers who were promoted from police constable to Sergeant Commanders at the Tanzania Police School in Moshi (TPS-Moshi), Sabas said the government is determined to fight

all forms of corruption.

"I have been working day and night to fight corruption within the force; there are some police officers who are alleged of taking money from suspects to grant them bail, this should end," he said.

Sabas, who represented the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro, wanted police officers to abide by professionalism. He said the force is mandated to protect people and their properties and to fight corruption.

The Commandant of the TPS-Moshi, Ramadhani Mungi explained that a total of 1,728 trainees started their three months course but until January this year, a total of 1709 qualified.

Mungi said that six trainees failed the course while 19 trainees were expelled out of the

school due to the various factors including healthy problems and bad behaviors.

He added that the institution has improved its training program from knowledge-based to competence-based by sending trainees to the field work in the communities.

He said that evaluation of trainees is done before they complete their training course.

According to him, his institution has also improved its ICT programme by establishing a new online training programme whereas trainees can learn through the internet.

Mungi explained that practical attachments are also part of the police force improvement which is among the key result areas towards strengthening the capacity of police officers working in the community.



NMB Bank Plc workers participate in May Day celebrations held at national level in Mwanza city, climaxing on Saturday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the 29th Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of the above company will be held virtually, through an internet-based meeting platform. TPC PLC believes in safety above all else. The decision to move to a virtual meeting was made in order to avoid mass gatherings and to protect the health and safety of our shareholders, employees, directors and other stakeholders.

Date and Time: Thursday, 25th May, 2021 at 10:00 am
Location: Online, through a web-based platform hosted by Chorus Call Africa

AGENDA

1. Constitution of the Meeting: The Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting and determine if a quorum is present.
2. To confirm the minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting held on 28th May 2020.
3. To Receive, Consider and, if thought fit, Adopt the Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2020.
4. To Receive, Consider and, if thought fit, Approve the Declaration of Dividend for Year 2020.
5. To approve the appointment of the Statutory Auditors for the year ending 31st December 2021.
6. To transact any other business of the Company of which due notice has been received.

By Order of the Board
Dated 3rd May 2021

Brian Kangetta
Company Secretary

1. Any member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote in his/ her stead. The proxy form is available on the company's website (<https://www.twigacement.com>).
2. A proxy appointed need not be a member of the Company. A completed proxy form should be deposited with the company's share registrars, CAD Securities Limited (through email address judith@cadsecurities.com and neemak@cadsecurities.com, or send a photo of the completed proxy form through whatsapp number **+255 777 787 845**) not less than 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting, failing which it shall be invalid.
3. Shareholders should use the above contacts to obtain further information on joining the AGM.
4. A full set of audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 can be downloaded from the company's website (<https://www.twigacement.com>).

MONDAY 3 MAY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

May Day: President Samia made great effort to listen

PRESSURE is beginning to pile upon the sixth phase government to meet the sort of dreams and expectations that were held to the burner, or in a closet, for most of the past decade - and not just during the fifth phase government. There are two aspects to those demands, one is that they relate to the country's political culture since independence, and another is that they reflect actual conditions of life and work, which however have not been represented or explained adequately. If anything, this is what lags but it is a wider topic than what President Samia Suluhu Hassan worked upon at the May Day massive rally.

The crucial issue that was being demanded by workers' unions was raising the minimum wage, where the traditional outlook of the Trade Unions Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) was in full view, unchanged since a sharp dispute arose with fourth phase President Jakaya Kikwete in 2010. It was the year of his second term poll, and TUCTA said in a May Day address that the minimal living wage ought to be around 350,000/- which the president ardently refused, asserting that it would ruin the country's economy. Eleven years later, TUCTA says the minimal living wage ought to be around 900,000/-.

President Samia did not touch these figures, but showed a deep anxiety that living conditions of the workers be improved, going right away to sort out demands which have for long been delayed. The president made a sort of apologia why wages can't be increased this year, citing slower economic growth owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, but directed the reconstitution of statutory boards of various sectors which

look into employees' welfare and make recommendations. It is not easy to figure out what such boards could possibly contribute, if they start deliberations from the 0.9m/- minimum wage hypothesis.

Looking at the manner in which the issue was represented, it would appear that the unions were sort of asserting that President Samia will be kinder or benevolent, compared to the past. The president made an effort to listen and take their demands, but there are issues of principle that were not asserted, despite the president's summary illustration with a coastal adage, that 'a poor parent doesn't like his son,' as that is what people will see from the outside, namely wearing rags, etc. Little was said as to the link between freezing wages and containing inflation, as formal sector employees make a big difference in purchasing.

Looking at the order of priorities laid out by President Samia over the past month, plenty in what she said relies upon holding the cap on wage bills in the private and public sectors. It is adequate that promotions that the president indicated are planned for the next financial year become wage/salary rises for more than half of public sector workers, and more than 40,000 will be employed for the first time, many of them degree and diploma or certificate holders. Disturbing the minimum wage cap or loosening market controls in that regard shall effectively block all efforts to invite foreign investors, as goods must compete all over the world, including for Tanzania. Ability to lower costs is what makes a company enter a market, and loading it with a vast wage bill for any employees is to stop it from setting foot here. It is just that simple.

CCM's new look clears most doubts, after a hard climb

HISTORY can be viewed in two ways, either as a heroic continuity punctuated by tragedy, or a sad melodrama across large spans of time, often having some 'new beginnings.' This is the unending dispute of a half full cup and half empty cup, that it is the same thing depending on what one sees, or interprets what is visible. As the ruling party formally installed its new chairperson, President Samia Suluhu Hassan and quickly moved to revamp its secretariat, plenty of this scenario was visible, and the dispute therein.

In handing over the reins of office to the president, and in a sequence of speeches affirming the way the ruling party handles its affairs, the periodic transfer of office from one person or batch of leaders to another was the keynote element. Little did it come up that not so long ago powerful elements in CCM, lined up in the legislature and elsewhere, were actually working to wreck this procedure. Much as the party leadership rejected the cancellation of term limits in the key office of president, danger was vivid.

The reason was apparently that CCM - or a substantial portion of it - had become so enthralled in the performance of the country's leader that they thought change to be unthinkable. Yet, as all of us are human and painstakingly fragile with age and disease, excess longevity is only taken up at the expense of effectiveness, which the high punching group in the legislature must have been able to imagine. A leader who

is in pain can't follow up in the usual assiduous manner who is suspected of misconduct in public finances and what to do about it, only signing pieces of paper to authorise all doings of 'yes men' all over.

Hard as it may appear but one is forced to imagine that this campaign to destabilise party traditions with decades of loyal leaders who observed it and left office may have infuriated those who watch over us, as Tanzania has a national anthem wholly immersed in the contemplation of God, not just patriotic feelings.

Term limits enable a breadth of citizens who don't feel well under the skin with any current leadership or presidency specifically to exercise patience until the limit is reached, and lay hopes in change. When men fail in their duties, or plan to digress from cherished responsibilities, they may actually cause a tragedy.

So there is a degree to which CCM itself was being renewed in its faith in internal democracy, after the zeal to build a 'new Tanzania' derailed the faith of some of them from this path, especially as they wanted the 'breathing problem' faced by opposition parties to continue indefinitely. Listening to what was said in the special electoral congress to formalize the chairmanship of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, one could clearly see a solid reaffirmation of these values, making a digression into error unlikely in future. But it was a hard climb, that a portion of CCM is only being reawakened to these values after tragedy struck, as usually such deviations are tailored around a person.

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By Umair Haque

This is the real reason the world isn't being vaccinated

BY now, you might have heard about the catastrophe that Covid-19 is becoming in India. Or maybe you haven't. Then there's Peru. South Africa. Mexico. Argentina. Indonesia.

Covid-19 is now at the stage - if it wasn't already - of becoming a colossal, terrible global tragedy, a catastrophe of epic proportions.

But it is one of a special kind. One that teaches us how ill-prepared we are, really, for an age of catastrophe.

The grim, bitter truth - one that nobody much in the West will want to hear - is that the world is suffering a Covid-19 catastrophe because the Western approach to the pandemic has created a global catastrophe. What do I mean by that?

Poorer countries can't get vaccines. So a second and/or third wave is simply ripping through them. They're countries like India, for example - or Mexico.

These countries have made many mistakes, to be sure - India's ultra-nationalist, Trumpist leader (Prime Minister) Narendra Damodardas Modi, just like (former US President Donald) Trump, declared victory over Covid-19, and then resisted doing much about it.

Nations like Mexico have incredibly dense population centres through which the pandemic is all but guaranteed to spread. Poverty is not just about money.

But there's a larger truth at work here. Poorer countries can't get vaccines.

Why is that? Because the West didn't let them do - and still won't. That's not just morally offensive, because it's literally going to cause millions of needless deaths. It's also stupid, because new variants will come back to infect the West, too.

Why can't poor countries get vaccines? Because the rich West has literally made it impossible for them to. Canada and America blocked drugs rights waivers at the WTO (World Trade Organisation) for Covid-19 vaccines. So now there is very, very limited production - instead of vaccines being open-source that can be produced across the world in many locations.

How 'limited' are we talking? The West left the poor world to basically be supplied by one place: the Serum Institute of India. That's one major producer for something like half the globe. That's about 4 billion people, in case you were wondering.

How did the Serum Institute of India end up producing a vaccine? It got lucky. It signed a deal with Oxford University. That

was back when the researchers at Oxford said that they wanted to make vaccines free or very low cost - not just as in financially free, but donating the rights to any pharmaceutical company.

And then something dark, weird and strange happened. According to everything I've read, on the advice of the Bill Gates Foundation, Oxford changed its mind. It sold its rights to AstraZeneca. Who, of course, created a giant monopoly.

That's how half the world ended up in the impossible predicament of hoping for one institute in India to make all its vaccines.

That hope was always too much. Because when India's second wave hit, thanks to Modi's nationalist stand, it spread like wildfire. And India then basically said: "We're keeping all these doses meant for you guys, because now there's not even enough for us."

Let me try to sum it up as plainly as I can. More than half the world doesn't have enough vaccines. Not because it had to be that way. But because the West wanted it that way.

Powerful institutions and figures in the West. All those "negotiators" who blocked access to vaccine patents at the WTO, on the behalf of big Pharma companies, with the assent of their presidents and prime ministers. The bizarre scandal of Oxford privatising its vaccine after pledging not to and selling it to AstraZeneca.

What is the lesson here? Vaccine capitalism has failed the world. In an epic, astonishing, nightmarish fashion. Why is it that one Western institution appears to have been capable of blocking the entire world from getting vastly more vaccines faster?

Because capitalism. Why is it that Western nations have repeatedly blocked opening vaccine patents? Because capitalism.

Think (US President) Joe Biden is such a great guy? What about (Canadian Prime Minister) Justin Trudeau? Wonderful folks, right? Then why are they letting a massive, massive human catastrophe unfold across the world? That's going to cause death on a horrific scale? Which (Indian author Suzanna) Arundhati Roy has already described as a crime against humanity?

My feeling, and my bet, is that the average Westerner couldn't give a hoot about the story above. They've become selfish, materialistic, individualistic, vain,

stupid, ignorant - at least Anglo nations like America and Britain have been. And so there's no outcry in the West to vaccinate the world.

Wait, why should we do that anyway? Are you an idiot? Sorry to sound confrontational, I guess. But you should know the answer to this question.

One, we should vaccinate the world because it's the decent thing to do. That is how we prove our own moral fibre, and keep ourselves morally healthy.

Otherwise, we degenerate into nations of Nietzschean narcissists, beyond good and evil, where nothing matters. We lose our souls by letting atrocities persist.

Two, we should vaccinate the world for an eminently pragmatic reason. The longer we wait and the longer it takes, the more new variants will mutate and spread, which will "escape" the vaccines that even we rich Westerners have - and cause havoc all over again.

Want to spend another winter like the last one - because of Covid-20? I didn't think so. It's going to happen, though, at this rate.

Third, we should vaccinate the world because capitalism has privatised a public good. Let's be totally clear: Covid-19 vaccines are public goods. All of them. They were financed and developed with public funds, at public institutions, on the public dime, for public purposes.

The "Oxford AstraZeneca" vaccine? It's just the Oxford vaccine: it was imagined, created and made in research labs - AstraZeneca just manufactures it.

The mRNA vaccines? All created with public funds, in research labs, at universities.

The West, in other words, created vaccines as a public good. And then it let capitalism come along and privatise the gains. That's why poor countries are paying vastly higher prices than rich ones, by the way - a gruesome fact which Pharma companies explain away with corporate jargon like "vaccine prices will vary by location".

It's just profiteering. Of the most obscene and immoral kind. Profiteering on a human tragedy, an historic catastrophe, on death of epic proportions.

Vaccines were a public good created by the West, and public goods are created to be shared. Why is that? Because they have "positive externalities", aka good spillovers for all of us.

Take a public park. I'm better off

when you're fitter, saner, kinder, because you go to the park every day. We invest in public goods precisely because they benefit all of us together more than they benefit each of us individually.

Put another way, how are you best off? When everyone in the world has a vaccine, fastest and cheapest. That's when your chances of getting Covid-20 are minimised.

But we are now living in the opposite world. The world is not getting vaccines fastest and cheapest - but slowest and most expensive. Why?

Because capitalism profits most when there's artificial scarcity. That's why more than half of humanity is now in the horrific position of relying on one institute - one - to make all their vaccines. The one institute that got lucky and struck a deal before the profiteering began.

And yet one institute can't provide all the vaccines the world needs. So the world now must pay the ransom the Pharma companies demand. But most of it can't do that, and so it's looking desperately, to China.

What a story. It fills me with anger, rage, disgust, of a certain white-hot kind. Vaccine capitalism is a massive, massive failure. Didn't anyone with a working brain know that it was always going to be?

This approach - destined to fail - exposes the moral hypocrisy and intellectual stupidity of the West, both. It is making itself worse off in the end, too - but I suppose that's OK, as long as the rest of the world suffers immensely.

What a tragedy. But you know what burns me up the most? The fact that the average Westerner will never know. Never give a hoot. Never educate themselves. About the simple, damning facts above.

They'll go on living in their bubbles of self-satisfied delusion, never asking: "How come the world doesn't have vaccines?" And so they'll never hear the answer, either.

Because, for money's sake - the money of the already super ultra-mega rich, mostly - the West didn't let the world have vaccines, the very ones it created for the public interest reason of giving them to an entire world, only to backtrack once the choice had to be made.

The West chose death on shocking, astounding global scale instead. And that, my friends, makes me wish there was a hell.

• Agencies

By Andrew Ihsaan Gasnolar

Good trouble: We must harness young people's spirit of resistance to reshape our democracy

Young people across South Africa, due to socioeconomic circumstances, have been forced to the sidelines. As we reflect on Freedom Day, there is an opportunity to create a frame for the vibrancy of young people to reimagine our public square.

The structure of our political economy and civic culture has been consumed by the impoverishment of our politics.

An impoverishment that has squandered not just billions in service of a shadow state and the greed of those far more interested in consuming lavish lifestyles, but has continued to rob millions of South Africans.

Theft that has maimed, killed, bludgeoned citizens, and worse, has continued to subject them to inequity, impaired outcomes in education and degradation of a healthcare system that has been pushed to the brink as a result of Covid-19. Freedom can only be honoured if we confront the inequity and impoverishment of our politics that continue to cause despair and dismay.

Politics in a free and democratic South Africa should inspire and motivate citizens to commit to a renewed social compact committed to fairness, rooting out injustice and fulfilling the aspirations of our Constitution. Instead, we are confronted by despicable individuals masquerading as servants of the people - who seem only focused on securing as much electoral power as possible and never meaningfully addressing the needs of the people.

The only option left to South Africans is to reject this systemic disrespect by avoiding party-political participation and, worse still, refusing to participate in our electoral system even though this tool could depend on our broken system.

Our party-political system has resisted reform at every turn and civil society has had to motivate for



transparency at every turn, including around party-political funding and the process whereby members are put forward for positions in government and leadership in our country.

South Africans are not just burdened by poor outcomes in our governance and leadership, but also by the unimaginative and dated thinking across the political aisles. About 20 million South Africans are under the age of 35. This is the untapped potential the country must begin to harness. It must be the focus of our collective efforts to ensure young people across this country are included - that their voices, views

and outlook begin to shape, strengthen and reimagine South Africa's democracy.

The unharnessed potential of young people continues to hamper opportunity and progress in South Africa, as do the barriers that exist for womxn and the violence that continues to beset them and members of the LGBTQI+ community.

