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Former Wits SRC president pledges R1.5m to help students

AU hints at WHO talks on malaria vaccination for children

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Union Commission officials will start talks with the World Health Organisation to arrange for the first consignment of the newly approved malaria vaccine to the continent the soonest.

The African Union's top health official made this observation on Thursday amid calls for enhancing funding for drugs, now focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC),

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Dr Mwinyi sees ATCL uplift tourist arrivals



The two Airbus A220-300s just acquired by the state-run Air Tanzania Company Limited are officially received at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport yesterday. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has talked of the need for Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) to formulate strategies that will make the national carrier compete internationally.

This change will help the country achieve the long-term dream of increasing numbers of tourists to five million in half a decade to come, boosting tourism revenues from \$2.9bn to \$6bn.

Officiating at a ceremony to receive two Airbus planes of A220-300 make for ATCL at the Amani Abeid Karume International Airport in Zanzibar, the president said the country should move away from depending on foreign airlines to bring tourists into the country.

The Isles leader who represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the event said the coming of the two planes was a milestone in achieving plans and strategies that are in place and worked upon by the Union and Zanzibar governments.

"It is now the airline's duty to ensure Tanzanians begin using the company's planes for travelling because this will capacitate the airline to expand and offer world calls services," he stated.

By having a strong airline with direct flights from various continents to the country's main airports, the country will be assured of having a much larger haul of tourists, he said.

The planes, branded A220-300 Zanzibar and A220-300 Tanzanite arrived at the Amani Abeid Karume International Airport at around 15:25 and were received with a water salute.

ATCL director general Ladislaus Matindi said the company will soon begin connectivity routes from Mwanza to Dodoma and Zanzibar to Pemba. The new aircrafts have been modernised with new features including carrying 133 passengers and flying six hours without landing, he stated.

The company has drawn up a business plan that has already been presented for perusal and advice on the

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It is now the airline's duty to ensure Tanzanians begin using the company's planes for travelling because this will capacitate the airline to expand and offer world calls services

VP: Work out ways to compete, curb imports

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

VICE President Dr. Phillip Mpango has directed the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade to sit down and come up with answers on how the country's industrial sector produces competitive products and curbs importation.

Dr Mpango issued this directive yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards (PMAYA 2020) when he represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan. The event was coordinated by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

He said the country's industrial sector has failed to produce quality products to satisfy market demand and billions of shillings are used to import products that could have been produced locally.

"We still depend too much on importation of goods but we must understand that in doing so we are exporting employment opportunities of our people and kill local industries. That's why it is important for CTI and the ministry to find the best ways to address this matter. There are countries similar to us which were in the same situation but they have moved out of that trap," he declared.

Last year, around 200bn/- was used to import textile materials while cotton is produced in the country, 111bn/-



Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango shows a shield Confederation of Tanzania Industry chairman Paul Makanza (L) presented to him shortly after the VP had addressed the 15th edition of the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards CTI organised in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of VPO

Vaccination drive in new vigour as 1m doses arrive

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has appealed to local governments and community leaders to sensitize the public to access Covid-19 vaccination at over 6,000 vaccination centres across the country as more doses arrived yesterday.

Over one million doses of Johnson & Johnson arrived in July, with around 760,962 doses utilised ac-

I would like to thank all development partners through the Covax facility,

ording to the basis the latest data from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The low uptake puts in question the government target to vaccinate at least 60 per cent of the population by December this year, ministerial experts affirm.

The minister, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, said after receiving 1.065m doses of Sinopharm jabs donated

by China, that involvement of public officials at grassroots levels and religious leaders can undo the hesitancy

Every leader in his or her respective area should take up collaboration with health officials to increase the uptake of vaccines, as vaccination stood at 760,962 people on the Mainland and 10,800 people in Zanzibar, despite that the Isles had earlier received two

Sinovac consignments of 100,000 doses each from China.

The public should make the right decision of taking the vaccine, as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is likely to dry up late next month, she stated.

"The vaccine is safe after first being verified by the World Health

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Somaliland now cites 'security reasons' for deporting Somalis

NAIROBI

Somaliland, the self-declared independent state in northern Somalia, has cited security concerns for evicting hundreds of people from its territory, in a move that sparked criticism from the United Nations.

Details of the eviction had been "distorted" by Mogadishu to portray the region as rogue, officials in Hargeisa, its capital, said in a statement.

Officials described the decision as part of Somaliland's "sovereign" responsibilities, saying it was "motivated by issues pertaining to security, including appeals from local communities and authorities".

"The Prime Minister of Somalia chose to convey unfounded information and share baseless accusations on the issue of Somaliland's legal and necessary decision to deport selected individuals, who had unlawfully settled in the district of Las Anod, provincial capital of Sool region, Somaliland," they said, referring to criticism by So-

malia's PM Hussein Roble.

"The Government (of Somaliland), thus will not have its record distorted by neighbouring Somalia whose inability to meet its own internal and external governance responsibilities has led it to lash out at others in order to distract the international community from its own deficiencies," it added.

Somaliland, which has existed for the past three decades with its own institutions but remains unrecognised internationally, caused controversy on Sunday and Monday after expelling hundreds of families believed to be causing security concerns among locals.

The people, including pregnant women and nursing mothers, were ferried on lorries and dumped near the border regions with neighbouring Puntland, a federal state of Somalia.

UN humanitarian affairs officials and the Somali NGO Consortium said the forced displacements of people from Las Anod were a violation of human rights.

AGENCIES



Abdulsamad Abdulkarim, chairman of the Association of Tanzania Oil & Gas Service Providers, makes remarks at a reception held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to welcome the body's new members. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

AU hints at WHO talks on malaria vaccination for children

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told an online news conference a day after the WHO said RTS,S - or Mosquirix - developed by British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK.L) should be widely given to children in Africa.

Experts said the recommendation was potentially a major advance

against a disease that kills a quarter of a million African children each year. "We will be engaging with GAVI (the global vaccine alliance) and WHO in the coming days to understand first of all the availability of this vaccine," he said. Describing malaria as a major killer in Africa, he urged donor agencies not to play focus on some quick

advantages "where we fund COVID vaccines and neglect the malaria vaccine." Noting that it was unclear when the vaccine will be accessible to the many African countries where malaria is endemic, he stated that the cost per dose is still unknown "and it is not clear how quickly production can be scaled up."

GSK has to date expressed intention to produce 15m doses of Mosquirix annually up to 2028 and issue them to the market at a cost of production plus no more than a five percent margin. A global market study backed by the WHO this year projected that demand for a malaria vaccine would be standing at 50m to 110m doses

per year by 2030 if it is deployed in areas with moderate to high transmission of the disease. Mosquirix has been 30 years in the making, and starting 2019, 2.3m doses of the vaccine have been administered to infants in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in a large-scale pilot programme coordinated by the WHO, he added.



Efforts under way to put out a fire that erupted yesterday in three dormitories at Huruma Orphanage, property of the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. No details were immediately available. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Vaccination drive in new vigour as 1m doses arrive

FROM PAGE 1

Organisation (WHO)," she said, elaborating that local responsible authorities are finalising internal verification processes, the same procedure applied for vaccines generally.

"I would like to thank all development partners through the Covax facility," she said, praising the true partnership testified by the delivery of the new consignment of vaccines. While the Johnson & Johnson jab was one shot, Sinopharm is

spaced out in two shots, the second coming after 28 days.

The Isles holder of the portfolio, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui called on members of the public to go for vaccination in the nearest center so as to be free from the disease. When infection or severe disease is prevented, the economy will prosper and augment individual and national income prospects, he stated.

"Let us visit vaccination centres to get the vaccine to thrive in what we do, ending the partial recession tied to the pandemic," he said, not-

ing further that at present Zanzibar has rolled out 40 percent of the Sinovac coronavirus vaccines consignment received mid-July.

Xu Chen, the deputy chief of mission at the Chinese embassy assured the gathering that the vaccine was safe and its efficacy was not in doubt.

"We are confident about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine as it has been verified by the WHO and over one billion Chinese people have taken the jab. Therefore, be confident and share it because it is safe," he

urged.

A total 2.21bn doses have been rolled out across the globe, he said, reaffirming the Chinese government's plan to provide 100m doses to be delivered to developing countries.

Ahamada Mohamed Fakh, dean of the diplomatic corps, commended the government for its change of policy to prevent coronavirus infections. Fakh, ambassador of the Comoros, said the Sinopharm consignment expresses "true commitment of the government to protect its people."

"Comoro is happy to see Tanzania is out of the red list announced by the UK government," he stated, pointing out that it is good news since the Comoros collaborate with Tanzania in various economic activities.

Dr Tigest Mengistu, the WHO country representative, encouraged members of the public to take the vaccine to protect themselves. "The vaccine that has arrived is safe, I therefore encourage you to take the job to protect yourself and communities you live," the envoy implied.

Dr Mwinyi sees ATCL uplift tourist arrivals

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way forward, he stated, noting further that the arrival of the plane makes the company operate five short range planes, two medium range and two planes for long range route

Works, Transport and Communication minister Prof Makame Mbarawa said the coming of the planes was an indication that the transport sector was on the right track. In the next five years, the

government plans to strengthen air transport and other modes of transport such as water and land, he affirmed.

Air transport is a big stimulator of economic growth globally as it cuts costs and time taken in travel and freight, he pointed out.

The two planes bring the ACTL fleet to 11 planes, with a new Dash 8-400 aircraft which arrived in the country in July at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam, he added.

VP: Work out ways to compete, curb imports

FROM PAGE 1

used to import soap, 93bn/- was used to import palm oil while it is cultivated here in big amounts, he said in illustration.

Dr Mpango said the industrial sector needs to make sure it penetrates markets in the Eastern Africa and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) zone, increase its market share when it is able to sell its products easily.

Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo said the government is determined to improve investment procedures to attract more investors, noting that complaints from the business community have been decreasing.

"When I was appointed in this ministry there were many complaints from the business community on different issues. CTI and its members came to my office regularly to table their complaints but currently we are doing better and we are working to make sure we maintain ease of doing business in Tanzania," he told the gathering.

He said there was no increase in foreign currency earnings from goods exported in the past four years but the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in its July report noted that export values rose from \$1bn to

\$1.1bn during the period.

CTI chairman Paul Makanza applauded the government for achievements registered in a very short period since President Samia took office, affirming that industrialists are happy with the investment climate and the ease of doing business prevailing at present. He commended industrialists on their work against COVID 19 while seeking to maintain their production status.

CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela, the PMA-YA2020 lead sponsor, said that financial institutions depend on the industrial sector, to the bank will continue to work closely with industrialists.

CRDB values the industrial sector and it has injected about 4.2trn/- in loans to the sector in the past decade, he stated.

Tanga Cement emerged overall winner in the awards finale, with Tanzania Breweries second and Hanspaul coming third. Conspicuous of the event included Tanga Cement, ITV, ALAF, Serena Hotel, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Motisun Group, and GIZ Business Scouts for Development (an agency of the German agency for cooperation and development (BMZ)).

They have been funding the programme for the past three years, he added.



Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo, who doubles as legislator for Dar es Salaam's Ubungo constituency, addresses residents of the city's Mavurunza-Kimara suburb yesterday during an inspection tour of communication and other infrastructure. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

UK removes Tanzania from its 'Red List'

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE UK has removed Tanzania from the 'Red List' in a move that will ease travel.

With effect from October 11, arrivals from Tanzania and 46 other countries will no longer have to undergo mandatory hotel quarantine. They will, however, be required to do a PCR test before travelling.

In a major overhaul, the UK removed 47 countries from the Red List and only seven countries remain on the list, including Peru and the Dominican Republic.

Announcing the update on Twitter, UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said the 47 re-categorised countries will be moved to Britain's "rest of the world" list.

"I'm also making changes so travellers visiting England have fewer entry requirements, by recognising those with fully-vax status from 37 new countries and territories including India, Turkey and Ghana, treating them the same as UK fully vax passengers."

Some of the African countries removed from the list include Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia.

PM Majaliwa suspends Liwale district council planning officer

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has suspended Liwale District Council planning Officer Omary Chingwile in order to investigate allegations of funds misappropriation for the construction of Liwale district hospital.

"We cannot misuse government money. We need every project to go smoothly, the money realised must be used for the intended purpose," said Majaliwa (pictured) on Thursday when addressing councilors, staff and people of Liwale District Council during a working visit to inspect development projects in Lindi Region.

He emphasised the need to use public funds to complete development projects and that the government will not tolerate any misuse of public funds.

The premier also called on the Liwale District Council to better manage project funds provided in the council, including the creation of new sources of revenue.

"Honorable councilors, your council collect revenue up to 100 per cent, but we have never seen any project implemented by the council and it became exemplary."

He said the council has been setting small estimates of collections to ensure



it collects a large percentage but even the revenue collected, is not collected electronically and instructed the council's treasurer Gervas Bidogo to ensure all electronic collection (POS) equipment is working.

In another development, the Prime Min-

ister has instructed Liwale District Commissioner Judith Nguli to monitor the cashew and sesame growers' unpaid cashew nuts by the cooperatives who collected their produce.

"I congratulate the District Commissioner for taking action to suspend the cooperative officer Ephraim Kipomela due to the loss of corporate funds do not stop there, make sure our defence and security agencies investigate and find out how the money was lost," he said and added:

"Liwale district agriculture officer should encourage farmers to use new cashew nuts that produce more fruit and in the short term, also increase mobilisation in the cultivation of food crops because President Samia Suluhu Hassan has reduced levies and costs on inputs and now cashew farmers are getting fertilizer at reasonable price."

Earlier, inspecting the construction of Prison staff houses, the Prime Minister commended Liwale Prisons warden, Gilbert Sindani for his initiative in launching a timber sale project that enabled the prison to operate and build new administrative buildings as well as staff houses.

BBC MEDIA ACTION
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD

21650207

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Sanuka Local Survey – Niambie 2 Project

BBC Media Action
BBC Media Action is the international development charity of the BBC. Established in 1999, the organisation seeks to reduce poverty and provide information to people around the world, through media programmes and campaigns that inspire and inform. Since its foundation, BBC Media Action has worked in developing and transitional countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe on projects that deal with issues of health, resilience, governance, education, environment, livelihoods and emergency response.

The Programme
BBC Media Action has been implementing a project called 'Niambie' 2 in Tanzania since 2019 which focus and more innovative approaches to tackling issues affecting young people aged 15-35 with more emphasis on young women and girls in Tanzania. The project combines social media with a weekly radio magazine programme broadcast by BBC Media Action's partner, Clouds Media Group targeting young people aged 15 to 24 years old.

BBC Media Action works with local partner stations through capacity strengthening to produce local gender transformative programmes called Sanuka. BBC Media Action offers embedded mentoring and training on editorial and production skills and gender and supports the production of weekly Sanuka Episodes which is aim at addressing local specific gender issues.

As part of the monitoring and evaluation activities for the programme, BBC Media Action would like to conduct a gender and commercial local survey across regions in Tanzania where the partner radio stations frequencies are heard in November 2021 to assess people's knowledge, attitudes and practices with respect to major lifestyle, values, purchasing power gender and climate change indicators, as well as media consumption trends

The full proposal, including both technical and financial components, should be no more than 20 pages. The proposal should be written in a font no smaller than 11 point. Annexes may be included with the proposal, and will not count against the 20 page maximum limit. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP should address the research objectives set out in this brief and should be written in English. Please submit your proposal in PDF format and put "[Agency Name] proposal to BBC Media Action" as the title of the email.

The full Request for Proposals can be through this email: catherine.maita@tz.bbcmediaaction.org

The proposal should be sealed and submitted in hand at the BBC Media Action office. For any queries please email to: catherine.maita@tz.bbcmediaaction.org

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS SUBMISSION: 18th of October 2021, 04:00 PM

Lawyers demand scrapping of death penalty

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

ANTI death penalty campaigners want the government to abolish capital punishment, saying it is unconstitutional because it takes out the mother of all rights.

The group made up of mainly seasoned lawyers argues that maintaining the death penalty is tantamount to the state engaging in revenge business on behalf of its people.

Retired Justice Robert Makaramba made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during his presentation at a stakeholders' dialogue on the significance of adopting a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and the prospects of its abolition in Tanzania and East Africa.

"The death penalty is degrading and inhumane. We are human beings and we err, and the death penalty is irreversible and you cannot return the life, should you

issue a wrong judgment against a human being. The death penalty is not a punishment, as under the criminal penology, a punishment must teach someone, but once dead, they cannot repent," said the retired justice.

He said more often than not judges are forced to sentence people to die because of the law as most of them have reservation on it saying doing so was psychological torture to them.

His sentiment was echoed by retired Justice John Ruhangisa who said as a judge he has never ever believed in the death penalty and was glad that he had retired without issuing one.

"Not all judges melt that sentence willingly; they do so because of the oath they took. There are so many judges who are against the death penalty but are not courageous enough to stand for their belief. Tanzania should harmonize its laws

with the rest of the East African Countries such as Burundi and Rwanda who have done away with the death penalty," stressed the judge.

For his part, Dr Edward Hosea who is the President of Tanganyika Law Society called upon the need to amend the law from the capital punishment to life imprisonment.

Dr Ananilea Nkya wondered why Tanzania was still retaining the capital punishment in its books while as the colonial masters who had introduced it had done away with it.

She called upon the need for the media to create public awareness on the evil deed of the death penalty for them to change their perception.

Organized by the EU, the dialogue comes as part of the commemoration of the world Death Penalty Day, conducted each year on October 10.

SALE OF ASSET

Invitation for Bids

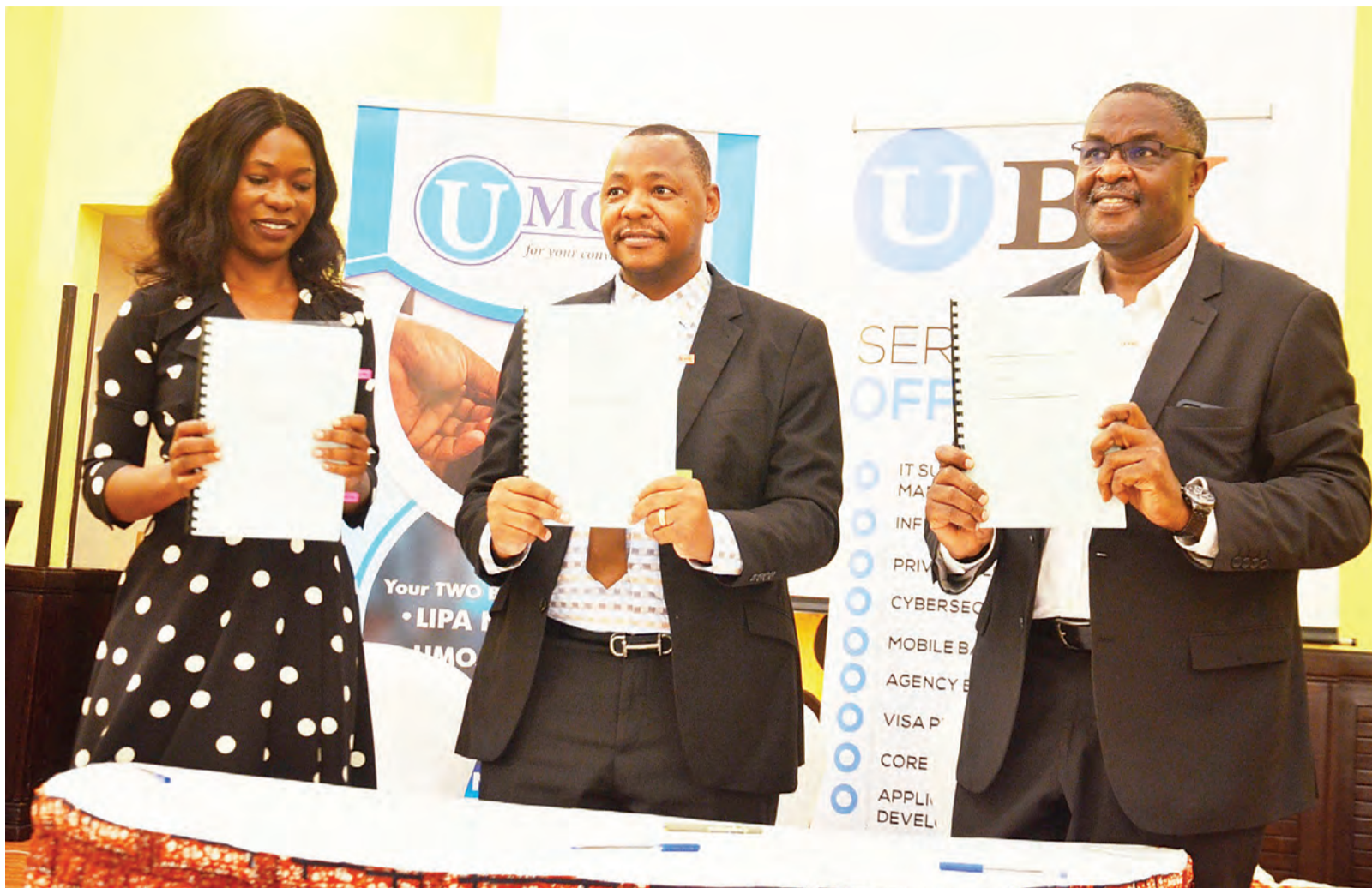
Stanbic Bank Tanzania welcomes you to an open bid.

- Bids to be opened on 18th October 2021. Bidders are free to attend or choose their representative for the opening ceremony that will take place at 15:00hrs at Stanbic Bank board room, Stanbic Head Office, junction of Ali Hassan Mwinyi/Kinondoni road.
- Bids to be addressed to the Managing Director, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam. Bids should be clearly marked as Bid for motor vehicle.
- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 121000TZS108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Asset can be inspected in the following location; The vehicle is in Dar es Salaam, please contact 0746 969 693 or 0767 202 022 for further details.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
- The bank reserves the right to accept any bid and is not obliged to explain the reasons thereto.
- The asset will be sold on the condition of "as is basis".
- The highest bid is not necessarily considered as the winning bid. The bank's decision is final.
- Bidding is open to the general public. Bidder may choose to bid for one lot or all lots.

Vehicle:

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR OF REG	REGISTRATION /SERIAL NUMBER	PLACE OF STORAGE	PRICE (TSHS)
VOLKSWAGEN	TOUAREG	2019	T 260 DTG	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	173,547,251

Stanbic Bank **IT CAN BE.**



Umoja Switch acting CEO Miriamu Malima (L), UBX Company managing director Seronga Wangwe (R) and DCB Bank managing director Godfrey Ndalaha show copies of documents on agreements the three institutions had just signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Mwinyi disappointed with performance of RALGAs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi has expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of the regional administration and local government authorities (RALGAs) including Zanzibar city councils.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when he met with local government officials from all regions of Zanzibar including Regional and District Commissioner in both Unguja and Pemba.

