



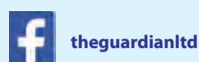
Professional Pest Control Services

FUMIGATION SERVICES

Export Containers and Warehouses using Methyl Bromide and Phosphine

+255 658 781 861

www.pestguard.co.tz



+255 745 700710

LIKE & FOLLOW US

ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8166• PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

THURSDAY 18 MARCH, 2021

National Pg 3

Govt to sign oil pipeline pact



National Pg 4

Tanzanian woman arrested over drugs



National Pg 5

Work on Barack Obama Drive



National Pg 6

Govt tasks PCCB to investigate VETA



Rangers to dot Monduli to tame rogue elephants

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Monduli

THE government is putting up permanent ranger camps in Monduli district, Arusha region in response to human-wildlife conflicts after it emerged that at least 30 people have been killed by elephants in the course of the past year.

The camps being built by the Wildlife Division will be scattered on three villages on the Makuyuni landscape where several attacks occurred.

Addressing ward residents at an open-air meeting yesterday, the division acting director Pellage Kauzeni stated that the government was mindful of the threat faced by the residents in the area from wild animals and in particular elephants.

"And we are taking steps to curb the problem by erecting ranger camps around Makuyuni. But even before permanent facilities are set up, the government is deploying wardens to protect people and their properties against ferocious beasts," he said.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has mandate to protect animals but at the same time, the government is working to safeguard habitats, therefore all necessary steps are being taken to en



Thobias Laizer (L) of Makuyuni ward in Monduli District pictured yesterday showing Pellage Kauzeni, acting director of the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry's Wildlife Division, what he said was an X-ray image of injuries his son sustained after being attacked by a rogue elephant. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi.

TURN TO Page2

Postal union skyscraper plot title deed given after 25 yrs

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AFTER a 25-year battle to reclaim a piece of land from wheeling and dealing schemes, the government has finally secured a title deed for the plot belonging to Pan African Postal Union (PAPU).

Information and Communication Technology minister Dr Faustin Ndugulile yesterday handled the title deed for the plot on which one of the tallest buildings in the city is being erected.

"It took 25 years to obtain this document to secure the land for

TURN TO Page2

TIC, TRC seeking SGR corridor investments

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) have issued a passionate appeal to investors to make use of opportunities created by the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to put up ventures to spur growth of the economy.

TIC executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi said at a meeting here yesterday to discuss investment opportunities along the SGR corridor that so far TIC has 30 investment project proposals, noting that more opportunities are yet to be grabbed.

Out of the 30 projects, 14 have been

“Projects such as surveying of land, installation of power lines, water and other infrastructures that require public works will be the first to be implemented

approved and ready for taking off, propelling greater engagement with the private sector, he said.

SGR corridor investment opportunities abound, ranging from hotel and restaurants to financial services, he said, elaborating that apart from products and services targeting passengers, there are also opportunities in agriculture for ease of transport via SGR.

"We should not limit our thinking to serving passengers; we should extend our imagination to cheap and efficient mean of transport for produce and products," he

TURN TO Page2

Mwinyi wants progress in youth empowerment

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has directed the Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports to furnish him with a detailed report on how young people benefit from empowerment projects including jobs.

Dr Mwinyi made the directive yesterday at a meeting with ministry officials at the State House where he received reports on implementation of directives he earlier issued to ministers and permanent secretar-

“We need intense agricultural transformation to spur industrial investment, raising farmers' incomes and national income in general

ies. He directed the ministry to find out how much the youth had benefitted from government supported projects, citing the CCM election manifesto 2020-2025 as promising to provide 300,000 jobs for Zanzibar youth.

Some of the jobs will be government-based and more others in the private sector, hence the need to empower youth to employ themselves, he stated, elaborating that the youth are not well empowered to employ themselves; so they should be ca-

pacitated to establish income generating activities instead of giving them upkeep funds.

Evidence shows that most youths provided with capital fail to develop businesses for lack of management and marketing skills, he affirmed, underlining that lacking the required skills to manage and market businesses make the youths fail to sell their products.

"We should help them to find markets for their products; ensure reliable and coordi

TURN TO Page2

BUNGE PANEL Page 3



LIVESTOCK KEEPERS Page 4



KENYAN MOTORISTS Page 5



VANILLA FARMING Page 6



Mwinyi wants progress in youth empowerment

FROM PAGE 1

nated markets to enable their businesses to grow," he affirmed, asking officials to also look for alternative funding sources from financial institutions.

The Isles leader similarly challenged officials to find solutions to existing sports sector problems to improve the sector, also a major occupational outlet for a large portion of the youth.

Tabia Maulid, the Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sport, earlier said the government of Oman has shown willingness to support efforts to build football grounds, while plans are at hand to build a cultural house at Mwanakwerekwe, to house a youth talents development centre.

The ministry faces a lack of office building, with plans being

readied to construct a ministry building to enhance the working environment.

Measures are also being taken to uplift the mentality of work, fostering discipline among ministry employees. They will now be required to register at check-in and check-out by a biometric appliance.

Permanent Secretary Fatma Hamad Rajab said the ministry was observing the law in its operations, thus managing to improve revenue collections.

"We have been closely monitoring our employees to ensure they all meet their performance targets. We have taken measures against those delaying work in accordance with civil service regulations," she added.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L) pictured on Tuesday inspecting a 2.4bn/- fence built primarily to arrest environmental destruction in and around Pangani town. She was on an ongoing official tour of Tanga Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Steven William

Postal union skyscraper plot title deed given after 25 yrs

FROM PAGE 1

the PAPU building. The process was being delayed by some unscrupulous individuals scheming to annex part of the land," he said.

Dr Ndugulile was on a three-day tour of Arusha Region, presenting title deed number 9448 for the plot located in Sekei Ward, to PAPU Secretary General Younous Djibrine, who complimented the minister on those efforts, noting that the construction project was on course, with completed projected in time. The project for the anticipated PAPU complex located next

to Mount Meru Hotel was announced several years ago but existing structures are just being levelled now. It was touted to be the tallest building in the city but since then other high edifices have cropped up in town. The complex is billed to cost 33 billion/- to serve as the headquarters for the continental postal communications body. Set for completion next year, the PAPU building will have 17 floors, the tallest structure along the Moshi-Arusha highway. The PAPU complex is a joint venture project between

the Pan African Postal Union, which operates from Arusha and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), where PAPU foots 60 percent of construction costs and TCRA the rest of the tab. The PAPU building is set to alter the skyline of Arusha city, seeing declining property development in the past few years. Major investment houses currently dominating the skyline are the Ngorongoro Tourism Centre, Mafao House of the National Social Security Fund's (NSSF) and Palace Hotel, all designed a decade ago.

The Beijing Engineering and Construction Limited is undertaking the works slated to take 30 months to completion, opening shop in 2023.

PAPU was established in January 1980 as a specialized agency of the Organization of African Union -the precursor to the African Union - after a postal conference held in Arusha. It is one of several regional and international organizations headquartered in Arusha, where the East African Community (EAC) and its affiliated institutions lead the pack.

TIC, TRC seeking SGR corridor investments

FROM PAGE 1

urged.

The meeting brought together stakeholders from the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) for familiarization and introduction to approved projects and untapped opportunities, with the meeting being told that projects undertaken by the government will be implemented first.

"Projects such as surveying of land, installation of power lines, water and other infrastructures that require public works will be the first to be implemented," he elaborated, while TRC director general Masanja Kadogosa applauded the efforts, saying viable economic activities were being developed along the SGR corridor.

Noting that the SGR is a vital project for the country, he said TRC wants to see the entire corridor taken up as a beehive of activity rather than being left idle.

TPSF representative Kennedy Rwehumbiza said the foundation took part in the meeting to understand and assess available opportunities for participation in investments.

SGR is a modern railway system under construction, linking Tanzania to the neighboring countries of Rwanda and Uganda as well as Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is part of an East African Railway Master Plan, with the new railway line strategically replacing the old

Rangers to dot Monduli to tame rogue elephants

FROM PAGE 1

sure that conservation doesn't pose undue dangers to the population.

Hundreds of residents from the three villages mapped within the windswept Makuyuni ward attended the meeting, mostly pastoralists. They complained that wild animals had so far killed more than 30 people and injured many others, emphasizing that ferocious beasts ought to be captured and restrained within national park territory.

Makuyuni ward villages are located on the margins of the Tarangire-Manyara wildlife corridor, a natural passage of animals in major conservation areas, complicating efforts to stem human-wildlife conflicts as marauding animals harm people in using the corridor.

Thobias Kometian, a villager, turned up at the gathering with

X-ray pictures of his young boy whose jaw and legs were crushed by an elephant, while an elderly woman, Kakesio Luka lamented that whenever cases of such attacks are reported no action is taken.

"But when a wild animal gets injured by vehicles on the road, it takes just a few minutes before rangers show up. Does it mean that beasts are more important than humans?" she asked.

Sanare Odupoi and Omar Said Jama pointed out that nearly 60 acres of cultivated crops that had already ripened for harvest were destroyed by jumbos roaming the precincts of the villages.

Ward councillor Elias Odupoi stated that while indeed wild animals have been hounding villagers, their cattle and crops, hindering pupils from atten



The 16-storey Pan African Union (PAPU) and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) joint venture complex in Arusha city worth over 33.6bn/- has received a title deed. Communication and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile (2nd-L) hands over the document to PAPU secretary general Younous Djibrine (R) yesterday. Looking on (from-L) are the ministry's acting permanent secretary, Clarence Inchwekeleza, TCRA board chairman Dr Jones Kiliimbe, and Postmaster General Hassan Mwang'ombe. Photo: TCRA

Kenyan motorists flock to Tanzania for cheaper fuel

By Ian Byron

MOTORISTS in Migori County are now driving to neighbouring Tanzania in droves for cheaper fuel following high prices introduced by the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) on Sunday.

Stung by the high prices, motorists from Kisii, Homa Bay and Migori counties are using porous borders to access the precious commodity that retails more cheaply in the neighbouring country.

The hike has seen the price of petrol shoot to the Sh130.11 mark per litre in Migori town, pushing it to a nine-year high at a time when Kenyans are grappling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Diesel is retailing at Sh120.26 while kerosene shot to Sh99.07.

But in Tanzania, super petrol is being sold at between Sh93 and Sh94, diesel at Sh90.12 while kerosene trades at Sh88.32.

"It is cheaper buying across the border where a litre goes

for Sh93 as compared to Kenya where the same amount goes for between Sh128 and Sh130. We will continue buying the commodity in Tanzania since our government is insensitive to our plight," Mr Peter Onyonga, a motorist, told the Nation.

The scramble has seen Isebania town abuzz with activity with motorists crossing over to Sirare town with 20-litre jerricans to buy fuel, which they later sell to Kenyan consumers.

Lukuvi resolves long-standing dispute over Dar plots

By Guardian Reporter

THE long standing land ownership dispute pitting residents of Nzasa area in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam and one Dr Khalifa Mussa Msami, alleged owner of Plots 296 and 297 has been resolved by the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, William Lukuvi.

Early this week the minister visited the area along Segerea

Road after receiving complaints over the plots ownership and their proper boundaries.

While at the area he discovered gross violations on the boundaries of various plots whereby some owners had illegally increased their sizes and infringed into road reserve by over four metres, while others blocked drainage trenches.

In the circumstances Lukuvi directed the Dar es Salaam

Regional Lands Office and Kinondoni Municipal Lands Department to ensure they restore the original boundaries of the area to identify those who had illegally shifted them.

"My decision after discovering boundaries violations, both the regional and municipal lands teams should come here to restore the original boundaries. If you officially own the plot build in accordance with the government's published plan and respect

the official boundaries," he said.

He said the two teams will shoe each plot owner his plot boundaries and should confine himself within the official boundaries.

Some owners of the houses in Nzasa area told the minister they resolved to increase the plots sizes thinking that they had only infringed open spaces and appealed to him how to assist them as they had already built houses.



CRDB Bank Plc senior manager for value added service Mangire Kibanda (C) briefs journalists at the launch of CRDB Bank account to M-Bet wallet services in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on are M-Bet marketing director Allen Mushi (R) and SimBanking manager Emmanuel Moshi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

VP Samia for Uganda next week to seal pact on crude oil pipeline

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan is on Monday expected to leave the country for Uganda to sign another vital agreement for the official beginning of the construction of the crude oil pipeline from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania.

Finalising her four-day official tour in Tanga Region, VP Samia (pictured) said that on March 22, she is going to Uganda to seal the pact for the long-awaited crude oil pipeline project to kick off; noting that the venture would provide a big relief to Tanzanians particularly Tanga residents, who will benefit in different ways.

In September last year, President Magufuli and his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni signed an agreement that set the ball rolling for the construction of a 7.4trn/- crude oil pipeline running from Ugandan oilfields to Tanga.

The two presidents signed the agreement to intentionally implement the project which upon completion will see Tanzania earn 7.5trn/- and create more than 10,000 to 15 direct jobs over the next 25 years.

During the event, VP Samia delivered greetings from President John Magufuli to the people of Tanga.

In his message, VP Samia said president Magufuli wants the people of Tanga to work hard in their undertakings mostly the production of Sisal



which is now marketable globally.

Through the Vice president, the Head of State also thanked the people of Tanga for the support and votes that they gave him during the General Election last year which gave him a victory of about 85-percent.

"The president asked me to tell you that you should work hard and focus more on what you are doing to ensure our country remains peaceful as usual," he said.

Speaking further on the developments in Tanga VP Samia detailed that in the last five years the government constructed 22 health centres, five dispensaries as well as the construction of an emergency ward and dialysis unit at Tanga referral hospital Bombo in which 77.4bn/- has been spent.

Another project was the construction of roads within Tanga Region which upon completion will ease transportation of goods especially crops.

During the tour, the Vice President launched various development projects including factories among others.

Bunge panel gives public institutions three months to pay land rent debts

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

LANDS, Natural resources and Tourism Parliamentary Committee has given three months to public and private institutions that owe land rent to the Lands ministry to pay the debts.

The panel also instructed the lands ministry to prepare a list of the defaulting institutions and submit the same to the panel for easy follow up of the payment process.

The panel's chairman Aloyce Kwezi issued the instruction early this week when concluding its visit in Mbeya Region, saying they discovered that in Mbeya Region alone the institutions owed the government over 5.1bn/-.

"We have discovered, for instance, that TAZARA was yet to pay 1.0bn/- land rent and Tanganyika Packers 1.4bn/-, so we are thinking, if in Mbeya region alone, its institutions owe this sum of money, what about the entire country?" queried Kwezi.

Some committee members said the defaulting institutions should be referred to the Office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for auditing and coerced to pay without delay.

Hawa Mwaifunga, a panel member said some of these institutions have been receiving clean certificates from CAG but owe huge sums of money by the ministry.

She said had the land rent default-

ers been private individuals, by now their property would have been auctioned off, but since they were public institutions that step was not being taken, and called on the ministry to double its efforts to demand its debts.

Lands ministry Deputy Minister Dr Angeline Mabula confirmed that many public institutions in the country owe the ministry huge amounts of money in land rent and promised to submit the list to the committee.

She said some of the defaulting institutions were rented land by the government and in turn they rented the same to other people who pay rent without submitting it to the government, thereby accumulating

huge debts in the process.

She said the committee's intervention in claiming the debts could help the ministry in time so as to direct the money to other development projects.

Mbeya regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said the Ministry was supposed to involve the regional government to reinforce efforts, adding that there are ministries who did that and succeeded.

He said at one stage various government institutions owed Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA) more than 1.6bn in unpaid water bills but the Authority involved his office and forced them to pay more than 1.56bn/- with some still continue paying

New ICT legislation in the offing - Dr Chaula

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Information and Technology ministry has brought together various stakeholders who are ICT experts from government ministries and its institutions as well as the private sector to discuss recommendations for the enacting of the ICT law and whose views would be submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat.

Opening the meeting here on Tuesday this week, the ministry's Permanent Secretary Dr Zainab Chaula said there was a great need for the legislation in the country due to the fast growth of the technology with a huge business drive.

She said the government has invested in the growth of ICT use in the country to go tandem with the needs for the fourth industrial revolution, hence, she added it would be better to have the law that would provide guidelines for the correct use of ICT.

"In order for things to go smooth it is essential to have a special ICT law that would provide guidelines to supervise and identify who was doing what, where, at what time and by which procedures," Dr Chaula said.

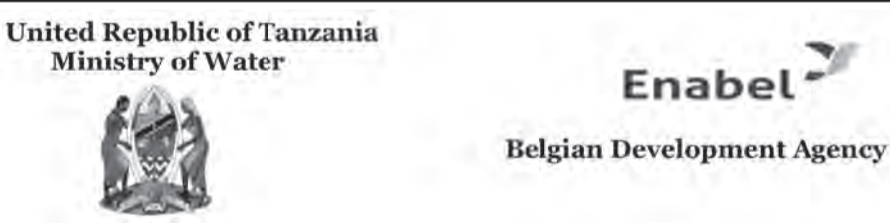
She added that the legislation will put in place procedures for robust but friendly systems for the development and man-

agement of ICT in the country including strengthening ICT systems for the public institutions.

She also appealed to stakeholders to submit their what had been deliberated to institutions they were representing and if any issue that had been forgotten jot should be submitted to the ministry

in writing to remove misunderstanding among various stakeholders by saying they were not involved.

She said the process for the legislation was a long time one and already views from many people from different areas have been collected and worked upon.



CALL FOR BIDS CONSTRUCTION OF KIFURA WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CONSULTANCY TO SUPERVISE WATER SUPPLY WORKS

The Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) is inviting bids from suitably qualified consulting firms to design and supervise water supply works in Kigoma region. WASKIRP is a project jointly funded by the Kingdom of Belgium through Enabel and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water. This is a 5-year project which aims at providing sustainable water supply solutions in Kigoma region. Under one of its result areas, Enabel is now looking for a contractor to construct water a supply scheme and consultants to supervise the works in Kibondo District.

Contracts:

There are two public contracts as follows:

1. Public Works Contract TAN144: Construction of Kifura pumping water supply scheme in Kibondo District.
2. Public Service Contract TAN 145: Supervision Consultancy for Kifura Project.

Closing date and contract documents:

All interested entities are requested to obtain contract documents at: <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>. The deadline for submitting bids is February 26, 2021 before 15:00hrs. This notice is also published on the Enabel website, www.enabel.be, in the Belgian Public Tender bulletin (BDA). For any additional information contact Antoine on 0753 733 043 during working hours only.

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES TANZANIA

**FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY:
APPROVED BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021
AND ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION**

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is locally registered non-government organization with registration number I-NGO/R2/0005. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is affiliated to SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS Children's Villages International), the largest independent, non-governmental, nonprofit international development organization headquartered in Innsbruck, Austria. The organization provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children in need and protects their interests and rights around the world. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania implements a number of programs to support children who have lost parental care and those at the risk of losing it. SOS Children's Villages Tanzania also works with local government authorities in areas of ending violence against children, improving quality education for most vulnerable children, women empowerment and advocacy.

In compliance to Regulation 13 of the Government Notice 609 published on 19th October 2018 on Financial Transparency and Accountability as stipulated in The Non-Governmental Organization Act (Amendments) Regulations 2018, SOS Children's Villages Tanzania hereby discloses approved budget for the financial year 2021 for implementation of its activities in year 2021 as follows:

Source	Description/Purpose	Amount (TZS)
Austrian Development Agency (ADA) – Austria	Policy Dialogue its a consortium project of five east African countries supported by Austria partners geared towards improvement of policies, equity and inclusion of marginalized group. The project is planned to be implemented in Mwanza and Iringa.	24,116,008
Hempel Foundation – Denmark	Support families towards sustainability so that they can provide essential needs for their children (standard care and protection). Work with government to strengthen systems such as schools and health centers so that children live in a safe and protected environment in Iringa.	227,429,928
Civil Society in Development (CISU) – Denmark	Implementation of Community Action for Quality Alternative Care and Protection Program (Phase II) in Dar es Salaam. The purpose of the project is to promote quality care for children in alternative care in community settings through capacity building to frontline workers, system strengthening and advocacy.	221,839,483
Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) – Finland	Implementation of Children with Children project, an initiative for adolescent girls in Tanzania. The overall goal of the project is to improve the wellbeing and rights of adolescent girls and mothers in Tanzania. The project will be implemented in Iringa.	536,205,418
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) – Norway	Capacity building to SOS Coworkers and advocacy on increasing child budget and strengthening of community child protection systems and structures.	439,041,640
General subsidies from SOS Children's Villages International	Funds to support children and youth in Alternative Care Programs, Family Strengthening Programs, Educational Programs, Employability & Entrepreneurship Training Programs in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mwanza. The funds also supports operations of the National Office based in Dar es Salaam.	9,668,484,211
Total grants / subsidy expected to be received in 2021		11,117,116,688

New sugar factory in Kilosa District now employs 2,000

By Guardian Reporter

MBIGIRI Sugar factory in Kilosa District, Morogoro Region with a capacity to produce 50,000 tonnes of sugar per year expects to employ 2,000 people when it starts operating next year.

This was revealed to the members of the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) by the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) Jenista Mhagama.

She said the aim of the government was to see construction work of the factory completed in time in order to reduce the country sugar deficit as well as creating employment for Tanzanians.

The minister said as for now the project has employed 387 people, out

of who 300 were casual labourers in farms, and it is estimated that it has also provided indirect employment to more than 2,000 people.

When sugar production starts more than 2,000 people will be employed, out of which 650 will be casual labourers while 5,000 jobs will be indirectly engaged.

She said for now more than 245 sugar out-growers have already been mobilised and a total of 1,000 would be mobilised at the time sugar production starts.

PAC chairman Naghenjwa Kaboyoka and members inspected the area set aside for the construction of the factory, accommodation for 112 initial factory technicians, administration offices, a small conference hall, approach road to the factory and a dam for sugar cane irrigation.

For her part, the project board chairman Dr Hildeitha Msita ex-

plained that the project has also built a dispensary to serve factory workers and the surrounding communities.

Msita further said they continue beefing up sugar farming activities by purchasing modern farming equipment.

She said the project's goal was to produce 110 tonnes per hectare by 2021/22 and 130 tonnes per hectare by 2023/2024.

Mkulanzi, Mbigiri's holding company was established in 2016 with the goal in establishing sugar factories capable to produce 250,000 tons of sugar per year to reduce the country's sugar deficit.

Mkulazi Holding Company was established in 2016 and aimed in initiating small sugar factories capable to produce a total of 250,009 tonnes of sugar per year to reduce the country sugar deficit.



Energy minister Dr. Medard Kalemani addresses Kaselya villagers in Nzega District, Tabora Region on government plans to implement rural electrification phase III in the region on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzanian woman arrested with drugs detained for three days

MOMBASA

A Tanzanian woman arrested at the Moi International Airport, Mombasa, on suspicion of trafficking heroin worth Ksh15 million will be detained for three days.

A Mombasa court ordered Maimuna Jumanne be detained at the Port police station as the investigators complete their work.

The suspected drug dealer will be tested at the government chemist.

Maimuna was arrested on Sunday allegedly with 5.3kg of heroin said to have been hidden in a false bottom and top of a suitcase she was traveling with.

Senior resident magistrate Vincent Adet ordered her detention after an application seeking more time to complete investigations.

Maimuna did not object to the application to have her remain in custody pending conclusion of the investigations.

The DPP opposed the Tanzania being granted bond before she was

charged as she did not have a known abode and therefore was likely to escape.

The state further said it was highly likely Maimuna would interfere with the investigations if set free.

Maimuna was arrested few minutes after she landed and investigators suspect the drug originated in South Africa from where she had traveled through Addis Ababa.

Police said the drugs were wrapped in four polythene sachets and concealed with curry powder and pepper.