Inclusion should be at the heart of our democracy, yet we have allowed exclusionary and violent practices to not only consume the public square, but also to inform and determine how policies are developed and how resources are allocated. Now is the time for South Africans to speak out against

injustice in all its forms, and importantly to mobilise collectively through the efforts of people to address these issues.

In 2019, the Electoral Commission of South Africa recorded a 47% decrease in young voter turnout - the crisis of our collective exclusion and apathy is a crisis confronting our national identity and civic culture. The apathy is at the heart of the crisis of participation and exclusion.

Young people today continue to be plagued by the consequences of a lost decade, looting across the country and the impoverished cohort of political leaders who claim to serve

the people. Our generation has a unique opportunity to strengthen this democracy by forging ahead with inclusionary practices that leverage our diversity of thought and begin to reimagine participation beyond the voting booth.

Disengagement from the voting booth should not surprise us as communities and citizens have been forced to protest actively to have their concerns heard. The electoral voice of South Africans has been relatively subdued, with politicians generally able to ignore the citizenry between election cycles and forcing citizens to protest to be heard and for the government to respond.

South Africans are far from disengaged, but rather have committed their efforts to contributing outside the party-political fray. We may see this as an indicator of general civic apathy, but in 2018 Statistics South Africa reported that there were 2.7 million volunteers

reflecting about 750 million volunteer hours contributed, or the equivalent of about 300,000 full-time jobs, which equates to an annual value in excess of R14-billion.

Young people across South Africa, due to prevailing socioeconomic circumstances, have been forced to the sidelines. The opportunity for South Africans, as we reflect on Freedom Day, is to reimagine and to create a frame for the vibrancy of young people to reimagine our public square - and to use that creativity and relentless talent to confront those who wish to undermine our democracy. This is the commitment that we must all make to inclusion - across race, gender, identity, class, sexual orientation and faith. Inclusion that ensures our democracy lives up to the aspirations of its citizens.

The spirit of resistance among young people has come alive once more - not just here in South Africa but across the globe - and it is that spirit of resistance that we must harness to reshape and strengthen our democracy.

We must speak truth to power and hold our elected leaders accountable and responsible. The hope and spirit of optimism of this generation can begin the work of unshackling and rebuilding our society to ensure that it is fair, equitable and just. But young people will need to be brave, bold and honest - we will have to embrace the notion of causing good trouble, thinking boldly. Importantly we will need to be honest, civic-minded and committed fully to shaping a better South Africa not just for ourselves but for all the citizens of this country who have been silenced and sidelined.

South Africa, as it reflects on its freedoms, must begin to consider how best to reimagine its democracy, and what it will require to rebuild not only after the traumas inflicted on us by the governing party of our own choosing and the ravages of Covid-19, but also the fraying of our social fabric. The efforts to rebuild cannot be delegated or entrusted to the party-political machinery that has brought us to this point. Rather, the rebuilding will require collective impetus and commitment from South Africans to rebuild our civic square.

EATV LAUNCHES "MAMA LA MAMA"

As countries around the world will be celebrating Mothers day on Sunday 9th May, East Africa TV has launched a campaign with the aim of celebrating mothers dubbed "Mama La Mama". The campaign was launched over the weekend in a suaree attended by presenters, influencers and stake holders at Mlimani city's Samaki samaki including musician Stara Thomas, Rapper Rosa Ree, Actress Wastara and singer Isha Mashauzi.

Speaking to the Guardian campaign coordinator Mr Deogratius Kithama said "mothers play a pivotal role to all of us, from family level to society, EATV is profoundly proud in highlighting all that they do in our families"

People can participate by posting pictures of their mothers (or even themselves) and say why they are most deserving of the title "Mama la mama", tag @eastafriatv on facebook or instagram with a hashtag #MamaLaMamaEATV and we will review the most touching stories to stand a



chance to win a series of gifts. Winner will be announced on Friday 7th May, just two days before mothers day.

Mr Kithama added that, Some of the gifts the winner will receive includes 1,000,000/= cash prize which will be deposited in participant's UBA Bank, DSTV decoder with premium subscription, beauty products from ATSOKO, a cooking stove from Jaden Home store worth 750,000 and a winner's lunch with her kids at LEVANT restaurant in Masaki.

"EATV values the work that mothers play in our society, its hope that this campaign will encourage and motivate mothers all around" concluded Mr Kithama.



Once mass vaccinations start, we need to administer at least 250,000 doses per day

By Marcus Low

On 17 May South Africa's mass COVID-19 vaccination programme is expected to finally kick off. This will start a long race against the clock in which every day and every vaccination matters. Delays or pauses of even just a few days are likely to have serious consequences in terms of infections and deaths (as shown here).

The fact that, unlike many other countries, our mass vaccination programme has not yet started, has already left us much more vulnerable to a potential third wave than we should be. To use a cricketing analogy, for the last ten overs we've been batting at around 2 runs an over and the required run rate is now well over ten an over for the remaining 40 (obviously the actual numbers are even starker than suggested here).

Government will hopefully publish the number of people vaccinated every day, ideally broken down by province and district. But how will we be able to judge whether these numbers are high enough?

There are two main factors impacting the speed of our vaccine rollout - how many vaccines we have in stock and our ability to get these vaccines into people's arms. For now, it seems we will get a reasonable amount of vaccine for the next six months - so the main challenge is likely to be how effectively we can get vaccines from



depots to arms. If we manage to run a highly efficient vaccine programme, supply will of course again become a problem.

What targets have been mentioned?

Widely varying targets have been mentioned in recent weeks. The situation obviously remains fluid and no targets should be taken as the final word.

At the end of March, government's stated target was to vaccinate around 13 million people from May to

October. This amounts to 2.17 million vaccinations per month and only around 72 000 per day. At the time, the stated intention was to vaccinate at a much higher rate from November to February.

Since then, however, a much higher target rate of 250 000 per day has also been mentioned in the media. This would work out to around 7.5 million a month and 30 million in four months.

Business Live has quoted Wits vaccinology Professor

Shabir Madhi arguing that we need to vaccinate 15 million people in four months. That works out to 3.75 million per month or around 125 000 per day.

Head of the Western Cape Department of Health, Dr Keith Cloete said during a media conference last week that the province will initially aim to vaccinate 26 000 people per day. If the rest of South Africa's nine provinces were to vaccinate at the same rate relative to their population, South Africa would vaccinate around 220 000 people per day.

Medical scheme Discovery Health has indicated that they believe

around 50 000 of their members could be vaccinated per day, providing they have a sufficient supply of vaccines.

Some countries have managed to vaccinate at much higher rates than the targets mentioned so far. The United Kingdom, for example, has at times administered as many as 500 000 doses per day. The UK population is estimated to be around 67 million - not much bigger than that of South Africa. South Africa is a larger, more rural country, but even so, the UK example suggests that levels above 250 000 should be possible in South Africa, providing of course we can secure sufficient vaccine doses.

So what is a good vaccination rate for South Africa?

Government previously indicated that the aim is to vaccinate around two-thirds of the population, or 40 million people to reach population immunity. With complexities like new variants and changing behaviour, population immunity is more complicated than just the 40 million target - but even so, it is a useful target, and reaching it should move us a lot closer to 'normality'.

To keep things simple, we will work with doses rather than complete vaccinations. With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, one dose equals a complete vaccination, but with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, two doses are required (which makes the calculations slightly more complicated).

With all that in mind, this is how we suggest classifying the daily rates:

RED - Fewer than 150 000 doses a day: 150 000 per day works out to 4.5 million a month and 27 million in six months. Given the massive impact COVID-19 has on our society and the imminent threat of a third wave, we should be aiming higher than this.

Orange - 150 000 to 250 000 a day: 250 000 doses a day gets us to 7.5 million a month and 45 million in six months. Anything between 150 000 and 250 000 thus presents a middle-zone where we are doing reasonably well, but not quite meeting the target.

Green - Over 250 000 a day: As mentioned, this gets us to at least 45 million in six months - in our view the required rate considering our late start. Judging by what has been achieved in other countries,

this is a realistic target - providing of course we can procure sufficient doses to maintain this rate.

There will of course be teething issues in the first week or two after May 17, but the importance and urgency of the mass vaccination programme mean that things simply have to be sorted out quickly. If that means more public-private cooperation than we have seen so far, then so be it. It is after all in everyone's interest to get the numbers as high as possible as quickly as possible.

Either way, even setting a target of at least 250 000 per day is probably selling ourselves short. We are after all not a poor country and we do in fact have decent infrastructure. If the UK can do 500 000 doses a day, why should we settle for less than half of that?

By Alex Otti

Are there lessons to learn from Malawi?

“Even though the minister has since returned the money, his usage of the funds means that the money was unavailable for its intended purpose when it was needed most. And I cannot have in my Cabinet any individuals who either spend money budgeted for one thing on something else or do not ask tough questions to ensure that the money they are spending on something was budgeted for that purpose.

“So, I want all the thieves hiding in the civil service to mark my words: If the finger of evidence points to you as one of the thieves who stole COVID money for saving lives while hundreds of our people were dying of COVID, you are going to prison,” according to President Lazarus Chakwera.

It is always refreshing to hear a different narrative out of Africa. Unfortunately, we seldom celebrate these blue moon events enough even when they occur, and they simply fade away from public memory. The world is more accustomed to the deluge of stereotypical news from international news networks that unconsciously always portray Africa as a region of hopelessness and despair.

The gladdening development that deserves our attention and applause took place recently in Malawi, where the President, Lazarus Chakwera, took a pivotal stand against corruption and abuse of office. Chakwera is a breath of fresh air from the land of Hastings Kamuzu Banda, where during the Banda days, corruption, repression and autocracy were the order of the day.

Compared to Nigeria, in terms of population, the Republic of Malawi is small. However, there are parallels. Malawi is an East African country with an estimated population of 20m people covering a land mass of about 118, 000sq km, just about 13% of Nigerian land mass on 10% of Nigerian population. Just like Nigeria, Malawi is a multi-ethnic country with the



largest ethnic group, the Chewa people constituting close to 35% of the population. The Chewas are closely followed by the Lomwe indigenes who constitute about 19% of the population, Yao indigenes who make up 13%, Ngoni, 10% and Tumbuka, 9%. The remaining 14% of the population is distributed between several other minority ethnic groups. About 83% of the population are Christians, 14% are Muslims while traditional and other worshippers are a very tiny minority.

Malawi is a very poor country and is categorised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as one of the least developed countries of the world, relying mostly on Agriculture to run the economy. In the past, most of its external earnings comprised grants and aids from the international community but that has since changed, forcing the country to look inwards for its survival. The IMF cited massive corruption as a major reason why it no longer extends aids to the impoverished nation. Other donor and multilateral agencies followed suit and the country was virtually left stranded.

Infrastructure decay is a major problem in Malawi and this has been worsened by poor healthcare delivery and educational systems. The country could not pay for

imports as it was short of foreign currency for most of 2017. Current GDP per Capita of about \$520 shows that the economy is struggling. Inflation rate hovers around 10% per annum while unemployment rate is around 6%. Poverty rate is around 51% ie the percentage of the populace living below \$1.90 per day. With all these statistics, it is easy to understand that the country needs a lot of help. This help will naturally start with leadership and that is the focus of today's discourse.

Malawi gained independence from the United Kingdom on July 6, 1964 and became a republic two years after. Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, a medical practitioner became the first President of the country at independence. In 1971, he declared himself, life President running a totalitarian government for about 30 years before he eventually lost power to Bakili Muluzi in 1994 under a new constitution allowing multi party democracy. To achieve democracy once again, the people had to engage President Banda in protests, negotiations and battles and in 1993, Banda succumbed to the wishes of the people. Muluzi was re-elected in 1999 for a second term. In 2004, Bingu wa Mutharika became the 3rd President of the country and was re-elected in 2009. He died in office, having suffered a

heart attack in 2012. Mrs Joyce Banda (no relation of President Hastings Banda) who was the Vice President was sworn in to complete Mutharika's tenure. By 2014 when she stood election on her own, she came a distant third, losing to Peter Mutharika, the brother of the late President Mutharika. He was to stand for re-election in 2019 which this time turned out to be very controversial. He was subsequently declared winner with a very narrow margin which his opponents contested in court. The court overturned his victory on account of massive fraud and irregularities and the Supreme Court upheld the verdict and ordered a fresh election. Lazarus Chakwera, the opposition leader won that election, beating the incumbent and was sworn in less than a year ago, in June 2020, amid the Coronavirus pandemic global lockdown.

President Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, 66, trained as a theologian and was the President of the Assemblies of God Church in Malawi for 24 years. He joined politics in 2013 after several years at the pulpit believing that he could only make maximum impact in public service. He instantly became the face of the opposition. He started out at the National Assembly and garnered a lot of support from the people. As he was being sworn in having secured close to 60% of the votes in the June 2020 election, he left no one in doubt that he had a mission. He made it clear that his administration was going to have zero tolerance for tribalism and most importantly, corruption. Even though he was criticized for some appointments with members of immediate families emerging cabinet members, he insisted that what was most important to Malawians at that stage was competence. Having said that, he did not rule out the possibility of taking another look at the appointments in due course. He was more concerned about hitting the ground running from day one than the inanities. Like a newspaper reported, Malawi was like a serious patient in an intensive care unit and bitter pills were needed to heal it - this includes overhauling

the civil service, employing and appointing people on merit and curbing corruption, nepotism and cronyism. Although one year is a relatively short time to judge the success or otherwise of a national leader, there was a dramatic shift in the fortunes of the country with the assumption of office. It became clear that it was no longer business as usual and there were indicators that supported the new profile of the leadership of Malawi. GDP of the country, which was \$5.5b in 2016 grew to \$8.4b last year.

Shortly after President Chakwera's swearing in, he was concerned about the infections and deaths arising from Covid-19. In August 2020, he quickly allocated \$8million to the task force on Covid to wage a war against the pandemic. He expected a lot of results, but that was not the case. On enquiry the Malawian office of the ombudsman reported that more than half of the allocation was spent on food, accommodation and travels by members of the task force. The President, in a justified fit of rage, swiftly fired 28 District Council heads of the task force and he ordered a full scale investigation into the fraud. As the report of the investigation was submitted last week, President Chakwera realised that more senior officials than thought, were involved in the heist. He discovered that his Labour Minister, Ken Kandodo, who was one of his closest allies and whose sister, Khumbize, he also had appointed Minister of Health, had helped himself to some \$800 out of the money to fund his personal travel to South Africa. Even though the Minister later refunded the money sequel to the investigation, and in spite of the relatively small amount involved, he had to be fired from his job immediately. Some other 19 cabinet members who were involved in the fraud were arrested for prosecution on the orders of the President. His comments upon the discovery of the fraud, are as paraphrased at the beginning of this column.

One believes there are things to learn from this obviously poor country that seems to be getting governance right. These lessons are important for our leaders in Nigeria, not only at the centre, but also at all tiers of government.

First of all, the resolve of the Malawi populace when their

votes were stolen and most importantly the courage exhibited by its Judiciary, combined with the refusal of that arm of government to be compromised, are what is required for any country that wants to grow its democracy. It was clear that the incumbent President Mutharika's popularity had waned and Chakwera possessed the attributes that the people needed and wanted. They voted for the latter but the former manipulated the election exercise and falsified the results. The people refused to accept the illegality and engaged in street protests. Meanwhile Chakwera approached the court for justice, which courageously resisted both bribes and intimidation from Mutharika's supporters. They wasted no time in sacking Mutharika. Celebrating this good news coming from an usual quarter in Africa, The Economist Magazine of London rightly pronounced Malawi, country of the year, 2020.

Secondly, the quality of leadership as demonstrated by the well trained clergy man with character and love for country and the people of Malawi, cannot be ignored. The leader must always lead from the front. It is easy to believe that the background of President Chakwera as a clergy man have had a hand in shaping his behaviour. While one will not dismiss this, one would readily point out that there are many clergymen who have been a great disappointment in public service and a disgrace to the calling. There must be something else which I will attribute to character. Just like in banking, character is everything. Chakwera was not one to fritter away the tithes and offerings of his congregation in pursuit of worldly things. As a shepherd of the House of God, he did not own a private jet or a fleet of luxury cars at the expense of his flock.

The third point to note is that the sack of a cabinet minister for corruption and prosecution of several other senior government officials make the dictum that there are no sacred cows, believable. It very much agrees with the Singaporean model which insists that if you want to fight corruption, punish people at the top and not at the bottom. This is because “the fish gets rotten from the head”. Once a leader begins to chase the little people while ignoring the big people, the war against corruption is as good as lost. I hope someone is listening!

