



National Pg 3 Germany strengthens ties with EAC



National Pg 5 Processing techniques to reduce toxicity



National Pg 6 Villagers in Iringa get solar cookers



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Dr Nuru Mlyuka (in glasses), a senior lecturer with the University of Dar es Salaam, explains to residents of Kising'a village in Iringa Region yesterday on the functioning of solar-powered cookers. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

PM tells off opponents of Covid-19 vaccination

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has told off people opposing Covid-19 vaccination and declared that science is not on their side. The premier made the remarks yesterday when addressing livestock stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam, reaffirming that the government brought in the vaccines in good faith. The jabs being administered in the country and elsewhere were approved by international bodies plus local regulatory organs, he stated. "The vaccination drive has drawn plenty of varying sentiments," he said, urging those present to appreciate the need to tone down the rhetoric. "The vaccine is protection against

Covid-19, and it seems many refuse to believe that we need to be vaccinated until a family member is struck by the disease," he cautioned, stressing that the vaccine is safe and the government has satisfied itself on that aspect. "Since the disease erupted early 2020 national leaders said they would not bring in the newly developed vaccines until they were satisfied of their safety on human beings. "After the government saw some countries imposing conditions on their people who come to trade with Tanzania, it decided to allow the vaccination rollout "It was a precaution to hold off on vaccine in Tanzania, but later President Samia okayed the rollout to enable those

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'Report human trafficking, disclose no personal data'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE National Assembly yesterday endorsed the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2021 under which changes in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2008 were made to establish an offence of disclosing private information of victims of trafficking. This makes it unlawful for a person to disclose such information and fail to ensure that the private life and identities of victims of trafficking are protected. The changes also require that offences of severe trafficking in persons be tried at the High Court. Tabling the bill, Attorney General Adelardus

...there are a number of countries where the Immigration Department is recognized as a force, citing two such countries as India and Australia, both being part of the Commonwealth

Kilangi said that Section 10 of the original Act was amended to allow information about offences of trafficking in persons to be reported by any person. Earlier it was the victim alone who had the legal mandate to complain or report such cases, while the new provision also allows individuals to make arrests of suspects of trafficking and hand over the arrested person to a nearby police station. The endorsed bill also proposes to amend eight other laws, namely the Drug Control and Enforcement Act, Cap. 95, the Employment and Labour Relations Act, Cap. 366, the Grazing Land and Animal Feed Resources

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HelpAge taking up AIDS project for SADC elderly

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is among three countries within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) selected to implement an HIV/AIDS management project to people aged 50 and above. The two-year project is meant to ensure that 90 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART) and

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Two people in custody over child exploitation

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region are holding two people for allegedly abducting 11 children and hiring them out as livestock keepers for personal gains. Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei named the suspects as Daniel Julius (21), resident of Nsonga village and Kamungu Julius (30) resident of Rwimba village in Mbarali district. The two were arrested on Sunday with 11 children aged between 10 and 14 years, some having been forcefully taken from their parents while others lived in difficult conditions, he said. The suspects were hiring the children out to herders based in the district for 25,000/- or 30,000/- per child each month as payment. "The police received a tip on this illegal human trafficking and moved to set traps at various areas and managed to stop the children whilst on their way to be handed

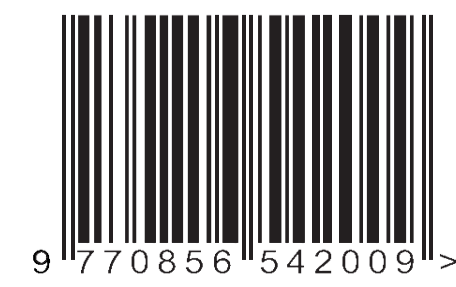


over to the herders," he stated. He said apart from taking the children to herders, the suspects were using them in various production activities while those who collected them were looking for any persons ready to hire them. The children were picked up through persuasion, whilst others were just removed from informal habitations and transported on motorcycles to a holding centre to

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Dr Charles Msonde, Executive Secretary of the National Examinations Council of Tanzania, announces the dates for the upcoming Standard Seven national examinations. This was at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'Report human trafficking, disclose no personal data'

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Act, Cap. 180, the Immigration Act, Cap. 54, the Meat Industry Act, Cap. 421, the Police Force, Tanzania Immigration Services Department and Prisons Service Commission Act, Cap. 241, the Public Service Social Security Fund Act, Cap. 371 and the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute Act, Cap. 260.

Amendments in the Drug Control and Enforcement Act, Cap. 95, Section 17 are meant to criminalise the possession or use of a small quantity of narcotic drug or psychotropic substance as currently the Act prohibits such possession or use but does not make it an offence, he stated.

The bill also amends the Grazing Land and Animal Feed Resources Act to issue guidelines for the development and management of various matters concerning grazing land and animal feeds, he stated.

Amendments in the Meat Industry Act seek to empower the board to delegate some of its functions to local

government authorities to ensure its functions are implemented at that level.

Najma Murtaza Giga, chairperson of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs of the National Assembly, said that amending the Immigration Act, Cap. 54 to elevate the Immigration Department to a force would contravene the country's constitution.

She highlighted Section 4 of the bill as wishing to recognise the Immigration Department as a force within the ministry and to enable the minister to make regulations providing for the rights and privileges of immigration officers similar to other forces within the ministry.

Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene said there are a number of countries where the Immigration Department is recognized as a force, citing two such countries as India and Australia, both being part of the Commonwealth.

Kenyan truck drivers call off South Sudan boycott

NAIROBI

Kenyan truck drivers say they will resume cargo transport to South Sudan after a two-week boycott over insecurity on the country's highways.

This comes after the South Sudan government, which heavily depends on foreign supplies, assured the truckers of beefed-up security along the Juba-Nimule Highway. It is along this key road that several drivers were recently killed and their trucks torched by unknown gunmen, sparking the boycott.

While condemning the killings, the Kenya Long Distance Truck Drivers Union (KLDTRU) and South Sudan Freight Forwarders Association (SSFFA) confirmed that transport had resumed.

"We condole the families of killed drivers. We condemn the killings of our people in the line of duty. The union has been assured

by South Sudan security agencies of intensified security," KLDTRU chairman Nicholas Mbugua said yesterday, adding that the country has started heavy police patrols along the volatile routes.

After a crisis meeting held between the two unions in Mlolongo, Machakos County yesterday, the drivers said that more than 20 Kenyan drivers have been killed while ferrying goods into South Sudanese territory in the last three months.

However, even as their unions urged them to resume work, some drivers who spoke to the Nation said they still fear for their lives. They spoke of untold suffering after their vehicles were sprayed with bullets by gunmen while going to Juba earlier in the year.

"Let the two governments ensure truck drivers' safety first. It's a risky journey to Juba especially without being accompanied by

armed security agencies," said Joel Kamande, a trucker.

On the government's part, South Sudan Deputy Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Deng Dau Deng told local reporters on Monday that the deal was reached after several negotiations.

He, however, didn't specify whether it was a written agreement and if so, which countries had signed. The strike pressured Juba authorities to act quickly after prices of goods sky-rocketed and the country ran out of fuel.

As of Monday, 1 litre of petrol rose from \$0.75 to \$2.5 at the pump, whereas 1 litre of the same goes for \$4 at the black-market. Many South Sudanese are said to have parked their cars at home due to the biting shortage.

Fewer cars on the road, however, led to reduced traffic jams in Juba.

Goods sold at markets were also becoming scarce during this period

and prices rose as cargo remained stuck at the Elegu border post with Uganda.

While this is not the first time truckers have withdrawn from the country, the latest boycott was sparked by the killing of two Kenyan truck drivers in an ambush along Juba-Nimule highway on Sunday August 22.

Reports indicated that five trucks were attacked by unknown people in a 5.30am incident about 45 kilometres from Juba. The attackers reportedly tortured the two Kenyans to death while drivers of three other trucks, two Kenyans and a Ugandan, had to flee for their lives. Two others went missing shortly after the attack.

On August 23, cargo drivers from Uganda, Kenya and other neighbouring countries withdrew their services from South Sudan after staging a peaceful protest. They demanded proper security along Juba-Nimule and Juba-Kaya

Highways.

In another incident in May this year, three Ugandan drivers were killed along Juba-Yei road by unknown armed men.

In April, two Kenyans were killed and their trucks torched along the Yei-Juba route.

The South Sudan government has previously accused a rebel group known as the National Salvation Front of being behind the killings.

The Juba-Nimule highway connects Juba to the border with Uganda, the main route Kenyan drivers use to ferry goods to South Sudan.

The highway is notorious for ambushes and illegal roadblocks by some of the militia groups in South Sudan.

Since conflict broke out in 2013 and 2016 respectively, many South Sudan border highways connecting the country to the region were closed due to insecurity, leaving it

as the only route where the country receives its goods via road.

However, the highway is notorious for ambushes and illegal roadblocks by some militia groups in South Sudan. Hundreds of citizens and foreign nationals have been killed along the highway over the years.

South Sudan Freight Forwarders Associations chairman, Mr Emmanuel Kachoul Mayen, reckons the rebels' motive is to disrupt the supply chain from Mombasa port to South Sudan and to discourage the business community and people of South Sudan who use Mombasa Port as their port of preference.

"The attacks are barbaric and in bad taste. Impounding trucks transporting fresh perishable goods is a big loss to our people in South Sudan. We have always enjoyed a brisk trade relationship with Kenya and it should not be watered by a few selfish people," he said.

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HelpAge taking up AIDS project for SADC elderly

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have extensive viral suppression (90/90/90) by 2023.

HelpAge International regional coordinator Dr Edwin Mung'ong'o disclosed yesterday that this strategy was agreed on the sidelines of a recent SADC roundtable meeting, with the other beneficiary countries being Mozambique and Malawi.

The project focuses on supporting timely screening and diagnosis of HIV and AIDS, early antiretroviral (ART) initiation and good ART adherence for the 50+ population experiences, those with non-communicable diseases and intersectional vulnerability.

It is now at its third phase and valued at \$0.48m dollars, he said, detailing that Tanzania has received \$0.27m (equivalent to over 600m/-), Malawi getting \$0.95m and Mozambique \$0.11m.