He explained that the aim of the session is to ensure positive change occurs especially in Unguja and Pemba councils in parallel with strengthening the performance of the work with the aim of serving the people properly.

President Dr. Mwinyi urged each council to ensure that it fulfills its responsibilities including managing revenue collection funds and asked the Regional and District Commissioners to manage it so that the funds support development activities.

He explained the responsibilities of local government including managing the whole issue of sani-

tation in all areas of Zanzibar cities especially considering that Zanzibar is a popular tourist destination.

He explained that the council's collections must be used for the development of the country and its citizens, calling on all municipalities of Unguja and Pemba to ensure that cities are clean while urging the leadership of RALG to encourage people to clean up all areas where they live, including business areas.

Dr Mwinyi directed that small businesses be well organized and insisted on doing business in specially designated areas.

He also expressed his intention to continue to support and support Entrepreneurs by providing the amount of approximately 70bn/- provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help them where the responsibility for managing the funds are Local Governments.

President Mwinyi explained the role of the Regional and District Leaders in overseeing the whole issue of protection and security to ensure that evil practices are stopped in the community.

'Combat online violence against women and girls'

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE government has been challenged to put in place strict laws to tackle online harassment and violence against girls.

One of the girls who took part in the Plan International forum, Laila Hizza made the call yesterday when speaking at the Canadian embassy in Dar es Salaam ahead of the International Day, which is to be commemorated on October 11. This year's event is themed: "Freedom online for girls".

Girls take over initiative is a Plan International's move that engages girls to take over leadership role that hold power, so as to unleash girls' leadership potential in different ventures.

Laila who acted as Plan International interim country director for one-week

said that girls have been subjected to online harassment, which makes them inferior in pursuing their dreams.

"I call upon stakeholders to deal with online bullying not only with laws but also through provisional of education and awareness programmes on digital platform and give online security to ensure girls access a safe environment online," she said, adding:

"Online abuse has currently become a new and upcoming form of abuse affecting young girls on social media and other digital platform which are often threatening and relentless as well as limiting girls freedom of expression."

"Referring to our recent research that focused on girls and young women's experience of online harassment in various development strides and the most common type of attack is the use of

abusive language reported by 59 percent, harassment which lead them to feel embarrassed 41percent and body shaming and threat of sexual violence both 39 percent, and due to this girls feel discomfort in pursuing their dream with fear of being singled out as not good enough due to their physicality," she noted.

"I urge all young women to be careful and conscious with any multimedia content they share online and make sure any shared reflect decency, respect and honours girls dignity."

Laila commended Plan International for running the "Girls take over initiative" which engaged girls to take over leadership role that hold power, so as to unleash girls leadership potential in different ventures.

For her part, Proscovia Gregory a law graduate from Tumaini University, who acted as High Commissioner at the Cana-

dian Embassy said that online spaces is increasingly important to girls and women to gain knowledge, learn skills and engage in political debate but access to reliable information is being compromised with an increase in political polarization, and mistrust which causes the ability to engage in healthy debates to become difficult and hence causing really harm and affecting girls voice to be heard.

"We live in an era where matters of equality are being pushed forward all over the world and so through giving girls a platform where they feel confident enough to share their views without any discomfort," she noted

Dragging girls out of online spaces is hugely discomfoting in an increasing digital world and damage their ability to be seen heard and become leaders, she said

Getrude Mligo former Girls takeover can-

didate said that powerful women start with powerful girls and so I call upon all members of the society including families, communities, family and civil society organization to be allies for girls and young women experiencing online abuse by being active in supporting them to report online abuse.

Helen Fytche, charge de' Affairs and Head of Cooperation at the Canadian High Commission said that this year's theme is meant to support girls access to digital space as well as support girls' voices, innovative ideas and entrepreneurship in all aspects of the digital ecosystem.

"Girls and young women must be equal participant and innovator to shape our engagement with technology so that it reflects the perspective of all parts of society and provides solutions that are inclusive and work for everyone," she said.

Minister calls for capacity building in community groups development

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister, Mwanaidi Ali Khamis has called for continued capacity building trainings to community groups which receive loans issued by local government authorities for proper investment.

The deputy minister made the call yesterday when she handed over 215m/- loan to 32 community groups in Rungwe District, saying if trained well the groups will ensure the money is invested properly to benefit them.

"We should not hesitate to issue loans to people who volunteer to join such groups so that they achieve their goals and hence empower themselves economically," she said.

Mwanaidi hailed Rungwe district for administering funds which led to availability of the loans which allows wananchi to empower themselves economically.

For his part, Rungwe district councilor Renatus Mchau said 60m/- was from the district's own fund while 155 was refund from the loans.

Mchau added that the district council in collaboration with other stakeholders have been working on issuing training to the groups so that the money was well managed.

He said in the coming quarter of the year, groups which will be given priority are those which will have tangible projects and are able to employ others.

For their part, some of the groups which received the loans hailed the government for improving their livelihoods through the loans which they said has increased their capital hence improved their businesses.

"Our group has dairy cows, we are producing milk and we have received a loan amounting to 22m/- which we expect will allow us to employ more people as we are going to start processing milk," he said one of the beneficiaries.



Our group has dairy cows, we are producing milk and we have received a loan amounting to 22m/- which we expect will allow us to employ more people as we are going to start processing milk,



Tarime Urban legislator Michael Kembaki (L) has a first-hand account yesterday of the ongoing construction of Kemaii Primary School, the work done by residents of Muturu in Nkende ward on a self-help basis. Photo: Correspondent Mobini Sarya

Amaranth growers express new hopes in crop using improved seeds - research

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

SOME of amaranth growers have expressed new hopes in the crop using improved seeds, saying it will boost them economically.

They were speaking at the training organised by researchers from the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute -Mikocheni (TARI-Mikocheni). The training aimed educating them on better use of improved amaranth seed varieties that assures them high productivity.

One of amaranth farmers from Mb-wawa ward, Winifrida Mtana said when they get the best seeds it assures

them of the market when they take it to market.

Flora Julius, who has already started using the improved amaranth seed, thanked researchers from TARI and extension officers who have been visiting her regularly and giving her advice on growing the crop.

Flora said that if other farmers adhere to the education they have been given and commit, they will harvest and sell in large quantities and sell but will also use the seeds that will be available as grain and use and sell to supplement their income.

One of the researchers from TARI-Kibaha, Dr Ruth Minja said there are

five varieties of improved amaranth varieties which are madira 1, madira 2, nguruma, poli and akeri.

Dr Ruth said the basis for amaranth cultivation is to have quality seeds and that all five improved seed varieties have been approved by the government and are already available at input stores.

"The amaranth crop contributes to the growth of the farmer's income and what is needed is to focus on the education provided and use agricultural professionals to get advice all the time to get a good harvest that will boost the market," she said.

Kibaha Town Council agriculture of-

ficer Marco Njau assured the farmers of the availability of the seeds when they needed them and urged them to provide early information to agricultural officers in their areas.

About 112 vegetable growers in Kibaha Town Council have been trained on better farming skills to uplift their incomes.

They are being trained by experts from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Kibaha sub-centre previous known as Sugarcane Research Institute (SRI) Kibaha. Apart from the training, farmers were provided with improved amaranth varieties to increase production.



Asiatu Msuya (C), a senior communication and PR officer with the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), exchanges views yesterday with communication and PR manager Titus Kaguo (L) and southern highlands zone manager Karim Ally. This was on the sidelines of a capacity building seminar for journalists on regulations governing energy and water services held in Mbeya city. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Antibiotics alone just cannot prevent stunted growth in children - research

By Special Correspondent

ANTIBIOTICS alone likely cannot overcome the complex factors that cause stunted growth and perpetuate the cycle of poverty in the developing world, new research suggests.

An international team of researchers had hoped that some combination of antibiotics, Vitamin B3 and a drug to treat diarrhea would lead to better growth for children in the African country of Tanzania. But a randomized, double-blinded study following almost 1,200 children found no benefit - half the children still suffered stunted growth.

It was a disappointing result in a bid to address a crisis that plagues much of the world. But the researchers say the insights from their work will help focus future efforts in more productive directions.

The new study represents a collaboration of researchers at the UVA School of Medicine and Virginia Commonwealth University with colleagues in Tanzania, the United Kingdom and Norway. The scientists wanted to measure the effect of antimicrobials and vitamin supplementation in battling stunted growth,

a condition often accompanied by impaired cognitive development and decreased school performance. These disadvantages then limit the children's job possibilities and earning potential, continuing the cycle of poverty.

The researchers followed 1,188 pairs of mothers and child in rural Haydom, Tanzania, from the time the children were no more than two weeks old to 18 months. The children were selected at random to receive the antibiotic azithromycin and the antiparasitic drug nitazoxanide and/or niacin, a form of Vitamin B3.

The researchers had hoped vitamin supplementation might help because the diet in Tanzania relies so heavily on corn. Nitazoxanide and azithromycin, meanwhile, can be used to treat diarrhea by targeting parasites and bacteria that cause it.

Neither approach worked. In a new scientific paper outlining their findings, the researchers suggest their interventions may not have sufficiently reduced the pathogens that cause diarrhea, that reducing pathogens may not improve growth or that the interventions were overwhelmed by other complex health challenges in the area.

Water, water, everywhere: UN report warns of global water crisis amidst climate change

By Rachel Layne

THE world is woefully underprepared for water-related disasters as floods, hurricanes and droughts intensify with climate change, the United Nations' weather agency said in a new report released this week.

Global water management is "fragmented and inadequate," the UN's World Meteorological Organization, development agencies and other groups found.

Almost 60% of 101 countries surveyed need better forecasting systems to help prevent devastation from severe weather.

Take floods. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have more than doubled globally compared to the previous two decades. Droughts have also become more widespread, up 29%, the report found.

And the number of people with inadequate access to water is expected to rise to more than 5 billion by 2050, up from 3.6 billion in 2018, the report said.

"We need to wake up to the looming water crisis," said Petteri

Taalas, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization.

The escalating events, including North America's unprecedented heat waves, water shortages and surprise flooding this summer, have both human and economic costs.

African countries recorded the most drought-related deaths. The steepest economic losses from drought were in North America, Asia and the Caribbean, the report found.

Water scarcity and risk are harder to track than other climate-related issues, such as carbon emissions. In the US, for example, local laws govern use and access rights, sometimes down to the city, county and town level. It's often even harder to track who is withdrawing water, and in what quantities, from sources such as lakes and aquifers, experts have said.

Globally, the UN report found that 25% of all cities are already experiencing regular water shortages. Over the past two decades, it said the planet's combined sup-

plies of surface water, ground water and water found in soil, snow and ice have declined by 0.4 inches (1 centimeter) per year.

Population growth will further strain water supplies, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, said Elfatih Eltahir, a professor of hydrology and climate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who wasn't involved in the report.

"The availability of water in rising population's shapes where water adaptation will be quite urgent," he said.

Among the actions recommended by the UN report were better warning systems for flood- and drought-prone areas that can identify, for example, when a river is expected to swell.

Better financing and coordination among countries on water management is also needed, according to the report.

Despite some progress in recent years, the report found that based on current rates of advancement, 107 countries would not meet goals to sustainably manage water supplies and access by 2030.

THRDC signs 470m/- pact with Ireland's rights crusaders to help their Tanzanian 'counterparts'

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has signed a one-year agreement worth 180,000 Euros (470m/-) with Ireland frontline defenders to support the coalition's strategic plan to safeguard and defend Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Tanzania.

The contract was officially signed during the week and is expected to facilitate the training and protection of HRDs so as to promote and strengthen rights defenders' works in Tanzania, including fortifying relationships with government institutions.

Outlining the success of the coalition, the National Coordinator of the coalition Onesmo Olungurumwa said THRDC in partnership with other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) have developed and recently launched a compliance tool kit that will help CSOs to comply with all relevant laws, policies and regulation governing tax issues in Tanzania.

"It has been a challenge understanding laws because the majority of CSOs officials are not lawyers, so it's not easy for them to understand the legal requirements of tax payments" he intoned, adding that they are hoping that the simplified tax guide which is to be distributed will ease CSOs tax compliance.

Meanwhile he also thanked the government for increasing the number of recommendations from 107 to 133 out of the 227 issued by the United Nations member states during the 2nd cycle in September 2016

hoping that they will also accept those that have been rejected.

The recommendations which were recently outlined during the 3rd in-country pre-session were clustered into eight thematic groups including freedom of expression and the right to information, women rights, child rights, social rights, economic rights, civil society and human rights defenders, General Hukan rights and political rights and minority groups rights (PWDs and PWAs).

"89 per cent of all 133 recommendations have partially been implemented amongst which women and children rights protection, social, political and economic rights as well as civil society and human rights while seven per cent of recommendations to combat corruption and protection of children with albinism have been fully implemented and four per cent of those against torture have not been implemented," he explained, while calling on the government to consider accepting those unaccepted ones.

He stated that it has been a challenge to see female lawyers participating in Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases as per statistics up to March this year, there are 3055 women advocates who are registered but amongst the number of registered lawyers only few are partaking in PIL cases and the same situation apply in the East African Court of Justice and Commission of Peoples and Human Rights.

"We hope to continue intensifying the mentoring and equipping fe-

male lawyers on human rights with skills on how to handle PIL cases, related to freedom of expression which he said is an effective advocacy tool for legal reforms through training them for more enhanced protection of enjoyment of freedoms and rights through national and regional courts," he emphasized giving reason why THRDC has recently trained human rights lawyers both in mainland Tanzania and in Zanzibar.

Olungurumwa underscored that the coalition also intends to use its more than 200 members to come up with new mechanisms to effectively address issues related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) which seems to be very high in some coastal parts of Zanzibar and some parts of central Tanzania.

"GBV especially child abuse is very high so we hope to develop sophisticated ways to combat this human right worry," he intoned.

He also admitted that in line with the coalition's strategic plan in the fight against the Covid-19 outbreak together with the government's initiatives at the national and local government (LGAs) levels control strategies, THRDC will continue to invest in the necessary resources to ensure that the Covid-19 pandemic is effectively combated through appropriate responsive services.

"THRDC is committed to advocating for the reform of policies, rules, guidelines and operating procedures in order to mainstream human rights concerns such as specific needs of segregated gender groups," he mentioned.



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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

MACLEAN SL2 SCISSOR LIFT WITH MINE MATE™ ATTACHMENTS (PIPE HANDLER)

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Scissor lift

Major Technical Data

- 2720Kg payload
- 3.6m raised deck height
- 2.13m x 3.66m deck size
- 2.24m Vertical travel
- 3 point contact from deck to ground level
- Optional hydraulic deck shifting forward or sideways.
- Compatibility with Mine Mate attachment

Engine

- Mercedes 904 Engine
- Power rate 110Kw
- Four cylinder, four stroke electronically controlled.
- Turbo charged/ air to air charged cooled
- Mesabi radiator and cooling package

Transmission

- 3 speed full power shift, close coupled to the engine and transmission
- 3 speeds forward and reverse
- Electric shift control

Axles

- Capacity 12000Kg
- Oscillation on power end axle +/-10°
- Hydraulic applied internal wet brakes
- Internal emergency and park brakes
- Limited slip differential
- Outboard planetary gears
- Fixed mounting on application – end axle

Exhaust system

- Purifier and muffler assembly
- Insulation blankets on exposed components
- Emission test port

Electrical system

- Master disconnect with lock out feature 24V
- Alternator 24V & 100A
- Reverse light 2
- Headlights 2
- Strobe light
- Stainless steel enclose

Dimensions

- Dimension (LxWxH)(mm) 7690x2130x2490

Rideability

- Top speed (km/h) 15km/h
- Inside turning radius 5.49
- Outside turning radius 7.87

Hydraulic System

- Closed central Hydraulic circuit
- Piston pump 110L/min
- Pressure 3000psi
- Return filter 10 micron

Brakes

- Independent front/rear hydraulic operated service brakes
- Spring applied, hydraulic released emergency/park brakes

- Automatic brake application (ABA) with manual reset

Driver and Passenger compartment

- Side entry away from articulation joint
- Driver at the centre seated facing outward
- Passenger on the side, seated facing forward
- Stick steering controls
- Anti-slip dimple plate on all steps surfaces

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- Heavy duty front and rear bumpers with towing capability
- Articulation lock bar

Pipe Handler (Maclean Mine Mate™ Attachments)

General overview

- Can install or remove paste pipes
- Has robotic arm with infinite ranges of motion for precise installation
- Has to be attached in a scissor lift deck.

Required ability

- Maximum lift capacity of 2500lbs
- Actuators with infinite range of motion
- Flexible grip for grasping 4" to 14" diameter pipes
- Can be remote controlled
- Load holding valves
- Can work with scissor lift with side and forward shift capability.
- Contact sensitive shut-off interlocks.

Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotations
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulytender@barrick.com. The reference "BUL-RFQ-21-10-01" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes
October 12, 2021

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited

World Vision Tanzania helps health centre based in Kasulu get solar-powered equipment

By Correspondent Adela Madyane,

Kigoma

WORLD Vision Tanzania has provided solar power equipment to Nyarugusu Health Centre in Kigoma Region which has been operating without power for years. Nyarugusu health centre which is located some 45-kilometers from Kasulu District serves more than 4,000 people from five villages and has been operating without power, a situation that puts expectant mothers at risk.

The challenge has been forcing health workers to use mobile phone flashlights during child delivering.

The acting doctor in-charge at Nyarugusu health centre, Juwa Shega commended the charity organization for providing the solar power gadgets, which will be useful when attending expectant mothers during night, which endangers the lives of mothers and children.

"We suffer blackouts, until recently, the health center couldn't access enough power to meet the most basic needs of health serv-

ices due to lower capacity of solar power installed some years back," said Dr Shega.

Kasulu District Medical Officer (DMO), Dr Robert Rwebangira said the new electrical equipment will reduce the risk for expectant mothers and ensure their safety and the safety of health workers as well.

Dr Rwebangira added that the vaccines that were stored in district hospital will now be stored at the centre "now with solar energy providing reliable electricity supply it will bring back efficiency and timely service delivery to the community.

Nyarugusu Village Executive Officer (VEO), Masho Protas acknowledged receiving the equipment that includes battery, refrigerator, wire, light inventor and controller.

World Vision's Buhoma project manager Donasian Severine said the equipment was provided to ensure the safety of a mother and child and that the local government officials should ensure timely installation of the equipment for current use.



Pharmacist Nemes Uiso pictured on Thursday making a sensitisation presentation to Siha District Council councillors on the importance of Covid-19 vaccinations. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Envirocare, Swedish society seek to promote traditional medicinal plants

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ENVIROCARE in collaboration with Swedish Society for Future Conservation are planning to conduct research on more than 100 traditional medicinal plants and food for women to determine their medicinal benefits for human health and environmental conservation.

Speaking at the launching of Green Action Week festival in Dar es Salaam yesterday, project officer

Euphrasia Shayo said the research to also involve scientists will be conducted at Amani Nature Reserve particularly Magoloto village, Muheza District in Tanga Region.

She said the organisations have teamed up to promote the traditional medicinal plants and food to women because their medicinal benefits are not very well known to many people.

Citing an example, Shayo said the outbreak of covid-19 taught a big

lesson to many people who resorted to traditional medicinal plants and food for prevention and cure.

"During covid-19 outbreak, only men and elders were able to identify suitable traditional medicinal plants and those useful for food but the rest could not. So, we want to conduct research so that these benefits can be known to a wider community and the general public.

To make it sustainable, Envirocare has put up a garden of tradi-

tional medicinal plants and foods and are inviting local communities and primary school students to educate them on their medicinal importance.

"We invited primary school students to come and learn and we are going to welcome more in the near future to learn in a bid to promote them for the future generation," she pointed out.

During the green action week and after, Envirocare will con-

tinue providing this education to the general public so that many people understand, with media support, the organization wish to promote them across the country," she said.

We need to continue promoting these traditional medicines for the benefit of the current and future generation," she added.

She said a study conducted last year, revealed that there are many traditional medicinal plants. If not

protected and conserved the traditional medicinal plants will be lost and the current and future generation will not benefit from their human health usefulness.

Commenting on the importance of environment conservation, she said Envirocare will also promote the environment by encouraging local communities on community based forest management and setting by laws to protect and conserve their environment.

Govt pleads for more research to identify harmful practices putting girls, women risk HIV infections

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has called for more research to identify and get rid of harmful traditional practices which puts girls and women at risk of HIV/Aids.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jenister Mhagama made the call during a meeting between the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) and the parliamentary committee on HIV and drugs.

She said if conducted, the study will identify good cultural practices that will be maintained and also list down the bad practices which will be left.

"The study should show how the practices are conducted including women to sensitize their men to circumcise to protect them from cancer of the cervix and HIV/AIDS," she said.

The acting Managing Director for TACAIDS Dr Jerome Kamwela said there have been differences in HIV prevalence among gender.

He explained that by 2017, the rate of prevalence had been high in women and girls from 15 years to 49 by about 5.7 percent compared to women of the same age.

He said this is caused by some bad practices which put women at more risk of being affected by HIV/AIDS compared to men and boys.

He named some of the practices as Gender Based Violence (GBV), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriages.

According to him, 29.4 percent of women who have been to marriage between 15 to 49 ages have reported to have faced Gender Based Violence as well as sexual violence from their partners.

For her part, the Chairman for the parliamentary committee on social services Fatuma Toufiq said there is need for the formulation of a strategy which will reach a huge population of the country.

She said there is need for men to take a front seat in HIV/AIDS sensitisation campaigns.



Liwale District Hospital nursing officer Fatuma Myao vaccinating Ligai Mohamed of Mangirikiti village against Covid-19 earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCD postpones justice, peace and reconciliation conference

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) has announced postponement of the much anticipated national conference on justice, peace and reconciliation which was slated for October 21st - 23rd in Dar es Salaam.

TCD attributes the rescheduling to paving

way for a stakeholders' meeting organised by the registrar of political parties, among other reasons.

In a statement released to the media and signed by TCD's Technical Committee Chairman, Shaweji Mketi, it was revealed that TCD reached the decision upon receipt of a letter from the registrar of political parties request-

ing the former to push forward the dates of the conference to pave way for another stakeholders' meeting organised by the registrar's office and political parties.

The new date for the conference will be announced later after alignment between TCD and key stakeholders for the conference.

TCD is a non-religious, non-partisan and

not-for-profit non-governmental membership organisation founded by parliamentary political parties. Current members are Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (CHADEMA), The Civic United Front (CUF), National Convention for Construction and Reform Mageuzi (NCCR Mageuzi), and Alliance for Change and

Transparency (ACT- Wazalendo). Political parties outside the parliament are associate members who participate in TCD governance organs by being represented as a block by one political party on a six months rotational basis. It was founded on 5th July 2005, and registered under the societies ordinance 1954, in 2006.