Partnership brings Tanzania ICT players to regional map

By Guardian Reporter

INFORMATION and communications technology (ICT) has contributed positively to the country's socio-economic development taking into that it's one of the key sectors that employ as many people as possible.

The coming of Huawei—a Chinese multinational conglomerate which specialises in telecommunications equipment, consumer electronics and technology-based services and products has contributed positively to the growth of the sector through the so-called technological transfer.

The partnerships that made by the Chinese ICT firm have some made some local companies to grow and creates jobs and hence contribute to the country's econo-

my. The Dar es Salaam-based company—Power and Network Backup is one of the local enterprises that have been benefiting from the partnership with the Chinese ICT firm.

Dr Gilliard Loth, managing director of the local firm—Power and Network Backup attests that the partnership has made his company to gradually move from a simple service provider to a tech-savvy company in Tanzania. The firm started 13 years ago with only ten employees, but now it has employed 100 staff.

"To me this is a big stride," Loth says, revealing that apart from the firm's efforts, the achievement was contributed by the partnership with Huawei in 2013; by that time, the company was already engaging in the telecommunication industry.

"Initially, we had very few masts we were working on especially in Southern Highlands," he says, adding: Huawei is a company we've been on a journey with for over seven years. Working with Huawei has helped us a lot; we have learnt from their ever-evolving technology and been able to improve our efficiency. The partnership has significantly helped our company grow both financial and technological wise."

Speaking of the firm's extensive capabilities, Dr Loth introduced that not only they conduct passive management of sites, such as the provision of generators and attending problems related to power in telecommunication towers; but also they do the active part of the towers, namely improving radio communication, which is their major task

nowadays.

According to him, the company also does the installation of various tools and currently, it is working on the upgrading of a mobile company's services.

During the course of cooperating with Huawei, Dr Loth's company also has opportunities to deploy its staff to China to learn new technologies. After they come back with more experience, some of them are allocated to work in the field with higher efficiency; the others work as trainers to pass their experience to more employees.

"After a capacity building supported by Huawei, including expertise transfer and introducing modern ICT equipment, we are able to deliver quick, efficient, and better services to our clients, and

have managed to spread our wings at almost every corner of this country. We have engineers all over the country," he adds.

Dr Loth said the partnership with Huawei has seen the company registering robust growth and has achieved the stature of being an international brand that matches up with international standards.

"After partnering with Huawei, we have grown up almost ten folds with at least 100 employees and with a much more good office at this magnificent newly built PSSSF Tower here at Sam Nujuma Road," he says.

Over time, the company has built a strong reputation and received more opportunities to further expanding its business.

It has plans to expand into neighbouring countries, including Zam-

bia, Mozambique, and South Africa, it is also invited to conduct business in Ethiopia.

Recounting on the company's growth from a meagre one-room office to a regionally recognized company, Dr Loth pays a glowing tribute to the government of Tanzania for providing an enabling environment for local companies to grow and partner with foreign companies for a broader vision.

In return, the company also strives to repay the country.

"We are proud to have created 100 direct employment opportunities, which means that behind each of our employees, there are at least five to six dependents and this is a huge thing to our country's economy," he says.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE establishment of special sexual offences court that deals with gender-based violence (GBV) cases in Zanzibar has encouraged many people to increase efforts to combat violence against children.

The move reduces or eliminates GBV acts which have been accelerating in various parts of Unguja and Pemba in recent years.

The court was established in early February, this year after the Zanzibar President; Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi realized that women and child abuse cases are on the increase in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Zanzibar High Court Registrar Muhammed Ali Muhammed said 160 cases were filed with the court in both Unguja and Pemba in a period of one month; two of which have been decided upon and the rest were still pending.

He said 94 cases were opened at the Vuga Court in Unguja, 26 at Mahonda Court in North Unguja, 21 at Mwera Court in South Unguja, 10 at Chake Chake Court in North Pemba, and two at Wete Court in North Pemba.

He said among challenges faced by the Zanzibar the special court was the shortage of magistrates but added that the government has already given a goal ahead to employ new magistrates to help in the courts' operations.

"Any time from now we will have the magistrates whose work will be dealing with abuse-related cases and they will not deal with other cases," he said.

Currently, there are about 15 magistrates dealing with GBV cases in Unguja and Pemba courts.

He said cases of abuse were numerous and were being heard and there is a need to have a large number of magistrates dispense justice to the GBV victims as soon as possible.

"As per procedure, those cases shouldn't take more than 90 days, hence increasing the number of juries would facilitate the performance and delivery of justice," he said.

The official also cited a shortage of buildings as one of the challenges facing the judiciary in Zanzibar as many court buildings are dilapidated.

"Getting evidence is another challenge facing GVB cases as many people are reluctant when it comes to testifying against the accused in court and some fail to appear in courts and this is caused by what we call 'culture of secrecy,'" he said.

He added that having a special sexual offences court will help to address the challenge as the court have the power to penalize someone who denies providing evidence in court, urging the community to cooperate when they are required to give evidence so that the cases can be given due verdict because without evidence the suspects in those cases will not be convicted.

"The penalty will also include magistrate who won't be in court without justified reasons. I encourage magistrates to understand that they have a responsibility to appear in court early and I warn that those who fail to do so will face disciplinary action."

According to the registrar, the increase of GBV cases has been fueled by moral decay, misuse of social media, greed for children, and poor upbringing in some families.

He advised the agencies dealing with such cases to meet regularly to find appropriate ways to deal with this problem and urged judges to use the law as directed in sentencing and not to close their eyes or shake their hands in the use of their pens.

"By doing so, the community will be able to restore trust in the courts and the government and eventually find a mediator in cases of abuse, including child rape."

Head of research and advisory unit in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Ramadhan Abdalla Nassib said his office is gearing up to handle cases of abuse in a special court. The program includes train-



Special sexual offences court in Z'bar intensifies anti-GBV battle

ing lawyers and hiring new lawyers to handle such cases.

Nassib said of the 10 newly hired lawyers, six will work in Unguja and four in Pemba, noting that GBV cases need space, so it is good to find buildings that will have a friendly environment for people to feel free and not shy when giving evidence.

Deputy Director of Criminal Investigations at Zanzibar Police Headquarters, Hamad Khamis Hamad also said in response to the harassment, they have put in place guidelines that will help identify of-

ficers who are accused of destroying such cases.

He said there are police officers who already have taken to task including being fired and some being warned.

Abdallah Mnubi Abasi, Secretary of the ethics committee of the Zanzibar's Council and Islamic Institutions, expressed his hope that the court would be the catalyst for an end to such acts. "Let's stop the culture of secrecy when dealing with GBV cases if we're to end these acts."

Amani Ayoub Makame of Mwanakwerek-

we urged religious leaders to instill in their believers the fear of God and those leaders to provide humiliating education in houses of worship and various gatherings of believers.

He applauded the government's move to establish a special sexual offences court and decided to punish those who refused to testify in court.

Zanzibar-based activist, Fatma Juma Jabu said it was important to ensure that everyone caught in connection with the abuse was legally held accountable and given a

fair punishment to end such acts.

Dr Mzuri Issa, director of the Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) described the establishment of special courts as a positive step in combating such acts, noting that the move would facilitate the hearing of cases and victims of such acts to get their due.

"It's not pleasant at all when you see the perpetrator of such acts on the street. That makes the victims of such acts vulnerable and sometimes discouraged to pursue such cases," he said.

LHRC provides training to 40 girls on GBV and child abuse issues

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

THE Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has provided training to small girls under 18 years of age who delivered babies by empowering them in self-trust and manage themselves in assisting the community, solve challenges from gender based violence and child abuse.

The 40 girls come from 20

wards in Kahama Municipality in Shinyanga Region—Malunga, Nyihogo, Muhungula, Kagongwa, Mwendakulima, Busoka and Kilago.

During the training session at the weekend, the training coordinator from LHRC Joram Bwire said they have been providing this kind of training every year and the aim is to empower the girls who delivered

babies to face GBV and child abuse.

Bwire said these vulnerable groups have undergone various challenges in Tanzania, the situation that has made them to become unhappy with their rights and that the 2020 Human Rights Report has enlisted more than 26,544 GBV cases with 32 deaths of women.

He said in 2019 more than 4,397

cases on children sexual abuse were reported, an increase of in bodily abuse, child marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM) with the leading regions being Shinyanga, Tabora, Mara, Lindi and Morogoro.

Mary Ramadhani, one of the participants from Mhungula Ward said the training will help to fend herself in regard to legal issues and whereto is required

to report GBV and child abuse issues

For his part Nyangi Wariyoba from Mendakulima Ward said the participation of the community against GBV and child abuse was still negligible, they fail to attend to the gender desk or the courts to give evidence thereby making many cases to remain pending in the courts.

The writing is on the wall: The good ship South Africa is on course to become a Greek tragedy

By Ismail Lagardien

South Africa is stuck in the wild and treacherous waters of the Strait of Messina - too scared to turn left or right, and with a political class that cannot decide whether it wants to go backwards or forwards.

For the better part of a decade I have contested the idea that South Africa is a "failed state", and I still believe that it is not. Well, not yet anyway. Over the medium term, say the next 25 years, the country may well continue to slide towards being a failed state. I have, nevertheless, long ago lost hope for a better future for the current and the next generation. The exceptions are those who have wrapped themselves in a fleece of gold.

As we passed the 27th year of democracy and freedom in South Africa this week, the country continues to resemble a listing ship, veering from left to right, and unable to make its way through the Strait of Messina of Greek mythology. The ship's passage, its captain, more specifically, and with good reason, seems to be fearful of being sucked into the whirlpool of Radical Economic Transformation (RET), and the slow drag, from the opposite side, of looming elections, a fractious and restive society, and a National Prosecuting Authority that, with good reason, cannot seem to round up the demons fast enough. The captain appears undecided whether to go forward or backward, and so the ship is stuck in the strait, with demons waiting to destroy the good ship South Africa.

The sunshine of joy blinded everyone to what lay waiting

Like the crew of Jason's mythical Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece, South Africans were filled with joy and optimism as they set out in 1994 (and when the new Constitution was adopted by Parliament), but were blind to the dangers that lurked ahead: the mighty whirlpool and the six-headed monster that lurked in and along the Strait of Messina. Like Jason and the Argonauts, South Africans face betrayal by the ruling alliance and the politics of revenge promoted by the EFF and the RET faction. And as do all Greek myths, it all could, for



South Africans, end in tragedy...

While several commentators or trolls may want to roll out the "failed state" trope, and while evidence mounts that we may be heading in that direction, South Africa is not a failed state. Not yet, anyway, but the weakening of the judiciary is an ominous sign, when added to institutions that are typically evaluated as indices of state failure - or a state's strength and stability. As the insightful Professor Balthazar stated this week, "the signs that the country will slide ever further from a country based on freedom, dignity and equality are there for us to see. The dream may not simply be deferred. It could be destroyed if civil society is not especially vigilant." There is no gain in arguing with that.

What we have to do is look at the indices that are typically used to determine whether a state has failed. These indices typically include: increasing demographic pressures; large-scale movement of refugees, or internally displaced persons with resultant humanitarian emergencies; vengeance-seeking groups, grievances or group paranoia; chronic and sustained human flight, especially a brain drain; uneven economic development that tends to favour certain groups; sharp and/or severe economic decline; criminalisation and/or delegitimation of the state; progressive deterioration of public services; the suspension or arbitrary application of the rule of law with widespread vi-

olations of human rights; security apparatus operating as a "state within a state"; the rise of factionalised elites, and the intervention of other states, external political actors; and an increase of paramilitarism.

Among these indices there is, indeed, cause for concern. For instance, the Economic Freedom Fighters represent the politics of revenge, and are surreptitiously undermining the legitimacy of the state and the judiciary. AfriForum and other minority groups under a loosely defined rubric of "coloured politics" continue to raise grievances and reflect group paranoia (as evidenced in the myth of a white genocide). We are experiencing two types of brain drain. One is that people with skills (mostly white people who acquired valuable skills during apartheid) are leaving, while others are simply dismissed and replaced by people with questionable skills, or engineers with fake qualifications.

There has been a marked deterioration of public service. Economic development, according to the last census, has confirmed that whites are better off today than they were for decades, and significantly better off than black, Indian or coloured people. It is also clear that we have a highly factionalised elite, and by one account the country has experienced a significant economic decline (at least of Gross Domestic Product) that is the worst in 100 years. In short, we are stuck in the wild and treacherous waters of the Strait

of Messina - too scared to turn left or right, and with a political class that cannot decide whether it wants to go backwards or forwards.

The signs are clear that we are slouching towards failure

Against all of that as a backdrop, we can pick at five specific things to get a more immediate sense of where we are as a state. Before doing that, it would be sloppy if I were not to mention that there are no general transhistorical laws (or perhaps even practices) governing the concrete role of the state in capitalism. We are, after all, a capitalist country. We are just too scared to admit it. Such general laws are merely postulates of particular political ideologies. We may want to avoid simply reproducing these ideologies uncritically, but rather to explore the state's role in specific historical and geopolitical contexts. It's not outlandish to say that most African states were born in state failure.

Let us, then, zoom in on those five things, and see how we're doing.

First, leadership. My understanding is that we have the best president available, and the best since the start of the Mbeki era. But he does not appear to have a firm grip on his leadership. I could be wrong, but only Cyril Ramaphosa will be able to explain that. When we consider "leadership" as more than just the president, we are in trouble. I will use a silly analogy to explain what I think Ramaphosa's problem is: You can't soar like an eagle when you're stuck in the mud with turkeys.

Then there is the military. South Africa has a military, but somebody has to say it: You need military personnel who can march in straight lines; who know a left from a right turn. You need junior military personnel to take instructions - even if such instructions are given by an "Indian". You also need to place the demands of national service before that of your trade union.

The other institution is the police. Nothing has changed since Professor Tom Lodge of Wits University wrote in 1997 that the police are the most corrupt institution in South Africa. Today, the public simply do not trust the South African Police Service.

The civil service works when individual public servants want to. One reason for the lack of public service delivery is precisely the absence of ethics, urgency and professionalism in the public service.

The final focus is the judiciary.

When the judiciary falls, our days are numbered

Until a year or two ago, it would have been safe to say that South Africa's judiciary was stronger, and more independent than it had ever been. But constant attempts to undermine the judiciary, mainly by the EFF and former president Jacob Zuma, and serious allegations of malpractices in a small group of judges reflect a judiciary that is descending into the swamp that is South African politics.

Judith February pointed out, "[Chief Justice Mogoeng] Mogoeng's failure to halt the intemperate questions by Malema to Judge Pillay that caused the [JSC] interview process to descend into a farce... I am going to argue in a closed session that you are nothing but a political activist. You are no judge, and you deserve no high office," Malema told Judge Pillay.

During the same process, February wrote, "Advocate Thandazani Griffiths Madonsela SC asked whether candidate Lawrence Lever SC's observation of the sabbath would interfere with his judicial duties. Lever responded that he did not observe the sabbath but he had always performed his duties as required and that the same would be true for judges of other religious persuasions."

In a gradation of state failure, with Somalia being the ultimate case of state collapse, South Africa is a long way down the road, but nowhere near failure. When I visited Somalia and Liberia for research in the early 1990s, before I went to Rwanda, Mogadishu barely had a police officer, or a public official behind a desk.

I hate to sound Panglossian, but South Africa is not a failed state. However, the hope we had in 1994 - like the way the sun sets at the end of every day, and we are assured that there will be a tomorrow - has been fading fast and things are not quite working out the way they were meant to.

By Ejeviome Eloho Ootobo and Oseloka H. Obaze

Police are integral part of every country's national security architecture, and police reforms are a vital part of security sector reform and an important component of peacebuilding/state building. Against the backdrop of the ongoing national policy debate on the Senate bill on police reforms, we offer these reflections on reforming policing in Nigeria. In principle, every police reform effort is country-specific, but guided by a set of global best practices. The specific context of Nigeria is that it operates a federal political system. Regardless, the best policing practices entail adherence to the principle of subsidiarity - the notion that policy decisions should be taken, and operational command exercised, at the local or lowest possible level rather than by a central arrangement; effective regulation of non-state security providers; and use of civilian police for civilian police duties and exclusion of the military in such roles.

