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ZEC issues new voter cards



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New strategies for agriculture sector



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Bank in tagline to reflect evolution



NMB lifts Euromoney best local bank award

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc has scooped the 2020 top Euromoney awards for the eighth year in a row as the best bank in Tanzania, outshining about 40 other banks.

This award is a clear demonstration that NMB Bank is more than a provider of financial products and services. It is recognized as a catalyst for economic change through digital transformation and technology coupled with ability to deliver innovative solutions to the market.

The award issued by the London based global financial markets magazine is given after taking note of a number of metrics including financial performance, digital banking strategy, financial inclusion, product offerings. It also evaluates its approach to cyber security and corporate social responsibility.

Early this month, President John Magufuli commended the central bank, commercial banks and the financial sector for their contribution to enabling Tanzania to join the league of middle-income economy countries.

The World Bank recently declared Tanzania as a lower middle-income economy after attaining per capita income of slightly over the \$1,036 minimal level for middle income status, whose upper limit is \$4,045 per capita income.

Receiving the award, NMB Board Chairman Dr Edwin Mhede said as the country has just attained middle-income status, NMB Bank would continue to reposition itself to serve and support the growing economy from where it is to the next level.

"NMB will continue to reposition itself to

TURN TO PAGE 2

JPM replacing Dar RC Makonda with ex-DAS

TROPHY: BEST BANK IN TANZANIA



The NMB Bank Acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna handing the Euromoney awards for Excellence trophy that named NMB Bank the best bank in Tanzania for eight years in a row to the NMB Board Chairman, Dr. Edwin Mhede at the bank's head offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is the NMB Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BoT corporate affairs director is the new DAS

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed Aboubakar Kunenge as Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner replacing Paul Makonda who on Wednesday picked up nomination forms to vie for the Kigamboni parliamentary seat in the October General Election.

The Directorate of Presidential Communications at the Chamwino State House said that President Magufuli also appointed district commissioners, district executive directors (DED), regional administrative secretaries (RAS) and district administrative secretaries (DAS).

Before his appointment, Kunenge served as Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary.

The president appointed Joseph Mkirikiti as Manyara Regional Commissioner taking over from Alexander Mnyeti. Prior to this appointment, Mkirikiti was DC for Hanang in the region.

Paulo Makanza becomes the Dar es Salaam RAS in place of new RC Kunenge. Makanza is a veteran corporate executive who has served at the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as director of corporate affairs.

President Magufuli appointed Dr Selemani Serera as

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

PM, ex-First Lady Salma Kikwete, ex-RC Makonda seek nomination

By Guardian Reporters

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is among CCM cadres who came out yesterday and collected the party's nomination papers for parliamentary seats around the country.

He collected nomination forms for Ruangwa parliamentary seat.

The PM was accompanied by his wife Mary, just in time as the set period for collecting forms runs out July 17th, tomorrow.

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Corruption: Dr Mwinyi issues solid assurances

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR presidential candidate on the CCM ticket, Dr Hussein Mwinyi yesterday pledged to be tough and vigilant in fighting corruption, indiscipline and misuse of

resources once voted in as eighth president.

He made the statement at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport shortly after arriving from Dodoma where he was last Saturday nominated as the ruling party's flag bearer for Zanzibar in the October General Elections.

In a televised interview, Dr Mwinyi insisted on the need for national unity and solidarity in implementing government programs. He boldly stated that smiling at corrupt officials, embezzlers and negligent public servants would drag the country's economy.

"My ambition is to bring about quick development to the Isles. Those with no

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Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu addresses Southern Finance ministerial committee and Investment of Southern African Development Community through video conference on behalf of Finance and Planning minister Dr Phillip Mpango in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JPM replacing Dar RC Makonda with ex-DAS

FROM PAGE 1

President Magufuli also appointed Kongwa District Commissioner in Dodoma Region. Dr Serera takes over from Deogratias Ndejemi. Dr Serera was erstwhile an administrator at party headquarters.

TPDF Sergeant Mayeka Simon Mayeka becomes the new Chunya District Commissioner in Mbeya Region, replacing MaryPrisca Mahundi.

Colonel Patrick Songea becomes District Commissioner for Kiteo in Manyara Region, replacing Tumaini Magesa.

Dr Magufuli appointed Alhaj Rajab Kundyas Moshi District Commissioner in Kilimanjaro Region, an official at CCM headquarters, replacing Kippi Warioba.

Joseph Rwiza is new District Executive Director (DED) for Kasulu, Kigoma Region replacing Godfrey Kasekenya. Earlier he was planning officer in Tabora municipality.

Gharib Lingo was picked Hanang District Commissioner in Manyara Region. He earlier served as District Administrative Secretary (DAS) in Nyasa District, Ruvuma Region.

President Magufuli also appointed Frank Chonya as DED for Ruangwa in Lindi Region, lifted from treasury officer in the district. He replaces Andrea Chezue.

Meanwhile, the Minister of State, President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) George Mkuchika has appointed Juvenile Mwambi as District Administrative Secretary in Tandahimba, Mtwara Region. Mwambi replaces Benaya Kapinga.

Mkuchika appointed Mashaka Mgeta as DAS for Handeni District in Tanga Region. He replaces Boniface Maiga who died recently.

The minister appointed Johari Athuman as DAS for Rombo District in Kilimanjaro Region. She earlier was an officer in the President's office, and now replaces Aboubakar Asenga.

Ayoub Perro was appointed DAS for Ruangwa District in Lindi region replacing Twaha Mpembenwe. Perro was a CID officer in Kigoma Region.

All appointees will be sworn-in at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma early today, the statement indicated.



Aboubakar Kunenge

FROM PAGE 1

Dodoma Urban.

Outgoing MPs who picked up forms are Bona Kamoli (Segerea) and Kangi Lugola (Mwibara).

Others include Idd Azan (Kinondoni), Issa Mangungu (Mbagala), Abdallah Mtulia (Temeke), and Mwinchumu Msomi (Kigamboni).

The widow of the late John Komba, Salome picked up forms for Kawe Constituency. Bishop Josephat Gwajima and his brother Methusela jostled one another for Kawe constituency nomination.

PM, ex-First Lady Salma Kikwete, ex-RC Makonda seek nomination

Retired mayor of Temeke, Abdallah Chaurembo picked up forms for Temeke, while Ansar Kachwamba is vying for Kigamboni seat.

In the race, journalists who have picked forms include, Angela Akilimali (Ukongwa), Enock Bwigane (Busokelo), Hamisi Mkotya (Chemba), Shakira Nyerere, Baruan Muhuza (Kigoma

Urban) and Arusha-based Nipasha reporter, Woinde Shizza (Arusha Urban), Jane Mihanji (Mlimba) and Abdallah Majura (Nkenge).

Wives of national leaders who have shown interest to contest for parliamentary seats include Salma Kikwete (Mchinga) and Anne Kilango Malecela (Same East).

The chairman of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT), Dr Elisha Osati picked up papers for Mbagala.

Artists showing interest in nomination include Joachim Kimario (Master Jay) for Rombo, while Emmanuel Mathias (MC Pilipili) eyes Bahi constituency.

NMB lifts Euromoney best local bank award

FROM PAGE 1

support government endeavors in building robust economic growth," he said.

He said research shows that industrial upgrade and investment in social services are major contributors to attaining middle-income status. Thus, the bank will continue to support these endeavors so that the government's predictable policies are implemented, he stated.

As the most profitable bank in the country, NMB Bank reported 142bn/- after tax profit, equivalent to a 46 per cent increase from 98bn/- posted the previous year.

NMB Acting Managing Director Ruth Zaipuna said the award reflects progress that the bank has made in delivering services that meet customers' satisfaction, thus making it the best bank for financial inclusion in the country.

"We are today a bank known for reliance, focusing on technology and innovation," she said noting that the NMB purpose is to drive Tanzania's growth and enhance the lives of the people by offering convenient and accessible banking services across the country.

She said the bank was leveraging on the best technology in digital banking, innovative products, putting

up an extensive branch network and alternative channels to add real value to customers' lives.

The bank has 225 branches, over 7,000 agents and more than 800 ATMs with over three million customers.

The Euromoney excellence award confirms the bank's investment in digital transformation and technology and its ability to deliver innovative solutions to the market.

Other metrics considered by the Euromoney are market capitalization, return on equity, return on assets, market share of deposits, market share of loans, loans to deposits ratio, non-performing loans ratio and non-performing loan coverage ratio.

Euromoney editor Clive Horwood said the magazine continues to seek the best of the best in all countries offering banking services. "As every year, size is important but certainly not paramount. Profitability is of course vital, but so is an ability to demonstrate growth, relative outperformance compared with peers and the ability to adapt to changing market conditions or client needs," he added.

"We are today a bank known for reliance, focusing on technology and innovation"



601KJ Ngerengere regiment acting Commander Col. William Mwakalonge thanks the government and the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Chief Executive Officer Eng. Cyprian Luhemeja (R) for addressing water challenges at the military unit yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

corruption records should not fear my boldness. My government will crackdown on all corrupt public officials," the candidate asserted.

The outgoing Union Defence Minister boasted of having sound leadership experience after serving in the Union government for close to 20 years, noting that it was time for him to serve in Zanzibar's top office.

"The seventh phase government has done a good job. It has completed implementation of various development programs, but there is

still plenty that remains to be done," he said, pledging to start where the seventh phase government is ending.

Upon clinching the nomination in Dodoma last Friday, Dr Mwinyi appealed to the losing aspirants to work with him to win the polls against opposition parties.

He promised to ably serve the nation to improve the living standards

of Zanzibar people.

Dr Mwinyi, son of second phase Union president and briefly Zanzibar president Ali Hassan Mwinyi now clocking 95 years of age, sent assurances of his readiness to work with his erstwhile rivals when he forms a new government. He will not leave them aside, he pledged.

National Executive Committee

(NEC) members led by CCM chairman Dr John Magufuli voted his candidature by giving him 129 votes from nearly 170 NEC members in attendance, equivalent to 78.65 per cent of the total.

Other contestants were ex-Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha who got 16 votes (9 percent) and Dr Khalid Mohamed (19 votes, 11.59 percent of

the votes cast.

NEC nominated Dr Mwinyi as its candidate for the Zanzibar presidency while endorsing President John Magufuli as sole contender for the Union presidency.

Dr Mwinyi is expected to replace Dr Ali Mohammed Shein who has served two five-year terms.

Tanzania goes to the polls in

October to elect Union and Zanzibar presidents along with MPs, members of the Isles House of Representatives and ward councilors.

Earlier, the Ethics Committee of the NEC secretariat had submitted five names out of 31 aspirants to the central committee which then picked three names for the NEC voting exercise.

Corruption: Dr Mwinyi issues solid assurances



Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation deputy minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro arrives at CCM's party office to collect parliamentary nomination forms. He is vying for Songea Urban constituency. The event took place yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SADC urges member states to put in place economic policy measures across the region during COVID-19

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has urged member states to put in place effective policy measures to facilitate quick recovery of the regional bloc's economy from the impacts of Covid-19.

Opening the session of the SADC Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment and the SADC peer review panel virtual meeting held yesterday in Dar es Salaam, SADC Secretariat Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax said the region require a harmonised and collective response to the matter.

The community's Secretariat further appealed to Member countries to have policy measures to keep regional supply chains safe and stable and maintain regional financial stability. "It is imperative that we remain vigilant and proactive, and with an open mind, discuss and come up with well-coordinated and robust solutions to circumvent the threats on SADC economies."

The ministers also discussed outcomes of a report on the impacts of COVID-19 on SADC Member States' performance against the macroeconomic convergence targets.

Minister of Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango was supposed to chair the meeting but he was represented by Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Mussa Zungu.

Zungu also noted that the coronavirus does not befall the health sector alone but rather it also affects the economy as a whole due to disruption of the demand and supply chain.

The meetings also received progress on the implementation of financial mechanisms, including the SADC Regional Development Fund and Project Preparation and Development Facility, which are very critical for the prosperity of the region, and as such, for sustainability and preparedness of the region in dealing with pandemics and disasters.

He said growing restrictions on the

movement of people and lockdowns in some parts of the world and in some SADC Member States have been hitting the service sector hard, particularly industries that involve physical interactions such as retail trade, leisure and hospitality, recreation and transportation services.

During the meeting of SADC Council of Ministers held in March 2020, the Chairperson of the regional bloc President John Magufuli directed the Council of Ministers to meet regularly to explore various modalities of containing spread of Covid-19 while ensuring business continuity and resumption of cross borders activities.

In light with that, the region approved the SADC Guideline on Harmonisation and Facilitation of Cross Border Transport Operations across the Region and its Regional Standard Operating Procedures for Management and Monitoring of Cross Border Road Transport at designated points of entry and Covid-19 checkpoints.

African community leaders express disgust over foreign celebrities' habit towards continent's wildlife issues

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A GROUP of more than fifty community leaders, representing millions of people across East Central and Southern Africa, have urged UK-based celebrities to stop using their influence to undermine the human rights of impoverished people and jeopardise wildlife conservation in the region.

In an open letter to Ricky Gervais, Joanna Lumley, Peter Egan, Ed Sheeran, Dame Judi Dench, and Piers Morgan, who have criticised trophy hunting, community leaders welcome international interest in African wildlife but warn that celebrities "view elephants, lions and other wildlife through a romantic, idealized lens".

They add: "This perspective is unrecognizable to rural Africans, who "worry daily that our children may be killed on their way to school, or that our ability to provide for our families will be destroyed within a few hours by elephants in our fields or large predators among our livestock."

The community leaders invite celebrities interested in conserving African wildlife to actually visit rural Africa to gain a deeper appreciation of the realities of living alongside large but often dangerous animals.

According to the letter, celebrities have expressed their views "without full appreciation of the implications for our people or wildlife, and without consulting us." "This undermines our rights over these resources," said José Monteiro, Coordinator of the Mozambique CBNRM Network and a signatory to the letter. "Anti-hunting campaigners might be well-meaning, but people's human rights are at stake."

Local people's rights to make a living by sustainably using their land and wildlife are enshrined in international and national laws, and cannot be undermined by one-sided views. They are not up for debate. Efforts to strengthen and consolidate these rights are challenging in African countries, where alternatives for a subsistence livelihood depend on effective support in other sectors."

The letter comes at a crucial time, as the UK and US governments consider bans on trophy hunting imports. However, such bans could imperil African wildlife by removing incentives to protect animals and their habitats.

Brian Child, Associate Professor at the University of Florida, who is not a signatory to the letter, said: "Trophy import bans will jeopardise forty years of community conservation and devastate

rural African economies. Modern wildlife-based livelihoods empower local people to protect land for lions, elephants, and many other more threatened but less charismatic species.

Well-regulated, high-value hunting generates a lot of income. It provides local people with incentives to bear the costs of dangerous animals, pride in conserving their own animals, and confidence to push against colonial mentalities that threaten their rights and livelihoods.

Without high-value hunting, and without the right to make their own decisions, vast areas of wildlife habitat in Africa will be chopped up into marginal farmlands. It is paradoxical that trophy hunting lies at the heart of one of the world's most successful transformations to a green economy, destroying hunting markets will be a disaster for conservation."

The letter emphasises that European colonists systematically abused African people in the name of conservation. It also points out that anti-hunting campaigns have raised enormous sums of money, but there is little evidence of that money reaching the people who live alongside African wildlife.

Masego Madzwamuse, Chief Executive of the Southern Africa Trust, commented: "At a time when there is a global focus on correcting social inequity and injustice, it is unfortunate that the campaigns these celebrities are supporting seek to deny rural black Africans the right to sustainably manage their wildlife on their land."

Whilst this may not be their intention, it is the reality and this is hypocrisy. Rural communities live with the cost of managing wildlife every day, their voice matters. When we say black lives matter, we must mean all black lives, everywhere."

Maxi Pia Louis, Director of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations, emphasised that community leaders would welcome the opportunity to work with celebrities interested in conservation: "Come and spend some time in our communities, witness the daily realities of conservation in Africa, and understand how deeply ingrained these magnificent animals are in our cultures. Hear our voices and use your influence to work with us to conserve African wildlife."

"This perspective is unrecognizable to rural Africans, who "worry daily that our children may be killed on their way to school, or that our ability to provide for our families will be destroyed within a few hours by elephants in our fields or large predators among our livestock."



TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY (TPA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

DISPOSAL OF SCRAPER MATERIALS FROM ON GOING CONSTRUCTION OF MODERNIZATION AT DAR ES SALAAM PORT ON 23RD JULY, 2020

Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) intends to dispose various scraper materials in Dar es Salaam Port through Public Auction. This Public auction exercise shall be conducted by M/S Marcas Debt Collectors and Auctioneers Ltd on behalf of Tanzania Ports Authority as follows:

The auction shall be held on 23rd July, 2020 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Dar es Salaam Port premises

CONDITIONS OF THE PUBLIC AUCTION

- I. The buyer shall be required to pay 25% of the auction price within the same day and the remaining balance be paid within fourteen (14) days from the auction date. Failure by the buyer to pay the remained balance within the stipulated time will lead to forfeiture of the amount paid earlier and re-auction of the property.
- II. Inspection of auction goods shall take place on 21st and 22nd July, 2020 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm. All expenses related to the inspection especially transport shall be borne by the prospective buyers.
- III. The buyer must be registered/certified by NEMC.
- IV. The buyer must have valid TAX clearance certificate.
- V. The successful buyer must comply with all requirements by NEMC during removal of the scraper material from the Port.
- VI. Prospective buyers must produce any Government Identification signed and stamped letter (with passport size photo attached) from employee introducing the individual as a representative from the company for the said Auction.
- VII. The scrapped equipment or materials will be sold in the condition as they are. The buyer must make sure has all necessary mechanisms to collect the sold goods within thirty days (30).
- VIII. The highest bidder is not necessarily the winner Auctioneer has the right to reserve the price.

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Tanzania Ports Authority
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11th Parliament has had ups and downs'

By Guardian Reporter

PERFORMANCE of the just ended 11th Parliament has drawn mixed reactions from analysts and academicians, saying despite enhanced discipline and value for money, the coming legislature should strive to properly execute its core oversight role over the government.

They raised their concerns when speaking during a virtual conference which was organised by Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) to assess the performance of the 11th Parliament (2015 - 2020) and expectations for the 12th Parliament to be inaugurated in November this year.

The 11th Parliament was presided by Speaker Job Ndogai, former Kongwa legislator and Dr Tulia Ackson Deputy Speaker.

Former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Ludovick Utouh said: "There was value for money in the 11th Parliament; executions of various development plans were done by all the three pillars of the government—executive, legislature and judiciary."

According to Utouh the previous parliament endorsed various laws including the one that established the Payment Gateway System (GePG) which has resulted into increased revenue collections.

He added: "The monies collected as now used to implement a number of strategic development projects."

He suggested that the 12th parliament should properly supervise budget implementation and come up with realistic revenue sources. He said the legislature must control government expenditures and make sure that all the monies spent are endorsed by the House.

Utouh called upon Tanzanians to properly use their constitutional rights by voting to appropriate candidates in the October polls.

A political science expert from the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof Mohamed Bakari highlighted the need to review some of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to reduce powers of the Speaker of the House to restrict him/her from suspending MPs from the parliament.

Prof Bakari was considered that at times Speaker or Deputy Speaker may punish legislators by restricting them to attend certain number of sessions, the thing affects MPs performance.

He however noted that for the coming 12th parliament to register good progress there should be capacity building trainings to elected MPs on issues related to policy and budgetary analysis.

"Most of the legislators in the 11th parliament had no proper knowledge on budgetary and policy matters; they need to be educated on the issues to be in a better position to criticize the government."

Political analyst, Generali Ulimwengu faulted the 11th parliament over failure to control budget implementation as well as ensuring that the various projects implemented by the government reflect development policies.

Ulimwengu claimed that during the 11th parliament, legislators for Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) considered themselves as part of the government

hence failing to criticize or reject some of the issues which were brought in the House for debate.

"I was disappointed with the way discussions on passing the national budget was conducted during the 11th parliament. The debate was too shallow," he noted.

Policy analyst and lecturer at the Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR), Deus Kibamba underscored the need for amendment of some Sections in the country's Constitution.

Kibamba noted that although Article 63 of the constitution provides powers to the parliament, some Sections consider the President as part of the House, the thing that affects the performance of the parliament.

He said the past parliament could not control government expenditures whereas some funds that were not endorsed by the House were spent on various projects in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/2019 financial years.

"Giving powers to the President to dissolve the parliament contributed into MPs hesitating to criticize the government or reject the national budget over fears of losing their parliamentary seats if the nation goes into election rerun," said Kibamba.

Activists, Vicensia Shule said the 11th parliament denied many Tanzanians chances to directly participate in the various debates due to cancellation of live broadcasts of parliamentary meetings.

Shule underscored the need for efforts to increase the number of women, youth and other special groups in the 12th parliament. She said the patriarch system should not be applied in the National Assembly.

"We need the number of women parliamentarians increased as well as those joining through special seats," she said.

Earlier, LHRC Executive Director, Anna Henga said the assessment is meant to measure the performance of the parliament during the five years.

She said the center also assessed the ninth parliament (2005-2010) and the tenth parliament (2010-2015).

Henga said some of the criteria used to assess the parliament are separation of powers, accessibility of parliament, ethical governance, transparency and accountability and tolerance and respect of opinion during Debates.



Giving powers to the President to dissolve the parliament contributed into MPs hesitating to criticize the government or reject the national budget over fears of losing their parliamentary seats if the nation goes into election rerun

ZEC to start issuing new voters cards

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) expects to start issuing new voting cards to the people.

The Commission will issue voting cards to all 407 polling centres that were used for new voters' registration and verification thereof for both Unguja and Pemba.

Speaking about the issue ZEC's director of elections Thabit Idarous Faina said the exercise will begin on July 19 for Pemba and July 25 for Unguja.

He said ZEC, has attained great achievements during all steps in the preparation of the elections including registration, display of voters lists - those who were disqualified as well for

the new voters.

"Up to now there haven't been complaints, or objections they received in regard to the new voters' lists," Faina said.

On guidelines for the issuance of the voters' cards, he said the exercise will be conducted in accordance with the laws and laid down procedures by ZEC.

He called upon all the people to go to the centres to get the cards to enable them exercise their democratic right in the coming elections.

He also reminded them that they should also take with them the receipts they were given during registration as well as their Zanzibar Residence Identity cards



Mbuyuni residents in Kizota ward, Dodoma Region talk to journalists after their land was seized without compensation by Dodoma city council. Photo: Correspondent

Tourism in Babati District hard hit by COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE wave of the coronavirus is swiftly affecting the tourism sector in Babati District as projected incomes will drop from 2.3bn/- to 1bn/- this year because foreign tourists may not travel to their preferred destinations in the district, according to Burunge Wildlife Management Area (Burunge WMA) in Babati District Manyara Region.

This fear was raised by the Secretary of Burunge WMA Benson Maise when speaking about the challenges being faced, saying Covid-19 and invasion of the areas reserved for tourist activities have contributed to the incomes drop.

He said in Burunge WMA, tourists often visit areas of attractions, photographing and tourist hunting, especially in various investment areas including Maromboi, Chemchem, EBN Hunting Block, Burunge Tented Camp, Tarangire River Camp and Dhana

Investment area.

"We depend on tourists and the money we get is spent in the fight against poaching - we spend more than 80m/- every year as well as giving subsidies to 10 villages that form the Wildlife Management Area and last year each of them received 100m/-," he said.

He said in April last year they received 201 vehicles, 227 domestic tourists and 734 foreign tourists, but in the same period this year not a single tourist vehicle visited the area with the exception of two - one foreign tourist and one domestic.