Bonnah Kamoli, legislator for Dar es Salaam's Segerea constituency, addresses residents of Kisukuru ward on Thursday - chiefly on development-related problems they commonly face. Photo: Correspondent Muhidini Msamba

AfDB blacklists Kenyan IT company, citing corruption

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has blacklisted a Kenyan IT firm that has undertaken several multi-million shilling projects for leading multinationals and local commercial banks over fraud.

AfDB said an investigation conducted by the bank's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption established that Express Automation Limited engaged in fraudulent practices during a tender for the technical security upgrade to the bank's Eastern Africa Regional Centre.

The technical security upgrade was aimed at upgrading the existing security system in the bank's Eastern Africa Regional Centre in Nairobi.

"The African Development Bank Group, on October 7, 2021, announces the 36-month debarment of Express Automation Limited with effect from 18 August 2021. Express Automation Limited is a limited liability company registered under the laws of the Republic of Kenya," said AfDB in a statement.

During the debarment period, Express Automation Limited and

its affiliates will be ineligible to participate in AfDB-financed projects.

The debarment qualifies for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks under the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions, including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank Group.

"At the expiry of the debarment period, Express Automation Limited will only be eligible to resume participation in African Development Bank Group-financed projects after it implements an integrity compliance programme consistent with the bank's guidelines," said the AfDB.

Express Automation Limited said in an earlier interview its main clients are not only multinationals but also small and medium enterprises across the EAC region.

AfDB recently banned another Kenyan firm Rocky Africa Limited and its affiliates including Aerospace Aviation, Eva-Top Agencies, Sony Commercial Agencies, Beta Trading Company, and Madujej Global Services over fraud.

Introduction of world's first malaria vaccine a game changer - Africa CDC head

ADDIS ABABA

JOHN Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), has hailed the introduction of the world's first malaria vaccine as a game changer.

Speaking during a virtual press conference on Thursday, the Africa CDC chief said as malaria is one of the biggest killers especially of young children on the continent, the

introduction of the vaccine will reduce child deaths.

"A combination of Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS accounts for around one million deaths a year in Africa," he told journalists.

"Regarding Malaria, most of the deaths occur in younger children in Africa, so having a vaccine that shows that level of effectiveness and preventing severe illness and deaths in children is remarkable," Nkengasong (pictured) noted.



The Africa CDC also emphasized the introduction of the world's first malaria vaccine is a culmination of nearly a century-long effort.

"Malaria is a uniquely difficult parasite to fight because of the way it keeps invading the immune system," he said.

Nkengasong further mentioned African countries who took part in malaria clinical trials and succeeded. "I want to congratulate Malawi, Kenya and Ghana that

took part in the malaria vaccine clinical trials. It shows African leadership and (a) can-do attitude to bringing solutions to some of our health problems."

Earlier this week, the World Health Organization announced that it has endorsed the vaccine.

According to the WHO, the vaccine is the result of 30 years of research and development by British pharmaceutical company Glaxo-

SmithKline in partnership with international non-profit organization Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, and with a network of research centers in Africa.

The WHO said its recommendation is based on results from more than 2.3 million doses of the vaccine that were administered to more than 800,000 children in pilot countries including Ghana, Kenya and Malawi since 2019.

African-led network of experts out to quicken growth of instant, inclusive payment systems

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICANENDA has launched a new Africa-led organization aimed to accelerate instant and inclusive payment systems (IIPS), through partnerships with African governments, regional economic communities, and private sector associations.

AfricaNenda will address the key bottlenecks around critical pre-project support and institutional capacity building that are currently restricting the scale-up of fundable, instant and inclusive payment system projects. It has started the process of accelerating regional and national IIPS priorities in Africa with the signing of MOUs with the Rwanda Information Society Authority, the COMESA Business Council and other stakeholders.

AfricaNenda was born of a desire to meet the needs of the approximately 400 million financially excluded adults in Africa. Comprised of the most vulnerable populations - largely women in rural areas - these adults rely on cash or informal providers to meet their financial needs, a system which can be costly and risky. In addition to reducing the cost and risk, enabling universal access to payment systems can reduce poverty on the continent. AfricaNenda believes that instant and inclusive payment systems can play a pivotal role in achieving universal financial inclusion in Africa by 2030.

AfricaNenda, CEO Robert Ochola, said: "Digital payments are keys to providing financial inclusion for the poor. By lowering transaction costs, increasing competition, we will be able to serve poor households and provide an array of services that help create prosperity to an underserved population. Digital payment platforms are a critical tool but advocating for the poor is our mission."

AfricaNenda's leadership brings together experts in regional digital payments networks and regional digital infrastructure development. The organization is led by veteran financial services leaders, including Safaricom and Afreximbank veteran, Dr. Robert Ochola, United Nations Capital Development Fund's Global digital infrastructure lead, Sabine Mensah, and the former head of GSMA sub-Saharan Africa, Akinwale Goodluck.

Robert Ochola as CEO, Sabine Mensah and Akinwale Goodluck as Deputy CEOs will together provide technical assistance, capacity building and tools and training tailored to African organizations, payment experts to expand the rollout of instant and inclusive payment systems across the continent. It will also facilitate knowledge-sharing and network-building within the inclusive finance ecosystem.

Prior to joining AfricaNenda, Robert pioneered the development of a new Pan-African Payments and Settlement Systems (PAPSS) for driving cross-border trade. Sabine led the development of inclusive digital economies to accelerate financial inclusion across West and Central Africa. Akinwale provided leadership for the regulatory objectives of the MTN Group and spearheaded the fulfilment of GSMA's goals of promoting the best regulatory and policy practices for the mobile sector respectively.

The launch of AfricaNenda follows a series of high-level forums conducted with prominent experts and leaders to discuss critical challenges, trends and opportunities for digital financial inclusion on the continent. Some key takeaways from the discussions include creating regulation that fosters innovation to enable cross-border and interoperability, and advocating for the education of regulators and policymakers to help build their capacity to move towards an enabling policy environment.



Construction of flyover in progress yesterday at a section of the Ilala stretch of Dar es Salaam's Kawawa Road. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Special Correspondent

Maasai give up nomadic lifestyle due to climate change

In Kanggalitai village in Turkana county, a traditional dance welcomes every day's activity.

But today the villagers are not holding the traditional herding sticks that usually accompany the dance.

Instead, they have farming tools like mattocks, spades and machetes - ready for them to start work when the dance ends.

This is a huge cultural shift and one - the tribes say - is a

shock of a lifetime.

At this time of the year Lokale Ekitowou would usually be somewhere between the plains of Turkana and West Pokot, herding his cattle.

But today he is weeding on his farm and soon his maize crop will be ready for harvest.

This means Ekitowou will remain in this village for at least six months, disrupting his tradi-

tional nomadic cycle.

"Due to drought in our traditional grazelands, we went to encroach on a neighboring village. They chased us in a gunfire exchange where we lost all the cattle and all my friends were killed by the bullets," he explains.

"So I decided to come back home where I found crop farming had already taken traction. I decided to join crop farming be-

cause the weather was no longer promising us grass, and the short rains could sustain some crops in my area."

Just a few paces from Ekitowou's farm, Napem Erusenyat is weeding. Her daughter, whose role would traditionally be to look after goat kids, is scaring away birds from their sorghum (great millet) farm.

"In the recent past, we have

been experiencing unpredictable rain patterns," she explains.

"Because we used to depend on nomadic pastoralism, we went to a village where we were chased because grazing land wasn't enough. When we came back to our village, we decided to have our chairman consult crop farming experts to help us to start crop farming. We now have maize and sorghum."

Over in Kajiado County, pastoralist Maiyani Melonye tends to his cattle.

He was raised between the hills of Oldonyo-Sabuk, an ex-

panse divided by more than 300 kilometers of Savanna grassland. Melonye believes he is the last of his generation to live the life of a traditional Maasai nomad.

"In a year, I could go in a complete circle. I would pass through Makindu, through Voi, Namanga into Tanzania, to Olonkito, Orendenge, all-round and back home. That time it would have rained here again and the circle would begin. I don't think our children will know that nomadic tradition. It is over," he says.

He was raised between the hills of Oldonyo-Sabuk, an ex-

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER 2021

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

World Post Day highlights the importance of postal services

TANZANIA Telecommunications Corporation, formerly Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL), is the oldest and largest fixed line telecommunications company in Tanzania. The company comes forth from the former Tanzania Posts and Telecommunications Corporation in 1993. TTCL was wholly owned by the government until the partial privatisation of the company on 23 February 2001.

TTCL is governed by statute—the Tanzania Telecommunications Act of 1993. The company is licensee for fixed basic telephone services in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar and hence it owns and operates the public switched telephone network in mainland Tanzania and on Zanzibar. Before the coming of mobile operators in late 1994, the company was enjoying monopoly on Tanzania Mainland. T

he company has been in several joint managements due to its financial instability in the past and has gone through several restructuring phases.

TTCL traces its roots to the East African telecommunications provider. In 1933, the former East African Post and Telegraph Company covered Postal, Telegraph and Telephone services in the three East African nations of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda.

In 1951 the British government replaced the East African Post and Telegraph Company and enacted the East African Posts and Telecommunication Act in 1951 to charter the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration.

In 1967, post independence of

the three nations, the East African Community (EAC) was founded and replaced the East African Common Service Organisation. In the aftermath, the East African Post and Telecommunications Corporation (EAP&TC) was established and replaced the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration. However, ten years later, the breaking up of EAC in 1977 forced EAC member countries to re-establish their own national Postal, Telegraph and Telephone businesses. Therefore, in 1978 in Tanzania a parastatal was established under the name Tanzania Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (TPTC).

In 1993 when Tanzania heavily restructured parastatals, the Telecommunication sector was liberalised. With increased domestic competition and poor management the government decided to privatise the company.

World Post Day happens each year on October 9, the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which started in 1874 in Switzerland. The UPU was the start of the global communications revolution, introducing the ability to write letter to others all over the world. World Post Day started in 1969.

Since then, countries all over the world take part in celebrations to highlight the importance of the postal service. Many things happen on this day. Post offices in some countries hold special stamp collection exhibitions; there are open days at postal measures and there are workshops on postal history. The UPU organises an international letter writing competition for young people.

Wanted: Action Plan for global strategy for the prevention and control of NCDs

A non-communicable disease (NCD) is a disease that is not transmissible directly from one person to another. NCDs include Parkinson's disease, autoimmune diseases, strokes, most heart diseases, most cancers, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, cataracts, and others. NCDs may be chronic or acute. Most are non-infectious, although there are some non-communicable infectious diseases, such as parasitic diseases in which the parasite's life cycle does not include direct host-to-host transmission.

NCDs are the leading cause of death globally. In 2012, they caused 68 per cent of all deaths (38 million) up from 60 per cent in 2000. About half were under age 70 and half were women. Risk factors such as a person's background, lifestyle and environment increase the likelihood of certain NCDs. Every year, at least 5 million people die because of tobacco use and about 2.8 million die from being overweight. High cholesterol accounts for roughly 2.6 million deaths and 7.5 million die because of high blood pressure.

Risk factors such as a person's background; lifestyle and environment are known to increase the likelihood of certain non-communicable diseases. They include age, gender, genetics, exposure to air pollution, and behaviours such as smoking, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity which can lead to hypertension and obesity, in turn leading to increased risk of many NCDs. Most NCDs are considered preventable because they are caused by modifiable risk factors.

The WHO's World Health Re-

port 2002 identified five important risk factors for non-communicable disease in the top ten leading risks to health. These are raised blood pressure, raised cholesterol, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and being overweight. The other factors associated with higher risk of NCDs include a person's economic and social conditions, also known as the social determinants of health.

It has been estimated that if the primary risk factors were eliminated, 80 per cent of the cases of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes and 40 per cent of cancers could be prevented. Interventions targeting the main risk factors could have a significant impact on reducing the burden of disease worldwide. Efforts in 2000. About half were under age 70 and half were women. Risk factors such as a person's background, lifestyle and environment increase the likelihood of certain NCDs. Every year, at least 5 million people die because of tobacco use and about 2.8 million die from being overweight. High cholesterol accounts for roughly 2.6 million deaths and 7.5 million die because of high blood pressure.

NCDs include many environmental diseases covering a broad category of avoidable and unavoidable human health conditions caused by external factors, such as sunlight, nutrition, pollution, and lifestyle choices. The diseases of affluence are non-infectious diseases with environmental causes. Examples include:

Referred to as a "lifestyle" disease, because the majority of these diseases are preventable illnesses, the most common causes for non-communicable diseases (NCD) include tobacco use (smoking), hazardous alcohol use, poor diets (high consumption of sugar, salt, saturated fats, and trans fatty acids) and physical inactivity. Currently, NCD kills 36 million people a year, a number that by some estimates is expected to rise by 17-24 per cent within the next decade.

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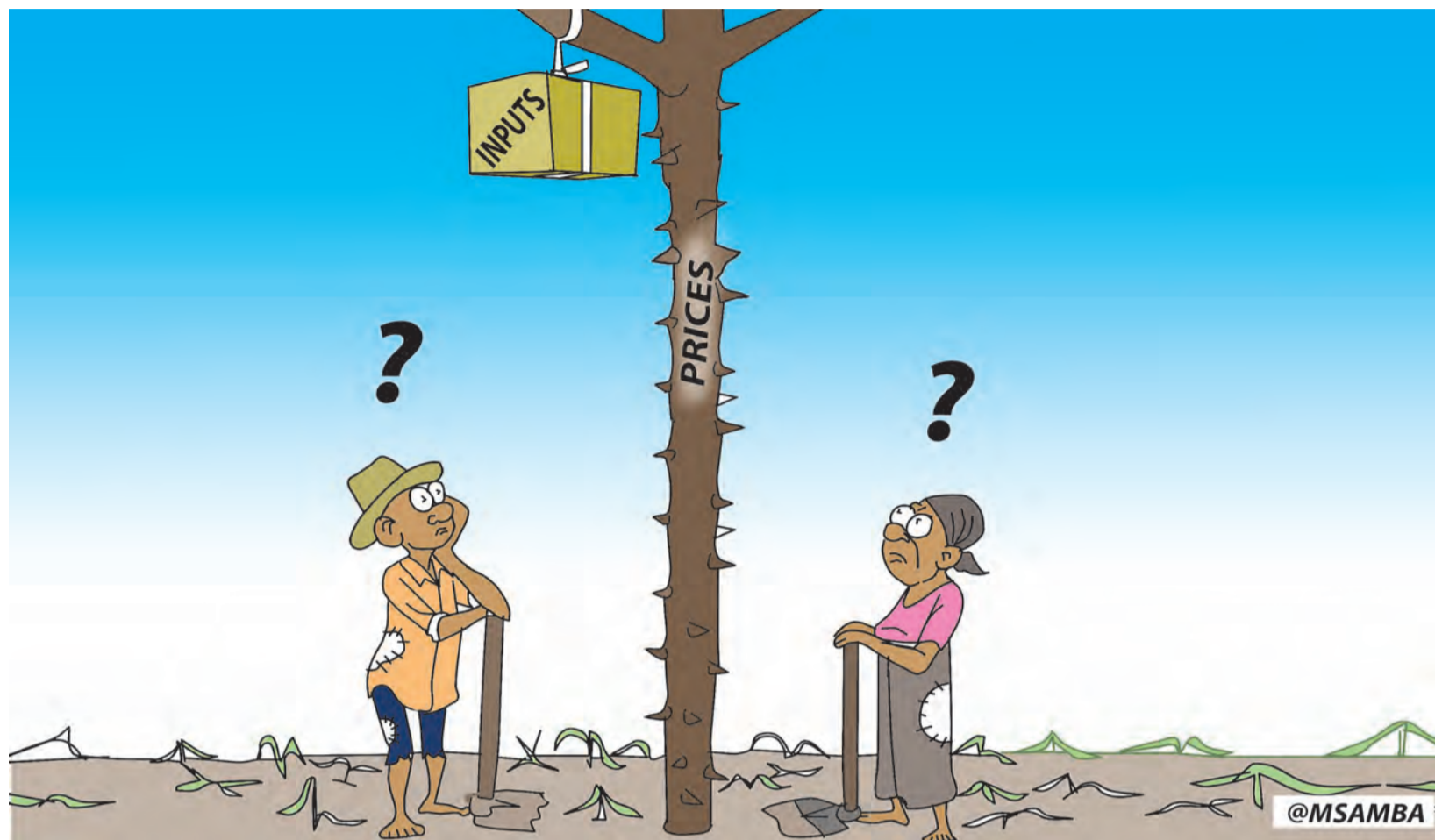
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Mental Health: How are we doing? What do we need to do?

By Prof Lesley Robertson

AS a proud South African, I am always conscious of our resilience, our ingenuity, and how we come together in adversity. But things are falling apart. Plagued by bereavement and job losses, betrayed by politicians and heads of institutions, and an ever-present fear of crime, trauma, and violence; our centre cannot hold.

Mental health awareness fills our radio talk shows and magazines. However, ignorance, discrimination, and outright abuse of people with mental illness prevail.

Only Social Development staff protected Sithole's right to privacy and referred her for mental healthcare. Healthcare providers were seemingly unaware of her need. Nando's continues the abuse, with a mocking advert inferring she deliberately scammed others. That she has mental health issues is public knowledge. How lacking are we in insight and judgment?

Gross inhumanity towards people with mental illness occurs in our country at the institutional and individual levels. At institutional level, the most obvious is the "Life Esidimeni Tragedy". At individual level, remember Jostina Sangweni, accused of witchcraft and brutally murdered earlier this year. Our mental health awareness clearly fails to protect people with psychosocial disability (psychosocial disability is used here to include people with mental and/or intellectual disability).

Population wellbeing and psychosocial disability

In 2020, South Africa ranked 103 out of 149 countries on the happiness index, a measure of population wellbeing derived from six factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, personal freedom, the good will of others, and trust in government.

While demographic and other inequities are not reflected, it is likely that people with psychosocial disability fare the worst. Mental health conditions negatively impact wellbeing; they increase the risk of unemployment, social exclusion, poor physical health, shortened life expectancy, loss of autonomy and liberty, being a victim of violence, and government neglect.

Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on mental health and the happiness index of many countries worsened. High-risk groups are those with greater mental health problems, including women, youth, and poorer people. While social cohesion is protective, people with pre-existing mental health conditions are the loneliest, and at highest risk for severe symptoms and poor recovery.

In their concluding observations on South Africa of 2018, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) expressed grave concern regarding the rights of people



with psychosocial disabilities. Our medical model of disability and mental health legislation were criticised. The needs of women and children were emphasised. We need to change the way we live so that people with psychosocial disability may also experience wellbeing.

Societal change

Every citizen contributes to an environment that enables others to flourish.

Mental health literacy is imperative, not only awareness of emotional pain, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression, but understanding the range of conditions. We need to comprehend what life is like for people with intellectual disability, autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, bipolar, and psychotic disorders. We need to learn about personality (as in how we perceive ourselves and the world around us) and inter-generational trauma. Our knowledge of substance use disorders is particularly poor; people with harmful or dependent substance use are so often shunned, even as we advertise alcohol and some of us extol the virtues of cannabis.

Social cohesion strengthens psychological resilience. Conscious, positive social interactions with inclusion of those with psychosocial disability are needed. To mitigate stress, safety and security are fundamental. Trustworthy government is pivotal. Abusiveness, crime, illicit substance trade, and violence thrive on the back of corruption and mismanagement. While we all suffer, those with psychosocial disabilities are often rendered helpless and homeless.

To prevent disability, early recognition of mental health conditions, support in accessing care, and assistance in recovery are essential. Family, neighbours, employers, colleagues, educators, police, lawyers, prison wardens, religious, healthcare providers - everyone in contact with the person must play their part.

For those with severe psychosocial disability, structured support is often required. Protected employ-

ment and supported living are two ways of enabling their participation in society.

Throughout all, kindness, empathy, compassion, and altruism pervade. This does not mean self-pity is indulged or harmful behaviour excused. It means we stand by those who struggle as they experience the consequences of their choices and actions, practice prosocial behaviour, and gain self-efficacy.

Health system change

While society supports the person with psychosocial disability in utilising healthcare, quality care must be accessible. Quality care implies that it impacts positively on the person's life. Accessible implies that the services are known to the user, acceptable, available, affordable, and appropriate to their need.

Our current system is inaccessible, even in provinces that use more than 5% of public health expenditure on mental healthcare. Around 90% of people who need care do not access it. Of those who do receive care, most are male, many access it through involuntary admissions (a process at odds with the UNCPRD), and almost a quarter are re-hospitalised within three months of discharge, implying therapeutic failure. We have no idea how many are better off for accessing care.

What must we do? We need to see major shifts in mindset and structure at micro (individual), meso (system), and macro (national) levels. None of them are novel.

Items to consider include:

At micro-level: a shift from disorder- to person-centred mental healthcare, with shared decision making in the therapeutic process; patient satisfaction; meaningful outcome measures which reflect improvement in social and occupational functioning, mental health symptoms and distress, physical health, and wellbeing.

At meso-level: a shift in treatment setting from psychiatric hospital to community, with a focus on rehabilitation, recovery, and prevention of disability. Infrastructure

at community level is needed to facilitate effective therapeutic assessment and process;

every healthcare practitioner, from lay health workers to subspecialists, to understand their patients' mental health and be able to intervene appropriately; collaboration between mental health, general health, social care, and non-health stakeholders. Infrastructure which facilitates collaborative care is required, including internet and data availability, confidentiality agreements, and the physical space for face-to-face group meetings at district or community level; and access to general hospital psychiatric care before symptoms or behaviour is unmanageable; hospitals to see themselves as serving the community.

At macro-level: a shift towards prioritisation of mental health, with a change in mindset in health system planners and funders to facilitate employment of specialists at district level, i.e., to allow for community psychiatry. While primary care practitioners must be trained and capacitated to provide primary mental healthcare to people with any mental health condition, there is no evidence that they can assess and effectively manage severe mental illness. Expecting them to do so will increase healthcare provider stress, as responsibility and patient need outweigh expertise;

recognition of psychosocial therapeutic interventions as health technologies. Health technology assessments of specific occupational therapy, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, counselling, and social work interventions to allow incorporation into healthcare packages and insurance funding; feasible, detailed implementation plans, with appropriate budgetary allocation to enable equitable, accessible services at each level of care, and good governance, with transparent, rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the system, its financing, and its effectiveness in achieving wellbeing among people with mental health conditions.