The project target is to integrate friendlier healthcare services for the population aged 50 plus who are living with HIV/AIDS and will be implemented by the government in collaboration with HelpAge International in Korogwe and Handeni districts, Tanga region, he stated.

Existing data indicates that 40 percent of orphans are taken care of by elders, in which case it is vital to incorporate them in health policy outlays to obviate potential risks in a challenging environment, he stated.

"Unfortunately, our health policy does not speak about the rights of the population aged 50 and above living with HIV/AIDS and therefore keeps them away from accessing antiretroviral drugs (ART) when they contract the virus," he said.

The project similarly targets incorporating older people in health policy planning to enable

them to access healthcare services, as among other things, it seeks to introduce outreach services for those living in marginalized areas.

It will similarly work to conduct training for peer educators to increase awareness in the community, as without such inclusiveness, the elderly will be excluded and be placed at a higher risk of falling victim to other infectious diseases, he pointed out.

For his part, the Acting Managing Director for the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) Jumanne Issango said the project target was to improve access and availability of healthcare services, interventions and securing behaviour change.

He said that during project implementation, TACAIDS expects to collaborate with ministerial authorities and HelpAge International to scale up the project in the selected implementation areas.

"Our target is to reach people aged 50 and above in the two districts and ensure that they get access to health services as recommended in health guidelines," he said.

Andrew Kavala, executive director for the Malawi Network of Older Persons Organization (MANEPO) said health policies in many African countries mostly incorporate people aged 18 to 49 years, but all people deserve to get health services related to HIV/AIDS.

As a result of forgetting older people (aged 50 and above) living with HIV/AIDS, once infected with the virus they suffers a lot, he said.

"We want to raise awareness so that national health policies speak of and incorporate the rights of older people (50+) living with HIV/AIDS," he added.



Ummy Mwalimu, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), cuts the ribbon in Dodoma city yesterday to symbolize the distribution and deployment of 75 motorcycles worth a total of 118m/- meant for use by Teachers' Service Commission deputy secretaries from various regions. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

PM tells off opponents of Covid-19 vaccination

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wishing to travel to foreign countries to meet the vital condition of being vaccinated," he pointed out.

Various countries have imposed conditions barring unvaccinated people from entering those countries, in which case it was longer valid to block administering the vaccines.

"So we decided to bring in the vaccines, but for those who want to be vaccinated. Initially we brought

in one million doses and many went to vaccination centres to get the jabs.

"But there are Tanzanians who went to South Africa, Kenya and Zanzibar for jabs as they saw the importance of the vaccines," the premier added.

"But there are Tanzanians who went to South Africa, Kenya and Zanzibar for jabs as they saw the importance of the vaccines"

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await customers seeking domestic servants, herd boys, etc

Out of the 11 children, two were immediately identified by their parents and taken away, he stated, urging parents or guardians with missing children to report to the police station to see if they can identify their children.

He cautioned herders in the district and other areas in the region to stop using children in grazing

cattle, noting that if found legal measures will be taken against them.

The police were also holding Abdallah Joseph (21), a resident of Lupa, over illegal possession of a pistol, where the RPC said he was preparing to use it in crime.

The suspect was arrested during patrol on Tuesday at Kazibure gas filling station in Mbalizi town, and after interrogation, the suspect confessed to have been involved in criminal incidents in the region, he added.



Zahor Mohamed Haji, legislator for Mwera constituency in Zanzibar, contributes to debate in the National Assembly in Dodoma city on Monday on the since-passed Fire and Rescue Bill. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Minister calls for data use to combat diseases

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima has called on health workers to rightfully use existing data in efforts to help detect diseases.

She expressed concern that many health workers do not make good use of the available health-related data to solve challenges in the sector.

Dr Gwajima also observed that changing trends of diseases is one of the threats to health sector in the country, calling on epidemiologists to work and detect diseases before they explode.

The minister made the remarks here yesterday while officiating the opening of World Field Epidemiology Day (WFED), locally marked in Dodoma, being the first-ever celebration in the country. The event was organized by Tanzania Field and Laboratory Epidemiology Association.

WFED is a global movement to recognize and raise awareness of the vital role of field epidemiologists in protecting the health of populations and advancing global health security, and to advocate for increased investment in field epidemiology training, research, and professionals.

Dr Gwajima acknowledged that field epidemiologists are “disease detectives” and frontliners to protect the health of population during any pandemic.

She said they manage to do this by involving in the contact tracing, case investigations, community engagement and data analysis.

“Field epidemiologists have always been crucial to the safety and health of the communities and the government rely on them to help protect Tanzanians”, said the minister.

She stated that while the cadre of epidemiology is not well recognized in the government health structure system, the experts play a very important role in forecasting both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The minister termed them as great government treasure that

help in giving health direction in the country.

She added that through collaboration between ministry of State in the President’s Office, Regional Administration and Local Government and the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), some 512 health officers have undertaken three and six months training in epidemiology.

At the same time, collaboration between ministry and MUHAS has enabled some 152 people undergo advanced training, earning master’s degree in epidemiology.

“We need to increase the number of trained field epidemiologists, introduce the programme into the country, and establish different levels of the Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)” she said.

According to the minister the programme is to help build the competencies of the public health workforce at various levels of the health system.

Dr Leonard Subi, the Director of Preventive Services in the Health ministry said the training started in 2018 has enabled the country get such health experts, adding that government is committed to see more people take the training.

He said, “You are the investigators of all the diseases, detect and swiftly act for prevention, thus your work is of high importance in saving Tanzanians”.

Earlier, Dr Justine Assenga, Principal Veterinary Officer from the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, noted that through the ‘One Health’ approach both ministries of Health and Livestock are collaboratively working to help control animal-human related diseases.

The World Health Organization (WHO) representative, Dr Haika Kimambo encouraged health workers in the country to continue working hard to save lives.

She applauded the government through the ministry for making serious efforts to improve provision of health services in the country. “WHO will continue working together with the government to provide surveillance to diseases that affect people” she said.

Germany set for deeper ties with EAC - official

By Guardian Reporter

GERMANY has committed to continue collaborating with the East African Community (EAC) by supporting regional development programmes and strengthening the integration process.

This follows a virtual joint steering committee meeting by the eac-german development cooperation meeting held yesterday.

A statement released by EAC secretariat said the meeting was steered by EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki and Johannes Sperrfechter, head of German regional cooperation at the German embassy in Tanzania.

Welcoming the German delegation, Dr Mathuki expressed his appreciation for their long-standing support and cooperation with EAC.

“Germany has walked the integration journey with the EAC for

over 20 years, providing extensive technical and financial support to critical projects and programmes that have advanced the regional integration agenda,” he said.

Dr Mathuki highlighted the key areas of cooperation to include trade and economic infrastructure, technical and vocational education and training and health and pandemic preparedness.

He called for close coordination among the EAC, the German Development Cooperation and other Institutions involved in the implementation of projects and programmes through regular consultative engagements.

“A results-oriented approach in supporting EAC coupled by good governance on our end, will further enhance the regional integration agenda,” he said.

Dr Mathuki informed the delegation that the EAC is pushing to have a regional coordinated and

harmonized approach in handling Covid-19 discussed as one of the agenda items in the upcoming Heads of State Summit.

For his part, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the productive and social sectors, Christophe Bazivamo, said that despite Covid-19 disrupting business, EAC’s partnership with German Development Cooperation had resulted in significant gains.

“Through the support of mobile labs deployed for Covid testing in Partner States, the turnaround time has significantly reduced from 72 hours to 8 hours on average,” he said.

Currently, more than 400,000 tests have been conducted and 176 experts trained in the mobile laboratory while data collection for Covid-19 rapid diagnostics tests validation and sequencing studies have already started in partner

states.

Johannes Sperrfechter, Head of German Regional Cooperation at the German Embassy in Tanzania, commended the EAC on its spirited fight in pushing for a regional coordinated approach in handling Covid-19.

“Germany is committed to deepening collaboration with the EAC to reap the fruits of the regional integration. Stronger synergies and collaboration are critical for the ordinary citizens of East Africa to feel the impact of the regional integration,” he said.

The meeting also discussed the need for building capacity in preparing Partner States to take advantage of the African Continent Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), progress on the development of a regional e-commerce strategy, training and capacity building opportunities and working amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Govt establishes pilot gold smelting project, given mercury danger

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government through the Minerals ministry has constructed three centres as a pilot project to train small scale miners on the use of alternative gold smelting methods instead of mercury.

The demo centers have been constructed at Itumbi area in Chunya District, Lwamgasa in Geita Region and Katente in Bukombe District in Shinyanga Region. The Districts were chosen because they are said to have a good number of artisanal miners.

Deputy Minister for Minerals, Prof Shukrani Manyara said this yesterday in the National Assembly when answering a question by Special Seats legislator, Kabula Shitobela. The MP was concerned that artisanal miners mostly women use mercury in gold refining, the thing that poses health risk to them.

She wanted to know government strategies to save them because they are slowly poisoned by mercury.

Responding, the Deputy Minister noted that small-scale miners at the established centers are using the Carbon-in-Pulp (CIP) technology in gold refining. He said the technology is an alternative to mercury, and that it would be later on introduced to all small scale miners countrywide.

The carbon-in-pulp (CIP) process is now well established in the South African gold industry.

He said the government’s plan in protecting women miners from being affected with mercury includes provision of education on safe mining as well as the impact of using mercury in gold smelting.

The education according to him is provided by National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) and the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO).

He however said that there are some small mining companies that have started to use the ‘shaking table’ technology in gold refining processes, and that the ministry is still evaluating the technology before it recommends it for use by other artisanal miners.

“We are testing this new technology; we are likely to recommend it for use by small-scale miners because it doesn’t include mercury,” he said.

About 15 percent of the world’s gold is produced by artisanal and small-scale miners, most of whom use mercury to extract it from the earth.

Samia calls upon Arusha residents to support govt efforts on economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called on residents of Arusha Region to continue supporting her government efforts to strengthen the country’s economy via the tourism sector.

She made the remarks on Monday this week while addressing Karatu District

residents on her way to Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) National Park.

The President was accompanied by a group of international film makers shooting a “Royal Tour” documentary film that advertises the country’s tourist attractions.

“Continue to support these efforts in the

tourism sector. As for now, even before the completion of the documentary, government efforts have started to show achievements,” she added.