"In May last year we received 678 vehicles, 748 domestic tourists and 2,380 foreign, but in the same period this year we were visited by only six vehicles - 41 domestic tourists and four foreign ones," he explained.

He added: "In our budget for this year our revenues are expected to drop

from 2.3bn/- to 1bn/- if the tourists will flock in in the period July to December."

He also said more than 800 workers employed in various hotels have been suspended due to lack of tourists.

The Acting Babati District Administrative Secretary Salum Issa said in order to tackle challenges from invasion of people in the wildlife areas, the district has instructed Burunge WMA to erect demarcations of its territories including those for photography, tourist hunting, areas for investment and areas for the local communities.

"The challenge here is in the management of the land, your area of 283 square miles should be demarcated to control invasion," he added.

Deputy Minister for natural resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu recently visited the area and advised it to have strategies against people's invasion and poaching.



We depend on tourists and the money we get is spent in the fight against poaching - we spend more than 80m/- every year as well as giving subsidies to 10 villages that form the Wildlife Management Area and last year each of them received 100m/-



Chadema members in Singida region congratulate their parliamentary seat candidate for Singida Urban Rehema James on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale



Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) party national chairman Seif Shariff Hamad (L) returns his presidential nomination forms to deputy director of campaigns and elections of ACT- Wazalendo Muhene Said Rashid in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

WMA to start assessing electrical meters

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) will from October this year start assessing electrical meters before they are installed to houses in a move to make sure end-users pay right bills.

This was revealed yesterday by the agency chief executive officer, Dr Ludovick Manege, during the tour of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Professor Riziki Shemdoe.

Professor Shemdoe visited the Misugusugu center which is used by WMA to assess water meters and fuel trucks to make sure the right measurement are adhered to the cargo

they transport inside and outside the country.

Dr Manege said the contractor from Germany has assured them to bring the machines by October which will be used to assess electric meters and start operations as soon as it arrives.

He said the machines cost 600m/- adding that currently WMA is busy with construction of the building where they will put the machines once they arrive in Dar es Salaam within three month.

"We expect the machines to start operations by the time general elections is done, because we need to make sure end users get the right units and pay the right bills," said Dr Manege

Either, he said apart from assessing water and electric meters a plan is underway to start assessing gas meters with the same intention to help end users get the right thing.

Professor Shemdoe said he has witnessed professional work that is done at Misugusugu center to ensure end users are protected from theft by the defaulted meters.

He said the assessment of meters is not done by WMA for free since the owners must pay 10,000 for each meter that enter the country something which has helped the government to collect more revenues from that fees.

"WMA has started a procurement

process to buy machines that will be used to assess electric meters so I call upon them to make sure they fasten the process so that Tanesco join others to bring their meters here for assessment," said Prof Shemdoe.

He also directed WMA to establish procurement process to buy machines that will be used to assess gas meters in a move to protect end users.

"WMA must collaborate with Tanzania Petroleum Development (TPDC) to ensure the procurement process of these machines is done as soon as possible and the assessment of gas meters starts to protect our community," he said.

PCCB closely following up TLKA polls - official

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma Region has launched investigations on avenues of corruption in the Tanzania Livestock Keepers Association (TLKA) elections slated to be held on July 19 this year.

Speaking here yesterday to reporters, Dodoma Region's PCCB Head Sosthenes Kibwengo said they received reports of the planned corruption activities and vowed to take action on all those who will be found soliciting or receiving bribes.

He said they have discovered that there are some people who offer money to pay for membership fees

for some members of the association for them to have qualifications to vote.

He added that all such activities will not be tolerated in our region and Tanzania in general.

He called upon contestants and their aides to understand that PCCB exists in Dodoma and is well mobilised against any activities in violation of the 2007 PCCB Act.

He called upon all the people to inform the bureau of such activities in order for TLKA to have better leaders.

He stressed upon Tanzanians to continue giving cooperation to the PCCB to assist in the eradication of corruption in the country's various sectors.

NGO provides 250m/- medical facilities to Mahenge hospital

By Guardian Correspondent, Mahenge

SOLIDAR Med—a non-governmental organisation dealing with health issues has provided a total of 250m/- for the construction and renovation of father-mother-child buildings and the provision of medical equipment at Mahenge Hospital and Ilonga Dispensary in Ulanga District, Morogoro Region.

This was revealed during a visit by officials from the country's NGOs Registrar to projects implemented by NGOs in Morogoro Region.

Speaking about Solidar Med projects, the Coordinator of Primary Health Services from the NGO Mary Yagala said they aim to improve mother and child care by reducing death of children in Ulanga District.

She added that in order to ensure health staff in the district's hospitals, health centres and dispensaries provide health services in conducive environments, the NGO provides training to ensure better health

services are provided.

She said the NGO has built a maternity ward at Mwaya Health Centre which is now able to take in many more pregnant women.

Mahenge Hospital's Coordinator of mother and child care Patricia Haule said Solidar Med has assisted in having in place a good working environment for the health staff.

Officials from the country's NGOs registrar congratulated the NGO for working together with the government in reducing mother and child deaths.



This was revealed during a visit by officials from the country's NGOs Registrar to projects implemented by NGOs in Morogoro Region



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION RFQ 2020-07/02

Closing Date: Thursday 30th July 2020, 11am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

Pact Tanzania now invites quotes from eligible, registered companies to supply business startup kits for care givers and children in mining in targeted councils. Below is list of lots to be supplied and distributed. Interested vendors should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementTZ@pactworld.org by Monday 27th July 2020.

A: Care givers business startup kits

- Lot1. Catering and food production
- Lot2. Tailoring and dress making & Saloon items
- Lot3. Machinery for processing and production, bicycles and plumbing items
- Lot4. Agriculture/ Horticulture items

B: Children in Mining start up kits business start-up kit

- Lot1. Carpentry and Joinery kit, Masonry and Brick layering kit
- Lot2. Hair dressing and Beauty, Tailoring and Dress making kit
- Lot3. Electronic installation toolbox, Welding and Fabrication and Motor vehicle mechanic box

Interested vendors should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementTZ@pactworld.org by Monday 27th July 2020.

Interested, eligible vendor should deliver their quotation to:

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The deadline is 11am EAT Thursday 30th July 2020.

Please note:

1. Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
2. The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers value for money, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
3. Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
4. Pact may reject any or all responses received.
5. Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
6. Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
7. Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
8. Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.

1587136



Celebrating Our Co-founder's Life Well-lived

The Board, Management, Staff of SGA Security and the family, regret to announce the death of SGA Co-owner, Mzee Philemon Nathaniel Mgaya, that occurred on July 14, 2020 in Dar es Salaam. Mzee Mgaya is a retired Inspector General of Police (IGP). He set up, with his partner, SGA Security (then called Group Four Security) in 1984, as the first private security company to operate in Tanzania. This is therefore a great loss, not only to the family, but also to the staff, former staff, private security industry and Tanzania in general. Mzee Mgaya lived over 90 fruitful years and touched lives of many for the better. As he rests, he leaves behind immediate family members, and a family of 5,800 direct employees of SGA in Tanzania.



01/11/1929- 14/07/2020

Mzee Philemon Nathaniel Mgaya

To celebrate his life, a funeral service will be held at Azania Front Lutheran Church, Dar es Salaam on Saturday July 18, 2020 from 11am. He will be laid to rest at his family home in Usangi, Kilimanjaro Region, on Monday July 20, 2020.

Hasunga unveils crucial strategies to push forward agriculture sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE ministry of agriculture is considering reviewing and improving teaching curriculums among local agricultural colleges in an effort to equip students with vibrant practical and theoretical knowledge.

The envisaged plan, to be implemented in partnership with the ministry of education, focuses also to see the possibility to include agricultural syllabuses in primary and secondary school training levels.

Agriculture Minister Josephat Hasunga said the programme gears to uplift performance of the vital socioeconomic sector from across the country.

He observed that despite several positive developments so far attained by the fifth phase government in improving the sector, competence and inadequate coverage of extensional officers stand among common snags that continue to thwart a smooth metamorphosis of agriculture.

"We want our colleges to start molding students with sounding knowledge pertaining to agronomic practices of all key crops. This will play a vital role in efforts to propel for growing economic pace within the country," he expressed.

Detailing over other plans, he said the ministry will be annually sending at least 100 local agricultural graduates to special one-year internship training in Israel.

With at least 58 percent of Tanzanians being employed in agriculture, minister Hasunga insisted it was of prudent for timely improvement of the sector,

the move which will help assist most farmers' households to deter from shackles of poverty.

Moreover, he informed that last year the sector's contribution to the country's GDP shrank to 26 percent from 28.7 percent, a grim statistic which calls for collective interventions.

"Currently, the sector earns the country 30 percent of all foreign currencies," he added.

As part of further efforts to improve the side, he said the ministry had already initiated a total of 226 agricultural training centers in different wards within the country to impart farmers with needed knowledge.

He said future efforts will also include improvement of agricultural technology to ensure farmers cheat hand-hoe cultivation, development of irrigation schemes as well as enabling the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to roll out more capital loans to eligible farmers.

"There is a total of 2,678 irrigation schemes in Tanzania, though some are underperforming, the focus is to see all of them operating profitably," he stated.

With the focus to improve performance of agribusiness, the mission will also incorporate improvement in production and accessibility of improved seed varieties, and capacitate performance of agricultural research institutes as well as the timely supply of fertilisers and pesticides.

"Currently, the sector earns the country 30 percent of all foreign currencies"



Fire and Rescue Force Commissioner General John Masunga talks to CRDB Bank workers in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: FRF

MTCL provides 1.5bn/- to Kahama, Msalala councils

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited (TMCL) that owns Buzwagi and Bulyanhulu gold mines in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region has handed over 1.5bn/- to two local councils in Kahama District.

The payment is in respect of service charge for the period of January-June 2020 whereby Buzwagi Gold Mine is paying 1,1bn/- to the Kahama Town

Council whilst Bulyanhulu Gold Mine is paying 376m/- to the Msalala District Council.

Handing over the cheque to the Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha, the manager for both Gold Mines Benedict Busunzu said the payment is a legal obligation, but also as part of contract agreement between the mines and the two local councils.

Busunzu said the payment aims

to solve challenges in the health, education and water challenges in the communities surrounding the mines.

He added that the mines have been providing sustainable economic and development opportunities to the communities in agriculture and livestock keeping to beef up the districts' economies and the wellbeing of the people living in the areas in general.

Receiving the cheque, Kahama DC

Anamringi Macha said work done by the mines is among implementation of CCM's election manifesto and called on the councils to use the money for the intended projects that will benefit and bring change to the people.

Macha said as for now people need development especially from the existing investments and added that the money provided should commensurate with projects intended by the councils in question.

UWT assures women aspirants of fair screening

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE ruling CCM women wing (UWT) has allayed fears among all the women folk in the country saying screening of nominees will abide by regulations, procedures and guidelines and there won't be any favouritism.

UWT also said in this year's elections there has been a big response of women who are coming out to collect nomination forms vying for various elective posts through the party due to good work done by president John Magufuli.

Speaking here to reporters, UWT

secretary Queen Mlozi said they are well mobilised to ensure they treat fairly all women who emerged to collect nomination forms.

"In the ongoing process, we have seen a very big response, for example in Dodoma Region 50 women emerged to collect the forms, I assure you we will stand by nomination regulations," she said.

She added that Section 18 of the regulations issued guidelines on the distribution of special seats in regard to women Members of Parliament from the regions, workers, academics, NGOs and people with disabilities groups.

She said UWT will continue to vigorously fight for women's emancipation, and called upon women to continue coming up in large numbers to collect forms to attain 50-50 gender participation.

Meanwhile, aspirants for councillorship and parliament seats said they have decided to do so from the mobilisation efforts done by the party.

Aspirants from Mtera constituency Happiness Mugongo and Mwanga Chibango said in all past years they were not courageous enough to vie for important elective positions.



CALL FOR PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF CSOs IN TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC MONEY ACCOUNTABILITY IN TANZANIA

Policy Forum (PF) is a network of more than 70 Tanzanian Civil Society Organisations established in 2003 and drawn together by their specific interest in augmenting the voice of ordinary citizens to influence policy processes that help in poverty reduction, equity and democratization with a specific focus on public money accountability at both central and local level as the underpinning pillar on which all PF activities are based.

Annually PF undertakes studies to recommend relevant actions that should be taken by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Government and other stakeholders to better promote the principles of good governance. This year's focus is on Public Money Accountability and Transparency as two of the fundamental principles of good governance. The study is expected to emphasize on the need for individuals as right holders (derived from the human rights-based approach) to be fully informed about their rights and to participate in the decision-making process. Further the study will highlight the role of CSOs in ensuring the two principles of good governance are realised.

Policy Forum seeks to hire a consultant:

To ascertain on what has been the role of CSOs in ensuring transparency and public money accountability. Has all the advocacy work been fruitful in Tanzania? Do CSOs hold Government officials accountable on behalf of the citizens? Do CSOs practise what they preach? Has transparency been realised?

This is specifically with the aim of:

- Showcasing case studies of CSOs that have influenced transparency and public money accountability through advocacy work.
- Describing how they went about to achieving the success stories. The techniques and strategies.
- Pinpointing the challenges encountered by CSOs in influencing the two fundamental principles of good governance.
- Recommend relevant actions to be taken by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the future interventions.

Interested applicants can view the full Terms of Reference (TOR) on our website: <https://bit.ly/2v7arrr>

Applications should be sent by email to info@policyforum.or.tz not later than 31st July 2020.



Police traffic officer and Good Samaritans tow away a truck which was involved in an accident along Nelson Mandela Express Highway in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Stop rampant witchcraft related killings, Tabora RC directs new Nzega DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has instructed the Nzega District Commissioner Advera Bulimba to ensure she puts to an end all killings of people over witchcraft beliefs and mob justice.

He issued the instruction yesterday after he swore in the DC recently appointed to replace the former DC Godfrey Ngupula.

The RC said Nzega District has a problem of people deciding to kill others over witchcraft beliefs and jealousy, the problem that has been staining the region.

“Go and use your experience and training you received to put a stop to this vile crime...work together with other leaders to ensure the problem is eradicated and people live in peace,” he told her.

He said it would be better for her to stand by justice and treat all people equally so that those subjected to humiliation should get a place to run to and find solutions to their problems.

“Go and work hard so that you leave an impression showing your service to the people,” he said.

The Tabora RC also called upon the youth appointed to various positions to

make sure they work with patriotism and diligence to show president John Magufuli that he did not err by trusting them.

On her part, the new Nzega DC Advera Bulimba thanked President Magufuli for trusting her to the position, and pledged to work hard in service of the people justly and equally without favoritism.

Bulimba also called for cooperation from other district's officials to ensure they solve their problems in order to attain their goals.

Bulimba was recently appointed as DC for Nzega to replace her predecessor Godfrey Ngupula who has retired.



Criminal investigation officer in charge of Sirari district under Police zone Tarime/Rorya in Mara region Senior Superintendent of Police Mihayo addresses a public rally at Buriba village on livestock theft yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt provides 500m/- for construction of 1km road section in Madaba District

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE government has provided 500m/- towards the construction of a one kilometre light tarmac road in Madaba, Ruvuma Region.

Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) Manager for Madaba District Council's Eng Lazaro Kitomari has said the money is being used for the construction of Kipingo-Lita road in a 180-day contract

agreement that began on April 7 this year.

He said so far construction work is at 50 percent and TARURA's aim is to ensure the road is completed within the contract period.

“In the fiscal year 2019/20 Madaba District Council is among 65 local councils in the country provided with funds to implement pledges from leaders in the “development programme,” Kitomari said.

Speaking soon after the project's inspection, the chairman of Ruvuma Regional CCM Political Committee Odo Mwisho hailed Madaba District Council in collaboration with TARURA for the implementation of the project.

He called upon TARURA to make sure the road is built to a high standard that should commensurate with the cost as the government spends taxpayers' money.

Foundation wins govt's accolades for empowering CSOs in Missenyi

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has been commended for its efforts in providing grants to various Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) which implement various development projects in Missenyi District, Kagera Region.

Missenyi District Executive Director (DED) Innocent Mukandala made the remarks when an NGO called 'Shirika la Matumaini na Maendeleo Kanyigo' (SMMK) was introducing its second phase of Social Accountability Monitoring ((SAM) to the district health stakeholders.

According to him, with support from FCS, a number of CSOs have been working well and contributing to various development initiatives in the district. “FCS is doing a lot especially in nurturing and supporting CSOs to ensure that they implement result-

based projects thus supporting the country's development agenda and in the fight against poverty,” he said.

Mukandala also appealed to SCOs to seek for more sponsors and donors, something which can help in building infrastructures at dispensaries and schools.

He noted that SMMK has received 50m/- to implement the SAM project for the second phase in five wards of Kanyigo, Kashenye, Bwanjai, Kitobo and Buyango.

The work will include mobilising the communities, track transparency and accountability in the health department, and stimulate the communities to participate in uplifting the health care development.

For his part, Samwel Bashweka, SMMK chairman said the first phase was conducted in the same wards for more than 20m/- grant from FCS, and after assessment SMMK qualified for second phase grant.

According to him, the project will

officially commence from July 1, 2020 to December 31, this year.

Also speaking, Missenyi District Medical Officer (DMO), Dr Khamis Abdallah called for heads of dispensaries and healthy centres to prepare and have all the time, schemes of work and budgets, which will assist in attracting more healthcare incentives.

Flavian Nturwa, District Community Development Officer (DCDO), advised the health stakeholders to be creative in promoting the Community Health Fund (CHF), established by the government to enable communities to contribute to the healthcare costs.

He called on the stakeholders to visit VICOBA members at the end of year when they are receiving their dividends so as to encourage them to join CHF.

However, the healthcare officers from the five wards expressed their concern on shortage of workers and laboratory materials in various health facilities in the district calling on the government to act on the matter.



Tanzania Health Promotion Support

PRODUCTION OF A VIDEO AND PRINT DOCUMENTARY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

I. Activity Name: Documentation of Mango Project - HIV interventions to Key and Vulnerable populations (KVP) supported by Global Fund (GF) through Amref Health Africa.

II. Background. Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is a Tanzanian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that supports the government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and President's Office Regional Administration Local Government Authority (PORALG) in mainland and Ministry of Health in Zanzibar to deliver quality services including comprehensive HIV prevention, care, treatment in the country. THPS's core focus is on strengthening national health systems, specifically structures responsible for service delivery, budgeting, planning, implementing and monitoring health and social services.

As a sub recipient to Amref Health Africa THPS is implementing Global Fund supported project (MLANGO) on HIV and TB community based interventions among Key and Vulnerable Population (KVP) across 25 district councils in 13 Region of Tanzania (Mara, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Kigoma, Dodoma, Mbeya, Mtwara, Pwani, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara). This three years project (January 2018-December 2020) aims to increase access to HIV and TB services among KVP, contributing to epidemic control of both diseases.

As we approach the end of this project THPS is seeking a competent and qualified entity to undertake this task of documenting the project achievements, impact, successes and lessons learned for use by stakeholders.

III. Terms of References (TOR)

a. Goal. The goal of the assignment is to produce a ten minutes documentary film and 20 pages print documentary (in English and Kiswahili languages) The activities will include developing success stories that will be used to showcase key achievements, impact and outcome of Mango Project including best practices.

b. Specific Objectives.

1. Conduct interviews with national level key stakeholders involved in the coordination of program. These include: Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS), National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA)
2. Conduct interviews with Regional, District and Health Facility stakeholders including R/CHMTs, Peer Educators, beneficiaries, highlighting key interventions covered, lessons learnt and best practices
3. Conduct interviews in the sampled districts with RACC/DACC or CHAC/CCO/, mental health officers, Social workers and Gender Based Violence coordinators highlighting the field implementation modalities, coordination success and area of improvement for better reach of intended beneficiaries across biomedical, behavioural and structural interventions conducted through the project duration.
4. Conduct interviews with the community leaders (ward leaders, community elderly, influential people, religious leaders and community elders(Eg. Laigwanas)) – highlighting the benefits of the Mlango project in their community, achievements and success stories, areas for improvement
5. Conduct interviews with project beneficiaries of the biomedical, structural and economic empowerment activities covered interventions, with focus on how the intervention have impacted their lives.
6. Conduct interviews with CSOs to discuss benefits of partnership and implementing program as a team. Share notable success stories, discuss the challenges and the way to alleviate it.

c. The Consultancy. The Vendor is expected to meet with the stakeholders mentioned above to discuss the following:

- i. At National, Regional, and Districts stakeholders: The discussion will focus on the benefits of coordination and partnership in implementing this program, the implementation process, success of this program in addressing three global HIV 90s goal, challenges and the proposed solutions to alleviate the challenges. Implementation regions and Districts proposed Morogoro (Ulanga (MSM and OVP) Gairo (FSW), Arusha (Arusha CC (PWID) and Monduli (FSW), Mtwara (Mtwara and Masasi (FSW – visit Income Generation Activities (IGA) activities), Simiyu (Busega, and Meatu (FSW-visit IGA activities), Tanga (Kilindi), Dodoma (Kongwa, Dodoma City –FSW), Kilimanjaro (Moshi-PWID), Kigoma (Kakonko (FSW), Kibondo (FSW))
- ii. For CSOs Collaboration: Districts (TBD) Name of CSO: TBD Ward: TBD: CSOs to share the benefits of partnership and implementing program as a team. Share notable achievements and success stories; discuss the challenges and proposed ways to alleviate it.
- iii. Meeting with community leaders: Discuss about the Mlango project- benefits, success stories, best practices, challenges and proposed solutions for improvement.

d. THPS Contribution: Highlight key beneficiaries supported and objectives for supporting them, provide project reports and data highlighting national KVP guideline implementation. Provide brief explanation about Global Fund support and defined package of services under the project

e. Beneficiaries: PWIDS, FSWs, OVP: The consultant will visit beneficiaries in their existing environment i.e. “Maskani” for PWIDS in selected Districts, interview them on how they benefited from Mlango Project and the impact of the Mlango project. Discuss barriers if any and areas for improvement for better reach of the KVP.

Visit to selected IGA groups: Observe IGA activities, interview them on their business ideas and how they are progressing, link to impact and how it helped them to reduce harmful and risk behaviours. The consultant will also take action photographs of the beneficiaries' activities after obtaining consent.

IV. Expected Output

- i. Compiled list of success stories across each intervention area highlighting key success as communicated by beneficiaries and/or stakeholders involved in the Global Fund program- This will be used to develop a Newsletter/ an article for the program and other Project documentations.
- ii. A video documentary with sequence of activities, highlighting grant contribution and impact realised from the interviewed beneficiaries across the intervention areas. (15mins and 45mins versions).
- iii. Develop social media success stories' video clips (a maximum of 45 minutes)
- iv. Develop the documentary film's overall concept scenario for the video documentary.
- v. Interview selected interviewees for the film who will include actual beneficiaries, local government officials, implementing partners and key project and supportive staff at THPS.
- vi. Visit the project sites and interact with stakeholders and the local

- communities who have been impacted by the project so as to get context.
- vii. Develop the documentary script and storyboard to be used in the film and print documentary.
- viii. Perform appropriate video filming and shoot interviews with the projects' major beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- ix. Present a short, precise and informative draft documentary to THPS for review.
- x. Produce one final video documentary film in high definition (HD) – (10 Minutes) long with English subtitles in the following formats, Flash drive (flv format)
- xi. Produce a final 20 Page bilingual print documentary (10 in English and 10 Pages in Kiswahili)
- xii. Produce and share with THPS beneficiaries photos' folder in soft copy.
- xiii. Share the raw footage of the work with THPS.
- xiv. Submit beneficiaries'/interviewees' signed consent forms to THPS.