Finally, our mental health policy needs updating, and the UNCPRD has recommended our mental health legislation is repealed as it allows for substitute decision-making (when others decide on behalf of a person deemed to lack mental capacity, such as with involuntary or assisted hospital admissions). Legislation which endorses supported decision-making (whereby a person nominated by the individual with psychosocial disability supports them in coming to their own decision) is recommended by the UNCPRD. While this recommendation is controversial globally, we have not yet begun to discuss it in South Africa.

Glass half-empty? No, half-full is better for development

By Guardian Correspondent Daniel Semberya

IN Tanzania and indeed many developing countries, citizens normally expect the government to bring them development and that is why election campaigns are full of promises from politicians.

As a result, people mostly sit back and relax as they wait for politicians to deliver on their development promises—most of which end in disappointment for a number of reasons but chiefly limited financial resources.

A project implemented by the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in collaboration with COADY International Institute's St. Francis Xavier University, Canada, seeks to change this and put citizens at the centre of their development agenda.

Speaking during an exhibition that took place at TGNP's headquarters in Dar es Salaam last week, Head of Programmes at the organization Shakila Mayumana said that the initiative brought together over 400 members of its knowledge and information centres (KCs) to showcase projects they developed in collaboration with their local leaders after undergoing a training dubbed Asset Based Citizen-led Development (ABCD).

KCs are community organized groups facilitated by TGNP through which it provides awareness to women on a range of issues affecting their day to day lives. Efforts aimed at eradicating poverty.

"By partnering with this Canadian University we were given an opportunity to learn about ABCD and then we went to train KCs members on the same course," she said.

"The object of this course is to look for potentials that are within our communities and that is why in my opening speech, I gave an example of a glass half full. Normally, people tend to look at a glass empty, forgetting that there is a full part of it."

She said the course trains people to look at a glass half full in the sense that it requires community members and leaders to look at each other as people who have potential to bring changes in their communities.

Thus, instead of waiting for the government to allocate budgets and do everything for their development, the project seeks to see community members regard themselves as people who have potential to bring changes and development in their own communities.

"That is why you have seen members of these KCs from Kivule, Majohe, Mabwepande, and Saranga who have taken some initiatives of making alternative charcoal by using discarded boxes, cassava flour, clay soil, among other raw materials," she said.

"We want them to continue grabbing opportunities around their areas so that at the end of the day they



Women showcase their products after undergoing training on how to change challenges into opportunities offered by TGNP and COADY International at TGNP offices in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo/Daniel Semberya

create solutions to problems facing them."

The event was also attended by local leaders including village executive officers, councilors and ward executive officers who came to see what their community members had done. This was done purposely so that when they go back to their work places they can collaborate and address challenges facing them collectively and come up with solutions.

"But we don't want them to think only of their own families but rather we want them to scale up the skills to other community members," she said.

Mayumana said that the initiative will not only reduce complaints and blames directed at the politicians and the government for slow pace in development

or unfulfilled promises, but it will also tap the potential found in local communities.

She said TGNP believes that if community members jointly work together with their local leaders, they will be able to come up with solutions to their challenges and eventually the country will reduce donor dependency and national debt.

Meanwhile, Mayumana called upon community development officers in all municipalities to use such trained community members because they are potential for utilization of 10 per cent of funds allocated to women, youth and people with disabilities.

She advised that instead of forming so many groups without tangible results,

they can help them learn how to write business plans and use that money to make such initiatives to transform people's lives.

Majohe KC Chairperson Amina Nasoro commended TGNP and COADY Institute for empowering over 200 women from her community with skills through ABCD training they underwent.

"The training has empowered us with the spirit of courage and daring. Women at our knowledge information centre can now produce different products such as alternative charcoal, and batiks," she said. Joyce Ernest from Kivule KC her life has changed for the better after the raining just as her colleagues.

She when they go back to their respec-

tive areas, they will train other women who face the same challenges.

She urged TGNP to hold such trainings periodically when resources are available so as to enable more women to attain such skills and solve challenges facing their communities.

Edward Laizer, Ward Councilor for Saranga in Ubungo Municipality commended the initiative, saying it does not only empower the women economically but it also improves lives in the communities.

"Frankly speaking, in the beginning we did not think that TGNP could come up with such an idea for the benefit of communities," he said.

"I as a counselor, and one of the policy makers, I have something to take home and to share with my fellow councilors in our meetings."

TGNP Head of Project Anna Sangai has thanked COADY International for the support and training which is now set for up-scaling in communities.

She said that women empowerment and active citizenship is a project to advance gender equality and poverty reduction by enhancing women's capacity to participate in the social and economic life of their communities by with support from COADY International, St. Francis Xavier University Nova Scotia, Canada.

"We want local communities to change their mindset of dependency and become self-reliant by utilising the available resources surrounding them to improve their livelihoods instead of waiting for other people or the government to bring them development," she said.

"By using very simple technology, these women can now make alternative charcoal using dust from charcoal, clay soil, and discarded boxes. They can also make batiks, oil jelly among other things."

IT is 3 am, your eyes are closed but your mind is working overdrive.

Earlier in the day, you received a call from a lady with a trace of British accent inviting you for a job interview the next day. For a moment you thought she was a con but when you checked your email and saw an invitation for the same, you felt happier than you have ever been in a long time.

It's three years or maybe four since you cleared university and you haven't landed a job yet. Your unemployment status has not been due to lack of initiative because God knows you try.

You have applied for literally all jobs even those remotely related to what you pursued in college. Over a hundred job applications sent yet only two firms invited you for an interview. The first job interview was a sham, from how the officials conducted themselves it was clear they had already picked their preferred candidates before the process began.

The second interview was full of drama and left your ego bruised. You arrived at the recruitment center at 7 am only to find about eighty candidates at the gate. The officials arrived two hours later, gathered you all at the parking lot where a man in his mid-forties addressed the crowd eager to land a job. He went on about the qualities they desired in a candidate and how great it is working with the NGO.

All this time, you stood there, reciting answers to questions frequently asked in job interviews, like where do you see yourself in five years? Seriously how do you answer that when you have no idea where you will be in a week? Suddenly, everyone except you bolts for the main entrance to the building. Young, old, men and women, in formal attire carrying brown envelopes with impressive CVs and academic papers turned to savages, tearing at each other trying to be the first into the building. Are we under a terrorist attack? If so why are people running into the building and not away from it?

You decide to run along with the crowd. On getting into the building you meet a bunch of people, shirts ripped off, elbows grazed and a few missing a shoe. After inquiring for



a while about what's happening, a lady about your age fills you in.

Apparently, while you were engrossed deep in thought, the recruitment manager explained to the crowd the first test. The test involved racing up the stairs to 5th floor. The first twenty to get to the fifth floor would sail through to the second phase of the interview while the rest would go home. You went home a dejected man, unable to understand how running up the stairs could make one a better employee.

Still lying in bed, you open your eyes. A beam of light from a nearby street light pours into the tiny room through a small window near the top.

A huge dark cockroach crawls across the ceiling. Damn those roaches! I barely have enough food yet these roaches look healthier than I do, you say to yourself.

You jump out of bed, grab a slipper from the floor and aim at the roach, only to miss it by far. The bug scampers to a dark corner. You sit on the edge of

the bed and scan the room. Will I ever get out of the slum and move to the other side of the city? You live deep in the heart of an informal settlement in town.

The area is overcrowded, no sewage channels are available so raw effluent from latrines flow in open trenches, which characterize the area. When it rains, you are forced to wade through murky contaminated waters to get to the main road, it's a miracle there hasn't been a cholera outbreak otherwise you would all be dead. You stay on the ground floor of a one-storey tin structure.

Toilets and shower rooms are on the farthest. Tenants rarely use them at night when thugs are on the prowl so they relieve themselves just below the wooden staircase making the whole building stink.

Your single room is dark, damp and cold, so cold that it permeates through your heaviest blanket.

Compared to most of your neighbors, you are wealthy since you own

Life of joblessness in city slums

but who in this city cares about how you get ahead? It is all about who you know. Judging from the pictures you've seen on Facebook, you are the only one in misery. Former classmates, including those who graduated because of your efforts in group assignments, have bought cars, live in expensive apartments, frequent fine dining joints, and travel across the world yet you have never seen the inside of a plane!

Your only powerful connection is a distant uncle who works at a government ministry. However, his wife hates your guts, actually, she hates everyone who is not wealthy. She believes the less fortunate are just lazy.

Your wrist watch reads fifteen minutes to five. You get out of bed to grab a soap and basin under the bed and head to the showers. The good thing about taking a bath this early is that there's a short queue to the bathroom and water is available. You bath in record time, get back into the room, apply petroleum jelly on your body, don your only suit and black shoes, grab a transparent document wallet with your certificates and make for the daladala stage. There is little traffic headed to the city center at that time.

It is crystal-clear that the first thing you will do should you land that junior managerial post is to take your mother to a specialist for treatment since the medical personnel at the village dispensary don't seem to know what is ailing her, all they keep doing is prescribing to her more antibiotics. The second thing you would do is to take your sister to form one.

She cleared her Necta exams a year ago but your family has not been able to raise the required school fees. You are afraid that if she continues to stay at home, the boda boda riders will take advantage of her innocence and make her pregnant as is the case with other teenage girls who are out of school in your village.

Today you can feel it is your chance. You hope to land the job and move to the other side of the city where you won't have to share toilets, hop over trenches full of raw sewage to get home or have to deal with marauding criminal gangs in your neighborhood. After all, this big city is where dreams come true, they say.

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Violence is the breast milk we are feeding our young, says Graça Machel, railing against GBV

By Greg Nicolson

GRACA Machel has described South Africa as a society at war with itself, where grotesque violence against women and children has been normalised, where protectors have become predators.

In an impassioned speech at the Desmond Tutu International Peace Lecture on Thursday evening, Graça Machel decried the level of violence against women and girls in South Africa, describing the country as at war with itself and locked in a vicious cycle of pain.

Machel, a co-founder and deputy chair of The Elders, a women's and children's rights advocate and the former first lady of South Africa and Mozambique, where she also served as education minister, cited teenage pregnancy figures from the Gauteng Department of Health.

More than 23,000 girls under the age of 18 gave birth in the 12 months to March 2021, 934 of whom were between 10 and 14 years old. Machel said the number of teen mothers had increased by 60% during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Nearly 1,000 children have given birth to other children in the past year. Why is there not an outcry of what is, in essence, a statutory rape epidemic in this country?" asked Machel.

"There are precious lives between these cold numbers. These are the beautiful faces, the brilliant minds and vibrant voices of our daughters, nieces, sisters, whose childhood and innocence we have left unprotected, and these shocking statistics on teenage pregnancy do not even paint an accurate nor comprehensive picture of our

shameful disregard for young people we claim to love and cherish.

"There are far too many wolves in sheep's clothes masquerading as predators and entire families harbouring terrorists in their homes."

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) this week arrested a 59-year-old police officer in charge of the Sexual Offences Unit at Mafube police station in Free State for allegedly committing a sexual offence against an 11-year-old girl and allegedly raping her 13-year-old friend.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has labelled gender-based violence (GBV) a pandemic and he is considering three bills – the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill, the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Bill, and Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill – aimed at strengthening the legal framework against GBV. The government has also allocated extra resources to fighting the scourge under the National Strategic Plan on GBV.

Findings from various studies, including a recent survey, suggest the rate of sexual violence is far higher than what is reported to police and collated in crime statistics, which already reflect alarming levels of violence.

"How can we break the vicious cycle of untold and unspeakable pain that visits women and children on a daily basis? While the days of the brutal apartheid regime are thankfully behind us, we are still a nation at war with ourselves. We are plagued by deeply entrenched and festering wounds and perhaps one of the most visible manifestations of this woundedness is our violent, unequal society," said Machel.



Graca Machel, widow of former South African President Nelson Mandela

"Why has what is so grotesquely abnormal become normalised to us in this country, the land of Tutu and Madiba's birth, and on this continent, the home of greats such as Wangari Maathai and Gertrude Mongella? It is an affront to the nobility of our ancestors to allow our youngest generations to suffer in the ways they do."

Machel admitted she had more questions than answers. She called for the compilation of better-quality data on sexual violence. She emphasised the link between intergenerational trauma in fractured and broken families.

"Violence is the breast milk we are feeding our young," she said.

"We have to change our mindsets, our behaviours, our value system. We must reinvent our relationships and re-engineer the way we relate in our families, in our schools, in our workplaces with the spirit of ubuntu that

Arch taught us and exudes with every fibre of his being."

Machel was speaking on Archbishop Desmond Tutu's 90th birthday. Former Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, former president of Ireland Mary Robinson and the Dalai Lama also addressed the event.

Madonsela said the ideals of South Africa's Constitution "remain a distant dream for the majority that remains trapped in poverty. It is our

turn to stand up for truth and justice, particularly social justice, as an investment in peace."

Robinson urged those who believe in a common human dignity to pressure leaders to act against the climate crisis and to bridge the trust deficit between the Global North and South, further exposed by the coronavirus pandemic, to bequeath a more equitable world to the next generation. **DM**

Displaced Afghans face harsh challenges, eager to leave makeshift shelters

KABUL

ALTHOUGH the 20-year war in Afghanistan has ended, the pain has just begun for many displaced Afghans who are eager to return home with harsh challenges lying ahead.

"We were forcibly displaced by bloody fighting and clashes to get away from deaths. We escaped from a province famous for its wonderful sceneries and beautiful views and we lost homes and all belongings.

How can we return now? We have no cash and we have no home appliances. We lost everything," Mirza Mohammad, a displaced man from the northern Takhar province, told Xinhua on Monday.

"We are struggling to return home after three months of living on an open ground in the Shahr-e-Naw Park, but we are facing harsh economic woes and severe challenges," he said. "Our home is destroyed.

We have no saving and cash to rebuild our home. If we are assisted to rebuild our house in Takhar, we will not stay in Kabul anymore," said Mohammad, the only breadwinner of his nine-member household.

The security situation remained generally calm across Afghanistan since Taliban's takeover in mid-August.

However, the Islamic State-affiliated militants have staged a spate of bomb

attacks in the national capital Kabul and Jalalabad city, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province in recent weeks.

Mohammad said Taliban authorities have announced that "the war is over," but security was not enough, as the war and drought affected all Afghans while they need work and employment, financial support and permanent shelter as well.

Mohammad said displaced families are still in fear of possible fighting between Taliban members and anti-Taliban forces consisting of local fighters and security forces from the former government. Mohammad, after his house was hit by mortar and destroyed in the northern Takhar province, fled war along with his family and experienced hard days facing food and clothing shortage for more than three months in Kabul.

The displaced families also include those Taliban bereaved families who were killed during the recent clashes and the war. Binazir, the widow of a slain Taliban member in Takhar province, said she had fled war and drought along with 10 family members to Kabul to find shelter and food.

"My husband was a Taliban foot soldier who was killed during conflicts. I demand international organizations to help displaced people return to our province and rebuild our house," she said.

The Ministry of Refugee Affairs of the



Taliban caretaker government, together with a number of aid agencies have started the relocation of thousands of internally displaced families, mostly from makeshift shelters in Kabul to their native provinces.

More than 1,000 IDP families have reportedly returned to their homes from the Kabul Shahr-e-Naw park under the cooperation between various aid agencies recently.

"The return is voluntarily. Each certain family returning to their province is giv-

ing 10,000 afghani, about 110 U.S. dollars," Abdul Matin Rahimzai from Ministry of Refugee Affairs recently told local media.

"The Ministry of Refugee Affairs in collaboration with international aid agencies and UN organizations are working to support all IDPs to return from provincial capitals to their villages and home, as the security is fine and there are no clashes or fighting in rural areas across Afghanistan," he said.

Since the start of the year, over 634,000 people have been forcibly displaced by

conflict. About 5.5 million people have been displaced since 2012, according to official figures.

On Sunday, in the northern Badakhshan province, about 600 displaced Afghans returned to their villages from an Afghanistan-Tajikistan border area, according to provincial Governor Maulvi Amanuddin Mansoor.

The returnees had been displaced during clashes prior to the Taliban's takeover in mid-August, Mansoor told reporters. "They were living in a dire situation on an open ground.

They returned after provincial officials ensured their security," he said. Efforts are underway to help all displaced people return to their villages at an early date in the mountainous region as winter is approaching, the governor said.

According to United Nations officials, the UN would assist the Taliban administration on paving the way for international aid delivery and upholding the rights of Afghan women and girls at the time as basic services are lacking and food and other life-saving aid is about to run out.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Youths: Make agriculture attractive to young people

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

THE dream of creating a perfect future for youth is completely unrealisable. With that understood, it is completely possible and imperative to equip children with the knowledge, skills, and support necessary to create their world a better place, simply put the future they want.

This is what you see and hear when you talk to SOS Children's Village graduates, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters. Many youth have passed at SOS Children's Village, who spoke to "The Guardian" recently have income generating activities—a clear testimony that they were prepared to create their own future and, better than that of their parents.

There is no shortage of activities that can make our youth productive and lift them out of poverty, what is in shortage is the right mindset among our youth, and meaningful engagement of youth to chat their best future on the part of decision and policy makers as well as stakeholders.

Despite its potential of absolving the mushrooming backlog of unemployed youth in both Tanzania Mainland and Isles and that is agriculture.

Children growing up in SOS Children's Villages in Zanzibar and Mwanza are able to exercise leadership, take ownership of their future and turn around their families' disadvantaged lives into opportunity to lead better life than that of their parents.

Visit at SOS Children's Village in Mwanza, Arusha and Zanzibar shows that many youth who are products of SOS Children's Village are engaged in productive undertakings, some are civil servants, some works in the private sector, others have employed themselves.

The Guardian was particularly inspired by Hamis Amer Bakari (25) from Zanzibar and Yusuph Said (25), Renard Benald (21), Hadija Yasini (20), Witness George (19), Albert Athuman (20) and Halima Said (18) from Mwanza, who have ventured into this rarely ventured territory by young people, due to the fact that agriculture is not something appealing to young people as a means of livelihood.

Asked what motivated him to venture into agriculture, Hamis says: "The skills, and attitudes we are taught at SOS Children's Village and linkages with other stakeholders done by SOS Children's Villages are integral to youth development competencies, they help us to question who are we and who do we want to become and hence make the right decisions to create the future we want."

"Apart from supporting our education, we are also taught skills that help us to lead healthy life style, prepare us for the world of work and to become active citizens," says Hamis who is growing pineapples in Donge area of Zanzibar.

In it, the 25-year-old man is expecting to get between 6m/- and 7m/- after harvesting his pineapples in December this year.

Agriculture is a road less travelled to many young people, surprising these SOS Children's Village products, unanimously agree that agriculture has the potential to employ many youth, but before youth takes agriculture as their livelihood option, the government has to make agriculture appealing to them. Available plans, policies and strategies need to be known by young people, as well as making sure that young people are meaningfully engaged in designing, implementing and evaluating the interventions.

"Agriculture is the largest em-



Hamis Amer Bakari (R) in his pineapples farm in Donge area of Zanzibar recently. He's with SOS Children's Village Tanzania, Zanzibar Coordinator Juma Shekhe. Photo: Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

ployer in Tanzania," says Yusuph whom together with his five colleagues are engaged in horticulture farming in Mwanza.

"We chose horticulture, because we strongly believe that agriculture is the only immediate means of catalyzing economic growth and employment for young people."

According to David Mulongo, SOS Children's Village Tanzania National Director, youth unemployment has long and lasting scarring adverse effect on the society and young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds like the ones SOS Children's Village takes care of.

"SOS Children's Village, recognizes that unattended youth unemployment and underemployment carry very high social and economic costs and threaten the fabric of our societies, as youth without jobs can easily be manipulated," Mulongo says.

He adds: "Our young people represent the promise of changing their families and their societies for the better. Yet, there are not enough jobs for young people, thousands and thousands are also not transitioning into decent work and are at the risk of social exclusion."

He says: "SOS Children's Village is proud that young people graduating from their villages do not wait for jobs rather than they create jobs for themselves and others as well."

Investing in youth is investing in the present and future of our societies. A great deal has been learned here at SOS Children's Village about how to address barriers young people face to transition into the labour market.

While young people at SOS Children's Village are free to choose their livelihood options, Mulongo see potential in agriculture.

"As farmers are ageing in Tanza-

nia both Mainland and Isles, fewer young people are going into farming. Surprisingly even farmers are discouraging their children from going into farming, portraying it as a life of poverty and hardship, this has to change." Mulongo says

He adds that in order to attract young people and avoid letting down champions like Hamis, Yusuph, Hadija, Albert, Witness, Halima and Lenatus who have dared to ventured into this rare chartered venture by today's youngsters, agriculture will need to be more dynamic and appealing than it is now, and young people will need to view the sector more positively than they do now.

"This is an outcome of upbringing that starts at childhood, a reason of which SOS Children's Village Tanzania provides not only education and skills, but education and skills for self-reliance."

SOS Children's Village Tanzania according to Mulongo, inculcates a developmental mindset into children something that continues until they graduate or leave the village to start their own lives. SOS Children's Village Tanzania ensures that by the time a child leaves the village she or he can be self-reliant.

"We give high priority to education and continuous learning, so as to transform the mindset of the children under our care," he says.

The Zanzibar Minister of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Tabia Maulid Mwita says: "The government has begun giving a greater acknowledgement that if Zanzibar is to have any hope of realizing her development goals including ending poverty, Zanzibar must sustain and intensify its focus on investing in youth to make them productive, given that it is the young people of today who will be the adults of tomorrow."

She said that her ministry is collaborating with other stakeholders to create enabling environment for youth to thrive and transform their own lives, that of their parents and their communities.

"We are grateful to SOS Children's Village Tanzania, for instilling in children a development oriented mindset, especially considering that children under their care are those who have lost parental care or are about to loose parental care," he says.

For youth in Isles, land remains one of challenges that discourage young people from engaging in the agricultural sector.

Hamis is one the youths in the Indian Ocean Archipelago who have no access to land. But, for him rented a two and half acre farm at 350,000/-, something that allow him to venture into agriculture.

Zanzibar Minister for Agriculture Dr Sudi Nahoda Hassan said that there is a mechanism for land acquisition and accessibility for agriculture investment. All people like Hamis need to do are to start at the local level (shelia/village).

By Guardian Reporter

Agency modernises its services to reach more Tanzanians

THE Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) is tirelessly working towards improving service delivery for people to easily access vital information on key life events in an effort to complement government's development endeavors.

Agency's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Emmy Hudson disclosed this in an interview that the demand for these services has continued to increase in order to verify the authenticity of the information they provide, especially when they need other services in various institutions in the country.

"Being a state-run entity, RITA is the custodian of vital information on key life events—births, deaths, marriages, divorces, adoptions; trusteeship which includes administration of deceased estates, custodian of properties of minors who have no guardian, incorporation of trusts, writing and keeping of wills, and advising and act as Trustee in bankruptcy or official receiver in company liquidation," she explained.