Last month, four people including two Tanzanians were arrested after they allegedly trafficked 2kg of heroin worth Ksh. 6 million.

Said Ali and his wife Mariam Shaaban were accused alongside Kenyans Said Aboobakar and Mwasomo Mohammed.

But the Tanzanians were also charged with being in the country illegally after the police failed to find evidence linking them to the consignment and were later deported.

Ethiopian Airlines joins the African Union's trusted traveler program

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIAN Airlines has partnered with the African Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (Africa CDC) for the implementation of the African Union Trusted Travel Pass to make continental travel easier and safer amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The scale of the challenge presented by COVID-19 demands an unprecedented level of both innovation and cooperation, which is why Ethiopian's laudable decision to come on board Trusted Travel marks a watershed in the continent's ongoing fightback against this pandemic's quest to suppress Africa's development ambitions," said Dr. John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa CDC.

In early March Kenya Airways became one of the first African air carriers to implement the Trusted Travel Pass.

The Trusted Travel pass program will ensure that individual country regulations regarding COVID-19 travel requirements are met with minimal room for error and hassle to the traveling public.

Ethiopian Airlines' customers will now enjoy a hassle-free travel experience with their travel pass helping them verify whether their medical information meets various COVID 19 regulations of their destination.

"We are offering new digital opportunities to our passengers so as to fully and safely restore air travel," Ethiopian Airlines Chief Information Officer Getinet Tadesse said.

"We are pleased to have introduced a digital platform that will be pivotal in increasing the number of passengers while making air travel safer."

Evict auction areas, Gekul tells livestock keepers in Dodoma city

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Minister Livestock and Fisheries Pauline Gekul has given five days to livestock traders who have been keeping their livestock at Dodoma's Kizota livestock auction area to remove them as they were violating the set down procedures.

The deputy minister issued the directive yesterday during her inspection at the auction area where he met with some of livestock traders.

She said there were procedures for conducting livestock auctions at Ujili whereby once the animals are purchased they are required to be taken and not to be kept at the area waiting to be sent to the abattoirs.

"I'm giving five days to all livestock traders to remove your animals you have bought to other areas for keeping them" she said.

However, she said the ministry has allocated more than 200m/- for improvement of the infrastructure at the auction including erection of a perimeter fence.

She appealed to the people not to invade the auction area as the main reason for the delay in the construction of the fence which was the conflict on land invasion by outsiders.

She also called on officials from ward and village levels to ensure they resolve the issue and take immediate steps whenever they see people invading auction areas.

Dodoma City executive director Joseph Mafuru said when the team of experts tasked to evaluate the invaded area finishes its work the areas will be officially surveyed as soon as possible.



CONSULTANT

FINAL EVALUATION OF BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESILIENT FOOD SECURITY PROJECT IN TANZANIA

Project Background and Context

Building Capacity for Resilient Food Security Project (BCFRFSP) in Tanzania is a three years USAID funded project aimed at addressing capacity gaps within Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries (MANRLF) Zanzibar, Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), and the President's Office Regional Administrative and Local Government (PO-RALG) to effectively respond to the challenges faced by the country's agriculture sector as a result of un-favorable changes in climatic conditions. MoA, MLF, MANRLF, PO-RALG and TMA work alongside with the three contracted agencies as implementing partners namely United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to develop and implement specific projects capacities geared towards building agricultural resilience and food security. The project aimed at building capacity of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) Agencies, Ministries, and institutions to support adaptation and scale out of climate smart agricultural practices and technologies among smallholder farmers in the country.

This is one among the projects implemented under the Agriculture climate Resilient Plan (2014 - 2019) developed by MoA which aims at strengthening knowledge and systems to target climate actions in the country. A key pillar of the plan is to build the capacity of the relevant agencies to develop and implement policies and projects to address Climate variability/change.

The project seeks to engage local consultant/firm to evaluate BCFRFSP project under guidance and supervision of the MoA, MLF, MNRLF and PORALG.

1.0 Objective of the Evaluation

The main objective of this evaluation is to assess the project goal and expected results as defined in the project document. This evaluation will provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons into management decision-making more specifically to:

- Evaluate the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the project and support with evidence the extent to which the project met its objectives.
- Document lessons learned - both successes and shortcomings of the project in pursuing its intended objectives to generalize the best practice and strategic recommendations of the future CSA projects.

2.0 Scope of Evaluation

The evaluation will be conducted in all project areas in Kongwa, Dodoma City, Mvomero, Kilolo, Ruangwa, Kaskazini B, Kusini Unguja, Wete, and Chake Chake - Pemba in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The consultant will adopt a consultative and participatory approach, including desk review, interview and field visits to project sites to collect first-hand information. Meetings and methods will specifically target key project beneficiaries; Regional and District Government Staffs (RAA, DAICOs/DADOs), Extension Officers, Project Implementing Partners (IPs), farmers and other potential stakeholders.

3.0 Terms and conditions of the consultancy

The duration of the consultancy will be 60 man-days during the months of May-June, 2021. The consultant will be reporting to and be managed by United Republic of Tanzania-BCFRFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Team under the Environmental Management Unit (MoA-EMU) and (MANRLF - DPPR). The payment will include the consultant fees and direct operational cost (for enumerators, transport, stationaries etc.).

4.0 Consultant Profile

The evaluation exercise will be undertaken by Local Individual Consultant/firm who will work in close collaboration with BCFRFSP coordinators under Environmental Management Unit (MoA-EMU) and (MANRLF - DPPR). The consultant/ firm should possess with the following skills and qualifications:

- At least a master's Degree in Economics/Agricultural Economics, Rural/Regional Development Planning, Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation or related areas;
- Demonstrated experience and hands-on and progressive knowledge of theory of change (ToC) focused and results-based evaluation methods
- Experience in managing evaluations and documenting learning for complex cross-sector projects;
- Good command of writing and speaking English and Kiswahili with excellent organization and communication skills and demonstrate ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure;
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in performing similar evaluations (this applies to an individual or people specifically nominated rather than to a firm);
- Demonstrated experience in research design, including designing data collection instruments and processing and analysing data;
- Strong facilitator with documented experience in conducting participatory qualitative assessments related to behavioural change, conservation and/or livelihood projects;
- Strong organizational, analytical and reporting skills, presentation skills, attention to detail, ability to meet deadlines, and proficiency in Microsoft Office and, potentially qualitative data analysis software/tools;
- The consultant should be familiar with the local context and have some expertise in at least some of the project's technical content;
- Proven knowledge and practical ability to understand and utilize, if not design and implement, quantitative data and qualitative data;
- Proven competency in quantitative and qualitative research methods, particularly self-administered surveys, document analysis, and informal and semi-structured interviews.

Procedure for application

Qualified applicants must submit application package which must include: Technical proposal; financial proposal; two page resume of Principle Investigator (PI) and the team detailing how they qualify for the assignment. All applications along with all necessary documents must be submitted as PDF file electronically to: **The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), IITA-Tanzania, Plot No 25 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, Mwenge Coca-Cola Road, Mikocheni B. Email: c.njuguna@cgiar.org with subject line "BCFRFSP End-line Evaluation" before 5.00 PM March 31st 2021.**

Over 3,000 Katete village residents to benefit from new water project

By Guardian Correspondent, Rukwa

MORE than 3,000 residents of Katete village in Kalambo District, Rukwa Region are set to benefit from a water project implemented by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA).

RUWASA district manager for Kalambo Patrick Ndimbo made the remarks at Katete village when presenting details of the project during the laying of a foundation stone.

Ndimbo said the project is implemented by Safari General Business of Sumbawanga with funding from the National Water Fund at a cost of 382 million.

He pointed out that earlier villages had no water and people were forced to travel long distances in search of the precious liquid.

Addressing the residents, District Commissioner Karolius Misungwi commended the ministry of water for addressing the long-time challenge.

"I commend the ministry for doing a great job, we have witnessed a lot of projects being implemented, I believe that this is a new move where nearby areas

will also receive water," he said.

He called upon the residents to ensure they properly use the opportunities that arise from the projects as well as ensure they protect the infrastructure.

He said the fact that the availability of the precious liquid was a problem calls for the need to protect it fully.

The event for laying the foundation stone for the Katete project goes together with the launching of other projects in line with the Water Week for 2021.



I commend the ministry for doing a great job, we have witnessed a lot of projects being implemented, I believe that this is a new move where nearby areas will also receive water



Science and Technology deputy minister Omary Kipanga (C) who is also Mafia MP briefs Eng. Benitho Kigava (R) ongoing construction of Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) located at Pawaga in Iringa District, Iringa Region. Photo : Correspondent Friday Simbaya



HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Join us in our efforts to end the HIV epidemic in Tanzania. Be part of the winning team to advance global health and save the lives of people living with HIV.

About HJFMRI Tanzania Program

The Walter Reed Program Tanzania (WRP-T) is a collaborative effort that supports PEPFAR-funded HIV prevention and treatment activities in the Southern Highlands and within the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF). HJF Medical Research International, Inc Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is a local non-profit that has supported these efforts since 2004 for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). PEPFAR activities are conducted in close collaboration with the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and the President's Office of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), through the Regional and Council Health Management Teams.

HJFMRI-T provides care and treatment to people affected by HIV/AIDS, and has been actively involved in HIV and AIDS programming, providing resources, personnel, and services to the Southern Highlands Zone. The program has expanded from supporting the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital to becoming a hub for anti-retroviral treatment in the zone; to community support through decentralized services, with the overall objective of implementing research, clinical HIV, prevention, care, and treatment services. HJFMRI-T currently focuses specifically on four regions in the Southern Highlands zone, namely Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Songwe and Ruvuma for VMMC services only. The program also supports TPDF to implement comprehensive HIV prevention care and treatment program in 21 sites throughout the country.

Employment opportunities:

HJF Medical Research International, Inc. Tanzania (HJFMRI-T) is seeking qualified candidates to fill the positions listed below:

Cover letters and resumes should be sent by mail through post/EMS/DHL/ or any reliable Courier to the Sr. Manager, P.O. Box 6396, Mbeya, or sent through e-mail to recruitment@wrp.or.tz.

NOTE: To be considered, applicants must put the TITLE OF THE JOB in the SUBJECT LINE. Applications that are hand-delivered will not be accepted. The deadline for submitting the application is **March 29, 2021**. Those who do not meet the minimum requirements, as detailed in the job description below, will not be considered.

Position: Program Drivers (4 Positions)

Reports to: Logistics Manager

Locations: Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Rukwa and Katavi

The drivers will be located in all program areas depending on need.

Job Summary

This position will provide logistical support to HJFMRI program activities in five regions of the Southern Highlands namely Ruvuma, Mbeya, Rukwa, Songwe and Katavi and also for the Dar es salaam office. In order to achieve Program objectives, Procurement and Logistics Department has been effectively managing the movement of staff and HJFMRI-T properties to different locations as per program requirements. The drivers are expected to provide effective logistic service while ensuring they also utilize resources (program vehicles) effectively.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To be responsible for the HJFMRI vehicle driven and for the safety of passengers and to ensure that the vehicles are kept secure at all times.
- Ensure that safety belts fitted in the vehicle are maintained in working order and used by passengers.
- Drive HJFMRI's vehicles in accordance with government legislation, organizational policy and security guidelines.
- Ensure that HJFMRI's vehicles are clean and well maintained, to carry out basic daily checks gauge, tires, pressure and others prior to departure and after parking.
- Ensure that spares, tools, and first aid kits are carried; fuel and water is maintained as required.
- Ensure that only passengers with approved Travel Logistics are in the vehicles.
- Make a written report to the supervisor any accident or any incident involving HJFMRI vehicles
- Ensure the vehicle Log Book is properly maintained and filled appropriately
- Attend some basic logistics and clerical assignments as may be tasked by the supervisor
- May be required to work on overtime basis to facilitate program transport assignment on an urgent basis during weekends or holidays;
- Respect and maintain the relationship of trust required to obtain a high level of security access to offices, homes, and properties of company personnel without supervision.
- Report on duty timely and sometimes earlier than normal work hours when required to facilitate transport needs;
- Ensure Monthly fuel consumption reports and mileage accounting for office is made available and shared on monthly basis.
- Ensure motor vehicle routine Services are made after every 5,000 kilometers and report any emergency breakdown soon after its occurrence.
- Undertake any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Relevant Experience and Qualifications

- Form IV with Advanced Driving Certificate from VETA, Tanzania National Institute of Transport or any reputable driving school (college).
- Holder of a certificate of secondary education examination (form four certificate).
- Have a valid class C driving license.
- Sound previous driving experience of two years and above, working in NGOs (Programs or projects)
- Motor vehicle servicing and maintenance skills, including four wheels drive vehicles.
- Good written and spoken English and Kiswahili
- Commitment to teamwork, initiative and flexibility and willingness to work outside normal working hours.

Key Competencies

- A team player who demonstrates patience, flexibility and honesty.
- Willingness and ability to meet tight deadlines and work long hours when required.
- A self-starter, who is able to plan and manage their own work, takes initiative and strives to meet deadlines.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Be flexible enough to support more than one team and at any time when required
- Be able to work in a multicultural environment.

Mobile phone repairers cautioned not to erase IMEI numbers from phones

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

MOBILE phone repairers have been cautioned not to erase the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers from the phones received from their customers for repair.

The warning was issued by the Communications and Technology Minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile on the first day of his visit in Arusha Region when he spoke to workers and staff of institutions under his ministry including Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Tanzania Post Corporation (TPC) and Tanzania Telecommunication Company (TTCL), the event which marked the 100th day since creation of the new ministry.

Dr Ndugulile said some unfaithful mobile phone repairers were used to erase IMEI numbers from their customers' phones so as to enable them to be reused, saying doing so was a crime and the gov-

ernment would take stern action against them under the 2015 Cyber Crimes Act.

His remarks followed report submitted by TCRA Northern Zone Manager, Eng Imelda Salum on special training provided to 332 mobile phone repairers in the Zone that includes Arusha, Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

She said that the training coordinated by Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) and Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) sponsored by TCRA to empower phone repairs to spurn criminal acts in particular mobile phones theft, cybercrimes offences.

Mobile phone repairers were also required to officialise their activities by abiding to ethics and to cooperate with police authorities on issues of mobile phone thefts.

Eng Salum appealed to investors in the broadcasting subsector to establish radio studios in the Zone

as there were areas with poor radio reception.

Meanwhile, Dr Ndugulile instructed TCRA to see how to reduce registration and licences costs for owners of online TV, saying it was the area that provides employment to the youth.

He also directed the communication regulator to reduce registration time for these owners as the end of June deadline was very far away.

The minister also called on TTCL workers in Arusha Region to be innovative by increasing the number of customers to beef up the corporation's revenues as the region was a strategic region.

For his part, TYPC Postmaster General Hassan Mwangombe thanked Dr Ndugulile for the visit and pledged to implement the directives in order to go in tandem with the government's pace in serving the people in accordance to the vision of the new Communication and Technology ministry.

Construction of Barack Obama Drive and Coco Beach bridge reaches 71 pct

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION of a 1.03-kilometre bridge to link the city's Barack Obama Drive and Coco Beach in Dar es Salaam popularly known as Tanzanite Bridge has reached 71.3 percent and is expected to be completed by the end of the year, a senior official said yesterday.

Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania Roads Agency (Tanroads), Eng Patrick Mfugale revealed this when speaking to members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Infrastructure who visited the construction site of the bridge worth 243bn/-.

The project is aimed at resolving heavy traffic in the nearby Coco Beach and Aga Khan Hospital area.

Mfugale told the committee members that the implementation of the project will also see the upgrading of roads totalling 5.2 kilometres to connect the two sides of the bridge. He further said that construction of all 254 foundation pillars have been completed by 100 percent

in tandem with the construction of platforms to facilitate the construction of a permanent bridge foundation.

For his part, Kakoso who is the MP for Mpanda Rural commended the Ministry of Works and Tanroads for successfully implementing the project, saying they were more than happy to be told that a local contractor was supervising the work.

He added: "We're pleased with the progress of this project as well as the capacity building programme for local contractors so that when this construction is completed they will have the skills to implement the construction of other bridges."

The bridge is to stand as the longest in Tanzania, followed by the 970-metre Mkapa Bridge (across Rufiji River) and the 720-metre Ruvuma Bridge.

The country also boasts of Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Bridge (680 metres) which links Kigamboni and Dar es Salaam and Magfuli Bridge (384 metres) across Kilombero Bridge in Morogoro Region.



PUBLIC NOTICE

TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN PACT TANZANIA AND WAMATA (WALIO KATIKA NA MAPAMBANO NA AIDS TANZANIA)

Notice is hereby given to the public that, effective 7th January 2020, WAMATA (Walio katika Mapambano na AIDS Tanzania) ceased to be our partner in the implementation of USAID Kizazi Kipya project and, therefore, WAMATA has no mandate whatsoever to implement USAID Kizazi Kipya project on behalf of Pact Tanzania.

Whoever deals with WAMATA on any issue(s) pertaining to the implementation of USAID Kizazi Kipya project will be doing so at their own risk and Pact Tanzania shall not be held liable for any loss, damage or liability arising directly or indirectly from the engagement or transactions conducted by WAMATA.

Country Director
Pact Tanzania

Njombe farmers urged to venture into productive vanilla farming

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FARMERS in Njombe Region have been advised to grow more vanilla as there is a steady and profitable market for the horticultural crop.

Chief Executive Officer of Vanilla International Company, Simon Mukondya made the call in Njombe town during the launch of the greenhouse for vanilla farming in Kambarage village located few kilometers from the town.

Njombe has a very conducive environment for growing the crop hence farmers should venture into untapped opportunities, which if explored will be one of the tools to relieve people out of poverty, Mukondya said.

According to him, currently, in the international market a kilo of processed vanilla stands between 900,000/- and 1m/-.

He said planting and harvesting of the fruit are not labor-intensive as it is to other crops "hence everyone can venture into this farming venture as it matures within six months after planting".

The main challenge in Njombe Region, the expert said is the unavailability of seeds, the situation that compels farmers to travel as far as Kagera Region in search of the seeds.

Vanilla is one of the most widely used flavoring agents in food, the plant produces bean-like fruits which are later dried to obtain a chemical known as vanillin which is used in adding flavors to foods and also used in industries to manufacture human medicine and cosmetics.

International research by Zion Market Analysis and FORECAST said the global vanilla is expected to reach around US\$ 735million by 2026.



Parliamentary Committee Industries, Trade and Environment members witness COVIDOL which was manufactured by Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Plans underway to revamp transport on Ruvubu River

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

PLANS are underway to improve transport services on the Ruvubu River in Ngara District, Kagera Region, which includes rehabilitation

of an old ferry operating from Mayenzi to Kanyinya in the area. This follows a discussion between Ngara Member of Parliament, Ndaisaba Ruhoro and management of the Tanzania Electrical Mechanical and Electronic Services Agency (TEMESA).

The talks were focused on availability of funds, procedures to get the contractor and the project commencement date.

It was agreed that TEMESA engineers will arrive in Ngara District within a month whereas the rehabilitation

work would start with repairing the old ferry's anchor.

The Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) will carry some responsibilities including road maintenance and tendering for a project contractor to be paid by TEMESA. TAMESA Acting Managing

Director, Eng Aderald Kweka told The Guardian that they have already secured funds for implementation of the project. Without revealing the amount, Eng Kweka said that a team of engineers will be in Ngara District within a short period for several other

projects apart from the repairing the old ferry.

Ngara MP, Ndaisaba appealed to TEMESA to purchase modern boats for residents residing at Bukililo-Mubwilinde within the Ruvubu River.

Ruvubu River rises in sev-

eral branches east of Bujumbura, Burundi. It flows first to the south then north-east to form a part of the Tanzania Burundi border.

Ngara residents living along the river use it for daily activities including travelling from one point to another.

Government tasks PCCB to probe ongoing construction of VETA college at Pawaga

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

DEPUTY Minister of Education, Science and Technology Omary Kipanga yesterday directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate the ongoing construction of Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) at Pawaga in Iringa District.

The move follows failure by the project engineer to properly manage the job which has so far been implemented by 46 percent with monies injected into it amounting to over 1bn/- while the total project cost is 1.6bn/-.

The Deputy Minister directed Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela to take action against officials supervising the project. He also suspended the project engineer—Eng Benitho Kigava.

Kipanga instructed the Head of VETA in Southern Highlands Zone, Suzan Mгани to complete processes for changing the project engineer.

He said that PCCB should within seven days investigate the project especially issues related to tending process, hiring of engineers and technicians and procurement.

"I am told that some of the construction materials were purchased in Dodaoma Region. The project engineer should

stay out of office to allow investigations," said the deputy minister.

According to him, the contractor would have spent 700m/-, but he has spent more than half of the money while the project has not even reached 50 percent.

He said the government has allocated 40bn/- or construction of 25 VETA colleges across the country to assist students who could not continue with advanced secondary education as well as those completing Standard Seven to go for vocational training.

He said the country requires a good number of skilled youth as it strives to become an industrialized nation. He said apart from VETA similar vocational trainings are offered at Community Development Colleges (FDCs).

So far, the government is constructing VETA colleges in Chunya, Kilindi, Korogwe, Ukerewe, Igunga, Pangani, Kishapu, Rufiji, Uyui, Kwimba, Bahi, Mafia, Longido, Mkinga, Uvinza, Ikungi, Iringa rural, Lushoto, Mbarali, Monduli, Buhigwe, Ulanga, Masasi, Butiama and Chemba districts.

"We aim at establishing VETA colleges in each of the regions to support the country's industrialisation agenda," he added.



Chief of National Service Major General Charles Mbugu (L) visits a maize farm at 847 Milundikwa camp in Nkasi District, Rukwa Region on Wednesday. With him is acting head of administration who is also strategic farming chairman Cornel Hassan Mabena. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

Kalambo authorities launch operation to chase away elephants in Limba and Kafufoka villages

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kalambo

KALAMBO District authorities have launched an operation to chase away 72 elephants which have in-

vaded and wreaked havoc at Limba and Kafufoka villages in the area.

Speaking soon after launching the operation, the district commissioner for Kalambo said the mammals have invaded farms

and consumed crops a move that may cause famine to the people in the area.

He said residents are living in fear as a result of the animals while most have resolved to spend their time indoors.

"This is very dangerous to lives of our people but also the animals have been consuming crops which means we may experience hunger in some of these villages next year," he said.

Henry Wiso who is the wild-

life officer for Kalambo said since 2020 two elephants have been seen in the villages but have since increased to 72 in few months and have been residing in nearby forests.

He said the district has managed to buy guns to chase

away the animals so that they return to Kalambo forest which has been their natural habitat.

One of the villagers Antonia Mbalamwezi thanked the government for the decision adding that their lives were in

danger due to the coming of the animals in their villages.

She said parents are now afraid to send their children to school for fear that they may come across the animals on their way.



Winners of NINJA Business Plan Competition in response to COVID-19



In 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) launched a Business Plan Competition called “**Next Innovation with Japan (NINJA)**”. In response to COVID-19, JICA organized a regional business plan competition in Africa, “NINJA”, to discover the innovative business models and technologies that not only provide prescriptive solutions to the current pandemic but also respond to the expected radical changes in post-pandemic socio-economic reality.

The NINJA initiative targeted innovative startups and organizations among 19 African countries, including Tanzania. The competition was open for startups/organizations in all sectors with a specific focus on emerging businesses in COVID-19-related fields including, but not limited to, Health, Disaster Management, Business Development Support, Education, Food, Agriculture, Finance, Logistics, and others. JICA has been examining more than 2,700 startups from the 19 African countries to encourage digital innovation in the continent.