VI. Technical Requirements

Video Documentary

- Broadcast quality full HD video, 1920 x 1080p
- Professional sound recording at minimum of 96 kHz/24 – bit
- HD web files and HD Hard drive as final products
- Subtitles should consist of no more than two lines, with appropriate and acceptable.
- Rich and natural colours without visible printing grain or unwanted ink traces typical for solvent print machines.
- Smooth ink coverage without visible traces maintaining required printing resolution.

VI. Qualifications and Experience THPS is looking for a consulting firm/company with the following set of skills, knowledge and experience:

- Technical Personnel with Advanced University degree in research, population studies, community health or similar speciality desirable.
- A good understanding of the local socio – economic context, particularly of issues relating to health care systems of Tanzania.
- Extensive experience in producing development work related document for publication and documentaries with the aim of reaching both local and international audiences. These might be producing news, documentary films, TV programmes and short format films (proof of experience is a MUST).
- Able to produce high quality broadcast video and print documentary on tight deadlines on a variety of different issues and subject matter.
- Experience in working with organization working with Global Fund projects is an added advantage.
- Local Knowledge of the project locations.
- Excellent technical capacities (stage of the art filming equipment preferably high definition) to ensure smooth and high quality production.
- Experience in development communication.

VII. Duration of the Assignment. The assignment is expected to take 60 working days from the date of signing the contract.

VIII. Intellectual Property. All information pertaining to this project (documentary, audio, digital, cyber, project documents, etc) under this assignment shall remain the property of THPS who shall have exclusive rights over their use. Except for purposes of this assignment, the information shall not be disclosed to the public nor used in whatever form without written permission of THPS. All materials arising out of this consultancy work shall remain the property of THPS.

IX. Contractual Arrangements and Supervision. The assignee will be hired under THPS terms of contract and supervised by THPS – Mlango project team solely for the purpose of delivering the above outputs, written the agreed time frame. THPS shall provide necessary support to the consultant in order to execute the assignment timely.

These shall include:

- Access to relevant project documents necessary for execution of the duties under this consultancy
- THPS – Mlango Project will provide a final list of interviewees before travelling to the regions
- Contact details of relevant people to be interviewed.
- So as to facilitate effective interviews, THPS will participate in developing the questionnaires/interview guides.

X. Equipment for the Assignment. No equipment will be purchased or provided by THPS. Any equipment needed to complete this assignment will be provided by the service consultant.

XI. Remuneration. Payment shall be effected against the successful bidder after he has completed submitting the entire contracted job as per the given terms of references within 30 Days after submission of the required invoice and delivery note.

XII. Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- i. A technical Proposal: Signed letter of Interest, stating why you consider your services suitable for the assignment and a brief methodology on the approach and implementation of the assignment and the crew composition.
- ii. Personal CVs of technical personnel proposed for this project highlighting qualifications and experience in similar projects;
- iii. Work reference – contact details (e- mail addresses of referee (firms for whom you've produced similar assignments)
- iv. Financial proposal indicating consultancy fee and a breakdown of expenses (Unit price together with any other expenses) related to the assignment; and
- v. Sample work previously undertaken for other clients. (At least 2 sample videos and 2 print documentary produced (online).

For Firms, the following MUST be submitted:

- Valid copy of business Licence.
- Valid copy of certificate of incorporation as a company registered in Tanzania.
- Valid copy of tax registration certificate (Indicating TIN and VAT Number).
- Valid copy of Tax clearance certificate.
- Evidence that a company issues EFD receipt during issuing tax invoices.
- Accurate Physical, Postal, telephone and email address of the firm.

XIII. Expressions of Interest. The expressions of interest must be submitted not later than 20th July 2020 at 2:30Pm, with the heading “ THPS – Mlango Project Video & Print Documentary” to:

The Executive Director
Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS)
3rd floor, Coco Plaza Building, Plot No.254, Masaki,
P.O.BOX 32605, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

If you will not hear from us by 31st July 2020, consider your application unsuccessful.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 16 JULY 2020

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Wildlife crime is putting environment and health at risk: Curbing it is vital

THE trafficking of animals, illegal logging and mining and the dumping of hazardous materials diverts hundreds of billions of monies every year to the financial accounts of organised crime groups, a new study published recently has found.

In the study, Transnational Environmental Crime Threatens Sustainable Development, researchers claim that transnational environmental crime takes an estimated US\$91 to \$259 billion from the world's economy per year and accounts for 64 per cent of organised crime finances.

Transnational environmental crime, or TEC, has become the largest financial driver of social conflicts in the world.

If it's not addressed in sustainable development frameworks, these serious threats will undermine development in decades to come.

Nearly two billion people are affected by environmental crime because it undermines sustainable development, according to the study. Local residents become extortion targets when they need basic resources such as clean drinking water, access to fishing docks and cooking charcoal.

Other key parts of organised crime groups such as drug trafficking can be a direct result of TEC activities.

People are aware of drug trafficking, but what they might not know is that it can be a key accelerant of deforestation; 'narco-deforestation' clears forests for covert roads and landing strips.

Organised crime groups can even profit from vague responsibility rules set by multinational corporations who use natural resources, according to the study.

Most of the time though, organised crime groups only involve themselves in TEC when it becomes an opportunity

to profit, one of the co-authors of the study explained.

"The possibility of reaping high profits while facing relatively low risk of arrest, prosecution or penalty makes attractive, says the report. Truly, if a group already has transnational networks to move other illicit goods, then it may not be that difficult to move certain types of wildlife products.

As the world looks to fight climate change, organised crime groups look to profit from it, according to the report. Groups might look to carbon fraud by using carbon credits, normally meant to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas each country produces, to sell at a higher price, such as was the case in France last year.

TEC has always existed but it'll increase in the coming years. Going into the future, we are likely to see more TEC especially as climate change and other issues increase environmental insecurities and socio-economic inequalities that can act as drivers for people to get involved in TEC and make it easier to recruit people to get involved in TEC.

All is not lost though. Effective coordination between local authorities such as Operation Thunderball, an Interpol investigation held across 109 countries that rescued scores of animals, can help fight TEC, says a co-author of the study.

Peter Stoett, dean of social science and humanities at Ontario Tech University, says further education and looking at how different responses to wildlife crime can impact those who are trying to fight it. "Are campaigns to educate the public about these crimes too focused on charismatic wildlife species, ignoring corporate criminal activity, such as toxic waste dumping or illegal fisheries?" Stoett asked.

Reviving idle specialised crop sector training centres is a pivotal role in spurring investments

AGRICULTURE is the main part of Tanzania's economy. As of 2016, Tanzania had over 44 million hectares of arable land with only 33 per cent of this amount in cultivation. Almost 70 per cent of the poor population live in rural areas, and almost all of them are involved in the farming sector. Land is a vital asset in ensuring food security, and among the nine main food crops in Tanzania are maize, sorghum, millet, rice, wheat, beans, cassava, potatoes, and bananas. The agricultural industry makes a large contribution to the country's foreign exchange earnings, with more than US\$1 billion in earnings from cash crop exports.

At one point in its agricultural history, Tanzania was the largest producer of sisal in the world.

The agriculture sector faces various challenges and had been the governments top priority to develop to reduce poverty and increase productivity. Farming efficiently has been a challenge for many farmers, and lack of finances and farming education has caused many to remain subsistence farmers. Farm sizes remain very small with an average plot size being around 2.5 ha.

Challenges on the agriculture industry of Tanzania include lack of agricultural technology, droughts, floods, and agriculture temperature shocks. These pose severe challenges to the living standards of most of people involved in the agriculture industry in Tanzania and create huge increases in unemployment, hunger, malnutrition and starvation, and diseases rates.

Large declines in commodity prices, decreased export revenues, increased trade and budget deficits all amount to hindering the growth of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The agriculture industry in Tanzania represents 32.4 per cent of GDP of Tanzania.

All this comes against the backdrop of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directing the Ministry of Agriculture to set aside funds from its annual budget

allocations for the revival of collapsed research and training institutions.

Speaking yesterday during a visit at the Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute in Mtwara Region, he said it is the responsibility of the ministry to ensure that institutions that are out of use start operating.

Indeed Naliendele serves as the national coordinating research centre for cashew, oilseeds as well as for roots and tubers, he said.

A case in point is Mlingano training institute which was established way back in 1970 and Kihinga research centre that was set up recently in Kigoma Region. The revival of dilapidated centres and building new agricultural training and research centres is vital in the country's bid to unleash the potential for economic growth especially in rural areas.

The centres play a pivotal role in spurring investments in agriculture and facilitate public-private collaboration to improve the business environment for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). We want to see more money going to these institutions and the outcome research reaching farmers for increased output. That is the ultimate goal that the ministry should not lose focus of.

There is no country has ever increased productivity in agriculture by employing centuries-old methods. To the contrary, nations that have seen agrarian revolutions and lifted millions of farmers out of poverty are those that embraced change, invested heavily in training and research and finally saw the fruits.

As a country whose economic backbone is agriculture, Tanzania which this month entered the low-middle income bracket needs to do more by investing heavily in the sector that employs the majority of its people.

Agriculture is the largest employer in Tanzania. Currently the sector provides employment to more than 70 per cent of the population and in favourable seasons, covers more than 100 per cent of domestic grain requirements.

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That Nigeria might exist as a democracy every day

By Bola Tinubu

WHEN the Union Jack was lowered in Nigeria on October 1, 1960, the potential of Africa's most populous nation seemed boundless—and that was before its abundant reserves of petroleum and natural gas were fully known. However, Nigeria has since underperformed in virtually every area. A massive fuel shortage, just days before the historic change in political leadership, underlined how criminalized and dysfunctional the oil sector had become.

What explains this potential turnaround? First, the 2015 elections were the most credible the country has experienced since constitutional government was restored in 1999. Second, the winning party brought together political leaders of two traditionally antagonistic subnational groups: the Hausa-Fulani of the north and the Yoruba of the southwest. Third, with Buhari as commander-in-chief, the armed forces are expected to rout Boko Haram and enable 1.5 million displaced persons to return to their communities.

Nigeria is making progress in other ways: The core institutions of Nigeria's federal democracy, such as the judiciary, have withstood decades of political turbulence. The Central Bank and the Electoral Commission have improved in capacity and integrity, while the National Bureau of Statistics publishes reliable policy reports.

The election of June 12, 1993 changed Nigeria profoundly. That it would have this deep and positive effect was not always certain. Many people laboured, struggled and sacrificed for democracy. They fought not that we would have Democracy Day, but that Nigeria might exist as a democracy every day. When I say democracy, I mean more than that we conduct periodic elections. Democracy means that we adhere to and live by the enlightened premise that all human beings are of essential value and are possessed of fundamental rights and liberties, which cannot be arbitrarily taken away or denied.

Democracy means that everyone has a right to peacefully influence and determine who governs them and how their government should work. It means that we all have a right to pursue our ambitions and aspirations so long as our actions do not wrongfully impede the aspirations and hopes of others. We have the right to believe, think and pray as we deem fit. In our democratic system, nobody can dictate your beliefs and your thoughts unless you voluntarily permit them to do so. These things are what true democracy means and they are what we celebrate today.



In this, we dare not forget how we got to this point. Planting the seedlings of democracy required much toil and sacrifice. Many potent forces tried to prevent both the planting and the harvest.

People like late Dr. Beko Ransome Kuti, late Gani Fawehinmi, Baba Omajola, late Pa Rewane, late Pa Enahoro, Baba Ajasin, Pa Adesanya, Baba Adebajo, Prof. Wole Soyinka, Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, Femi Falana, members of the civil society groups, student-activists and others fought hard and struggled mightily on our behalf. Many laid down their lives that we may have this brighter moment. Many people who we do not even know gave of themselves and lost life or limb to bring this moment to pass.

On this day, we duly honour such patriots. We remember them and commend their sacrifice. We mark this day that we not take this good form of government or their august labour for granted. We must keep and nurture democracy, not for its own sake, but for ours. Bashorun Moshood Abiola stood fast and strong despite the enormous pressure against him. Those who hated democracy and equality tried to break his spirit and make him lose hope that democracy would ever come to our land. Abiola withstood it all and held to a dream. They could not crush his spirit so they took his body. They did not allow his dream turn to reality but victory was still his because he held fast with uncommon determination and principle. In spirit, Abiola was truly the first president of this democratic period.

Here, I must commend President Buhari for having the political courage to make June 12 Democracy Day. It would have been easier to let things stay as they were. But President Buhari, himself a man of integrity and honesty, realised the import of June 12 and understood that this day more than any other best symbolized our national pursuit of democracy. Despite political opposition, President Buhari helped set the record straight by making today, June 12, Democracy Day.

I also congratulate our various governors including Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu of Lagos. They must all continue to do their level best to make the desired difference in the lives of our people.

We are recording appreciable progress on the political front. The Executive and Legislature are working harmoniously to deliver the programs and policies required for people to live a better more democratic existence. The courts are doing better in protecting the rights of individual Nigerians. The press is free and robust although, like any nation, we must remain vigilant and do even more to elevate freedom of thought and expression.

The civil society remains alive and active and holding government accountable to the people. The government too has continued to exhibit tolerance of constructive criticism and demonstrate endurance in a bid to nurture our democracy. A relentless battle is being waged against corruption. This fight would have been impossible or ineffective under a military dictatorship.

If we look at where we were and where we are now, we have cause to be thankful. We have left dictatorship forever behind. We see new and better ways to define and execute our democratic journey. For example, Youth and Women's groups that in prior times had no voice or did not even exist. Now they are actively engaged and demanding political participation and a place in democratic decision-making. This is how it should be. Within this new, dynamic and vibrant democratic and civil society lies the hope and promise of a better, more representative government and nation.

Democracy Day and our commemoration of it must not descend into empty ritual. We, as a people, have chosen democracy as our preferred form of governance not because it is easy to hold and make work. We choose democracy because it is the most humane and representative form of government the human mind

has thus far devised and imagined.

Nigerians deserve congratulations and commendation for their investment in democracy and for how far we have come. However, we equally must warn and remind ourselves how far we must go. We must continue to work to entrench and improve on our democracy. We must continue to be vigilant and keep watch over our democracy and ward off those who may want to draw us back toward a dimmer period.

The nation now grapples with COVID-19 and its resultant public health and economic challenges. The government has performed admirably in explaining its actions to the people and informing us about the disease. Only a democratic government would have been so informative and open. Only a democratic government would have initiated palliatives. Only a democratic government would have worked in a cooperative manner with the states to devise the best possible policies to fit local circumstances. By being frank and honest, lives have been saved and the pandemic contained. This has been democracy at work.

Government is still hard at work trying to protect the people from the virus and to revive the economy so that we can return the people to their livelihoods and to the road toward prosperity. The battle against the pandemic will ultimately be won. Even then, we still will have much to do. We still have challenges regarding economic development, economic inequality, administration of justice, violence against women and environmental degradation.

Yet, we have the human capacity to fight and win these battles. Democracy is the best avenue to harness and direct our collective abilities in the urgent resolution of these steep challenges. Thus, as we mark this day, let us be thankful to God and let us remember all of those who sacrificed to enable us to advance this far on our democratic journey. Let us also look eagerly ahead to the things we must do and the problems we must solve.

Let us not be weak and shy away from the obstacles in our path; let us learn from the courage and compassion of those who came before us. As they faced and won the battle of democracy over dictatorship, let us now use that democracy to win the present battle of national prosperity in all of its forms over poverty in all of its forms. The times we face are not the easiest but we have a destiny to reach and a democratic roadmap on how to get there. Hand in hand, let us get there together.

I wish all Nigerians a memorable Democracy Day and many more years of enduring democracy. I implore you all to be safe and act with compassion toward one another.

Village forest conservation effort faces uphill task against illegal loggers, invading herders

By Beatrice Philemon

ALTHOUGH villagers in Songambe village Tunduru district in Ruvuma region have been trained on forest conservation, there are still problems with forest use governance and accountability. Illegal logging and cattle grazing are major factors that prevent villagers from benefitting from what they conserve and affect their efforts for sustainable management of village land forest reserve.

Songambe village is located 70 kilometres from Tunduru town and was formally established in 2002.

Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC) member, Issack Aidan said in an interview that although grazing plots for livestock keepers were allocated at Mkwela area, "we are wondering why livestock keepers are coming into our village for grazing their cattle inside Songolewa forest reserve and on farms."

Right now illegal logging and timber poaching in Songolewa forest reserve is quite high; there are so many encroachers who invade the village forest reserve for illegal purposes.

"As villagers we don't have working gears and transport facilities that can help us carrying out regular patrols on the forest reserve to keep out encroachers who invade



the forest," he said.

Bicycles and machetes are the main working gears used for patrolling the forest reserve.

Aidan says Songolewa forest reserve has 10,217.1 hectares of land and from Songambe village to Songolewa forest is about 82 kilometres.

Although forest experts have managed to actively engage them in conserving the forest reserve, their involvement in conservation has not started to bring positive results because they don't have

customers to purchase timber and logs so as to implement village development projects.

The only people who are benefiting from this forest reserve are illegal loggers and encroachers, the village activist said, urging the Tunduru district council and other concerned authorities to help them get customers for timber and logs at the Songolewa Forest Reserve.

The Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA), the Worldwide

Fund for Nature (WWF) and other stakeholders need to support the villagers with working gears, he said.

For his part, Songambe village chairman Saidi Makale noted that grazing on crops and inside the village forest reserve was among factors for conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in Songambe village.

"As a result, we call for Tunduru district council to allocate special grazing plots for livestock keepers to prevent recurrent

conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. Right now livestock keepers graze their cattle on their farms and damaging crops that are not harvested," he emphasised.

Right now the village population is growing and the livestock population is also growing which in turn causes conflicts between them and the pastoralists as they cause damage. Once they have destroyed farms they run away fearing retaliation by the farmers.

Patrick Ng'andile, a member of the Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) urged leaders to visit Songambe village to view challenges the village faces and see if the livestock keepers entering the village forest reserve follow procedures, guidelines and directions issued by the government.

He also calls for experts specialized in forest management to visit the village and see how the environment and forest were being degraded.

"We are tired of what they do to us; we are just conserving our forest reserve and water sources, but they invade them and destroy it for grazing their cattle including on farms," he said, with an edge to his voice.

For his part, Songambe Village Executive Officer Shabani Omari lauded aid agencies WWF, MJUMITA and MCDI for their

endeavors to train villagers on forest conservation, management, governance and accountability.

So far there is an improvement in advocacy work on forest management issues but the main challenge is lack of customers to purchase timber and logs, he pointed out.

"We invite businessmen from different regions to visit our village to purchase what we offer so that we can access funds to implement village development projects," he says, noting that the village still needs more training as the majority is not knowledgeable on forest conservation.

Songambe village has since being established in 2002 slotted more than 1500 residents, meanwhile as conflicts between farmers and pastoralists take centre stage in its political loyalties. The conflicts are frequent at Songambe village because grazing areas are patchy while livestock populations continue to grow. That's why they are invading in areas where there are farms, he said, urging intervention of the District Council to see how it will support these people who own so many cattle in a small area.

For his part, Tunduru District Commissioner, Julius Mtiro said "as Tunduru district, we're aware of the challenges facing villagers who are in the frontline to conserve forests, and we're looking on the best modality

to encourage them in what they have been doing because forest conservation is not a one-man effort. It is a collective effort."

Right now the district is conducting operations in national forest reserves and village forest reserves to arrest livestock keepers invading and grazing their livestock inside forest reserves area as well as encroachers bent on logging and timber poaching.

"As district we still have a problem of cattle entering and leaving forest reserves and this is generally contributed by drought and lack of pastures," he says.

It is highly important for cattle keepers to follow the law, guidelines and directions issued by the district and village governments, the DC noted, affirming that legal action will be taken on livestock keepers caught grazing in forest areas.

"Livestock keepers will remain in our district because everyone has the right to live and be free. We will ensure no livestock keepers graze their cattle on farms, to prevent conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers," he vowed.

In a bid to prevent conflicts between livestock keepers and farmers, the district has been issuing grazing permits to livestock keepers in new 191 grazing plots, the DC added.

By Special Correspondent

Nature Conservancy all set to protect marine ecosystems, boost seaweed farmers' incomes

THE incomes for hundreds of seaweed farmers will be improved and globally important coastal ecosystems will be restored, thanks to a new and innovative partnership in Tanzania between The Nature Conservancy and Cargill.

The pilot programme will be supported by a Tanzanian partner, C-Weed Corporation, and implemented in collaboration with the Zanzibar government and Zanzibaris.

Seaweed farming is one of Zanzibar's largest export businesses, employing more than 25,000 people, 80 per cent of whom are women.

International buyers predict increased demand for seaweed since it is a raw material used in a wide range of increasingly popular products as diverse as confectionary, yoghurts and cosmetics.

When done sustainably, seaweed aquaculture also provides co-benefits to planet Earth, including improved water quality and conservation of wildlife habitats.

But warming of oceans due to climate change, impacts of coastal development, limited aquaculture knowledge and poor seed stocks are combining to make it increasingly hard for farmers to sustainably and cost-effectively keep up their yields and maintain their livelihoods through seaweed farming.

That is driving them into using inappropriate farming practices that amplify negative impacts to the fragile marine environments that their businesses need to thrive, and which have already been under threat by a broad suite of human activities.

The just-revealed pilot programme will work with farmers in Pemba and Unguja islands in the Zanzibar archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

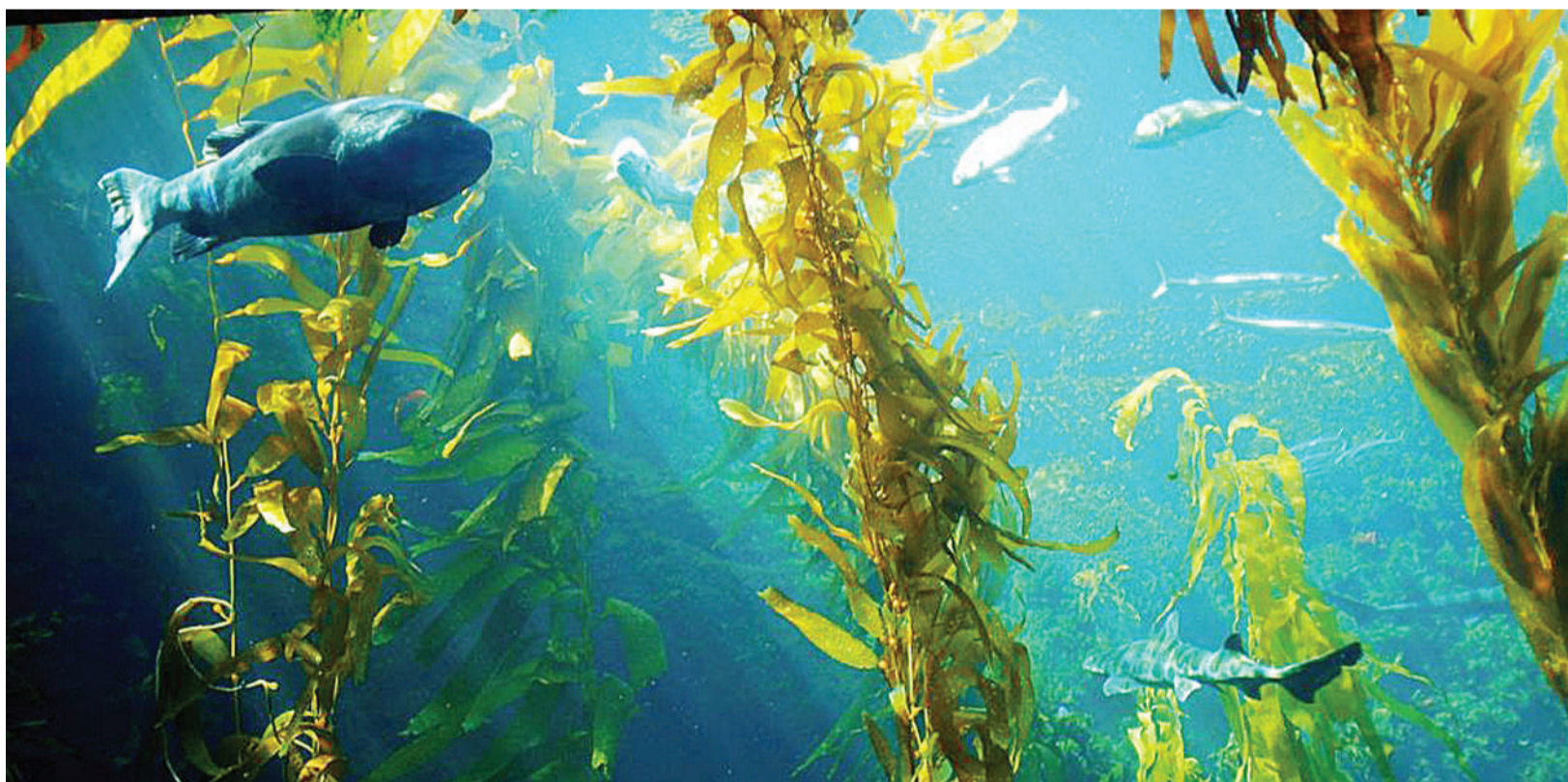
The partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Cargill and C-Weed Corporation supports the Zanzibar government and the people of Zanzibar and aims to increase seaweed farming's productivity, enhance environmental performance, improve livelihoods, and empower women.