Emmy noted that RITA's roles are unique and touch everyday life of a person, adding that they also touch the lowest common man to the wealthier and hence of importance to the Government Development and people's rights.

"Due to its importance to many people in urban and rural areas, RITA has continued to implement various strategies and programmes to expand the scope of services availabilities to all," she said, noting that the agency has made a number of strides to improve its systems, which has made it reaching as many people as possible, something that wasn't easy in the past due to distance and cost.

According to Emmy, RITA is internally recognized as one of the institutions that made a number of transformations within a short period of time in vital information on key life events. It was named by the AF-



RITA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Emmy Hudson

rican Union (AU) as champion country in leading the transformations.

She also highlighted some of RITA's recorded achievements including the implementation of the under-five aged birth registration initiative, which issues free of charge birth certificates to that group.

The Acting CEO acknowledged that the programme has improved and eliminated previous challenges facing many new born who were left unregistered, for example he said due to reasons of distance from remote areas where people lives to the District Commissioners' offices as well as registration service fees, but through this initiative some improvements were made which has resulted to increase in enrolment and children issued with birth certificates.

"These certificates are available in centres close to people—ward executive offices and health centres, particularly Maternal and Child Health (MCH)," she said, noting that in May this year, RITA set up a Child Registration system in Arusha and Manyara Regions whereby 349,018 children have been registered and obtained free birth certificates after the government waived fees for the strategic group of children.

In addition to these regions, the number of regions implementing this program has reached 20 and a total of

7,004,382 children are registered thus increasing the percentage of registered children in the country to 55 from 13 per cent, according to the 2012 Population and Housing Census.

The official said the use of ICT through mobile phones has greatly helped to increase efficiency in sending information of registered children quickly to the Agency's database, thus obtaining accurate and timely data for planning national development plans and providing social services.

"The use of ICT has also helped citizens who need copies of certificates or records of their records, which are now available faster than in the past," she affirmed.

She revealed that the agency is in the process of launching implementation in Katavi and Rukwa regions in November 2021 where more than 413,623 children are expected to register and obtain birth certificates.

Emmy underscored that the agency came up with an electronic registration system (e-services) with the aim of reaching more people without having to go to the agency's offices. "This service enables people to access the birth and death registration service by completing a large portion of his or her application electronically wherever he or she is in the country regardless of the

District in which he or she was born," she added.

"Over the past six months many services have been added to the system and now a citizen can apply for a birth or death certificate, verify birth and death certificates for Higher Education Loan applicants among other requirements, request a copy of the certificate and do amendment of birth or death certificate and replacement of old certificate," she stated.

"A person wishing to use E-Service must log in to the Agency's Website which will click on the button labeled E-Service and the first step will be required to register and open an Application account which he will use to send and receive various responses and information about his/her request," she explained.

"E-Services has continued to be used to verify birth certificates for students applying for loans for Higher Education studies where a student sends a certificate that needs to be verified and receives a response that is a certified certificate online without reaching the RITA Office," she said, noting that

since the system came into effect in June 2020, it has been able to serve more than 231,978 people with a large percentage of students reviewing certificates for applying for higher education.

According to her, the benefits of using E-services include reducing the backlog of citizens in RITA Offices especially in this period where our country is continuing the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, a person has access to services easily as he does not have to pay the fare and waste time for the process of applying for services and thus focus on economic activities and nation building.

On the government side, Emmy said: "This system helps to increase transparency, accountability, revenue collection as well as access to accurate statistics of citizens who are registered and given birth and death certificates."

According to her, the African Union (AU) has selected Tanzania as one of the five (5) countries on the African continent that will lead the Campaign to accelerate child registration in Africa known as "No Name

Campaign; For Every Child a Legal Identity, For Every Child Access To Justice", adding that the program is supported by the African Union Commission and UNICEF and Centre for Excellence of Canada to enable the realization of the vision for universal birth registration in Africa by 2030.

She clarified that Tanzania is fulfilling this role in the countries of the East African region and has been selected based on the achievements made in recent years in accelerating the Registration of Important Human Events, especially the registration of generations for children.

"Other identified factors include the country's political will in matters of genealogy registration and the full implementation of key principles that support this campaign," she emphasised.

Through the Under-Five Child Registration Program more than seven million children have been able to register and get their basic rights and have been able to increase the number of children registered in the country by four times more than before, she says.

The Children's Registration Program has been rolled out to 20 regions that are currently implementing the program. The program has been a role model and many African countries continue to learn how to run it. In addition, many countries due to the challenge of Covid-19 are currently learning online.

The Agency has also implemented the Registration Program for Children of 5 to 17-year-olds where students are registered and obtain birth certificates in the schools they attend. To date 384,413 students have been registered and obtained birth certificates in 19 districts. The agency is in the process of conducting the exercise in Arumeru and Arusha districts.

RITA is known to be one of the institutions that have joined the Joint Service Centres in the Tanzania Postal Corporation offices countrywide. Services continue to be provided in these areas and initially such services are provided in the cities of Dodoma and Dar es Salaam. The establishment of these centres is a government strategy to create an easy and enabling environment for citizens to access all Government services within one area in a short period of time.



A cross-section of Children in Magu District, Mwanza Region rejoicing after receiving birth certificates from RITA in its under-five birth registration drive.

Mounting scramble for Coronavirus vaccines in Zimbabwe

HARARE

MORE than a month ago, she lost her parents, brother, and wife, to the coronavirus. Then her fiancé battled COVID-19, but 27-year-old Melinda Gavi said she had not contracted the disease.

Gavi joined crowds scrambling to get vaccinated at Parirenyatwa hospital in the Zimbabwean capital Harare even though she was previously sceptical about getting vaccinated against the dreaded disease.

Her parents, brother, and wife were equally sceptical of the COVID-19 vaccines before they were visited by the disease, which eventually claimed their lives.

In a country of about 15 million people, nearly 5.5 million have had at least one dose of the vaccine the Reuters COVID-19 tracker, which assuming that each person needs two doses, represents 18.8% of the population.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed in October that Zimbabwe had received 943 200 COVID-19 vaccine doses from the global COVAX Facility in September and October for its ongoing vaccination campaign.

IPS has been following the rollout of the vaccines in various centres over the past few months, recording people's personal experiences in the queues.

Gavi says it has taken her days to get vaccinated.

"This is my third day coming here at Parirenyatwa to try and get vaccinated," Gavi told IPS as she stood in a long and meandering queue at Zimbabwe's biggest hospital.

About 200 people gathered at the back of the hospital, some looking tired as they lingered in the queue. Some sat on the pavements and or flower beds, waiting for their turn to get vaccinated in the slow-moving queue.

"We have limited vaccines, and often on a day we are vaccinating just 80 people and everybody else often just goes back home without getting vaccinated," a nurse who refused to be named as she was unauthorised to speak to the media, told IPS.

In February this year, Zimbabwe began vaccinating its citizens against coronavirus after receiving a donation of 200 000 doses of China's Sinopharm vaccine.

But when the vaccine first arrived, it was met with growing scepticism from social media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, and Facebook, which fuelled the vaccine hesitancy.

This is no longer the case. Now healthcare workers have to battle hordes of people scrambling for the vaccine.

"With time, as more and more people got vaccinated without severe safety fears, the public became more assured, and demand for vaccines gradually started to rise," said epidemiologist Dr Grant Murewanhema in Harare.

In Bulawayo, on July 8, in the presence of IPS, at the United Bulawayo Hospital, a nurse moved along the queue of people waiting to get vaccinated, counting up to 60 recipients. She told the rest to return the next day.

She told them she only had enough vaccines for 60 people.

At number 60 was 47-year-old Jimmy Dzingai, who said he was a truck driver.

"Oh, better, at least I am going to



Zimbabweans readily join the COVID-19 vaccine queues, but the rollout hasn't been smooth.

get vaccinated," said Dzingai then as he heaved a sigh of relief, folding his hands across his chest.

Meanwhile, as they were told to leave, others did so but grumbled as they filed outside the hospital, some waving their face masks in anger, shouting at hospital authorities for turning them away.

"This is not the first time I am coming here to try and get vaccinated. I have been here four times, and this is my fifth day starting mid-June - only to get excuses," 54-year-old Limukani Dlela, a man who said he lived in Matseumhope, a low-density suburb in Bulawayo, told IPS saying that at times the excuse was that there not enough vaccines available and at other times there were a limited number of vaccines.

Corruption and nepotism have characterised this Southern African country's bitter war against COVID-19, and many people like Dzingai, the truck driver, have not been spared by the rot.

As Dzingai stood at the end of the queue, four middle-aged women strode past him and all others, going straight to the head of the queue and quickly got vaccinated and

left. According to one of the nurses who manned the queue, "the four were staff members and couldn't wait in the queue like everybody else."

The nurse said this even though the four women, after receiving doses, immediately left the premises just like any other ordinary person.

"I was talking to my bosses right now, and my truck has been loaded for me to take the delivery to Zambia. I have told my bosses I was getting my vaccine. Instead, you are telling me I'm not going to be vaccinated. You should get water to inject me and give me the vaccine certificate. I will not leave this place without the vaccine," swore the truck driver.

But the nurse would have none of it.

"You won't be vaccinated today. That won't happen, unfortunately," she said.

Dzingai vowed to stay put at the hospital until he was vaccinated, but because the four women who jumped the queue and got vaccinated before him, it meant he (Dzingai) and three others who had waited at the end of the

queue had to leave without the jab.

With many Zimbabweans like Dzingai now eager to get vaccinated, the government has so far authorised the use of China's Sinovac and Sinopharm, Russia's Sputnik V, and India's Covaxin and the U.S. Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

It has not, however, been easy for people to get the doses. Now bribery has become the order of the day at Zimbabwe's hospitals like Sally Mugabe Referral hospital in the capital Harare.

Lydia Gono (24), from Southern town middle-income suburb in Harare, said she had to 'switch to her purse', which is local parlance for a bribe, to get quickly vaccinated at Sally Mugabe hospital, the closest medical facility to her home.

"I spent close to a week trying to get vaccinated here without success, but today I just rolled a US 10 dollar note in my hand and shook the hand of a nurse who manned the queue, leaving the note in her hand. I was taken to the front and vaccinated without any delay," Gono told IPS.

Tired of the corruption and nepotism and the delaying tactics characterising the vaccination process at public healthcare centres, many middle-income earners like 35-year-old Daiton Sununguro have opted for the private medical centres to get their vaccines parting with US 40 dollars for a single dose.

"Paying is better than having to wait for many hours before getting the vaccine at public healthcare facilities. I will still come back and pay the other US 40 dollars for my second dose," Sununguro told IPS at a posh private medical facility in Harare's Mount Pleasant low-density suburb.

IPS

THE LAW & YOU

'Justice delayed is justice denied' in legal context - 2

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week we saw that the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for presumption of innocence. It states that "no person charged with a criminal offence shall be treated as guilty of the offence until proved guilty of that offence."

This presumption of innocence is a constitutional right and not a privilege and, therefore, no person should be arbitrarily deprived of it.

We saw also that if a person is remanded on unbailable criminal charges for a long time like one to ten or more years and then the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on behalf of the Republic states or informs the court at any stage before verdict or judgement that he has no intention to continue with criminal trial, then the accused person is at once released.

However, the DPP's intention to stop criminal trial

cannot prevent any subsequent proceedings against the accused if new incriminating evidence unfolds. In my opinion, if the accused can be released and later be rearrested on the same facts after new incriminating evidence unfolds, his or her stay in remand prison for such a protracted period is in every sense a presumption of guilt, which violates Article 13(6) (b) of the Constitution.

What justification can be given for investigation to go on from one to 10 or more years without being concluded? Article 9(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that anyone who has been a victim of unlawful arrest or detention shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

However, the Criminal Procedure Act, 1985 as amended until 2019 provides for persons convicted on mistaken identity to be compensat-

ed. Section 61(l) states that where it is established on evidence that a person has been convicted on mistaken identification as a result of which he or she is prosecuted, punished or suffers any loss or injury, that person or his or her legal representative if that person dies, shall be entitled to such reasonable compensation as if he or she were a victim of crime.

As regards compensation in cases of a frivolous or vexatious charge it provides in Section 347 that where on the acquittal of an accused person a court is of the opinion that the charge was frivolous or vexatious, it may order the complainant to pay the accused person reasonably as compensation for the trouble and expenses to which he or she may have suffered by reason of such charge, in addition to his costs.

Just imagine a person, who spends one to 10 or more years in remand prison, his

or her liberty has been curtailed and he or she has lost his or her job! Imagine also the extreme emotional and psychological distress he or she has gone through, his or her being separated from his or her family members, friends and colleagues and after all that he or she is released and starts again civilian life from scratch! Can we really say in all truth that his or her stay in remand prison was not caused by presumption of guilt?

People accused of murder, treason, terrorism, armed robbery, defilement, illicit trafficking in drugs or possession of illicit drugs and money laundering or trafficking in persons are normally remanded for a long time, pending completion of investigation and the start of criminal trial and often there is no speedy due process of the law.

There is ongoing debate on social media that there

must be a time limit for being incarcerated, pending completion of investigation and the start of criminal trial. To contribute to this debate, I propose the following to help improve our criminal justice system.

First, if an accused person can be granted bail, investigation could go long enough until incriminating evidence unfolds and even in such a case there must be a time limit to complete investigation.

Second, if the accused person is charged with unbailable criminal offences he or she should after six months of remand prison qualify for bail. This means all criminal offences should be bailable as this corresponds better to the presumption of innocence as provided for in the Constitution and in the international and regional human rights instruments Tanzania has ratified.

The Universal Declaration

of Human Rights of 1948 states that everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he or she has had all the guarantees necessary for his or her defence.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights states that every individual shall have the right to have his or her cause heard, including the right to an appeal to competent national organs against acts of violating his or her fundamental rights as recognised and guaranteed by conventions, laws, regulations and customs in force.

It states further that every individual shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty by a competent court or tribunal, the right to defence, including the right to be defended by counsel of his or her choice and the right to

be tried within a reasonable time by an impartial court or tribunal.

Third, if there are reasonable grounds to remand an accused person for a long time like one to 10 years or more years, then the accused must be compensated if after all that time his or her case is withdrawn or the DPP before verdict or judgement states or informs the trial court that the Republic is no longer interested in the criminal trial.

If there are no overt signs of incriminating evidence, why must the accused person be incarcerated in the first place?

The day's maxim: "We must call him absent who is not in that place in which he is sought."

• The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com.

RATIBAYA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPLI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

UNIQUE

Kanazi Talent: How young YouTube stars turned dance into an occupation

KIGALI

Bright Itangishaka, known as 'Karyuri', is undeniably catching a glimpse of his promising future. Together with 11 other kids, their popularity in Rwanda, and the region, continues to rise.

Under the name 'Kanazi Talent,' their video dubbed 'African kids dancing Afro Beat' reached 33 million views on YouTube within 11 months. They come second to Meddy, whose song 'Slowly' has 55 million views so far. Kanazi's videos caught the attention of the aforementioned artiste, real name Medard Jobert Ngabo, in 2020, when Itangishaka made a dance video to one of the singer's songs.

Meddy is said to have even sponsored him in school and facilitated a meet-up with his own producer, Lick Lick, who has been doing Itangishaka's team's videos since. "He didn't only support us financially, he also keeps providing guidance and advice as someone who has been in the industry for a long time now," says Safi Munanira, Itangishaka's coach and manager.

Munanira is a university student and former neighbour of Itangishaka in Kanazi-Bugesera where the latter still lives. He says he was the first to recognise Itangishaka's talent, and decided to teach him some moves, which they later started to film and upload.

"We used to dance together when we first started, but our difference in height is so significant, which was not helping in the video's aesthetics, so I let him dance alone. In addition, he was gaining more visibility, so I decided to keep helping him (as a manager) as I had initially planned

to do," shares Munanira.

"The money we make from YouTube has allowed me to pay not only Itangishaka's school fees, but also the other kids who are part of the team. Most of them live with their parents, but they are from poor backgrounds, so being able to cater for school and their basic needs is a really good development for them and their families," he adds.

Itangishaka is now nine years old in Primary 2 and lives with his grandmother. The rest of the team are between the ages of 8 to 15. Munanira is, with the consent of the kids' parents, their spokesperson, because given how young they are, they are protected from bad publicity.

"I don't have any other dream except to become the best dancer in the world. I love dancing and I'm happy to hear that many people know me. I'm grateful to all the people who help and support me," Itangishaka says.

His counterpart, 10-year-old Esther Isezerano in Primary 4, says, "I discovered my talent in

2020, after which I joined Kanazi. I love what I do because I made friends out of it. I want us to become very rich."

Annet Uwambajimana is one of the older kids in the group, currently in S4 doing Math, Chemistry and Biology. She says she never imagined she could make a living from dancing. "I used to receive compliments about the way I dance but it all fell into place after joining the group. I hope, and cannot wait, to collaborate with some of the greatest dancers in the world," she says.

Challenges

Munanira shares that the biggest challenge that his team of young dancers faces is a lack of support from their community back home.

"It might sadly be out of jealousy because not all the community is happy about our success. Some even refuse to give us space to practice or shoot from, or even complain that we are making noise or bothering them, when it's obviously not the case" he says.

Way forward

"We produce a new video twice

a month and we will keep giving it our best. We are looking forward to learning and collaborating with international dancers. It will probably be Ghana, which is where the best dancers in Africa are from, for starters. I believe this will allow us to grow and become even better at what we do," Munanira says.

"I'm planning on recruiting an even bigger number of talented but less privileged kids in my surroundings. We want to create a platform which can facilitate that dream and for that, we welcome any form of support," he adds.

"The only thing we request Rwandans that is very dear to our hearts is to keep being our prime support system. Keep watching our videos, liking and sharing. Keep recognising and giving space to new talents," he adds.

Asked if they are able to maintain balance between studies and dancing, Itangishaka says, "Dancing does not distract me from studying, or the others. I also do well in school and I don't intend to quit any of the two."



Laura with her mom Colleen on her graduation day.

EXTRAORDINARY

Meet this woman who survived heart surgeries and ended up a graduate

CAPE TOWN

While many people aspire to attain some tertiary qualifications, it's no secret that the journey to the graduation hall differs for everyone. But almost certainly, any graduate has a story to share about the uphill battle to finally wearing an academic gown.

For Laura-Anne Hunter, however, the process was far more challenging than it's been for most, as she not only had to study as hard as most other students, she had to overcome serious health complications.

To date, the 22-year-old who was born in Cape Town and raised in Johannesburg has come out strong after undergoing four heart surgeries from a very early age. Currently a copywriter, Laura recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Journalism and Media Studies from Wits University.

Laura has a condition known as Pulmonary Atrisia and had three heart surgeries before she turned three, and in December 2019, she went in for her fourth operation in Cape Town. "The surgery went well. However, I got pneumonia and some minor complications and ended up staying in the ICU for a month," says Laura.

Two weeks after flying home, she started her honours course, and about six weeks later, the reports of Covid in the country surfaced, and she feared contracting it. "At the time, I could barely lie down, drive nor pick up a full kettle due to the chest pain and stitches. The fear was that I could get Covid with a very weak immune system while I was still in recovery (an estimated recovery of 6 months)," says Laura.

"At the very start of my studies, I was exhausted from the wear and tear of

heavy medication, but the lockdown actually did me a favour by forcing me to stay home and recover fully." One of the things that caused some fear was knowing that her life was in the hands of people she didn't know. Despite this, Laura remained positive and says the support she received from her family helped her stay focused.

"Although I was self-motivated throughout my studies, the support I received from my parents (my mom, in particular) was what inspired me to keep studying," she says. Now Laura is enjoying the fruits of her perseverance, despite her serious health condition. She's delighted with her achievement but says she was calm when she went on stage to receive her degree recently.

"I felt calm and collected as I crossed the stage because I knew this moment would eventually come. My mom, Colleen, was in the second row and waved at me when I passed her - a moment neither of us will forget," says the new graduate. "The entire experience was amazing - you could feel the positive emotions from everybody there, from excited graduates to proud parents."

To people in a similar situation, she says, "The only encouragement I could give somebody in a similar health position as I was at the time is to remain calm, reach out for support and look at the end goal. Mine was getting the degree, and nothing was going to stop me. I also now completely understand the saying 'Health is wealth!'"

Laura is aspiring to be a publisher and says she decided to study journalism and media studies as a pathway into publishing. Her next education step is to get her master's in publishing next year as a way to validate her love for literature.

CONCERN

Finland halts Moderna vaccine for men under 30

HELSINKI

Finland has paused the use of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine for men under the age of 30 one day after Sweden and Denmark implemented similar measures. Health authorities in Helsinki said the decision was taken following reports of a rare cardiovascular side effect.

On Wednesday, Sweden said it would stop offering the jab to under 30s. Denmark later followed suit with a similar ban on Moderna for all under 18s. People who have been given one dose of the vaccine would be offered an alternative for their second.

"A Nordic study involving Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark found that men under the age of 30 who received Moderna Spikevax had a slightly higher risk than others of developing myocarditis," Mikka Salminen from Finland's health institute said.

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle that can result in its ability to pump blood around the body. The condition can cause rapid or abnormal heart rhythms. Salminen said myocarditis usually heals on its own in a few days.

As a precaution, Finland will now only give the Pfizer vaccine to boys and young men. Denmark had already been using the Pfizer vaccine as the main option for children aged 12 to 17. It said it was pausing the use of the Moderna shots for under 18s as a "precautionary principle."



Members of Kanazi Talent.



Moderna vaccine in bottles.

Anders Tegnell, Sweden's chief epidemiologist, said health authorities would "follow the situation closely and act quickly to ensure that vaccinations against Covid-19 are always as safe as possible and at the same time provide effective protection" against the disease. Following Sweden and Denmark's announcements on Wednesday, a spokesperson for Moderna said the company was aware of the decisions.

"These are typically mild cases and individuals tend to recover within a short time following standard treatment and rest," the spokesperson said. "The risk of myocarditis is

substantially increased for those who contract COVID-19, and vaccination is the best way to protect against this."

Shares of Moderna fell 4.9 percent, or \$16.08, to \$316.11, in afternoon trading on Wednesday. Medicine regulators in the US, EU and the World Health Organisation said the benefits of the Moderna jab, as well as the Pfizer vaccine, in preventing Covid-19 continue to outweigh the risks.

In July, the European Medicines Agency, the EU's main drug regulator, recommended authorising the Moderna vaccine for children between 12 and 17, the first time the shot had been given approval for under 18s.

Last week Canadian health officials said data suggests there are more reported cases of heart inflammation in people who had the Moderna jab compared to those who received the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna jab is made in Switzerland, while the Pfizer jab is made in Belgium as well as German manufacturing sites run by its partner company BioNTech.