In Tanzania, over 90 applicants applied for the competition, and three startups (Agrinfo, Tanzania Maji Jibu Company Limited, and Toolboksi Technologies Limited) were finally chosen as winners of the NINJA business plan competition for their innovative ideas. As part of the “NINJA Business Plan Competition in response to COVID-19”, JICA Tanzania Office conducts a proof of concept (PoC) business model which would mitigate the effects and/or has a potential to boost socio-economic development under the new COVID-19 reality with the awarded companies. Therefore, JICA awards the three winners up to 30,000 USD for PoC together with technical assistance for them.

1. Agrinfo

Agrinfo provides a digital platform solution, “**JembeKilimo**” (Swahili word referring to farmers’ hand hoe), that connects underserved Small holder farmers (SHFs) to the necessary elements that improve their productivity, such as smart-farming information, credit services to help obtain high-quality inputs while helping financial institutions to increase their agricultural portfolios. Using mobile phone technology, reliable data collected from drone and satellite imagery, and sophisticated analytics, **JembeKilimo** will bridge the gap keeping SHFs from credit, thus allowing SHFs to grow their businesses. The service targets rice at the initial phase and will expand to other crops such as tea, coffee and horticulture later.



Drone operation to collect data from farm

JembeKilimo will provide financial institutions with data sets (i.e. yield data) collected and analyzed from drone and satellite imagery. This allows financial institutions to assess creditworthiness of untapped SHFs more accurately, thus it is expected to accelerate the growth of the agricultural sector. By providing information on planting and harvesting periods, yield

forecast, and actual yield, they can help financial institutions create credit products that are more likely to be repaid on time even in the event of unforeseen environmental circumstances.



Agrinfo’s CEO is holding a drone in farm

2. Tanzania Maji Jibu Company Limited



Pouring purified water by a treatment system into a bottle

Tanzania Maji Jibu Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as “Jibu”) addresses two major challenges which are, (1) Lack of opportunity & unemployment, and (2) Unsafe drinking water. Jibu aims to equip co-invested entrepreneurs with turn-key franchise businesses that make safe drinking water radically affordable in their communities. They offer financing via a franchise model giving small entrepreneurs a big business advantage.



Jibu’s franchise partner and customers

They have a plan to set up 80 Franchises in Tanzania, by giving direct employment opportunity to over 950 people over 4 years. They will be reaching 750,000 households and distributing millions of liters of safe water through the unique local enterprise-driven distribution method. In the face of the global pandemic, families need access to safe water in their homes. The network of franchise water factories will serve thousands of families. They plan to develop the largest network of stores in the country, through the unique localized franchise model that gives local entrepreneurs the support to reach their communities with an essential life-saving product.

3. Toolboksi Technologies Limited



Fundi registered in Toolboksi at work

Four out of five working Tanzanians rely on informal work for their income and struggle to prove their trustworthiness and qualifications to customers. Toolboksi Technologies Limited (hereinafter referred to as “Toolboksi”) helps to increase the access to job opportunities to the workers operating in the informal sector, increase their income and improve their livelihoods through their online platform. The platform can be accessed through a web app on www.toolboksi.com where they register and access a number of reliable and trained workers, from plumbers to masons, painters, and mechanics for essential services. The algorithm is that after the customer places an order the request is sent to nearby workers via SMS where workers are supposed to confirm. After the work, the customer rates the worker and the worker rates the customer which helps the company to identify the areas of improvement. Toolboksi did not want technology to be an exclusion factor that is why they are using inclusive technologies such as SMS for the workers to get access to job requests as many of them (almost 80%) do not have access to internet or smartphones.

Toolboksi is also the first company in Tanzania to have an integrated online hardware store in their platform giving customers a convenient and transparent way of accessing building materials and hardware supplies online, which helps it to drive demand for handyman services and especially during COVID-19 where people cannot visit the stores easily.



Hand tools demonstration

■ **About JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)**
An incorporated administrative agency in charge of administering Japan’s ODA (Official Development Assistance), is one of the world’s largest bilateral aid agency supporting socioeconomic development in developing countries in different regions of the world.
In Tanzania, JICA has been a long partner of Tanzania for more than 50 years in many sectors since 1962.

■ **For further information, please contact:**
JICA Tanzania Office, P.O. Box 9450, Dar es Salaam,
Tel: 022-211327/30

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We need global solidarity, vaccine justice for Africa

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed a multinational coalition of vaccine scientists defining a Global Target Product Profile (TPP) for COVID-19, identifying favourable attributes of safe and effective vaccines under two broad categories: vaccines for the long-term protection of people at higher risk of COVID-19, such as healthcare workers, and other vaccines to provide rapid-response immunity for new outbreaks.

The international TPP team was formed to assess the development of the most promising candidate vaccines; and map candidate vaccines and their clinical trial worldwide, publishing a frequently-updated landscape of vaccines in development; rapidly evaluate and screen for the most promising candidate vaccines simultaneously before they are tested in humans.

The Solidarity trial for treatments is a multinational clinical trial organised by the World Health Organisation and partners to compare four untested treatments for hospitalised people with severe COVID-19 illness.

The trial was announced 18 March 2020, and as of 1 July, nearly 5,500 patients in 21 countries had been recruited to participate in the trial.

In May, the WHO announced an international coalition for simultaneously developing several candidate vaccines to prevent COVID-19 disease, calling this effort the Solidarity trial for vaccines.

African Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina recently called for vaccine jus-

ice for Africa. Speaking at the launch of the Bank's African Economic Outlook 2021 report Adesina decried the lack of COVID-19 vaccines reaching Africa.

We need global solidarity and vaccine justice for Africa.

Adesina underlined the stark disparities between vaccine acquisitions by several rich countries that have acquired sufficient vaccines to inoculate their populations twice over, and African countries, that remain primarily dependent on the World Health Organisation's COVAX initiative for the minuscule quantities of vaccines acquired so far.

So far, 14.6 million vaccines have been delivered in Africa, but many people still cannot get shots in their arms. That is only 1 per cent of what we need. We are way off the mark in terms of getting to 60 per cent of herd immunity, and sadly, we do not see that happening for another year or two at this rate – not unless things change.

We therefore need to improve Africa's access to vaccines. COVAX is doing a great job but still, we need more. We need them in adequate quantity. We need them quickly and we need them at an affordable price.

Acquiring vaccines has significant implications for African countries. As elsewhere, Africa's first priority is to prolong lives and preserve jobs.

The slow pace of acquiring vaccines and arresting the pandemic will make stemming extreme poverty and negative economic growth difficult. A comprehensive global plan was needed to help countries cope with mounting debt, which the pandemic had compounded.

SUA can get donors towards a business app for farm scheme

EFFORTS have been going on at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro where an

initiative birthed at that institution seeks to spur graduates to farms in the region and elsewhere in the country. It was somewhat natural that the plan comes up from that source as it is firstly concerned with solving technical problems in agriculture, and not surprisingly, seeks to solve unemployment itself in relation to agriculture.

At first it appeared SUA was targeting its own graduates, then it appeared to cast the net wider, and at present there is even some emphasis on attracting the youth generally, most likely.

On the basis of reports coming out of that institution, and they invited no less a person than Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda for the occasion, is that a new programme seeking to woo more of the country's educated youth into agriculture is being launched. Its originators say it focuses on value addition and commercial agriculture, that is, not just farming but crop processing, to the best extent possible. The idea is that the higher the level of value addition, the greater the participants' benefits.

This is what the was asked to launch early this week, what the institution says is 'business model' strategy that has the potential to convince youths, especially graduates into commercial farming - with an acute emphasis that it is being taken

up as a business venture. What was sort of perplexing was that this initiative is coordinated by the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO), which ought to be a profile of the venture as such. Mixing cooperative ethos and commercial farming isn't going to be everyone's best business or entrepreneurship model, as cooperatives have constraints.

Again, the sort of emphasis that project initiators postulate is long on benefits to the agrosector push as a whole, and even its industrial potential, and rather short on its employment feasibility for graduates just coming out higher learning institutions.

There is an effort at solving that problem or challenge to how far graduates can pick it up with ease, when the minister issued an appeal to financial institutions to provide soft loans to achieve the implantation of the business model plan. That is exactly where the modeling ought to start, as financial institutions need a portal that genuinely shows how farming initiatives succeed.

When one looks at the remarks by the minister and top SUA officials, it appears that the focus is still on the general potential of the farming sector for youth (mentioning graduates only in passing).

Chances are that banks will seek to find out how far the loan suggestion, or a gesture in that direction, prunes the risk of exposure to non-performing loans in the timeframe the loans are supposed to be repaid.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

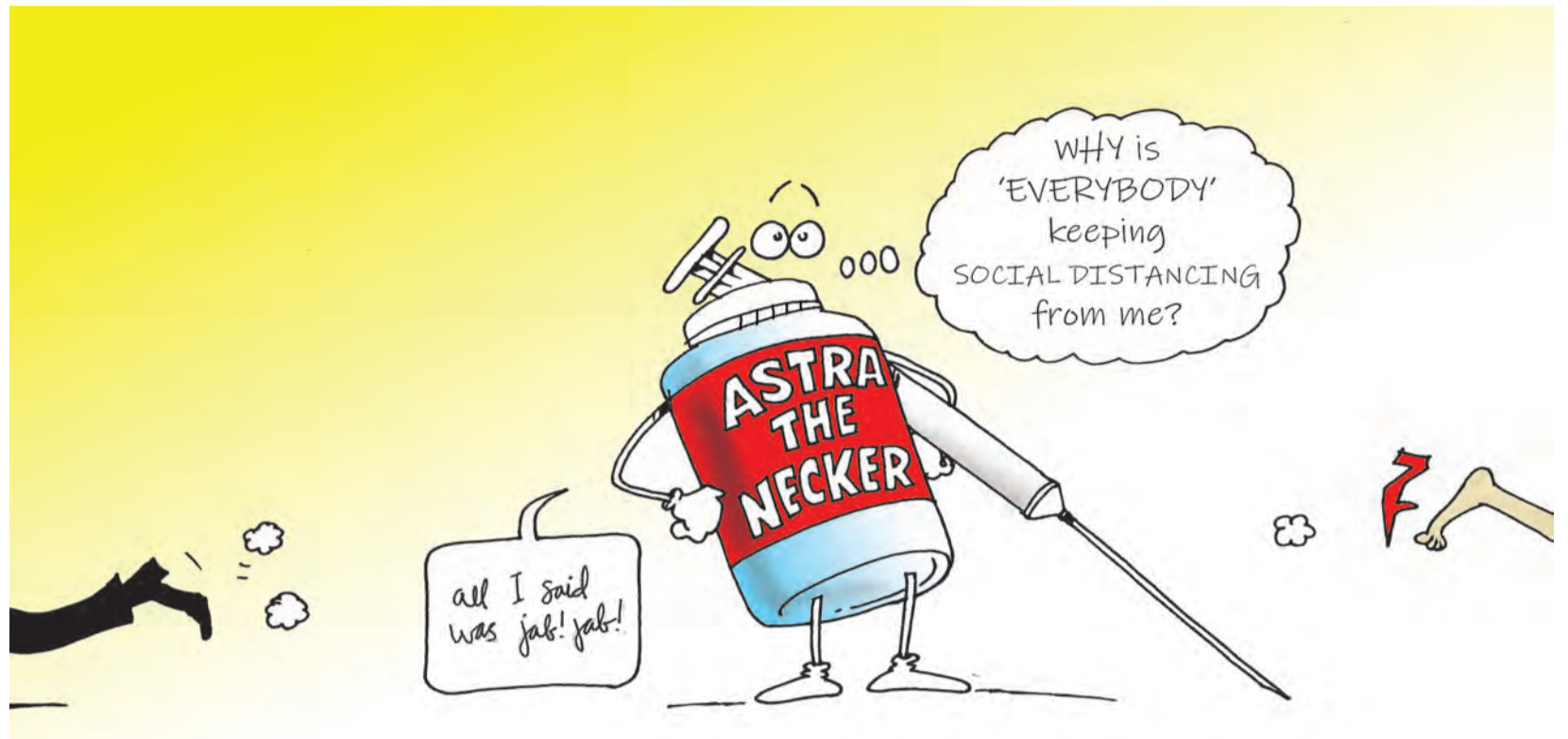
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



How to empower the young and spur development and create employment

By Thebe Morake

YOUNG South Africans seem to be experiencing a kind of political and social schizophrenia. The economy is strong for some, yet insecurity and inequality continue to gnaw at the fabric of our society. Rigid ideological grids often overlook the complexity of youth development and empowerment.

What we need is a politics of progressive thinking, which South Africans have demonstrated a proclivity for in the past. The desire to go beyond one's muscles and glands, the will to journey into the realm of reflection, always strikes one as a pinnacle in the history of this country, a profound metaphor that sustains an indelible position in youth consciousness.

As former president Thabo Mbeki put it, as youth, "they had to decide whether fear and the instinct for self-preservation would predominate in their minds and hearts, turning their own conscience into their everlasting and constant tormentors, because of what they had been afraid to do."

Today, at the peak of our country's regional power and in the midst of its relative wealth, most South African youth feel uncertain about their future. They are convinced that life will be harder for them than it was for their parents. Even politically active youth feel incapable of addressing, much less solving, many of the basic problems in the country. These problems range from inadequate healthcare and education, urban and rural poverty, to increasing inequality of wealth and income, to abstaining from public dialogue.

In short, we are faced with a jarring mixture of optimism and deep unease, a disenfranchised youth, and the dawning of a new epoch of changing economic paradigms that are influencing conflict between subordinate and superordinate youth groups; between the haves and the have-nots, and between those who want for nothing and those who are in desperate need of life's bare essentials.

Current trends in global markets have been influenced by various forces: cyclical unemployment, unequal division of labour (particularly in developing



economies), and technology-led automation of many jobs. Global youth unemployment rates have risen rapidly and are currently sitting at 13.1% – which is more than three times higher than the unemployment rate of adults (4.3%). Skills mismatch between educational institutions and business needs, a lack of life skills education, the digital divide and limited access to capital, has exacerbated joblessness.

As a result, young people in developing countries will face higher unemployment rates, increased labour inactivity, and precarious work conditions. According to StatsSA, South Africa's unemployed population sits at an estimated 32.5% of almost 60 million people.

This is not to give a depressingly negative representation of youth. It is a reality and a potential window of opportunity. The effect of these statistics is not to understate but to caution against the consequences of perpetuating a disengaged and disaffected young population. However, none of these outcomes are set in stone for any particular youth development programme. But we can't deny a problem exists because some youth do well. There are many exceptions, but the statistical tendencies are pronounced, and tendencies produce a large and problematic youth culture.

A well-coordinated programme could help address structural and personal factors identified as causing disempowerment.

An inspirational example can be found in the work done by not-for-profit organisation, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator in Johannesburg. In order to achieve youth empowerment, setting up programmes to ensure that learners are physically and mentally equipped to achieve their dreams is imperative. Alongside this initiative, additional programmes to tap into and develop this potential must be established. The areas identified where youth can make positive contributions

are in:

Education

- Creating an academic and lifestyle platform for development to identify youth leaders who do not seek majors but missions.

- Formal and informal youth development and leadership.

- Entrepreneurship education, experience and skills development.

- Appointing mentors and career coaches who will provide support and advice to their advisees. One primary responsibility of the advisor/coach is to oversee the course selection process for their advisee.

- Make it easier to start business: governments could formulate effective policy that encourages entrepreneurial activity through enterprise growth.

- Encourage a culture of entrepreneurship and treat failure constructively. Allow the proliferation of mentoring and incubation hubs.

- Make more venture capital available for business start-ups. Provide easier access to business loans and encourage the use of alternative funding options like crowdfunding.

A caveat: this is not a fool-proof plan. Social programmes for intervening with the youth have consistently produced meagre results in other parts of the world in general, and South Africa in particular. However, data suggests that entrepreneurship is a useful mechanism to curb unemployment. Furthermore, youth entrepreneurs tend to employ a greater number of younger people who are likely to start socially responsive initiatives.

The rationale behind this programme is to arrest the underdevelopment of youth through enhanced socialisation programmes, ones that provide on-the-job training, send young people without skills to centres for extended skills training and psychological preparation for the world of work. Programmes that facilitate al-

ternative opportunities for school and university dropouts ought to also be considered.

These are simply a few ideas aimed at matching individuals to skills they will require later in life.

The wreckage of ruined young lives represents a denial of human rights as abhorrent as torture – and a devastating handicap for a country's economic development. Whether smashed in a week or withered away in a generation, the arrested development of the youth must be seen in connection with ageism, with all its manifestations. Academics have devoted time and insight into trying to understand how youth organisations in repressive regimes and liberal democracies become depoliticised and re-contained by big business and corporate elite.

The task for the critical reader, in these uncertain times, is to provide the conditions for individuals to acquire opportunities that will enable them to reflect upon and shape their own experiences. The youth are keen to engage the public in the dynamic interplay between individual uniqueness and communal accountability.

The glue for this entire youth framework resides in leadership exhibiting compassion for complexity, to understand why the conditions of youth empowerment in communities have deteriorated so rapidly after the gains of 1994. In an attempt to uncover why conditions for developing youth empowerment is a concern, differentials in access to channels of privilege must be critically examined. We must remain active in the task of demonstrating how neoliberal policies and conservative discourses contribute (and reproduce) youth disempowerment.

AfDB calls for African financial stabilisation mechanism

ABIDJAN

AFRICAN Development Bank (AfDB) President Dr Akinwumi Adesina has called for vaccine justice for Africa.

Speaking at the launch of the Bank's African Economic Outlook 2021 report on Friday, Adesina decried the lack of Covid-19 vaccines reaching the continent.

"We need global solidarity and vaccine justice for Africa," Africa's premier development bank chief said.

Adesina underlined the stark disparities between vaccine acquisitions by several rich countries that have acquired sufficient vaccines to inoculate their populations twice over, and African countries, which remain primarily dependent on the World Health Organisation's COVAX initiative for the minuscule quantities of vaccines acquired so far.

Speaking on CNN's First Move with Julia Chatterley, Adesina said: "So far, 14.6 million vaccines have been delivered in Africa, but many people still cannot get shots in their arms. That is only 1 per cent of what we need. We are way off the mark in terms of getting to 60 per cent of herd immunity, and sadly, I do not see that happening for another year or two at this rate - not unless things change."

According to Adesina: "We therefore need to improve Africa's access to vaccines. COVAX is doing a great job but still, we need more. We need them in adequate quantity. We need them quickly and we need them at an affordable price."

Acquiring vaccines has significant implications for African countries. As Adesina emphasized in a broader discussion with panelists at the launch of the African Economic Outlook 2021 - among them Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences - for Africa, rapid vaccine acquisition is a matter of life and death. As elsewhere, Africa's first priority is to prolong lives and preserve jobs.

From an economic perspective, Stiglitz agreed with Adesina that the slow pace of acquiring vaccines and arresting the pandemic will make stemming extreme



AfDB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina

poverty and negative economic growth difficult.

They agreed that a comprehensive global plan was needed to help countries cope with mounting debt, which the pandemic had compounded.

Africa's economy is expected to grow by 3.1 per cent this year. However, 39 million Africans could be pushed into extreme poverty this year because of the pandemic unless the international community takes the kind of action that Stiglitz and Adesina are calling for now.

Adesina said "as long as Africans remain unvaccinated, the world will go right back to square one," adding that no amount of 'vaccine passports' being advocated by some developed countries could change that fact.

"Africa needs to develop its pharmaceutical industry and begin manufacturing. The African Development Bank is going to support African countries to do this," Adesina said.

Supporting this position, Stiglitz said in his conversation with Adesina: "One of the things that some of us have been campaigning for is the suspension of the intellectual property rights related to Covid-19 because the supply constraint that you describe is at least, to some extent, artificial."

"If access to the intellectual property rights were more extensive, there is throughout the emerging markets and developing countries considerable capacity to produce a lot of more vaccines."

The professor noted that it was in the self-interest of advanced countries to make sure that everybody has access to the vaccine and other related medicines.

"The longer the disease festers in any part of the world, it can mutate and one of the things we know is that those mutations are not going to respect borders. The Covid-19 virus doesn't carry a passport," he said.

Other notable African voices that have called for the speeding up of vaccine delivery to Africa are those of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr John Nkengasong.

Adesina, recipient of the 2017 World Food Prize, and Prof Stiglitz meanwhile also pleaded for a quick and comprehensive plan for debt restructuring in Africa.

At the launch of the 2021 edition of the bank's annual African Economic Outlook, Adesina urged African governments to consider collectively establishing a continental financial stabilisation mechanism, which would give Africa the fiscal space it needs to deal with debt. Africa's collective debt now stands at 70 per cent of the continent's gross domestic product (GDP).

"It is high time that we set up a homegrown financial stability mechanism where we work together to mutualise our funds and ensure that we avoid the spillover effects that come from global pandemics or any external shocks," the head of Africa's premier financial institution said.

"We must start by making sure that we carry out the macroeconomic policy reforms and the fiscal policy reforms that we need to get done," he noted, adding that Africa "is not looking for a free pass. We are just looking for an equitable way in which Africa's fiscal

space gets dealt with".

Stiglitz backed the idea, proposing an international debt framework and noting: "That's a question I've been very concerned with for a long time. You need debt restructuring, and that needs to be really high on the international agenda."

"Every country has bankruptcy laws but there's no bankruptcy law for international debt. When there's too much debt, it's as much the creditor's problem as the debtor's problem," said the professor.

"What needs to be done with debt is comprehensive and quick restructuring. We don't want to fall into the trap of doing too little, too late," he added.

Stiglitz's proposal calls for an international debt framework that includes the private sector, given its growing role as a source of government debt.

According to the African Economic Outlook, the share of commercial creditors in Africa's external debt stock has more than doubled in the last two decades, from 17 per cent in 2000 to 40 per cent by the end of 2019. Some hope has come in the form of new special drawing rights, potentially US\$500 billion, that the International Monetary Fund could issue - in accordance with the G20's recommendation at the end of February.

Adesina said these funds will "go a long way" to stabilising foreign reserves and the exchange rate, allowing countries to handle debt and re-engage in massive pro-growth investments that will help them to quickly recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

He presented a proposed African Financial Stabilisation Mechanism, strongly supported by Stiglitz, as a critically needed solution that would allow African countries to agree on a set of convergent macroeconomic policies and principles and pool funds.

"This will allow us to deal with the cause of the illness and not always the symptoms," he noted.

The 2021 edition of the African Economic Outlook estimates that Africa's GDP contracted by 2.1 per cent last year, the continent's first recession in half a century. GDP is projected to grow by 3.4 per cent this year.

The report estimates that African governments will require additional gross financing of about US\$154 billion in 2020/2021 to respond to the Covid-19 crisis.

News associate comments on building a journalism career during a pandemic

BY TAYLOR MULCAHEY

THE past year has been challenging for journalists with Zoom calls, layoffs and budget cuts becoming commonplace in the industry. But amid the crisis, young journalists are stepping up, ready to make a bold impact on the industry. One of these journalists is Korey Matthews, a news associate at CNBC News. Matthews started full time at (American pay television business news channel) CNBC in January, supporting TV production by pulling assets like charts or graphs, editing videos and checking guests' feeds. While he hasn't started writing or producing his own segments yet, he hopes to get there soon.

"I got interested in journalism just because I wanted to get a little array, a little feel for a lot of things," said Matthews, adding: "Journalism has allowed me to explore different things and to study different things because I've always been a person that likes learning, figuring out how things work and understanding why things happen."

He also likes talking to people, another draw for him to the field. But this year, that hasn't happened in the same way it did in the past - starting his career in news without a newsroom to go to.

After attending undergraduate studies at Morgan State University, Matthews started at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York in the autumn of 2019, graduating this past December. More than half his time in graduate school was remote, but he embraced it all anyway.