Sada Himidi Selemani, a seaweed farmer from Tumbi, one of the three villages in northern Pemba where the programme will be piloted, said in a recent interview: "I am happy to participate in the new training programme. As women seaweed farmers, we are all excited to gain insight into how to improve our seaweed production so that we can earn more for our families while also looking after our environment."

The programme will first work together with farmers to jointly develop a locally appropriate set of voluntary industry best practices.

In the first year of the project, The Nature Conservancy will train more than 100 farmers on how best to site, design and manage their farms and to increase yields while also reducing farming impacts such as impacts to seagrass, mangrove areas and marine debris on beaches and waterways.

Working with seaweed farming communities, it will identify, train and mentor individuals to be 'village implementers' to mentor other



farmers, build much-needed local capacity, and ensure that all farmers involved have local specialists to consult throughout the process.

Dr Omar A. Amir, Deputy Principal Secretary at Zanzibar's Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries ministry, said: "Seaweed farming is a major contributor to our economy, and the industry has become increasingly important by bringing foreign revenue into Zanzibar. This new project's support to improve seaweed farming is very timely."

He added: "We envision that it will help address some of the key challenges facing our seaweed sub-sector and hope that it will, among other things, boost local incomes, improve food security, and help conserve the health of our marine environments sustainably."

In the longer term, collabo-

rators will work with local research and government partners to identify specific scientific research needs to maintain healthy seaweed stock such as improved seaweed strains that thrive in a changing climate, and potential seaweed policy improvements that could benefit both seaweed and the environment.

Robert Jones, Global Lead for Aquaculture for The Nature Conservancy, meanwhile said: "Our research shows that, when farmed well, seaweed has the unique ability to improve ocean health by providing benefits to water quality and providing habitat for wild fish, in addition to providing a low impact form of jobs in rural coastal communities."

He elaborated: We have determined that the marine areas in which seaweed farming is most established in Tanzania are among the highest priority loca-

tions to protect anywhere in Africa. Protecting these areas and educating and partnering with women seaweed farmers is a new and important focus of our conservation work in Tanzania and our work with the aquaculture sector globally."

"Through improved seaweed farming practices that better long-term farming yields and incomes, we aim to help coastal communities become more resilient to environmental change and economic shocks, such as impacts from Covid-19, which is affecting the local tourism sector," noted Jones.

The programme is meant to ensure that volumes of sustainably farmed seaweed continue to grow for the industry and this is traceable through the supply chain to assure end producers of the social and environmental responsibility of seaweed production.

The programme is part of a broader collaboration between The Nature Conservancy and Cargill aimed at ensuring sustainable food and agricultural production for future generations. Cargill and its Tanzanian supplier, C-Weed Corporation, are major purchasers of seaweed in Tanzania, supporting around 2,500 seaweed farmers.

With 30 years of experience in the seaweed business, C-Weed Corporation General Manager Hamil Soud said: "Sustainability is going far beyond just supplying seaweed to our customers. For us, sustainability also means ensuring long term partnerships with our seaweed farmers and providing them adequate support and access to the right infrastructures, so they can

improve efficiency while delivering high quality seaweed."

"To facilitate cultivation and harvesting, we equip our farmers with boats alongside inputs such as ropes and technical guidance so they can perform better in their farms," he noted, adding: "We are proud to collaborate with The Nature Conservancy, Cargill and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar in a project that will drive significant changes and considerably improve the livelihoods of seaweed farmers in the long term."

To help ensure a long-term sustainable red seaweed supply chain, in 2019 Cargill launched its Red Seaweed Promise™. The programme is designed to address sustainability challenges of harvesting and cultivating red seaweed, while enhancing producers' livelihoods, supporting local communities, and conserving the marine environment.

Sebastien Jan, Seaweed Sourcing and Sustainability Project Manager at Cargill, said: "The Red Seaweed Promise™ was launched a year ago with the ambition to enable seaweed producers and their communities to achieve better incomes and living standards in a way that will accelerate progress towards a sustainable and transparent global seaweed supply chain."

He added: "This new partnership with The Nature Conservancy is one among various initiatives we are excited to announce that will focus on empowering seaweed producers, improving production and harvesting practices, community support and strengthening partnerships - our four impact areas to deliver on as promised."

● Source: The Nature Conservancy

Conflict reporting: Hints from local journalists in Africa

By Senami Kojah

CONFLICT reporting in Africa is changing. For decades, the predominant sources of information from crisis-torn areas on the continent were foreign correspondents working for international media.

Conflicts such as the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria and parts of West Africa, the Al Shabaab militancy in Somalia and the Horn of Africa and the uprising in North Africa have continued - as has Africans' dissatisfaction with the way international media outlets tell these stories.

Frustrated by the way journalists from the global north are reporting conflict on the continent, African journalists are establishing new ways to tell their stories to the world, and they offer clues to foreign correspondents on how to report on conflict in Africa.

Source information from locals

Instead of relying wholly on information from aid organisations, social media and the military, journalists ought to lean more on locals who are on the frontline of the conflict.

This is according to Abdulaziz Billow Ali, a Somali freelance journalist boasting nearly ten years of experience reporting for various international media outlets such as Press TV, Voice of America English Service, Deutsche Welle, Radio Netherlands and CGTN Africa.

CGTN Africa is the African bureau of China Global Television Network, the English-language news channel run by Chinese state broadcaster China Central Television. It is based in Nairobi and manages bureaus across Africa.

"You will find that foreign journalists will come here and describe the Somali national army as a ragtag militia, instead of calling it the national army," said Ali, adding: "Foreign correspondents come here and only look at the negative aspects of how the army operates, or how the locals are dealing with the situation."

There are cultural norms and practices while conflict is going on in Africa - such as the placing of local symbols like dead animals or coloured strips decorated with cowries - which can appear strange to a foreign correspondent.

Journalists should seek local insights as to why those practices exist, and portray it to their audiences in a manner that can be understood by the rest of the world as well as be relatable to local audiences.

Sourcing information from locals can also help connect the journalists to sources such as rebel leaders, child soldiers and terrorist leaders who can provide new information about the inner workings of the conflict to audiences.

Be truthful and verify information

In the rush to break big stories, foreign correspondents must avoid distorting facts in seeking to give stories a grand appeal.

"I have seen stories that have escalated the conflict and given terrorists political capital. For example, when foreign journalists say 'Islamic State of West Africa' instead of addressing it as what it is: Boko Haram insurgency," says Kingimi, a counter insurgency reporter in Nigeria's troubled northeast region.



"I have also seen reports saying that the Islamic sect has captured various villages or has raised their flag and has control in northeastern Nigeria, which is a vast geographical area. In reality, this situation only happens in small settlements," he adds.

The magnification of events in conflict for sensational reasons can give legitimacy and political capital to warring factions, which can serve as a basis for conflict to escalate. The agenda setting function of the media means that the way journalists frame stories determines how the world would receive it; so, journalists should be conscious of this responsibility.

For Somali multimedia journalist Hinda Dahir Jama, one of the biggest mistakes international journalists make when reporting on Somalia is putting out unverifiable information about the conflict in a way that makes it look like the country is constantly at war, starving or engaging in practices inconsistent with Western civilisation.

She says they do this for sensational reasons - chiefly, to attract audiences who will find the alleged situation appalling.

Jama advises journalists to verify information using sources such as government agencies, the military, public affairs analysts, college professors, students and local journalists.

Find the human angle

It is important for journalists covering conflict in Africa to remember that there are stories of resilience, hope and success waiting to be explored, even in the hardest hit areas.

"There is so much development going on in Africa that can be focused on. It's not all about militancy. It's not all about piracy. It's not all about drought and famine," says Ali, adding: "There are so many things that can serve as story ideas. Think outside the box and make the local person count in your report."

Look for human interest stories coming out of the area. There are so many initiatives and startups to focus on instead of the gains of the terrorist group, he adds.

Focusing only on the devastation of the conflict would mean journalists missing out on other rich and novel angles they can report on. For example, instead of reporting only the devastation by Boko Haram in Nigeria, a journalist can explore how children in camps for internally displaced persons are forging new relationships with aid workers and security operatives as a way of coping with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Be conscious about security

"Journalists reporting on conflict, especially women, must carry out a risk assess-

ment and maintain extra vigilance while at work," says Jama, who is also a women's rights advocate. She says foreign correspondents must prioritise personal safety over everything else if they must report from conflict zones.

She underscores the need for the journalists to mentally map their locations at all times, plan their exit should the need arise, and wear protective gear such as helmets, gas masks, bulletproof vests and life jackets.

Sharing information about whereabouts with your local newsroom or a trusted colleague is advised, as is carrying valid means of identification such as passports and press identity cards.

Other ways to stay safe include seeking professional help after reporting on traumatic events, eating regularly in order to stay mentally and physically alert, and having a local fixer who can guide you through an area to prevent kidnapping attempts or areas rigged with land mines.

Think your story through

The job of foreign correspondents has consequences. Although it rarely affects the journalists directly, their reporting will have an effect on the lives of those living in conflict areas or affiliated to the conflict they report about.

To avoid hurting those you report about, ensure that your work is fair and balanced. Don't discredit local military and civilian efforts in a conflict situation just to win awards for courage or to suit the political aims of your home country.

For example, Somalis who live in places like the US are constantly profiled or stereotyped due to reports coming out of the media. They feel unwelcome in their host countries, yet some of them fear returning home because of what they read and see. This can also affect how the country is perceived by potential investors who then withdraw their plans to invest in the country, says Ali.

Kingimi shares similar thoughts: "The truth is that, on the ground, most times terrorist groups have no real strength except that attributed to them by the media. The magnification of their little control will discourage foreign investors and tourists from visiting Nigeria."

A 2005 report by Nigeria's Parliamentary Assembly on Media and Terrorism shows that, because acts of terrorism are intended to recreate fear and chaos among people, terrorists rely on the images and messages carried by media reports about the terrorist acts and threats. The omnipresence of the media at global level frequently blows the effects of terrorist organisations out of proportion.

In pursuit of the most vivid and exclusive story, the media sometimes find themselves making passive cooperation with terrorists by hyperbolising the problem, a 2018 paper on the link between international terrorism and the media found.

Foreign correspondents should therefore weigh the implications of their reporting, which can be done by incorporating local statistics and efforts at resolving the conflicts into their stories.

• A dispatch by IJNet (International Journalists' Network), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

BY AKINOLA OLOJO

New insights into how communities resist Boko Haram

Communities affected by violent extremism are frequently considered to have risk factors linked to socio-economic deprivation, bad governance and religious radicalisation. These factors prevail across the whole of northern Nigeria, and in the north-eastern Bauchi and Gombe states.

However, despite Boko Haram's factions being active in this zone, Bauchi and Gombe haven't experienced the levels of violent extremism that other states in the same area have in the past decade. Field research conducted by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) examined the factors that have helped Bauchi and Gombe resist Boko Haram.

Although religion is exploited by Boko Haram, the group's doctrines take on their 'rationality' from the wider socio-economic context where the mismanagement of limited resources by a ruling class is conducive to a crisis. At the time of Boko Haram's resurgence in 2010, Bauchi was among the top 10 Nigerian states in absolute poverty and Gombe was the third poorest state in the country in terms of absolute poverty.

From 2012 onward, some Boko Haram attacks occurred in Bauchi and Gombe. Banks and police stations were attacked and a limited presence of extremists was reported in the forests of Darazo, Ningi and Ganjuwa local



Two north-eastern Nigerian states show the ambiguous interplay between risk factors and violent extremism. File photo

government areas of Bauchi. In Gombe, the group attacked a prison, police stations and places of worship. Localities such as Nafada, Akko and Funakaye were affected. Risk factors exist in both states, but triggered only limited problems.

The ISS study identified four factors that enabled resilience to Boko Haram in Bauchi and Gombe. First, a combination of geography and ethnicity help explain the limited spread of the crisis in the two states. They share borders with the three states worst hit by extremism - Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. However, Bauchi and Gombe aren't geographically close enough to experience the full spectrum of violence carried out by insurgents traversing Nigeria's borders with Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

For years Boko Haram has

taken advantage of various informal points of exit from Nigeria into neighbouring countries and vice versa. In Bauchi and Gombe, they don't have such escape routes. They may use temporary hideouts in parts of the Sambisa Forest that extend to Bauchi. However, the sanctuary that Sambisa offers closer to Borno is more conducive to the group's attack-and-retreat tactics.

Furthermore the major ethnic group from which Boko Haram has drawn members is the Kanuri. They're mainly based in Borno, with very few in Bauchi and Gombe. Although most Kanuris oppose Boko Haram, the group could still exploit their language, religion and territory. The Kanuri heartland thus provided the space and local networks, fishing unions, market groups and farming communities for Boko

Haram's recruitment and mobilisation.

Geography and ethnicity combined help explain the limited spread of extremism in the two states

A second factor relates to traditional leaders in Bauchi and Gombe. In addition to the formal state structure, both states - like most in northern Nigeria - have an emirate comprising districts, wards and villages. Traditional leaders endorse community policing organised by vigilante and hunter groups, while district, ward and village heads oversee security in their respective spheres of influence.

The Yamaltu Security Committee for example was formed in the Yamaltu-Deba locality in Gombe, supported by the local government area chairperson and the traditional leadership. Similar committees were formed in Funakaye where residents experienced

a Boko Haram attack. Traditional leaders also organised periodic ethnic group meetings where informants were nominated to oversee strategic locations in communities.

Religious leaders and organisations constitute a third factor. In a struggle where winning hearts and minds is paramount, the involvement of community actors familiar with the doctrinal elements required to deconstruct a terror group's ideology is crucial.

Mass rejection of Boko Haram owes something to the involvement of Islamic clerics who have spoken out against the group. A repercussion of this was the assassination of clerics across northern Nigeria between 2010 and 2013. In Bauchi, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, a prominent Tijaniyya (Sufi brotherhood) scholar, publicly discredited Boko Haram and escaped multiple

attacks by the group.

Involving community actors who can deconstruct a terror group's ideology is crucial

Sensitisation efforts by organisations such as Jama'atu Izalatul Bid'ah Wa Ikamatu Sunna (JIBWIS) and Jama'atu Nasrul Islam were also helpful. JIBWIS embarked on a ward-to-ward proselytisation of counter-narratives.

Vigilante groups are a fourth factor. In Gombe, police-vigilante collaboration was effective especially in the 2014-15 period when Boko Haram's activities peaked. Vigilante groups such as Yan Banga helped identify Boko Haram members in local government areas such as Kwami and Dukku, where an attack occurred in early 2015.

Other community groups that have defended residents include local hunters referred to as Yan Baka. Following an attack by Boko Haram in the Katagum locality in Bauchi, youth groups emerged in self-defence against insurgents. Community members mobilised through vigilante groups and worked with security agencies, reporting suspicious people and sharing valuable information.

There are discernible policy lessons from the Bauchi and Gombe contexts. However, while both states challenge the usual theories linking risk factors and violent extremism,

they remain susceptible to risk factors. Levels of structural violence still exist in both states, together with intolerance and discrimination expressed along ethno-religious lines. State governments, in coordination with local administrations, must stimulate dormant sectors like agriculture while targeting the youth demographic.

In Gombe, police-vigilante collaboration was effective in resisting Boko Haram

Traditional institutions are an indispensable part of a society's resilience framework. Their historical origins enable them to convey the depth of legitimacy communities need to be able to mobilise. These institutions, along with district, ward and village authorities, should strengthen existing coordination in communities.

The ideological component of terrorism is as much a threat as the violence it inspires. Religious leaders and organisations should continue to provide counter-messages against the ideology of Boko Haram and its factions.

The unconventional nature of the struggle against terror groups can benefit from the contribution of community-based groups, such as vigilante organisations. However, these organisations need clearly defined roles within a rule of law framework that enables them to complement state security agencies where relevant.

Agencies

Iringa records bumper harvest despite floods

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

IRINGA Region has recorded bumper harvest with surplus food this year despite destruction of crops caused by heavy rains at the beginning of 2019/2020 agricultural season.

Speaking at the weekend during harvesting day event at Mlanda village in Magulilwa Ward, Iringa Regional Agriculture Officer, Revocatus Rwegoshora said the heavy rains slightly affected the harvests but the region remains food secure. The event was organized by the One Acre Fund (OAF).

He said that initial assessment conducted at the end of month May this year showed overall, there will be surplus food al-

though some districts will have less than expected due to effects of floods.

Rwegoshora said farmers will have enough food in their homes as well as surplus for sale.

He commended OAF which provides farm inputs, especially seeds and fertilizers to smallholder farmers on credit, for improving lives of farmers through the initiative.

Rwegoshora called on farmers who have not yet joined the fund to do so that they can cultivate their fields in a professional way of farming and get rid of traditional farming practices.

He added that in the eight years of the existence of OAF in the region, there have been significant changes in the agricultural sector.

The guest of honour, Iringa

District Administrative Secretary Etomini Kiyando, who graced the event on behalf of Iringa District Commissioner, Richard Kasesela, urged farmers in the region to switch from subsistence farming to agribusiness.

He said that farmers should change the way they do farming from conventional farming to business due to the facilitation and support of low-cost inputs they receive from OAF, they should abandon subsistence farming.

He noted that agriculture has continued and remains the only sector that has provided employment opportunities to 70 per cent of the population in the country.

Mlanda village farmer, Vitali Samila where people harvested his farm said he had joined the

OAF since 2013, and has so far been successful in increasing crop production.

He said that before joining the organization he was cultivating three acres but his yield was small compared to the OAF support, were he has been very successful.

Samila said that he was cultivating three acres where his yield was 15 sacks (bags), but after joining OAF on a flexible and cheap input loan, yields have increased where he harvests 120 sacks per eight acres due to professional farming.

He added through the Fund, that he has been able to send children to school, added to buy farms and hopes to build a modern home where he has bought 50 iron sheets and bricks for modern construction.

Neema Mpesa, a farmer from Mlanda village, said they had found success in maize farming where he described the increase in yields on acreage.

She said that after joining the fund, for the cultivation of one acre they receive between 10-12 sacks of maize separately from the previous harvest with a minimum of five bags.

Mpesa added that the OAF lends them fertilizers and seeds for cheap terms and that the fund sends inputs in advance which give the farmer the opportunity to prepare the field early.

Senior Agriculture Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Michael Mayabu called on farmers who are members of OAF to repay loans early so that the process of providing input services to farmers is sustainable.

He said he had witnessed the activities carried out by OAF in Mbeya and Iringa regions as good and commended the organization for assisting the government in bringing development to farmers by providing inputs to farmers on reasonable terms.

According to the Tanzania Government Relations Analyst at One Acre Fund, Alice Musetti, OAF was founded in 2013, which is an agricultural inputs and service provider for 56,000 smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

She noted that to provide smallholder farmers with financing and training they need to build permanent pathways to prosperity.

Musetti also said that through a complete bundle of services offered on credit, the organization delivers high-quality farm inputs

to remote areas where farmers live.

She explained that OAF trains farmers on agricultural techniques proven to increase crop yields, and educates them on how to maximize the income from their harvest, hence householder food security.

She said the OAF is operating in five regions of Iringa, Njombe, Songwe, Mbeya and Arusha and so far they have started registering farmers for the coming season and encouraging farmers to come in great number and register with OAF, and they do input deliver in October this year.

The harvesting day at Mlanda Village, Magulilwa Ward in Iringa District, Iringa region, the event was attended by more than 200 farmers and government officials both at local and regional levels.



IRF awards grant to offset Covid-19 impact and protecting rhinos in southern Africa

By Special Correspondent

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has awarded emergency grants totalling nearly \$150,000 to six wildlife organisations in southern Africa following severe budget shortfalls as a result of the loss of tourism income in the region.

The two species of African rhinos and other wildlife that reside in game reserves are dependent on protection and monitoring personnel for their continued safety. With travel halted and emergency shutdowns enacted to mitigate the spread of Covid-19, reserves are struggling to keep team members employed and have been forced to ask staff to work for reduced pay. Reduced income also means that health and safety equipment protecting against the virus are often not

available to staff.

"It's critical that monitoring, protection, and intelligence activities continue uninterrupted to ensure the safety of rhinos in Southern Africa," said Nina Fascione, IRF's executive director.

"IRF recognised the economic crisis would impact our partners' ability to maintain operations and acted quickly to raise funds for emergency support."

The Reserve Relief Fund was established in May with \$200,000 coming from long time IRF supporters and new donors as well. IRF moved its annual "Cinco de Rhino," a party for a purpose fundraiser, online this year. The one-day event raised more than \$30,000 for the Reserve Relief Fund, from virtual happy hours and additional individual donations.

"Team Rhino turned out in a big way, recognising the critical

importance and timing to help offset the loss of tourism income, which has had dire consequences on the economy and businesses which provide the bulk of funding for local communities and wildlife protection," says Fascione.

The fund is making grants on a rolling monthly basis to organisations to help pay staff salaries, purchase health and safety equipment, and keep rhino protection units in the field where they are needed.

The first grants from the fund were made to six organisations: Mkhaya Game Reserve, managed by Big Game Parks, in Eswatini received \$25,000 to fill gaps in salary funding for reserve staff for the next six months.

Chishakwe on behalf of four ranches of the Save Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe received \$25,000 to fund equipment and

consumables to enable ongoing patrolling, particularly to respond to a spike in nighttime incursions.

Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa received \$25,000 to dehorn 30 animals to reduce poaching incentive, as well as funding for salary and fuel allowance gaps for three key conservation staff.

Kwandwe Joint Rhino Protection Unit of the Kwandwe Private Game Reserve in South Africa received \$25,000 to support continued interventions against poaching networks targeting the Eastern Cape through proactive risk management work, and equipment.

Addo Elephant National Park near Port Elizabeth, South Africa received \$24,864 for equipment, supplies, and standby pay for enforcement personnel.

In addition, support was pro-

vided for the security network in Zimbabwe's Lowveld region that involves private rhino custodians working together across that landscape, in liaison with law enforcement officials, to tackle rhino poaching.

IRF plans to continue to review applications and award available funding on a monthly basis for as long as funding allows. Poaching incursions, far fewer over the lockdown period, are feared to increase as Covid-related travel restrictions are lifted.