Both vaccines are based on mRNA technology but the Pfizer shot contains 30 micrograms of vaccine per dose compared with 100 micrograms in the Moderna vaccine. Denmark has fully vaccinated 75 percent of its population, while 63 percent of Finnish people have been fully inoculated. Sweden has given 64 per cent of its population two doses of a coronavirus vaccine.

GENEROSITY

Former Wits SRC president pledges R1.5m to help students

JOHANNESBURG

A former president of Wits University's Student Representative Council has pledged \$100 000 (almost R1.5 million) to help students at his alma mater ahead of the institution's centenary in 2022.

And he has challenged other former SRC presidents to join the #Wits100 challenge campaign. The university celebrated its 99th birthday on Monday. Rex Heinke, 1971 SRC president and a member of the Wits Fund Board, lives in the USA and we

were touched by the socio-economic plight of students.

He said: I recently learnt about some Wits students not having enough food to eat and no sufficient place to live. It pained me enormously to hear that and I had to do something to help. My wife and I will be contributing this year and next year to ease the hunger and housing shortages of Wits students.

According to the university, student leaders from 1968 to 2021 convened in September and discussed how they could contribute to the

#Wits100 challenge. More than 13 presidents, including former justice and Wits chancellor Richard Goldstone and former Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Max Price attended.

Wits vice-chancellor and Principal Professor Zebulon Vilakazi welcomed the SRC presidents and described them as a cohort of "great Witsies who, despite their eclectic mix of skills and attributes, have one thing in common, and that is living true to the values of Wits University." Vilakazi said it was heartening to learn that

they wanted to serve Wits beyond their student years. Price advised students leaders to get involved.

He asked how former students could get involved in projects that would strategically advance the #Wits100 campaign and the university in the long term. The first black SRC president, Linda Vilakazi, also welcomed the challenge and said it was "worth it." Vilakazi committed to galvanise former student leaders to support the campaign, including those from the Black Student Society.

"I am putting my hand up and I am definitely going to go all out," Vilakazi, who is also the co-founder of the South African Student Solidarity Foundation for Education, a network for all universities' alumni to support students in need, said.

Outgoing 2020/21 SRC president Mpendulo Mfeka raised several issues confronting students, including the lack of accommodation, financial exclusions, hunger and mental health. Under Mfeka, the SRC raised R4 million to help students.

Mfeka said: Food is a real crisis and

there are students who do not know from where they are going to get their next meal. He said the issues were escalated as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic because many families lost employment and businesses.

A proud Witsie, Heike said that in 1971, during the height of apartheid, the institution was a "beacon of light and hope." He said Wits exposed him to the atrocities of the oppressive undemocratic system. Through the challenge, he hopes to shine a light in student lives.

DIVERSIFICATION

Kenya starts selling hiking holidays

NAIROBI

Kenya has started selling hiking holidays to foreign and local tourists as it seeks to position itself as an outdoorsy, experiential destination.

The Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) is adding mountaineering into the adventure travel package, which will allow tourists to do physical activities – that have been tacked with fitness enthusiasts – while on a business or leisure trip.

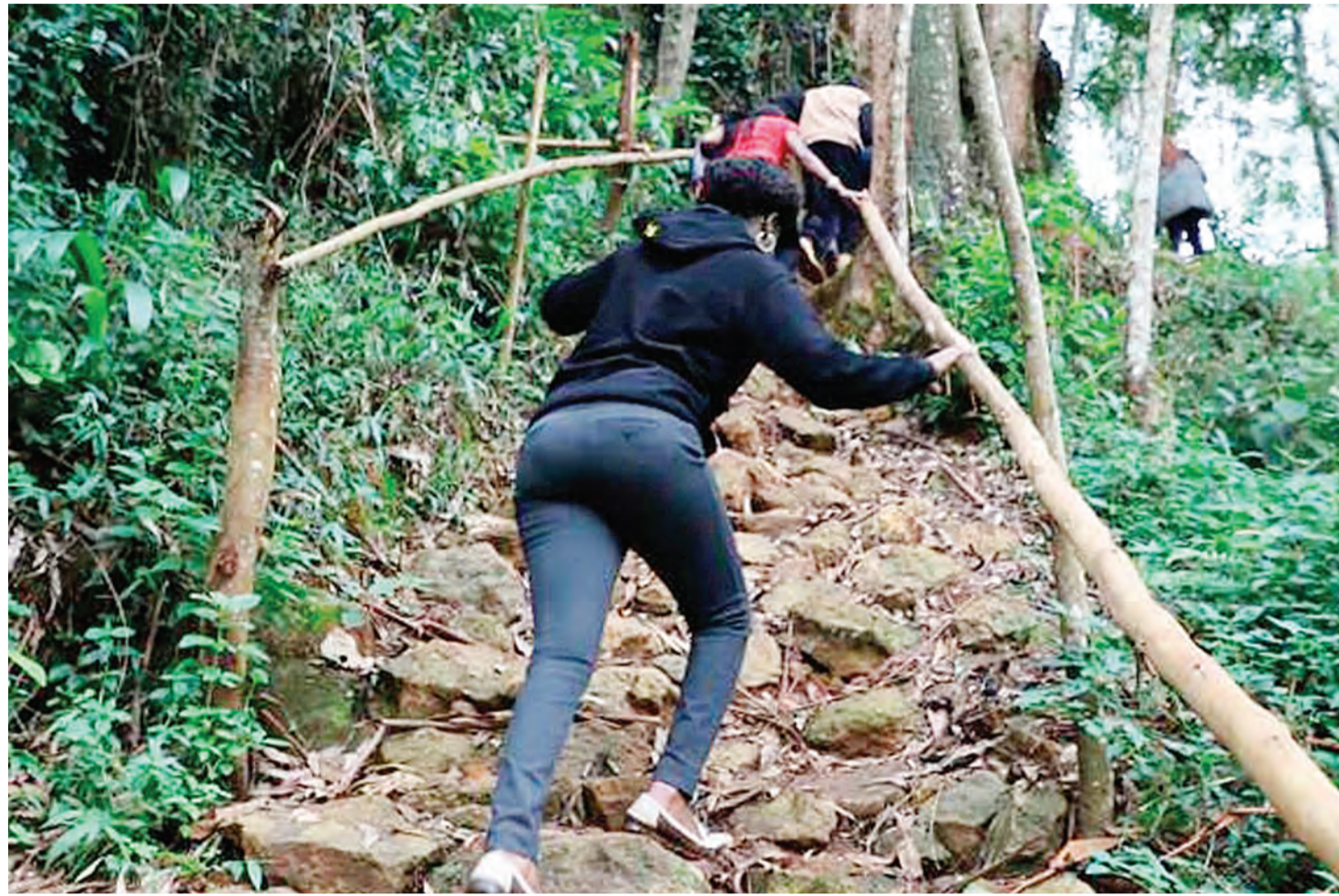
“Hiking resonates with this time now. People don’t want to spend all their time indoors, especially after the pandemic. When they get an opportunity, they want to go out. Hiking is not just about adventure but also wellness,” said Dr Betty Radier, the KTB chief executive. “We are showcasing the diversity of experiences found in Kenya. This is also part of fitness tourism as travellers are keener on experiences that contribute to their physical fitness,” she added.

Adventure travel is not new in Kenya, but it had been left to small tour companies courting tourists coming to walk with rhinos in the wilderness, watch birds in Meru, do camping, and climb Mt Kenya, as the ministry focused more on marketing the beaches and safaris. Dr Radier said the package will involve travelling to remote places, to explore the ways of living of local communities.

“We are rediscovering the magic in our country. Nothing has changed. We are getting a bigger voice because travellers’ preferences have changed and they are always looking for different experiences, out of the norm,” she added.

Some of the attractions KTB will sell as hiking destinations include areas around Mount Kenya, the Aberdare Ranges, Nakuru, Naivasha and Northern Kenya which has numerous hills and mountains in Samburu. Others include Bogoria, Baringo, Iten, Eldoret and Kitale.

“Hiking complements the diverse experiences and destinations as it takes travellers across amazing landscapes, pure



Adventure travel is not new in Kenya, but it had been left to small tour companies.

nature through the routes and trails, wildlife viewing, and the cultures of the different communities in these varied landscapes. Therefore, Kenya is unique for the adventure. Hiking unravels other experiences along the way,” she added.

Curfews and restrictive movements last year saw local travellers seek ways to beat cabin fever by hiking in Ngong Hills, Sleeping Warrior, and

Mt Longonot, increasing the number of hikers to these areas drastically.

Other Kenyans discovered Table Mountain, Ragia falls, forest and caves, Mt Kipipiri, Elephant Hill, and the breathtaking trek leading to the seven ponds in Aberdare. In addition to hiking,

last year the Tourism ministry unveiled 29 new experiences as part of Magical Kenya Signature Experiences with travel

experiences that cut above the rest.

Some of the experiences in the list are homestay experience in Nyandarua, the warrior academy in Mara North conservancy, yoga sunset experience in Watamu, kayaking in River Athi or River Tana and Watamu.

“Kenya is an open canvas for those keen to create their own kind of magic and make unforgettable memories with

family and friends. From the snow-capped mountains to open savannah, the tropical forests to vibrant cities and desert landscapes to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean are the variety of experiences travellers are spoilt for choice,” the Tourism Board boss said. “To showcase this diversity, KTB works closely with the private sector to curate a unique experience for local and international travellers.”

SCRAMBLING

Britons go scrambling to book Christmas holidays in S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG

People in Britain were scrambling to secure the flights that would get them to South Africa for Christmas on Thursday, after official confirmation that the United Kingdom will drop SA from its red list as of Monday, 11 October.

That change in status – alongside the UK’s decision to accept proof of Covid-19 vaccinations done in South Africa – opens up travel to the UK without mandatory quarantine at a cost approaching R45,000 per person. It also effectively reopens SA as a destination for the traditional British winter getaway, particularly over the week between Christmas and New Year.

And there were plenty of potential winter refugees on Thursday night, the numbers suggested. Google Trends showed a sharp spike in searches for “travel to South Africa” from within the United Kingdom. And airline booking systems showed that seats were going fast – and at great price.

On Thursday night, an adult round-trip ticket from London to Johannesburg covering the prime Christmas week was going for the equivalent of slightly over R57,000 on Virgin Atlantic – and that was for its “economy classic” offering. Fellow UK-based airline British Airways was charging a comparatively paltry R25,000 for the same thing.

Direct flights between the UK and South Africa remain limited; the slowly reemerging South African Airways is not yet offering that route. Flights connecting through the Middle East and Europe are also still scarce, by pre-pandemic standards.

Interest in tickets to South Africa started even before the official announcement of Thursday of the de-listing, with the likes of Virgin reporting a 150% increase in bookings during the course of the week.

In 2019, South Africa recorded 466,481 British arrivals. A March 2021 survey by South African Tourism and YouGov found that intent to travel to South Africa remained stable, with natural beauty a major drawcard.



Revellers enjoy beer and music at a bar in Kigali.

ALERT

The hazards of casual dating

KIGALI

Call them ‘situationships’ or friends with benefits; casual relationships have become common on the dating scene.

Perceptions and expectations have been transformed and dating is no longer purposed for commitment or marriage, as it normally was in the past. Though distinct in certain ways, casual dating, ‘hooking up’ or friends with benefits are somewhat related concepts. They are all centred on a lack of commitment for a serious or long-term relationship.

The rules of dating have changed so much in the last 20 years that it’s questionable whether “dating” itself even exists anymore. Younger peo-

ple today practice ‘casual dating,’ blurring the lines between conducting a relationship and merely hooking up, writes Author John Donegan.

He proceeds with an observation that most dates now are arranged online. We often know where we’re going, what we’re eating, and whose place we’re going back to afterwards. Apps like Tinder, Hinge, and Bumble expedite this whole process without the growing pains associated with actually kindling a relationship. And even if we meet in person, who says we have to date? For those who grew up in an era without smartphones, this might be seen as deplorable, yet for modern lovers, it’s simply the norm.

But is it a healthy habit? Counsellor Robinah Ziwa shares that while

most people enter into such relationships without commitment, some find it hard to keep it that way and in the long run face disappointment.

“In the long run it may become hard to prevent emotional attachment. When this happens, the person becoming attached to the relationship is bound to be disappointed. When the other partner doesn’t feel the same way, a person may feel used and embarrassed. They may start regretting which may later cause depression,” she says.

The counsellor is of the view that some people, especially the young generation, opt for such relationships in hopes of enjoying the perks that come with dating without the

challenging parts of growing a long-term partnership.

“They want the companionship but are afraid of commitment. This may seem like the easier choice but it has consequences. Feelings are bound to be hurt.” Donegan quotes research that indicates that casual dating is not healthy and that the norm may actually affect your long-term dating behaviour for the worse.

“It appears that on average, the positive lessons that are learned from previous relationship experiences are likely being overwhelmed by the negative carryover, especially in regard to relationship attitudes and relationship stability.” Fiona Tumukunde, a hotel attendant, says though casual dating comes with-

out the complex details of forming serious relationships, its menaces are way heavier.

“Often times a person feels remorse for making such choices. It’s demeaning to give yourself to someone only for the pleasure of it. Young people may see this as trendy, but casual dating comes with consequences that affect future relationships,” she says.

Ian Kalule, an accounts officer, agrees with Tumukunde saying that some people opt for non-committed relationships because of self-esteem issues. For a person to believe that they deserve less and only choose to keep a relationship on a physical level is a sign of deeper emotional issues.

He thinks such people are either

afraid of getting hurt or believe less of themselves to be deserving of a full loving relationship. “When a person casually dates you, they are basically telling you ‘I only like you enough to hang out with you but cannot have a serious relationship with you,’ how peculiar!”

It’s not news that casual and traditional dating are different. Casual dating indeed has its immediate physical benefits, its novelty, but it also fails to provide the emotional benefits one could only get from building a connection with another person. As technology continues to provide new frictionless ways of asking each other out, we have a choice; make a conscious effort to seek an emotional connection with others, Donegan writes.

RISKY

Should we be posting pictures of children on social media?

DUBAI

Once upon a time, candid family memories were captured by film cameras and stored in photo albums on bookshelves or coffee tables within the home. These days they are staged, posted on Instagram Stories and saved as “Highlights”, where hundreds of thousands of strangers can view them.

Since the beginnings of social media, posting images of children for public consumption has been a topic of debate - one that has been reopened with the news that Facebook is applying the brakes on its version of Instagram for children, even while recent viral TikTok challenges continue to feature child influencers.

The Walk Challenge, for example, entails a user to walk towards the camera (which is set on 0.3x speed) to the sound of Saucy Santana's Walk. Many parent influencers, including popular UAE blogger Karen Wazen, took part in this challenge with their children. On the other end of the spectrum, supermodel Gigi Hadid shared an open letter on Twitter earlier this year explaining why she doesn't publicly share images of her young daughter. “To the paparazzi, press and beloved fan



A child's photo is posted on Instagram.

accounts, you know we have never intentionally shared our daughter's face on social media,” the letter says. “Our wish is that she can choose to share herself with the world when she comes of age, and that she can live as normal of a childhood as possible, without worrying about a public image that she has not chosen.”

An Instagram poll of 300 users found that 34 per cent believe that sharing their children's

images on social media is only part of the new normal and an extension of our transition to digital lifestyles. The other 66 per cent believe a line has been crossed, and that it could be harmful and unethical.

“Parents often warn their children about the risks of social media, however, they often ignore their own advice when they themselves constantly post pictures and videos of the eve-

ryday going on of their children and families,” says Carolyn Yaffe, a psychotherapist at Medcare Camali Mental Health Clinic.

“When young people are growing up routinely seeing and posting photos of themselves, they are being taught this is normal, and they may develop poor boundaries when it comes to keeping things and situations private. Oversharing may become the norm.”

Those who oppose the prospect of exposing children on social media often say that young children, including infants, are used as props in a blogger's desire for social media stardom. They're also wary of their capacity to make an informed decision about consent, and whether or not they understand that their images are being shared across the internet and beyond, sometimes for profit.

However, many parents contend that as their children's guardians, it is their right and responsibility to make these decisions, among others, on their child's behalf, and how they may decide to share images of their children publicly is a private matter.

Designer and mother Maha Gorton, a Dubai resident, says that while she

doesn't feel comfortable sharing every minute of her children's lives, she does sometimes feature her older children in her social media content and emphasises that she always asks their permission first. “If they say ‘no’, it's a no. And if I am making money from a post that they're in, they get a cut,” she says.

Yaffe says there are positives to familiarising older children with social media apps. “Many young people may find it easier to talk and socialise with peers after connecting with them first [online]. They also can use social media to have influence through social networking - bringing positive change through fundraising and promoting social awareness. Also, it is a great way for young people to stay relevant on current events and issues around the world,” she says.

While older children may be more aware of ideals such as consent and privacy, some children who are too young to own or operate a smartphone nonetheless have their own social media accounts, managed by their parents. Amina Smadi, 5, for instance, who has modelled for Level Shoes, Farfetch and Bloomingdale's Middle East, has more than 18,000 followers on Instagram.

ACTIVISM

Astronaut Barbie doll jets off on zero gravity flight with ‘Italian Cristoforetti’

BRUSSELS

A Barbie doll version of Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti has jetted off on a zero gravity flight with the aim of inspiring young girls to consider a career in space and science, technology, maths and engineering, or Stem fields.

Marking World Space Week, from October 4 to 10, which this year celebrates women in space, toy maker Mattel Inc has teamed up with the European Space Agency (ESA) and Cristoforetti, who is currently in training for her next mission to the International Space Station next April.

As part of the project, Cristoforetti's lookalike doll mirrored the preparation an astronaut needs to do before heading off to space, by travelling and floating on a zero gravity flight from an ESA base in Germany.

Barbie has teamed up with the

ESA and its only active female astronaut, Samantha Cristoforetti, to inspire young girls to see the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Stem) fields as a viable career option.

“The mini Samantha doll has already been on a parabolic flight so she already has some experience with weightlessness,” Cristoforetti, 44, said in a video. “I really hope that by showing that we can create some excitement for especially young girls ... maybe ... those images will kindle a sparkle of passion in some girl's heart and that would be incredible.”

As part of the project, Barbie is sharing educational resources on space on its website and proceeds from the new Samantha Cristoforetti Barbie doll, previously a one-of-a-kind toy, will be donated to the Women In Aerospace organisation towards a PhD student bursary.



Astronaut Barbie aboard a space ship.



ITV	
SATURDAY 9 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong 13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 Igizo: Rebecca 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Rebecca 21:30 Art and Lifestyle 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTV
SUNDAY 10 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 11 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Huru Talk Show 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Soap: Love to Death
TUESDAY 12 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:25 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Aya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt: 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Bundesliga na DW 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF 21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:20 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV
WEDNESDAY 13 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera
THURSDAY 14 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 DWTV Journal 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue shetia rpt 13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 15:00 Bongo Movie: 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 The Base 00:00 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV
FRIDAY 15 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: NSSF rpt 13:20 Jagina rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Igizo: Rebecca rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu
SATURDAY 16 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong 13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 Igizo: Rebecca 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Rebecca 21:30 Art and Lifestyle 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTV
SUNDAY 17 Oct	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebecca 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 18 Oct	08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Moring Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Our Earth 20:00 Series: Beats of Love 20:45 Telenovela: Laws Of Love 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco/Africa

CAPITAL

Sat 09 Oct
08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt

WORLD

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE:

Journalists Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov share award

SWEDEN

JOURNALISTS Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov have won the Nobel Peace Prize for their fights to defend freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia.

The Nobel committee called the pair "representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal".

The winners of the prestigious prize, worth 10m Swedish krona (£836,000; \$1.1m), were announced at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo.

They were chosen out of 329 candidates.

Why do the Nobel prizes matter?

Ms Ressa, who co-founded the news site Rappler, was commended for using freedom of expression to "expose abuse of power, use of violence and growing authoritarianism in her native country, the Philippines".

In a live broadcast by Rappler, Ms Ressa said she was "in shock".

She said her win showed that "nothing is possible without facts... a world without facts means a world without truth and trust".

In a statement, Rappler said it was

"honoured and astounded" that its chief executive had been given the prize.

"It could not have come at a better time - a time when journalists and the truth are being attacked and undermined," it said.

The Nobel committee said Mr Muratov, the co-founder and editor of independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, had for decades defended freedom of speech in Russia under increasingly challenging conditions.

In an interview with the popular Telegram channel Podyom, Mr Muratov said: "I'm laughing. I didn't expect this at all. It's madness here."

He called the prize "retribution for Russian journalism which is being repressed now".

The editor was congratulated by Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, who said: "He persistently works in accordance with his own ideals, he is devoted to them, he is talented, he is brave."

The Nobel Peace Prize is intended to honour an individual or organisation that has "done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations".

"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against



Dmitry Muratov



Maria Ressa

abuse of power, lies and war propaganda," the committee said in a statement.

"Without freedom of expression and freedom of the press, it will be difficult to successfully promote fraternity between nations, disarmament and a better world order to succeed in our time," it added.

What do we know about the winners?

Maria Ressa co-founded the news site Rappler in 2012. The site now has 4.5 million followers on Facebook, and has become known for its intelligent analysis and hard-hitting investigations.

It is one of the few Philippine media organisations to be openly critical of President Rodrigo Duterte and his policies.

Rappler has published extensively on the populist president's deadly war on drugs, as well as taking a critical look at issues of misogyny, human rights violations and corruption. Ms Ressa has personally reported on the spread of government propaganda on social media.

Ms Ressa has faced numerous legal cases, which she says are politically motivated. The government has maintained

their legitimacy.

Local journalist Ellen Tordesillas told the BBC last year that Ms Ressa was "admired as one of those who stood up to Duterte".

Dmitry Muratov co-founded Novaya Gazeta in 1993 and has since worked as its editor. Novaya Gazeta is one of the few remaining newspapers in Russia to be highly critical of the ruling elite, particularly President Vladimir Putin.

Published three times a week, it regularly runs investigations into alleged corruption and other malpractice in ruling circles, and highlights the plight of people it considers victims of official abuse.

Six of its reporters, including Anna Politkovskaya, have been murdered because of their journalistic work, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The newspaper is also subjected to threats and harassment, including over its reporting of human rights abuses in Chechnya.

Agencies

French envoy: Australia 'childish' to keep US subs pact secret

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S assertion that it could not inform France of its top-secret talks with the United States and Britain to build nuclear submarines is "childish", the French envoy to Canberra said yesterday.

Australia walked away from a \$40 billion deal with France's Naval Group to build a fleet of conventional submarines last month and will instead build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with US and British technology after striking a trilateral security partnership with those two countries.

The cancellation angered France, which accused Australia and the United States of stabbing it in the back by holding talks without informing them.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison says he did raise concerns with Paris over the troubled Naval Group contract, but he could not reveal discussions with the United States until that strategic partnership had been agreed.