The current draft bill gives the impression that whittling down the power of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) is the panacea to better policing in Nigeria. That is a flawed diagnosis. The central challenge of policing in Nigeria, is the over-centralization of police arrangement; the deficiencies are regulatory and structural. Zonal restructuring of the police with about nine DIGs and 17 AIGs manning 17 zones, still does not empower the states and their governors who are the designated Chief Security Officers of their States. The pressing need is to diametrically devolve policing powers to the states and not an amorphous

Reflections on police reform: Crucial need is to devolve policing powers to the states

arrangement in which power is vested in zonal DIGs and AIGs.

Supporters of devolution of police functions - moving it from the exclusive to the concurrent list - include many state governors of the ruling All Progressives Congress. This clearly indicates bipartisan support for devolution of policing to the states. It also bears emphasizing that the centralization of the policing functions accreted during the military regimes. In the immediate post-independence years, the regions and even local governments had much latitude in policing activities.

Several factors have provided the impetus for police reforms in Nigeria, and compelled demands for police devolution. First, the current centralized police arrangement has proven insufficiently responsive to the needs of the states and local communities in various parts of Nigeria. This is because there is deep distrust of the police - a distrust, reflected in the public resentment against police brutality. This requires not only enhanced effort at community policing but improved oversight of policing at the community level. Yet it's wrong to conclude that community policing means assigning central police to communities: rather it means that the police functions at community levels are performed by persons from those communities who understand the culture, speak the language and can easily interface with the locals. It's the deep dis-



pointment with the centralized arrangement that resulted in the formation of hodgepodge of regional or state security arrangements in the country: Hisbah in some Northern states, Amotekun in the South West; and most recently Ebube Agu in the South East. A more simplified arrangement, advocated by many

governors, is to devolve policing to the states.

This reality demands reflection on the fate of the current federal police structure. Devolved police functions will result in most of the current police officers being posted to their states. As in most federal political system, the federal police will

be entrusted the responsibilities of enforcing federal laws and investigating federal crimes. This opens the enticing possibility of seamless and efficacious collaboration with the Department of State Services (DSS). Parallels already exist: in the United States, after which many aspects of Nigeria's federal system are modelled, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) performs the triple tasks of enforcing federal laws, investigating federal crimes and undertaking domestic intelligence - while collaborating continually with state and local government police. Prevailing trenchant criticisms of the police reflects two current malaises afflicting the Nigerian police. The NPF are required to simultaneously enforce local, state and federal laws and with dismal police to population ratio that is well under the United Nations prescribed ratio of 1: 450 persons.

Next is welfare and pay for the Nigeria police. Most policemen and women not only work in poor physical conditions, they live in poorly maintained and dilapidated barracks. These are not the conditions for officers, women and men of the Nigerian Police to function optimally. An inextricable link exists between these abysmal working and living conditions of the police and the endemic bribery and corruption that Nigerians often complain about. The Police Act of 2020 and the 2019 Police Trust Fund contain provisions for improved welfare, salaries, periodic training,

and equipping of police training institutions.

Improved welfare, better training and increased pay for police require adequate financing. As these unmet needs manifest, most states have devoted significant financial resources to offering logistical support to the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies. Police financing are thus marked by three distinct dysfunctions: states are providing part funding to the police that they have no control over; the federal funding of police is inadequate; and the citizenry that the police is meant to serve and protect are indifferent to their dismal service conditions and dubious in advocating for, or contributing to, better police funding.

Devolution, holds the key to grappling with many problems that afflict centralized policing. With devolution, funding of police will come from three sources - the re-allocation of current federal funding to the states; the states' contribution; and innovation of co-funding by communities. The last two forms of police funding exist vicariously, through the regional security outfits and community funding of vigilantes. Co-funding of policing by communities will connote ownership, bring the people and police closer, and engender better policing services to the local communities. Devolution will also close the extant constitutional gap of funding-without-authority, by which State governors are designated Chief Security Officers without having control over the police. The Senate should act with courage and boldness to devolve policing functions to address unmet security needs and the demands of the citizenry.

BUSINESS



Joe Mucheru, Kenya's ICT Cabinet Secretary.

REGULATION

Airtel risks forced sale in expired licence row

NAIROBI

The State has ordered Airtel Kenya to pay \$20.025 million (Sh2.15 billion) for its expired licence to be exempted from a rule that requires telecoms operators to sell a 30 percent stake to local investors within the next three years.

Joe Mucheru, the ICT Cabinet Secretary, said Airtel must first renew its licence that expired in February 2015 before entering talks with the government for a waiver of the local ownership rule. Airtel is locked in a court stalemate with the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) over the renewal of its operating licence, with the regulator insisting that the firm must pay the permit fee of Sh2.1 billion to stay in business. In the meantime, Airtel is operating on a licence acquired along with Essar's (yuMobile) assets in a deal concluded in 2014.

"If they are operating without a licence, how do we even grant them an exemption? We are still in court with them. I cannot give permission if they have not paid the licence fee," Mr Mucheru told the Business Daily in a phone interview.

"They (Airtel) have to go to the regulator to get a licence. The regulator will have to show that they have met all rules except that they are not able to find local investors if that is the case. Then the Communications Authority of Kenya can write to me for exemption." This looks set to escalate the licensing row that has dragged in court for the past six years.

Airtel maintains that the CA had agreed to merge its operating licences with the ones it purchased from Yu Mobile in 2014 for the \$6.976 million (Sh752 million) it paid to acquire the rival firm. The Yu Mobile licence is to expire on January 27, 2025.

Airtel claims that upon its purchase of Yu Mobile spectrum and frequencies, the CA changed its earlier position and demanded an additional Sh2.15 billion as a condition for renewing its operating permits.

Airtel earlier told the court that it would have abandoned the Yu Mobile deal had the regulator disclosed it would demand separate spectrum fees of Sh2.15 billion. The row moved to the Court of Appeal. The CA maintains that the Yu Mobile licence Airtel is currently

operating under was not automatically transferable.

The tough stance by the government signals that India's Bharti Airtel must pay the Sh2.1 billion or sell the 30 percent of its stake in Kenya's second largest telecoms operator to a local to avoid getting into trouble with the regulators. The mandatory share sale is to bring the firm in full compliance with ownership regulations that require telecoms companies to maintain at least 30 percent local shareholding.

Mr Mucheru on April 9 unveiled a licensing policy that has given telecoms firms up to March 2024 to comply with the rule meant to encourage local ownership of ICT firms. He also increased the local ownership threshold from a minimum of 20 per cent, a cap that has been in place since 2008.

A few firms, including Airtel, have been exempted from the shareholding rule, a window that let billionaire investor Naushad Merali to sell a significant portion of his shareholding in the firm worth billions of shillings without contravening the law.

Mr Mucheru has directed firms that had secured waivers on the local ownership rule to comply within three years. Airtel, which has remained in losses since launching Kenya operations in 1999, considers the Sh2.1 billion licence fee too high.

Its losses in the year to March last year stood at Sh5.61 billion. Safaricom recorded a net profit of Sh74.6 billion in the same period. Airtel's difficulties in finding a buyer for the stake has been linked to the mismatch between the company's valuation and local investors' assessment of its worth based on the position that the business remains in the loss-making territory.

This position is what prompted the State to offer Airtel an open-ended waiver on the local ownership rule. Mr Merali, who initially owned 40 per cent of Airtel, has used the waiver window to sell his shareholding in the firm.

Airtel has signalled its intention to seek a waiver to the latest order on the 30 per cent local ownership rule. "Airtel Networks Kenya Limited shall have discussions on the policy with the relevant authorities and will abide with the relevant requirements prior to any public disclosure," Airtel Kenya CEO Prasanta Das Sarma told the Business Daily in an email response.

OUTSTANDING

CRDB's gross profit rises by 36pc to 62bn/- in Q1 of 2021

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc's profit before tax continued an upward surge by 36.3 percent to 62bn/- during the first quarter of this year compared to 46bn/- realised during a corresponding period last year.

The Dar es Salaam based bank which remains one of the most profitable in the market, also witnessed its customer deposits, net loans and total assets continue to record growth. The quarterly results show that total assets rose by 9.7 percent from 6.6trn/- to 7.2trn/-; customer deposits grew by 3.4 percent from 5.1trn/- to 5.3trn/- whilst total loans increased by 13.7 percent from 3.5trn/- to 4trn/- during the period.

"We are off to a strong start in 2021 with impressive earnings for the first quarter; these exceptional results highlight our bank's unparalleled and coordinated effort to assist customers to achieve their financial goals through our innovative products and services," said CRDB Bank's Managing Director and Group CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela adding that non-performing loans also dropped to 4.1 per-



CRDB Bank Plc's managing director and CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela, speaks at a past event in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

cent from 4.4 percent.

Nsekela explained that the upsurge in operating income was due to the increase in interest and similar income. Non-interest income grew by 4.9 percent to 69bn/- from 66bn/- recorded in 2020, whilst net interest income increased by 9.6 percent to 184bn/- against 168bn/- during the same period, he noted.

The CRDB chief further noted that digital banking, however, continued to gain traction after

the launch of an enhanced Sim-Banking platform that enables customers to open an account from wherever they are, cost-free.

"Similarly, digital banking transactions have increased significantly during the quarter due to improved adoption by customers and new services migrated to our digital channels," he explained while noting that due to the bank's high performance and increased stability, the basic earnings per share for the first quarter

improved to 16.4/- from 12.4/-.

In addition, return on equity increased to 16.7 percent from 14.4 percent while return on assets for the period under review was 3.5m percent, indicating a solid financial performance in the period. "The performance is balanced across all key indicators and shows that the strategies we are implementing are moving the group in the right direction," Nsekela alerted.

Listed on Dar es Salaam Stock exchange, CRDB Bank is the first bank in Tanzania to be rated amongst the top ten stable and safer to invest African banks by the world's most respected rating agency, Moody's Investors Services. Moody's rated CRDB Bank with a "B1 stable outlook" recently which is the highest rating to have been acquired by banks or financial institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. UN Green Climate Fund accredited CRDB Bank in November 2019.

The bank which has a subsidiary in Burundi serves more than three million customers with a large footprint of 246 branches, 19,350 agents or CRDB Wakala, over 550 ATMs and over 1,900 merchants.

DIVERSIFICATION

StanChart to back state efforts to curb carbon pollution

By Francis Kajubi

In supporting government efforts to curb global warming blamed on carbon emissions, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited in partnership with regional and global institutions, will accelerate zero initiatives to protect the environment.

Speaking at an Iftar organized

by the bank for its customers held in Dar es Salaam last week, StanChart Tanzania's CEO, Sanjay Rughani said one of the three areas that the bank plans to focus on is supporting efforts put in place by the government and the private sector in protection of environment.

"We have recognized that carbon emission is becoming too destructive to the globe and as a

bank we have a bold commitment to protect one billion lives by driving green energy solutions across the world," Rughani said. StanChart Tanzania is part of UK based Standard Chartered Group.

"We are going to work with companies which are emitting carbon today to reduce the emissions," Rughani told a gathering of more than 200 clients who attended the Iftar to break

the fast as Moslems continue the holy month of Ramadhan.

According to him, the second area of focus is the 'lifting participation' where the bank will touch lives of the underprivileged communities alongside human rights promotion and protection. The bank also targets at reaching another billion lives across the world focusing on children, youth and women.

"The bank has a strong brand and ability to get into partnerships that will lead into impacting many lives," he added while naming the third focus area as being small and medium entrepreneurs support to which about 70 percent of the business community is being employed.

"We want to facilitate local SMEs win global outreach. We have a very strong client base across the world, so, where possible we are going to connect our local clients to the global ones that go in line with capacity building and offering solutions to financial related challenges," Rughani asserted.

Backing his boss, Head of Consumer, Private and Business Banking, Ajmair Riaz said investment in digital banking has seen the bank increase its customer base with an addition of 80,000 new customers in the past two years.

"Last month we celebrated the second anniversary since the launch of our full digital mobile banking to the market that has witnessed the opening of thousands of individual accounts on top of the previous 20,000 we had before embarking on the digital path," Riaz said adding that the exponential growth of 700 percent enabled the bank to reach the 100,000 individual accounts.



Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited's CEO, Sanjay Rughani (L), presents a Ramadan gift to Sheikh Issa Othman of Maamur Mosque at iftar held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Jumanne Juma

DIVERSIFICATION

MTN Rwanda launches FinTech subsidiary, appoints Chantal Kagame as CEO

KIGALI

MTN Rwanda has received approval from the Central Bank to set up its FinTech subsidiary, Mobile Money Rwanda Ltd, in a move that is likely to intensify competition in the financial system.

The firm, which was given the mandate to run the telecom's mobile money operations effective April 27, 2021- will be headed by Chantal Kagame. As the Chief Executive Officer Kagame is tasked with driving

business development, strategy, innovation, and day-to-day operations of the company.

The setting up of FinTech, the company said is in line with its strategy to lead digital solutions while contributing to the national economic strategy on enhancing cashless transactions that offer convenience.

The development positions the firm ideally to make the most of their current market position where out of about 6 million clients, 3.2 million of them are active mobile money users. Active mobile money users

are clients who have used Mobile Money in the last 30 days. Of the 3.2 million users, the firm's officials say that 2.4 million customers use MoKash for both saving and taking loans.

This new firm could pose stiff competition to banks which have seemed to struggle to have relevance in the local market given then only 36 per cent of adults are formally banked (2.6 million out of about 7 million adults as of 2020).

According to the 2020 Finscope survey findings, financial inclusion in the country

has largely been driven by mobile money technology. MTN Rwanda Chief Executive, Mitwa Ng'ambi said that the new structure is also expected to ensure that the business segment is agile and well-poised for growth and innovation.

"Mobile Money has matured over the last ten years in Rwanda, and this marks a pivotal milestone in our journey toward a cashless economy," she said. Chantal Kagame the new Chief Executive said that the segment's prospects for future growth and expansion

of Mobile Money services in Rwanda are immense.

"The transition process to a standalone business has now kicked off and we look forward to cementing Mobile Money Rwanda Ltd as a key FinTech player in the Rwandan market," she said. This comes days before MTN Rwanda's listing on the Rwanda Stock Exchange where 1,350,886,600 ordinary shares will be registered at an initial listing price of Rwf269 per ordinary share.

GENEROSITY

Bank donates oxygen-supplying system to Dar es Salaam hospital

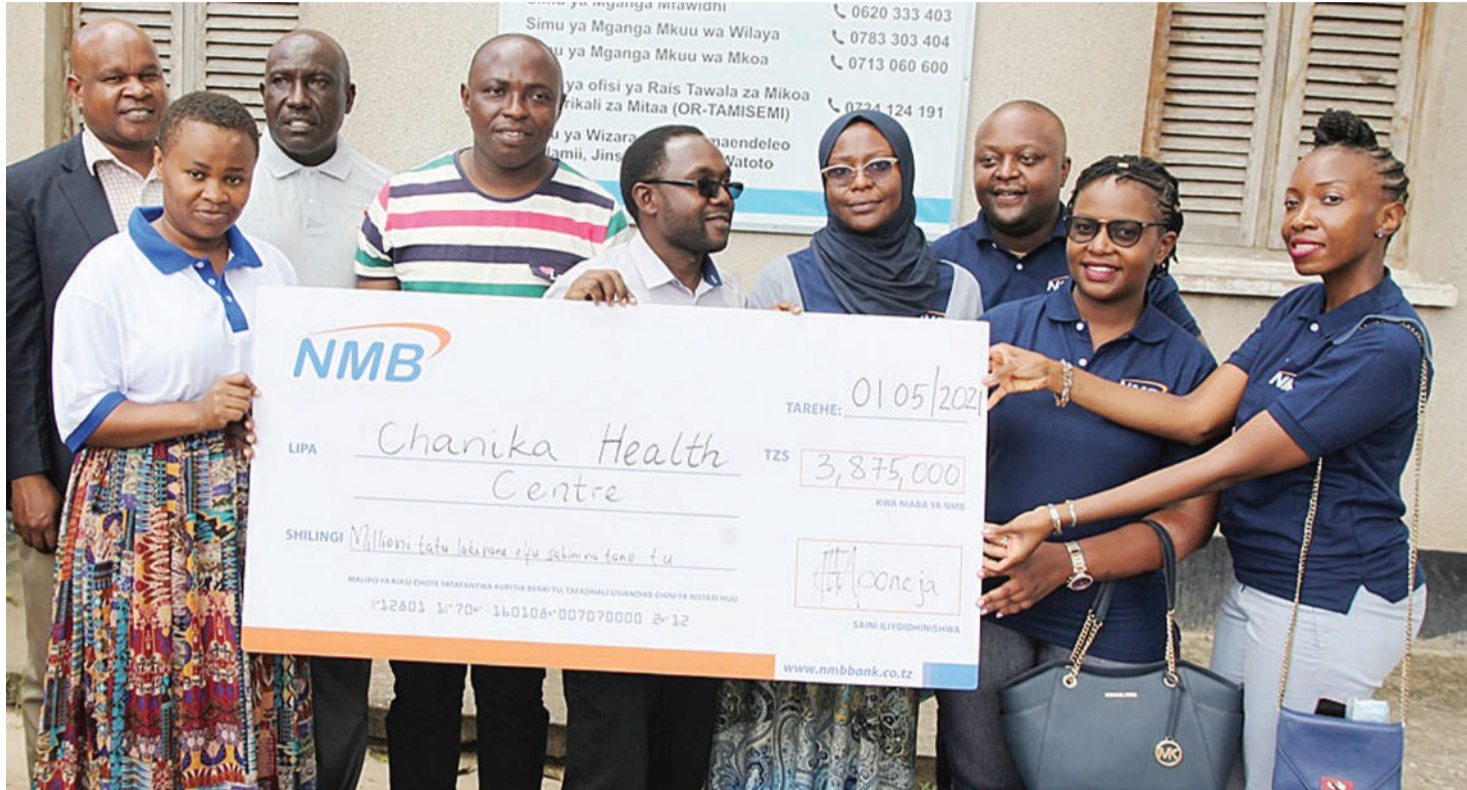
By Guardian Reporter

AN oxygen supplying system worth 3.8m/- has been donated by NMB Bank Plc's Treasury Department workers to Chanika Hospital in Dar es Salaam last week.