She also called the residents to remain calm as their problems were being dealt with and that when the tourism sector is tasked to solve such problems.

She said when completed, the

documentary will advertise all areas with tourist attractions in the country and hope to push up the economy via the sector, including wooing in tourists, investors and other traders. It is explained that the documentary will explain the true picture of the country’s tourism sector, different to what other nations say about Tanzania’s tourism.

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Dr Omar Dadi Shajak (standing), Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar First Vice President's Office, has an audience in Zanzibar at the weekend with officials from his office and the Prime Minister's Office. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

Govt reviewing 1996 national science and technology policy

THE government is reviewing the 1996 National Science and Technology Policy to amend sections that curtail development of creativity and include innovation matters because it is the foundational source of long-term economic growth and improvements in quality of life and standards of living.

"We did not have a specific policy for innovation, but since most of the innovation goes together with science and technology; we have decided to review our National Policy for Science and Technology to further improve it and incorporate innovation matters," Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Omary Kipanga told the National Assembly yesterday.

Kipanga elaborated that the reviews are meant to modernize

the policy and make it cope with the ongoing local, regional and international science and technological changes. He said the process is expected to be completed this financial year.

"Under the reviews, innovation and creativity matters will be given the weight they deserve," stated the Deputy Minister as he responded to Special Seats Member of Parliament, Judith Kapinga who queried government plans to establish a national innovation policy to cope with the current technological demand.

He said the government is aware of the contribution of innovation and technology in national development

as well as simplifying and improving the quality of life. He said that innovation can save time and enhance productivity and quality in production of commodities and provision of services.

According to him, the government had in between 2012 and 2014 reviewed the national innovation systems whereas a number of shortcomings were identified. The reviews come up with recommendations on how to improve creativity to ensure increased productivity in social and economic matters.

He said the recommendations, among other things, pushed for the government to have a National

Innovation Policy to serve as a catalyst for improvement of innovation and creativity for the country's development.

Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Dr Faustine Ndugulile was recently quoted saying his ministry in close collaboration with the ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports plans to create a local 'Silicon Valley' that will incubate startups and set a clear path for creative ideas to thrive within the next three years.

Ndugulile said, the government is aware of the many opportunities that can be availed by just having an enabling environment for startups to thrive.

AfDB partnering with AGRA as sponsor of virtual African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Bank

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) returns as a top-tier partner of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) - Africa's largest agriculture conference - to be held in a hybrid format 6-10 September 2021.

The Bank has earmarked \$100,000 to support this year's annual AGRF, which will be headlined by African Heads of State and Government, and will bring together delegates from governments, civil society, the private sector and research communities. The government of Kenya and the AGRF Partners Group are hosting AGRF 2021, organised under the theme, Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food System.

"As Covid-19 continues to cause disruptions across Africa, we must prioritize policy and facility support that focuses on rebuilding infrastructures that foster the production, processing and availability of more - and more nutritious - food to feed Africa. AGRF is the platform to move these policy conversations forward, addressing every facet of the continent's food system," said Dr. Beth Dunford, Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank.

Vice President Dunford leads the Bank's "digital delegation" to AGRF, including: Atsuko Toda, Director for Agricultural Finance and Rural Development; Martin Fregene, Director for Agriculture and Agro-industry; Edson Mpyisi, Chief Financial Economist and Coordinator of the Bank's Enable Youth program; Olukemi Afun-Ogidan, Digital Agriculture Flagship Coordinator; Grace Vuhya Obeda, Principal Youth Employment Officer; Hafou Touré from the Bank's Agricultural Finance and Rural Development Department; and Bank Principal IT Solutions Architect Thierno Diarra.

The delegation will take part

in more than a dozen AGRF 2021 sessions or pre-summit side events.

Dunford will deliver remarks during the launch of the Africa Agriculture Status report on Tuesday, 7 September, from 14:00 East Africa Time (EAT). The session focuses on unpacking the concept of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems. Dunford will be a panelist in the AGRF parallel workshop addressing Building Strong Food System through Inclusive Data on 10 September at 11:00 EAT. She will present at the Walking the Path: Commitments Framework session later on Friday, from 14:00 EAT.

Director Toda will speak to the Bank's Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone (https://bit.ly/3DMti2) initiative during AGRF's Rural and Market Development parallel workshop on 8 September at 11:00 EAT. Toda also took part in three pre-AGRF side events on 6 September: as a panelist for the session Unlocking African Public Development Banks' Catalytic Role as well as the session Unlocking AfCFTA Trade Opportunities for SMEs. She also spoke during the Writing the Blueprint for Rice Self-Sufficiency in Africa panel.

Agriculture and Agro-industry Director Fregene headlined three AGRF pre-summit sessions, talking about the Bank's Technologies for African Agricultural Technologies (TAAT) (https://bit.ly/3JRUXC6) flagship initiative at the TAAT Africa-organized side event on 6 September, then segued into a second session about the Bank's Livestock Investment Masterplan organized during the same period by the Bank and the International Livestock Research Center. At 16:00 EAT on Monday, Fregene was the keynote speaker about Rehabilitating Acid Soils for Food Security in Africa. On 9 September, he serves as a panelist at the Sustainable Productivity Platform (NET ZERO) parallel workshop from 11:00 EAT.

Funding by Gavi boosts yellow fever diagnostics capacity all over Africa

GENEVA, Switzerland

AN initiative to boost yellow fever diagnostic capacity across Africa has 'revolutionised' diagnostics on the continent, one of the programme's coordinating agencies, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has said.

The initiative is part of the implementation of the Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics (EYE) strategy and brings together different partners including WHO, UNICEF, CDC, the Institut Pasteur Dakar, Centre Pasteur Cameroon, and the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The diagnostic capacity initiative has made significant progress since its launch in 2018:

The number of laboratories able to confirm yellow fever samples on the continent has risen from one, in Senegal, to four, with Nigeria, Cameroon and Uganda now able to definitively determine if someone has yellow fever, particularly early in the course of illness. This laboratory network has helped save nearly US\$ 2 million in unnecessary spending by correctly identifying disease cases and allowing public health authorities to make timely decisions that minimize waste. In addition, data from this network has driven country decisions to protect their populations against yellow fever in the long term, such as Uganda's decision in 2020 to introduce the yellow fever vaccine into routine immunization.

Chronic shortages of laboratory supplies that impeded timely yellow fever testing have been resolved by the establishment of testing bundles that can be readily ordered by national laboratories. The average time for national laboratories to complete the testing of samples initially positive for yellow fever

confirming whether a new outbreak has started or an existing one has expanded, has declined by 70%, from over three and a half months in 2017 to 39 days in 2020.

A new commercial PCR test kit validated by the EYE laboratory technical working group is now available for use in national laboratories that are part of the WHO yellow fever laboratory network.

"Prior to this investment in diagnostic capacity, it was a huge challenge for countries across Africa to accurately ascertain where yellow fever outbreaks were at risk of breaking out," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. "



Prior to this investment in diagnostic capacity, it was a huge challenge for countries across Africa to accurately ascertain where yellow fever outbreaks were at risk of breaking out," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance



Asiadi Mrutu (2nd-L), an East African Crude Oil Pipeline coordinator from the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, updates Tanga regional officials led by regional commissioner Adam Malima yesterday on the implementation of the project and the opportunities available. Photo: Correspondent Halima Kamchala

Swedish fund finances 5 African solar projects

By Special Correspondent

SWEDISH-based impact investment platform Trine is collaborating with Solarise Africa, a pan-African energy leasing company, to invest in renewable energy projects on the continent.

The first debt financing round provided by Trine will finance five solar projects in South Africa and Kenya.

Demand for on-site renewable energy assets is growing rapidly as businesses are faced with rising energy costs and a desire to improve the sustainability of their operations.

Building on-site microgrid assets requires significant capital outlay and building owners and operators have few other options today to take control of their energy consumption.

The new venture, totaling €5m across multiple tranches, is set to advance investments in food security, renewable energy, urban development, and manufacturing production in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda.

Trine chief executive and co-founder Sam Manaberi said: "We are very excited about this new partnership as we move into the

commercial and industrial market.

This presents a new offering for our investors as Solarise Africa works with a selected group of renewable energy solution companies and collaborates very closely with their partners to provide a range of tailor-made financial solutions for their customers.

Their innovative financing solutions are very impressive and we are pleased to have them onboard and look forward to following their continued success," he said.

Solarise Africa chief executive and co-founder Jan Albert Valk said: "Our first debt raise marks a milestone

for the business. We are deeply honored by Trine's and its investors' confidence. These funds will be used to deploy projects and expand market share in current operational countries."

He added: "At the moment, Solarise Africa has operations in Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, and Ghana where several projects have been deployed, and our pipeline continues to expand quickly. We are excited to make our Energy-as-a-Service offering available to more partners so that we can actively drive Africa's progress together."



William Chungu (L), Barrick Bulynhulu goldmine's public relations superintendent, pictured yesterday presenting to Nyang'hwale district commissioner David Jamhuri eight motorcycles donated by the firm to expedite the movements of government officials in the district touring development projects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Firm invests over 8bn/- in mobile drill rigs to support mining sector

CMS Tanzania Limited has invested over 8bn/- to acquire mobile drill rigs so as to support drilling operations for Barrick Gold.

Dubbed 'Swick Gen II Mobile Drill Rigs', worth approximately 8,116,400,000 (US\$3.5million) have been acquired to provide grade control and development at the Bulynhulu Gold Mine.

"CMS are excited to introduce highly sophisticated underground drilling technology in Africa and the world to our Tanzanian operations. Our drill crews and maintenance teams are now trained to work with the advanced electronics in this new equipment, and it will enhance our already outstanding safety performance," said Ambassador Ami Mpungwe, Chairman of CMS Tanzania Limited.

Ambassador Mpungwe said the

company committed to continue investing in the country's mining industry with its most recent investment in equipment for use in their drilling operations.

He said along with the investment in the new advanced equipment to run the company's operations efficiently and with addition of value to its services, CMS Tanzania Limited has also invested in human resource empowerment through training programmes both online and on site for its employees who are Tanzanian nationals.

He said the training programmes are designed to equip Tanzanian nationals with the necessary know-how skills

needed to manage operating the advanced electronic technology incorporated in the rigs, specifically in preparation for the arrival of the new equipment.