But France's ambassador to Australia, Jean-Pierre Thebault, who Paris recalled last month, said France was a close security partner of the United States, Australia and Britain and could be trusted with such information.

"It's childish to say that it was impossible to consult France," Thebault told ABC radio on Friday, adding that US President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken had said the matter could have been handled better.

"They have officially stated things should have been done differently. There should have been consultations."

Thebault will soon return to Australia where he said he would test Canberra's resolve to repair ties.

A representative for Australia's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne on Thursday said she welcomed Thebault's return as an important first step in repairing relations.



Merkel and pope discuss climate change in farewell visit

VATICAN CITY

OUTGOING German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday the response to climate change would require a radical change in how people live as she met Pope Francis during a farewell visit to the Vatican and Italy.

Francis and other religious leaders made a joint appeal on Monday for next month's UN Climate Change Conference COP26 to offer concrete solutions to save the planet from "an unprecedented ecological crisis".

Merkel praised the pope's position. "Humanity's response to climate change will require a radical change in our way of living," she told reporters after the pair also discussed biodiversity, the future of the European Union, world conflicts and sexual abuse in the Church.

Merkel and Francis, who have met several times before, spoke privately in the papal library of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace for about 45 minutes.

In an interview with a Spanish radio network last month, Francis called Merkel, who has led Germany for 16 years, "one of the world's greatest political figures".

Before seeing the pope, she met Ger-



Pope Francis and German chancellor Angela Merkel during a private audience at the Vatican. File photo

man Jesuit Father Hans Zollner and others at the new offices of the Pontifical Gregorian University's programme to prevent sexual abuse.

On Wednesday the pope expressed his shame following a major investigation in France that revealed that French clergy had abused more than 200,000 children over 70 years.

Several investigations in Germany in the past few years have also revealed widespread abuse.

"The truth must come to light," Merkel said after meeting the pope.

The Vatican said in a statement Merkel and the pope also discussed migration and the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the end of the private part of the au-

dience, Francis and Merkel, the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, exchanged gifts.

Francis, 84, gave Merkel copies of some of his writings and a miniature reproduction of one of the bronze doors of St Peter's Basilica and she gave him a three-volume collection about the gospels and a book on Michelangelo.

The 67-year-old Merkel, whose conservatives lost in Germany's Sept 26 election to the centre-left Social Democrats, later met Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the former head of the European Central Bank, which is based in Germany.

"The Chancellor has been able to lead Germany and the European Union with calm, determination and sincere Europeanism," Draghi said at their meeting at his official residence, Palazzo Chigi, in Rome.

"She transformed Germany's role in Europe. We will miss her," he said. Agencies

Biden urges US businesses to implement vaccine requirements amid pushback

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday urged large companies and other organizations to implement his government's new COVID-19 vaccination mandates which have sparked concern and pushback.

"These requirements work... More people are getting vaccinated. More lives are being

saved," said Biden in suburban Chicago at an event promoting the requirements. Biden was in Elk Grove Village where he toured a construction site being run by Clayco.

The company announced Thursday it would be implementing a vaccination or testing requirement for its employees moving forward.

"We have to beat this thing," Biden said. "So while I didn't race to do it right away, that's why I had to move toward requirements that everyone get vaccinated where I had the authority to do that."

Biden, who prioritized handling the pandemic after assuming office, announced in September sweeping new

federal vaccine requirements for as many as 100 million Americans, including private-sector employees as well as health care workers and federal contractors.

The vaccine mandates, however, faced pushback from Republicans and other critics, who argue it smacks of government overreach and

takes away people's rights to make their own medical decisions.

Recent weeks also saw the Consumer Brands Association, which represents 1,700 U.S. brands, urge the Biden administration to accelerate federal guidelines and clarify how businesses are expected to implement the new vaccine orders.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

Stark inequalities among poor ethnic groups - UNDP

UNITED NATIONS

A MULTIDIMENSIONAL global poverty index shows more significant inequalities among ethnic, caste and gender groups than among geographical groups, the UN Development Program (UNDP) said on Thursday.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), produced by the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, measures the composition of the poor in 109 countries covering 5.9 billion people, about 92 percent of

the developing world's population.

For the first time, the 2021 Index examines the correlations between poverty and ethnicity and race, caste and gender, the UNDP said.

Besides income, it studied how the impoverished suffer from poor health, insufficient education and a low standard of living.

In some cases, disparities across ethnic and racial groups are more remarkable than across regions within the same country, the report said.

Differences in this kind of poverty across ethnic and racial groups

are more significant than disparities across subnational geographical groups.

Understanding the multidimensional nature of poverty can help to design a more resilient recovery that leaves no one behind, the UNDP said.

"This year's Multidimensional Poverty Index reminds us of the need for a complete picture of how people are being affected by poverty, who they are and where they live, if we are to build forward better from this crisis and design effective responses that leave no one

behind," said Achim Steiner, UNDP administrator.

Out of the 109 countries studied, 1.3 billion people were multidimensionally poor, UNDP said. About half of them, 644 million, are children under age 18; and nearly 85 percent live in Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.

More than 67 percent live in middle-income countries. Being multidimensionally poor can mean very different things in different circumstances, said the UNDP.

Around 1 billion people, for example, are exposed to health risks

due to solid cooking fuels, another billion live with inadequate sanitation and another billion have substandard housing.

Around 788 million people live in a household with at least one undernourished person, and about 568 million lack improved drinking water within a 30-minute roundtrip walk.

The UNDP said in another example, that in Bolivia, indigenous communities account for about 44 percent of the population but represent 75 percent of multidimensionally poor people.

The figures are also notable in India, where five out of six multidimensionally poor people were from lower tribes or castes.



For the first time, the 2021 Index examines the correlations between poverty and ethnicity and race, caste and gender

WHO set to vaccinate 40 pct population of every country against COVID-19 by end 2021

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Thursday an initiative to vaccinate 40 percent of the population of every country against COVID-19 by the end of 2021 and 70 percent by mid-2022, by prioritizing vaccine delivery to low-income countries, particularly those in Africa.

"Today, WHO is launching the Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by mid-2022," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a press briefing.

"The strategy outlines the road we must all take together to achieve our targets of vaccinating 40 percent of the population of every country by the end of this year, and 70 percent by the middle of next year."

According to Tedros, achieving these targets will require at least 11 billion vaccine doses, which is an allocation problem instead of a supply problem.

"With global vaccine production now at nearly 1.5 billion doses per month, there is enough supply to achieve our targets, provided they are distributed equitably," he said.

According to WHO's records, more than 6.4 billion vaccine doses have now been administered globally, and almost one-third of the world's population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

However, low-income countries have received less than half of one percent of the world's vaccines. In Africa, less than five percent of people are fully vaccinated.

Earlier this year, WHO set a target for all countries to vaccinate ten percent of their populations by the end of September, but 56 countries didn't make it. That has prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to join the WHO chief to launch the latest strategy.

"Vaccine inequality is the best ally of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Guterres, but "through dose sharing, swaps, technology transfers and other priority actions, it is possible to reduce deaths and minimize suffering, prevent health systems from being overwhelmed, resume social and economic activities, and reduce the risk of dangerous new variants."

The UN chief also renewed his appeal to G20 for help, adding that "their meeting later this month will be an opportunity to deliver." "I urge all global stakeholders to step up, mobilize their resources and turn this strategy into a reality," he said.

Somalia calls for halt to forced evictions in northern region

MOGADISHU

THE Somali government on Thursday called on authorities in the semi-autonomous region of Somaliland to stop forced evictions in the northern part of the country.

The Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development also called on the Somaliland administration to halt any activity that would additionally contribute to a coercive environment and lead to a risk of forcible transfer of civilians to other parts of the country against their will.

"We call on the regional Somaliland administration to respect the right to the freedom of movement, to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from indiscriminate illegal action in the use of force while ensuring safety and security in northern Somalia," the ministry said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

The statement came after hundreds of families, many of whom who have lived there for nearly 20 years were arrested and forcefully displaced from Las Canood, Sool region of Somaliland between Oct. 2-3.

The UN humanitarian agency said on Wednesday that more than 2,800 Somalis have so far been forcibly displaced.

Kremlin says only 'amateurs' able to find fault with Russia over EU gas price hikes

MOSCOW

EUROPE'S surging gas prices stem from a wide variety of factors, but only amateurs can find Russia's fault in it, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov reported on Wednesday.

"We insist that Moscow is in no way at fault for the situation on the gas market in Europe, this is inconceivable. Russia has fulfilled, is fulfilling and will fulfill all the obligations assumed under existing contracts in a consistent and thorough manner."

The Kremlin press secretary noted that the causes of the crisis were a number of overlapping factors, and that includes current economic developments. "But all of this is not attributed to Moscow. Only amateurs, only those, who do not understand what it's all about, can point to Russia in this context," Peskov said.

According to him, the current developments in Europe are related to the post-pandemic economic recovery, in addition to the surge in energy consumption and issues involving unfilled gas storage facilities. "Statistics demonstrate that they are actually less filled than the same period last year," the Kremlin Spokesman stated.

Another culprit behind the crisis is the significant decrease in wind generation in Europe. "This is also simply due to climate change, it was calm there, and little [energy] has been produced by wind generation," Peskov pointed out.

He added that there is a wide range of other factors which "simply came together". "Less gas enters the spot market," Peskov explained.



Agencies

China becomes strong supporter, contributor to global biodiversity agenda, says UN official

BEIJING

CHINA has greatly supported and contributed to protecting biodiversity and its philosophy of ecological civilization is "critical for all countries to achieve the global biodiversity goals," a United Nations (UN) official has said.

"Ecological civilization is an interesting concept. And why interesting? Because it's looking at the relationship between the society and nature," said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The concept demonstrates "the mainstream of biodiversity across sectors, across departments, which is also critical for all countries to achieve the global biodiversity goals," she told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Mrema has arrived in China to participate in the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), which is to be held in China's southwestern city of Kunming.

Themed "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth," the meeting is the first global conference convened by the United Nations on the topic of ecological civilization.

The first part of the meeting is set to kick off on Monday when participants are expected to review the "post-2020 global biodiversity framework" to draw a blueprint for biodiversity conservation in the future.

The second part, to be held in person in the first half of 2022, will see broad and deepened negotiations toward an ambitious and practical framework. "This framework will actually replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which guided our implementation for the last 10 years," she said.

Mrema expects that a Kunming Declaration will be adopted at the first part of the meeting, saying it will help "build momentum on the importance of biodiversity conservation" and demonstrate that "loss of biodiversity is not waiting for us." In the past several decades, "China has been a strong supporter and contributor to the global biodiversity agenda," she said.

Mrema mentioned that China is among the first countries to become a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

It has also ratified two protocols to the convention,



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

namely the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing. Moreover, "China has been one of the biggest donor countries to the core budget of the convention and the protocols, particularly since 2019," Mrema said.

Offering to host the COP15 conference is "a clear demonstration of China's leadership and commitment to biodiversity," she said.

Mrema also recognized the restoration efforts that China has carried out over the last decades to protect and conserve biodiversity, saying the efforts clearly represent a good model for future work, which can also be emulated and learned by other countries.

"The Chinese government has continued to apply a long-term approach to halt and reverse biodiversity loss

with multiple disciplinary teams that can offer evidence-based solutions to address social economic complexities and can provide inclusive and accessible policy directions, including the ecological red line policy, which will enable to build a resilient environment able to adapt to future impacts and shocks," she said.

"And the Chinese notion of unity, of nature and man, we hope, will be a good example for other countries to follow or to emulate," she added.

Speaking of challenges in terms of biodiversity, Mrema said the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is "a major one," which has affected both our health and biodiversity.

A UN report released in 2019 identified five direct drivers of biodiversity loss as changing use of sea and land, direct exploitation of organisms, cli-

mate change, pollution and invasive non-native species.

To prevent biodiversity loss, Mrema said, the whole world should effectively protect more land and oceans, ensure sustainable consumption and production, ensure that all actors are engaged in protecting nature, and enhance co-operation among governments and with all stakeholders.

"We are responsible for really taking the transformative actions to ensure that harmonious relationship with nature. And therefore, our relationship with nature needs to change," she said.

Meeting sets stage for more contact between China, US

ZURICH

BEIJING and Washington, during a meeting in Zurich, have agreed to further realize their top leaders' recent consensus, boost strategic contacts, manage differences, avoid conflict and confrontation, advance cooperation and bring their ties back on track.

Although senior US officials have tried to tone down hostility in recent talks, experts said more practical, coolheaded US actions are needed to remove attempts to suppress China, repair the chilly ties and set the stage for further high-level interactions.

The meeting involving senior diplomats from China and the United States took place in Zurich, Switzerland, on Wednesday.

The delegations were respectively led by Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.

They exchanged views on China-US ties as well as global and regional issues of common concern, such as climate change.

The two sides agreed to maintain frequent talks and communication on important issues.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry called the meeting "extensive, candid and in-depth", and said it was "constructive and conducive to improving mutual understanding".

At the meeting, Beijing stated its clear objection to using the word "competition" to define their relations.

Wang Dong, a professor and executive director of Peking University's Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding, noted that US officials vowed to ensure "responsible competition" with China at the meeting.

Wang said the administration of President Joe Biden is continuing the negative legacy of former president Donald Trump's administration one of suppression and misjudgment of China.

"The meeting on Wednesday was helpful for breaking Washington's illusion. Damage control on the ties and pragmatism are critical for the US at the moment," Wang said.

Following China-US diplomatic meetings in Anchorage and in Tianjin earlier this year, "it has dawned on Washington that arbitrarily pressuring China and



Yang Jiechi (center), a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, and his delegation leave a hotel at Zurich Airport, Switzerland, on Tuesday. AP

speaking in a haughty tone will not help achieve its strategic goals", said Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department of American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies.

In statements released after the Wednesday meeting, both countries underscored that the meeting followed up on the phone conversation between President Xi Jinping and President Biden on Sept 10.

Su noted that Yang mentioned Biden's recent positive comments on China-US relations, that the US has no intention of curtailing China's development or waging a "new Cold War".

"Since Biden said so, we should check whether Washington can honor the president's commitment with actions," she said.

During the meeting, Yang said that whether the two countries handle their ties well has a bearing on the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples as well as the future and destiny of the world.

China-US cooperation will benefit the two countries as well as the world, while confrontation will only inflict serious damage, Yang said.

He also said he hoped the US would adopt a rational and pragmatic policy toward China and work with China to respect each other's core interests and major concerns.

Diao Daming, an associate professor of US studies at Renmin University of China, said, "As led by the two presidents, the two sides are steadily pressing ahead their contacts at working levels and higher."

A proper perception of China is not enough and "should be accompanied by tangible actions in order to create a necessary, enabling environment for further China-US high-level interaction", Diao said.

"It is both possible and necessary for the two countries to deepen dialogue in areas such as trade, militaries, regional security, culture, COVID-19 response and global governance," Diao added.

During the meeting, Yang elaborated Chinese mainland's position on Taiwan, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Xinjiang and Tibet autonomous regions, maritime domain, human rights and other issues.

He said the US should earnestly respect China's sovereignty, security and development interests and stop using these issues to interfere in China's domestic affairs.

The US side said it upholds the one-China policy. Cheng Li, director of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution, said the meeting on Wednesday was a positive step forward following the two presidents' phone talk, and the Biden administration has realized that its allies do not want to choose sides between the US and China.

Xinhua

South Africa's major trade unions federation goes on national strike

CAPE TOWN

A MAJOR South African trade unions federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), on Thursday went on a nationwide strike and marched to push both the government and the private sector to act in the issues of economy and those affecting workers and South Africans in general.

Members of COSATU, which represents about 20 trade unions and over 2 million people, took to the streets in over 28 cities and towns including the two biggest cities, Johannesburg and Cape Town, while holding banners and cardboard signs with their demands written on them.

COSATU president Zingiswa Losi led the morning march in Cape Town, which temporarily stopped the traffic of major roads, where police were deployed with high alert.

"The living condition of workers are very bad, they can't even last for a whole month to wait for their salaries. So we are saying, the city must come to the party to look at the workers, because workers are the ones who make cities alive," COSATU Western Cape provincial secretary Malvern De Bruyn told Xinhua before the march began.

The workers' lives "are very very hard" and the impact of COVID-19 has been "very devastating for them," Sheila van Rensburg, Western Cape provincial secretary of Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), an affiliate of COSATU, told Xinhua, while her fellow protesters were shouting "viva" loudly.

She indicated that some workers in her union lost jobs after two big companies were liquidated due to the impact of COVID-19. Supporters of the ruling party African National Congress (ANC), which is in tripartite alliance with COSATU and the South African Communist Party (SACP), also joined the march, waving the ANC flag.

The strike comes as the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) indefinitely downs tools for a wage increase after the negotiation with the employers broke down.



Members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) march in Cape Town, South Africa, on Oct. 7, 2021. A major South African trade unions federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), on Thursday went on a nationwide strike and marched to push both the government and the private sector to act in the issues of economy and those affecting workers and South Africans in general.

TPC set bronze medal as its target in 2024 Paralympics



Tanzania's Paralympic athlete, Ignas Madumla Mtweve, in action in the 2021 World Para Athletics Grand Prix's men's Shot Put, which took place in Dubai from February 6-14. PHOTO: WORLD PARAATHLETICS

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has set the bronze medal as its target in the 2024 Paralympics which will take place in France.

TPC secretary-general, Ramadhan Namkomveka, made the plan public yesterday after the national Paralympic side's head coach, Bahati Mgunda, presented a report on the Para athletes' participation in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics to the committee, which held a meeting in Dar es Salaam recently.

The TPC official said the report presented by Mgunda was prepared by him, South Africa-based consultant Michael Louwrens and experts from Nippon University.

It included recommendations and suggestions on the team's current and future performance at international events.

He said the meeting was very crucial as it presented TPC and the tactician with an opportunity to make recommendations on the way forward based on the performance of the team in recent games.

"He gave us a detailed report on the recent Tokyo Paralympics and suggestions on the way forward," he said.

He said the report has recommended that TPC should maintain the current team, arrange team and individual training, athletes should attend the gym regularly, and improve body fitness.

Namkomveka also said the report has

suggested that TPC should organize more events which will be used to tap more and new talents.

"TPC, Tanzania Para Athletics Association (TPAA), and other stakeholders met in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, they, among other things, the national paralympic side's coach Bahati Mgunda presented his report, he explained that lack of resources is hindering the growth of paralympic sports in the country."

"Mgunda suggested a lot of things which include TPC's need to set bronze medal as its target at the 2024 France Paralympics," he said.

He said following the recommendations, TPC will start preparations for the 2024 Paralympics soon.

He asked stakeholders, the private sector, and others to help them to realize their dream of seeing paralympic athletes lay their hands on bronze medals at the 2024 France Paralympic Games.

At the just ended Tokyo Paralympics, the country was represented by two athletes, Sauda Njopeka and Ignas Mtweve. The TPC official said the performance of the two is very encouraging.

"The Paralympics is the biggest event, the performances of the two are very encouraging, the athletes posted season-best in their respective categories."

"It must be known that Ignas Mtweve was the only African in his group," he said.

Iringa set out to revive golf courses

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

MKWAWA University Golf Club (MUGC)

Steering Committee has started putting various dormant golf courses in Iringa, which have long been neglected, back to use.

For the first time, the committee has inspected a golf course at Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) in the region.

The committee chaired by Member of Parliament for Iringa Urban Constituency, Jessica Msambatawangu, in collaboration with Iringa Municipality Mayo, Ibrahim Ngwada, inspected the golf course found inside the MUCE campus yesterday.

Jessica added that the revival of golf will encourage tourists to stay longer in the region as tourists will not only come to see wildlife and other tourist attractions but also stay longer to play golf.

The MP said that in their steering committee they discussed issues of resource mobilization, great membership awareness, and site visiting with technical advisors as well as to welcome



Mkwawa University Golf Club (MUGC) Steering Committee chaired by Jessica Msambatawangu (3rd L), who is also the Member of Parliament for Iringa Urban Constituency, in collaboration with the Mayor of Iringa Municipality Ibrahim Ngwada (4th L) poses for the photo during the inspection of the golf course found inside the MUCE campus yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT FRIDAY SIMBAYA

new members who want to join the Mkwawa University Golf Club.

Therefore, the committee has invited various stakeholders to come forward and help rehabilitate the golf course to revive the game of golf in the region and the nation as a whole.

Veteran local golfer, Salim Mwanenza, who doubles as the game's coach, expressed concern to people who fail to take up the game thinking that the game is a reserve of the rich only.

He said the game brings together people from around the world who come to play and increases the revenue generated by tourism.

Mwanenza said that the Iringa had nine golf courses but all of them were lost due to lack of supervision.

The veteran golfer stated the lack of awareness on the game of golf resulted in the courses' extinction, given the region's residents are not interested in grooming talented golfers.

Edmond Mkwawa, Chairman and founder of golf courses in Iringa, revealed golf promotion in the country started several years ago and there were nine golf courses, including the Mkwawa University golf course, but they died a natural death due to various reasons.

He said that they

have decided to form a steering committee headed by an Iringa Urban MP to revive the game of golf in the region and ultimately inspire people to play it.

The Deputy Head of the MUCE, Fikira Kimbokota, noted he is pleased with the issue of reviving the Mkwawa golf course and promised to co-operate with stakeholders to promote the golf course so that it can have more golfers.

She said that Iringa has many golfers but, since there are no golf courses, most players are going to play the game in other places given the game is played by golfers irrespective of their age.

Therefore, the revival of the course will encourage many people to come and play golf, as Iringa is the main gateway for tourism in the southern circuit as an opportunity to increase GDP through tourism.

A golf course is the grounds where the sport of golf is played. It consists of a series of holes, each consisting of a tee box, a fairway, the rough and other hazards, and a green with a cylindrical hole in the ground, known as a 'cup'.

The cup holds a flagstick, known as a 'pin'. A standard round of golf consists of 18 holes.

Lack of motivation frustrates athletics development in Iringa, says official

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

LACK of interest in athletics among Iringa residents contributes to the region's failure to perform well in domestic competitions, the regional athletics committee stated.

Iringa Athletics Committee's Chairman, Motory Hangali, said the quota for the region at this year's National Athletics Championships is three but, up to date, the region has not disclosed any athlete to feature at the championships.

"It's very painful that our region's quota at the coming National Athletics Championships, which will be held at Sheikh Abeid Stadium in Arusha, is three places but as I am speaking to you we have not identified any athlete to represent the region," he said.

Hangali, National Athletics Championships' winner in 1995 and 1996 editions, however, said they are hoping to send one athlete to this year's championships. He could not shed more light on the athlete.

The official revealed: "There is one athlete, who is willing to go to the championships in Arusha, if everything goes well he will represent the region."