"The demand for rhino horn in illegal markets is always a threat to wild rhinos and maintaining protection and monitoring activities is essential for their survival," said Fascione. "IRF will continue to seek additional funding to respond to the changing emergency needs in Africa in these uncertain times."

Bank in new tagline to reflect evolution of lives and experiences of its customers - CEO

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania has embarked on a journey to reflect the evolution of lives and experiences of its customers by coming up with a new tagline 'It Can Be'.

This is the motivation behind the change of the bank's brand positioning.

The bank's chief executive, Kevin Wingfield said that in deciding on the new tagline, the bank conducted research which showed that people and businesses are looking for a brand to believe in them, inspire them, and journey with them.

People want a bank that can help them realise their ambitions and which will always put them at the centre of everything, he said.

"Stanbic Bank believes that dreams matter, they fuel our growth. Together with our clients we need to take new uncharted paths to realise them," Wingfield said.

He added: "Our customers have been asking themselves if their dreams can be. As our financial partner, we are privileged to help answer their dreams. And we do that proudly in a resounding message which says 'It Can Be'. This is our new tagline," said the bank's Chief Executive.

"It is time to begin a narrative of hope, belief and optimism. The phrase 'It Can Be' is a celebration of the human spirit and the

belief in our dreams. There is no better time to introduce this new positive message as an encouragement to keep believing," said Wingfield.

'It Can Be' reflects how the bank has evolved, and continues to do so, in a way that its clients expect. The tagline represents the bank's positive attitude towards Tanzania and the possibilities that exist in the country.

This refreshed position is about inspiring belief in Tanzania's future while showcasing the bank's client-centric and inventive solutions. It's about being bold and innovative change makers who are more curious, and more responsive.

The repositioning is embodied through several existing client solutions and Stanbic Bank's efforts to support its customers during the uncertain times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In April, Stanbic Bank provided a 3-6 months loan payment holiday for its customers who could not meet their obligations as a result of the pandemic.

The bank also launched an entrepreneurship challenge that will reward 5 impactful businesses a total of 50m/- to help cushion the impact of the pandemic.

It developed the Africa China Agency Proposition to help companies navigate the disruptions of global supply chains caused by the Coronavirus outbreak.

By Guardian Reporter

AU adopts blue economy strategy to grow Africa

In a move to tackle foreign domination of shipping business in Africa, the African Union (AU) has adopted the Deep Blue Economy strategy by taking initiatives to promote maritime transport, port activities, maritime security, as well as interstate exchanges.

In a report "Africa Blue Economy Strategy", the AU noted that foreigners intentionally destroyed the budding African shipping lines and conferences to ensure that only Europeans offer such services and at their own prices.

Besides, the AU is also expecting port activity in Africa to reach two billion tonnes by 2040. West Africa is home to port facilities

in the process of continuous modernisation since the end of the colonial era. East Africa has expanded its ports, including Djibouti, which is responsible for exports to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and India.

The port of Dar-Es-Salaam in Tanzania carries many imports from India and China.

To this end the group also concluded plans to reduce, if not eliminate foreign domination of shipping businesses in the continent as it commenced research and studies in fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems, shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime se-

curity, safety and enforcement, coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure, sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries, polices, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication as well as innovative financing. According to the report, the AU noted that in its current configuration, maritime trade remains dominated by arms conglomerates which unilaterally set freight rates and thus organise the shipping market as they see fit.

Sections of the report reads: "This situation was favoured by a series

of measures aimed at deregulation of the sector, with the main consequence being the disappearance of the liner conferences and the abandonment of the code of conduct for liner conferences, which established, inter alia, a key for allocating freight and an obligation to consultation between the different stakeholders, shipping companies and shippers.

"In a context of hyper competition, marked by competitive interactions generating situations of permanent imbalance, the maritime transport sector, like all sectors of the economy, is facing a rapid evolution of business conditions. Since the

liberalisation of shipping in 1995, most shipping companies, particularly those in West and Central Africa have disappeared. Shippers, therefore, have serious difficulties in transporting their cargoes at reasonable costs, with foreign shipping companies operating at very high freight rates.

"Moreover, in most African countries, port infrastructures are obsolete and transport corridors in poor condition. However, there have been positive developments in recent years.

In 2017, the global economy and maritime trade rebounded from the historical lows of 2016,

nearly a decade after the 2008-2009 economic and financial crisis.

The main indicators of the economy and shipping have increased, reflecting growth in global investment, manufacturing and trade in goods.

"With GDP growth of 3.1 per cent in 2017, up from 2.5 per cent in 2016, the global economy has recovered significantly, with positive impacts on maritime traffic in Africa. It is in this context that the African Union has decided to take initiatives to promote maritime transport, port activities, security, maritime security, as well as interstate exchanges."

Some of the outlook the

Union has also planned to do includes the development of maritime transport in Africa, noting it is necessary to implement the various instruments adopted by the international community, the African Union and the various regional and sub-regional organisations, in particular the Code of Conduct for Maritime Conferences adopted by UNCTAD in April 1974, whose objectives are to ensure to national companies traffic participation rights allowing them to carry a significant part of foreign trade their country, to ensure a balance between the interests of shippers and ship-owners and to facilitate the steady develop-

ment of liner traffic.

The Agenda 2063, strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the 50 years refers to the ports operations. Marine transport is also one of the outlook the Union is considering and the main objectives in the field of transport are: maritime transport and auxiliary services, port management, safety of maritime navigation, promotion of the African flag, promotion and protection of the interests of shippers, access to the sea and freedom of transit for landlocked states, development of waterways, development of maritime infrastructures, promotion of an African fleet, promotion of an African maritime code harmonized.

By Donethe Cyprien

TECHNOLOGY is an essential part of a journalist's job, but it can also be a major stressor, especially as reporters juggle the added pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We haven't had a time like this in history where we have so much stimulus for so long, and unprompted," said Mar Cabra, an Acumen fellow candidate and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

"We get all these stimuli and all these notifications popping at us. And that is actually changing the way our brains are operating, because our brains are not designed for so much stimulus so fast," she noted.

Cabra and Kim Brice, a personal leadership coach specializing in mindfulness-based stress reduction who has worked as a media freedom activist, led journalists through recent training that highlighted techniques to use in dealing with stress in a healthier way.

It was the first session of The Self-Investigation, a programme organised by Cabra and Brice with support from the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), Open News and the Online News Association (ONA).

They duo met journalists from different parts of the globe who shared similar challenges, such as difficulties working from home, digital overload, increased anxiety and job insecurity.

Managing stress and digital overload as a journalist



An eight-month-old boy with pneumonia is examined by a doctor at Amana Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"We only get one body," said Brice during the webinar, adding: "And our body takes us through life. It is your body that allows you to do everything that you're able to do, that allows you to feel everything you're able to feel every second of the day from the minute you're born till the minute you die. And it's the only body we ever get. So, it's worth learning to listen to it."

Cabra, former data editor at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, was part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning

team for the Panama Papers. Despite working with a great team, with journalists all over the world, she felt very unhappy inside at some point.

"After a year or so, after publishing the Panama Papers, I burnt out and I saw no other option than quitting my job to find what made me happy," said Cabra, who worked with Brice to recover from the burnout.

She learned that technology has a bigger effect on many people than what is commonly known. Many people, for example, ex-

perience "screen apnea", while using computers or phones. Their breathing will become more shallow or even stop, she said.

Four skills for managing stress

Brice said journalists already employ in their jobs the expertise they need for stress management: fact-gathering, practising skills, a curious and open mindset, and motivation.

To the first point, self-awareness is key, Brice said, adding: "If you don't know what you are doing, then you won't know what

to change. During half of waking hours, we are on autopilot. We have many tendencies that we are mostly unaware of."

She said: "It's worth learning to notice in real time when those automatic reactions are coming up, especially if they don't serve you. So, you might come to a place of choice and do something different."

It is also important to pay attention to what you do, because "we become what we practice." Brice said that journalists need to notice the behaviours they get stuck in during stressful situations and learn to practise a way of responding that is more supportive.

Brice underlined the need for people to be curious and open about themselves as well, so that they can exercise self-compassion. She said that in a study done on Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, soldiers who were more self-compassionate were less likely to suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) than the soldiers who had no or little self-compassion.

She said there was a direct link between self-compassion and physical, mental and emotional health.

The last skill needed is motivation. Journalists will not succeed in managing digital overload and stress unless they are motivated to make their health as important as their work.

"Deciding for yourself:

why is it worth it to me?" Brice said, elaborating: "To practise for the next month, if you're going to come along on the journey on your own or with us, why is it? What is really important to me that I'd like to turn around? Because it's not only helpful to me but helpful to what I do in the world and also helpful in all of my relationships."

Dealing with digital overload

Cabra meanwhile encouraged journalists to think about how to limit their interactions with technology so that they could regain control of their time and attention. She said one way to do this was to decide what notifications were essential and which ones were not. Another was only checking email at designated times throughout the day.

Among the many hints available to have a healthier relationship with technology, Cabra emphasized one that is accessible to everyone: giving yourself enough time to think whether you want to do that action - such as checking Twitter - in that particular moment. The practices The Self-Investigation offers teach journalists to be more aware of this and change their behaviour.

She also recommended getting two phones: one for work and another one for personal use, when possible. When it comes

to setting boundaries with technology with one's colleagues, Cabra says it's better to start encouraging from the bottom up.

"As we say, what we bring to the table is contagious," Brice said, adding: "So if you're bringing to the table a calmer, different working way of working perhaps that can truly inspire others if you're willing to take that up."

When it comes to working from home, Brice emphasized communication, saying: "One of the key things I can say is that one need to communicate, communicate, communicate. And what I mean is first stopping for a moment and figuring out for yourself: what do I need? What do I need? And communicate that."

Cabra and Brice also said it was as important to find and do more regularly the activities that make one feel good: that get one out of one's head and support one to feel more open and connected with oneself and others.

A dispatch by IJNet (International Journalists' Network), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ). In partnership with its parent organisation, IJNet is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. This article is part of the network's online coverage of reporting on Covid-19.

Covid-19 shows dangers of letting market forces govern health and social care

In March, 10,000 NHS staff signed a letter to UK prime minister Boris Johnson demanding better protection against COVID-19. Nurses and doctors wanted to treat patients without fear of infecting them and to minimise their own risk of falling ill. But they lacked the proper protective equipment.

The problem they described was rooted in changes made long before the arrival of the coronavirus. The NHS's reduced capacity for dealing with the pandemic - including a lack of PPE - has been the result of years of allowing financial considerations to dictate the quality of care. Back in 2017, the government rejected advice that the NHS should stockpile protective equipment in case of a potential influenza pandemic. The reason? An economic assessment found it would be too expensive.

The US's private healthcare system epitomises the failure of letting the market govern care services. The country spends 17% of its GDP - or US\$3.6 trillion (£2.8 billion) - on health, more than any other nation. Despite this, almost 30 million Americans (9% of the entire US population) remain uninsured because their employer does not offer health benefits or they cannot afford their own insurance.

Such failings are representative of the long-running trend, beginning in the 1980s, of letting the logic of the market dictate how health and social care systems are run, both in Britain and abroad. It has left many systems without the capacity to withstand a crisis of the scale we're currently seeing.

In turn, the pandemic



has seen whistleblowers in health and social care disclosing systemic failures to protect staff and patients. The marketisation of health and social care, we suggest, has increased the need for these whistleblowers to protect the common good

- and we need to support them better.

The results of market logic The US's private healthcare system epitomises the failure of letting the market govern care services. The country spends 17% of its GDP - or US\$3.6 trillion

(£2.8 billion) - on health, more than any other nation. Despite this, almost 30 million Americans (9% of the entire US population) remain uninsured because their employer does not offer health benefits or they cannot afford their

own insurance. These are mostly working-age adults in families with low incomes. The inaccessibility of health services to those who need them has contributed to the US having the highest number of COVID-19 fatalities in the world (to-

gether with one of the highest death rates per 1 million population). Yet, even while the pandemic spreads, some of its poorest hospitals and other healthcare institutions have had to put much-needed staff on leave. Having to compete in a ruthless market environment, they cannot afford to pay them.

The pandemic has also exposed failings in care homes. Prompted by the rising costs of elderly care and users' expectations for personalised services, both the UK and Sweden introduced a market-based system of care in the 1980s. The idea was that encouraging competition among multiple providers would deliver more cost-effective and responsive services and empower consumers by letting them choose among them.

Large for-profit businesses with no prior experience of delivering such services were encouraged into the market. In the intervening years, research has clearly shown the deficiencies of these changes. Both sociological and economic analyses debunk claims that the market delivers high-quality care services efficiently.

In order to reduce costs, both British and Swedish organisations have come to rely on short-term staff with rudimentary training. During Sweden's COVID-19 outbreak, a lack of continuity and skills stemming from using short-term staff has contributed significantly to the high death toll in care homes, exacerbated by the relaxed approach to social restrictions that was adopted by the government.

Sweden's care homes account for half of the country's COVID-19 deaths.

In the UK, care homes account for half of all excess deaths. Higher rates of infection among residents have been linked to these institutions relying on temporary workers and not offering sick pay to staff (incentivising them to work even if ill).

The need for whistleblowers

Health professionals' disclosures have become a societal safety valve. Over 100 UK carers have called a whistleblowing helpline to report safety concerns during the pandemic.

Whistleblowers' disclosures are invaluable for showing us the necessity of reform, and also the specifics of what must be done. The Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust scandal - which saw up to 1,200 patients die as a result of substandard care - was made known by a whistleblower. So too the infamous failings in paediatric heart surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary in the 1990s.

However, whistleblowing is typically a last resort, requiring significant moral courage. The sector can be hostile to doctors and nurses who disclose wrongdoing. Because of this, we need stronger systems for making disclosures and effective protection for whistleblowers forced to go outside their organisation to speak up. Offering whistleblower protection that covers all employees at an organisation is also key.

But first and foremost, we should bring health and social institutions back to their rightful purpose. This work should start by putting to rest, once and for all, discredited market-driven ideologies and prioritising providing good quality care.

Agencies



Thursday 16 July 2020

Rating agency, GCR affirms Absa Bank's issuer ratings at AA, BB

By The Banker Reporter

GCR Ratings has affirmed the South African long and short-term unsolicited issuer ratings of Absa Bank Limited at AA(ZA)/A1+(ZA) while its international scale long-term unsolicited issuer rating has been affirmed at BB with both outlooks being labelled negative.

"The rating action follows a reduction in the South African country and financial institutions sector risk assessments," GCR Rating said in its review of the continental bank which owns Absa Bank Tanzania Limited.

The GCR report further stated that the negative outlooks are primarily reflective of the tough economic climate in South Africa that is expected to negatively impact on Absa Bank Limited's risk profile over the short to medium term, particularly given its strong retail focus which is viewed as being in more vulnerable segment of the market.

"We think interest rates will remain low over the next 12-18 months and earnings will not recover to historical levels. This will pressure internal capital generation over the medium term. However, the bank is expected to remain adequately capitalised, with funding and liquidity likely to be in line with peers," the rating agency which is associated with New York Stock Exchange listed Duff & Phelps.

The report further added that the unsolicited international and South African national scale ratings of Absa reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the wider



Absa Bank Group's CEO, Daniel Mminele.

Absa Group. "These balance the group's position as one of the top tier banking groups in an oligopolistic South African banking market, meaningful business and geographic diversification (albeit typically within countries of higher country risk), good risk position, historically strong earnings which support its interme-

mediate levels of capitalisation, and funding and liquidity risks that are in line with top tier domestic peers," the report noted.

GCR rating pointed out that Absa Group's operations are dominated by the South African bank, which offers universal banking services and has a relatively stronger retail than cor-

porate franchise. The group also has operations across 12 African countries, which make up 10 percent of its total loans and contributed to the group's overall earnings growth, driving a 13 percent increase in headline earnings.

"GCR believes that the banking group has good market positions in each of the countries of operations with a history of appropriate revenue stability, and this is positively viewed. As such, slight uplift was given for competitive positioning to reflect the regional competitiveness of the group," the rating agency added.

It noted that capitalisation is slightly negative to the rating, with capital ratio expected to trend around 12 percent over the medium term adding that with most of the big banking groups in South Africa, it is anticipating significant earnings strain in 2020 on the back of large interest rate cuts, reduced transaction volumes (lowering commission and fee based income) and higher credit losses.

"While this will weigh on capital adequacy, the bank's commitment not to pay dividends along with moderate levels of risk asset growth will support capital preservation," the report explained while stating that GCR also believes there is sufficient buffers in place at the current scoring level,

which in conjunction with slightly better earnings forecast for 2021, should underpin capitalisation strength through the cycle.

"The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to see a deterioration in the group's asset quality over the next 12-18 months. In this regard, based on industry wide guidance, and also factoring in the bank's strong retail focus (which is viewed to be more vulnerable in the current operating environment), GCR has factored into the rating credit losses of just under two percent in 2020," the report said.

This is notably above the historically contained levels between 0.6-0.8 percent and is indicative of the highly strained operating environment. Nonetheless, the group's risk position is viewed to be comparable to major peers, and part of the expected deterioration has already been factored into the sector risk score, the report concluded.

GCR traces its origins back to 1996 when it was established as the African arm of the New York Stock Exchange-listed Duff & Phelps. Very rapid growth followed and GCR has since established itself as the leading rating agency in Africa, accounting for the majority of all ratings accorded on the African continent.



Energy Cabinet Secretary, Charles Keter.

Sh10bn needed to power idle medical kits

NAIROBI

The Ministry of Energy requires more than Sh10 billion to connect or upgrade electricity connectivity to all Level 2 to Level 5 hospitals for the leased medical equipment service (MES).

Under the Universal Health Connectivity (UHC) project, Energy Cabinet Secretary Charles Keter told Parliament that the budget estimate for power connections to new health facilities is about Sh7 billion. A further Sh3.4 billion is required for the upgrade of supply from a single-phase to three-phase.

Mr Keter said there are 6,680 health facilities out of which 4,755 were identified and mapped for supply upgrade while 989 required new connections. He told the Senate committee on Energy chaired by Nyeri Senator Ephraim Maina that out of the budgetary allocation of Sh2.75 billion for 2019/20, Sh600 million was disbursed by the Treasury at the initial phase for implementation of the projects with a major focus on the facilities under MES programme.

This comes months after the Senate committee investigating the MES programme last year said that the equipment is lying idle in 25 counties due to lack of electricity and water supplies as taxpayers pay billions for the Sh38 billion project.

The project that involves leasing of specialised medical kits that include renal kits, theatre, ICU and radiology equipment to the counties for treatment for ailments like cancer and diabetes has been clouded in controversy since its inception five years ago.

Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Limited, Esteem Industries, Belco SRL, Phillips East Africa Limited and General Electric East Africa Limited were contracted to provide the kits had pocketed Sh26.77 billion by end of the 2018/19 period.

Counties paid Sh131.9 million in the year ended last month for the leases, up from Sh95.7 million every year in the 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years. The amount rose to Sh200 million per county in the period to June last year after addition of 21 county and three national hospitals under the project even as governors continued to disagree with the Ministry of Health on the programme implementation. Governors faulted the ministry over lack of consultations.

TradeDepot progresses on mission to digitise Africa's retail supply chain

LAGOS

B2B e-commerce platform TradeDepot has raised a further US\$10-million in a pre-Series B equity round co-led by Partech, International Finance Corporation, Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) and MSA Capital.

A statement released to the media confirms that this is in addition to the US\$3-million Series A led by Partech in 2018, and that TradeDepot will use the new investment to continue its integration of the fragmented informal retail supply chain in Nigeria, expand into other African cities and launch a suite of financial products and credit facilities, to support its retailers.

According to TradeDepot, since its launch in 2016, it has built a network of more than 40,000 micro retailers in Nigeria. Working with global distributors and manufacturers, TradeDepot is focused on making household supplies more accessible and affordable for the informal urban retail networks it operates in. Retailers order and pay for goods using TradeDepot's mobile apps (Android and Whatsapp), USSD or a toll-free number and have them delivered directly to their stores via the company's fleet of vans and tricycles.

TradeDepot also provides a CRM and data management system that enables



Onyekachi Izukanne, CEO and co-founder of TradeDepot.

suppliers to plan and monitor their sales routes in real time, as well as gain invaluable insights into trade and retail data. Using data and analytics to inform better retail decision making at each stage of the supply chain, TradeDepot claims to have recorded considerable growth since its

launch and tripled its volume of trade in the last 12 months.

Onyekachi Izukanne, CEO and co-founder of TradeDepot says, "We are excited to strengthen our team and welcome on board some incredible strategic investors and partners, as we double down on our mission to digitise

and simplify retail distribution for the continent. Africa's offline retail market is estimated at \$1 trillion, and this new investment allows us to capture an even greater segment of that market. We will continue to use data to drive efficiencies and provide an easier stock acquisition service for our

40,000+ retailers, driving down costs for them by negotiating even better deals with our global manufacturing partners, whilst simultaneously providing a better, faster route to market for our suppliers."

In a bid to help retailers grow their businesses, TradeDepot is set to launch a suite of financial products and credit facilities. Many retailers do not have the collateral that banks demand but by leveraging their trading relationship with TradeDepot, retailers can access the funds they need to buy more goods, scale their businesses and generate more revenue. Wale Ayeni, Head of Africa Venture Capital Investment at IFC adds, "TradeDepot is a rising star in the African internet landscape, helping digitize a substantial underserved informal retail segment, which is the pillar of economic growth in Africa. The founders' vision to build a digital platform that improves the unit economics of serving the mass-market is one that we feel privileged to support."

More than 75% of the retailers on TradeDepot's platform are female entrepreneurs and TradeDepot will offer mentorship and opportunities to link with domestic and global markets, to further support its predominantly female customer base to grow and expand their own businesses.

China bank lending hits record \$1.73tn in first half after solid June

BEIJING

New bank lending in China rose 22.3 per cent in June from May as authorities continued to boost credit and ease policy to get the world's second-largest economy humming again after a sharp coronavirus-induced contraction.

Chinese banks extended 1.81 trillion Chinese yuan (\$258.3bn) in new loans in June, up from 1.48tn yuan in May and slightly exceeding analysts' expectations, according to data

released by the People's Bank of China on Friday.

That pushed bank lending in the first half of this year to a record 12.09tn yuan, beating a previous peak of 9.67tn yuan in the first half of 2019, the data showed. Analysts had predicted new loans would rise to 1.80tn yuan in June.

The monthly tally was 9 per cent higher than 1.66tn yuan a year earlier. While lending in China typically picks up in June, analysts say policymakers want to maintain strong credit growth

until the economy gets back on solid footing. Household loans, mostly mortgages, rose to 978.8bn yuan in June from 704.3bn yuan in May, while corporate loans rose 927.8bn yuan from 845.9bn yuan, according to the calculation based on the central bank data.

China's economy is gradually recovering from a 6.8 per cent economic decline in the first quarter, its first contraction on record, but analysts say it will take months for broader activity to return to pre-crisis levels.

Central bank Governor Yi Gang said last month that policymakers will keep financial system liquidity ample in the second half of the year as the economy improves but will need to consider withdrawing support at some point, raising questions among investors over when it may start dialling back its stimulus efforts.

The PBOC has rolled out a raft of easing steps since early February, including cuts in lending rates and banks' reserve requirements and extending

lending support for virus-hit firms, but it has not slashed interest rates to near zero or embarked on huge bond buying sprees as many other major central banks have done. Reflecting uncertainties over the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, China dropped its annual growth target this year for the first time since 2002 and pledged more government spending.