The chairman added the company's training programmes are in line with supporting the Tanzanian government in advancing technology to boost the national economy as well as development in the mining sector.

"Thanks to the training, CMS's drill crews, who comprise wholly Tanzanian employees, will now have the skills to competently operate some of the most innovative and technically sophisticated equipment working underground

across Africa," he said.

The substantial investment in this leading equipment demonstrates CMS's commitment to their operations in Tanzania. The company was founded in Tanzania in 2005, and it has maintained a continuous presence for 16 years, the only international drilling company to do so. Furthermore, it has established dedicated facilities in the Mwanza devoted to servicing their multiple operations in the country. This facility not only services the company's drill rigs, but has also manufactured new, innovative support equipments. CMS now employs 418 Tanzanians across all aspects of its business.

Tanzanian firms will likely miss out on major crude oil pipeline project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIAN companies are likely to miss out on the major crude oil pipeline project from Hoima in Uganda to the Tanga port in Tanzania, the Energy and Water Utility Regulation Authority (EWURA) has observed.

EWURA is preparing a database of local companies with ability to provide different services in oil and gas sectors in accordance with the law hence any company that is not registered with the regulator is barred from providing services.

Speaking during the paper presenting at a conference for journalists from the Central Zone here, EWURA acting director general, Godfrey Chibulunje noted that only 779 Tanzanian companies have registered compared to 2000 Ugandan counterparts.

He said, while the registration is free of charge, many local companies are still hesitant to take part in such major oil and gas projects.

"Until July, 2021 only 779 local companies have been listed with EWURA database and only those registered will have the opportunity to participate in the project" he said, calling on local companies to seize such opportunities.

According to Chibulunje, the law requires that implementers of oils and gas projects seek supporting companies through EWURA.

However, he observed that the number of Tanzanians in leadership in oil and gas companies is steadily growing, an indication that the country has many experts in the field.

In April this year, Minister for Energy, Dr. Medard Kalemami announced that the construction of major crude oil pipeline from Tanga-Tanzania to Hoima-Uganda is expected to start shortly.

He said the 1,445km long pipeline that will cost \$3.5 billion has got the green light following completion of paperwork that was being undertaken by both government

negotiation teams from Tanzania and Uganda.

Speaking at a brief ceremony to receive report of the national negotiation team, the minister said the government was going to work on the report which he said has explicitly stated what has been agreed upon.

"Completion and submission of the report from the negotiation team marks the onset of the project expected to start any time from now" said, the minister, adding that while the teams were engaged on heated debates, a lot of activities were going.

The minister applauded the negotiation team that under chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Energy, Leonard Masanja for the good work to ensure that Tanzania is not just dragged in the project.


He said the negotiation that started in 2017 has taken closet go three years due numerous contentious issues to resolve, expressing hope that most of the highly antagonist ones have been solved.

Dr Kalemami called on Tanzanians to exploited opportunities that come along with the project, saying Tanzanians stand to benefit a lot from it.

According to the minister about 80 percent of the pipeline will run through Tanzania and the project is expected to create more than 18,000 jobs for Tanzanians.

Speaking in the parliament in May, 2020, the minister said the project would start in April, 2021. Dr. Kalemami said that an environmental audit has been completed and communities close to the pipeline will be compensated.

The Minister said the project is still waiting for a final investment decision and the priority now is to complete the Host Government Agreements (HGA), a shareholders' agreement (SHA), a Land Lease Agreement (LLA) and a Port Agreement (PA).




Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

NOTICE OF SALE OF USED VEHICLE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Tanzania Country Office offers for sale the vehicle listed below:

Description	Chassis/Serial Number	Condition	Transmission Type	Engine Type	Date Purchased
VEHICLE HYUNDAI - SONATA	KMHCB41CLDA511958	Running (Covered 33, 480 kms)	Manual	4 Cylinder Petrol	01/03/2013



Vehicle will not be released with UN markings, logos and license plates. All security and radio equipment will be removed at FAO's expense.

- FAO reserves the right not to accept any offer if bids do not meet the minimum bid price (Ref. Bid Submission Form)
- The vehicle must be collected from FAO premises not later than **30th September 2021** at the buyer's expense.
- FAO will issue a receipt (Bill of Sale) to the buyer.
- A FAO Property Transfer Form must be signed by both Parties.

Warranty:
The vehicle is offered for sale on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, and without recourse or warranties of any kind.

Inspection & Questions:
The vehicle can be viewed during working days at the FAO Offices – Ada Estate SIDA House H, Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road from **8th September to 24th September 2021** between 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs.

Interested bidders must submit their sealed bids, in an envelope clearly marked "**Bid for Purchase of Vehicle**". Bids can be submitted by hand not later than **24th September 2021** to:

FAO Representative,
SIDA House H, Ada Estate Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Dar es Salaam.

From The City Centre take first turn left after Tunisia Street before St. Peter Church Junction.

For direction Assistance call:
0755 540 702 / 0753 557 009
OR

Electronically to the email:
TZ-procurement@fao.org.


Bids Closing date is 24th September
2021 at 24:00hrs

General Conditions:


- Bids should be submitted using the Bid Submission Form which can be obtained at FAO Office or can be sent by email upon request by the bidder through email TZ-procurement@fao.org with subject "FAO Vehicle Bid Form Request"
- The item will be awarded to the highest bidder.
- Late bids will be rejected.
- Bids below the minimum amount will be rejected.
- Bids to be submitted in Tanzanian Shillings.

Terms of Sale:

- Upon notification, the successful bidder must pay within three (3) working days by direct deposit in cash to the FAO Representation Bank Account or by Telegraphic transfer to FAO Account. Should the successful bidder fail to arrange payment within three (3) working days, the item(s) will be offered to the second highest bidder.
- The vehicle will be handed over to the purchaser after payment is received in full.
- Payment of any transfer fees, sales taxes, import duty, insurance or any other such cost shall be at the expense of the purchaser. The



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

MSN 2420 Amendment 1/2021

Guidance Relating to the Extension of Validity for Seafarers Documents and Certificates due to Coronavirus (COVID – 19) Pandemic

This notice is hereby issued to all ship owners, small craft owners, fishing vessel owners, Masters, officers and other related parties.

1.0 Introduction:

- Noting the danger created by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Prime Minister ordered among other things the closure of all schools and higher learning institutions as preventive measure against the spread of the virus in the country. Hence, seafarers both onboard and ashore have no opportunity to attend refresher training leading to the revalidation of their certificates upon expiration.
- In light of the coronavirus pandemic, on 17th March 2020 the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 encouraging administrations to take pragmatic and practical approach with regard to the extension of validity documents and certificates in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended.
- In June 2021 the Government through the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender, Elderly and Children warned of a third wave of COVID-19 and directed that all precautions to be taken for protection against infection.
- Pursuant to Section 51 of the Written Laws, (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No.6) Act 2019, the Registrar shall take appropriate steps to advise and communicate to the seafaring community and the public of any developing or existing situation which may adversely affect maritime safety, security and prevention of marine pollution.

2.0 Guidance

- Certificates of competency and Certificates of proficiency which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3)

months after date of expiry;

- Medical fitness certificates which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) months;
- Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC) which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with general extended validity for a period up to three (3) months;
- Endorsements confirming or recognizing a certificate of competency, certificate of proficiency, certificate of an approved training course and certificate of GMDSS radio operator which will expire before 1st October 2021 will be accepted with a general extended validity for a period of up to three (3) and
- Within the extended period the individual seafarers will not be required to apply for extensions of validity of a particular certificate or document.

3.0. This Notice may be amended again at any time taking into consideration any additional guidance and advise or instructions provided by the Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Gender Elderly and Children, IMO and other Organization.

Any further request for information or clarifications should made through the contact provided below:

Director General
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)
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Tanzania agricultural SMEs urged to full take part at AGRF Summit

By Guardian Reporter

A CROSS-section of Tanzania agricultural stakeholders have called on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and other actors to participate at the 2021 AGRF Summit, which kicked off yesterday in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

Held virtually, the summit was hosted by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, under the theme: "Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems."

Being the world's premier forum for African agriculture, AGRF brings together stakeholders in the agricultural landscape to take practical actions and share lessons that will move African agriculture forward.

Gathered at the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) offices in Dar es Salaam, stakeholders said Tanzania is looked up as the region's food forte, ready to grow exports and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, who are the majority of its workers.

SAGCOT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Geoffrey Kirenga and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Associate Programme Officer Donald Mizambwa, jointly noted that at African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit, Tanzania investment opportunities in the agriculture sector would be on the spotlight, in the event expected to reach over 10,000 participants from diverse parts of the world.

The duo noted that Tanzania has enormous opportunities to play a significant role as a food producer, manufacturer and exporter.

"Our role as a major exporter of maize, rice, soya and other agriculture products has taken shape, now what we need to do is to increase productivity, add value and be very consistent. Nations sourcing agriculture produce and goods from Tanzania will gain confidence that

we are reliable for the long term, and it is not a one shot thing," said Kirenga.

At the summit, the Tanzania government will present its flagship agriculture programmes and the accruing investment opportunities on Wednesday, September 08, 2021. In what has been dubbed a year-long deal room, SMEs in Tanzania will seek international partners for collaboration to grow their trade. The country is a significant exporter of maize and rice, he said.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, since she took reins of power last March, has made strides in encouraging food exports to Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, which are on the upward surge. Also expected to increase are agriculture exports to India, China, America and Europe, noted Kirenga.

Agriculture in Tanzania is taking greater shape thanks to the improved business environment including more coordination of sector ministries - Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs), under the prime minister's office, noted Mizambwa.

However, Tanzania partly imports sugar, wheat and cooking oil, which if more efforts are made, the east African second-largest economy can produce enough for domestic use and exports.

This year's AGRF Summit- 7-10 September 2021, under the banner "Pathways to recovery and resilient food systems" aims to elevate the single coordinated African voice to the UNFSS and identify immediate actions and steps that need to be taken to accelerate progress.

The forum is mainly focused on driving progress of the Malabo Declaration by 2025 as the priority set of commitments African Heads of State and governments made to strengthen agricultural development at the center of the continent's overall development and progress.