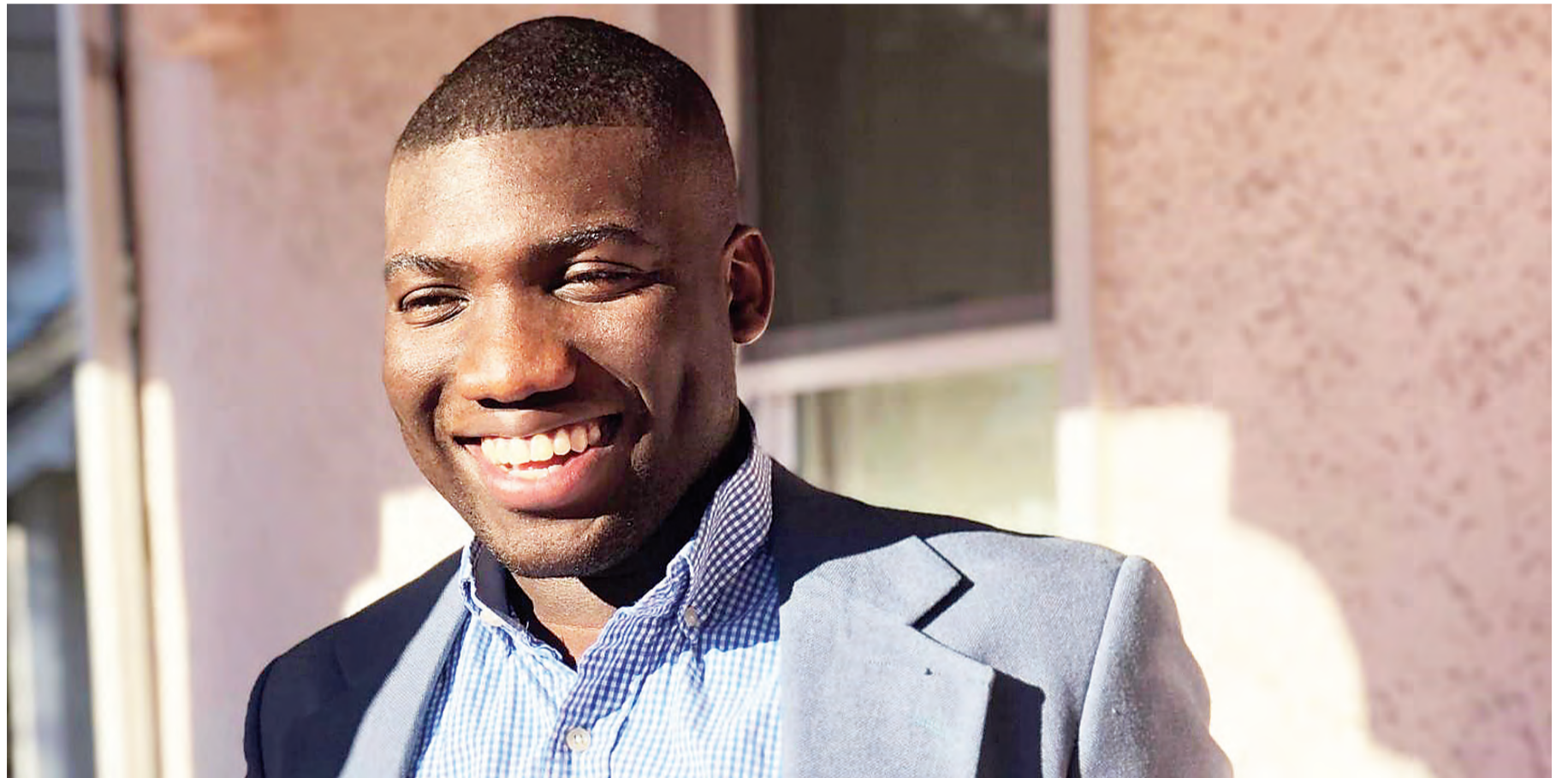
"It has been a challenge," said Matthews, adding: "And it hasn't been what I would call ideal. But I'm thankful for the lessons that I've learned from it."

Matthews participated in the IJNet Back in the Newsroom internship programme in 2019, contributing articles and helping in the launch of IJNet's podcast, IJNotes. IJNet had the opportunity to interview him about starting a career in the midst of a pandemic, challenges Black journalists face and advice he has for other emerging journalists and newsrooms hiring young people.

IJNet: What is something that would attract you to a newsroom to help you feel included? What can newsrooms learn about what younger journalists need right now?

Matthews: Embracing social media is important because younger journalists are just trying to think about how this industry is going to stay relevant, and how they are going to keep growing. And a newsroom that is showing that they really care about social media - and not just being on it, but understanding how it works and understanding how people on social media want to consume their content - that's the important thing. When younger journalists see that, they don't just see the company put an intern there and say "make posts" or do anything like that, but they actually see newsrooms trying to understand what social media is and how it works - and that's an important thing.

Another thing that I like to see, and the younger journalists like to see from the newsroom, is just newsrooms really embracing their audience wants. Sometimes newsrooms say that, but you get all bogged down in what stories you typically do, and sometimes you lose sight of exactly what your audience really wants.



Continuing to really push out surveys and other forms of audience engagement that really connect with the younger audience that you're trying to gain, and also keep the older audience that you might have, I think that's what young people want to see.

That's particularly what I want to see because it really shows that your newsroom is constantly wanting to innovate and improve, and not just resting on your laurels or thinking that you've got it, but always trying to grow.

How have you handled graduating and starting a job in a (Covid-19) pandemic? What challenges did you encounter?

I'd say the biggest challenge is not being able to talk to people face to face. That was what I loved about ICFJ, being able to go to the office. Just being able to see people, walk over to people's desks, chat with them and have lunch, that was just fun. Not being able to do that at CNBC has really been hard.

I'm always afraid that I'm saying something and I'm not trying to sound a certain way, but it's so hard to put tone in email. So I'm always trying to be extra cautious about how I'm coming across. That's obviously something you don't worry about in person because the person can just hear how you say it,

but when you're emailing somebody, when you're slacking them, you're like "oh, I didn't mean it like that!"

But also, working remotely has given me an appreciation for certain things and really given me a new way to figure out how to work - things that I think I will take advantage of after the pandemic is over.

As a young, Black journalist, are there specific challenges you've encountered or advice you have for other Black people breaking into the (media) industry?

Sometimes, at least for me, I want to be careful about some of the stories I pitch because I worry that I'm going to be pigeon-holed as that journalist that always wants to talk about race, or always wants to talk about culture or something. It'll make me a little afraid to pitch certain stories. And while you want to be cautious, you shouldn't be worried about that, because a story is a story. It's a good story and it shouldn't matter whether it's about anything. That's something that I've had to balance in my career and that I've talked to mentors about in general.

I also feel like, as a Black journalist in this time, I've been a little bit fortunate because there's been

so much of a focus on race these last few years with George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests. I feel like it has opened up some doors as companies have really been looking at opportunities and trying to make more of a focus to push diversity. That's something that I feel like Black journalists, and myself in particular, can use and really take advantage of because it's kind of highlighting some of the work that we're doing.

That would be the advice that I'd tell other Black journalists: Don't say: "I'm Black, I'm going to do the job," but really take advantage of your experience and the unique experience that you might have as a Black journalist, and pitch that if you're looking for a job.

Do you have any practices in place that have helped you deal with burnout and this blurring of lines between work and life?

That's actually something I've still got to get better at - I'm not going to lie. One small thing my mother always tells me is to just get outside. I try to get outside at least once a day because I know that there was a stretch in November when I was super busy finishing school, super busy with my internship and I just could go the whole day and I realised that I did not go outside. I thought, "this is not healthy". I try to work out, go to the gym and get a good workout because I think that's healthy, too.

I try to really shut my work email off at a certain time, especially if I know I shouldn't be getting any more important emails - because I think that's important. I also try to balance my consumption of news. I'm still a huge news fan, but I try not to look at too much news, especially late at night when I'm about to go to bed. This is because I like to get my mind free at that time and do things that I enjoy. I just know that I've covered it all today and I'll be back in the morning. Those are three things that help me avoid burnout, but

I need way more.

Do you have any final advice?

The biggest thing that I always think of is: don't be afraid of your experience, and don't be ashamed of your experience. One thing that I've learned over the last couple of years, during this pandemic, too, is that every person with what he or she has brings a unique thing to the table that only he or she can bring.

That's obvious to say but when you actually think about it, it's really something special because you then think: "I might be the only person that could start this company or start this news outlet or start this newsletter, because I'm the only one that has the experience I have." When people really embrace that, and when they really think about it, it can lead them to produce some amazing things.

This article is the first in a series of profiles by the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) spotlighting the work of Black journalists at all levels of media. This interview was edited and condensed for clarity. Taylor Mulcahey is the Managing Editor of IJNet (International Journalists' Network), an ICFJ project.

Pandemic has accelerated digital upskilling, but key groups still miss out – PwC survey

LONDON

A NEW survey of 32,500 workers in 19 countries paints a picture of a global workforce that sees the shift to remote working as just the tip of the iceberg.

Reflecting the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated a number of workforce trends, 60 per cent are worried that automation is putting many jobs at risk; 48 per cent believe that “traditional employment won’t be around in the future” and 39 per cent think it is likely that their jobs will be obsolete within five years.

However, this is not a counsel of despair, as 40 per cent of workers say their digital skills have been improved through the prolonged period of lockdown, and claim they will continue to embrace training and skills development.

Some 77 per cent are “ready to learn new skills or completely re-train” and 74 per cent see training as a matter of personal responsibility.

Meanwhile, 80 per cent are confident that they can adapt to new technologies entering their workplace, with a large majority of those asked in India (69 per cent) and in South Africa (66 per cent) saying they are “very” confident.

In addition, 49 per cent of respondents are focused on building entrepreneurial skills with an interest in setting up their own business and half of workforce report missing out on career opportunities or training owing to prejudice.

The survey also found that 50 per cent of workers say that they have faced discrimination at work which led to them missing out on career advancement or training.

Some 13 per cent report missing out on opportunities as a result of ethnicity, 14 per cent say they have experienced discrimination on the grounds of gender, with women twice as likely to report gender discrimination as men.

Additionally, 13 per cent report discrimination on the basis of class, with post-graduates and others with higher qualifications more likely to report prejudice. Younger people are as likely as older ones to report discrimination based on age.

The survey further found that there are disparities in access to upskilling opportunities. While 46 per cent of people with postgraduate degrees say their employers give them many opportunities to improve their digital skills, just 28 per cent of people with school-leaver qualifications say the same.



Industries like retail or transport, which are most at risk of disruption, score a lowly 25 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, while banking scores 42 per cent.

“If current patterns in access to training persist, upskilling will increase social inequality when it should be doing precisely the opposite,” said Bhushan Sethi, Joint Global Leader of PwC’s People and Organisation Practice.

Sethi elaborated: “Government and business leaders need to work together to intensify efforts to ensure that people in the most-at risk industries and groups get the opportunities they need. Automation and technological disruption are inevitable, but we can control whether its negative effects are managed or not.”

The survey shows three-quarters of workers globally saying that they want to work for organisations that will make a “positive contribution to society”. This feeling was especially acute in China (87 per cent), India (90 per cent), and South Africa (90 per

cent). However, economic insecurity is limiting people’s ability to pursue purpose-driven careers, with younger people particularly affected.

Overall, 54 per cent of those polled said, if forced to choose, they would prefer jobs that enabled them to “take every opportunity to maximise their income” over jobs that “make a difference” (46 per cent).

Interestingly, those between 18 and 34 years of age are more likely than other generations to prioritise income over purpose in their jobs – with 57 per cent prioritising “maximising our income” over “making a difference” (43 per cent), a margin of 14 points. Those over 55 years old prioritise making a difference by a margin of 8 points, which rises to 22 points amongst workers over 65 years old.

“As the world continues to grapple with a global health crisis and economic uncertainty, we’ve seen workers come to demand more from the business community, ex-

pecting their employers to make a positive contribution to society,” said Peter Brown, Joint Global Leader of PwC’s People and Organisation Practice.

He added: “Fortunately, focusing on societal impact and maximising profit are not mutually exclusive, and being a purpose-led business can actually help boost your bottom line.”

The survey concludes that remote working will persist well after Covid-19 lockdown. Of those who can work remotely, 72 per cent say they prefer a mixture of in-person and remote working, with only 9 per cent stating that they would like to go back to their traditional work environments full-time.

This is particularly true of professionals, office workers, business owners and the self-employed, all

of whom are able to perform their jobs remotely using technology.

Home working need not be limited to professional jobs. 43 per cent of manual workers and 45 per cent of semi-skilled workers say that there are many elements of their jobs that they are able to do remotely.

People’s attitudes to working from home also change by location, providing further evidence of how the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the global digital divide. Workers in metropolitan areas (66 per cent) are more likely to work in roles that could allow remote working than those who live in rural areas (44 per cent).

A total of 44 per cent of workers globally would agree to let their employers use technology to monitor their performance at work, including sensors and wearable devices, with 31 per cent against.

However, many would not go as far as allowing their employers access to their personal data. Meanwhile, 41 per cent of respondents said that they were unwilling to give their employers access to their personal data – including social media profiles, while only 35 per cent said they would be willing.

Between January 26, 2021 and February 8, 2021, PwC commissioned a survey of 32,517 members of the public. Respondents included workers, business owners, contract workers, students, unemployed people looking for work, and those on furlough or who were temporarily laid off.

The survey polled workers in 19 countries: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UAE, the UK and the US.

PwC

How two Mexican media startups have survived the Covid-19 crisis

By Sebastián Auyanet

DIGITAL media startups over the past year have dealt with major economic and societal challenges due to Covid-19. Two independent news sites in Mexico, Verificado.com.mx and La Verdad de Ciudad Juárez, have both weathered the global health crisis and managed to grow their newsrooms thanks to well-defined, flexible business models.

Both news organisations were members of the first cohort of Sembramex, a programme designed to help independent media organisations along the US-Mexico border become more sustainable. Organised by Sembramex, the programme is run in partnership with the International Centre for Journalists and the Border Centre for Journalists and Bloggers.

During the 2019 iteration of the programme, Verificado.com.mx and La Verdad experimented with different strategies to diversify their revenue sources and improve sustainability, something web traffic and digital advertising alone can’t accomplish.

Here are some key lessons learned from the two news sites’ efforts over the past year to not only stay afloat, but grow their operations.

Develop diverse, adaptable business models

Based in Monterrey, Mexico, Verificado.com.mx specialises in fact-checking with a focus on gender and human rights. For the newsroom’s fact-checking experts, creating a well-defined, adaptable business model not exclusively tied to web traffic was key.

Team members drew on their expertise to cultivate potential clients for whom they could offer consulting and fact-checking courses. “In that regard, 2020 was a very good year for us, given we now have seven new clients,” said founder Daniela Mendoza.

Their clients include civil society organisations located across the country, for instance in Nuevo León and Jalisco. Verificado.com.mx reporters offered fact-checking courses as well as classes on reporting with a gender perspective and combating hate speech. They also worked with national and international clients, such as the US-based It Gets Better.

Launch strategic partnerships

Verificado.com.mx initiated partnerships with other media organisations, which provided the newsroom with more resources and allowed them to increase their content output. “Joining fact-checking coalitions such as #LatamChequea or the Coronavirus Fact Checking Alliance gave us more grant funding, while also allowing us to share our professional fact-checking expertise internationally,” said Mendoza.

Verificado.com.mx has diversified revenue through other grants as well, including support from the Google News Initiative. The team also helps other news organisations in the region set up their own fact-checking teams. This is another revenue source for the newsroom.

The multi-faceted approach allows Verificado.com.mx to combat misinformation in many more ways than by just publishing articles. They are meanwhile able to improve their financial stability, establish the organisation’s



brand on a regional level, and promote the unique skills their team has to offer.

Look for alternative sources of revenue

“La Verdad did not escape the impacts of COVID-19,” said Rocío Gallegos, co-founder of La Verdad de Ciudad Juárez, one of the most important investigative journalism outlets along the US-Mexico border.

“The closure of the border due to the pandemic was a very hard blow not only to our coverage and finances but also for our entire community,” she added.

The La Verdad team hoped to launch a content agency last year, for which they laid the groundwork during their involvement in the 2019 Sembramex programme.

Content agencies can be a strategic way for independent media startups to diversify their revenue sources, as the media outlet’s reporting team can offer their journalism expertise as a service to clients and partners outside the news industry.

At the end of 2019, La Verdad relied on two clients for funding. Last year, however, this support fell through, forcing La Verdad into financial difficulties. The newsroom also experienced personal loss, including the death of one of its contributing reporters.

In the face of the global crisis, the team had to look for alternative sources of funding. “We started to look at new funding options. We had to have an open mind when it came to thinking about new ways to generate revenue because we didn’t have any other

choice,” said Gallegos.

La Verdad received emergency funding from donors such as the Google News Initiative and the Facebook Journalism Project, which allowed the outlet to stay afloat.

“Applying for this funding allowed us to keep operating and serving our community in the midst of everything, which was really satisfying,” noted Gallegos.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help

Given the financial hardship, La Verdad launched a donation programme through which they asked for support from their readers. “The donations we receive don’t amount to a whole lot of money, but they do cover some expenses,” said Gallegos.

The donation programme also demonstrated that many of the site’s readers are interested in interacting with La Verdad. This helped the team think of other ways to engage their audience. They went on to start a newsletter, refine their audience work and organise virtual events.

Recognizing readers’ sustained interest in their reporting during the pandemic while also committing themselves to strengthening the site’s brand has allowed La Verdad to navigate the health crisis effectively.

The revenue generated, for instance, has allowed the team to grow from two to six permanent staff members. “Depending on the revenue we bring in, the team will continue to grow, which is good news in spite of everything,” said Gallegos.

La Verdad’s next project will focus on commercial advertising as a funding source, though they will keep restrictions on government advertising.

“We realised that we have to start accepting advertising from private companies, but we can do so while still upholding our ethical standards,” said Gallegos.

She elaborated: “It fills us with pride and excitement to know that, despite everything, we were able to forge ahead. We have kept our news coverage going, despite everything that has happened and is still going on.”

Article originally published on the Sembramex blog and was republished on IJNet (International Journalists’ Network, a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists). Sebastián Auyanet is the Sembramex ambassador for Uruguay.

New campaign launched to motivate positive hygiene behaviour among Tanzanian youth

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 48,000 young people in four regions—Iringa, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro are expected to take part in the newly launched 'Kijana Ni Usafi' campaign which seeks to encourage positive hygiene behaviour among Tanzanian youth.

Launched yesterday in Morogoro Region, the six-month campaign is being supported by UKAID targeting young women and men aged between 15 and 35.

The campaign aims to motivate young people to take good hygiene practices such as hand washing, safe water management, waste management and general personal hygiene.

To effectively attain the objectives of the 'Kijana Ni Usafi' campaign, Raleigh Tanzania has selected and equipped over 2,500 hygiene influencers from the four regions with hygiene education for the group to influence peers in their communities.

According to the organizers the campaign is designed to respond to the specific hygiene needs of each region.

In Dar es Salaam, the campaign focuses on influencing young people to take action for proper waste management.

The specific campaign for Dar es Salaam is dubbed 'Vunja Urafiki na Uchafu; Acha Mazoea' which means 'Abandon Friendship with Dirty; Stop the Habits.' This is because Dar es Salaam is one of the re-

gions that face a serious waste management problem.

In Iringa there is a little twist, the campaign focuses on waste management but their approach is to turn wastes into a business opportunity. The campaign in Iringa is named 'Taka ni Mchongo; Kamata Utajiri' which means 'Waste is Business Opportunity, Grab It.'

In Dodoma, the focus of the campaign is on personal hygiene for youth where the group is encouraged to take action for their personal hygiene. The campaign is named 'Uchafu Sio Dili, Ng'aa Kijanja' which translates to 'Dirty isn't a Deal, Look Smart.'

In Morogoro, the main focus of the campaign is to promote safe water management practices in the communities.

The rationale is that the region has been affected by waterborne diseases such as typhoid, diarrhoea and cholera outbreak from time to time.

The communities are affected due to the tendency of using untreated water. The campaign dubbed 'Tumia Maji Salama, Okoa Mkwanja' meaning 'Use Safe Water, Save Money' is expected to influence the use of treated water among youth in the region.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign, Raleigh Tanzania, Project Coordinator Augustino Dickson said the 'Kijana Ni Usafi' campaign targets young people because youth form a larger number of

populations in Tanzania.

Augustino added that the group can also be the agent of long-term changes in the society if properly equipped with the necessary knowledge on issues affecting their communities including hygiene.

"Tanzania's young generation need to be equipped with knowledge on various issues to be able to contribute to the development of their country. Raleigh Tanzania has been working to equip youth with various skills including entrepreneurship skills. With this campaign, we are focusing on educating youth on hygiene for them to be able to master their environment," said Augustino.

Augustino also said that young people are the champions of the development agenda in Tanzania as per the 2025 Tanzania Development Vision and 2030 Global Sustainable Development Goals. Augustino insisted that educating young people on hygiene behaviours is very important in creating a sustainable future for any community.

"The content of this campaign aligns with Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and Agenda 2030 (Global Sustainable Development Goals) because it is preparing young people to be not only aware but also caretakers of themselves and their environments.

This is very important because if the people who are responsible to nurture the future of our nation and our world are not



Youth hygiene champions in Iringa participate in training on positive hygiene behavior

responsible for their personal hygiene and the wellbeing of their surroundings it is likely that we are creating an undesirable future," Augustino said.

He further said that the campaign compliments Raleigh Tanzania's and other partners initiatives aimed at empowering young people.

"We (Raleigh Tanzania) believe that this campaign will supplement the existing movements aimed at empowering young people on various issues. I call upon all Tanzanian youth to embrace

the knowledge that they will acquire through this campaign and make use of the knowledge in impacting their communities," he said.

According to him, youth in all selected regions will be empowered through capacity building sessions, media campaigns and access to different information and educational materials.

Raleigh Tanzania is a youth-driven organization registered as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Tanzania since 2012. Raleigh Tanzania has a Memo-

randum understanding with the government, through the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (PO RALG).

The organization seeks to support a global movement of young people to take action. It strives to ignite youth-led action that creates solutions to the world's most urgent problems. Raleigh Tanzania supports young people by connecting them with the skills, networks, platforms and experiences to lead action on the change they demand.

COVID-19 effects undermine nature conservation efforts

By Sheree Bega

BEFORE COVID-19 struck, the De Hoop nature reserve in the Overberg, world renowned for its whale-watching and rare fynbos, employed 80 people.

But over the last year, that number has dwindled to around 50 as tourism operations in the Unesco World Heritage Site have plunged to one-third of their pre-COVID levels.

"We've been forced not to renew some contracts," says William Stephens, the De Hoop Collection chief executive.

"The remaining rangers' contracts have been changed from monthly to hourly contracts ... Rangers continue to earn at a good level, but spread between a reduced number of guides."

The real losers are local communities and businesses, he says.

De Hoop's wider projects contributed close to R500-million per year to the local economy; this has now fallen to about one third.

In the fallout of COVID-19, poaching has risen too.

"The impact on livelihoods has been extreme. People are trying to survive. There will have been an increase in activity during the pandemic in the coastal areas."

Stephens added that CapeNature has been working closely

with law enforcement to keep poaching under control.

Across the world, COVID-19-related job losses among protected area rangers, reduced anti-poaching patrols and environmental protection rollbacks have undermined nature conservation efforts, according to a collection of new research papers published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in a special issue of PARKS, the journal of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Conservation efforts in Africa and Asia were the most severely affected.

More than half of Africa's protected areas reported how they were forced to halt or reduce field patrols and anti-poaching operations, conservation education and outreach work.