Premier Li Keqiang has said that growth in M2 - a broad gauge of money supply - and total social financing will

be significantly higher this year. Broad M2 money supply in June grew 11.1 per cent from a year earlier, central bank data showed, in line with analysts' forecasts and the same pace as in May.

Outstanding yuan loans grew 13.2 per cent from a year earlier, also steady from May, as analysts had expected. Growth of outstanding total social financing, a broad measure of credit and liquidity in the economy, quickened to 12.8 per cent in June from a year earlier.

Euromoney is in NMB genes as bank wins it for eighth year

By The Banker Reporter

For eight year in a row, NMB Bank Plc has won the Euromoney Award beating 40 other global banks in the process thanks to its robust finances and massive investment in innovation technologies.

The annual award which is issued by a leading global financial markets magazine based in London, recognises banks which excel in several other aspects including financial inclusion, product offerings, approach to cybersecurity and corporate social responsibility.

Commenting on the bank's outstanding performance, acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the award signifies that NMB is a resilient with focus on innovation and technology. "NMB's purpose is to drive Tanzania's growth. We are committed to being more than a provider of financial products and services," Zaipuna who has been at the helm of the domestic market's most profitable financial institution for the past two years, said.

She noted that as a catalyst for economic change in the country, NMB endeavours to enhance the lives of Tanzanians by offering convenient and accessible banking services across the country. The NMB chief added that the global prestigious award for eight years running, is a manifestation of the bank's commitment to its clients and Tanzania.

"We are leveraging on the best of technology in digital banking, innovative products and with our extensive branch network and alternative channels, we add real value to our customers' lives," said Zaipuna who heads the country's largest bank by branch network with presence in over 98 percent of the country's administrative districts.



The Euromoney Award won by NMB last year.

In its 2019 financial results, NMB reported a staggering 142bn/- net profit which accounted for a 46 percent increase from 98bn/- recorded in the previous year hence maintaining its pole position in the crowded banking market for over a decade.

Describing the selection criteria and reliability of the award, Euromoney's editor Clive Horwood said the judges continue to seek the best of the best in all countries offering banking services. "As every year, size is important but certainly not paramount. Profitability is of course vital, but so is an ability to demonstrate growth, relative outperformance compared with peers and the ability to adapt to changing market conditions and/or client needs," Horwood noted.

He said other metrics considered include market capitalization, return on equity, return on assets, market share of deposits, market share of loans, loans-to-deposits ratio, non-performing loans ratio and non-performing loan coverage ratio.

For almost 50 years, Euromoney has been the leading publication for covering the growth of international finance. Over the last 12 months, its coverage has included interviews with close to 100 bank CEOs, ministers of finance and central bank governors around the world.

Euromoney's Awards for Excellence are the awards that matter to the banks and bankers who matter. They were established in 1992 and were the first of their kind in the global banking industry. This year, Euromoney received almost 1,500 submissions from banks in an awards programme that covers 20 global awards, more than 50 regional awards, and best bank awards in close to 100 countries.



JPMorgan Chase chief executive Jamie Dimon.

Three US banks set aside \$28bn to deal with Covid-19 fallout

NEW YORK

Three of the largest US banks said on Tuesday they had set aside a whopping \$28 billion for loan losses, in a stark reminder that much of the economic pain from the coronavirus pandemic is still to come.

Borrowers have been propped up by trillions of dollars in government and bank assistance, cheap credit and loan forbearance programmes, but some of that support is going away, and banks said they fear losses will spike. "The consumers' incomes are up, savings are up and home prices up," said JPMorgan Chase chief executive Jamie Dimon on a call with journalists. "The recessionary part" will come later, he said.

JPMorgan and Citigroup each reported huge second-quarter profit declines on Tuesday, while Wells Fargo posted its first loss since 2008.

Banks with big Wall Street businesses were able to offset their loan woes with huge gains in capital markets revenue, particularly trading. The rough results were almost entirely due to loan-loss provisions. The unprecedented government aid programmes have created a disconnect between the financial markets and the economy, such that financial conditions look sunny, but could turn upside down quickly if the temporary assistance expires.

Executives warned that there is still a lot of guesswork involved. Under new accounting rules, lenders have to reserve for the entire life of a loan upfront. That would be tricky under normal circumstances, but when a deadly virus is hitting the economy in unpredictable waves, it is especially hard to say how long the downturn might last.

More than 13 million people have been infected by the disease globally and at least 572,945 have died since the outbreak began in early December. To prevent its spread, governments across the world have imposed varying degrees of lockdowns, causing widespread business closures, layoffs and retractions in spending.

The US unemployment rate hit 11.1 per cent in June while gross domestic product fell 5 per cent during the first quarter, according to government data. JPMorgan is assuming unemployment will remain in the double-digits through the first half of 2021, while Citigroup expects GDP to fall by more than 35 per cent before recovering, executives said.

The biggest lending concerns center on credit cards, which tend to be riskier and, unlike mortgages or auto loans, do not have any collateral for a bank to recoup if a borrower defaults. The business has not yet seen major upheaval. Although spending declined because of lockdowns, borrowers used stimulus checks to stay current or pay off debt. Citigroup, one of the biggest card lenders in the world, saw delinquency and default rates decline in the second quarter.

Wall Street businesses did well, however. JPMorgan's bond-trading business reported a 99 per cent increase in revenue, while Citigroup's rose 68 per cent. That bodes well for Goldman Sachs Group, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America, which announce results later this week.

Wells Fargo does not have a large investment bank, and is still dealing with the aftermath of a sales scandal that erupted in 2016. Its \$2.4bn quarterly loss was much larger than analysts had expected, and the bank expects things to get worse.

"Our view of the length and severity of the economic downturn has deteriorated considerably," said chief executive Charlie Scharf. JP Morgan shares were up slightly; Citi and Wells Fargo shares traded lower.

World Bank outlines Rwanda's 6-year support framework

KIGALI

The World Bank Group Board of Executive Directors on Monday 13th July discussed the Rwanda Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the period 2021-26.

Partnership framework will guide the Bank Group's work for the next 6 years supporting the government's strategic priorities as laid down in the National Strategy for Transformation. The CPF also supports the recovery from the Covid-19 impacts.

The new framework is developed from World Bank's comprehensive analysis of opportunities for achieving poverty reduction and shared prosperity in Rwanda as well as the challenges that the country faces.

The framework also builds on consultations with a broad range of stakeholders in Rwanda including the government, private sector, civil society, development partners and the academia. The proposed programme of engagement is built around 5 strategic objectives: improving human capital, improving conditions for private sector development, expanding access to infrastructure and the digital economy.

Other objectives include increasing agricultural productivity and commercialisation and intensifying urban agglomeration. Yasser El Gammal, World Bank Country Manager said that the objectives will be the blueprint of the group's support for Rwanda under our new Country Partnership Framework.

"They are crucial steps in Rwanda's journey towards middle income



Yasser El Gammal, World Bank Country Manager.

status by 2035 and thus fully aligned with the Government of Rwanda's central objectives. They are the objectives through which the Bank Group, with its resources and skills will contribute to the reduction

of extreme poverty and increase shared prosperity in Rwanda," he said.

The Country Partnership framework also includes cross-cutting themes that are of central importance in Rwanda and are

corporate priorities for the Bank such as governance and institutions, gender and development, supporting people with disabilities as well as supporting Rwanda to recover from the negative public health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prepared jointly by the International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), this framework represents a shared view of how resources across the entire Bank Group can best support the Government's effort to achieve its national goals.

Dan Kasirye, IFC Resident Representative said that the blueprint seeks to bring together efforts across the World Bank Group to support private sector-led programs to increase competitiveness and to support business growth as well as for activities that promote human capital. "IFC will continue to support private sector growth by increasing its competitive capacity and promoting a conducive investment climate to boost shared prosperity," he said.

The Bank Group's portfolio in Rwanda currently includes 18 national projects and 4 regional operations with a net commitment of about \$1.9 billion. Project objectives range from providing access to basic infrastructure and enhancing urban management in selected urban centers, to supporting the strengthening of the social protection system, reducing stunting and providing electricity to rural households.

China's UnionPay inks deal with Kenyan firm

NAIROBI

China's UnionPay International (UPI), has partnered with Kenya's iPay to enable its cardholders to access about 8,000 online merchants across Africa. The two firms said in a statement the deal will see UPI cardholders carry out transactions with several African brands.

"We believe that it is important for the public to understand the benefits

of digital payments, beyond reducing physical contact during this difficult time. Smooth payment services and attractive promotions are key to fostering this understanding," said Mr Luping Zhang, general manager at UnionPay International Africa Branch.

UPI says it has experienced an increased global online transaction of about 20 percent as more people adopt digital payments to minimise physical

contact and cash handling amid the global pandemic.

In recent years, UPI has expanded its acceptance network to 178 countries and regions, with more than 8.4 billion UnionPay cards issued in 61 countries and regions. "The addition of UnionPay was firmly within our strategic vision; seeing the rapid uptake of this card scheme globally and across Africa," iPay managing director Philip Nyamwaya said.

In Africa, UnionPay cards have been issued in over 10 African countries and regions, including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, South Africa and Mauritius. The Covid-19 pandemic has increasingly driven transactions away from cash, with cards being one of the preferred modes of payment alongside mobile money for those looking to avoid handling physical notes.

Diageo's Scotch Whisky in first paper made spirit bottle to debut in early 2021

By The Banker Reporter

Serengeti Breweries Limited's holding company, Diageo Plc will introduce the world first paper based spirit bottle filled by Scotch Whisky as the global alcoholic drinks manufacturer puts into practice a campaign to rid the globe from plastic waste.

Diageo which makes Johnnie Walker, Smirnoff and Guinness, announced last week that it created the 100 percent plastic free paper-based spirits bottle, made entirely from sustainably sourced wood.

The latest development comes as Diageo announced that it has launched a new partnership with Pilot Lite, a venture management company, to launch Pulpex Limited, a new world-leading sustainable packaging technology company.

In a statement, Diageo said to ensure that the technology can be

used in every area of life, Pulpex Limited has established a partner consortium of world leading companies in non-competing categories including Unilever, and PepsiCo, with further partners expected to be announced later in the year.

The consortium partners are each expecting to launch their own branded paper bottles, based on Pulpex Limited's design and technology, in 2021. Pulpex Limited has developed a first-of-its-kind scalable paper-based bottle designed and developed to be 100 percent plastic free and expected to be fully recyclable.

The bottle is made from sustainably sourced pulp to meet food-safe standards and will be fully recyclable in standard waste streams. The technology will allow brands to rethink their packaging designs, or move existing designs into paper, whilst not compromising on the existing quality of the product.

"We're proud to have created



Diageo Plc's John Walker current glass bottle and the proposed paper bottle.

this world first. We are constantly striving to push the boundaries within sustainable packaging and this bottle has the potential to be truly ground-breaking," said Ewan Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer at Diageo Plc.

"It feels fitting that we should launch it with Johnnie Walker, a brand that has often led the way in innovation throughout its 200 years existence," Andrew stated adding that Pulpex's technology allows it to produce a variety of plastic-free, single mould bottles that can be used across a range of consumer goods.

The statement noted that the packaging has been designed to contain a variety of liquid products and will form part of Diageo's commitment towards Goal 12 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely: 'Responsible Consumption and Pro-

duction.'

"We believe in tackling plastic waste through innovation and collaboration. We are going to halve our use of virgin plastic at Unilever, reducing our use of plastic packaging by more than 100,000 tonnes in the next five years," said Unilever's Chief of Research and Development, Richard Slater.

"Joining forces to develop and test paper bottles is an incredibly exciting step forward, and we're delighted to be working together to tackle one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time," Slater added.

Slater's observations were backed by PepsiCo's Chief Sustainability Officer, Simon Lowden who said innovative solutions and partnerships are critical to driving meaningful progress toward a circular economy.

"The Pulpex consortium

is well positioned to deliver sustainable packaging at scale and across industries, having impact beyond what any organization could achieve alone. We're proud to be a part of it," Lowden noted.

Sandy Westwater, Pilot Lite's Director, Sandy Westwater followed suit to second his peers by noting that her company is thrilled to be working with global brand leaders in the consortium. "By working together, we can use the collective power of the brands to help minimise the environmental footprint of packaging by changing manufacturing and consumer behaviours," Westwater said.

Diageo is a global company, and our products are sold in more than 180 countries around the world. The company is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange.

CEO pay machine continues to play a merry tune

By Ann Crotty

Naspers's remuneration committee includes individuals with impressive-sounding CVs, so it's disappointing that the best they can do to justify the egregiously generous remuneration laddled out to CEO Bob van Dijk and CFO Basil Sgourdos is repeat the same tired old excuses.

In its recently released remuneration report the committee says it believes in "pay for performance" and that it is "comfortable with bigger rewards for those that make the highest contribution," which is why the two executives are R276 million and R158.3 million richer respectively.

Just in case you think the pay-for-performance and comfortable-with-bigger-rewards explanations are remarkably trite in the context of eye-watering remuneration packages, the committee goes on to explain that its "reward system" must help attract and retain the best talent around the world "in a fair and responsible way". What bland, self-serving, uninformative tosh. Naspers's results for financial 2020, excluding Tencent (over which the executives have no influence), were at best pedestrian.

The committee evidently operates on the basis that if its remuneration levels are among the best in the world, then its lucky executives must be among the best in the world. Essentially, they are being paid generously in the hope they will deliver generously. What lucky sods they are to be so comfortably entrenched in what US commentator Steven Clifford describes as the "CEO pay machine."

Is Tencent's world about to change?

Talking about Tencent, can it be much longer before international investors face restrictions - legal or otherwise - on investing in China-controlled Hong Kong-listed companies? It was all well and good to pile into variable-interest-entities such as the extremely attractive Tencent while Hong Kong had a semblance of independence from China, but that has all changed.

Leaving aside the fact that the bulk of Hong Kong



Naspers's CEO, Bob van Dijk.

residents had severely limited rights under British rule, international opinion is turning against the Special Administrative Region since China has introduced tough new security laws.

Establishing the pecking order

On more prosaic matters, it looks as though the guys behind Country Bird are heading into another bidding war over a chicken-and-egg investment. A few weeks after Country Bird bought up Zeder's 30% stake in Cape-based Quantum Foods at R5 a share, with the possible intention of going for control, another bidder emerged out of the blue.

Luxembourg-based investment fund Silverlands was the buyer behind the recent purchase of a 32% stake from a variety of institutions. If it teams up with Quantum management, Silverlands will be part of a block controlling over 50% of the company. That would put an end to any control ambitions Country Bird has.

Four years ago, after a long drawn-out and fractious battle, Country Bird was also thwarted in its bid to get control of Sovereign Foods. If it can sell out at R6 a share it will have

done well out of its brief investment. Or might we be in for another drawn-out affair? Quantum has been a great if understated investment, even for shareholders who didn't manage to sell out when the share recently reached a high of over R7.

Another round for the winners in M&A

News that Steinhoff is selling Conforama France for a nominal sum is a reminder, if one was needed, that the undisputed beneficiaries of mergers and acquisitions are the advisors, lawyers and bankers. They scored when Conforama was purchased not too many years ago in a widely celebrated deal, and they'll score again as it is sold off. The Steinhoff shareholders didn't do quite so well.

One of those shareholders is Christo Wiese who must have spent much of the past three years ruing the day he ever clapped eyes on Markus Jooste or thought Steinhoff was a great vehicle to use for the international expansion of his business interests. Last week it seems Wiese's bank funders forced him to sell off around a third of his remain-

ing stake in Steinhoff.

About two months after the December 2017 meltdown Wiese's banks sold a huge chunk of Steinhoff shares that he had used to secure margin loans. That forced sale took Wiese's stake to 6% from 20.52%. Last week's forced sale of another 2.3% of Steinhoff's shares takes his stake to just under 4%.

Telkom splurging on its execs
Telkom isn't letting minor issues such as rising debt levels and declining profits stop it from splurging out on share repurchases. Last week it spent R233.6 million buying back shares, which will be used to back the inappropriately generous remuneration packages awarded to its executives. The shares were repurchased at between R29 and R35 a piece, up from the recent low of R15 hit in March, but well off the pre-Covid lockdown trading levels.

Even though the share repurchase may appear attractively priced it is galling that the shares will now be dished out to a management team that has failed for so long to come up with a profitable long-term strategy. As with Naspers's remuneration, this seems neither fair nor responsible.

Amazon-like future awaits banks as virus hastens online push

MADRID

As Spaniards endured one of Europe's most stringent pandemic lockdowns, business for Banco Santander's digital-only Openbank flourished. Its brokerage client base expanded 58 per cent in the first four months of the year and trading in shares, exchange traded funds and warrants on its platform more than doubled.

The confinement has made people digital beings "by decree," says Ezequiel Szafir, Openbank's chief executive. With that trend expected to continue, he believes banks of the future will look increasingly like Amazon.com - online shop fronts for financial products in much the same way as the retailer is for consumer goods.

"Amazon took something that's real, which is retail, and simply made it digital," says Mr Szafir, a former Amazon executive hired in 2015 to oversee Openbank's new platform. "We're trying to do the same transformation in banking."

Businesses reviewing post-coronavirus strategies are finding that online activity - from shopping and gaming to banking and social networking - that was shaking up their worlds even before the pandemic, has increased. For retail banking, a survey by McKinsey & Co from mid-April found a jump of as much as 20 per cent in digital channel use across Europe. More than one in five customers in Spain and Britain tried online banking for the first time.

That is giving a new impetus to banks' online push. They are looking to speed up plans to move creaking legacy platforms on to the cloud, a slow and often costly process. Some are also building standalone online platforms from scratch or using off-the-shelf solutions designed by FinTech companies, which may be faster and cheaper.

"Many banking groups are taking a hybrid strategy, combining the effort of transforming the original bank and also developing a neobank or, at

least, some speed boats, sometimes in alliance with FinTech," says Francisco Uria, head of financial services, banking and capital markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa at KPMG.

Banks globally will spend about \$1 trillion over three years to take more of their operations online, according to an Accenture report. Spending on digital transformation has been led by US banks, with JP Morgan Chase earmarking \$11.4 billion a year.

"It's the only way they'll remain competitive," says Antony Jenkins, chief executive of Barclays Bank between 2012 and 2015 and now chairman and founder of 10x Future Technologies. "They're already under pressure because return on equity is poor. They have to compete with FinTech and big tech. They need to get more agile, get these functionalities on to the market quicker."

Europe's banks can expect revenue to fall by more than 40 per cent, which means it will take them four years to return to pre-coronavirus levels, the McKinsey report found. With an increase in interest rates from historic lows delayed by the crisis, survival will require cutting costs. That will mean shutting down many more branches, slashing jobs and taking the show online.

The cost-to-income ratio for traditional banks is 55 per cent to 60 per cent compared with half that for online challenger lenders. Santander chairwoman Ana Botin told investors Openbank's expansion would allow it to reach a ratio of 25 per cent to 35 per cent, a level the entire group could attain in the long term. Santander's 2018 cost-to-income ratio was 47 per cent, according to S&P Global.

Santander is ploughing €5bn a year to put its legacy system data in the cloud, even as Openbank expands from Spain into 10 other markets. Ms Botin calls it combining "super-tankers" with "speedboats" and suggested in a speech last year that Openbank could eventually become the platform for "a significant part of our business".



A man using a smartphone to access digital banking services.

WORLD

US govt settles lawsuit with universities by walking back new visa directive on international students

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. government has rescinded a new rule that could have denied international students their stay in the country if they only attend online courses in the coming fall semester, a federal judge in Boston, Massachusetts said Tuesday.

Judge Allison Burroughs, who presided over a hearing Tuesday on a lawsuit filed last week by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) against the federal directive, said at the start of the hearing that the government and the universities reached a settlement, under which "both the policy directive and the frequently asked questions would not be enforced anymore."

"I have been informed by the parties that they have come to a resolution," Burroughs said at U.S. District Court in Boston. "They will return to the status quo."

Announced by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on July 6 but not yet implemented, the guidance that caused turmoil and triggered outrage in the country's higher

education system forced international students to choose between attending at least one in-person class in the fall semester – transferring to another school if the one they are enrolled in only offers tele-classes due to the coronavirus pandemic – and leaving the United States as their student visas would be invalidated.

According to the settlement, a March guidance by the ICE will be reinstated, allowing international students to take all their classes online during the pandemic while staying in the United States legally.

Burroughs said the settlement applied to higher education institutions nationwide. The Harvard-MIT lawsuit sought a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to prohibit the ICE from enforcing the July 6 rule.

"The motion is mooted," Burroughs declared, referring to the requests by Harvard and the MIT. "The hearing will be adjourned," she said, thanking the lawyers for "making this as easy on the court as it could have been."

Harvard announced last week it will only allow up to 40 percent of under-

graduates, including all first-year students, to return to campus for the fall semester.

The rest of the students will continue to learn remotely. Meanwhile, the MIT said last week that seniors will be the only undergraduates to be invited back to campus this fall.

Non-seniors may "request special consideration for housing if they face challenges related to safety, living conditions, visa status, or other hardship," the university said in a plan posted on its website.

Harvard and the MIT argued in their lawsuit that the ICE's action considered neither the health of students amid the pandemic, nor the contributions that international students made to American innovation. They also highlighted the potential loss of "tens of billions of dollars that international students contribute to U.S. GDP each year" should the guidance be put into practice.

The number of international students studying in the United States reached 1.1 million in the 2018-19 academic year, making up 5.5 percent of the total U.S. higher education population, according to the Institute of International Education, a New York-based non-profit.



Harvard University

International students contributed nearly 45 billion U.S. dollars to the U.S. economy in 2018, data from the U.S. Department of Commerce showed.

Tuesday's hearing came against the backdrop of 17 states and the District of Columbia on Monday sued the Trump administration over the controversial guidance. The lawsuit, led by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, accused the federal government of engaging in a "cruel, abrupt, and unlawful action to expel international students amidst the pandemic that has wrought death and disruption across the United States."

Also on Monday, a group of 20 universities in the Western United States, including Stanford University, the University of Southern California, the University of Oregon and the California Institute of Technology, filed a lawsuit challenging the ICE's guidance.

The schools complained that their plans for the upcoming semester "were thrown into disarray" by the ICE's "about-face" policy change, which was announced "without warning and without any input from the schools or students directly affected by it."

Xinhua

Moderna to start final clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine in late July

WASHINGTON

U.S. biotech company Moderna plans to begin its final phase of testing for its COVID-19 vaccine on July 27, according to details posted Tuesday on government database clinicaltrials.gov.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotech company is the first to announce a start date for phase 3 study in the United States.

The study aims to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of the mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in adults aged 18 years and older, according to information on the website, which is maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers plan to enroll 30,000 adult participants, includ-

ing people whose locations or circumstances put them at high-risk of infection. Participants will either receive the vaccine or a placebo.

The experimental group will be injected with 100 micrograms of the vaccine on day one and again on day 29.

The placebo group will be injected with two doses of matching placebo on the same dates. Researchers will evaluate whether the participants develop COVID-19 14 days after they get their second dose.

The participants will be followed for two years after receiving their second dose. The study will be conducted at 87 locations across the United States.

Moderna Chief Medical Officer Tal Zaks said earlier that the com-



pany is committed to advancing the clinical development of mRNA-1273 as safely and quickly as possible to demonstrate its vaccine's ability to significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 disease.

Moderna was the first company in the United States to launch

phase 1 study of COVID-19 vaccine in March in Seattle.

In May, the company announced positive interim clinical data of the vaccine, saying it was generally safe and well tolerated, with a safety profile consistent with that seen in prior Moderna infectious disease vaccine clinical studies.

According to Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the U.S. government will fund and conduct key studies on three experimental coronavirus vaccines. The phase 3 trials will begin with one by Moderna in July, then an Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine in August and one by Johnson & Johnson in September, according to Fauci.