The bank's Treasury Officer, Samira Saleh said after presenting the system that the workers decided to contribute towards the donation to save lives of mothers and children at the public hospital. Saleh said that employees of the bank, they were concerned that innocent lives were lost hence decide to intervene.

"In support of government efforts to help reduce mother and child mortality, we decided to contribute by paying for the installation of the Oxygen supply system at this public hospital," she said noting that the employees are also backing President Samia Suluhu Hassan calls to curb unnecessary deaths of mothers and children.

She further noted that the system will help serve 30 pregnant women who deliver at the hospital weekly. "We believe that this equipment will provide a better environment for patients admitted in intensive care unit, neonatal care unit and emergency unit of the hospital,"



NMB Bank Plc's head of treasury department, Gladness Deogratius (R), presents a dummy cheque for over 3.8m/- to Chanika Sub-location representative, Barnabas Mtumbuka (in t-shirt) donated by staff from her department to assist a Chanika hospital in acquiring an oxygen supplying system at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy NMB.

Saleh added.

In a vote of thanks, Chanika Hospital's Medical Doctor in Charge, Dr Willy Sangu said the equipment was donated at the right time because the hospital is overwhelmed by large numbers of patients facing breathing dif-

ficulties.

"We thank NMB staff for coming to the rescue of patients who are attended daily at this hospital," Dr Sangu said saying the majority of patients facing serious breathing problems are children and women.

Meanwhile NMB has donated 60 chairs and a similar number of tables to Mtambani and Mgeule Primary Schools in Ilala City of Dar es Salaam Region. The bank also donated 170 iron sheets to Mnauka temporary school in Newala District of Mt-

wara Region.

"We are making this donation while strongly believing that our children will have an improved learning environment hence perform better," NMB's Dar es Salaam Zone Manager, Donatus Richard said.

RAMADHAN

Bank extends 'iftar' to 40 orphanages nationwide

By Francis Kajubi

SOME 40 orphanages in the country have received food stuffs and groceries from CRDB Bank Plc to enable them have Iftar during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Friday at an Iftar organized by the bank for its customers, CRDB's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the orphanages which were given an assortment of food items are from different parts of the country.

"It has been a tradition for CRDB Bank to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy in the community during the month of Ramadhan," Nsekela said while noting that the bank's decision is part of its corporate social responsibility.

According to him, the bank has been winning new clients' hearts as days pass by not only because of its favourable financial products and services but also because of being closer to the public through investment in community services.

"We have never let the general public including our customers walk alone during difficult times of their lives but hold their hands all along. Our relationship with clients and the general public is not limited to business activities only because they are part of the bank," Nsekela added.

In a vote of thanks of the bank, Dar es Salaam Regional Sheikh, Alhad Mussa Salim said that those who bring relief to the needy especially during the month of Ramadhan receive more blessings from Allah.

Sheikh Salim praised CRDB's management for assisting the less fortunate like orphans with food stuff worth 10m/- two week ago in Dar es Salaam saying such actions are what Allah expects from all capable Moslems. "The Sadak puts a smile on these children's faces who have no parents," he noted.

He urged other Moslems to help orphanages in his region many of which are facing serious shortages of essentials. "Most orphanages face shortages of beds and mattresses but also lack clean water and often struggle to pay utility bills," he hinted while urging everybody capable of assisting to do so.

LOTTERY

Telco awards 50m/- cash to 50 'Sherehekea Pesa' winners

By Guardian Reporter

FIFTY lucky winners took home 1m/- each thanks to Tigo Pesa's promotion dubbed, 'Sherehekea Pesa' last week during a weekly draw.

In a statement on Friday, Tigo Tanzania said as part of its ongoing 'Sherehekea Pesa' promotion a batch of 10 lucky winners were each handed 1m/- as part of the 10-week long exercise that will see the telco pay over 200m/- to clients. The promo is also part of Tigo Pesa 10-year celebrations.

Speaking during the cash handover ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Friday, Tigo Pesa High Value Customers Segment Manager, Mary Rutta the promotion which has entered its sixth week, has so far award 50m/- to 50 different customers.

"Customers participation is what predicts their outcome as weekly or grand draw winners. In the main campaign, where the theme is 'Everyone wins with Tigo Pesa,' every customer stands a chance to win various bonuses while Tigo Pesa Wakalas are also eligible so they should put more effort in making sure customers are getting reliable services at all times," Rutta said.

"The more a customer uses Tigo Pesa to make payments for utility bills, buy goods and services, send money to other Tigo Pesa customers, receiving money from other networks and other countries, the more chances they get to win cash prizes," she explained.

Rutta pointed out that the luck winners come from different regions in the country who regularly use Tigo Pesa platform to transact. "The promotion will continue for the next five weeks, where each week, 10 lucky winners will walk away with 1m/- each, thereafter, the weekly winners will enter a grand draw where 10 winners will each get 10m/- at the end of the campaign," she added. The 'Sherehekea Pesa' promotion will see 60 winners will a total of 150m/- prize money.



Tigo Pesa's high value customers segment manager, Mary Rutta, presents a dummy cheque to a 1m/- cash prize winner, Farid Mruma, in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy of Tigo.

LIBERALIZATION

Ethiopia promises to allow mobile money for new telcom entrants

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia has pledged to allow prospective owners of new telcom licenses to offer mobile-banking services at some point after entering the market, according to people familiar with the matter.

The initial exclusion of mobile money from the auction process had caused wireless carriers to hesitate over bidding for the new spectrum and influenced the amount they were prepared to offer, said

the people, who asked not to be identified as the process is ongoing. The state also backtracked on an insistence that new entrants rent infrastructure such as telecom towers from state-owned Ethio Telecom indefinitely, they said.

The concessions are part of Ethiopia's drawn out effort to open its telecom market to outside investors, a central tenet of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's plans to reform the economy and generate foreign exchange. A consortium of Johannesburg-based MTN

Group Ltd. and China's Silk Road Fund submitted a bid earlier this week, as did a group including the UK's Vodafone Group Plc and African partners.

A response to the two offers is expected in coming days, the people said. Eyob Tekalign, the Ethiopian state minister responsible for the privatization process, couldn't be reached for comment. Vodafone and MTN declined to comment on an ongoing process.

Wireless carriers on the continent see

mobile money as a major generator of revenue, as hundreds of millions of people use their phones for payments rather than traditional banks. M-Pesa Africa, the continent's biggest such service and co-owned by Safaricom Ltd. and Vodacom Group Ltd., is valued at \$14 billion, according to a research note by EFG Hermes.

Ethiopia's decision to open up the telecom industry was taken in mid-2018 and was initially part of a much wider privatisation program, taking in sugar

factories and railway infrastructure among other sectors. But the process has been hit by numerous setbacks, including the coronavirus pandemic, delayed elections and the regulatory complexity that comes with organising a sale.

The business case for phone companies was at first straightforward: Ethiopia has a population of more than 110 million, the second largest in Africa, yet less than half its people have mobile-phone subscriptions.

WORLD

Over 100m Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19

LONDON / NEW YORK / HAGUE

Disease Control and Prevention show.

PRESIDENT Joe Biden banned most travel to the US from India beginning Tuesday as the country struggles to combat the worst surge of coronavirus cases in the world, the White House said.

The US administered 3.3 million doses on Saturday, the most since a week earlier, taking the average daily vaccination rate to 2.55 million.

More than 100 million adult Americans have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of Saturday, according to data of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The fully vaccinated account for 30.5 percent of the U.S. population.

The US added 56,274 new cases on Friday, as weekly infections dropped to their lowest level since mid-October, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University and Bloomberg.

The outbreak continues to slow in most states though there has been an uptick in pockets of the West, California excluded, data from the U.S. Centers for

Brazil

Weekly cases in Brazil increased after two consecutive declines, Health Ministry data show. The country reported some 67,000 new infections on Saturday, for a weekly total of 417,760. Cases since the start of pandemic are 14.7 million.

Deaths fell for the third consecutive week, to 16,945, though the seven-day toll remains more than double the peak of last summer's surge. Another 2,656 deaths were reported Saturday, at the end of week in which Brazil crossed 400,000 total fatalities, the most after the US.

Brazil began the month of May reporting 2,656 deaths from COVID-19 as well as 66,964 new cases, raising the national death toll to 406,437 and the total caseload to 14,725,975, the Ministry of Health said on Saturday.

The daily average number of deaths in the last seven days was 2,421, while the figure for April was higher than 3,000, according to the ministry.



A nurse holds up a coronavirus nasal swab to test crew and actors prior to performing in the longest running play 'Perfect Crime' Off-Broadway at The Anne Bernstein Theater in The Theater Center on April 27, 2021 in New York City. (AFP)

The Netherlands

The Netherlands has postponed a further easing of lockdown measures until at least May 18 as COVID-19 infections remain high and hospitals are struggling with large numbers of coronavirus patients, the government said on Saturday.

"We are passing the peak of the third wave. But the decline (of the infection rate) is not strong enough yet", health minister Hugo de Jonge said on Twitter.

The Netherlands eased its lockdown slightly last week, as a nighttime curfew was lifted and bars and restaurants which had remained shut since mid-October were allowed to serve small groups outdoors between noon and 6 p.m.

Portugal

The Portuguese Government on Saturday extended travel restrictions to and from countries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic until May 16.

According to the Ministry of Internal Administration, for travelers to and from countries with a COVID-19

incidence rate equal to or greater than 500 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, only flights considered essential are allowed, for example, for professional, study, family reunion, health and humanitarian reasons.

Countries like Cyprus, Croatia, Brazil, India, France, Lithuania, the Netherlands, South Africa, and Sweden are included in this category, and travelers from these countries have to undergo 14 days of quarantine after arrival.

Russia

Russia reported 8,697 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday, including 2,699 in Moscow, taking the official national tally since the pandemic began to 4,823,255.

The government coronavirus task force said 342 people had died of coronavirus-linked causes in the past 24 hours, pushing Russia's death toll to 110,862.

The federal statistics agency has kept a separate count and reported a toll of more than 225,000 from April 2020 to February.

Agencies

Xi stresses strategic resolve on building eco-civilisation

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed maintaining strategic resolve on developing an ecological civilization and achieving modernization featuring human-nature harmony.

Xi made the remarks while presiding over a study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Friday, according to a statement issued on Saturday.

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period is a vital phase for China's ecological conservation drive that aims for overall green transformation of economic and social development through coordinated progress in pollution reduction and carbon emission cut, Xi noted.

He called for maintaining strategic resolve and plan-

ning economic and social development with a lofty goal of achieving harmonious co-existence between humans and nature.

At the study session, Wang Jinnan, head of the Chinese Academy of Environmental Planning under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, explained related issues and proposed work suggestions for discussion.

Xi said one of the key characteristics of China's socialist modernization is human-nature harmony. He urged efforts to accelerate the adjustments of industrial, energy, transportation, and land use structures.

Territorial space planning and use control should be strengthened, and resource utilization efficiency comprehensively improved.

Peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality are a solemn commitment to the world and also



a profound economic and social transformation that is by no means easy, Xi noted.

He called on Party officials and governments at all levels to set clear timetables and roadmaps to push economic and social development based on efficient use of resources and green, low-carbon growth.

"High-energy consumption and high-emission projects that do not meet requirements must be resolutely taken down," Xi stressed. He underscored

efforts to continue the fight against air, water and soil pollution and improve the quality and stability of the ecosystem.

China will establish a sound mechanism for realizing the value of ecological products so that the protection and restoration of the ecological environment can be awarded a reasonable return, and the cost of damaging the environment paid correspondingly, Xi said.

Major biodiversity conservation projects will be launched, and control of alien species strengthened, he noted.

China will actively participate in global environmental governance, improve South-South cooperation, and cooperate with neighboring countries, Xi said.

It will provide developing countries with financial and technical support within its capacity, and assistance in

improving environmental governance capabilities, in order to jointly build a green Belt and Road, he noted. Xi stressed that China must improve the modernization of the ecological environment governance system and governance capabilities and strengthen legal and policy guarantees for green development. He urged efforts to improve the management of binding indicators for environmental protection, energy conservation, and emission reduction, and establish a sound and stable mechanism of the fiscal input.

China should fully implement the pollution discharge permit system, promote the market-oriented trading of pollution discharge rights, energy use rights, water use rights, and carbon emission rights. It should also establish a sound risk management and control mechanism, Xi said. **Xinhua**

Somalia, UN commit to improving vaccination coverage

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA, United Nations agencies and other partners on Friday renewed their commitments to improving vaccination coverage against COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases in the country.

Somalia's health ministry, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and

other agencies said they have been providing vaccines while observing COVID-19 protocol since last year to Somalis against preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, diphtheria, tetanus, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza type b, cholera, tuberculosis, polio, and now against COVID-19.

The agencies said 3 million children have been offered

vaccines to protect them from polio since the resumption of mass vaccination campaigns in September 2020, which had been paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Overall, 433,863 (70 percent of the target) children aged under one year received their first doses of measles vaccines to protect them against this highly infectious disease," the

agencies said in a joint statement issued at the end of the week-long World Immunization Week.

This year, the World Immunization Week, which was celebrated on April 24-30, came at a time when Somalia is conducting one of its largest and much-needed vaccination campaigns against COVID-19.

Minister of Health and Hu-

man Services Fawziya Abikar Nur called for more efforts to improve vaccination coverage, noting that polio is on the verge of being eradicated. "Smallpox's last resting place was in Somalia. But, thanks to concerted and collaborative efforts, we were able to eliminate the disease. Polio is on the verge of being eradicated," the minister said. **Xinhua**

Israel observes day of mourning for religious festival dead

ISRAEL observed a day of mourning on Sunday for 45 people crushed to death at a Jewish religious festival, with flags lowered to half-staff and questions raised about accountability for one of the country's worst civilian disasters.

In accordance with Jewish tradition, funerals were held with as little delay as possible. More than 20 of the victims of Friday's disaster on Mount Meron were buried overnight after official identification was completed.

"I only wish that we achieve even a small fraction of your stature in studies and holy devotion," Avigdor Chayut said, eulogising his 13-year-old son, Yedidya, at a funeral in the town of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv.

The victims died when an overnight annual pilgrimage by large crowds of ultra-Orthodox faithful to the tomb of a second-century Jewish mystic, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, in northern Israel ended in a stampede.

Witnesses described a pyramid of bodies, including several children, in a packed and slippery metal-floored passageway.

Israeli media outlets estimated that some 100,000 people attended the event, numbers that underscored a relaxing of coronavirus restrictions in a country that had sped ahead of others in its vaccination rollout.

Evidence was mounting that it was a disaster waiting to happen at a pilgrimage site that state investigators had labelled years ago as hazardous.

Questions were also being raised as to whether the government and police had been reluctant to reduce the crowd size so as not to anger influential ultra-Orthodox rabbis and politicians.

"A thorough inquiry is required," Culture Minister Hili Tropper told Kan public radio. "This terrible disaster will help everyone understand ... that there should be no place where the state does not set the rules."