A survey of more than 60 countries found more than one in four rangers had their salaries reduced or delayed, while 20 per cent lost their jobs because of COVID-19-related budget cuts. Rangers from Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Africa and Asia were worst affected.

While 17 countries maintained or increased their support for protected and conserved areas (PCAs), 22 rolled back protections in at least 64 cases, favouring road construc-

tion or oil and gas extraction in areas designated for conservation.

Although "the news is not universally bad", according to the editor's introduction, there are common themes.

"These include massive reductions in visitor numbers (except near cities) and associated loss of income for PCAs and for the economies linked to them as income from tourism collapsed and government support was cut. There were reports of more incursions and illegal extraction of natural resources, and destabilising relationships between PCAs and indigenous and local communities."

Some rangers lost their lives and jobs to the pandemic, and many had their health and livelihoods put at risk, taking on new roles as public health advocates or field staff.

The pandemic has hit those who most depend on nature the hardest, including those who live far from life-saving health services, employment and income opportunities. "Sometimes, incomers have arrived or returned from cities to compete for the forest, wildlife and fishery resources upon which resident communities depend."

While the impacts have been devastating, other pan-

demics are sweeping the world: climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem change on a massive scale.

"Our essayists point out again and again that all of these global crises are interconnected, and the root cause is that our use and abuse of nature has reached the Earth's limits," reads the introductory paper.

Brent Mitchell, the nature stewardship co-editor of the special edition of PARKS, says: "What we learnt from our 150 contributors is this: if the shock of COVID-19 is not enough to make humanity wake up to the suicidal consequences of the destructive course of much-misguided development, with its onslaught on nature, then it is hard to see how further calamities – far worse than the current pandemic – can be avoided."

Scientists estimate that there are at least half a million viruses in wildlife populations with the potential to spill over to humans.

To avoid a repeat of such pandemics, natural areas must be kept intact, made better connected and degraded systems restored.

But for too long, conserved areas have been starved of resources, are not always truly

protected and are often treated as disposable.

"Wildlife populations are squeezed into shrinking fragments of habitat, in ever closer proximity to humans, increasing the risk that pathogens will spill over from wild animals to people."

In South Africa, SANParks took a conscious decision not to cut any patrols or reduce the number of rangers at its national and provincial reserves, says spokesperson Isaac Phaala. "Tourism revenue, which funds conservation in protected areas, has almost dried up and is putting a lot of pressure on the resources of SANParks."

"However, in her budget adjustment in 2020, [Environment, Forestry and Fisheries] Minister Barbara Creecy allocated funds to SANParks to continue with conservation in all parks."

Innovative plans are being explored to look at alternative ways of generating income, he says. And while there has been an increase in snaring, its analysis points to criminality driving this rather than hunger and poverty.

Andrew Campbell, the chief executive of the Game Rangers Association of Africa, says bushmeat harvesting is on the rise in South Africa.

"People living in impoverished and rural communities are under even more pressure than they were a year ago. There have been increased incursions relating to bushmeat poaching."

Philip Muruthi, the vice-president of species conservation and science at the African Wildlife Foundation, agrees bushmeat poaching has climbed. "Wildlife crime, too, has not stopped."

Losing wildlife rangers, especially in reserves with high-value species, is worrying because of the security implications this presents, adds Campbell.

For those reserves heavily reliant on tourism, "it's not rocket science to work out that their coffers are under serious strain", Campbell remarks.

Africa boasts around 8 500 protected areas. "You have models like the Kruger National Park and African Parks that are well supported and others that literally survive on a shoestring ... for them to have to retrench one person has huge implications."

Campbell says diverse models of funding Africa's wild places are needed, such as carbon credits and payments for ecosystem services.

"We can't rely purely on

tourism. After all, we don't conserve these areas for tourists. It's because of their biodiversity, their conservation value and the ecosystem services they provide for the planet: clean water, clean air, carbon sequestration and their protection of rare and endangered species."

Muruthi says Covid-19 should be a wake-up call for the conservation sector to be resilient. "One of the lessons we'll take from this is to be really clear that conservation shouldn't be based on just one type of income."

For De Hoop, which draws 60% of its revenue from international tourism, deep uncertainty remains.

"When will tourists be able to travel again, without quarantine restrictions or fear of third or fourth waves? When will airlines start flying again – the vaccine rollouts are massive undertakings and will take time to achieve," says Stephens.

He worries that severe budget cuts by the government will pressure conservation agencies to fulfil their core environmental and biodiversity mandates.

"It is important that tourism businesses get to financially sustainable levels soon to survive," he says.

One-third of freshwater fish species are at risk of extinction - survey

By Alex Fox

TWO recent assessments of the world's freshwater ecosystems catalogue the scope and severity of human impact on these once-bountiful, biodiverse habitats that contain a quarter of the globe's known vertebrate species.

Humanity's ever-expanding footprint has slashed biodiversity in more than half of Earth's freshwater river basins, with only 14 percent remaining pristine, according to new research published last week in the journal Science.

Recently, 16 conservation organisations released a global assessment of the world's freshwater fish species, finding nearly a third are at risk of extinction.

This most recent assessment, titled: 'The World's Forgotten Fishes', also finds that the biggest fishes—species weighing more than 60 pounds—have undergone a particularly calamitous decline, with their numbers plummeting by 94 percent over the past half century.

The World's Forgotten Fishes frames this lost biodiversity—the 80 species declared extinct, 16 disappearing in 2020 alone—as not just a tragic draining of our planet's natural beauty and evolutionary grandeur, but levies a heavy human cost. Some 200 million people are fed by protein from freshwater fishes and 60 million people depend on hauling in that essential catch to support themselves and their families.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the researchers behind the paper in Science observed that the river basins surrounded by heavy human presences were



the most severely degraded, said Karina Shah.

"Rivers which have the most economic development around them, like the Mississippi river, are the most strongly impacted," says Sébastien Brosse, an evolutionary biologist at Paul Sabatier University in France.

In contrast, the rivers that were mostly spared this fate were primarily in Africa and Australia, he adds, speculating that this is probably due to slower industrialization in Africa and sparse human populations around rivers in Australia.

Brosse and his co-authors created an index to quantify changes in fish biodiversity in almost

2,500 rivers across the globe—excluding the polar and desert regions. Prior attempts to study the extent of human impact on the world's river ecosystems have focused only on changes in the number of species.

But the new effort also incorporates the ecological roles and evolutionary relationships of the freshwater species, he says.

According to him, overfishing and climate change are the most significant and pervasive drivers of the global decline in freshwater biodiversity, but the blockages created by dams and the introduction of non-native species have also

played significant roles.

Dams and other modifications of waterways can kill off native species and even hasten their replacement by invasive fish, he adds. "By turning rivers that once flowed swiftly into still or slow-moving waters, dams give invasive fish such as carp, largemouth bass and tilapia, which are adapted to such conditions, a competitive advantage."

In this way, prevalence of dams homogenizes rivers—a 2019 study found just around a third of the world's longest rivers remain free-flowing. These chopped up habitats also undoubtedly contributed to the 76 percent decline of migratory freshwater fishes recorded by another report published in 2020.

Brosse says that the 14 percent of river basins that have remained relatively untouched are not enough to "maintain global biodiversity of fish" because they only contain 22 percent of the world's nearly 18,000 freshwater fish species. "We also need to conserve the biodiversity in basins highly impacted by humans," he says.

Jeremy Biggs, director of the Freshwater Habitats Trust, says that a successful conservation plan will need to consider waters large and small, from rivers and streams to lakes and ponds.

Carmen Revenga, a senior fisheries scientist at the Nature Conservancy says: "it's now more urgent than ever that we find the collective political will and effective collaboration with private sector, governments, NGOs and communities, to implement nature-based solutions that protect freshwater species, while also ensuring human needs are met."

Energy industry will be the bedrock of Africa's road to recovery

By NJ Ayuk

AFRICAN energy producers and governments are facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic, unemployment, recession, energy poverty and energy transition.

The African Energy Chamber's 'Road to Recovery: How the African energy industry can reshape itself for a post-COVID comeback' offers a commonsense strategy for the public and the private sector from leading industry experts.

It calls on all of us to take bold actions when it comes to job creation and opportunities that get people back to work, build infrastructure, capitalise on AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) and diversify our economies.

We understand that we have an obligation as an energy sector to build and support African economies that attract investment and position our continent, its people and investors for prosperity.

It's a plan for today that provides hope for the future. After spending a week in Mozambique, I came to believe more in this mission and



what we can do to create opportunities - especially for young people.

We must never waiver on our commitment to work with international partners

to bolster energy security and independence matters.

Let's face it, creating an environment that attracts investment and job creators

is key to getting Africans back to work in the well-paying jobs our energy sector offers.

I love this book and commonsense

strategy because it calls on all of us to stand up for something bigger than our own personal interests.

We must not be ashamed of our energy sector, as the working men and women are good people and we must stand up for them and the investors.

African countries must understand that, to reinvigorate our energy sector and economy, we must all do a lot more when it comes to investment in infrastructure, job creation, and diversification. We must move beyond words.

Our continent needs to be competitive in the global marketplace because every continent is doing everything to attract the same investment opportunities and capital. We in Africa must stand out from the other continents - so that investors will choose the African energy sector as the best place to invest in.

We must also be proud of the work we have done so far - as countries like Senegal, Mozambique, Ghana and others have a good foundation, but they need to build upon it and grow.

The AEC's work is to work with businesses and help governments to build on our existing strengths to make African countries one of the most desirable places to live in for our young people by creating a good quality of life with our vast natural resources.

We can build an entrepreneurial culture that calls on young people to be go-getters rather than wait for some government bureaucrat or foreign aid worker for a handout. But we must also challenge and push governments on creating a business-friendly environment and improving a culture of good governance.

NJ Ayuk is African Energy Chamber executive chairman and filed this dispatch from Johannesburg.

This is why Hong Kong people support improving electoral system

HONG KONG

RUNNING a small cafe alone in Hong Kong, single mother Kate Lee found the thing that depressed her most was not the COVID-19 outbreak but the endless political upheavals.

After speaking out against the violence in a pro-police rally in 2019, Lee became a target of vicious online attacks and hateful telephone calls. Frequent bogus complaints made about her cafe also dealt a heavy blow to her business.

As social unrest and COVID-19 delivered a double whammy to Hong Kong's economy, Lee, like many people struggling amid the epidemic, pinned high hopes on the fast rollout of government subsidies so that her 40-square-meter eatery could stay afloat.

So, when she heard that opposition lawmakers filibustered repeatedly to block the second round of the anti-epidemic fund during a Legislative Council (LegCo) session on April 17, 2020, she felt devastated and left adrift.

"They just opposed (the bill) for the sake of opposing (it)," Lee exclaimed.

Starting in October 2019, the House Committee of the LegCo of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), which prepares legislative work for full-council meetings, was brought to a standstill for over six months due to malicious filibusters and violence by opposition lawmakers.

The stalled legislative process led to an enormous backlog of bills that directly concern people's livelihoods, from tax breaks to housing, which were of paramount importance amid the epidemic.

Last summer, Benny Tai Yiu-ting and others, colluding with external forces, attempted to rig the seventh-term LegCo election and assist candidates advocating "mutual destruction" to grab more than half the seats through electoral loopholes.

If successful, they would have indiscriminately vetoed all major government bills to paralyze the executive authorities and force Chief Executive of the HKSAR Carrie Lam to step down.

As escalating political turmoil cast a dark shadow over the financial and commercial center, the collective desire for restoring a stable political and social environment was on the rise.

A campaign that called for sacking lawmakers advocating "mutual destruction" collected more than 2.18 million signatures in November 2020. In an earlier movement last June, about 1.65 million people signed a petition to oppose foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs.

Nicholas Muk, 29, a teacher at the Pui Kiu Middle School in the Eastern District, witnessed how street violence and political instability had impacted schools and young people in recent years and could still feel the pinch, even now.

"I saw classes suspended, campuses maliciously politicized and minors involved in the disturbances during that time," he said, calling for a stable environment for education so that his students can keep their minds on studying and developing healthy values.

The voice of the Hong Kong people was heard.

During the ongoing fourth annual session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, national lawmakers are deliberating a draft decision on improving the electoral system of the HKSAR.

The riot and turbulence that occurred in the Hong Kong society reveals that the existing electoral system in the HKSAR has obvious loopholes and deficiencies, Wang Chen, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said when introducing the draft decision last week.

Anti-China, destabilizing forces and radical localists used the HKSAR's electoral platforms and the deliberation platforms of the LegCo and the District Councils, or their position as public servants, to blatantly carry out anti-China and destabilizing activities, Wang said.

Necessary measures must be taken to improve the electoral system and remove existing institutional risks to ensure Hong Kong is administered by Hong



Citizens display China's national flag in support of implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" at Tamar Park in Hong Kong, south China, March 6, 2021. (Xinhua)

Kong people with patriots as the main body, he said.

The decision received widespread support.

According to a survey conducted by the think-tank Bauhinia Institute, more than 80 percent of local people recognize the necessity of upholding the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle and nearly 70 percent support the central authorities in improving Hong Kong's electoral system and closing institutional loopholes.

Recently, Muk and his friends set up an opinion poll station in Wan Chai and were overwhelmed by the numbers of people flocking to express their support. "More than 200 passersby stopped and signed their names in support of the NPC decision within one hour," he said.

When the NPC session concludes recently, the national legislature is expected to officially make the decision on improving the HKSAR's electoral system and authorize its Standing Committee to amend Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law of the HKSAR in accordance with the decision.

After the amendment at the state level is completed, the HKSAR will amend relevant local laws accordingly.

Various sectors in Hong Kong have agreed that the improvement in the electoral system will enable Hong Kong to right the wrongs and usher in a new, brighter phase.

Lau Siu-kai, vice president of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, said Hong Kong society will be allowed to refocus on economic development and promote the steady and sustained implementation of "one country, two systems."

As violent incidents and the epidemic dealt a one-two punch to Hong Kong's businesses, an improved electoral system will help the LegCo resume normal operation and the HKSAR government carry out policies to improve people's livelihoods, Lo Kam-yam, president of the Hong Kong Commerce and Industry Associations, said.

After that, a sound business environment will be restored and residents will, once again, be able to lead a stable life, Lo said.

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 173 00--

WORD-FIT

Y U G O S L A V I A R E F E R E N C E S
E A C M E R O N
A M I D D I L M A A M E N M U N G U
R N O I E D U L E A I E N O
C O L O U R E N T L E N D O L D
L E C D E M A N D E
P O N D E M A I L K N O B E V E N T
M O O T A I E R
A B R O G A T E N A G O N I Z E D A
D O R E E G B E R G R
C E S T I A T E Y A B U L A Y A T

CROSSWORD

1 a Japanese dish of thinly sliced beef or pork boiled quickly with vegetables and then dipped in sauce
2 on the top of
3 the place where one lives
4 basic monetary unit of Panama
5 a crow-like bird
6 large New Zealand parrot
7 labour hard
8 little in size
9 Assegai
10 a soft plastic mixture
11 a male child
12 Lake victoria in Kenya
13 a police officer in East Afrika
14 a course or run for skiing
15 a musical instrument
16 someone who plants
17 a piece of writing on a particular subject
18 argument in favor of something
19 laws formerly in operation in S.Africa controlling blacks
20 rowdy behaviour
21 the holding of an office

CLUES: Across

Down:

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



THURSDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13:30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	MALUMBANO YA HOJA
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	AFRO TIZII

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



THURSDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	SPORTS
21:00-23:00HRS	MALUMBANO YA HOJA
23:00-01:00HRS	MUSIC & JINGLES
01:00-05:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)



Thursday 18 March 2021

Nsekela tips new CRDB Burundi chief executive to deliver



New CRDB Burundi CEO, Fredrick Siwale.

By The Banker Reporter

NEWLY appointed CRDB Bank Plc's Managing Director for Burundi, Fredrick Siwale will sustain the good performance which the subsidiary has displayed since its establishment in 2012.

CRDB Bank's Managing Director and CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela said in Dar es Salaam this week when announcing Siwale's appointment that he has the confidence in the new Burundi subsidiary chief that he will sustain growth and profitability.

"I have confidence in Siwale's capabilities to continue strengthening our Burundi business based on his tenacious mind and immense experience spanning over 17 years," Nsekela said adding that Siwale has extensive expertise and experience in capital markets and treasury management, branch operations, as well as banking operations.

He joined the Dar es Salaam based lender in 2004 as a customer adviser in the Retail Department before moving up the career ladder in the Treasury Department, where he started as a dealer in 2006 but rose to various positions

including as Treasury Dealer - Forex, Senior Manager - Forex and; Treasury Manager - Forex.

"Siwale's career progression is consistent with the group's strategic vision to expand leadership opportunities within the business and tap into the diverse knowledge, skillsets and talents available within its young and dynamic workforce," Nsekela noted.

The 49 year old Siwale replaces Bruce Mwile, who has been at the helm of the subsidiary since its establishment in 2012. Mwile is currently the Chief Operating Officer of CRDB Group. Until his appointment, Siwale served as Head of Global Markets in the Department of Treasury, a position he has held since December 2019.

As MD of CRDB Burundi, Siwale immediate task will be to sustain the subsidiary's growth trajectory, which has been consistent since its establishment. He will also be expected to champion innovations for the Group, mirroring strategies from the parent company.

Over the past two years, CRDB Bank Burundi's financial performance has strengthened with its profit growing three-fold. In 2019, the subsidiary made a net profit of

6.2bn/-, which was an increase of 151 percent from 2.4bn/- made in 2018. The growth was the highest since its establishment and, was underlined by increased earnings from current accounts and savings deposits growth. During the year, the subsidiary's assets grew by 32 percent to 258.9bn/-.

In the latest financial performance report, the subsidiary has posted an equally impressive performance with after-tax profit jumping 77.8 percent to 11.2bn/- on year to December 2020.

"We are focused on enhancing services to our Burundi customers and supporting the local economy while at the same time facilitating cross-border transactions," explained Nsekela.

CRDB Bank has accelerated its focus on regional growth and is currently looking at expanding its operations into deep Eastern Africa, targeting the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2021, among other potential markets, especially countries with strong trade ties with Tanzania. Group CEO believes that the Bank, which is currently one of the biggest lenders in the local market, has both the financial muscle and human resource to drive long term growth.

Civil servants spared cut on allowances

NAIROBI

CURRENT civil servants will be spared hefty allowance cuts in new staffing and remuneration guidelines aimed at taming Kenya's ballooning public wage bill.

The capping of allowances at not more than 40 percent of the monthly gross pay will only apply to new employees joining the civil service, cushioning the 865,200 workers attached to government and State corporations.

The exemption is contained in a draft allowances policy unveiled Tuesday by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC).

The cut in perks is one of the strategies, alongside a freeze in new hiring and removal of ghost workers, aimed at reducing Kenya's ballooning public sector wage bill.

There are currently over 247 remunerative and facilitative allowances, up from 31 in 1999, payable within the public sector and they have the effect of doubling a worker's monthly pay.

"Allowances and benefits that are abolished will cease to apply to any new employee in the organisation or new to the grade," the SRC said through the draft policy unveiled for public participation.

"The employees currently being paid the allowances will continue to enjoy the allowance. This condition shall not apply to facilitative allowances."

Facilitative allowances are paid to meet expenses incurred by officials in the course of duty such as daily subsistence allowance or per diem, which are hidden and bump up civil servants' pay.

This signals the SRC's bid to cut or eliminate payment of per diem, which the salaries agency reckons has been abused to inflate pay.

"The allowances have taken a remunerative dimension whilst they were intended to be facilitative in nature," says the SRC.

"This has resulted in motivation for arbitrage opportunities by public officers by increasing the frequency for payment and application, against the principles of prudent management of public resources in line with Article 201 of the Constitution and [Public Finance Management] PFM Act, 2012."

The public sector wages comprise basic salaries, remunerative allowances such as house and commuter; hardship, extraneous, domestic, and risk that are fixed in the pay slip.

Tigo Pesa's 10 year journey of creating opportunities and improving lives for millions

By The Banker Reporter

THE growth of Tanzania's economy mostly depends on the agriculture sector which has been a backbone of the economy for many years. However, the inception of mobile money financial services has fueled the growth of the country's economy while positively contributing towards reaching national development goals.

Statistics show that mobile money services usage has significantly increased in the past ten years with Sub-Saharan Africa leading in both innovation and usage of the services. In Tanzania, mobile financial services have contributed towards bringing the majority of the people into the formal financial system especially those living in villages.

Also, it has reduced the risks of carrying out hard cash while creating massive employment opportunities through agents/wakala services. Mobile financial services are a technological innovation that has clearly demonstrated tireless efforts by mobile network operators like Tigo Tanzania in bringing state-of-art technologies to consumers in the local market.

Tigo has distinguished itself as

the digital lifestyle company which offers mobile financial services through Tigo Pesa application that has helped millions of Tanzanians to transact through their phones, a move that has simplified access to products and services.

This year, Tigo Tanzania is celebrating ten years of Tigo Pesa services, a platform with more than nine million subscribers. Tigo Pesa has transformed financial services in the country especially for people in rural areas where it operates as a bank allowing customers to easily send and receive money through its massive agents' network.

Tigo Pesa managed to dominate the mobile financial services business despite the stiff competition brought by other mobile network operators. As Tigo Pesa marks a decade of operations, it has transformed millions of lives through its services.

Speaking during the anniversary ceremony held at the company headquarters last week, Chief Officer - Mobile Financial Services for Tigo Pesa, Angelica Pasha said the company is celebrating a decade of the mobile money platform being an important platform serving nine million customers.

"Over the past decade, Tigo Pesa has evolved from providing



Customers will also enter a weekly draw where of them will stand a chance to win 1m/- every week with 10 lucky winners getting a grand prize of 10m/- each at the end of the campaign

remittance services to a fully-fledged financial services platform offering micro-loans, insurance services and an expanded ecosystem through interoperability and integrations enabling cross-network money transfers across MNOs and banks." Pasha said adding the platform also provides international money remittance, utility bills payments, online purchasing for goods and services and facilitate government payments.

Pasha further explained that within the 10 years, Tigo Tanzania has closely co-operated with the government to increase financial

inclusion by offering reliable financial services to the public, creating direct and indirect employment to more than 120,000 agents who have received over 692bn/- as commissions during the period. The platform has also facilitated over one billion transactions worth 27trn/- per annum.

"We are celebrating all these huge achievements because of our customers who have been with us since we started and continue to trust us for giving them reliable financial solutions that improves their lives," she added.

The Tigo Pesa Chief further noted that, in celebrating the 10 years of operations, the telco has come up with a campaign dubbed, 'Jana, leo na kesho, Tigo Pesa inaendelea kuwa zaidi ya pesa' aimed at thanking its customers for being with them throughout the period.

According to Pasha, the campaign will enable every customer to win different prizes including cash bonuses up to 10, 000/-, free minutes and text messages, and megabytes when transacting on the platform.

"Customers will also enter a weekly draw where of them will stand a chance to win 1m/- every week with 10 lucky winners getting

a grand prize of 10m/- each at the end of the campaign," she explained while pointing out that there will also be various bonuses to Tigo Pesa wakalas based on their performance.

With the spirit of innovation and listening to their customers, Tigo Pesa managed to bring a number of "1st in the World" solutions like: Interoperability in the local market making it easier to transfer funds across the different networks and banks; International money transfer with currency conversion; Self-care tools to give customers more control of their transactions and wallets; Micro-insurance services (Bima Mkononi); and Interest distributions (Tigo Gawio); Merchant payment services;

In recognition of its milestone achievement, Tigo Pesa was among the first mobile money companies to become GSMA certified, a testament to the secure, transparent and reliable world class operations being provided.