Xinhua

China to impose sanctions on US in response to HK legislation

CHINA said yesterday it will impose sanctions on relevant United States personnel and entities after US President Donald Trump signed into law the so-called "Hong Kong Autonomy Act".

Trump also put his signature on an executive order that ends Washington's preferential treatment for Hong Kong.

The foreign ministry said in a statement Beijing strongly opposes the latest US action and urged Washington to stop interfering in China's internal affairs.

The act maliciously slanders the National Security Law for Hong Kong and threatens to put sanctions on China, which seriously violated international law and basic norms governing international relations, the ministry said.

Formulation and implementation of the law complies with relevant provisions of the Chinese Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law, and will provide institutional and legal guarantees for the stability of "one country, two systems", according to the statement.

It will also help safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests and guarantee Hong Kong's long-term stability and prosperity.

Hong Kong is a special administrative region in China, and Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs that brook no foreign interference.

China is firmly determined to uphold national sovereignty, safeguard Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and oppose external forces to meddle in Hong Kong affairs.

The US's attempts to block the implementation of the National Security Law for Hong Kong will never succeed, the ministry said.

"To protect its legitimate interests, China will take necessary action to impose sanctions against related US institutions and individuals."

China urges the US to correct its mistakes, refrain from implementing the so-called act and stop any interference in Hong Kong affairs and other domestic affairs of China, it said, adding if the US is bent on going down the wrong path, China will firmly respond.

Agencies

FAO calls for 1.2 billion USD funding to support comprehensive COVID-19 Response Programme

ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a call for 1.2 billion U.S. dollars in fresh investment to fund its comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme.

Aimed at avoiding a food emergency at global level during and after the coronavirus pandemic, the new plan was unveiled on Tuesday at the FAO headquarters in the Italian capital at a virtual conference opened by the agency's Director-General Qu Dongyu.

"The new programme aims to mitigate the immediate impacts of the pandemic, while strengthening the longer-term resilience of food systems and livelihoods," the agency stated. In his opening remarks, the FAO chief stressed that a "business as usual" approach would not suffice anymore during far-reaching emergencies such as the current one.

"We must work very hard to limit COVID-19's damaging effects on food security and nutrition," Qu highlighted. He urged the agency itself and the supporting international partners to "be more country-driven, innovative, and work closely hand in hand."

"With international cooperation partnership, we can solve the problem we are facing together, while spearheading action for the near future... We can end hunger, while leaving no one behind," he said.

Experts at the virtual event also made clear the current pandemic not only represented a major global health concern, but also an unprecedented threat to food security.

If not addressed with a comprehensive approach, they warned, it could plunge some 49 million people into extreme poverty, according to estimates by the World Bank, and threat food access in both developing and developed countries.

It would also increase unemployment and food costs, ultimately affecting food security in the long term. In addition, these threats loomed over a global food security situation that had already showed signs of worsening before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, as recent figures showed.

The annual "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report unveiled by FAO on Monday estimated that almost 690 million people were in a condition of undernourishment in 2019, up by 10 million against the previous year and by nearly 60 million compared with 2014.

Xinhua

Hungary reopens borders for Russian nationals

MOSCOW

HUNGARY reopen its border for Russian nationals from yesterday, the Hungarian Embassy to Russia blogged on Facebook on Monday.

"Within the framework of epidemiological rules imposed in connection with COVID-19, the rules of entry in Hungary will change from

July 15, 2020," it said.

"Under the decision of the Hungarian epidemiological authorities, Russia has been put on the list of the 'yellow' zone countries (the countries with an increased risk are divided into 'yellow' and 'red' zones)," the embassy reported.

It said that the nationals of Hungary and members of their families

arriving from Russia, as well as those who are not Hungarian nationals, must undergo medical examination upon their entry.

If there are no coronavirus suspicions, they will have to spend 14 days in quarantine. Quarantine can be avoided only if two coronavirus tests conducted in the past five days (48 hours apart) show a negative

result, and this will be documented in Hungarian or in English, the embassy said.

It also said that entry would be denied to foreign nationals suspected of being infected with coronavirus.

Earlier, the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing sent to the Minis-

try of Transport and the Federal Air Transport Agency the list of 13 countries where Russia would be able to restart flights at the first stage, with Hungary among them.

Meanwhile, the Council of the European Union refused to put Russia on the initial list of the countries that it would open its borders for.

Agencies

China has confidence, strength to maintain economic development

CHINA saw its economy continue to recover and its key economic indicators continue to move in a positive direction in May, which is a hard-won result considering the rampant COVID-19 worldwide and the shrinking international economy and trade.

According to statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Transport, the total profits made by industrial enterprises above the designated size, the index of services production, and China's fixed-asset investment in transportation began to increase.

Besides, power consumption of the service sector and rail-cargo volume were also on a rise.

The strong performance of China's economy has frustrated those who talk down China's economy, according to Tom Orlik, chief economist for

Bloomberg Economics. Such a view reflects the international optimism about China's economy.

The COVID-19 crisis is not only a test of the performance, ability and level of China's development, but also reveals the stable momentum and deep-seated advantages of China's economy.

The stable growth of China's economy and the sound development in the long term remain unchanged, and so do the country's huge potential, strong resilience, ample room for maneuver and a host of policy tools. China's strong confidence and strength to maintain economic growth shine through the twists and turns.

The confidence and strength come from stable economic fundamentals. As the world's second largest economy, China's economy is not only large in size, but also "immune" to the impact

of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The advantages of such a huge economy lie in China's huge number of population, the vast territory, the colossal size of the economy, an independent and complete industrial system and national economic system, as well as graded regional economic development.

Domestic demand has become the main driving force for China's economy. In May, the consumption of daily necessities continued to grow and the consumption of upgrading products remained active.

Steady progress has been made in creating a new development pattern where domestic and foreign markets boost each other with domestic market as the mainstay, thus making the fundamentals of China's economy stable enough to withstand impacts.

The confidence and strength come from the burgeoning new growth drivers. China has embarked on a journey of high-quality economic development in recent years. The added value of high-tech manufacturing grew 8.9 percent year on year in May, 4.5 percent higher than that of enterprises above the designated size.

Digital economy keeps progressing, as the online sales of national entity went up by 11.5 percent in the first five months this year. Live-streaming e-commerce and other new business models are gaining increasing popularity.

New products and new industries grow vigorously with the output of 3D printing equipment, smart watches, integrated circuit wafers, and charging piles in May increasing by more than 70 percent from the same period in 2019.

Despite the short-term fluctuations in economic performance caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the country remains resolute in applying the new development philosophy, and continues to work for high-quality development.

The drivers for high-quality growth will guarantee more sustainable, effective and better development of China's economy.

The confidence and strength come from China's institutional advantages, and the most notable one is the centralized and unified leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) over economic work.

Thanks to the strong leadership of the CPC, the country pursues the long-term and fundamental interests of economic development and maintains strategic resolve in the face of the epi-

dem.

Besides, the country takes targeted measures, instead of a deluge of strong stimulus policies, and has realized transformation and upgrading while achieving steady economic growth.

It is expected that this year will see additional tax cutting of more than 2.5 trillion yuan (\$356.5 billion) for enterprises throughout the year, and see financial sector make interest concessions of 1.5 trillion yuan to all kinds of enterprises. This all comes down to the huge capacity of macro-control.

More importantly, China is one of the few major economies in the world to "normalize" monetary policy and is equipped with a package of policy instruments, which gives the country abundant policy space if a crisis arises again.

People's Daily



Farmers of a cooperative in Leyu township, Zhangjiakang pluck corns on May 13. (File photo)

Ecological efforts bring back lush green to Yangtze River bank

ZHANGJIANG Bay in East China's Jiangsu Province is the last major curve of the Yangtze River before it flows into the sea. For 69-year-old Fang Jinfu, who lives in Yongxing village near the bay, the river bank, in his childhood, was like a green carpet stretching infinitely, with a lot of crabs and resounding chirping.

At that time, he would always dig for wild vegetables and catch crabs with his friends in the summer. However, the natural environment along the river began deteriorating since the 1990s, when shipyards and docks sprang up and villagers started aquaculture along the riverside.

Fortunately, a large-scale campaign was launched in the second half of 2019 to demolish unapproved construction and weed out inefficient shipyard companies and aquaculture industries, as a way to restore the riverside environment. Yongxing village also joined the rehabilitation efforts.

Fang was the first in his village to take down unapproved building, to close the aquatic plant and to sign an agreement on relocation compensation.

Fang and his family left the old house they had lived in for decades, in an effort to support the environment rehabilitation. "I didn't want to leave the old house, but I know it was for the good of my hometown," he said.

The efforts paid off quickly. In less than a year, the river bank turned green again thanks to the comprehensive treatment and ecological remediation. A nine-kilometer ecological corridor, bird observation stations, and a 100-meter gallery have been es-

tablished along the Zhangjiakong Bay, bringing a new look to the riverside.

The presence of birds is a barometer of ecological health. Every three months, Zhou Minjun, an ornithologist from Suzhou Wetland Nature School in Zhangjiakong's neighboring city, comes to Shuangshan Island opposite the Zhangjiakong Bay to observe birds.

He spotted three reed parrotbills playing in the reeds on April 25. The endangered species requires high quality standards for habitat, and their presence indicated the improving ecology, he told the People's Daily.

"Today's river bank sees lush reed beds and more crabs. The river has become beautiful again," said Fang. He enjoys taking a walk to his old house, as the river is clearer and more trees are planted by the bank.

With the greening of the river bank, the villages nearby also found new opportunities for development. Yongxing village is making new strides in building itself into an ecological and idyllic village for sightseeing.

"Great changes have taken place in the village over the past six months," said Guo Chunzhong, deputy Party head of the village, introducing that an ecological park consisting of an agritainment facility, an orchard for visitors to pluck fruits, and a B&B has been built.

The village has also established a company, with an aim of building an idyllic complex to translate the ecological benefits into improved income for the villagers.

People's Daily

UK health chief says will not be recommending masks in offices

LONDON

BRITISH Health Minister Matt Hancock said that the government would not be recommending that people wear face masks in offices, after speculation that rules for work places could follow shops.

"We will not be recommending masks in the office," Hancock told Sky News yesterday. Shoppers in England will have to wear face coverings in shops and supermarkets from July 24 to help reduce the risk of a new pick-up in the spread of the coronavirus, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Monday.

Hancock (pictured) told the BBC that the government had looked at making wearing masks in offices but rejected the idea on the basis that if people spend a long time together, face coverings do not offer protection.

"It's interaction with people who you aren't normally with, and that's where the mask can be particularly helpful," he said.

Face coverings are already compulsory on public transport in England. The Telegraph newspaper reported earlier on Wednesday that the government could soon recommend face coverings in all public places including offices and other workplaces.

Asked about the report on the BBC, Hancock said: "No... It's something that we've looked at and rejected." Another 138 COVID-19 patients have died in Britain as of Monday afternoon, bringing the total coronavirus-related death toll in the country to 44,968, the British Department of Health and Social Care said Tuesday.

Agencies



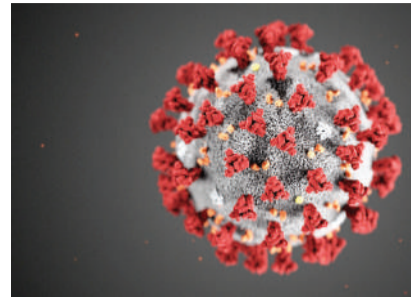
Africa's confirmed COVID-19 cases hit 612,586 - Africa CDC

ADDIS ABABA

THE number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the African continent reached 612,586 as of Wednesday morning, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

The Africa CDC in its latest situation update issued on Wednesday said that the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the continent rose from 594,841 on Tuesday morning to 612,586 as of Wednesday morning.

The continental disease control and prevention agency also dis-



closed that the death toll from the pandemic surged to 13,519 as of the stated period.

The Africa CDC further said that 307,069 patients who tested positive for COVID-19 have so far recovered from the infectious virus.

Amid the rapid spread of the virus across the continent, the highly affected African countries in terms of positive cases include South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Algeria, Morocco, and Cameroon.

The Africa CDC also said that the Southern Africa region is now the most affected area across the continent in terms of positive COVID-19 cases, followed by the North Africa region.

The West Africa region is the third most affected area in terms of positive cases, followed by the Eastern and Central Africa regions, respectively.

Xinhua

Trump uses Rose Garden as substitute rally venue in onslaught against Biden

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump used a White House event on China to excoriate his expected Democratic presidential rival, Joe Biden, on Tuesday in a rambling diatribe that turned the Rose Garden setting into a substitute rally venue, minus his supporters.

The Republican president, who trails Biden in national opinion polls, has chafed at his inability to hold large political gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

His campaign postponed an outdoor rally scheduled for last Saturday in New Hampshire, citing a tropical storm off the East Coast. An indoor rally he held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, last month featured a partially empty arena.

So on a day when Biden unveiled a \$2 trillion climate plan during a speech in Delaware, Trump took to a podium outside the Oval Office and, after announcing moves to punish China for its treatment of Hong Kong, criticized the former vice president and sought to draw a distinction between their two candidacies.

"Today, Joe Biden gave a speech in which he said that the core of his economic agenda is a hard-left crusade against American energy. He wants to kill American energy," Trump said.

Biden's plan, which would seek to cut carbon emissions from electrical power production to zero in 15 years, signified a more aggressive approach on climate policy than he adopted during the Democratic presidential nominating race in a nod to party progressives who are demanding bolder action.

"When Donald Trump thinks about climate change, the only word he can muster is 'hoax,'" Biden said. "When I think about climate change, the word I think of is 'jobs.' Good-paying union jobs that put Americans to work."

Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris climate accord to fight climate change. Biden plans to bring the country back in if he is elected in No-



U.S. President Donald Trump attends a news conference in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, U.S. on Tuesday. REUTERS

ember. "Yet one more gift from Biden to the Chinese Communist Party," Trump said. He sees the accord as favorable to Beijing.

The dueling events between the incumbent president and the man who hopes to replace him could represent a prelude to how their campaigns do events in the time of the coronavirus, scheduling more speeches with reporters present but no large crowds.

Trump took a handful of questions in his roughly hour-long event. The president made minimal reference to the coronavirus despite a surging number of cases across the country.

Biden, who spoke for some 20 minutes, took no questions.

'LONG-WINDED CAMPAIGN RALLY'

Trump painted Biden as ineffective in a host of different policy areas during his eight years in office as President Barack Obama's No. 2 and during decades in the U.S. Senate.

He knocked Biden's stances on the

U.S. military, immigration, welfare and China. Using a strategy that his campaign had sought to employ before the pandemic and its economic fallout consumed the country, Trump emphasized socialism by painting Biden as tied closely to policies advocated by his former rival for the nomination, Senator Bernie Sanders.

"Last week, Joe Biden released his unity platform developed with socialist Bernie Sanders," Trump said. "The Biden-Sanders agenda is the most extreme platform of any major party nominee, by far, in American history." Biden needs to appeal to left-leaning supporters of Sanders, who identifies as a democratic socialist.

The Democratic National Committee called Trump's event a rally.

"Trump turned what was supposed to be a Rose Garden speech on holding China accountable into a meandering, nonsensical, and long-winded campaign rally that we only hope the American people were watching," it said.

Agencies

WFP, South Sudan sign deal to implement agriculture master plan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan has signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) to help speed up agricultural production under its Comprehensive Agricultural Masterplan (CAMP) that seeks to improve food security.

Josephine Lagu Yanga, minister of agriculture and food security, said the agreement signed on Tuesday with WFP will enable the youngest nation to transform its nascent agricultural sector by empowering smallholder farmers to produce enough.

"We are a rural country because the majority of our people live in rural areas and it's our responsibility to ensure that we lift them from rural areas. Other

countries have done it and a lot of them did through transforming their agricultural sector," she told journalists in Juba.

She urged South Sudan to follow China's blueprint on the agricultural transformation that has helped lift millions out of poverty. "In the recent past the People's Republic of China is one of those countries that have accelerated technological advancement through agricultural revolution," said Yanga.

"I always mention this to our people that in the 1960s China was a rural country and they could not even feed their people, but they had an ambitious program to ensure that they achieved food self-sufficiency for the majority of their people," she added.

Matthew Hollingworth, WFP country

director, said empowering smallholder farmers is part of WFP's long-term vision in South Sudan.

"We believe that if we are going to serve the people that WFP wants to support which are the smallholder farmers in the country, we must have a strong robust agreement with the government to support an entity that can support those smallholder farmers and one of the best entities to deal with is the agricultural bank of any country we are working in," said Hollingworth.

He disclosed that WFP aims to achieve three objectives which include, empowering smallholder farmers, scale up commercial agriculture, build institutional capacity of Agricultural Bank of South Sudan (ABSS) and also

Russia chooses first 13 countries for resuming international flight connection

MOSCOW

THE authorities have made up a list of 13 countries Russia can resume flights to at the first stage of the resumption of international flights.

On Thursday, Russian consumer safety watchdog Rospotrebnadzor sent the list to the Transport Ministry and the Federal Air Transport Agency. This is according to the watchdog's letter that is available to TASS.

Earlier on Thursday it was reported that the operational headquarters for preventing the spread of coronavirus in Russia supported the proposal of the Transport Ministry, the Federal Air Transport Agency and Aeroflot to resume international air traffic in two stages.

"It is possible to consider these countries as candidates for resuming flights at the first stage," the letter says.

The list of countries that meet epidemiological safety requirements include the UK, Hungary, Germany, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Finland, Vietnam, China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka.

The letter also indicates that "Rospotrebnadzor assessed the epidemiological situation in countries in accordance with the criteria" established by the service earlier.

Earlier Thursday, TASS, citing the minutes of the headquarters meeting, reported that the operation staff agreed with the consumer safety watchdog on the approach to assessing the epidemiological situation in foreign states when deciding to resume air communication with them.

The watchdog proposed considering such criteria as "the rate of increase in the incidence of a new coronavirus infection over the past 14 days and the prevalence rate of this infection, as well as a possible additional criterion - the incidence rate of a new coronavirus infection over the past 14 days per 100,000 people."

Since March 27, Russia completely closed its regular and charter international air service, carriers and conducted only special flights for the return of Russians from abroad.



It is possible to consider these countries as candidates for resuming flights at the first stage

A VIDEO of a food deliveryman studying by the street under a street lamp in Nanning, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region went viral in March, impressing many.

"I was preparing for an examination for Associate Constructor's Certification as I had 15 minutes before the caterer handed me the food," said Qin Liubei, the deliveryman in the video, who comes from Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County, Guangxi.

Qin graduated from a vocational school three years ago, but hit a wall on the job market because of his plain professional skills. Therefore, he decided to take this job first but keep on learning skills.

Deliverymen rush on to pursue dreams in Chinese cities

He told People's Daily that his family always encouraged him to keep studying, and he didn't want to let them down.

At present, there are over 7 million people working for Meituan Dianping and Ele.me, two major online food delivery platforms in China, and many of them come from rural areas.

The flexible working hours is a major reason for many to become food deliverymen.

Statistics indicated that 59 percent of the deliverymen on Meituan Dianping work less than four hours each day, and 56 percent have other jobs. 26 percent of whom run small businesses.



Restaurants in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province provide free hot water, cell phone chargers and space to rest for couriers and deliverymen. (People's Daily)

While delivering food to gain extra money, they are also striving

to pursue their life dreams. However, for some other de-

liverymen, delivering food is a career.

Liu Houxiang, a 42-year-old deliveryman working for Ele.me in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province, set a record on the platform by delivering 6,465 late night orders in seven months.

"I have done the job for five years and gained some experience," said Liu, sharing his experience that it's better to take the orders with similar destinations and manage the schedule according to the time when meals are prepared.

Liu usually drives a motorcycle to deliver meals from 10 p.m. to the wee hours, when Nanjing is

in its quietest time. Every day he takes orders placed by people off their night shift in the late night, Liu said, adding that they are just like old friends to him.

In February, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the State Administration for Market Regulation and the National Bureau of Statistics issued new professions and included food delivery as a professional job under the protection and regulation of national occupational classification system.

Besides, cities and platforms in China have also taken measures to regulate and protect the work of food delivery.

Beijing established an alliance for food deliverymen and couriers, and Xiamen, in southeast China's Fujian province, introduced policies concerning the labor relations of food delivery service providers.

Online platforms have not only rolled out courses to help practitioners improve their professional skills and provide guidance on their career development, but also offered assistance for those from poor households.

Meituan Dianping plans to add 50,000 delivery jobs in poverty-stricken counties this year and offer them interest-free loans, said Xu Chen, head of the company's branch in east China's Jiangxi province. People's Daily



Junior chess players compete in this year's Don Bosco Rapid Open and Jr Chess Championship, which took place in Dar es Salaam in January. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

Dar junior chess players win praise

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

DAR ES SALAAM's chess coach, Kara Loui, has hailed domestic junior chess players for putting an impressive performance in this season's online competition, dubbed 'African Junior 2nd Team Battle', which ended early this week.

The competition had six countries, namely South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Botswana and Tanzania, fielding teams in it. Tanzania's players settled for the fourth spot in the competition, which ended with Botswana lifting the top honour.

Botswana's team, Francistown School of Chess, recorded 198 points to finish first, Brand Chess Life Academy of Uganda finished second after collecting 178 points.

KwaZulu Natal Chess Academy of South Africa took the third spot with 160 points, Tanzania's Don Bosco & Rising Star Chess Clinic took fourth spot after collecting 153 points.

Zimbabwe's Young Chess Masters finished fifth, collecting 137 points.

"Our players played well, it was tough maintaining the lead and in the last hour the South African team passed us," Louis disclosed.

"It is good we participated in it for the experience we got was unprecedented."

Louis had previously described the competition as good as it gives exposure to junior players.

The tournament was organized by Inter-

national Chess Federation (FIDE) recognized Arbiter, Duke Michaka.

The coach said duration of play in the competition's matches is 90 minutes while time control is 5+5 and each team can have up to 15 players but only 10 top players were considered.

"It is good for the players, it gives them exposure, they are used to playing against each other but this time they are playing the best teams on the continent, it gives them experience and confidence," he disclosed.

Due to Coronavirus outbreak, Tanzania's chess players, like their fellow players in many African countries, have resorted to playing chess online and it is regarded as faster. Online games include blitz and speed chess.

Domestic chess governing body, TCA, a few months ago announced that they will start online event which will involve all age categories and they will be using lichess application.

Lichess is an approved by FIDE and is also used for rating and training of the sport.

Playing the sport online is seeing a rapid growth in interest and participation, particularly with most people confined to their homes as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

In April, chess website, chess.com, had 1.5 million new subscribers compared with 670,000 subscribers in January, as disclosed by FIDE.

Shifting National Arts Council to Industry may diminish censorship, enhance taxes

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

WHILE activists in the professional dance music organization (CHAMUDATA) have been airing demands to BASATA (National Arts Council) on various issues, including earning rightful portion of proceedings from airing their works on radio and television, the situation is likely to change. Activities which fall under the council will not be administered by the Ministry of Industries and Trade, and at the end of the week procedures were still being worked out to exchange instruments to that effect, from the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports where Arts was based. It looks like a new beginning.

For one thing, no stakeholder is on record demanding that the profession move from Culture to Industry, that it be taken up as business units rather than as social entertainment, which also means that there is a statutory formalization of music as a sector of business. There is no longer a distinction where traditional dance music is meant for entertainment and newly generated music types known as Bongo Flava being geared to make money, as it was a faulty etiquette in the first place. Failure to make money doesn't mean the lack of intent, anymore than a pupil who flunks in school had no intention to pass, in the first place.