The Justice Ministry said investigators would look into whether there had been any police misconduct.

Police and regional government officials said the Mount Meron site was administered by four separate private religious groups, making oversight difficult.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised an investigation. His presidential mandate to form a new government, after an inconclusive March 23 election, expires on Wednesday, but public calls to determine responsibility for the tragedy seemed certain to hound any incoming administration.

The US Embassy said US citizens were among the dead and injured, but did not immediately name them.

US media have identified some of the dead, including a 19-year-old who was in Israel on a gap year. Two Canadians were killed in the disaster, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday.

Condolences poured in from leaders around the world, including US President Joe Biden and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. **Agencies**

Vaccination with Sputnik V may begin in India in 10 days

HYDERABAD

INOCULATION with the Russian Sputnik V vaccine against the coronavirus infection may begin in India in 10 days, a highly ranked official of India's Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad that earlier received the first batch of the Russian jab told a TASS correspondent on the condition of anonymity.

"Vaccination may begin in ten days. We are expecting a second batch from Russia," the source said. "Quality control necessary in such cases should also be performed," he added.

Earlier, it was expected that inoculation may begin on the day of delivery. However, the agency's interlocutor noted that "it is impossible to begin vaccination right away".

A batch of the Russian anti-coronavirus jab was delivered to Hyderabad's airport on Saturday sent by the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) which is in charge of the project.

Sputnik V became a third vaccine to be used in India. Until now, the country has been using only two vaccines: Covishield, developed by British-Swedish AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford, as well as Covaxin by India's Bharat Biotech.

In February, India's pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories applied for a permit for a limited use of Sputnik V in India. It was approved in April. This company is ready to distribute the Russian vaccine. The RDIF also concluded agreements on production of this vaccine with several companies in India.

Solution to Myanmar issue seen working out in 'ASEAN way'

YANGON - A solution to the Myanmar issue can be worked out in the "Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) way," said Zaw Min Tun, spokesman for Myanmar military and the State Administration Council (SAC), in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Chairman of the SAC and Commander-in-chief of Defense Services Min Aung Hlaing has explained the current situation in Myanmar to ASEAN leaders in person and listened to their opinions, views and suggestions when attending the ASEAN leaders' meeting held in Indonesia's Jakarta on April 24, Zaw Min Tun said.

A five-point consensus was reached

by the ASEAN leaders regarding the situation in Myanmar at the meeting, which called for an immediate end to violence in Myanmar and for a constructive dialogue among all parties involved in the fighting, and also suggested appointing a special envoy of the ASEAN Chair to facilitate mediation of the dialogue process.

"ASEAN leaders have great experience in politics in each country and within the region, which we highly respect and value," Zaw Min Tun said, adding that the regional countries' issues can be solved in accordance with the ASEAN Charter in the "ASEAN" way.

Regarding the consensus reached

at the meeting, Zaw Min Tun said that constructive suggestions on Myanmar will be given careful consideration, and visits to Myanmar proposed by ASEAN will be considered based on the state stability, since priorities at the moment were to restore peace and stability in the country.

He added that the suggestions, which can facilitate the five-point roadmap laid down by the SAC, in line with the interests of the country and the ASEAN Charter, "ASEAN way" and "ASEAN spirit," will be positively considered.

Relevant work will be carried out by forming technical teams and more details about the process will come

out by then, said the spokesman.

He reiterated that the five-point roadmap includes the reform of the Union Election Commission to review the electoral process of last year's general elections, continuation of ongoing preventive measures against COVID-19, recovery of business and achievement of eternal peace across the country.

Meanwhile, he said that Myanmar will pursue the multiparty democracy path, saying that free and fair elections will be held and the state power will be handed over to the winning party after tasks are accomplished, in line with the provisions of the state of emergency,

hoping that ASEAN members and neighboring countries including China will have trust in this.

He said Myanmar has good neighbors, highlighting that Myanmar and China enjoy the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship.

Mentioning that China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson made remarks about the ASEAN leaders' special meeting, Zaw Min Tun said it is appreciated that China paid attention to the stability and development of Myanmar and they value and respect China's opinions.

Zaw Min Tun said they would like

to see the UN as a global family, hoping the UN Security Council and UN organizations can understand them by reviewing the real situation in Myanmar.

He said Myanmar needs to be careful as a new wave of COVID-19 is hitting some countries, and has already approved the use of vaccines from India, Russia and China.

He said China not only donated medicines and equipment, but also shared the experience by sending medical experts to Myanmar, hoping that Myanmar can receive continuous support from China, which is globally recognized for containment and treatment of COVID-19.

Russia ready to assist in resolving border conflict between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is ready to continue to assist in resolving the situation on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Russian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday following telephone conversations between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev and Foreign Minister of Tajikistan and Sirojiddin Mukhriddin. The parties discussed the situation resulting from armed clashes on the border of the two countries.

"Russia is ready to continue to provide all necessary assistance to this process in accordance with the principles of strategic partnership and alliance with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan," the Ministry said.

Lavrov also welcomed the parties' agreements on a settlement on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border. "Russia welcomes agreements reached by the parties - in accordance with the instructions of the leaders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - agreements on the settlement of the conflict ex-

clusively by political and diplomatic means," the ministry said.

The Ministry added that Russia hopes that "Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will strictly follow their commitments in the interests of completely normalizing the situation and restoring an atmosphere of trust and good-neighbourly relations between the two fraternal peoples."

The Russian Foreign Ministry reported that the talks took place at the initiative of the Russian side.

The situation on the border between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan near the Golovnoy water intake facility escalated on April 28, after clashes had sparked between residents of the two countries' border areas.

On April 29, armed skirmishes between Kyrgyz and Tajik servicemen broke out. Kyrgyzstan accused Tajikistan of using mortars, machine guns and Mi-24 military helicopters.

On the evening of April 29, the sides agreed to a ceasefire and the pullout of troops, however, hostilities continued periodically in certain locations until May 1.

Agencies

Biden's tug-of-war beyond first 100 days in office

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday marked his 100th day in office with a trip to the southern U.S. state of Georgia, during which he talked up his administration's accomplishments in three months and launched a publicity blitz for his legislative agenda focusing on infrastructure, child care and paid family leave programs.

"It's only been 100 days," Biden said at a drive-in rally near Atlanta. "We've got a lot more to do."

He highlighted the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan he had rolled out in his first address to a joint session of Congress one day earlier. Beyond the 100th-day mark, however, the ongoing tug-of-war between the White House and Republicans is expected to continue and even intensify.

The American Jobs Plan, aimed at investing in and building climate-friendly infrastructure such as roadways and broadband, would be guided by one principle: "Buy American," Biden said in his address to Congress.

The American Families Plan will add two years of universal high-quality pre-school for every 3- and 4-year-old in America, provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, ensure that low- to middle-income families will pay no more than 7 percent of their income for care for children up to the age of 5, and expand the child tax credit for every child in a family.

To finance the plans, Biden proposed major tax hikes on corporations, investment income and wealthy households.

The president said the proposals will help the battered U.S. economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and get Americans back to work, but Republican lawmakers argued that the U.S. economy would be weakened by the White House push.



"The actions of the president and his party are pulling us further and further apart," said Senator Tim Scott, who delivered the Republican rebuttal to Biden's address.

"Usually people with big dreams are successful," Tom Waters, a soybean and corn farmer in Orrick, in the Midwest state of Missouri, told Xinhua in a recent interview, "but, I guess on the flip side of that, I have concerns of who's going to pay for all those big dreams." Waters said he believes infrastructure is always good for the country since it allows businesses to develop and grow, but worries Democrats would put "a lot of things that are not necessarily infrastructure" into the bill.

Facing uphill battles to garner enough Republican support in the Senate for the proposals, the president implored lawmakers from the two parties to work together to prove "that our government still works -- and can deliver" for the American people.

In his first 100 days in the White House, Biden seems to have managed to keep Democrats together under their big tent, but he faced

arguably fiercer partisan polarization than many of his predecessors.

"There is an understanding that if we're going to address the crises facing this country, we're all in it together," progressive Senator Bernie Sanders said in an interview with *The New York Times*.

However, the moment of unity with the Democratic Party could be fragile, the Times report added, noting that sharp differences remain between Biden and his left flank over issues including health care, college costs, expanding the Supreme Court and tackling income equality.

Meanwhile, no Republican lawmakers voted in March for Biden's signature 1.9-trillion-dollar coronavirus relief package, known as the American Rescue Plan, and most Republican lawmakers have expressed reservations about other aspects of Biden's policy agenda.

As a result, the two plans face a deeply uncertain fate in Congress, where Democrats hold only a slim majority in both the House and Senate.

Biden has made it clear that he

will not wait indefinitely before moving ahead via reconciliation again. In his address on Wednesday, Biden also urged Congress to pass legislation on immigration reform, gun safety, the 15-U.S.-dollar minimum wage, equal pay for women, as well as expanded protections for members of the LGBTQ community.

He also called on lawmakers from both parties to "find consensus" and pass policing reform by the anniversary of African American George Floyd's death in late May. Each of these legislative efforts require the support of at least some Republican senators.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the Democrat-led House, has stalled in the evenly split Senate amid Republican opposition. The two parties differ on how far the federal government should go to root out violence against African Americans and abuse of power in policing.

The moment of harmony in the past 100 days could be fragile. "The (U.S.) media seem always like to give the president's first 100 days a kind of a grace period," Waters told Xinhua. "And following that first 100 days, that's when the bullets start flying, right?"

Xinhua

Greens cement early poll lead in race for Merkel's chancellery

By Bloomberg

Germany's Greens have cemented a healthy advantage in the early stages of the election campaign, boosting their chances of capturing the chancellery in September and pushing through a heavily environmentalist reform agenda.

Bolstered by a youthful image and strong climate credentials, the Greens surged into the lead past Angela Merkel's center-right bloc in three separate polls in the past week, with one putting them six points ahead at 28 percent.

They were the first gauges of voter intent following the nomination of the parties' candidates, and the Greens' early momentum gives the former fringe party a realistic shot at leading a ruling coalition for the first time.

Their recent surge is partly down to Annalena Baerbock at the head of the party ticket, who many see as a force for renewal after more than 15 years of solid yet unspectacular Merkel administrations.

A Forsa poll published April 28 showed the 40-year-old would win comfortably if Germans could elect their chancellor directly. She would trounce Armin Laschet, the drab 60-year-old candidate for Merkel's conservative alliance, who has been struggling to gain support even from his own party after a messy nomination fight.

New Leader

"The campaign is perceived as pitting a modern, future-oriented woman against an older candidate who stands for the past," said Forsa head Manfred Guellner. "This race is not over yet, but Laschet will have to seriously strengthen his profile if he wants to win back voters."

The polls underscore how the Greens have succeeded in appealing to a broader swath of voters attracted by policies ranging from greater climate protection to agricultural reform.

They've moved closer toward the political center in recent years, forming alliances with more conservative groups and tweaking party programs. The Greens have also won plaudits for successfully running the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg for the past decade, an industrial powerhouse home to carmaker Daimler AG and software developer SAP SE.

A Green victory could lead to a thorough shakeup of Europe's biggest economy. The cornerstone of their campaign is a 10-year, 500 billion-euro (US\$604 billion) program to invest in initiatives including high-speed internet, quantum computers, biotechnology and climate-neutral infrastructure.

They also aim to accelerate the shift to renewables under a plan that includes installing solar panels on every new roof and using 2 percent of German land for wind power.

Laschet's bloc has slumped by around 10 points since early February, and surveys suggest voters find him uninspiring as a potential leader. Nearly 85 percent of those polled by Civey last month said they probably or definitely wouldn't trust him to successfully modernize the country.

Germany's top court dealt the conservatives another unexpected blow on Thursday when it ruled that the country's climate-protection efforts are falling short, ordering changes to a law aimed at cutting emissions.

The rebuke of the government's climate policy could provide fresh momentum to the Greens as they're seen as having the most expertise on environmental issues.

Agencies

Modi trails in key state poll amid India's COVID-19 crisis

By Bloomberg

INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party is trailing in a key state election that is seen as a test of his popularity and an indication of whether the backlash over his government's handling of the country's COVID-19 emergency will hurt him at the ballot box.

In West Bengal, incumbent Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress was ahead in 137 seats, while Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party was leading in 70, according to initial trends posted on the website of Election Commission of India.

The BJP was leading in the northeastern state of Assam. In southern state of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Modi's opponents were ahead, while in the federally-controlled territory of Puducherry, there was no clear trend yet.

The coronavirus pandemic has overshadowed the five assembly elections, and Modi is facing growing criticism over his decision to continue campaigning in front of huge crowds in the battleground state of West Bengal as infections were spiraling.

India's fierce second wave has



overwhelmed the nation's underfunded health system, with infections topping 400,000 on Saturday in another global record and hospitals running out of beds, oxygen and medical supplies. The death toll continues to mount and images of crematoriums working non-stop have flooded newspapers, television and social media.

Sunday's vote count comes a day after 12 patients including one senior doctor died when a hospital in the capital New Delhi ran out of oxygen -- the third such incident in the last 10 days -- after sending out desperate calls for help hours earlier.

Raising Alarm

"We have been raising this kind of alarm to the government, because it is an ongoing situation that is worsening everyday," Sudhanshu Bankata, the executive director of the Batra Hospital, said by phone.

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Saturday his administration had told both the courts and the federal government that the state required 976 metric tonnes of oxygen per day but had only been allotted 490 metric tonnes.

"Then how are things supposed to work out?" Kejriwal said in a statement Saturday.

"Delhi needs oxygen."

The BJP used these elections to try to expand its footprint in the country's east and south. In West Bengal it was on a war footing to try and unseat Modi's main challenger, the regional leader Banerjee.

"These results may not dent Modi's popularity, though the handling of the pandemic could," said Sandeep Shastri, a political analyst and vice-chancellor at the Jagran Lakshmi University at Bhopal. "Going forward the handling of the pandemic has the potential to occupy center stage in an assessment of the federal government."

The biggest challenge post election will be for the main opposition Congress party, which ruled India for decades, Shastri said, given it failed to win back either Assam or Kerala.

"The party would gradually lose its position as a nucleus of the anti-BJP political force and Rahul Gandhi's role will surely come under fire," he said, referring to the party's former president and the son of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Agencies

How Chinese companies play a vital role in bolstering China-Europe economic ties

VALLETTA

THOUGH global growth has been overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Europe have been working together feverishly to bring economic growth back on track.

On that front, Chinese companies in Europe have been playing a vital role in boosting bilateral cooperation through fulfilling their commitments to promoting local development. Looking to the future, these companies remain confident in the enormous potential that exists based on stronger China-Europe relations.

TOP TRADING PARTNER

China surpassed the United States to become the Europe Union's (EU) top trading partner last year, as the bloc's imports from China throughout 2020 grew by 5.6 percent year-on-year to 383.5 billion

euros (about 465 billion U.S. dollars) and exports grew by 2.2 percent to 202.5 billion euros, according to the EU's statistical service Eurostat.

The phenomenal momentum of bilateral trade remains robust into 2021. During the first two months of the year, EU exports and imports to China registered yearly growth of 13.6 percent and 9.3 percent, respectively, Eurostat figures showed.

Economic and trade cooperation is an important part of the China-EU partnership, Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, said at the annual conference of the China Chamber of Commerce to the EU in early April.

It is of great significance for China and the EU to maintain solid economic and trade ties, he said. In December last year, China and the EU concluded seven years of negotiations on the Comprehensive Agree-

ment on Investment.

The two sides also signed an agreement on geographical indications in September 2020, which came into force on March 1.

"We hope that the China-EU investment agreement will be approved and implemented at an early date," Xu Haifeng, the commerce chamber's chairman, told Xinhua.

"The accord is of historic significance that would pave the way for a clearer and more stable legal framework for Chinese and European companies to invest in each other's markets," Xu said.

With China becoming the biggest direct foreign investor in Hungary in 2020, Mihaly Patai, deputy governor of Hungary's central bank Magyar Nemzeti Bank, expressed his belief that "the economic cooperation between Hungary and China is strong, and is getting stronger each year."

"We will do our best to continue," Patai told Xinhua.

COMMITMENTS FULFILLED

Song Mingjun, managing director of COSCO SHIPPING Lines Finland, is pleased with business these days and the growth of his company, now the largest carrier of Finland's three world-leading firms in the forest industry catering to the Far East. Finland's exports by COSCO SHIPPING have grown in recent years. In 2020, exports shipped by COSCO SHIPPING reached 85,206 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units, an increase of more than 7 percent year-on-year, Song told Xinhua.