The success of Tigo Pesa in the last decade marks the beginning of a bright future in digital payments in Tanzania as the company is looking into becoming a one-stop-shop for all customers' financial needs with more relevant solutions that will keep evolving.

NMB presents Bajaj to the winner of 'Bonge la Mpango' campaign

By The Banker Reporter

NMB Bank through its Bonge la Mpango campaign has handed over the prize of a Bajaj of the campaign Yusuph Kyando, a resident of Mombo, Korogwe District in Tanga Region.

The motorcycle worth 4.4m/- where since the start of the campaign in February gifts worth more than 35.2m/- have been donated including cash and six Bajaj.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, NMB's Northern Zone Manager Aikansia Muro said more than 550m/- had been set aside for the campaign.

Muro said that the campaign is specifically for giving part of its profit to the community especially the bank's customers as well as pro-

moting a culture of saving for Tanzanians.

"We are aiming to continue the good things we have done in 2020 until we write a great history in the banking industry by gaining the greatest profit in the banking history of the country," said the Manager.

He said through the campaign prizes have been given every week, month and the bank is aiming to give an overall winner a new Toyota Fortuner.

Muro mentioned the gifts offered as cash ranging from 100,000/- to 500,000/-, a Bajaj and a light cargo carrier well-known as Kirikuu.

The winner, Yusuf Kyando said he was happy to receive the prize which he will use to supplement his income.

"Today I have come to believe

that I am really an entrepreneur and this prize is going to boost my income hence grow further my business," said Kyando.

NMB's Mombo Branch Manager Hamis Mwaduga said the bank will continue to encourage its customers to deposit their money at the bank so that they can benefit from the campaign.

"I would like to ask the residents of Tanga region to keep their savings through NMB bank but also those who do not have an account to come and open," he said.

However, in the third draw held yesterday, 11 winners of the campaign from various regions in the country have received cash along with two winners receiving Bajaj each.



A lucky winner of second draw of Bonge la Mpango promotion conducted by NMB, Yusuf Kyando tries to switch on his Tricycle motorbike Lifa Cargo after received from NMB Northern zone manager Aikansia Muro (C) at ceremony held in Tanga yesterday. Left is NMB Tanga branch manager Elizabeth Chawinga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa to continue censorship of social media



DAKAR

A STUDY by private protection company Surfshark shows that cutting off social media access is a common practice in African countries, especially during elections, protests, demonstrations, or exams.

The research reveals that over the past six years, a total of 28 (out of 54) African countries have employed some form of a social media ban or a heavy disruption, while 15 of these cases were election-related.

Surfshark shows that Senegal became the 63rd country globally to have restricted social media access since 2015.

In early March 2021, ITWeb Africa reported on a response by digital rights advocacy group Paradigm Initiative in which the organisation expressed "deep concern" over the situation in Senegal.

The organisation added that disruptions were aimed at suppressing demonstrations and the expression of online freedom of opinion in the West African country.

"Paradigm Initiative urges and requests the Senegalese government on its responsibilities and calls for respect for international human rights obligations, and to make a lasting contribution to actions to protect digital rights in the country, in accordance with the resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) adopted in 2016 on the right to freedom of information and expression for the internet in Africa, ACHPR / Res.362 (LIX)," Paradigm Initiative stated.

Surfshark said in 2020 alone, there were nine political cases of social media restriction across the continent in Tanzania, Togo, Mali, Malawi, Guinea, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

"These governments usually

go after communication apps like WhatsApp, Skype, Facebook Messenger, Viber, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Most internet censorship and social media restriction cases in Africa have to do with riots, protests, elections, and other events of political nature," Surfshark stated.

The company says according to a recent report, the overall economic loss experienced worldwide due to internet shutdown totals up to US\$4.01-billion. Surfshark definition of social media

Social media was conceptualised as social networking sites (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc.) and communication apps, including VoIP apps (i.e., Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram, Viber). Both local and national social media blockings have been taken into account in the study.

Surfshark says based on data

collected through open-source information from Freedom House, Netblocks and news reports over the last six years, social media restrictions has been a rising trend.

"... with a total of 63 countries worldwide recording cases after the first time the Egyptian government enforced an internet blackout back in 2011. Since then, internet censorship has seen prominent growth worldwide, especially in Asian and African regions, and even more so recently during elections and other political events. In 2021 alone, there were five political cases of internet disruption across the world in Uganda, Russia, Myanmar, Senegal, and Chad," the private protection company added.

In January 2020, internet research firm TopIOVPN released a report which said globally, more than 18 000 hours of Internet shutdowns around the world cost more than US\$8-billion in the same year.

NEWSINDEPTH

West Africa's Rack Centre secures QMS certification

YAOUNDE

WEST African carrier neutral datacentre operator Rack Centre has achieved ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification.

In a statement, the company says the certification - issued by the British Standards Institution (BSI) - ensures its commitment "to the highest levels of governance and quality management in its delivery of quality datacentre colocation services."

According to Rack Centre, the certification is developed and published by the International organisation for Standardisation (ISO), a worldwide organisation for creating, implementing, and maintaining a company's quality management system with a customer focused approach for delivering products and services.

"The ISO 9001 certification is a key addition to the Rack Centre Quality Management Governance Framework, which includes certification to ISO 27001 Information Security Management, ISO 22310 Business Continuity Management and Uptime Institute Tier III Constructed Facility Certifications," the company adds.

Dr Ayotunde Coker, Managing Director, Rack Centre, says: "The ISO 9001:2015 accreditation demonstrates Rack Centre's commitment to a virtuous cycle of continuous improvement, customer-centred focus and excellent service that Rack Centre has demonstrated over the years."

In August 2020 Rack Centre announced an expansion programme to increase capacity to a total net lettable white space of 6000 square metres and allow for 13MW of IT power capacity in its Lagos campus.

The company released a statement explaining that this increased capacity will supplement the current expansion already underway to double existing capacity to 1.5MW and 1,200 square metres of white space in early 2021.

Stakeholders settle differences over fresh USSD based banking regulation

LAGOS

THE NCC and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have agreed that USSD services for financial transactions will be charged at a flat fee of NGN6.98k (about US\$2-cents) per transaction.

Stakeholders must negotiate how the new USSD pricing framework is to be implemented, including sharing of Application Programme Interface (APIs) to enable seamless, direct and transparent customer billing.

This arrangement replaces the current per session billing structure and is more cost effective for consumers, the regulators said, adding that the new framework is transparent and ensures amounts stay the same regardless of how many sessions there are with each transaction.

"To promote transparency in its administration, the new USSD charges will be collected on behalf of mobile network

operators directly from customers' bank accounts. Banks shall not impose additional charges on customers for use of the USSD channel," they stated.

On the disagreement between banks and telcos over payment for USSD services, including payment of charges that have accumulated and now amount to NGN42-billion (approximately US\$110-million).

Following a meeting called by the Ministry, it was agreed that a settlement plan for outstanding payments incurred for USSD services that were previously rendered by the operators is being worked out by all parties in a bid to ensure that the matter is fully resolved.

An eleventh-hour intervention by Nigeria's Minister of Communications and Digital Economy Dr Isa Pantami has temporarily halted the scheduled suspension of USSD services.

Telecommunication services providers want to initiate a phased withdrawal

of USSD services to banks over alleged unpaid debts of over NGN42-billion (approximately US\$110-million).

Widely considered to be the backbone of Nigeria's expanding Fintech ecosystem, USSD services are used by millions to access digital banking services.

Last year the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) barred telcos from billing end users directly for accessing banking services via USSD. Instead, the regulator ordered banks to negotiate with their customers regarding the settlement of outstanding fees.

Now stakeholders are at loggerheads over whether it should be consumers or MNOs that foot the bill.

According to Association of Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), banks have opted to no longer pay for the USSD service and have requested that operators bill customers directly.

In a statement, the operators, via



ALTON, said they are determined to withdraw USSD services and have advised subscribers to use alternative means to access banking services.

The organisation added that operators have no assurance that service charges levied on customers' bank accounts for accessing banking services through the USSD channel will be waived after the implementation of user billing.

"We deeply regret that we have reached a point where the withdrawal of these services has

become inevitable," ALTON stated.

On 15 March 2021 ITWeb Africa confirmed that USSD services of major banks in Nigeria, including FirstBank and Guaranty Trust Bank, were still accessible.

In a statement issued by the communications ministry, Pantami called for a meeting of the stakeholders, including the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, NCC's Executive Vice Chairman, MNOs and financial institutions.

Public equity funds all the rage among youth

BEIJING

IT'S human nature to want to make an easy buck. But things can get complicated when a surge of mainly young investors jump head-first into China's rapidly growing public equity fund market, attracted by star fund managers, who manage bourse-buying decisions on behalf of investors.

Public equity funds refer to publicly-offered funds that invest in a portfolio mainly made up by stocks and do not provide guarantee of return.

"Suddenly everyone around me started talking about funds, even for those who had zero experience. It's interesting that talking about funds is now a good conversational ice-breaker," said 36-year-old Beijing-based office worker Liu Ronghuan, who has about one year's experience in fund investing.

Liu's friend, 36-year-old accountant Wu Nan, had similar sentiments.

"I have six years' experience investing in funds. Recently I felt many more friends and relatives began asking me which funds they should buy," Wu said.

Liu and Wu are just two of the millions in China who have embraced China's rapidly growing public equity funds.

A report by the Asset Management Association of China said the total value of the country's public equity funds in 2020 increased 34.7 percent year-on-year to 19.89 trillion yuan (\$3.06 trillion), with profits totaling 1.98 trillion yuan.

A China Central Television report said those born in the 1990s accounted for over half of newcomers to the fund market. The report said their investments focus on areas including baijiu, a type of Chinese liquor, and new energy.

More interestingly, fund-related conversations have even become an effective means of social networking, the report said.

Discussions on funds and star managers are also hot topics on mainstream social media platforms like Weibo, life-sharing app Xiaohongshu and review platform Douban.

The "Weibo Chaohua", a column of super-hot topics managed by Weibo, saw posts regarding fund-related topics exceed 109,000, with views surpassing 1.96 billion so far.



One of the best known star fund managers, Zhang Kun, became the first ever to manage funds surpassing 100 billion yuan.

Zhang's fans also set up a Weibo account named "global fan club of Zhang Kun". The club had over 20,000 fans worldwide at last check. Fans even gave him the nickname "iKun", which sounds like "love Kun" in Chinese.

"Who doesn't want to make money? Working hard is no doubt important as it creates a stable income. But investment is also a big

part of wealth management," Liu said.

"Past performances of fund managers as well as areas of investment are two important factors I look into when selecting funds to hold," Liu added.

Despite the recent turbulence in the A-share market, Liu's rate of return has reached nearly 30 percent as of the end of February.

"I think institutional investors have more knowledge, experience and information compared with retail investors. Rather than investing in A shares, I prefer to trust professional managers," Liu said.

David Huang, a Beijing-based mutual fund sales manager, said that starting from the first half of 2020, more and more people are asking about fund investments. "They care mostly about two types of questions: First, is now a good time to buy funds and what should they buy? Second, they ask some general questions about the fund industry."

According to Huang, the recent fandom of some high-profile fund managers may exacerbate the bandwagon effect in behaviors including buying and redemption, which can amplify market volatility and make manage-

ment more difficult for star managers.

The young generation's enthusiasm for investment is partly buoyed by China's booming stock market, which is becoming more mature and aligning with international practices, said Kang Yong, chief economist at KPMG China.

Dong Dengxin, director of the Wuhan University of Science and Technology's Finance and Securities Institute, said that families in China are also becoming increasingly wealthy and have the need to find good investment products to preserve and increase the value of their family wealth, which opens the door for more opportunities for development in the public equity fund market.

"But the fandom of fund managers probably won't last for long, because many star fund managers do not necessarily have the ability to outperform the market over the long term. Sometimes star managers buy into a few stocks, followed by smaller companies and individual investors, and the funds might see surging value. However, that might not reflect the actual level of profitability of those managers," Dong said.

Apple Inc says spending from 'green bonds' hits \$2.8 billion

NEW YORK

APPLE Inc said on Wednesday it allotted \$2.8 billion raised from "green bonds" that last year funded 17 projects that will generate 1.2 gigawatts of renewable energy.

It said the projects will avoid an average of 921,000 metric tons of carbon emissions each year, which it said is equal to removing nearly 200,000 cars from the road.

Green bonds are a category of fixed-income securities that raise capital for projects with environmental benefits, such as renewable energy or low-carbon transport.

Apple, one of the largest private-sector issuers of such bonds, is using the capital as part of its effort to become carbon neutral across its sprawling manufacturing supply chain by 2030. The company has issued three sets of green bonds since 2016 totaling \$4.7 billion.

"We all have a responsibility to do everything we can to fight against the impacts of climate change, and our \$4.7 billion investment of the proceeds from our Green Bond sales are an important driver in our efforts," Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of environment, policy, and social initiatives said in a statement. "Ultimately, clean power is good business."

Among Apple's 2020 green bond projects was what it said was a set of two onshore wind turbines in Denmark that it said are that nation's largest. The company said the 200-meter tall turbines near Esbjerg will generate 62 gigawatt hours of electricity each year for Apple's data center in Viborg, with all surplus energy going to the Danish grid.

Apple said other projects last year were a 180-acre solar power site near its data center in Reno, Nevada, that will generate 270 megawatts of power along with its other Nevada projects;



a 112-megawatt power purchase agreement with a wind farm near Chicago to offset power consumption in that region; and a 165-megawatt solar power development project with three other companies near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Uber must do more on UK minimum wage: union

LONDON

UBER drivers in Britain should receive the minimum wage from the time they log on until they log off from the app, two former drivers who led a successful court battle said after the firm granted workers' rights on Wednesday.

Following a Supreme Court defeat last month, the Silicon Valley-based company reclassified its more than 70,000 drivers in Britain as workers, meaning they are guaranteed entitlements such as holiday pay.

On the minimum wage, which stands at 8.72 pounds

(\$12.13) per hour for those aged 25 and over, Uber said it would apply "after accepting a trip request and after expenses" and that on average drivers earn an hourly 17 pounds in London.

Drivers will not receive it during the time they spend waiting for a passenger, which can account for as much as a third of the time drivers are behind the wheel with the app turned on, according to several U.S. studies.

James Farrar and Yaseen Aslam, the two lead drivers in a 2016 employment tribunal case that Uber unsuccessfully contested all the way to

Britain's top court, criticised the move.

"Uber drivers will be still short-changed to the tune of 40-50 percent," they said in a statement released by the App Drivers & Couriers Union.

"Also, it is not acceptable for Uber to unilaterally decide the driver expense base in calculating minimum wage."

Uber said it has consulted with thousands of drivers over the last few weeks who do not want to lose the flexibility they enjoy, with the ability to choose "if, when and where they drive."

Workers are entitled to fewer rights than those classed

as employees, who are also receive sick pay and parental leave. Uber in California last year pushed and won a similar compromise on drivers' status.

The announcement could put pressure on other firms operating in the gig economy, where millions of people tend to work for one or more companies on a job-by-job basis.

"The new phase of our economy should be about protecting workers' rights, driving higher standards, driving new technologies," business minister Kwasi Kwarteng told Sky News.

Volkswagen abruptly pulls plug on South Korean battery makers

BEIJING

DAYS before Volkswagen AG held an event to announce a major ramp-up in its electric vehicle production, the German car maker abruptly told its South Korean battery suppliers their current technology would be largely excluded from those plans.

The decision by the world's second largest automaker to move the bulk of its cars to a different battery cell in two years came as a shock to LG Energy Solution and SK Innovation, three people with knowledge of the situation told Reuters.

"It's not our everyday business routine to get such one-sided notice from a partner ... people seemed to be pretty alarmed," one of the sources said.

Volkswagen's shift to a new unified prismatic battery, away from the pouch-style manufactured by LG and SK, is likely to be a massive blow given the pair have invested billions in pouch production sites in the United States, Europe and Asia.

The shift also raised concerns among battery suppliers that the race by automakers to meet growing demand for EVs in a rapidly changing technological environment could leave them behind almost overnight.

"Volkswagen's announcement is just the beginning of the competition in the EV market, signalling that huge investment will be made competitively in the future," said Lee Jae-il, an analyst at Eugene Investment & Securities.

Volkswagen is under intense pressure to cut battery costs, strengthen its position in China, and better compete with Tesla Inc. China's Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd (CATL), which already supplies Volkswagen and Tesla, is making prismatic batteries, the technology favoured for Volkswagen future vehicles.

Thomas Schmall, Volkswagen's board member in charge of technology, said this week the company would keep its current contracts, adding 80% of its post 2025 generation of EV cars would use prismatic batteries. Schmall did not specify battery technology for the remaining 20 percent.

Schmall said it would not be a big deal for battery suppliers to switch to production of prismatic cells, although analysts suggested doing so would require significant reinvestment and time to overhaul factories.

SK, which had announced a contract in 2018 to supply Volkswagen with pouch batteries but had not yet started doing so, said it currently has no plans to produce prismatic batteries. It supplies pouch batteries to Hyundai Motor

and its sister company Kia.

LG, which makes prismatic batteries but only for smaller goods such as laptops, declined to comment on whether it would expand that production to EV batteries. Volkswagen was one of its biggest clients for pouch batteries, but it retains Tesla, General Motors and Hyundai Motor. It also builds cylindrical batteries for Tesla.

Of particular concern to executives at auto parts suppliers was Volkswagen's relative lack of consultation with LG and SK about the battery shift, a break with tradition from the industry strategies pioneered by Toyota decades ago.

When LG told Volkswagen it would send an executive to Germany to discuss the potential battery switch, Volkswagen told LG not to, all three people with knowledge of the situation told Reuters. They declined to be identified because they are not authorised to speak to the media.

"This is rare among automakers and suppliers which they have good relationship with," said Yale Zhang, head of the Shanghai-based consultancy Automotive Foresight. "Traditionally automakers invite core suppliers to discuss future technology before finalising as they need to ensure supply."

It comes just days after outgoing Panasonic Chief Executive Kazuhiro Tsuga told the Financial Times his company needed "to graduate from our one-legged approach of relying solely on Tesla." Panasonic lost its coveted decade-long position as Tesla's exclusive supplier last year when the carmaker unveiled plans to begin developing its own batteries and add LG and CATL as purchasing partners.

Two sources told Reuters SK and LG's situation was complicated by a U.S. legal battle between the bitter rivals that has threatened to disrupt Volkswagen's EV production at its Tennessee factory and left the carmaker "very unhappy" with the pair.

"Volkswagen warned South Korean battery makers early last year that Chinese battery makers would be beneficiaries of the legal disputes," one person told Reuters.

China, the world's biggest car market and a key battleground for EV, is the winner in Volkswagen's shift from the lighter pouch batteries to the generally safer and easier to source prismatic batteries.

As well as its deal with CATL, Volkswagen told Reuters it planned to source batteries from Wanxiang A123 and Guoxuan High-tech Co Ltd. A source close to Guoxuan told Reuters it anticipates striking a supply deal for lithium iron phosphate batteries in a year or more.



Blacklisted Chinese firms eye lawsuits after Xiaomi win against Trump's ban

BENGALURU

CHINESE companies targeted by a sweeping investment ban imposed by former President Donald Trump are considering suing the U.S. government after a federal judge on Friday suspended a similar blacklisting for Beijing-based smartphone maker Xiaomi.

Lawyers familiar with the matter said some of the banned Chinese companies are in talks with law firms including Steptoe & Johnson and Hogan Lovells, emboldened by U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras' preliminary order halting Xiaomi's inclusion on a U.S. list of alleged Communist Chinese military companies that are subject to an investment ban.

The Trump administration's move to blacklist Xiaomi Corp, which knocked \$10 billion off its market share and sent its shares down 9.5 percent in January, would have forced investors to completely divest their stakes in the company.

"Companies are reaching out to lawyers to challenge the listings and the grounds for the listings," said Wendy Wysong, managing partner of the Hong Kong office of Steptoe & Johnson, a worldwide law firm headquartered in Washington. Wysong and a person familiar with Hogan Lovells, another global law firm, declined to name the companies involved in discussions.

Contreras flagged the U.S. government's "deeply flawed" process for including the company in the investment ban, based on just two key criteria: its development of 5G technology and artificial intelligence, which the Defense Department alleges are "essential to modern military operations," and an award given to Xiaomi founder and Chief Executive Lei Jun from an organization said to help the Chinese government eliminate barriers between commercial and military sectors.

The judge noted that 5G and AI



The logo of Xiaomi is seen inside the company's office in Bengaluru, India.

technologies were fast becoming standard in consumer electronics, and that over 500 entrepreneurs

had received the same award as Lei since 2004, including the leaders of an infant formula company.

"The facts that led to Xiaomi's designation are almost laughable, and I think it absolutely is going to lead to additional companies seeking relief," said Washington lawyer Brian Egan, a former legal adviser in both the White House and State Department who also works at Steptoe.

In a joint filing on Tuesday, the government said it had not decided on the "appropriate path forward" in the Xiaomi case in light of the judge's decision.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice, which is defending the case, declined to comment. A spokeswoman for the Department of Defense referred questions to the White House, which has not responded.

Xiaomi and 43 other companies were added in the waning months of the Trump administration to the blacklist, which was mandated by a 1999 law requiring the Defense Department to publish a

compilation of companies "owned or controlled" by the Chinese military.

Seeking to cement a tough line on China and box his Democratic successor, Joe Biden, into hardline policies, Trump signed an executive order that was later expanded to bar all U.S. investors from holding securities in the named companies beginning on Nov. 11, 2021.

Other companies listed include video surveillance giant Hikvision, China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) and China's top chipmaker, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp.

SMIC, Hikvision and CNOOC did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Luokung Technology Corp, a mapping technology company on the list, also sued the U.S. government earlier this month, and is expected to seek preliminary relief similar to that awarded to Xiaomi.

WORLD

Trump to decide on second run after 2022 midterms

WASHINGTON

FORMER president Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would decide whether to make another run for the White House after congressional elections in November 2022.

Trump has said he is committed to helping fellow Republicans try to win back control of the US House of Representatives and the Senate in the 2022 elections, which will be an early referendum on the leadership of Democratic President Joe Biden.

"I think we have a very, very good chance of taking back the House," Trump said in an interview with Fox News. "You have a good chance to take

back the Senate and frankly, we'll make our decision after that."

Trump told Fox News host Maria Bartiromo that his supporters appeared ready to back him again if he ran.

"Based on every poll, they want me to run again, but we're going to take a look and we'll see," Trump said.

Trump also recommended that everyone take the coronavirus vaccine, reaffirming his remarks at last month's Conservative Political Action Conference. Polls show large numbers of Republicans and Trump supporters resistant to getting the vaccination.

"It's a great vaccine. It's a safe vaccine. And it's something that works," said Trump, who quietly got vaccinated him-



Former president Donald Trump

self in January.

"I would recommend it and I would recommend it to a lot of people that don't want to get it, and a lot of those people voted for me, frankly."

The White House has said it would welcome Trump's support in encouraging his supporters to be vaccinated, although President Joe Biden expressed doubt about how much it would help.

Trump has largely stayed out of the political spotlight since leaving office in January, other than his speech at the conservative conference in Florida.

In his absence, a battle has erupted in the Republican Party between establishment figures such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell who are eager to move on and conservative Trump allies who believe the party's future depends on the energy of the pro-Trump base.

In his final weeks in office, Trump promoted false claims that he lost his re-election bid due to rampant electoral fraud, stood accused of inciting a mob of supporters to rampage through the US Capitol and became the first president ever to be impeached twice.

Agencies

France enters third wave of coronavirus pandemic - PM

PARIS

FRANCE has entered "a form of third wave (of the coronavirus pandemic) characterized by numerous virus variants," Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Tuesday, stressing that his government still considers vaccination a top priority of its strategy to stem the spread of the virus.