Put differently, there is something like moving from an informal sector consideration of the music-yes, industry - to its formal accreditation as a professional occupation like any other. In that sense each music group will have to be registered. They are also expected to be registered and obtain a Tax Identification Number that everyone who conducts an income generating activity in the public sphere is required to obtain, or the more heterogeneous informal sector identification, issued with special identification cards or certificates. It is possible



Waluguru Original Band's soloist, Kinde Makengele, in action at the band's recent show which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

some music groups be identified as 'marching guys' and obtain 'Magfuli' cards while most others obtain tax identification of various classes, as small, medium and big musicians.

Yet there is a perplexing element in the modality of the shift, whether what is moving is the council as such or it is the music profession, as indeed this seems to be the proper intention. As a professional council the body, BASATA is irrelevant in the ministry, as culture per se hasn't shifted to Industry, and in that sense the new location of the council is only relevant for registration, professional following up of the particular individuals. At to this, in any case, it can only follow them up on cultural issues, not tax matters as that sphere is reserved for the revenue agency or municipal authorities. Some rectification could thus be expected in the gazetted or subsequent clarification of roles, as to where culture issues are discussed.

If the council shall be deemed

to have been absorbed wholly and completely in Industry and will have no relationship with Information, Culture, Sports and Arts, it will be the same as dissolving the censorship aspect as it relates to culture, not to the payment of taxes. When it comes to the taxation part, it appears that CHAMUDATA becomes the relevant organization rather than the council, as it would then be a lobby for relief or leniency on the part of tax authorities and liabilities involved in company registration, for instance a listing of assets, shareholders, etc. This is likely to be a haphazard sphere at the moment, but that environment may also provide it with the liberty it needs, of alliances not tied down by contract.

How far all this is likely to change in the new set up is as yet unclear, but there is a shift of attitude in how music as a whole is being looked at in higher bureaucratic circles, especially in the shift from continuous concern with content, to business outlays and taxes. It means that

this aspect is definitely going to take centre stage as there is a movement to formalize music as an aspect of industry, as an actual occupation and a business output in a regular manner, not just entertainment. It follows that content starts being disregarded, or put onto a lower ladder in favour of correct reporting of business transactions, taxes.

The only hope for musicians is that this inclination towards taxation should let them to be free in other aspects, though it can potentially make things difficult in an all round way. For instance instead of banning an artiste a licence is taken away after two or three verbal warnings, which is administratively much easier in comparison with having to announce a ban, as that disturbs the public somewhat. So the likely impact or mode of supervision of the music sub-sector can't be said for certain, as there are more worrying aspects than likely relaxation of controls, as even then the content aspect wasn't too stringent.

Bocco, Kagere win VPL monthly best player prizes

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

VODACOM Premier League giants, Simba SC, continue to fly high as the club's two players Meddie Kagere and John Bocco have been awarded as players of the month for March and June respectively.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) through the federation's information officer Clifford Ndimbo said Bocco has been named as best player for the month of June.

Bocco beat Atupele Green of Biashara United and Martin Kiggi of Alliance FC.

Ndimbo said in June, Bocco helped his side win two games and manage draw in two matches.

He scored three goals. The Simba skipper scored in a game against Mwadui FC, Mbeya City FC and Ruvu Shooting.

In the month of March, Simba played four games, winning three and losing one.

Ndimbo said Kagere was instrumental in Simba's achievement in March as he scored five goals in the month.

He said Simba won against Azam FC, Sin-

gida United and KMC FC and lost to their old age rivals, Yanga.

The TFF information officer said in the month of March, Kagere who has 19 goals in the Premier League, beat Paulo Nonga of Lipuli FC and Never Tigere of Azam FC to the honour.

The two, Bocco and Kagere, were also influential in Simba's aim of defending the Premier League trophy and reaching the final of Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

The federation also said Alliance FC head coach, Kessy Mziray, has been named as the best coach for the month of June, beating Sven Vandebroek of Simba and Yanga's Luc Eymael.

Ndimbo said Mziray guided his side to three wins and one draw, taking the team from the 18th position to 14th in the 20-team league.

Burundian tactician Haruna Harerimana, who coaches KMC FC, was named the best coach for the month of March.

He beat Vandebroek and Khalid Adam of Mwadui FC to the prize.



Sportpesa Tanzania's Director of Administration and Compliance, Abbas Tarimba (2nd L), listens to details issued by Nipashe newspaper's sports editor, Issa Kijoti, when the former visited The Guardian Limited offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Nipashe is one of the company's daily publications. Looking on are Sportpesa Tanzania's Public Relations Officer, Sabrina Msuya (3rd L), and The Guardian Limited's staff. PHOTO: SELEMANI MPOCHI

Tokyo Olympics at risk if coronavirus mutates, gets stronger - Japan adviser

TOKYO

THE Tokyo Olympics may have to be postponed again if the novel coronavirus mutates into a stronger pathogen, Kiyoshi Kurokawa, a prominent Japanese government adviser, said on Wednesday.

However, a recent spike in cases in Tokyo is due to a failure to stick to guidelines to prevent contagion, he said.

A physician who served as a science adviser to the Japanese cabi-

net from 2006-2008, Kurokawa also headed an independent probe into the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. Currently, he is advising the government on the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think the virus is mutating all the time ... it may be a much stronger virus that triggers a second wave," Kurokawa told Reuters. "The Olympics may be postponed again, but I can't predict."

"I think it's small incidents happening in Tokyo ... new cases are

because people are not abiding by recommendations," Kurokawa said of the current spike in infections. "But if there are some mutations, that is a completely different story. That could happen anywhere in the world."

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike told Reuters on Monday the Olympics, originally scheduled to start this month but put off to 2021 because of the pandemic, must go ahead next year as a symbol of world unity in overcoming coronavirus.

2020 Nane Nane pool table tourney finals set for next month

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

PREPARATIONS for the 2020 Nane Nane pool table tournament's finals have reached advanced stage, organizers disclosed yesterday.

Michael Machellah, one of the event's organizers, said all preparations are going on smoothly and disclosed that the finals will be

held at CCM Mwinjuma Hall at Mwananyamala in Dar es Salaam from August 6-9.

He said there will be junior, senior, ladies and singles categories and organizers expect teams from Dar es Salaam's Temeke, Ilala and Kinondoni districts, and Morogoro to battle it out in the competition.

Machellah said the participating regions are advised to field teams of seniors

and juniors who will play together.

"It will be played for four days, we encourage the regions to have teams comprising young and veterans, veterans who have been in the game since then, we want them to play with the juniors, we think this will bring some sort of competition and excitement," he said.

The organizer also said

he is encouraged that many players have started preparing for the tournament and asked others, who have not started, to start preparations.

He said awards will be announced soon as discussions with the tournament's sponsors are in progress.

Manyara's Baraka Jackson is the competition's defending champion. He pocketed 1m/- as an award.

Pep Guardiola hits out at UEFA, rivals, La Liga chief

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola launched a blistering attack on numerous targets after his club successfully overturned their Champions League ban, with UEFA, his Premier League rivals and La Liga chief Javier Tebas all in his sights.

On Monday, City were cleared of breaching financial fair play (FFP) rules by the Court of Arbitration for Sport and their two-year ban from European football was quashed. A €30 million fine was also reduced to €10m.

Speaking on Tuesday for the first time since the decision was made, Guardiola demanded an apology after a bruising legal battle that threatened to leave the club's reputation in tatters if they were found guilty.

"We should be apologised to," Guardiola said during what became a passionate defence of his club.

"We have the right to defend ourselves when we believe what we have done is correct. Three [CAS] judges said this.

"It was a good day for football, as we play with the same rules as all the clubs in Europe. If we had broken the rules, we'd be banned.

"The people [who] say we cheated were lying and the presumption of innocence wasn't there. Of course, now we are incredibly happy because we can defend what we've done on the pitch."

Guardiola also turned his ire on City's Premier League rivals and referenced a letter sent to CAS and signed by eight clubs -- Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham, Leicester, Wolves and Burnley -- in March in a bid to

prevent the punishment being deferred while the appeal was ongoing.

In a thinly veiled attack on his rivals, though, Guardiola branded the tactic "whispering."

"I know for the elite clubs -- Liverpool, United, Arsenal -- are not comfortable [with us] being here," Guardiola said.

"But we deserve to be here and we don't have to ask permission to be there. When we lose I shake their hands and congratulate them, all the time we have done it. Guys accept it, we wanted to be here and we tried on the pitch. If you do not agree, knock on the door and speak to our chairman and our CEO -- don't go whispering.

"We invested a lot of money, but we did it in the right things. We are not banned, we followed the rules for FFP as they decide. If not, we'd be banned."

Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho called the decision to overturn City's ban "a disgrace."

Elsewhere, La Liga president Tebas branded CAS "not up to standard."

"He's another one," Guardiola went on. "This guy must be so jealous of the Premier League and English football. He's an incredible legal expert, next time we'll ask them which court should judge us.

"There has to be worry and concern about La Liga on focus on them. These kind of people when it's good for them it's perfect, but if it's against them, it's a problem for the others. We'll be in the Champions League next season, Mr. Tebas. What we did, we did properly."

(Agencies)



The CAS ruling means Manchester City will be able to play in next season's Champions League. (Agencies)

CAS lifts Man City's UEFA FFP ban, but questions remain

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

ON Monday, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) overturned a two-year ban from European football and €30 million fine that were imposed upon Manchester City for breaching UEFA's financial fair play (FFP) regulations and failing to cooperate with an investigation by the governing body of European football's Club Financial Control Body (CFCB). City will instead be fined €10m for failure to cooperate, but they will be free to play in UEFA competitions.

We do not know exactly why the ban was overturned -- that will become more clear in the next few days when CAS publishes its full written award -- but the statement released alluded to the fact that some alleged breaches were "not established" and others were "time-barred."

What does it all mean? For example, is it accurate to say that City have been exonerated? And is this the end of FFP? Let's start at the beginning.

What exactly were Man City accused of doing?

They breached FFP rules -- legislation that limits the losses a club can sustain over a certain period -- in 2014 and were punished, reaching a settlement agreement with UEFA. However, the case was reopened following the November 2018 "Football Leaks" revelations published in the German magazine Der Spiegel.

Among other things, "Football Leaks" documents alleged that City's owners, the Abu Dhabi United Group, did not just get related parties, such as the airline Etihad, to sign inflated sponsorship deals -- which the original 2014 investigation already established -- but they routed money to said parties and then received that cash back as "sponsorship," effectively cooking the books.

Does Monday's judgement exonerate them?

It means they will not be banned from European competition; it does not mean they did not do anything wrong. The wording of CAS's release says some breaches were "not established" while others were "time-barred" which suggests the statute of limitations -- five years according to Article 37 of the 2019 edition of the procedural rules governing the CFCB -- might have applied.

City signed their settlement agreement on May 16, 2014; UEFA's formal investigation was launched on March 7, 2019, and referred to the independent adjudicatory chamber of the CFCB on May 16, 2019. The ban

came on Feb. 14, 2020.

Why did UEFA take so long to bring the case, and why did they persist if it was outside the statute of limitations?

That is tough to answer. If they had managed to bring their case in five months -- from when the documents were first published to when the statute of limitations expired -- maybe the outcome would have been different. Instead, from start to finish, it took them 15 months. Or maybe not: like I said we don't know what allegations fell into the "time breach" category and which fell into the "not established" category.

It is also likely UEFA argued that, given the severity of the allegations and the fact that new evidence was being introduced, the statute of limitations should not apply, and that was the conclusion reached by CFCB's independent adjudicatory chamber. As to why CAS felt differently, well, we will need to wait for them to publish the full award.

There's another aspect here. Rather than going down the CFCB route, UEFA could have pursued the case via its disciplinary committee. There would still be a statute of limitations, but the process would likely have been swifter and possibly more targeted, although the potential punishment would have been less severe.

You wrote before that it would be messy if we did

not get a clean verdict, but rather one based on technicalities. Is that what this is?

It looks that way to some, but it depends on what allegations were "not established" and which ones were "time-barred." An analogy would be that, if you commit a crime and a court does not clear you but rather says it was too long ago, the stain is still there, even though you cannot be prosecuted.

That's why people like Javier Tebas, head of the Spanish league, were quick to blame CAS on Monday: "We have to reassess whether [it's] the appropriate body to which to appeal institutional decisions ... CAS is not up to standard," he said.

On the other hand, until we see the full award, Tebas' comments smack of someone saying: "I don't like the verdict, so the court is rubbish."

Who makes up CAS?

It is basically an arbitration service with a list of judges -- mostly lawyers with extensive experience in sport -- of whom three are picked to hear a case. One is appointed by the plaintiff (UEFA), one by the defendant (City) and one by CAS itself. The parties agree to be bound by the verdict.

Is this the "death of FFP," as some are saying?

That is simply dramatic hyperbole and nonsense. First off, it is silly to draw conclusions like that until

we get the facts, i.e., the written award. Maybe the CFCB argued their case poorly or, as City suggested, failed to follow procedures.

Second, FFP is not just about punishing City. It was put into place in 2011 to turn European club football into a viable, investable industry and it did that: Before FFP, clubs on aggregate lost almost €2 billion per year; in the past two years, they made a profit.

Now that there is greater stability and commercial viability, however, FFP needs reform. Not so much for the super clubs like City, but to those hoping to join them in that elite group. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin admitted as much when I interviewed him two weeks ago.

"Now we need to go from financial fair play to achieving a better competitive balance," he said. "We are trying to find ways to allow clubs to invest more, but at the same time ensuring that underprivileged clubs aren't abandoned and left alone. We are discussing concrete measures, but it's too early to share. We need to approach this differently going forward, but it doesn't mean that the way [we] were doing this before was not right."

What could those measures be?

I expect they will relax FFP so that clubs can spend more in the short

term, as long as there is financial backing and a plan to reach break-even in the medium term. But regardless of Monday's news, it is pretty obvious that these restrictions need to be in place and not least because clubs themselves want them: No owner enjoys losing money in perpetuity.

Back to Man City, who feel targeted and the victims of a smear campaign. Does this judgement change that?

Certain facts remain, like the one that they breached FFP rules and agreed a settlement in 2014 that was, effectively, a plea bargain (so too did PSG, for that matter.) That is not going to change and perceptions of that are not going to change.

If the written reasons reveal that the evidence was flimsy or nonexistent or, worse, politically motivated, the club will have a point. If, on the other hand, they have been let off on a technicality like the statute of limitations expiring, that is another matter. In that case, not much will change, just as was the case regarding perceptions toward PSG when CAS backed them in 2019 on a procedural matter.

And, by the way, the fact that City were found guilty of not cooperating with the investigation does not reflect well on them either. Again, we will see what the written award says when it is published.

Drogba's election hopes suffer serious blow

ABIDJAN

DIDIER Drogba's hopes of becoming the next president of the Ivory Coast's football federation has suffered a serious setback after the failure of his fellow players to support his candidacy.

Drogba, 42, is one of three candidates standing for election as president of the Ivorian Football Federation in September but is yet to win the endorsement of any of the five special interest groups needed to get onto the ballot.

He was expecting to be backed by the footballers' union, headed by former team mate Cyrille Domoraud, but they are supporting Idriss Diallo, one of the two other candidates.

"The majority of our members decided to grant our endorsement to the list led by Mr. Idriss Diallo," said a statement by the Association of Ivorian Footballers, adding they were remaining loyal to a grouping formed three years ago to contest the elections, before Drogba had declared his candidacy.

REUTERS

Real Madrid warns fans not to gather in celebration spots

MADRID

REAL Madrid is asking its fans to stay away from the team's usual celebration spots in Madrid if it wins the Spanish league title.

The request came a day after Madrid defeated Granada 2-1 to move within two points of its first league trophy in three years. A victory against Villarreal on Thursday will be enough to secure the team's 34th league title. Madrid is four points ahead of second-place Barcelona with two rounds to go.

"We are all aware of the difficult situation that we are experiencing and the efforts being made across society to counter the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," the club said in a statement Tuesday. "Football is also playing its part in this and, with everyone's help, we managed to resume the competition in extremely complex circumstances.

"All of us must make a contribution, as has been the case to date, and show the utmost responsibility to avoid the risk of contagion," the club said.

Madrid said its players also will not visit the celebration spots, which include the Plaza de Cibeles in the Spanish capital.

"Real Madrid thanks our members and supporters in advance for their understanding," the statement said. "All of the effort and work put in by our players, coaching staff and the club towards this possible title success has always been done with a view to sharing the triumph with our fans, but we are aware that the current situation obliges us to maximize the necessary precautionary measures."

Madrid said it felt "the duty to issue this important call in a show of utmost responsibility and with the firm belief that any possible triumph involving our team must not give rise to a massive backward step in the battle we are all waging against this pandemic."

Spain was one of the hardest-hit countries by the coronavirus pandemic, with nearly 250,000 confirmed cases and more than 28,000 deaths. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga out to restore discipline

SPORT

CAS lifts Man City's UEFA FFP ban, but questions remain

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Gmykhana 2020 squash competition set to resume next month

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) Squash Section is set to resume bell tournaments next month, the section's former captain, Marwa Busigara, disclosed.

Busigara said currently eight players are attending light training at the club to prepare for the resumption of games which were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said Henry Herman is the current Squash Section captain and eight players will take part in the events. Three of the players, he noted, are from Zanzibar while five reside in Mainland Tanzania.

Busigara, who is one of Mainland Tanzania players in the competition, mentioned the players as Issa Matiku, Zablon Lopa, Nuhu Maalim and Philemon Osarya from Zanzibar, while Samaeel Lakhani, Hamisi Sama, Raul Dilesh and Mwinyimvua Kondo are the Mainland Tanzania's remaining players.

"After the resumption of sporting activities, the DGC Squash Section's players have started light training, the aim is to be in shape and fit, if renovation of the DGC squash courts completes soon, we will have a bell tournament in August," he said.

Squash and other sporting activities are resuming after a three-month hiatus and recently the squash world governing body (WSF) issued recommendations to restart the games.

The WSF said the recommendations included are not intended to substitute either professional medical advice or guidelines set out by either local or national authorities.

The WSF said key guidelines include the one requiring players to always keep a two-meter distance with each other, consider designated times for vulnerable individuals allowing a maximum of half the usual number allowed into the club at one time in the club. No players are to be in the club at this designated time.

Another guideline requires a player who lives with a person who has symptoms of coronavirus to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

Players should moreover not go to the courts if they are feeling ill at all, whatever the symptoms.

"Ensure a plan is in place before the reopening of squash courts. There will be pressure from members to restart as soon as possible, but clear policies and procedures are essential to ensure a safe restart of squash," the federation said in its statement.

"Ensure communications go out well in advance to members to encourage them back, re-assure them that safety is paramount and the regulations that will be in place," said part of the recommendations from WSF.

The WSF also said at the club, court time must be booked in advance and players should arrive 15 minutes before the game.

"Court times should be scheduled to allow for players to leave 15 minutes before next group arrive, consider parking arrangements, if applicable, to help members social distance on arrival at the club, should be designate a waiting area away from the courts for members with two-meter distance between each person and a maximum allowed at any one time," the body added.

"Players should wait if there are already the maximum number of people at the courts and determine the maximum number of players allowed in the club/ squash court," the WSF said.

Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

YANGA management has disclosed it will present an official statement on action to be taken by the side against winger, Bernard Morrison, who showcased indiscipline in the club's 2020 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) semi-final encounter with rivals Simba SC, played in Dar es Salaam last weekend.



Yanga players feature in training at the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) venue in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Simba SC cruised to a resounding 4-1 win over Yanga to sail through to the tournament's final, slated for next month.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, stated the outfit has taken Morrison's conduct and his other traits he exhibited

in the past with great concern and will soon issue decision.

"The management is dealing with everything, our fans should be patient, there is no player who is worthier than the club, the management will present a statement on all acts exhibited

by our player," he said.

He disclosed Morrison's conduct can not be tolerated by such a prominent side like Yanga, which has served as a platform for a handful of players to successfully ply their trade at the club and leave with lots of

dignity.

"The management has not ignored this issue, it will release statement on the issue. Our members and fans should keep on backing the players who are seeing to it we take the second spot in the top flight and prepare for the next season," he disclosed.

He, further, noted they are lately focusing on seeking the second spot in the Premier League behind Simba, who have already clinched the trophy.

"We want put all disappointments behind, namely results we had in our past matches, including the ASFC last four defeat to Simba, the most important thing is players, management and fans must unite at a time we are inching closer to concluding the top flight," Bumbuli disclosed.

Information from within Yanga, though, revealed the club's management is preparing to part ways with the Ghanaian professional that had won the hearts of Yanga fans before he had began displaying a series of indiscipline acts.

The information stated the outfit's management, led by Chairman Mshindo Msolwa, is in discussion with one of the outfit's sponsors, GSM Group, to find ways to terminate the winger's contract with the club.

Sandy's Super Strikers hammer Royal Strikers in 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial Cricket League

By Guardian Reporter

SANDY'S Super Strikers have expressed their quest for successful spell in the Division C of this year's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) with a comprehensive seven-wicket win over Royal Strikers Club at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Abhishek Rathod, Harsh Desai and Nanda Kumar's impressive batting displays were instrumental in the eventual winners' achievement, helping the club smoothly get down to successful chase.

Royal Strikers won the toss, chose to bat and posted 100 runs all out in 17 overs of the 20-over encounter.

Irfan Abdullah, Mohamed Tahir and Ally Ishaq, to a great extent, helped the squad end the innings with the respectable total, thanks to the three players' solid batting.

They were pegged back early on in the innings after Muaaz Abdulkarim, who opened the innings with Ishaq, was sent back to the pavilion after managing mere four runs.

Ishaq managed to make up for his fellow opener's flaws for several overs, notching 16 runs which consisted of three boundaries.

Royal Strikers were again



Sandy's Super Strikers' cricketers pose for picture before training at Kawe ground in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SANDY'S SUPER STRIKERS

dealt a blow following quick dismissal of Imtiyaz Yusuf, who managed nine runs.

Abdullah put good knocks and recorded 21 runs, which consisted of a four, and Tahir chipped in with 21 runs, which included two fours, to push their outfit's score.

Efforts by Royal Strikers to set up a challenging target for their opponents, nevertheless, hit snag, given the former's remaining batsmen were dismissed in quick succession.

Standout bowling per-

formance by Sandy's Super Strikers came from Narendra Kumar and Rathod, who finished their spells with three wickets apiece.

Kumar leaked 26 runs in four overs, Rathod leaked 12 runs in four overs respectively.

Harivadan Tusharkant piled misery for Royal Strikers, taking two wickets and leaking 13 runs in three overs.

Needing 101 runs to win, Sandy's Super Strikers wasted no time, posting 103 runs for three wickets to garner the much needed

victory.

Much as opening batsman Harit Gandhi was dismissed early on with two runs to his name, Sandy's Super Strikers' chase was hardly affected, as Rathod, Kumar and Desai stepped up to win the match for the side.

Desai, who opened the innings with Gandhi, scored 22 runs which consisted of a boundary, before he was run out by Royal Strikers' Abdulkarim from skipper Zaid Abdulmajid's bowling.

Rathod has the best in-

nings for the eventual winners, posting 34 runs which included two fours and a six.

Although his spell was ended by Royal Strikers' Abdulkarim, who run the former out from Abdulmajid's bowling, Sandy's Super Strikers' spirit hardly waned.

Kumar made certain of the chase, notching 19 runs not out which consisted of a boundary.

Narendra forged partnership with Kumar to close the innings out with four runs not out, which

included a boundary.

The Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized league is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

The Division C is the tournament's fourth tier, which has participating teams battling it out in T20 formatted games. The Division A has sides locking horns in 50-over clashes, whereas Divisions A1 and B sides play 30-over duels.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