With the goal of promoting green and low-carbon energy cooperation between China and Europe, Shanghai Electric Power Company has focused on building green energy projects, such as the Mozura Wind

Park in Montenegro and the three-phase Delimara power plant in Malta.

The company is now planning to build new energy projects in Malta to help the country realize the carbon neutrality target by 2050 set by the EU.

After more than 20 years of development, BYD Europe has grown into a compelling leader in new energy vehicles.

More than 1,800 pure electric buses have been distributed or are on order in more than 20 European countries, the equivalent of more than 65 million pure-electric km and a reduction of more than 70,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions, Isbrand Ho, managing director of BYD Europe, told Xinhua.

In Serbia's capital Belgrade, the Zemun-Borcka bridge is known as the "Chinese bridge." Constructed by Chi-

na Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), the 1.48-km-long bridge, together with 21.2 km of access roads, represents the first big Chinese investment in European infrastructure. Chinese companies have also contributed to Europe's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the beginning of the year as some global shipping companies withdrew their feeder service through Finland due to an insufficient supply of empty containers, COSCO SHIPPING ensured normal operations to guarantee the security of Finland's supply chain.

"We win customers' trust with stable services during a special period to fulfill service commitments," said Song.

Amid the pandemic, Fabryka Lozysk Tocznych-Krasnik S.A., a bearings manufacturer in southeast Poland acquired by the Chinese Tri-Ring

Group, managed to keep all its 1,650 employees on the payroll.

At the end of January, MGI Latvia, the subsidiary of China's MGI, launched the production of automated and integrated container laboratories, aiming to improve local COVID-19 testing capacity and help Latvia and other European countries.

"The much-needed economic recovery in Europe and elsewhere could be rekindled by boosted investment and trade relations," said Xu. "Chinese enterprises are ready to contribute to more solid investment, business, and economic ties between China and Europe."

Chinese companies in Europe believe that China and the EU, as two major global economies, have enormous cooperation potential in the post-pandemic era.

Xinhua

Chui Riders boost quest for lifting trophy in 2021 Tanzania T10 League

By Guardian Reporter

CHUI Riders cricket team have turned out to be serious contenders for silverware in 2021 Tanzania T10 League, as they are so far a team with the most impressive displays.

The team were, until Friday, holding the top spot in the six-team league, having posted six points from three wins and one loss in four outings.

They however had opened their campaign in the showpiece on a wrong foot, suffering a 17-run loss to Simba Heroes on April 24. Chui Riders later regrouped to pick their first win, walloping Rhino Challengers by eight wickets.

Chui Riders boosted their pursuit of the showdown's trophy with nine-wicket drubbing of Buffalo Gladiators on April 30.

Buffalo Gladiators are hot on the league leaders' heels, holding the second spot with two wins and one loss in four games which have seen them notch five points.

The team's hopes of knocking off the top spot were thwarted on April 30, given the former's clash against Rhino Challengers was abandoned because of rain.

Rhino Challengers, Simba Heroes and Twiga Masters are placed third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Muchas Rhino Challengers have as well recorded two wins and a loss, they have been positioned third because of their inferior net



Chui Riders cricketers pictured after featuring in a recent Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized 2021 Tanzania T10 League's match, held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

run rate. Rhino Challengers have 0.82 in net run rate, whereas Buffalo Gladiators have 1.02 in net run rate.

Bottom-placed Tembo Rangers have no win in two games they have taken part in, notching -2.8045 in net run rate, the worst so far.

Tembo Rangers' opening match which saw them confront Buffalo Gladiators, saw the former suffer 38-run loss.

Rhino Challengers prolonged Tembo Rangers' losing streak on Wednesday, recording eight-wicket win over the latter.

Chui Riders were presented with an opportunity to widen their points' margin with their closest challengers, given they were set to play lowly Tembo Rangers on May 1.

Buffalo Gladiators were expected to take on Twiga Masters later in the day.

Simba Heroes were set to confront Tembo Rangers in the group stage's last fixture yesterday, to be followed by the first semi-final, known as 'Qualifier 1'.

The 'Qualifier 1' brought together sides, which ended first and second after the round robin stage's matches.

The tie's winners will book a place in the tournament's final, slated for tomorrow.

A play off tie, known as 'Eliminator', bringing together sides which ended third and fourth, is scheduled for this morning.

The 'Eliminator's winners will later take on a team, which lost the 'Qualifier 1', in what is

regarded as second semi-final. The 10-over formatted showpiece, organized by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), is expected to climax tomorrow.

The tournament is organized in memory of Tanzania's fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli, with all matches taking place at Leaders Club's venue.

Six sides, namely Rhino Challengers, Buffalo Gladiators, Tembo Rangers, Chui Riders, Simba Heroes and Twiga Masters are participating in the showdown.

The Tanzania T10 League's sponsors, TCA information officer Atif Salim stated, are GI Security Group Limited, KFC, Sayona Drinks Ltd, Pepsi and Hitech Sai Health Care Centre.

Mbelwa, Mgendera dominate best boxers' list



Said Mbelwa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAJAB MHAMILA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S professional boxers, Said Mbelwa and Ibrahim Mgendera, are among boxers named in the list of 18 best pugilists in Tanzania.

In the list provided by Boxrec, a network which holds records for professional boxers all over the world, the boxers are listed as top boxers in their respective weight divisions.

Mbelwa who holds a record of fighting his first professional boxing match in Afghanistan has been listed as the number one Lightweight boxer in the country.

Mgendera, the former Global Boxing Council (GBC) Super Featherweight champion, has been named as the top boxer in the division.

In the list, the number one boxer in the country at every weight (pound for pound), Hassan Mwakinyo, is also the standout performer in Super Welterweight.

The other best boxers in the country are Omari Shirika, who has been named the leading Heavyweight pugilist in the country.

Shirika has nudged Alphonse Joseph, popularly known as 'Mchumi-tumbo', from the Heavyweight division's top spot, after the latter had enjoyed the spot for many years.

'Mchumi-tumbo', who is currently in fine form according to Boxrec, appears to be 'not active' although he was recently beaten by Knock Out

(KO) by Jongo Jongo, a fight that has not been included in the records.

Boxrec shows the last time 'Mchumi-tumbo' suffered a Technical Knock Out (TKO) loss to Russian, Arslan Ial'lyev, in Russia on October 5, 2019.

Jongo has been named the leading Cruiserweight pugilist, whilst Twaha Kassim 'Kiduku' is the top boxer in Super Middleweight.

Other best boxers in the country in their respective weight divisions are Meshack Mwankemwa (Middleweight), Iddi Pialari (Welterweight), Adam Kipenga (Super Lightweight) and Salim Mtango has been a beacon in Lightweight.

In Featherweight division, Muksin Swalehe 'Mastiki the Don' is the leading pugilist while Tony Rashid is the top boxer in Super Bantamweight.

Charles Tondo (Bantamweight), Innocent Evarist (Super Flyweight), Mustafa K Mkupasi (Flyweight), Muh-sin Kizota (Light Flyweight) and Selemani Bangaiza, who is the top Minimumweight pugilist, complete the list of 18 top boxers in the country.

Japhet Kaseba, Mfaume Ahmed and Mchumi-tumbo are among those who have been at the helm of professional boxing in the country, although they have now collapsed.

Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC)'s Acting president, Agapeter Basil, noted the standards were based on the type of fight each of the boxers fought.

Manula: Dar Derby much better than AFC Leopards vs Gor Mahia tie

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's keeper, Aishi Manula, has disclosed that a Mainland Tanzania Premier League's match pitting Simba SC against age-old rivals Yanga, popularly known as Dar Derby, is more fascinating than Kenya's match between rivals, AFC Leopards and Gor Mahia.

This season's highly anticipated Dar Derby is set to take place in Dar es Salaam on May 8.

Manula believes Gor Mahia's recent dominance in Kenya has played a part in reducing the popularity of the team's clash against rivals, AFC Leopards, popularly 'Mashemeji Derby'.

Gor Mahia 'K'Ogalo' have been the better side against perennial rivals AFC Leopards in recent times.

Prior to the 0-0 draw in the two outfits' game this season, the reigning Football Kenya Federation (FKF) Premier League champions, Gor Mahia, had won six straight league games against Leopards 'Ingwe'.

The Tanzania keeper believes it is the main difference between the 'Mashemeji Derby' and the 'Dar es Salaam Derby', that brings together Simba SC and Yanga.

Simba drew 1-1 with Yanga in their first round clash, in which former Gor Mahia defender Joash Onyango rescued Simba by notching a goal on the last minutes of the game.

"In the recent past, the 'Mashemeji Derby' was doing well and it was exciting to watch," Manula said.

He noted: "However, Gor Mahia have been dominating which in a way which has affected the derby. Other teams are struggling to match them [including rivals Leopards] and it has

made the derby's spark go down."

He pointed out: "It is different with the 'Dar Derby' because both Simba and Yanga are almost at par. It makes the derby unpredictable and as a result, many fans come in large numbers to support their respective teams at the stadium."

The 25-year-old also explained why the Mainland Tanzania Premier League is fast gaining popularity in the East Africa region and the entire continent.

"The league is rapidly developing owing to the competition of [Yanga, Simba SC and Azam FC] and of late we have also seen the likes of Namungo FC, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Biashara United also pushing up well for the title," Manula continued.

He stated: "Not only that, other teams are going for professional players. Even the foreign-based players signed by the bigger clubs are exceptional and it has helped in the growth of our league."

"In East Africa, Tanzania league is leading considering even the way the teams are performing in the continental assignments," Manula Said.

Currently the Kenyan Premier league is suspended due to the second wave of COVID-19 in Kenya, with the government calling for freezing of all sports in the country to combat the virus.

The custodian will grace the goal posts when Simba SC visit South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs at the FNB Stadium in quest of their first leg match of CAF Champions League's last eight slated for May 14-16 before the reverse fixture takes place in Dar es Salaam on May 21-23.

Simba SC head coach praises trio

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC head coach Didier Gomes Da Rosa has explained why he feels he is very lucky to be at the Mainland Premier League side.

Da Rosa pointed out the ability of some key players- especially the strikers- as the main reason he feels a lucky man.

The French coach has been alternating his centre forwards, with Chris Mugal, John Bocco and Meddie Kagere all getting playing time.

Kagere, a Rwandan striker, is second on the league's leading scorers' chart with 11 goals and the coach believes he will finish at the top.

Da Rosa also cited the importance of having midfielder Bernard Morrison in the starting team.

"Kagere is a good player and I believe at the end of the season he will be at the top of the scorers' chart. I have a very good striker in Kagere for sure," Da Rosa said.

He noted: "I am also lucky to have John Bocco and Chris Mugal, Morrison is very important especially in his ability to break the defenders with creativity."

The tactician also pointed out the short-comings witnessed during the Federation Cup's round of 16 tie against Kagera Sugar, which was held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

"We need to bring speed and power to our attacking process," he



Simba SC's attacker, Meddie Kagere. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

added. He pointed out: "We very well know the quality of Morrison and he can do many good things and so I am very happy. In the last 15 minutes, I added a second attacker and that was important in order to push the opponents' defenders deep."

He stated: "Generally, we had a good match and we dominated a lot

although we were not consistent enough in the first half and Kagere took advantage of that to great length."

He said: "I asked my players to keep the ball more in the second half and that is what we did. I am very satisfied. I am not here to judge my players as I will talk to them face to face."

Da Rosa believes if Simba can retain the

competition's silverware, it would be a great reward to the team's fans.

"We are very satisfied and because we want to win the cup, that makes it even very important. As I told our players before the match, we need to offer this cup to our fans because they are very important," he noted.

He insisted: "It is important to see Simba

play in the final and win it but we are still far and it remains our target nonetheless."

The Msimbazi Street squad picked up a 2-1 win against Kagera Sugar to reach the quarter-finals.

Kagera Sugar took a lead in the first half through midfielder Erick Mwijage before Morrison and Kagere scored for Simba C.



Inter Milan 'toppling a kingdom' with Serie A title one step away

MILAN

CHRISTIAN Eriksen and Achraf Hakimi scored in the second half as Inter Milan beat Crotona 2-0 to move to the brink of the Serie A title on Saturday.

Antonio Conte's side are 13 points ahead of city rivals AC Milan who reclaimed second place with a 2-0 win over 18th-placed Benevento, with four games to play.

Inter can claim their first Scudetto since 2010 on Sunday if Atalanta, a further point adrift in third, fail to win at Sassuolo.

"We are succeeding in toppling a kingdom that had lasted for nine years," said former Juventus coach Conte, who led the Turin giants to the first three of their current run of nine consecutive league titles.

"We're aware that we can do something extraordinary because Inter haven't won a Scudetto in 11 years, and we're breaking up a dynasty. The lads deserve this joy, congratulations to them.

"We're a step away from making history."

Dane Eriksen came on as a substitute in the 65th minute and scored four minutes later, firing home a shot which took a deflection off Crotona defender Lisandro Magallan, from Romelu Lukaku's lay-off.

Lukaku had a goal ruled out before Hakimi struck a second in injury time.

"It's an important goal because it moves us closer to the title, but we still haven't won it yet," said Eriksen of just his second goal this campaign.

"If it proves to be the decisive goal, then obviously it'll be the most important one of the season. Every goal is important, but the one that takes you to your objective is extra special.

"Today, I came on as a substitute, and when you do this the aim is to make your mark: you want to shake things up. I'm happy that I managed to do so."

- Ibrahimovic return lifts Milan -

The match in Calabria pitted the Serie A leaders against the bottom team who were relegated as a result of the loss.

Both sides had chances in the first half with Adam Ounas threatening early for the hosts who lost defender Arkadiusz Reca to injury before the break.

Lukaku headed onto the post off a Stefano Sensi corner after 23 minutes.

There was a flurry of activity in front of the Crotona goal before the break with Alessandro Bastoni sending wide after connecting with a Nicolo Barella cross.

Lautaro Martinez's low shot hit the woodwork before home goalkeeper Alex Cordaz cleared a Sensi effort.

As Inter struggled to break through Conte sent on Eriksen, Ivan Perisic and Alexis Sanchez after 65 minutes.

And the substitutions paid off with Sanchez providing a back-heel flick for Lukaku who teed up Eriksen.

Lukaku missed a chance to add to his 21 goals this campaign with a goal ruled out with seven minutes to go for Perisic's offside position.

But Barella sent Moroccan Hakimi clear to beat Cordaz with his seventh goal this season to extend Inter's unbeaten run to 18 league games, and close to a 19th league crown.

"We'll watch the (Atalanta) game in our homes, in a serene way," continued Conte.

"For us what happens tomorrow is relative, we don't ask anything of anyone. We don't depend on others, especially after such a championship."

In the San Siro, Milan rallied from back-to-back defeats to move up from fifth to second and keep in the Champions League chase.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned from injury with Hakan Calhanoglu putting the home side ahead after six minutes following good work from Alexis Saelemaekers and Franck Kessie.

Benevento goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipo got his foot to an Ibrahimovic goal-bound effort before the break, and again cleared from the Swede after the hour but Theo Hernandez was on hand to finish off the rebound.

Napoli are fourth equal on points with Juventus who drop to fifth before they play at Udinese on Sunday.

Inter could decide Juve's Champions League fate as they meet in the penultimate game in Turin in two weeks.

AFP

Man City, on brink of title, are already laying down marker for next one

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MANCHESTER City beat Crystal Palace 2-0 on Saturday in a result which all but settles this season's Premier League title race and lays down a marker for the next.

Pep Guardiola had one eye firmly on Tuesday's Champions League semifinal second leg against Paris Saint-Germain by making eight changes before enduring a substandard goalless first half, yet his side still possessed the quality to step up a level after the break to end this contest in 83 seconds.

No moment will ever rival Sergio Aguero's stoppage-time winner against Queens' Park Rangers that handed City their first Premier League crown in 2012 but a similar sense of deliverance greeted his 57th-minute strike which broke Palace's spirited resistance. It was a goal of sublime quality, too. Benjamin Mendy fired a pass into his path, and Aguero's first touch was magical, enabling him to slow his stride before



Pep Guardiola)

firing high into the net in devastating fashion. And this from the guy they are letting go for nothing this summer.

Ferran Torres is at the opposite end of his City career having arrived from Valencia last summer, and he signposted his potential with the visitors' second goal less than two minutes later, curling home from the edge of the box to cap a fine individual performance and record his 10th goal of the cam-

paign.