Rural Energy Board chairman Julius Kalolo (gesturing) introduces Rural Energy Agency director general Amos Maganga (L) to Kishiri homeless children in Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region, during an assessment tour of the implementation of REA projects yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Up grade your offices, clients urge TCB

By Guardian Correspondent, Mufindi

CUSTOMERS of the newly launched Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) in Mufinda District have urged the bank's management to set aside funds for branding, simultaneously give the bank's offices a new look.

In comments made at a machine launching ceremony here and in a subsequent random interview, the bank's customers said offices of the new bank, formerly the Tanzania Postal Bank, do not match with the new bank's standing.

The launch of the tree felling-cum-log splitting machine funded by the TCB was officiated by Mufindi District Administrative Secretary, Servi Ndumbaro, who called on the bank to take seriously calls

and comments of its customers. "Pay attention to the views of your customers and give your premises here a sound face-lift." The launch was done at the offices of Simon Mbilinyi, a famous producer of timber in Mufindi District and beyond.

Ndumbaro commended the bank, saying funding of the project proves the bank has a sound capital and enough finance for doing banking activities. But, he added that to withstand the current competition in the financial sector the TCB will have to offer competitive services and operate from attractive premises.

Mbilinyi said he disliked the TCB pitiable offices in Mufindi town. "I appeal to the TCB management to renovate and make the offices

attractive to attract people to visit the bank's branch," he said.

Chesco Njawiye called on traders in the Mufindi Municipality to open accounts with the bank's branch to be able to apply for loans from the TCB. "When you have an account with them, they know you and it is easy to give you a loan you apply for," he said, adding that TCB has a good list of customer friendly products for clients to choose from.

Dorothy Lweru admitted she had no account with the bank but said she planned to have one soon in order to get a loan from the bank. She said the bank's offices were unattractive.

Joseph Kalindo said TCB offices must be as attractive as other banks' offices. "In reality it is perhaps the

oldest bank in Tanzania. But their offices are not eye-catching. It is a betrayal to its name and vision," he claimed.

TCB Mafinga Branch Manager, Priscillah Mollle, said their customers are happy with the bank's services but are unhappy with their offices. She said she is optimistic the challenge will be solved. "We have good products, we offer loans to retirees, give soft loans to small groups of budding entrepreneurs and now we want to give machines to producers like the one that has been launched," she pledged.

TCB, Forestry Development Trust (FDT) and Lonagro Tanzania have agreed to work together to help entrepreneurs secure loans to add value to forestry products, especially timber.



Cashewnut Board of Tanzania acting director general Francis Alfred (C) makes remarks yesterday after visiting the site where a cashewnut factory is undergoing construction in Mkinga District, Tanga Region. Right is Tanga regional cashewnut board manager Ugumba Kilasa. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANI Media Women Association (TAMWA) - Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa has said the participation of women in various political and social leadership positions to a great extent contributes in the country's social and national development as women hold huge ability and are quick in implementation of their responsibilities.

Dr Mzuri gave the remarks here yesterday as she opened a three-day training seminar to 30 journalists from Zanzibar's media organisations a project aimed to sensitize women on the importance of their participation in leadership and democracy.

She explained that no nation

'Women's involvement in leadership contributes to national development'

can make significant development strides if it leaves women behind and hold the belief that women are not supposed to be leaders at social or national levels.

She added that apart from various activities taking place in Zanzibar to ensure a large number of women are involved in leadership, still the situation has not been satisfactory, as there are women with big leadership and persuasive positions believe a woman is not supposed to be a leader, the concept that is totally false.

Dr Issa explained that there

are some people, no doubt due to misunderstanding, who have been holding religious beliefs to suppress women's aspirations in vying for leadership positions even though they have qualifications.

Meanwhile, she explained her dismay by some members of the community who continue to believe that women participation in leadership is the cause of hooliganism forgetting that such practices can even be committed by men as well when they become leaders.

Earlier, TAMWA Zanzibar Project Manager Salma Amir Lusangi said the project aims to reach 6,000 women from eleven in both Unguja and Pemba.

She said all beneficiaries from the project will be empowered in the involvement of women in leadership positions and the importance of democracy.

The project will mobilise women to vie for leadership positions is being implemented by TAMWA-Zanzibar under sponsorship of the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania.

UDSM hands over 42 solar cookers to villagers in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) has handed over 42 solar energy cookers which are environmentally friendly to residents of Kising'a village in Iringa District.

The cookers are made under a project aimed at conserving the environment and implemented by UDSM with funding from the Tanzania Science and Technology Commission (COSTECH).

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the project manager for solar energy cooking in Tanzania, Dr Margaret Samiji, a senior lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam said the use of solar radiation was developed by experts from the UDSM through the department of physics - college of Natural and Applied Sciences central science workshop, to encourage citizens to use the sun for cooking.

"This technology of solar stoves will also help reduce deforestation due to firewood use hence help improve health because smoke coming from wood is harmful," she said.

She said that they have distributed 42 solar cookers to ordinary people in Kising'a village after training them on how to use them, where they earlier trained village leaders to encourage people to use the sun for cooking, adding that the stoves will belong to the project after one year.

Iringa District Council executive director, Bashiri Muhoja hailed UDSM and other stakeholders for choosing Iringa as a model for implementing the project.

He said the project has come at the right time as it will help women who take most of their time looking for firewood which during the rainy season becomes wet.

Dr Nuru Mlyuka, a senior lecturer at UDSM said that the main objective

of the project is to stimulate the use of solar energy for cooking in Tanzania while the specific goal is to explore barriers to the consumption of solar radiation for cooking.

He said that more than 90 percent of Tanzanians use biomass for cooking such as firewood, charcoal, plant residues, and animal scat despite the increase in the use of alternative cooking energy, especially gas, electricity, and kerosene.

Dr Mlyuka said that the use of biomass leads to deforestation, soil erosion, reduced rainfall, increased drought, and changes in agricultural seasons.

However, due to the effects of smoke worldwide, 4.3 million people a year especially women and children lose their lives due to respiratory diseases.



This technology of solar stoves will also help reduce deforestation due to firewood use hence help improve health because smoke coming from wood is harmful



Herry Matekere, a teacher at Atlas Primary School in Dar es Salaam's Madale suburb, pictured yesterday giving instructions to his Standard Seven students in preparation for their upcoming national examination. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Five-day Dar meeting deliberates on boosting of human genetics activities

By Amos Alipio, TUDARCO

OVER 200 stakeholders in genetics and genomics have met in Dar es Salaam for five days to discuss and share strategies that will help strengthen human genetics activities in Africa.

The conference was organised by the African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG) in collaboration with the 18th meeting of the H3Africa consortium and the 1st conference of the Tanzania Society of Human Genetics.

Speaking during the official opening, President of the Tanzania Society of Human Genetics (TSHG) Dr Siana Nkiya said the main agenda of the conference was to discuss the best ways to strengthen human genetics activities and thus transform the health sector in the

continent.

Themed "Genomics and Translational Research to Improve Health in Africa", the conference attracted the participants who sat from August 30 to September.

Siana Nkiya further said: "The conference was meant to bring together scientists from across Africa in order to share expertise, experience, skills, knowledge as well as building meaningful networks."

Speaking on behalf of the former president Jakaya Kikwete, Private Secretary to the former Togolani Mavula articulated that building genetic capacity in Africa will not only impact Africa but the whole world.

Mavula added that the conference will result in long term future networks and partnerships that will impact the health of Africans.

The conference's closing event went along with several activities including award giving to various participants.

The conference was the first for the Tanzania Society of Human Genetics (TSHG) since it was established in 2017 with the main objective of coordinating human genetics research activities in Tanzania in order to generate knowledge and recommendations for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of genetic disease and promotion of health.

Themed "Genomics and Translational Research to Improve Health in Africa", the conference attracted the participants who sat from August 30 to September

UNESCO kicks off project to promote students' health, wellbeing in higher learning institutions

By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has kicked off a new project to promote health and wellbeing of students in higher and tertiary education in Tanzania.

Titled: Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3 Plus), funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)- the project is part of an on-going SADC regional O3 Plus project where its focus will be intervention solely in higher learning institutions.

UNESCO Head of Office and Representative Tirso Dos Santos made the revelations in Morogoro recently during the inception meeting for the project.

"The SIDA funded O3 Plus project is going to strengthen the on-going UN joint pilot project integrated model for HIV and AIDS response including GBV prevention and support workplace programmes in higher learning institutions in Tanzania," said Dos Santos.

Dos Santos mentioned one of the intervention's main achievements as been the successful development of an on-line programme on sexuality education HIV&Aids, STIs, Gender-Based Violence prevention, relationships and resource management' offered at the

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM).

According to the UNESCO head the programme is also offered at the Catholic University of Iringa as well as the Saint Augustine University of Mwanza (SAUT).

For her part, a representative from NATCOM Christine Musaroche who is Head of Communication and Information called upon more concerted efforts for higher learning and tertiary institutions to intensify capacity building of young people on health issues to enable them to fulfill their dreams.

"Fulfilling their dreams does not depend upon class work alone, but rather on how they can acquire self-awareness, relate to others and overcome various challenges they face," said Musaroche who represented the NATCOM Executive Secretary.

For his part, Dr Evaristo Mtitu, Assistant Director, Higher Learning at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) raised his concern over the deterioration of health in young people calling for more efforts to ensure that the latter are healthy and energetic for them to contribute to the social economic development of our community and the national at large.

Working closely with relevant regional structures, national ministries, higher and tertiary

education institutions and key partners, UNESCO will support innovation in access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services for university students.

UNESCO is the only specialized UN agency with the mandate in higher education.

The agency provides technical support to Member States to review higher education strategies and policies to improve equitable access to quality education and enhance mobility and accountability.

The project will be implemented in four countries of Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe where in Tanzania the O3 Plus project will be implemented in collaboration with the government as well as the University of Dar es Salaam and the University of Dodoma.

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

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

By Guardian Reporter, Kilindi

FARMERS and consumers of cassava in Kilindi District, Tanga Region and other areas growing cassava crop have been provided with education on its quality and safety.

The education was provided last week by Tanzania Bureau of standards (TBS) officials who visited cassava farmers and consumers in the district.

Speaking during the seminar, TBS Quality Control Officer Ashura Kilewela said among other things, cassava farmers and consumers were educated about the poison in cassava as well as its importance as a food crop.