"The outbreak is going into extra time," he told a hearing at the National Assembly, the lower house of France's Parliament,

which observed a moment of silence in memory of the 90,000-plus victims of the pandemic one year after the first national lockdown.

Mass vaccination, Castex said, "will allow us to get out of (the lockdown)."

The government has pledged to administer at least 10 million first vaccine doses by mid-April, 20 million by mid-May and 30 million by summer.

As of Tuesday, 5,295,735 people had received at least one vaccine dose, according to the



Prime Minister Jean Castex

health authorities.

Of the injected doses, 1.3 million were the AstraZeneca vaccine, whose use was suspended late Monday in France and in 20-

odd other European countries following reports of side effects, including blood clots in patients. Such a suspension would deal a very serious blow to the vaccination strategy in Europe, the French daily Le Monde said in an editorial on Tuesday.

"Faced with the saturation of intensive care services in Ile-de-France (the greater Paris region), only the acceleration of vaccination could give hope of avoiding another lockdown. Any significant delay would render this expectation null and void,"

said the paper. In Ile-de-France, the most populous region and the country's main economic hub with 12 million inhabitants, 5,907 COVID-19 patients were in hospitals, including 1,177 in intensive care, according to the latest official data.

On Tuesday, the health authorities reported 29,975 new infections across the country, bringing the cumulative total to 4,108,108. The number of single-day deaths jumped to 408, taking the total to 91,170.

Agencies

Walk the talk: Xi leads China in fight for carbon-neutral future

BEIJING

ALMOST half a year after Chinese President Xi Jinping's pledge to make the country carbon-neutral before 2060, the roadmap to achieve the goal is getting clearer under Xi's push as authorities and industries scale up their green efforts.

China aims to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, Xi announced at the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly via video in September last year.

Since then, vigorous policies have been rolled out on top of the already hefty input in green development. At a meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs on Monday, Xi called for incorporating the peaking of carbon emissions and carbon neutrality into the overall layout of building an ecological civilization.

"Peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality is a tough battle, it is also a major test of the party's capabilities in governing the country," the meeting stressed.

While China's economic rise over the past decades



Aerial photo taken on Feb. 24, 2020 shows the Haizhu wetland and the Canton Tower in the distance in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province. (Xinhua)

was largely powered by coal, the country, now among the world's biggest investors in green energy, is increasing pace to shift to other renewables including wind and solar.

Starting in February, China implemented a set of interim rules for the management of carbon-emissions trading designed to drive down the emissions of big power users.

Under the scheme, firms that exceed the emission caps can buy emission quotas from others with a lower carbon footprint. A total of 2,225

power firms are included in the project. More fields, such as the steel and aluminum production sectors, will be included in future carbon trading.

The campaign for green energy also enabled the public to embrace a more eco-friendly lifestyle, as was shown by the country's booming sales of new energy vehicles.

On the back of the united efforts, the share of clean energy consumption in the country has risen from 19.1 percent in 2016 to 24.3 percent in 2020,

data by the National Bureau of Statistics showed.

While addressing the Climate Ambition Summit via video link in December last year, Xi announced that by 2030, China aims to lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent from the 2005 level and increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent.

To move toward the goal, energy consumption per unit of GDP and carbon dioxide

emissions per unit of GDP in 2021 will be reduced by 13.5 percent and 18 percent, respectively, according to this year's government work report, which also promised to draw up an action plan for peaking carbon emissions before 2030.

While expanding the use of green energy, bringing down carbon emissions to net zero, which means achieving a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon, will require the development of new technologies to capture and store emissions.

Monday's meeting also called for efforts to push forward major breakthroughs in green and low-carbon technologies and accelerate the promotion and application of such technologies for reducing pollution and carbon emissions.

It has underscored improvements in policies on fiscal taxation, prices, finance, land and government procurement that are conducive to green and low-carbon development.

"To peak carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality is an extensive and profound systemic reform for the economy and society," Xi noted at Monday's meeting. *Xinhua*

Homeland Security: US facing biggest migrant surge in 20 years

WASHINGTON

THE United States is facing the biggest surge of migrants at its southwestern border in 20 years, the homeland security secretary said on Tuesday as the Biden administration races to handle an influx of children trying to cross the US-Mexico border alone.

The number of attempted border crossings by people from Central America and Mexico has steadily increased since April 2020 and most single adults and families are being turned away, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said.

Poverty, violence and corruption in the Mexico and the Northern Triangle - Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador - have led people to seek a better life in the United States for years, and there have been surges in the past.

Conditions there have continued to deteriorate and two hurricanes made living conditions even worse, while the coronavirus pandemic complicated the border situation, Mayorkas said in a statement.

"We are on pace to encounter more individuals on the southwest border than we have in the last 20 years," he said. US border agents conducted 100,441 apprehensions or expulsions of migrants at the border with Mexico in February, the US Customs and Border Protection said last week, the highest monthly total since a border crisis of 2019.

Single adults make up the majority of people who are being expelled, Mayorkas said. Children traveling alone, some as young as six years old, are not being turned back.

The government is creating a joint processing center to transfer the children promptly into the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is trying to find additional shelters for them, Mayorkas said in a statement.

President Joe Biden's administration has been struggling to speed up the processing of hundreds of youths under 18 who are crossing the southern border alone every day.

"We will have, I believe by the next month, enough of those beds to take care of these children who have no place to go, but they need to be taken care of," Biden said in an interview with ABC News.

Republicans in Congress say the Biden administration sparked the border surge by promising to unwind some of former President Donald Trump's hardline policies against illegal immigration.

"It didn't have to happen. This crisis is created by the presidential policies of this new administration," House of Representatives Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said at an El Paso border facility on Monday.

Republicans in turn were criticized by Democrats for their own immigration record, as well as Trump's policies.

Nearly 4,300 unaccompanied children were being held by Border Patrol officials as of Sunday, according to an agency official who requested anonymity. By law, the children should be transferred out of Customs and Border Protection facilities to HHS-run shelters within 72 hours.

In the short term, the federal government is setting up additional facilities in Texas and Arizona to shelter unaccompanied children and families, and is working with Mexico to increase its capacity to receive expelled families, Mayorkas said.

Agencies



Migrant children and teenagers are being processed after entering the site of a temporary holding facility south of Midland, Texas, March 14, 2021. (AP)

Israel says anti-rocket Iron Dome system upgraded

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL said on Tuesday it has upgraded its anti-rocket Iron Dome system to intercept additional kinds of aerial threats.

The Defense Ministry's Israel Missile Defense Organization and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, an Israeli weapons and defense company, have "successfully completed a test campaign of the Iron Dome Weapon System," the Israeli Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"This campaign, along with two recent Iron Dome flight tests, demonstrated a significant upgrade of the system's technological capabilities," the statement read.

The system, tested in several scenarios, intercepted and destroyed the targets simulating a simultaneous attack by multiple drones and a salvo of rockets and missiles, it said.

Xinhua

Hubei province designs cherry blossom viewing activities to thank medical workers for dedication to COVID-19 fight

AS it has recovered from the COVID-19, central China's Hubei province has arranged more than 40 scenic spots where tourists can enjoy cherry blossoms, ten floral sightseeing tourist routes, and more than 200 artistic performances to thank people around the country, especially medical workers, for their selfless dedication and generous assistance during the COVID-19 fight.

Hubei's capital city, Wuhan, recently launched cherry blossom viewing activities, including cherry blossom festival and light show, to welcome tourists from across the country.

He Qiaoying, a nurse of Hubei Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), was touched by the

thoughtful arrangements Wuhan University has made for medical workers to appreciate cherry blossoms when visiting the university on March 9.

Besides a dedicated long red carpeted passage and a signature wall, Wuhan University has also arranged for medical workers creative commemorative badge and one-to-one tour guide service, which shows its appreciation and respect for medical workers.

"I was moved to tears several times in February last year when medical teams from various parts of the country came to help Wuhan. How I wish all of them could return to Wuhan this year and see what the city looks like now with these gorgeous cherry blossoms," He said emotionally.

During the recently-concluded annual session of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, Huang Luqi, a national political advisor and TCM expert recalled his unforgettable experience of leading the first batch of national TCM team to aid Wuhan on the first day of the Chinese Lunar New Year of 2020.

"Our medical workers have taken on the virus bravely by putting themselves in harm's way, and built the Huoshenshan Hospital, the Leishenshan Hospital, and the Fangcang shelter hospitals, which have played important roles in saving the critical

situation," said Huang, who is also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Today, the city which was once hit hard by the COVID-19 has fully recovered from the pandemic. Over the past year, the Chinese government paid special attention to Wuhan and provided great support for the city in its social and economic recovery and development.

Thanks to the efforts, state-owned enterprises directly under the central government flocked to Wuhan for investment. Eventually, the city made its way back to the list of the top ten cities in China in terms of annual regional gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020 despite the decline in its regional GDP

in the first quarter of last year.

As a matter of fact, Wuhan has emerged even stronger from the disaster and enjoyed increased growth momentum since the beginning of this year. Not long ago, the city kick-started 215 major projects with a combined investment of 330.54 billion yuan (about \$50.94 billion).

According to the city's report on the work of the government in 2021, Wuhan will strive to increase its regional GDP by 10 percent this year. Such an ambitious economic growth target reflects the city's determination and confidence.

Last year, Hubei province made a total of over 42,000 "Thank You Cards" for medical workers dispatched to the

province to assist it in the fight against the COVID-19. With the card, these medical workers are granted the right to visit any of the Grade-A tourist attractions of the province for free for as many times as they want during their whole lifetime.

So far, more than 2,500 medical workers with the card have returned to the province for sightseeing.

Last March, Wuhan University promised in an open letter that it would offer medical workers who have fought against the COVID-19 in Hubei province as well as their family a "green channel" for cherry blossom sightseeing tours of the university to thank them for tiding Hubei over the crisis.

People's Daily

UN chief hopes for positive outcome in China-US talks

UNITED NATIONS



UN Secretary-General António Guterres hopes for a positive outcome of the high-level meeting between the United States and China in Alaska, said his spokesman on Tuesday.

Asked about the secretary-general's hopes for the meeting scheduled for today and tomorrow in Anchorage, Alaska, Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman, said: "We hope for a positive outcome. We hope that China and the United States can find ways to collaborate on critical issues, notably on climate change, on rebuilding the post-COVID world."

"We fully understand that there are tensions and outstanding issues between the two, but they should also both find ways to cooperate on the biggest global challenges that are before us," he added.

Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. *Xinhua*

Sarkozy back in court, this time for illegal campaign financing

PARIS



FORMER French president Nicolas Sarkozy goes on trial on Wednesday accused of financing his failed 2012 re-election campaign illegally, less than three weeks after being convicted of corruption and influence-peddling.

Prosecutors allege that Sarkozy's party, then known as the UMP, splurged nearly double the 22.5 million euros (US\$27 million) permitted under electoral law on extravagant campaign rallies, and then used a friendly public relations agency to hide the cost.

In their indictment, the prosecutors acknowledge that their investigation had failed to prove Sarkozy either organised or was involved in the scheme, but argue that he benefited from it and must have been aware of it.

"The election candidate and his inner circle opted to focus the campaign on spectacular and expensive rallies and to entrust the organisation to specialist agencies," the indictment reads.

Sarkozy, 66, has consistently denied wrongdoing and said he was not aware of a fake billing process. If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to a year and fined up to 3,750 euros.

The trial casts another ignominious pall over a political career that saw Sarkozy bestride the national and global stage for five years, but dramatically fall from grace in a courtroom this month.

Jerome Lavrilleux, Sarkozy's deputy campaign chief in 2012 and one of 13 co-accused, has publicly acknowledged that he oversaw the rerouting of funds paid to the PR agency Bygmalion to camouflage the cost of the campaign events. He has said he acted on his own initiative.

Two co-founders of Bygmalion are also among the accused. One of them, Guy Alves, has publicly acknowledged the fake billing. In 2014, a lawyer for Bygmalion said the company had acted under political pressure.

Lavrilleux has requested the trial be postponed after a member of his defence team fell sick with COVID-19, and the judges will have to decide on Wednesday whether to adjourn for several weeks.

Sarkozy was sentenced on March 1 to three years in prison, with two of them suspended, for attempting to bribe a judge to give him inside information on another investigation, into his 2007 campaign finances. He has lodged an appeal.

Agencies

Berlin Red Cross favors using Sputnik V in Germany

BERLIN

ISSUES of authorizing the use of anti-coronavirus vaccines in Germany, including Russia's Sputnik V, must be handled outside of the ideological context, President of the Berlin Red Cross Mario Czaja said.

"We need even more effort, aimed at preparing all scientifically proven vaccines for prompt certification, without the ideological context," the Tagesspiegel newspaper quoted him as saying.

Earlier, the German government expressed its readiness in principle to use vaccines developed outside the European Union. Also, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Health Minister Jens Spahn named the key requirement for authorizing the use of a vaccine on the country's territory: it should be certified by the European Medicines Agency.

On March 4, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) reported that the rolling review of the Russian jab had begun. The EU regulator stressed that specialists would check that the vaccine is up to par with EU standards of efficacy, safety and quality. Sputnik V ranks among the top three vaccines globally in the number of national use authorizations.

Currently, the Russian shot has been registered in more than 50 countries around the world with the total population of over 1.3 billion people.

Agencies

Some advice to Western powers: End Syria-like meddling

BEIJING

DRIVEN by neo-interventionism and under the pretense of promoting so-called human rights and democracy, the United States and its Western allies have created in Syria one of the world's largest humanitarian tragedies.

Since the crisis in Syria began a decade ago, the Middle Eastern country has been torn into almost unrecognizable pieces, while hopes for peace remain pitifully murky at best. Yet Western meddling has hardly abated, even after the pandemic outbreak.

The deaths of hundreds of thousands of Syrians as well as the displacement of millions more have further revealed the hypocritical nature of neo-interventionism and the dangers it still poses for the wider world.

Following the Cold War, neo-interventionism has been abused by Washington and some Western capitals as a handy excuse to legitimize a blunt interference around the world.

In public, the advocates of neo-interventionism pretend to be noble; in private, they are anything but. They effuse improving human rights, yet have produced a string of human rights disasters in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and several other places across the world.

Western interference has also gravely eroded the existing international order, and violated the principles of the United Nations Charter as well as the basic



norms of international relations.

What remains ironic is that while Western interventionists are trying to lecture others over human rights and so-called universal values, the human rights situation back in their own countries is troubling. In the United States, discrimination remains widespread against non-white minorities, and the country's horrific handling of the coronavirus pandemic has left half a million dead and tens of millions infected.

There is a price for everything. Western powers must

now swallow the bitter fruits of their own making. The turbulence across much of the Arab world that started in the early 2010s has so far forced millions of refugees to flee their homelands, and largely posed for Europe unprecedented security and immigration challenges.

In Syria and Iraq, Western interference has sparked civil conflicts, resulting in a hotbed of terrorism and other extremist ideas. As a result, counter-terrorism pressure in the region has sharply spiked for Western powers.

Regrettably, these humanitarian atrocities are not catastrophic enough to force these so-called human rights defenders to cease and desist. Instead, they continue using the same old pretexts to justify overseas interventions.

At the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council, a group of developing countries condemned the unilateral coercive measures imposed by some Western countries. These measures have seriously violated human rights, and interfered in national sovereignty and internal affairs of nations, said the statement.

The Syrian crisis has run a full decade now, with no end in sight. The international community must work together to ensure no such tragedy happens again. To do that, the United States and its Western allies must end their condescending approach to human rights once and for all.

Xinhua

US saw 3,800 anti-Asian hate incidents in past year - report

LOS ANGELES

ASIAN Americans in the United States reported nearly 3,800 hate-related incidents in less than a year during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report released on Tuesday by a coalition of Asian American groups.

The report was issued by the Stop Asian American Pacific Islander (AAP) Hate, a leading aggregator of incidents against Asian Americans during the pandemic. The Stop AAP Hate reporting center was launched on March 19, 2020 by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department.

From March 19, 2020 to Feb 28 this year, the reporting center received a total of 3,795 incidents of anti-Asian racism nationwide. Types of discrimination range from verbal harassment, shunning, physical assault, online harassment to civil rights violations.

The report showed that verbal harassment (68.1 percent), shunning (20.5 percent) and physical assault (11.1 percent) make up the three largest proportions of the total incidents reported.



A demonstrator participates at a rally 'Love Our Communities: Build Collective Power' to raise awareness of anti-Asian violence outside the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, March 13, 2021. AP

The new report also showed that women reported hate incidents 2.3 times more than men while Chinese are the largest ethnic group (42.2 percent) that

report experiencing hate, followed by Koreans (14.8 percent) and Vietnamese (8.5 percent).

Businesses are the primary site of dis-

crimination (35.4 percent), followed by public streets (25.3 percent), and public parks (9.8 percent). Online incidents account for 10.8 percent of the total incidents, according to the report.

A total of 1,691 of those reports (44.56 percent) were from California, followed by New York state which reported 517 incidents (13.62 percent).

"The number of hate incidents reported to our center represent only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur, but it does show how vulnerable Asian Americans are to discrimination, and the types of discrimination they face," authors of the report noted.

"Hate incidents are not abating. We cannot let anti-Asian American hate be a legacy of COVID-19 or the last presidential administration, but that's exactly what will happen unless we demand concrete action," Russell Jeung, co-founder of Stop AAP Hate and professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University, said in a statement.

Jeung noted on the organization's official Twitter account that unless something changes, "there may be a light at the end of the tunnel for the pandemic, but not for AAPs." *Xinhua*

China to highlight green development in its future progress

CHINA will expand forest coverage to 24.1 percent of its total land area in the next five years, and energy consumption per unit of GDP and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP will be reduced by 13.5 percent and 18 percent, respectively, said China's government work report this year.

Achieving continuous ecological and environmental improvement during the past five years, China is still taking green development as an obligatory target, which indicates the country's resolution to prioritize ecological conservation and boost green development, said Wang Jinnan, academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering and president of the Chinese Academy for Environmental Planning, Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

High-quality economic development shall never be achieved at the expense of ecological environment, he remarked.

China comprehensively accomplished the objectives for pollution prevention and control during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), achieving major targets as scheduled and significantly improving the ecology. Its skies are blue; its waters are clear; and its environment is lifted. People's expectation toward a sound ecological environment is gradually coming true.

The government work report said that China will continue to intensify efforts to improve the environment.

"We must improve people's livelihood when protecting ecology and environment, and take prominent ecological problems as a priority in addressing livelihood issues," said Wang Lianling, vice chairperson of the 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Tangshan Committee. Air pollution control is a major livelihood project in Tangshan, he said, adding that air quality in the city met standards on 249 days last year, 71 more from those in 2015.

To intensify efforts to improve the environment and promote continuous environmental improvement reflect China's people-centered development philosophy, said Meng Qingqiang, chairman of State Grid Hunan Electric Power Company Limited. According to him, over half of the power consumption in Hunan Province came from clean energy.

The central government funding will enhance



A local resident charges his car at a parking lot in Yuqing County, Zunyi, southwest China's Guizhou Province, Feb. 8. (File photo)

its support for pollution prevention and control and ecological conservation. A total of 27.5 billion yuan (\$4.24 billion) and 21.7 billion yuan will be allocated to prevent air pollution and water pollution, up 10 percent and 10.2 percent, respectively.

"By improving the environment we are developing productive forces," said Zhang Chengzhong, secretary of the Communist Party of China Panjin Municipal Committee. He introduced that Panjin implemented a project to restore marine ecology, which banned over 5,300 hectares of marine aquaculture and increased 176 kilometers of natural coastlines. The city has explored a green development path that addresses both economy and ecological conservation, he said.

Practice proves that economic development and environmental protection can be achieved simultaneously. Wang Tianqi, head of the ecology and environment department of east China's Jiangsu Province said that the province has shut down over 57,000 small, poorly-managed, and heavily-polluting enterprises. However, the output of relevant industries didn't shrink, with the iron and pharmaceutical sectors increasing 7.4 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively, he added.

A sound ecological environment is a well-being with the widest coverage. China, advancing green development, is promoting high-quality economic development and high-level ecological protection in a synergetic manner, so as to build itself into a beautiful country with sound ecology, thriving industries, and wealthy people.

People's Daily

US claims of Russia's alleged election meddling baseless, says embassy

WASHINGTON

CLAIMS of alleged Russian meddling in the 2020 US federal elections, voiced by the US intelligence, are not supported by any facts, the Russian Embassy in Washington said in a statement.

"The document prepared by the US intelligence community is another set of groundless accusations against our country of interfering in American internal political processes," the statement says.

"The conclusions of the report on Russia conducting influence operations in America are confirmed solely by the confidence of the intelligence services of their self-righteousness. No facts or specific evidence of such claims were provided."

"We state that Washington continues to practice 'megaphone diplomacy', with the main goal to maintain a negative image of Russia. To blame external players for destabilizing the situation inside the country," Russian diplomats said.

"This attitude of the administration hardly corresponds to our proposed equal and mutually respectful expert dialogue in search of solutions to the most pressing issues. Washington's actions do not lead to the normalization of bilateral relations."

On Tuesday, Office of the Director of National Intelligence published the intelligence community assessment on foreign threats to the 2020 US federal elections.

Among other things, the US report claims that the Russian authorities allegedly attempted to denigrate incumbent president Joe Biden and his Democratic Party during last year's election campaign. The US authorities will impose sanctions based on those findings, the document says.

Earlier, Russia on many occasions rejected Washington's conclusions about Moscow's alleged meddling into the US electoral process.



The Guardian

SPORT



Mwadi FC's head coach, Amri Said.

Coach Said vows to help Mwadi avoid relegation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MWADI FC's squad is in dire straits and it needs only miracles in the team's remaining 900 minutes in the Vodacom Premier League to decide their fate.

The club's head coach, Amri Said 'Stam', has been shocked by the situation, after the squad suffered 1-0 loss to Mbeya City FC.

However, the coach has assured Mwadi FC fans the team will fight to the very end to make sure they do not suffer relegation as the remaining matches and time allow them to avoid the drop.

For three seasons Mwadi FC has been narrowly surviving relegation and this season, it is getting worse for the club as the outfit is placed 18th with 16 points from 24 matches.

They have 10 fixtures left which is equivalent to 900 minutes before finishing the season and knowing their fate.

Coach Said stated losing to Mbeya City FC has become more volatile as

Mwadi FC was seeking victory to revive hopes and boost morale in the squad.

He maintained they are now going to regroup and see to it they perform well in coming fixtures.

He said despite the results not being friendly to the club, it is still hopeful as the league is not over.

They have 10 matches left to ensure they win them all and wait for the outcome at the end.

"Our results against Mbeya City FC make us stand worse in the league, we need three points in every match to see how we can regain morale but overall things are not calm, we are still not disappointed, we are preparing for the remaining matches," he stated.

The coach said all they have to do now is ensure there is solidarity in the squad and everyone is fighting for their place to save the team from relegation.

The coach requested the club's fans to provide support as they still have a great chance to save their team, serving as the 12th player on the field.

Arusha track, field events' organizers salute runners

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Mapinduzi Track and Field events' organizers say they are satisfied with the level of the competition shown during the race.

The events, held at Sheikh Abeid Karume Stadium in Arusha, involved more than 100 runners and was organized by Gidabuday Sports Tourism Foundation.

The institution's Executive Director, Eva Gidabuday, said she is happy with the performance shown by the athletes.

She thanked clubs and institutions which sent their runners to the event and promised that they will next year come stronger as the aim is to use sports to promote tourism in the country.

She stated: "We are happy with the level of competition shown by athletes, we promise to come back next year very strong, the aim of our company is to see to it that sports are used to promote tourism in the county."