"I don't know more about him, what I know is that his name is James, maybe our coach, Hayuma Baha, knows him better."

He attributed the predicament to the lack of athletics events in the region, saying unlike other regions, Iringa has one event, Asas Marathon.

"People in this region need to be motivated to take part in athletics, here very few people follow athletics, I think it is caused by failure to organize many events," the official disclosed.

"We must encourage Asas to continue



Female runners battle it out in a recent National Athletics Championship in Arusha.

organizing athletics events and inviting others to come in," he said.

Meanwhile, Micheal Washa who heads the technical department of Athletics Tanzania, said 24 regions have confirmed to compete at the National Championships.

2020 National Championships were held at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

The National Athletics Championship was taking place after five years of absence and TOC sponsored the event with funding from Olympic Solidarity (OS) and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Mbaraka James from Tanga was the winner in the men's 1500m race, beating national team athletes Gabriel Geay and Epimak Boniface.

James won the 1500m in 3:47.12. Coast Region is the National Athletics Championship's defending champion.

The region won six gold medals, nine silver medals, and four bronze medals while Arusha took the second spot with five gold medals, seven silver, and four bronze medals. Unga South ended third with two gold medals, a silver medal, and a bronze medal.

Zanzibar's, Urban West was fourth with two gold medals, one silver, and five bronze medals, hosts Dar es Salaam finished fifth with two gold medals and two bronze medals while Dodoma and Kilimanjaro were tied on the sixth position by winning one gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal apiece.

Mbeya, who won one gold medal and two silver medals, ended seventh, Tanga finished eighth with one gold medal, Mwanza and South Pemba took ninth and 10th spots by winning one gold medal and two silver medals respectively.

Yanga to host Azam FC at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciano

YANGA's management has written a letter to the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), requesting its match number 31 of the fourth round of the NBC Premier League against Azam FC to be played at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Initially, on the TPLB schedule, the game was scheduled to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam with Yanga hosting it.

Yanga's Information Officer, Hassan Bumbuli, speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, said that they have requested the game to be played in Arusha for entertainment and fans of the club.

"Yanga fans and members in Arusha and neighboring regions are very supportive of their team, but also football fans in the northern region are eager to witness the big game, so we have written a letter to the league board requesting our game against Azam FC should be played in Arusha and we are confident that our request will be granted," the official noted.

The statement was confirmed by TPBL Information Officer, Karim Boimanda, who acknowledged that the board had received a letter from Yanga.

"It is true that Yanga's letter arrived yesterday. Other procedures are underway before responding to them, for now, it is enough to say that we have indeed received the letter," Boimanda revealed.

He said the league board is working on the letter and once it is finalized they will inform Yanga about their request.

In another development, Yanga leadership has decided to cancel a plan to set up camp in Arusha to prepare for their match against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC scheduled to be played in Songea.

Yanga has settled for the move for what they claim as the absence of the squad's footballers that have been called to the senior national team.

Bumbuli pointed out they have seen that the players will be more tired so they have decided to continue the camp in Dar es Salaam and later they

Yanga will go camping in Arusha to prepare for

the game against Azam FC if their request to play the game in Arusha will be accepted by the league board.

"We have seen if we are going to set up camp, we will overwork our players who are in the national team, should they join us after national squad duties."

"We will travel to Dar es Salaam to take a flight to Songea, after that we will now go to Arusha for about eight days waiting for the Azam FC match," the official pointed out.

Yanga will battle it out in a fourth fixture this season after the match against KMC FC on October 19.

Yanga has locked horns with Kagera Sugar and Geita Gold FC, winning both games.

Saudis down Japan to stay perfect in World Cup qualifying, Wu rescues China

JEDDAH

SUPER-SUB Firas al-Buraikan struck the only goal in the 71st minute as Saudi Arabia handed Japan a 1-0 defeat in their World Cup qualifying tie on Thursday.

It was the third straight win for the Saudis in the third and final round of the Asian qualifiers in Group B, while Japan - who lost to Oman 1-0 earlier in the tournament - suffered their second defeat.

The Saudis, playing in front of a near capacity crowd at the King Abdulla Sports City in Jeddah, dominated possession from the outset and could have won by more if some luck had gone their way.

However, it was Japan who had the first real crack at the goal but Gaki Shibasaki's ambitious effort from more than 30 yards was expertly tipped away for a corner by Saudi goalie Mohamed al-Owais.

Saudi Arabia's Abdullah Madu then produced a fine header off a cross from Abdulrahman Ghareeb but Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda came up with a reflex save to foil his effort.

Al-Owais and Gonda continued to excel for their sides before al-Buraikan broke the deadlock with a cool strike.

After coming in for Saleh al-Shehri in the 64th minute, the 21-year-old forward took advantage of a misdirected back pass from Shibasaki, advanced several yards on the left flank, and slotted the ball through Gonda's legs.

In Sharjah, Wu Lei struck twice, including an injury time winner as China beat Vietnam 3-2 for their first win after two straight losses.

The Espanyol striker kept China's hopes of qualifying alive with his goal in the fifth minute of added time after Vietnam had fought back from a two-goal deficit.

Earlier on Thursday, Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min scored an 89th-minute winner in Ansanto to give South Korea a nervy 2-1 home win over Syria.

The talisman forward saved the Koreans from what would have been a deeply disappointing draw and means they top Group A after two wins and a draw in three matches.

The home team dominated the first half but the two sides went to the break goalless after Syria goalkeeper Ibrahim Alma made several smart stops.

The tide shifted in favour of the home team in the 48th minute when Hwang In-beom shot with his left foot from outside the box, sending the ball into the opposite corner to open the scoring.

It looked as though the match would end in a 1-0 win for Son and his side, but then Syria's Omar Khribin scored an equaliser in the 84th minute to stun South Korea.

Premier League star Son stepped forward when his side needed him most, striking the winner from close range.

Iran edged out the UAE 1-0 to remain perfect with three wins in as many matches

Mehdi Taremi scored the all-important goal in the 70th minute in Dubai as the Iranians stayed top of Group A with nine points.

Iraq and Lebanon played out a goalless draw at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha.

The result meant both teams are without a win in their three matches so far.

AFP

Judge: Cristiano Ronaldo rape lawsuit should be dismissed

NEVADA

A U.S. federal magistrate judge in Nevada is siding with Cristiano Ronaldo's lawyers against a woman who sued for more than the \$375,000 in hush money she received in 2010 after saying the international football star raped her in Las Vegas.

In a scathing recommendation to the judge hearing the case, Magistrate Judge Daniel Albrechts on Wednesday blamed Kathryn Mayorga's attorney, Leslie Mark Stovall, for basing the case on leaked and stolen documents that Albrechts said were privileged communications between Ronaldo and his lawyers.

"Dismissing Mayorga's case for the inappropriate conduct of her attorney is a harsh result," Albrechts wrote in his recommendation to U.S. District Judge Jennifer Dorsey. "But it is, unfortunately, the only appropriate sanction to ensure the integrity of the judicial process."

A date for Dorsey to take up Albrechts' recommendation was not immediately set.

"Stovall has acted in bad faith to his client's -- and his profession's -- detriment," Albrechts decided.

Stovall and other attorneys in his office did not immediately respond Thursday to telephone and email messages about Albrechts' order.

Ronaldo's attorney in Las Vegas, Peter Christiansen, issued a statement saying Ronaldo's legal team was "pleased with the court's detailed review ... and its willingness to justly apply the law to the facts and recommend dismissal of the civil case against Mr. Ronaldo."

The Associated Press generally does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted, but Mayorga gave consent through Stovall and attorney Larissa Drohobyczer to make her name public. ESPN

Fourth division unknown scores to stun Nigeria in World Cup

LAGOS

KARL Namnganda, who plays in the French fourth division, scored in the 90th minute to give the Central African Republic a stunning 1-0 away win over Nigeria on Thursday in World Cup qualifying.

The goal by the 25-year-old unknown from the Vendee les Herbiers Football club came against opponents boasting globally-known forwards like Victor Osimhen of Napoli and Kelechi Iheanacho of Leicester City.

Namnganda came off the bench in Lagos to make only his second appearance for his country after being substituted when he debuted against Liberia last month.

He silenced Nigerian supporters by winning a sprint down the middle of the pitch against two defenders and firing a low shot past goalkeeper Francis Uzoho.

"We missed the creativity of Alex Iwobi, we also missed Wilfred Ndidi so much," said Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr, referring to two injured Premier League midfielders.

"The boys do not understand how they lost this match. We dominated possession and had several opportunities to score but did not do so."

Having drawn with Cape Verde and lost to Liberia in earlier qualifiers, a Central African Republic side coached by Swiss Raoul Savoy was given no chance of



Moses Simon (L) of Nigeria and Saint-cyr Ngam-Ngam (R) of the Central African Republic contest possession during a World Cup qualifier in Lagos on Thursday. (AFP)

avoiding defeat in Nigeria.

But after snatching the lead, a team popularly known as the Wild Beasts survived eight minutes of added time to achieve a famous victory.

Central African Republic pulled off one of the greatest shocks in African World Cup qualifying despite lacking their star performer, Atletico Madrid midfielder Godfrey Kondogbia.

He refused to take part in qualifying for the 2022 finals in Qatar, citing poor management of players when he answered previous calls.

The Beasts changed coaches just before qualifying kicked off in September with Savoy put in charge a third time after Ivorian Francois Zahoui departed.

Central African Republic were ranked 124th in the world this month -- 90 places below six-time

World Cup qualifiers Nigeria.

- Rohr in trouble -

The only crumb of comfort for the humiliated Super Eagles is that they remain top of Group C halfway through the second qualifying phase despite the loss.

Nigeria have six points, Cape Verde and the Central African Republic four each and Liberia three with only the section winners reaching play-offs next March, which will decide the five African qualifiers for the 2022 finals.

After hosting Cape Verde and Liberia in Cameroon because the national stadium in Bangui did not meet international standards, rushed improvements will permit the Beasts to play Nigeria at home.

The countries meet again on Sunday at the Stade Barthelemy Boganda, a 50,000-seat fortress where the Central African Republic seldom

fail.

Losing in Lagos will inevitably lead to calls for Nigeria to sack German Rohr, a 68-year-old whose CV includes spells in charge of Gabon, Niger and Burkina Faso.

He was hired by Nigeria in 2016 and his recent contract renewal included demands that he win the 2021/2022 Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon and qualify for the 2022 World Cup.

Cape Verde snatched a 2-1 away win over Liberia in the same section through a stoppage-time goal from Garry Rodrigues after teammate Jamiro Monteiro had equalised.

Benin boosted their chances of winning Group J with a 1-0 victory in the same section through a stoppage-time goal from Garry Rodrigues after teammate Jamiro Monteiro had equalised.

The Squirrels have sev-

en points, two more than the Democratic Republic of Congo, who overcame Madagascar 2-0 in Kinshasa with 35-year-old Dieumerci Mbokani among the scorers for the third straight match.

Benin host Tanzania on Sunday and bottom team Madagascar next month while DR Congo are away to the same two countries before hosting the current leaders in the final round.

Mali crushed Kenya 5-0 with Ibrahim Kone scoring a hat-trick and Tunisia trounced Mauritania 3-0 to stay on course to win two of the other groups.

Meanwhile, Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi said Andy Delort was "no longer selectable" on Thursday after the Nice striker told him he was putting club before country.

Belmadi said the two had had a "very heated" exchange after the player sent a message announcing his decision.

"Four or five days ago, the player sent me a message saying that in agreement with his club, he chose his club because he wants to succeed in that challenge and that for this he had to put the national team on hold for a year," Belmadi told a press conference held near Algiers ahead of a World Cup qualifier against Niger.

"This kind of thing is not sent by message and I pointed it out," the coach added. "It was very heated. I told him: 'this is not the way to do it, you are dealing with

a nation, a country that has opened its arms to you.' I blamed him and his club."

Belmadi said that he had earlier been told by a third person that when Delort joined Nice in August from Montpellier, the player "signed a document that he would not play in the African Cup of Nations."

Delort denied having signed such a document and said that the decision had been deeply thought through.

"I'm an all in kind of person and I always give things 100 percent," said Delort, whose club Nice sit third in the league table.

"And this decision is important for me for this season," he said with expectations high at the ambitious Ligue 1 outfit.

"But I'm in no way making my international retirement," he insisted.

Delort, who was born in Sete in the south of France, played once for the French under-20 team. He qualifies for Algeria through his mother and in 2019, at the age of 28, opted to play for the country.

He was accused of opportunism by some French fans, but after Algeria at once won the Cup of Nations in Egypt, their attitude changed.

Belmadi said Delort would have been in his squad against Niger "as in all the lists since he is Algerian. De facto, he is no longer selectable. Maybe in a year, maybe with someone else, I do not know," said Belmadi. AFP

Hernandez fires comeback kings France into Nations League final

TURIN

THEO Hernandez shot France into a Nations League final with Spain on Thursday with a last-gasp strike which earned Les Bleus a thrilling 3-2 win from two goals down against Belgium.

AC Milan full-back Hernandez netted his first France goal in the 90th minute of his second international appearance after France had come back from 2-0 down at half-time at the Allianz Stadium in Turin through strikes from Karim Benzema and Kylian Mbappe.

Didier Deschamps' side will face La Roja in Sunday's final at the San Siro in Milan after an exciting encounter which Belgium thought they had won in the final minutes when Romelu Lukaku netted from Yannick Carrasco's cross.

However with the Red Devils players still celebrating, Lukaku's first-time finish was ruled out for offside.

And with the match looking like it was heading to extra-time, Hernandez collected the ball on the left before rifling home the winner.

He had started the match alongside his brother Lucas Hernandez, making the pair the first two brothers to play for France since Herve and Patrick Revelli featured in a friendly against Romania in 1974.

"Winning that match from where we were proves the strength of character of this team,"

Deschamps told TFI after the match.

"Nobody thought it possible at half-time, and I understand that looking at the score, but they were here to not leave anything on the pitch and to play in the final."

- Mbappe shows class -
The match had been fairly even for most of the opening period, although Hugo Lloris had to be at his best to stop Kevin De Bruyne's close range finish in the fourth minute.

Three minutes later Benjamin Pavard should have done better when he met Mbappe's cross from the left with a volley that he sent straight at Thibaut Courtois.

Mbappe, who became the youngest ever player to earn 50 caps for France, also fired too close to Courtois midway through the first half.

Belgium's opening goal came eight minutes before the break, Carrasco cutting inside Pavard and then drilling a low shot between Lloris and his near post.

And three minutes later Lukaku, who flopped in the same stadium last week in a Chelsea shirt, doubled Belgium's lead with his sixth goal in six games for his country.

The 28-year-old did brilliantly to spin Lucas Hernandez while collecting De Bruyne's pass down the right flank before charging into the box and slamming home a high shot that again beat Lloris at his near

post.

Left with a tough task to make the final France came out firing after the restart, and Mbappe was the key to drawing them level.

First he burned Carrasco in the 58th minute before sending in a low cross that Antoine Griezmann couldn't turn in.

Then, four minutes later, he tricked his way past Youri Tielemans and passed to Benzema, who flashed home despite being surrounded by Belgium defenders.

He then crashed home the spot-kick which set up an exciting finish after Tielemans' clumsy foul on Griezmann was spotted following a VAR check.

De Bruyne and Paul Pogba then both had shots well saved before frantic finale saw Lukaku score what he thought was the decisive goal and Pogba smash a free-kick against the bar.

Hernandez then

snatched a win which highlighted all the qualities which made the French world champions.

Meanwhile, Hugo Lloris on Thursday hailed Kylian Mbappe's superb performance which pushed France to bounce back from two goals down at half-time to beat Belgium 3-2 and reach the Nations League final.

Theo Hernandez struck the late winner which set-up a clash with Spain at the San Siro on Sunday but it was Mbappe who led the fightback in the second half on his 50th France appearance.

Mbappe, who is the youngest ever player to rack up half a century of Les Bleus caps, provided the pass from which Karim Benzema halved the deficit just after the hour mark and netted the penalty that levelled the scores in the 69th minute.

"Taking that responsibility at that moment of the match was fantastic," Lloris told reporters.

"Yes he has a lot of talent but behind that he has a winner's mentality. We're all happy for him in the dressing room."

Mbappe, 22, had a difficult summer, missing the penalty which knocked world champions France out of Euro 2020 at the last-16 stage and then being at the centre of a transfer saga which saw his desired move to Real Madrid denied by Paris Saint-Germain.

He also said in a recent interview with L'Equipe that he would have liked more support from the France set-up and his teammates after missing that spot-kick in June.

But France coach Didier Deschamps insisted that he "always tried to be there with him, and right behind him".

"There are a lot of demands and expectations around him, but I

have always known that the France team will be stronger with Kylian. I have never doubted that," Deschamps told reporters.

Roberto Martinez, meanwhile, said that Belgium let the weight of expectation get the better of them, saying that the desire for a golden generation to win a trophy held them back in the second half.

"The quality was shown in first half, second half was a question of emotion and feeling responsibility... it became a game that we wanted to finish and wanted to get into the final. At that point we stopped playing," Belgium coach Martinez said.

"We're hurting but 12 months from now we have a major tournament (World Cup). It's a good opportunity to show that we can grow from this experience."

AFP



SPORT

Fourth division unknown scores to stun Nigeria in World Cup

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Mzamiru Yassin

Mzamiru Yassin to miss Benin clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' defensive midfielder, Mzamiru Yassin, will miss the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers away clash against Benin, scheduled for Sunday, through suspension.

Steve Mounie scored the lone goal as Benin defeated Tanzania 1-0 to go top of Group J with seven points in a World Cup qualifiers' clash staged at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Mzamiru was booked in the 63rd minute of the tie, his second yellow card of the qualifiers campaign after he was also yellow carded in the 1-1 draw away to DR Congo in Lubumbashi.

The Simba SC midfielder had a good game against Benin. He made several interceptions and blocks and provided ample support to the central defense.

He has played all three games in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers so far.

In his absence, head coach Kim Poulsen has called up Yanga midfielder, Zawadi Mauya, who was initially not in the squad.

Mauya was quickly summoned to report to the senior national team camp after the game and is part of the squad that was expected to leave for Benin yesterday.

Mauya was included in the provisional squad to play DR Congo last month but was dropped in the final squad. If selected on Saturday, he will be making his national team debut.

Three Taifa Stars players will need to walk a disciplinary tightrope on Sunday.

Captain Mbwana Samatta, Erasto Nyoni, and Bakari Mwanjeto were all booked on the first two games against DR Congo and Madagascar, meaning one more yellow card could result in them missing one of the qualifiers.

The 2022 World Cup qualifiers rules state that any player, who is booked twice in two separate games, will miss the next fixture.

In the past, an automatic suspension was the punishment if a player picked up three yellow cards in three different games, so players have to tread more carefully nowadays.

Meanwhile, the Benin national team's players are already back in their country in preparation for Sunday's crucial game.

The team delegation left Dar es Salaam just one hour after the game using the special flight chartered by their government to the Beninese delegation and landed at Cardinal Bernardin Gantini International Airport in Cotonou at 00.45.

Taifa Stars lost the battle, but the war continues - Poulsen



Tanzania's senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, has reacted to his side's 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers' 1-0 defeat to Benin at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday afternoon.

Poulsen said that Taifa Stars lost the battle against Benin, but the war continues.

The Danish coach also expressed confidence that Taifa Stars can do better against Benin in the reverse fixture.

Benin hosts Taifa Stars for the Group J's return match at Stade de l'Amitié on Sunday.

After three rounds of matches, Tanzania dropped to the third position on four points while Benin got top with seven points.

DR Congo defeated Madagascar 2-0 to go second on the table with five points while Madagascar is at the

bottom with no points.

Speaking to the press after the game, Poulsen said Benin should count themselves lucky.

Poulsen disclosed: "You can see on my face that after the performance from the team we are very disappointed we did not get something out of the game."

"I think we played very well but we didn't get the re-

sults. There is a very strong belief in the team among the players that we can do it in Benin."

"The way we played today I think even Benin said, hey they can play football but they did not take their chances. I think Benin is very happy to get away with a 1-0 win here. The first half was quite even, maybe we had the best chances."

"In the second half we tried to push and push and everyone in the stadium had a feeling it was a matter of time before Tanzania scored."

"We created chances but did not take them then out of the blue, you can say personal skills from Steve Mounie, he scored a fantastic goal that gave Benin the results."

"I think it was the only chance that Benin created in the second half if you can say it was a chance because it was a moment of individual brilliance."

"We managed to keep an opponent and don't forget Benin are an experienced team, they are number 80 in the FIFA rankings but we managed to push them and create a high number of best chances."

"We wanted better results because we played for it. We lost a battle but the war is on. In three days we are going to Benin, we have a strong belief in ourselves that we can get a win in Benin."

"I also think Benin will say 'It was a very lucky win for us today, we are very happy to get away with a win because the game belonged to Tanzania'."

Tanzanite seeks progression to U-20 Women WC Qualifiers' third round

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S national U-20 women's football team, Tanzanite, hosts Eritrea's U-20 women squad in the second leg of the U-20 Women's World Cup qualifiers at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today.

Tanzania U-20 women side cruised to 3-0 victory over Eritrea's U-20 women team in the first leg of the second round, which took place in Eritrea, and they are now under-way to stamp their authority at their home turf.

The Tanzanite is led by coach Edna Lema who confirmed that the team is ready for the clash.

She, therefore, has more than just a warning to prepare her players.

There are past experiences too, which had ended in the side losing at its backyard, albeit those that have been counted in Uganda's favour.

The tactician pointed out: "All players are ready for tomorrow's game (today), there is no one with injury, all of them are all fit and they are high in morale towards today's game."

"We are going to play tomorrow's game (Today) with the highest discipline without underestimating our opponents."

"Winning away does not mean we did not make mistakes in the previous game so we have made adjustments for tomorrow's game."

Edna has urged the team's fans to come out in large numbers to celebrate as the fans are the number 12th footballer.

"Our goal is to go to the U-20 World Cup in Costa Rica. If Tanzania wins, the squad will now meet Ethiopia in the next stage."

Eritrea U-20 women squad progressed to the second round of the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup qualifiers after ejecting Djibouti out of the first round, consequently setting



National U-20 women's football team, Tanzanite. PHOTO: TFF

up second-round fixtures against Tanzanite.

After the third round, eight teams will advance to the fourth round before they eventually make it to the final round where the

best two teams will qualify to represent Africa at the 2022 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup to be held in Costa Rica.

The U-20 Women's World Cup aims at nurturing the

brightest talents in international women's football.

Taking place biennially, the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup sees 16 nations compete against each other for the prize.

With continental qualification pathways leading to an exciting finals event, the competition has seen four past champions, USA, Germany, Japan, and Korea DPR.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