She said cassava is infected with a natural toxin that is produced

Cassava farmers and consumers trained on how to reduce toxins

from the crop's cyanide and that its content varies according to the cassava type and its taste.

She said a rare sweet cassava has small amount of the cyanide, while a bitter cassava has large amount.

She said the reasons behind the increase of the natural toxin in cassava is the type of the crop grown, the soil and the weather, saying drought increases toxic levels in cassava.

She mentioned the fourth reason is the time of harvest saying cassava normally takes 8 to 12 months before harvest, but some take up to 24 months.

Speaking on the effects of the

cyanide in the cassava, TBS Chief Food Safety Officer Dr candida Shirima said the consumer can be affected after eating the cassava that has cyanide, whether the cassava eaten is raw, cooked or even its leaves (kisamvu).

She said immersing the cassava in water before consuming reduces the amount of the toxin in it as the cyanide dissolves in the water.

She advised farmers to change the water every after two days to totally remove the cyanide from the cassava, and added that after that it should be dried in the sun, preferably by using solar driers.

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

JUDICIARY bodies and other stakeholders have been urged to work on reforms guiding the criminal justice system as directed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) National Coordinator, Onesmo Olungurumwa said it is very disappointing not seeing any serious intervention from the concerned authorities given the fact that the president has been repeatedly reiterating the same directives since she came to power.

"It is about time we saw amendments of laws targeting to reform those areas which have been pointed out including the arresting of people without investigation and putting a dateline of how long should investigation last," he cautioned.

Olungurumwa explained that it is

Judiciary bodies urged to work on reforms as instructed by President

true that there are some laws that allow endless investigation and no court of law can intervene more especially when the case is under a subordinate court.

"We have been going to court looking for court decision challenging those provisions of the law that allow police officers to detain people for many years without trial," he intoned, regretting that some of the decisions have been overturned urging that now is the moment for every concerned stakeholder to act on the president's call and see how to reform the criminal justice system.

"We can now reason together on this to see how we can allow

suspects to stay quite less in custody before their trial and some time by just giving them either a police or court bail for them to be able to proceed with their normal life while waiting to be tried," he advised.

He added that reforming the criminal justice system might help to reduce the significant number of detainees avoiding too much congestion in prisons.

THRDC National Coordinator further elaborated that it will go a long way to also protect the rights of suspects in the country given the fact that the constitution and various regional and international standards also defends this category of people.



for a living planet™

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Consultancy to Undertake Natural Resources Management (NRM) Policy Review:

Identify Sectorial Conflicting Policies and Areas of Synergy, Identify Barriers in Gender, Inclusive Conservation, Rights-Based Perspectives, and policy gaps in Wildlife Trade

Background

The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Office (WWF-TCO) is implementing the Voices for Diversity (VfD) project aiming at safeguarding ecosystems for Nature and People by advocating enabling policy environment for participatory and inclusive approaches. The project aims to make all voices count in bending the curve of biodiversity loss in times of rising inequality and exclusion and of a decline in environmental democracy through policy advocacy at global, regional, and national levels. VfD project is undertaking policy advocacy to promote Inclusive Conservation (IC), Nature-Based Solutions (Nbs), and fighting against Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in the course of safeguarding the ecosystem for nature and people. The three-year project (2020-2022) is implemented in the Ruvuma landscape. The Landscape spans part of Southern Tanzania to include Ruvuma, Mtwara, and Lindi regions. WWF -TCO seeks to recruit a consultant to undertake policy review by identifying conflicting policies and areas of synergy in the key five NRM sectors and identify barriers in Gender, Inclusive Conservation (IC), Rights-based perspective, and Policy gaps in Wildlife Trade (WT). Also, document best practices and develop policy brief based on the identified barriers in gender, IC, right-based perspectives, and policy gaps in WT and link it to international and regional decisions and agreements.

Objective of the consultancy

To review NRM sectorial conflicting policies and areas of synergy and identify barriers in gender, inclusive conservation, rights-based approaches, and gaps in the Wildlife Trade. Specifically, the consultant should: -

- Critically review policies, strategies and legislations governing at least key 5 (five) natural resources sectors related to biodiversity conservation in Tanzania. Forest Policy (1998) and Act of 2002, Wildlife Policy 1998, National Fisheries policy 2015, Village and National Land use Policy (1997) and Land use Act (1999), the National Environmental Policy (1997), Energy Policy (2003), Agriculture Policy, Water Policy, Livestock Policy, Bioenergy Policy and Guideline (2009) and National Water Policy (2002) are some examples of these policies and legislation to be reviewed.
- Analyze at least five NRM sectorial policies, strategies and legislations and identify conflicting policies and area of synergy, barriers in gender, inclusive conservation, right-based perspectives, and policy gaps in wildlife trade.
- Make a consultation with relevant stakeholders and institutions to obtain their views for policy analysis.
- Document best practices in gender issues, right-based, Inclusive Conservation, and Wildlife Trade and linkage to international and regional decisions and agreements and present them in form of a policy brief.
- In collaboration with WWF, organize a one-day stakeholder meeting or workshop to share and validate the consultancy findings on policy analysis.

Application procedure & Submission of Applications

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

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania

Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077 Fax: +255 22 277 5535;
website. [wwf.or.tz](http://www.wwf.or.tz)

Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy.

Submit a concise 2 – 4-page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition and timings of the process. A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the time professional fees, and proposed implementation costs. A 2 - 3-page CV of lead should also be attached.

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

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid

Only successful candidates will be contacted

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Mobile money transfer rates: The debate has been worth it

MOBILE payment also referred to as mobile money, mobile money transfer, and mobile wallet generally refer to payment services operated under financial regulation and performed from or via a mobile device. Instead of paying with cash, cheque, or credit cards, a consumer can use a mobile to pay for a wide range of services and digital or hard goods. Although the concept of using non-coin-based currency systems has a long history, it is only in the 21st century that the technology to support such systems has become widely available.

Mobile payment is being adopted all over the world in different ways. The first patent exclusively defined "Mobile Payment System" was filed in 2000.

In developing countries mobile payment solutions have been deployed as a means of extending financial services to the community known as the "unbanked" or "underbanked", which is estimated to be as much as 50 per cent of the world's adult population, according to Financial Access' 2009 Report "Half the World is Unbanked". These payment networks are often used for micropayments. The use of mobile payments in developing countries has attracted public and private funding by organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United States Agency for International Development and Mercy Corps.

Mobile payments are becoming a key instrument for Payment Service Providers (PSPs) and other market participants, in order to achieve new growth opportunities, according to the European Payments Council

(EPC). The EPC states that "new technology solutions provide a direct improvement to the operations efficiency, ultimately resulting in cost savings and in an increase in business volume".

All countries the world over often make sure that there is no human activity in this world that it doesn't tax, license, regulate or restrict. It makes certain everybody works for it, either on its payroll or its tax-roll.

Some people, however, have even dared to say that since tax is collected through coercive means - enforced by the enforcement organs and the justice system -- then it's nothing but institutionalized violence equivalent to theft.

In fact, taxes have created more criminals than any other single act of any government, but still happen to be the prime pursuit of all governments in the world since times immemorial.

Last week the government announced that in the first Quarter of FY 2021/22 it had collected 97 per cent tax, another tax collection feat.

However, this news may not sink comfortably in the minds of many Tanzanians who are immersed in raging debate on the subject of taxation that has started grinding on them.

During the past month or so the social media has been abuzz with debate on the government's decision to impose tax on mobile money transactions.

Many people say the tax is exorbitant as the transactions are mostly made by those in lower income group, and mostly small traders whose breed the officialdom has often vowed to facilitate.

AU ought to be firmer on military coups, but can it?

ON 5 September 2021, President of Guinea Alpha Condé was captured by the country's armed forces in a coup d'état after gunfire in the capital, Conakry. The special forces commander Mamady Doumbouya released a broadcast on state television announcing the dissolution of the constitution and government.

After several decades of authoritarian rule in Guinea, Condé was the country's first democratically elected leader. During his time in office, Guinea used its rich natural resources to improve the economy, but the bulk of the country's population has not felt its effects. In 2020, Condé changed the constitution by referendum to allow himself to secure a third term, a controversial change which sparked the 2019-2020 Guinean protests.

During the last year of the second term and his third term, Condé cracked down on protests and on opposition candidates, some of whom died in prison, while the government struggled to contain price increases in basic commodities.[2] In August 2021, in an attempt to balance the budget, Guinea announced tax hikes, slashed spending on the police and the military, and increased funding for the office of the President and National Assembly.

The coup began in the morning of 5 September, when the Republic of Guinea Armed Forces surrounded Sekhoutourea. Presidential Palace and cordoned off the wider government district. After a shootout with pro-government forces, the mutineers, who appear to be led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya of the country's special forces, took President Condé hostage, announced dissolution of the government and its institutions, annulled the constitution, and sealed off the borders. While local

politicians have not explicitly opposed or supported the coup, the takeover was met with almost universal disapproval of foreign countries, which have called for the coup to stop, for the prisoners to be released and for constitutional order to return. In recent decades, military coups in the African continent have been extremely rare as democracy took hold.

Apart from the likely growth in human and constitutional rights abuses, coups also tend to be curse to economic growth. Investors tend to be discreet to put money into economies that are run by the whims of a military dictator rather than market forces. This often results into a lack of economic growth, increased inflation and unemployment -- some of the very things the military often cite as the reason they took power in the first place.

Hence last year, Mali's military, no doubt pushed by what was seen as a popular uprising against President Boubaker Keita, did just that, toppled his government.

Then followed the trade mark condemnation from across the globe, Africa in particular with its political grouping - the African Union (AU) suspending the country and calling for swift return to democratic norms. It is still to be seen whether that may happen.

A year later, this week, another coup has taken place in Guinea, the military has toppled the government of President Alpha Konde and cited same reasons for it - economic mismanagement, corruption, human rights abuses etc.

Immediately it was followed by the usual condemnations from the AU, UN, western countries and others. But as often as it happens, coups in Africa tend to embarrass the AU, apart from exposing its hypocrisy. In many cases it doesn't know what to do with them, let alone correctly react thereto.



We must recognise Africa's scientists as heroes

By Olusegun Obasanjo

MANY a time, when looking for individuals and institutions to celebrate in Africa, we tend to overlook the scientific community. Even when we do applaud scientists, it is not unusual that our attention will be drawn more to those far beyond the continent.