City's other attacking players on display at Selhurst Park, Raheem Sterling and Gabriel Jesus, are somewhere in the middle, the former in the midst of a patchy run of form that has seen him play a slightly less pivotal role -- hence playing in this game -- and Guardiola passing a somewhat damning judgement of the latter's ability to lead the line by opting to play with two midfielders in attack or use

a false No. 9. That template is designed to land the biggest prize of all, the Champions League, which has so far eluded Guardiola at City. But it says something about their domestic pre-eminence that minds can be firmly elsewhere yet they still carve out a win that will secure them a third Premier League in four seasons if Liverpool beat Manchester United at Old Trafford tomorrow. Given this fixture fell between two mammoth meetings against PSG, City were perhaps understandably slow into stride, "low on gas" as Guardiola later put it. Torres volleyed wide and Sterling was denied by a last-ditch tackle from Tyrick Mitchell but Palace largely kept City at bay early on.

Long-serving Palace coach Ray Lewington is often heard above the noise created by Selhurst Park when the ground is full, so you can imagine how his voice resonates with fans still absent. "Keep it moving," he shouted as Palace moved the ball from left to right, Andros Townsend slipping in Joel Ward for a cutback which Rodri only partially intercepted, allow-

ing Christian Benteke to pick up the loose ball three yards out with his back to goal. He turned, struck the ball low but Ederson saved.

Palace were closing down well with Lewington setting the press from the touchline. "Next ball's ours," he shouted as City centre-back Nathan Ake debated a forward pass. "That's OK," he continued as Ake went sideways. As soon as the ball went forward, they were called into action. And for a while longer than many expected, especially as Palace are safe in mid-table, City were stifled. It was the longest they have had to wait in any Premier League game this season for a shot on target until Aguero's stunning intervention.

Suddenly, the floodgates opened. Torres scored and several more could have followed. Sterling hit the post, Joao Cancelo curled a shot just over, Aguero had another effort beaten away by Vicente Guaita. City had 12 shots in the second period, more than in any other Premier League away game this season, all with Kevin De Bruyne, Riyad Mahrez, Bernardo

Silva, Phil Foden and Ilkay Gundogan rested as unused substitutes.

Guardiola greeted the second goal with arms aloft, holding a pose from which all was missing was the Premier League trophy. It won't be long now. "We can start to put [the champagne] in the fridge," he told BT Sport. "We can start to predict our future [in the Premier League]. I will check on the Liverpool game. It's in our hands and now we will give everything to beat PSG."

Eleven consecutive away wins across all competitions, secured with an aggregate score of 28-4, equals their own English top-flight record. City have now scored 700 goals in all competitions under Guardiola -- 157 more than anyone since he took charge in 2016 -- and two of South America's brightest prospects, Kayky and Dario Sarmiento, are already signed for next season.

Foo Fighters' "All My Life" rang out over the stadium PA system as the City players strode off at full-time, a song in which Dave Grohl chants: "Done, done and I'm on to the next one." Quite.

West Ham boss Moyes: "I've still got something to prove" in football

By James Olley Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SEVEN years have passed since it happened, but David Moyes still finds himself defined in the minds of many football fans by a single moment. "Every time a journalist speaks to me, they nearly [always] ask me about Manchester United," he said, before launching into perhaps the frankest assessment yet of his 10 months in charge at Old Trafford.

"The truth is in my mind, I got the biggest job in the world and I didn't do well enough, so I'm only beating myself up about it. The more I get asked about it, that's the way I feel. What I had to do was try and find a way back. It is not easy because you then have to find the right job. Where can I do something to show your worth?"

"I used to say people said 'how did it all go so wrong?' but you don't get offered the Manchester United job in the first place if you haven't been doing something correct. That's the first thing to say. But when it didn't go well, I had to try and find a way of getting back. I didn't think that I'd necessarily become a bad manager. Maybe I had bad timing, maybe I didn't think deeply enough about the challenge I was taking on."

"Maybe I should have taken a bit longer to think about it when I got the job offered to me. But it didn't feel like that at the time. Now I'm a bit wiser and a bit older, looking back, I do think that I've still got something to prove."

Purely by coincidence, Moyes sits down for this interview to mark winning Manager of the Year at this year's London Football Awards on the anniversary of his departure from United. He signed a six-year con-



David Moyes

tract to succeed one of the all-time greats, Sir Alex Ferguson, but with United seventh in the Premier League table four games from the end of the 2013-14 season, he was dismissed before the end of his first campaign. The stunning dismissal catapulted one of the most promising managers of his generation, following his decade of over-achievement at Everton, into a scramble to rescue his reputation.

But before David Moyes could revive West Ham, he had to reimagine himself. Spells with Real Sociedad and Sunderland followed United, but it was in his first stint with the Hammers between November 2017 and May 2018 where he began turning the corner, steering the club away from relegation only to surprisingly see his six-month deal expire without renewal. At the time, Manuel Pellegrini was favoured, but when the Chilean was sacked in December 2019 with the team just one point above the drop zone, Moyes returned with a clear message.

"I said to the players when I came in 'Look, I'm not your friend,' he said. "I'll be your friend after we finished playing. After we've finished playing, there'll be noth-

ing I'll enjoy better than coming for a beer with you, going for a meal with you, helping you in your careers as managers or coaches. But while we're here just now, my job is to get the best out of you.' And at the moment, the players have responded really well."

Moyes re-established basic principles as he took charge. The club's internal data suggested players were not working hard enough in matches. He quickly identified those characters who "weren't with us" and moved them on, aligned with shrewd recruitment including Czech Republic duo Vladimir Coufal and Tomas Soucek, both signed from Slavia Prague, before the January master-

stroke of acquiring Jesse Lingard on loan from United. Coufal and Soucek have come to embody this new incarnation of West Ham: talent mixed with diligence. Both Coufal and Soucek are regularly seen at the club's training ground working even on days off. In all, Moyes' message is getting through and he credits periods working in a different capacity, contributing to UEFA's technical reports and advising student coaches, with helping him to evolve. "What I have found is communication with the players is much greater than it's ever been," he said. "Maybe the different age groups as well and as I'm getting older, you still have to find a way to communicate with the players, who are certainly much younger now."

"But I wanted to know what was new in football. I wanted to see what was happening, I wanted to make sure that I kept myself up to date with how teams were playing, what were the new trends, how goals were getting scored. I always wanted to make sure I was at the forefront of that."

"The basics in football management don't change in many ways. You need to win match-

es, but coupled with that you need good discipline, you need to recruit well. All those things come into achieving your goals as a coach or a manager."

Moyes also cites another key period, and it's one you wouldn't naturally expect. He tested positive for COVID-19 in September, missing four matches in all as assistant coach Stuart Pearce stepped in for two Premier League wins against Wolves and Leicester, in addition to one EFL Cup victory over Hull before West Ham lost in the next round to Leicester.

"Sitting in my flat, when I had COVID-19 and getting the message sent to me, because my TV was on a minute delay, that we've scored was an unbelievable feeling before it goes in," he said.

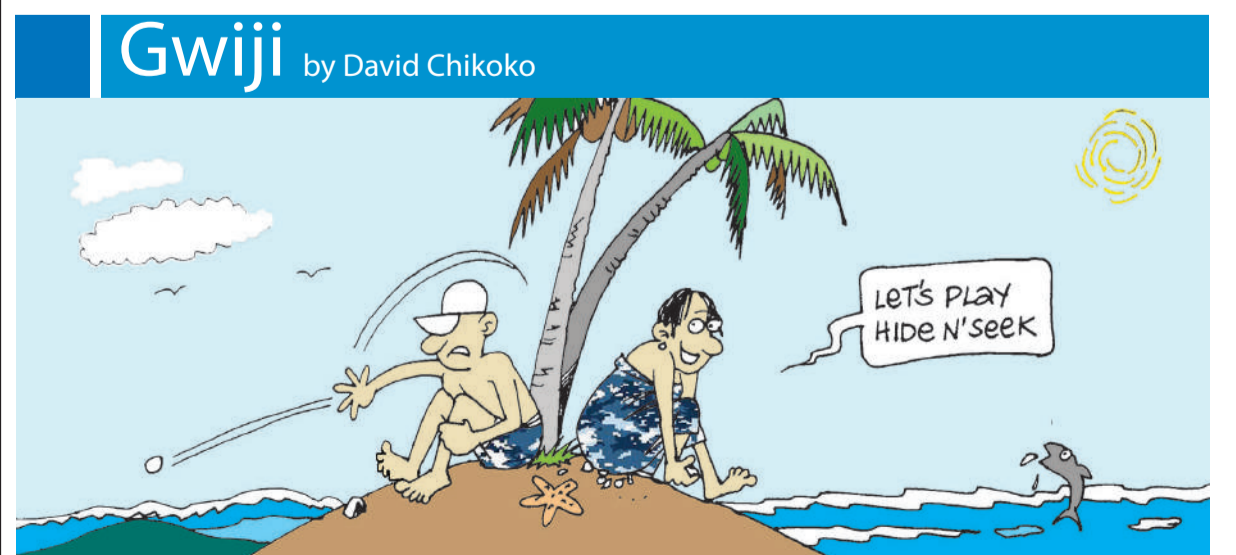
"That is something I'll remember. I remember saying 'I need to be less emotional, calmer.' At home, you can't do anything. I was on the phone to Percy the whole time but it makes you calmer, because you've got a distance from it."

"I was on my feet, watching the players warming up and not being able to really have any involvement. The plan was not to do anything on Zoom in the

staff I've got were more than adequate. For the week leading up to the game, I was watching the training through the cameras, so in my mind I was good. But when it came to the game, it was really difficult. I was pacing up and down, shouting up at the tele, getting on the phone to Percy for nothing half the time.

"It made me realise that to be less emotional, stand back and take it all in can make you a better manager. Because you're trying to absorb stuff and not get caught up in it."

West Ham remain in the hunt for a Champions League place with five games remaining and the size of that achievement should not be underestimated. Last month was the first time the Hammers have been in the top four in April since 1986. Four of their final five games are against teams currently in the bottom seven. Moyes just turned 58 on Apr. 25, and there is perhaps a sense of coming full circle now he is in charge of a team looking to gatecrash the elite just as he did at Everton, where he was named League Managers' Association Manager of the Year three times for regularly upsetting the odds.



SPORT

Man City, on brink of title, are already laying down marker for next one

PAGE 19



University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)'s lecturer, Jonas Tiboroha.

UDSM seeks to produce qualified match analysts

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences of the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is committed to producing well-trained and qualified match analysts in the country.

One of the department's senior lecturers, Jonas Tiboroha, stated in an interview that the country has very few qualified match analysts and the institution is training many match analysts who will help in the development of sports in the country.

He said the majority of local match analysts lack scientific experience and data to back their analysis.

Tiboroha also disclosed that it is not good for local match analysts to only use eyes instead of recommended equipment.

"The Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences is committed to producing match analysts who are competent and qualified, we want sports in the country to develop in all aspects," he said.

The former Yanga Secretary General issued the statement at the end of a seminar organized by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Technical Director, Oscar Mirambo, at UDSM and participants included students at the Department of Physical Education and Sports Sciences.

He hailed TFF for involving UDSM, saying the faculty has a lot of experts who can develop sports in the country.

Tiboroha urged local clubs to use qualified match analysts who will be responsible for reviewing teams' opponents' previous matches to determine the latter's strengths and weaknesses.

"Any club in the country can have a match analyst, but the only problem is that the equipment known as Instat, which is used to analyze matches, is very expensive. Locally only Simba SC, Azam FC and Yanga can afford the equipment as its annual subscription fee is more than \$7000," he said.

He also disclosed that the other course to be conducted by UDSM in conjunction with TFF is expected to be held two weeks later.

Meanwhile, the UDSM lecturer disclosed that TFF and UDSM will soon roll out certificate, diploma and degree courses for sports coaches, managers and administrators.

He said the courses will take local football to greater heights.

Match analysis gives coaches objective information which is used to optimise team and player's performances.

It involves analysts using software like events during matches with a view to helping coaches understand the effectiveness of game plans and strategies, as well as understanding team and players' strengths and weaknesses.

Advantages of analyzing matches include giving factual, objective match information.

Agent: Coach Didier Gomes fully committed to Simba SC



Simba SC's head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa, expects to remain at the Msimbazi Street side until the end of his contract.

The Vodacom Premier League giants are currently preparing for the CAF Champions League quarterfinal tie against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

The French coach's future at the club was cast into doubt towards last week when he was linked with the Libya's senior national team job alongside Spain's Javier Clemente, Argentine Hector Cuper, French duo of Sébastien Desabre and Hubert Velud, as well as Egyptian legend Hossam Hassan.

Gomes successfully guided Simba SC to the CAF Champions League quarterfinals last month after the team had come top in a group, which included defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, AS Vita Club of DR Congo and Sudan's Al Merreikh.

The tactician has attracted the attention of several suitors in Africa, including Libya Football Federation.

However, the Simba SC gaffer's agent, Khaleed Soliman, has now come out to quash these speculations,

revealing the former has his heart fully set at the outfit even though he has received numerous proposals.

In an interview with The Guardian Newspaper, Soliman shed light on rumours linking his client with the

Libyan national team role.

The Egypt-based agent reiterated that Gomes is fully committed to continue with his contract at Simba SC.

He stated: "There are a lot of rumours surround-

ing the coach so we need to clarify that Didier Gomes is fully committed with Simba and he wants to continue with his contract."

He added: "We received some proposals from clubs and one federation but we decided that we want to continue with Simba because coach Gomes likes the atmosphere in the club."

He disclosed: "He likes the club's officials, starting from the chairman himself, Mohamed Dewji, and Ms Barbara and other staff. He loves the fans and he has good relations with all players."

"Gomes has big ambitions to win the league and to reach the semi final of the CAF Champions League, so he is committed to continue with his contract."

"We rejected all the proposals and offers we received and deny all rumours that Gomes can leave Simba anytime."

Gomes is enjoying a good spell with Simba, having seen the squad lose only one game in his 18 games in charge.

On Saturday, he continued his good spell by seeing to it the outfit cruises to the Federation Cup quarterfinals.

Goals from Bernard Morrison and Meddie Kagere were enough to put Kagera Sugar to the sword as Simba SC cruised to a 2-1 home victory.

Athlete to participate in Olympic Qualifiers in Austria

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

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TANZANIAN athlete, Augustine Sulle, will compete in the Austria Marathon slated for the end of this month in Styria, Vienna.

Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s vice-chairman, John Bayo, said the event is organized by Run2gether organization which is owned by Austria-Kenya team based in Kiambogo, close to Lake Naivasha, and will be used as a Tokyo Olympics' qualifying event.

He said depending on the weather, the event is slated for May 22-24 and it will involve all races.

"Our athlete Augustino Sulle will compete at the Austria Marathon, which will be held at the end of this month in Vienna, the organizers have set three days for the event, the day will be announced depending on the weather in Austria," he noted.

Bayo said he is confident that Sulle whose best time is 2:07 will qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

Closing date for Tokyo Olympics' qualifying races is May 31



Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s vice-chairman, John Bayo.

and Tanzania so far has Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Matanga who have qualified for the event.

Bayo said AT is doing all it can

to see to it that all 14 local athletes who are in camp in Arusha take part in qualifying events.

He noted: "We are doing all we

can to see to it that our athletes attend Tokyo Olympics' qualifying events, we have many events and currently we are arranging for two athletes to compete at an event which will be held in South Africa."

He disclosed: "We are as well planning to send Felix Simbu and Failuna to Austria so as to ensure they are in good shape ahead of the Tokyo Olympics," he said.

One of the Austria Marathon's organizers, Thomas Krejci, said the event is for elite runners as the aim is to give them a chance to get time for qualifying for Tokyo Olympics.

He disclosed: "Time is passing by and the qualification period for the Olympic Games will end on May 31. Unfortunately, nearly all City Marathons had to be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions and other options to qualify are very rare."

He noted: "This situ-

ation motivated us to look for solutions and finally we decided to organize an invitational marathon race on our own to assist all of you, who want to qualify for the Olympics, or just want to improve their personal bests."

"We will try our best to offer you perfect conditions to make your dreams come true," he said.

He said the race will take place on Highway S7 construction road. The start area is located 10 minutes drive from Fürstenfeld.

Krejci said according to recent Austrian COVID-19 rules, entries for half marathon and full marathon are limited to 200 athletes who must be registered at their respective countries' national athletics federations.

He also disclosed that they plan to have pace-makers (experienced Kenyan athletes) for groups focusing on 2h 09 min, 2h 11min and 2h 29min.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