"We have achieved it as spectators were both foreigners and locals," she said.

She also hailed the Arusha Municipality Mayor, Maximilian Irange, who was the guest of honour at the event.

Participating athletes competed in 5000m, 1500m, 800m and relays.

The men's 5000m race ended with Deca Tezforce from Maranatha Club winning the event as he clocked 14.29.31. Police's Sylvester Simon finished second, posting 14.33.54, while Joshua Elisante from JKT came third with 14.52.40.

In 5000m's women category, Catherine Range from Magereza, who clocked 17.52.53, came first, Fema Micheal from Ambassador Club finished second with 23.20.16 while Lucy Anthony also from Ambassador Club ended third, posting 24.24.64.

Eva said in men's 1500m event, Wabura Rioba from Police emerged as winner with 3.54.73, Faraja Damas from TPDF finished as runner-up, posting 3.55.55 and JKT athlete Steward Mboya finished third with 3.57.97.

In women's 1500m race, TPDF runners Valeria Charles (4.56.31) and Maycelina Mbua (6.10.27) ended as champion and runner-up respectively.

The race's third spot went to Glory Patrick of St Jude who clocked 6.13.40.

Tarimo set for international non-title fight in Australia

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional boxer, Bruno Tarimo, will face Australian boxer Kye MacKenzie, who ranks 62nd in Super Featherweight division in the world, in an international, non-title bout in Australia on April 21.

The 10-round bout will take place at the Win Entertainment Center, Wollongong in New South Wales.

If Bruno wins, the bout will further elevate him to the highest standards given his rival, a three-star boxer, ranks 62nd out of 1,893 boxers in the division in the world.

"I'm well prepared, I know my opponent's strengths and weaknesses, so I won't make mistakes," Bruno, who has been living in Australia since 2018, stated.

The pugilist, born in Rombo, Kilimanjaro, used to be number one in Super Featherweight rating in Tanzania before he was last year recognized as an Australian boxer.

Tarimo currently ranks third out of 20 boxers in the country and he is rated 71st out of 1,459 boxers in Super Featherweight division in the world.

His opponent MacKenzie made his debut in 2012 and he holds a record of 23 fights, 21 wins with 17 coming by way of Knockout (KO), two losses with one coming via KO.

Tarimo holds a record of 19 bouts, 25 wins with five coming by KO, two losses and two bouts



Bruno Tarimo

were declared draw.

The 25-year-old Tanzanian, whose current residence is Southport, Queensland, is famously known as 'Wingman'.

Tarimo made his debut in Bagamoyo, Coast Region, on December 25 in 2013, trading blows with Abdul Ali and emerging with a Technical

Knockout (TKO) win on his first bout.

He headed to Australia in 2018 for a bout, but he since then never came back to Tanzania.

This will be Tarimo first bout scheduled for this year after he had fought unbeaten Aussie and former Olympian

Paul Flemming in December last year in a bout which was declared draw.

The fight that was scheduled for the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) Oceania and International Boxing Federation (IBF) International took place at the Bankwest Stadium in Sydney.

Yanga keeper to take legal action against people alleged to issue false reports

By Correspondent Ismail Tano



Yanga's keeper, Metacha Mnata.

YANGA's keeper, Metacha Mnata, has said he will take legal action against soccer enthusiasts who issued fabricated reports on social media alleging he has moved to Simba SC.

Metacha, who is currently in Kenya with Tanzania's senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars', noted he was shocked by the fabricated reports, which continue to gain momentum on social media.

Through his social media page, the goalkeeper insisted that he is currently playing for the national side but has promised that when he makes his way back, he will sue the ones responsible for distributing such information.

He wrote that he is still a legitimate player for Yanga and he will respect and follow the club's rules.

He insisted even if he leaves the outfit, he will hardly make it look the way it was described on social media by some people.

He disclosed: "At the moment I am busy with the national side's duties, I then plan to take strong legal action against all people who spread false information about me, let me make it clear that I am still Yanga's keeper."

The information distributed said Metacha signed a two-year contract with Simba SC.

The keeper, the information stated, opted to sign the team as he had, a few days ago, got into trouble with one of Yanga officials.

The Yanga official had allegedly phoned him and blamed the keeper for what was termed as poor keeping which led to the team settling for 1-1 draw with Polisi Tanzania in a Vodacom Premier League clash played in Arusha.

In the game, Yanga conceded a goal during the added on time to post the draw with the Kilimanjaro-based outfit.

Tiger Woods returns to Florida to recover from car crash

FLORIDA

TIGER Woods is back at home in Florida to resume his recovery from career-threatening leg injuries he suffered when his SUV ran off a road and down a hill in the Los Angeles suburbs last month.

"Happy to report that I am back home and continuing my recovery," Woods said in a tweet posted Tuesday night. "I am so grateful for the outpouring of support and encouragement that I have received over the past few weeks."

Woods was injured Feb. 23, two days after the Genesis Invitational at Riviera. He was on his way to a television shoot for GolfTV a little after 7 a.m. when his SUV crashed into a median, rolled over and ended up on its side near a steep road known for wrecks, authorities said. He had to be pulled out through the windshield.

He had a lengthy surgery that day at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for shattered tibia and fibula bones of his lower right leg in multiple locations. Those

were stabilized with a rod in his tibia. Additional injuries to the bones in his foot and ankle required screws and pins.

He was transferred to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for follow-up procedures. Woods thanked the medical staff at both hospitals for taking care of him.

"I will be recovering at home and working on getting stronger every day," Woods said in the statement.

A dozen or so players at the Workday Championship in Florida wore black trou-

sers and red shirts – the Sunday colors of Woods for his record-tying 82 victories on the PGA Tour – in the final round.

Woods has stayed in touch through text messages, sending them to Bryson DeChambeau ahead of his Bay Hill victory and to Justin Thomas, one of his closest friends in golf, ahead of his victory in The Players Championship on Sunday.

Rory McIlroy suggested in an interview with Jimmy Fallon that Woods might be headed home to Florida.

"He's doing better," McIlroy said. "I think all the guys have reached out to him. Hopefully if things go well over the next week or so, he might be able to get home and start recovery at home, which would be great for him. See his kids, see his family. "But yeah, he's doing better. And I think all of us are wishing him a speedy recovery at this point."

McIlroy and Thomas are among those who live near Woods in Jupiter, Florida.

AP

'Mistakes and failures': from AC Milan to Azerbaijan for Japan's Honda

TOKYO

GLOBE-TROTTERING Japan star Keisuke Honda admitted to "mistakes and failures" as he pitched up in Azerbaijan's league, but refused to give up on playing at the Tokyo Olympics.

The 34-year-old midfielder, who spent three-and-a-half years at Italian giants AC Milan, signed for Azerbaijani outfit Neftci until the end of the season on Monday, having been without a club since leaving Brazil's Botafogo in December.

It is quite a change in fortunes for Honda, formerly a mainstay of the national team and the first Japanese player to score at three World Cups.

Honda, who has already played for clubs in seven different countries including Mexico, Australia and Russia, said he "didn't have any options" after a February move to Portugal fell through because of transfer regulations.

"I made a lot of mistakes and failures -- that's why I'm here," Honda, his trademark bleach-blond crop grown out into an unkempt mane, said at an online press conference from Baku.

"Everyone said to me: 'Why don't you go back to Japan to play?' (but) it's not interesting for me any more. I'm maybe a weird person, but that's me," he said, adding that he likes to "challenge new things".

But Honda, who retired from Japan's senior team in 2018, believes he can still force his way into the squad for this summer's coronavirus-delayed Tokyo Olympics.

"Nothing is impossible, but it's not an easy situation for me," said the attacking midfielder, who hopes to be chosen as one of three over-age players in Japan's under-24 squad.

"I haven't been selected so far so I have to show the head coach of the national team I play good here. I have ambition to show I play good again here. I think it's possible."

And Honda also shrugged off suggestions that his role as general manager of Cambodia's national team, which he took up in 2018, will interfere with his playing career.

"I manage my time with the great people who work on the Cambodian national team project," he said.

"First, I can just spend a lot of time as a player, and second I spend time on the Cambodian project with great people... It's not difficult to manage the time."

Honda said playing for Neftci is his "priority for now", but refused to speculate on his plans beyond the Azerbaijan Premier League season, which ends in late May.

"I never felt that I would come to Azerbaijan when I started playing soccer," he said.

"I didn't expect when I started playing football that I would play in eight countries. But now, to be honest, I really want to play in more countries."

AFP

Modric: Real Madrid have 'lots of hunger' left

MADRID

LUKA Modric has insisted "there's still a lot of hunger" after Real Madrid qualified for the Champions League quarterfinals for the first time since 2018 with a 3-1 win over Atalanta.

Veterans Karim Benzema and Sergio Ramos were both on the scoresheet, while Marco Asensio added a late third after Luis Muriel had responded with a free kick, as Madrid returned to the competition's last eight on Tuesday night.

The European giants won the Champions League for three years in a row from 2016 to 2018 with many of their current squad playing key roles, but were knocked out in the round-of-16 by Ajax Amsterdam in 2019 and Manchester City in 2020.

"It was important to go through to the quarterfinals, which we hadn't done for two years," Modric said. "We've shown tonight that there's still a lot of hunger in this team, that it wants to keep winning. I hope we can go far, let's see how far."

"I've always said you shouldn't look at players' ages," Modric said, saying he feels 27 rather than 35. "It's about what a player does on the pitch. The years and the passport don't matter. With my physique and what I've achieved here, I'm still hungry to compete at the highest level."

Coach Zinedine Zidane was full of praise for Modric's midfield partnership with Toni Kroos in the absence of the suspended Casemiro.

"As a double pivot, Luka and Toni are phenomenal," he said. "If you talk to me about Luka, we know the player he is... He's really intelligent. He's 35 but on the pitch he doesn't look it."

"At 34, I'd decided to retire," Zidane added, when asked about the team's core of Modric, Benzema and Ramos. "But they're hungry, they want to keep making history, winning games and trophies."

Zidane was also pleased with the performance of Vinicius Junior, who won the second-half penalty converted by Ramos.

"The penalty is down to him, with the speed he has," he said. "We know he can get any defence into trouble. He tries...When Vini gets the ball in space, his speed can make the difference."

(Agencies)

Sundowns, Wydad, Esperance reach last eight, Ahly set to join them

JOHANNESBURG

MAMELODI Sundowns, Wydad Casablanca and Esperance on Tuesday became the first qualifiers for the CAF Champions League quarter-finals, and title-holders Al Ahly are set to join them.

Sundowns of South Africa are the only club boasting a perfect record after matchday 4 as Lebohang Maboe scored on 28 minutes in a 1-0 Group B win over TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Pretoria.

Wydad of Morocco dropped points for the first time in Group C after a 0-0 draw at second-place Horoya of Guinea in Conakry, but the stalemate did not prevent them securing a sixth consecutive last-eight place.

Esperance of Tunisia completed a Group D double over 2020 runners-up Zamalek of Egypt by winning 1-0 in Cairo via a 73rd-minute goal from Libyan Hamdou Elhouni.



Sundowns beat Mazembe to seal early progression to Caf Champions League quarters. (Agencies)

Record nine-time champions Ahly put poor recent Group A form behind them to triumph 3-0 over V Club of DR Congo in Kinshasa through goals from Mohamed Sherif, Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy and Taher Mohamed.

Not even the most partisan Sundowns supporters could have imagined the team holding a nine-point lead with two rounds remaining, especially as five-time champions Mazembe were in

the same section.

But the Congolese are bottom the standings and will be eliminated if they lose away to Chabab Belouizdad of Algeria next month.

Belouizdad drew 0-0 away to Al Hilal of Sudan, the third draw for each side, who share second place, one point ahead of Mazembe.

Twice champions Wydad kept a fourth consecutive clean sheet as they comfortably contained a Horoya side

who have not scored since matchday 1.

Zamalek struggle - Horoya and Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, who drew 0-0 at Petro Luanda of Angola, have five points each and their final-round clash in Conakry will decide who accompanies Wydad to the knockout stage.

Four-time champions Esperance remained unbeaten in Group D as they avenged a quarter-finals loss to Zamalek last season by defeating

the White Knights twice.

Desperate to end a three-match winless CAF run, Zamalek hired French coach Patrice Carteron for a second stint in charge, but he could not immediately turn round the fortunes of the five-time champions.

Mouloudia Alger of Algeria beat Senegalese visitors Teungueth 1-0 through a Mehdi Benaldjia goal and will join Esperance in the quarter-finals if they avoid defeat

at home to Zamalek.

Staring at probable elimination if they lost, Ahly attacked from the kickoff and the bold approach paid off with goals from Sherif and Magdy inside 19 minutes.

V Club pair Zemanga Soze and Ernest Luzolo hit the woodwork either side of half-time before Mohamed put the outcome beyond doubt with a 78th-minute goal.

The emphatic victory was a relief for South Africa-born Ahly coach Pitso Mosimane, who had come under fire after an away loss to Simba and a home draw against V Club.

Simba, the surprise side of the Champions League this season, stayed three points above Ahly thanks to a 3-0 victory over struggling Al Merrikh of Sudan in Dar es Salaam.

Mozambican Luis Miquissone, whose superb form has attracted the attention of Ahly and Sundowns, and Mohamed Hussein scored in the opening half and Congolese Chris Mugalu soon after half-time.

AFP

Stage set for Ibra's return in Milan's decider with United



MILAN

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic looks set to face Manchester United in AC Milan's Europa League showdown with the English giants on Thursday as the resurgent 'Rossoneri' aim to announce their return to the big stage.

The Swede should be in good spirits after announcing his return to international football after nearly five years away on Tuesday, and appears to be winning the race to face his old club in the second leg of their last-16 clash at the San Siro.

The tie is locked at 1-1, with Milan having the

slight advantage thanks to Simon Kjaer's stoppage-time away goal in the first leg at Old Trafford last week.

Italian media reported on Tuesday that the veteran forward trained with the rest of the Milan squad and should be available for the first time since he left his side's 2-1 win at Roma with a thigh injury at the end of last month.

Since then he has made headlines on a different kind of stage, co-hosting the Sanremo music festival which is possibly Italy's biggest pop cultural event.

With 14 goals in 14 league games, the 39-year-old was a major reason behind Milan oc-

cupying top spot in Serie A for large periods of this season and his return to Old Trafford for the first leg had been highly

anticipated before he picked up his injury.

Coach Stefano Pioli knows that he doesn't need Ibrahimovic to

get past United after a superb display in Manchester last week, and his side could well start the game with their talisman on the bench.

However to ensure passage to the last eight, Milan will need to turn around a dismal recent record at the San Siro which has contributed to their slipping nine points behind Serie A leaders Inter Milan having been top themselves little more than a month ago.

Milan wobbling - Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Napoli was their fourth straight match without a win at the San Siro, preceded by draws against Udinese and Red Star Belgrade and a 3-0 derby thumping at the hands of Inter.

Five defeats in 13 league matches in 2021 also has second-placed Milan looking over their shoulders at a series of rivals for a place in the Champions League, a competition in which the seven-time European champions have not played since 2014.

The next few days will also be crucial for United's chances of silverware this season.

They follow their trip to Italy with an FA Cup quarter-final at Leicester City on Sunday, putting their season at a crossroads with Manches-

ter City 14 points clear of their local rivals at the top of the Premier League.

United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has Marcus Rashford back after the England forward played the full 90 minutes of their 1-0 win over West Ham at the weekend.

Of the remaining ties, only Rangers' with Slavia Prague looks to be in the balance as they will kick off at Ibrox all square at 1-1 following their draw in the Czech Republic last week.

Steven Gerrard's side have already been crowned Scottish champions, although they will also have one eye on the Old Firm derby with Celtic at the weekend.

Four-time European champions Ajax and Roma are both virtually assured of passage into the next round as they are 3-0 ahead in their ties with Young Boys and Shakhtar Donetsk.

Also strong favourites to go through are Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Villarreal and Granada thanks to their two-goal leads going into their second-leg matches.

Olympiakos head to the Emirates to face Arsenal, who are fresh from a derby triumph over Tottenham, but face a battle at 3-1 down.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Sundowns, Wydad, Esperance reach last eight, Ahly set to join them

PAGE 19

Simba SC urged to prepare well for AS Vita Club fixture



Simba Sports Club

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Simba SC needs to seriously focus on this season's CAF Champions League's match against AS Vita Club of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) slated for next month.

Simba are leading Group A of the showpiece with 10 points from four games and they only need a point to qualify for the quarterfinals.

They will next face AS Vita Club at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 12.

In a monitored radio interview yesterday, a sports pundit, Shaffii Dauda of a Dar es Salaam-based radio station, said Simba must prepare well to face the DRC football giants.

He disclosed that it will be a must-win match for both sides.

He said Simba have 10 points while AS Vita Club has four points from the same number of games.

If Simba concede loss in

the match, the DRC giants will have seven points and they will look for a win against Al Merreikh in their final game.

Dauda who is one of the well respected local soccer analysts, said it will be difficult for Simba to beat Al Ahly at the club's backyard in Egypt.

He said in this case AS Vita Club will qualify for the quarterfinals on goal aggregate.

He stated: "The next game between Simba SC and AS Vita Club at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium will be very difficult to the home side as the visitors are coming from 3-0 defeat to the Egyptian giants."

"They will do all they can to post victory because if they lose it means they are out of the tournament," he disclosed.

"Yes Simba SC beat them 1-0 away but they must avoid complacency and work hard, the fixture will be akin to a final game to both sides," he said.

His views were shared by another Dar es Salaam-based analyst Michael Msemakweli who said although Simba have turned the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium into their fortress they must prepare well for the game against AS Vita Club.

"That will be a game which will define Simba's destiny in the CAF Cham-

ions League's quarterfinal dreams, they must work hard and avoid having the mentality that they are looking for one point. They must fight for all the three points," he said.

Simba on Tuesday produced one of the best performances when they beat Al Merreikh 3-0 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

They dominated proceedings and were best in possession as they dedicated the game.

The Msimbazi Street-based side's goals were scored by Luis Miquissone, Mohammed Hussein and Chris Mugalu.

EATV THURSDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MRYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msozi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 Ujuzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Utimba (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEK
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.
Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM



The Mr. UK Marathon's coordinator, Nelson Mrashani (2nd L) speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the race's launch. The race, organized by Mr. UK Sports Agency, has been scheduled for July in the city. Sitting (R-L) are Mr. UK Sports Agency's accountant, Magreth Leonce, the firm's Planning and Marketing Manager, Abdul Nchahaga, and the firm's digital section's official, Adam Shoo. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Mr. UK Marathon launched

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MORE than 2000 runners are expected to compete at the first edition of a race, known as 'Mr. UK Marathon', slated for July at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam.

The event, the organizers revealed, which will be held under the theme 'Run Towards Investment' is organized by Mr. UK Sports Agency.

Nelson Mrashani, one of the event's organizers, said the event will take place on July 24 at the venue and it will involve a half marathon and 10km and 5km races.

He said the aim of the marathon is to promote investment through sports and, during the event, there will be exhibitions of various products and services.

He noted: "We thank Mr. UK through its company, Sports Agency, and Touchroad International Holdings Group of Shanghai, China, for sponsoring this event."

"We expect more than 2000 runners to compete, during the race which will take place at Leaders Club, there will also be exhibitions from food processors, financial institutions, insurance firms, small enterprises, sports wear and equipment dealers and any fast moving consumer goods," he said.

Mrashani disclosed there will be cash prizes handed over to the event's winners.

In 21km race, the top 10 runners (male and female) will each get 1m/-, runners-up will take home 700,000/- and third-placed winners will take 500,000/-.

He said there will also be cash prizes for those who will come fourth to 10th in both categories.

He stated: "The cash prizes are very attracting as top ten winners in 21km race in both men and women categories shall be awarded while in 10km race there will be trophies."

"Another good thing is that all those who will compete will receive medals and the other thing which is unique with our race is that if winners in 21km in both categories, who will reach 60 minutes in men and 70 minutes in women, 1m/- await each of them," he said.

He said registration for the event has already started and it ends on July 10.

He maintained they have started registration early so as to enter names and details of all competitors on the results' timing system which is a fully automatic race timing.

An official from UK Sports Agency Company, Seif Abdul Nchahaga, said they are delighted to be part of the event and he promised continued support to sports and investment development in Tanzania.

Ismail's batting heroics catapult Pak Stars to victory in Kazim Nasser Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket big guns, Pak Stars, cruised to 25-run win over Upanga SC in the 2021 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A clash which took place in the city last weekend.

The third game of the showpiece, held at Annadil Burhani oval, was highly expected to bring forth more fireworks and it in the end lived up to expectations.

The Group A duel saw Pak Stars win the toss and elect to bat, which was a good call as they scored 133 runs all out.

It looked like a modest score, based on the turning condition of the wicket.

The Upanga SC bowlers including Sanjay Bom were set to fully exploit the situation and post wickets for their club.

A wicket with such condition is definitely standard, the ball skids and turns sharp and slow.

If bowlers put concentration there is a lot of scope for them.

Youthful batsman Ivan Ismail, who has been in prime form, scored 33 runs for Pak Stars.

Top order batsman Mohamed Omary scored 22 runs, Humayun Taj chipped in with 10 runs.

Pak Stars' other key performer, Abdulrahman Akida, posted 15 runs.

Zamoyoni Ramadhani, who was one run short double digit score, came in and put his aggressiveness to show.

The muscular player had the first



Pak Stars cricket side's Ivan Ismail (C) receives man of the match prize from Upanga SC official, Ratish Kamania, shortly after Pak Stars played Upanga SC in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A tie, played in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Looking on is Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Chairman, Azim Thakur. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

ball cleaned out of the park so fellow batsmen knew if he was not too watchful, he could in the end be either trapped or outfoxed.

He though lasted only four balls and scored nine runs. Basit Raza was Pak Stars' other player, who scored double digit figure.

He ended with 10 runs not out to gradually ensure their total reached where the club could defend it.

Upanga SC's Ashish Kamania stood out of the rest of the squad's wicket takers, posting three wickets and giving away 24 runs four overs.

Veteran performer, Virendra Kamania, and Sanjay Bom recorded two wickets apiece, seeking to make it a

point Pak Stars wrap their innings with manageable score.

Virendra gave away 19 runs in four overs and Bom leaked 35 runs in four overs.

When Upanga SC started the chase, opener Kishen Kamania started pretty well and took on Pak Stars bowler, Akida, for 14 runs.

With Kishen enjoying good form, as far as batting is concerned, it was expected the game might end soon.

In the fourth over, nevertheless, Vikram Rathore was sent packing with the side's score being not convincing.

Prem Thakkar also did not stay longer, he made his way back to the pavilion with six runs to his name and

cleared the boundary once.

The biggest drawback to Upanga SC's chase came when Kishen was dismissed and in came game finisher Ashish Kamania.

Ashish, Kishen's brother, was however dismissed beautifully, as Pak Stars fielder Omary caught the batsman from Humayun Taj's delivery.

Riken Patel and Virendra were not much effective in the chase, given they were dismissed within short spells.

Suraj Pala, deployed as middle order batsman, did try his best to keep the game moving forward only to succumb with the team reaching 92 runs.

He posted 18 runs, which included two fours, and in came Bom and all the ball boys and spectators were made to be aware that the latter hits big shots.

Bom, to the spectators' disappointment, though, could not get the squad going, just the way his bowling was not going well in the clash.

At the end of it all some overthrows and several more extras helped Upanga SC only reach 108 runs.

Upanga SC's return to action in local competitions after so many years did not start with the win but it is expected they will do well in coming fixtures.

Ismail received the man of the match prize, which is sponsored by Harab Motors Company, for his good batting and fielding.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