This trend has especially been apparent now, during the COVID-19 pandemic. All notable focus has been directed to research activities in Europe, Asia and the United States. Yet we have thousands, if not millions of scientists doing similarly impactful work in the continent, including leading food systems transformation that encompasses advancements in agriculture, health and nutrition amongst other sectors.

Thankfully, this narrative is gradually changing with prestigious awards focused on the African scientific community, such as the Africa Food Prize. Since 2006, the award has been shining a spotlight on heroic African individuals and institutions making a real difference in the continent's agriculture, food and nutrition security landscape.

Through the US\$100,000 award, 13 leading scientists and one research organization have over the last 15 years been recognized among 24 winners for their contribution to the eradication of hunger and poverty from the continent.

More recently, remote sensing scientist, Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, and micro-dosing specialist, Dr. André Bationo, were 2020 Africa Food Prize joint winners. As in previous years, the two were selected from a competitive list of more than 500 innovators across the food system value



chains. Exemplifying importance of scientific work in Africa, the 37-year-old Dr. Nakalembe is helping countries build systems to monitor crops using satellite data thus supporting African farmers to make evidence-based decisions for better agricultural output and resilience. Co-winner, Dr. Bationo, on his part, is contributing to the understanding of soil fertility in Sub-Saharan Africa and has made transformative discoveries in micro-dosing fertilizer technology.

These are just two of the many transformational innovators feted by the African Food Prize, whose selection committee I have chaired for the past five years, during which time we reviewed several thousands of nominations. As I prepare to step down from this role, I can attest to the richness and depth of Africa's talent and innovation, and it has been gratifying to have a ring-side seat in celebrating it. During the AGRF Summit 2021 in Nairobi, from September 6 - 10, more laureates and a new chair will be unveiled, in addition to providing a great platform for leaders and

other agriculture and food system stakeholders to engage on the future of Africa's food and nutrition security through high-profile conversations and extensive deal making.

The Africa Food Prize has brought more than just recognition to the recipients. Take Ugandan entrepreneur, Josephine Okot, who won the Yara Prize in 2007, for instance. Then aged 37, Ms. Okot was honoured for her efforts in reversing Africa's declining agricultural productivity, managing to penetrate the hitherto male-dominated seed sector with her Victoria Seeds enterprise in just three years. According to her, it was a real growth driver, transforming her company's prospects and lifting it onto an international pedestal.

The award opened similar doors of fortune for the 2017 laureate, Malian entrepreneur Maimouna Coulibaly. Ms. Coulibaly started her company, Faso Kabo, a small-scale production in 2007. It has since grown into one of the largest seed producers in West Africa, with a wide distribution network for hybrid maize, sorghum, rice, cowpea, peanut and vegetable

seeds. It was this fast growth and her contribution to boosting farmers' productivity that won her the prize.

This demonstrates the value of recognizing the rich talent and innovation in our midst. It is not only the right and deserved thing to do, but also sets virtuous cycle in motion. As I reflect on the impact of the Africa Food Prize over the last 15 years that I have been a front-row witness of the diverse scientific and entrepreneurial activities unfolding within the continent, this has been the greatest insight and source of pride.

We have many heroes doing amazing work in Africa as they contribute towards eradicating poverty and hunger through transformation of our food systems. Seeing many young people brilliantly deliver solutions for Africa's biggest problems gives me hope of a brilliant future for the continent, much unlike the strife we had been attuned to previously.

The writer is a former President of Nigeria and Chair of the Africa Food Prize Committee

Mr President, strengthen your fist in the corruption fight

By Special Correspondent

THE news of three potential South African investors allegedly being held hostage on the demand of US\$5 million for investment opportunities was more than just an embarrassment for the nation. It is a scary allegation.

But what was even more surprising was the President's lukewarm stance on the matter.

Suspension in this grave matter is quite insufficient to serve as a deterrence.

Not only that is not in the purview of the Makenneh Keita who serves as Coordinator for Special Projects

in the office of the President to hold negotiations with potential investors, she reportedly posed as 'Minister of Special Projects'.

In the late 1970s, a veteran Liberian Journalist, Mr. Daniel S. Drapoe published in a local Liberian paper that the Minister of Lands and Mines asked LAMCO to sponsor his son in college in the United States. Also, it was brought to the attention of President that the minister requested money from a company in Norway that wanted to invest in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

President Tolbert dismissed Min. Aaron Holmes and said, "It is sad that I have dismissed by godson, Aaron. I had to do it because it was not the

responsibility of LAMCO to pay the tuition of the son of a minister who may make mining decision that have to affect LAMCO in the future. Also, he should not have carrying on act that will discourage investors from coming to invest in Liberia which is contrary to the investment policy of the country."

President Tolbert to a bold stand to dismiss his godson and he set a very good precedent.

President Weah should do the same.

A suspension tells the Liberian people that Ms. Keita could be called back to work with such tainted record.

Corruption is one of Liberia's

major challenges and has been a major hindrance to nation building for more than half a century of Liberia's history.

As it is, anti-graft institutions are under-funded and to some extent lack the needed expertise to fight corruption.

However, even in the midst of all the needed resources to root out corruption, it would be impossible to fight the menace in the absence of a strong political will.

President Weah's fight against corruption will continue to be a farce until he begins to take decisive and uncompromising actions against reports of corruptions by public officials.

Towards UN food systems summit and importance of agroecology for food security and sovereignty

By Thomas Laiser

THE Global Food Summit on Food Systems is expected to take place in New York, USA, in September 2021. The summit, convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, is expected to bring together countries, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders in the food chain to deliver progress on all 17 of the SDGs through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty, and inequality.

Towards the summit, there have been domestic dialogues in UN member states aimed at providing an opportunity for the participation of various key actors to discuss the issue. In Tanzania, we have witnessed well-coordinated dialogues by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with various stakeholders, which took place zonally and nationally to provide broad community participation in the discussion concerning food systems.

The move to engage all key stakeholders is to be commended as it has been a long-standing cry from smallholder producers including farmers, pastoralists, fishers, beekeepers, hunters and gatherers, and others; wanting to be involved in the discussion and decision-making processes of issues that concern them, rather than matters about their interests being discussed and decided by others without their involvement.

During the dialogues, through various media outlets in the country, farmers were witnessed making their recommendations that they would like to be considered and be the country's position towards the United Nation Food Systems' Summit.

Apart from raising several issues, among the issues discussed emotionally are related to food



production systems using methods promoted by international companies that dominate the production of seeds, fertilizers, and chemicals on the one hand; against the use of ecological farming techniques whose emphasis is placed on production that focuses on environmental safety and sustainability, proper use of resources, producers' rights, safe food without forgetting the rights and freedoms of food choice.

In the northern zone dialogue, organised jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji Mkoa wa Arusha

(MVIWAARUSHA), held on June 22, 2021, in Arusha and attended by about 100 participants; a call was made to urge the government to be vigilant at the UN Summit against the influence of multinational companies and organizations that are well known by using such international platforms to pressure nations, especially poor countries, to make changes to their policies and laws, especially those that protect small producers to conform to their production systems packaged in the "green revolution" package. They do so to ensure that they control the world's food production systems

Using their influence and power, those multi-national companies use the media that supports them to impress the image that agricultural, livestock, and fisheries activities in our countries will be developed by companies and large producers by excluding, ignoring, and pushing aside smallholder farmers.

For smallholder producers, their dream is to see integrated food systems, recognize them as a pillar of food production now and in the future, protect their lands, guarantee their marketing systems, and ensure that all kinds of resources are available for them to produce

effectively and profitably.

Smallholder farmers would like to see that the indigenous knowledge of crop and livestock production is guaranteed and preserved and will never be degraded. They would also like to see that they are not forced to use fertilizers, seeds, or industrial chemicals that, apart from potentially harmful to them and other consumers, can affect the environment as well as making them dependent on companies producing those said products.

Concerning food systems, smallholder farmers recommend that; agroecology should be officially recognized

as an appropriate and safe system for production that guarantees freedom, safety, and food security sustainably.

On that basis, smallholder farmers expect to see Tanzania's stance on the forthcoming UN General Assembly scheduled for September 2021, taking into account our recommendations and needs as revealed by smallholder producers even if there will be donor contributions in financing the implementation of the resolutions to be agreed.

Thomas Laiser is the Community Facilitator, Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji Mkoa wa Arusha (MVIWAARUSHA).

China continues to support Africa in the fight against COVID-19

By George Muntu

ON August 5, 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the first meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation that China will strive to provide two billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to the world throughout this year and offered \$100 million to "The COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility" (COVAX). This commitment is very important for the international community, especially for African countries that are still have vaccine deficiencies. But also, it is another major step for China to fulfil its commitment of making COVID-19 vaccines a global public good.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, China has been at the forefront of assisting African countries in the fight against the pandemic by providing a wide range of medical equipment including test kits, ventilators, and masks etc. Despite the enormous pressure of domestic vaccination and prevention against imported cases, China has been making every effort to increase vaccine production capacity, taking the lead in developing vaccines as a global public good and helping the world build a Great Wall of Immunization as soon as possible. As the largest developing country and a responsible member of the international community, China has always been committed to promoting a global community of health for all.

Currently, China is the most important provider of COVID-19 vaccines in the world. It has taken important steps to close the global vaccine gap, including the acceleration of large scale production, promoting fair distribution and licensing local production in a number of countries. According to a report on global use of COVID-19 vaccines by Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China released on July 29, 2021,

China had provided 500 million doses of vaccines and concentrates to more than 100 countries and international organizations by July 2021, which accounts for one sixth of the global output. The number of COVID-19 vaccines exported by China was 227% of that of Europe and 84 times that of the United States by May 2021.

As of now, China has donated vaccines to over 100 countries and exported vaccines to more than 60 countries, the total amount of which has exceeded 800 million doses, ranking first in the world. It has also provided and is providing vaccines to over 40 African countries and the African Union Commission, apart from actively supporting Africa to improve its own capacity vaccine production. With China's assistance, Egypt has become the first African country able to produce COVID-19 vaccines followed by Morocco. This is the evidence that shows China's commitment to helping Africa and other developing countries in the fight against COVID-19.

What all Africans need to know is that, unlike the United States and some other Western countries, China's support to Africa comes without any political condition, and it is helping the continent to develop a capacity for independent development. This has been the traditional way of China's aid to Africa since 1964 when the then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai announced China's eight principles for providing economic and technological assistance to foreign countries in Ghana. With China's unconditional aid, Africa will continue to benefit from the COVID-19 vaccines provided by China.

It should also be noted that, in the fight against COVID-19, China has always been practicing true multilateralism and seeking sincere solidarity with other countries. It is quite evident that China was the first country to share the whole genome sequencing of COVID-19 with

the world. It has also helped other countries very quickly start test-kits and vaccines research and development. China took the lead in conducting phase III clinical trials of the inactivated vaccines overseas and has since conducted research and development cooperation with more than 20 countries.

Despite critics and false information given by Western politicians and their media saying that Chinese vaccines are unsafe and ineffective, the truth is that China's COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Currently, there are four types of Chinese vaccines that have been approved for use in more than 100 countries. Two of them, Sinopharm and Sinovac have been placed on the WHO's emergency use list and COVAX procurement list. According to an interim analytic report published in the British medical journal, The Lancet, on July 8, 2021, the phase III clinical trial of Corona Vac, an inactivated coronavirus vaccine developed by Sinovac Life Sciences (Beijing, China), shows that the efficacy rate of the vaccine reached 83.8% after two jabs, far higher than the WHO's target of 50%.

With China's commitment to help African countries get COVID-19 vaccines and enable them to produce vaccines within their borders, Africans should ignore the misleading information spread by the Western media that Chinese vaccines are unsafe and ineffective. Instead, we should express our gratitude for this great and unique support given by our traditional friend. In addition to that, African leaders must reject any aid that is accompanied by political conditions. Furthermore, they need to educate their citizens so that they know the quality, efficacy and safety of Chinese vaccines so that they could voluntarily choose the vaccine they want.

The author is an independent writer based in Dar es salaam. Email: cleophacegeorge@gmail.com




Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-21-09-01	Slag cement 42.5L 70:30 CEM I 42.5N	i. Company profile with proven experience in Slag cement manufacturing.
2	BUL-21-09-02	Slag cement 42.5L 70:30 CEM II 42.5N	ii. Relevant licences/consents/permits/government approvals; iii. Local ownership percentage (Local Content); iv. Quality; v. Cost of the goods; vi. Lead time; vii. Guarantee/Warranty time frames; viii. Price Competitiveness; and ix. Proven ability to supply large volumes on a daily basis

The above goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced manufacturers of the above specified goods shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" (EOI) on your company's letterhead if your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s) with tracked experience in cement manufacturing;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years;
- 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 and affiliated registrations as required;
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission;
- Bulyanhulu reserve the right to invite any other supplier/s which did not submit an EOI submission;

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on 15th September 2021. Any responses received after this date will not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of Bulyanhulu.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Silencing women journalists is silencing the voice of Afghan women

KARACHI, Pakistan

“If I fall into the hands of the Taliban, not only me but my family will be killed,” said AB, 23, who worked as a broadcast journalist for the past seven years and is a well-known face on the television screen.

Speaking on WhatsApp from her hideout in a city close to the capital Kabul, she said the Taliban came looking for her and were asking about her whereabouts from her neighbours, who, in turn, warned her family.

“The Taliban have started house-to-house search and when they could not find me, left a warning with our neighbours to inform us that they will find me and deal with me accordingly,” said AB. Her life is in double jeopardy - firstly, being a woman writing against the Taliban. Secondly, she belongs to the ethnic Hazara community, whom the new rulers believe are infidels and need to be persecuted.

Her circumstances were confirmed by Kiran Nazish, founder and director of the New York-based worldwide support organisation for female journalists.

“Our sources in Afghanistan have informed the Taliban are carrying out house-to-house searches for people on their hit list,” she said, adding: “Imagine the fear these women are living under in their own country.”

“The Taliban must cease searching the homes of journalists, commit to ending the use of violence against them, and allow them to operate freely and without interference,” said Steven Butler, Asia programme coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Because of the grave danger, AB and her family have been in hiding now for the last several weeks.

Like AB, CD, 26, editor of a weekly publication and a journalist working for a news agency for the past four years, is hiding with her family after her office was ransacked by the Taliban three weeks ago.

If found, she is sure she “will be stoned to death”.

“The world must help me,” she pleaded. “Please email one of the embassies, such as Canada or the United States, and tell them to get me out.”

Her fear of the Taliban was palpable, and she said she could not talk over the phone as they were monitoring the “telecommunications networks”.

If this continues and they cannot leave their hideouts soon, CD said they might die of “poverty and hunger” even before the Taliban locate them.

“We have no bread to eat at all, and we cannot go out to earn for fear of being discovered,” she said.

The Taliban leadership have said women will have the right to work, seek education and be mobile, but on the condition that it will have to be under Sharia [Islamic law] but have not elaborated what this would entail.

However, they have requested women to stay home as some from the Taliban have not been trained on how to

behave with women.

“It’s a very temporary procedure,” defended the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Their proclamation of going soft on women has been met with scepticism by many Afghan women.

“I do not believe them, nor do I trust the Taliban, because they have a bad past,” said CD, adding: “They do not keep their word; women are not safe, and if they go outside, they will be flogged.”

She said she had heard reports of violence on women in other provinces.

“No Afghan woman believes their living condition will be good under the Taliban rule,” CD said. “By silencing the female journalists, the Taliban want to silence the voice of Afghan women.”

She said the Taliban had continued targeting and killing journalists and human rights activists for the last 20 years, even during Ashraf Ghani’s regime. “That is why we are afraid and feel so unsafe,” she emphasised.

“Their [Taliban] interviews

are in complete contrast with what they are doing on the ground,” said Kiran.

“Shocking to see the huge effort being put into tracking down people when they [Taliban] should be spending the same in rebuilding the country, putting a government together and finding ways to reassure people that they are safe, especially the Afghan women,” she said in a WhatsApp interview from Vancouver, Canada, where she is currently based. She is working non-stop to help the women journalists find safety.

As soon as Kabul fell into the hands of the Taliban, the media outlets had asked all their women employees to stay home and not report for work. “I was told to stay home till further notice,” said AB.

CD said she could not work as her equipment had been looted when her office was ransacked.

According to a 2020 survey by the (CPAW) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), more than 1,700 women were working for media outlets in the three provinces of Kabul,

Herat, and Balkh.

Kabul had 108 media outlets with a total of 4,940 employees in 2020. They included 1,080 female employees, of whom 700 were journalists. Of these 700 females, only 100 continue work and just a handful work from home in the other two provinces. Of the 510 women who worked for eight of the biggest media outlets and press groups, only 76 (including 39 journalists) are still working.

“...women journalists are in the process of disappearing from the capital,” states the RSF website.

AB said most of the journalists who are still working belong to the international media and are supported by their organisations.

“Local journalists are denied these privileges,” she pointed out. “As a journalist, I cannot continue to report if there are restrictions placed on me.”

“My dreams and aspirations and wishes have been destroyed. The Taliban not only took my city, but they

also took my life too.”

Until recently, the young journalist did not have to cover her head at the office, “loved wearing fashionable clothes and wore make-up,” being born and educated in the “era of democracy”.

Today, she feared she might be resigned to shroud herself in the chadri [blue burqa] when venturing out of her home under the new Taliban regime.

“Stripping public media of prominent women news presenters is an ominous sign that Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers have no intention of living up their promise of respecting women’s rights, in the media or elsewhere.” The Guardian quoted CPJ’s Butler. “The Taliban should let women news anchors return to work and allow all journalists to work safely and without interference.”

But even before Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, it was not easy being a female journalist there, said Kiran.

The CFWIJ has been researching 92-countries documenting the threats

women journalists face.

“Of the 92 countries we are documenting, Afghanistan has been among the top three where women journalists (among other vulnerable groups) have continued to face serious attacks and harassment from non-state actors, including the Taliban,” said Kiran talking about the findings of the past three years.

Over the last year and a half, the coalition has relocated many female journalists from different parts of Afghanistan and even out of Afghanistan.

It has doubled its efforts in drumming up support to get several hundred women evacuated out of Afghanistan.

“We have evacuated 90 for now from the several hundred women [including journalists, sportswomen, activists and academics] who requested our support. Still, there are 100 super-urgent ones who we fear are on Taliban’s hit lists and are being hunted.”

“Names withheld for their protection.”

AGENCIES



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY 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

Relief as hundreds of pupils, teachers benefit from inclusive education project in Dodoma

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

It is what can be described as a sign of relief, and a major boost in the education sector where children with disabilities and without disabilities study together and get equal education opportunities.

This comes as yet another opportunity for the country's education system which therefore creates an equal future chance in the education sector through an ambitious project – inclusive education.

It intends to minimize discrimination in society, immunize classes among people with disabilities and those without disabilities as well as creating equal future chances for all children, create awareness on disabilities in Tanzania.

The project is under Leonard Cheshire (LC) which is an international organization based in London UK, working toward affairs for people with disabilities all over the world.

In collaboration with Tanzania Cheshire Foundation, LC developed and conducted the inclusive education project in Tanzania from 2017-2021 that was based on 20 schools in Dodoma region within its two district councils (Chamwino and Dodoma city council).

That project was designed to solve obstacles that were found in prior years for effective implementation of inclusive education in the selected schools and the main object of the project was to enroll and create an equal accessible educational environment for all children.

According to studies by LC, there have been many obstacles in the past that have obstructed the possibility of the inclusive system amongst which are lack of education awareness to children with disabilities, poor school infrastructure that was inaccessible to all children, and high discrimination against children with disabilities among the societies, lack of enough teaching techniques for teachers on an inclusive system, poverty among the parents of the children with disabilities.

Project Manager Menance Mhombwe revealed that the project has effectively implemented with more than 800 children enrolled in those 20 schools, and about 245 primary school teachers drilled on better teaching practices on inclusive systems.

He said about 20 Ward Education Officers (WEOs), have also been trained on the monitoring and supervision to ensure inclusive education is well maintained at the schools.

Mhombwe further said,



Inclusive education, is a new approach towards educating children faced with learning and other difficulties and those without such challenges under one roof.

the project formed child to child clubs in all the 20 schools with the aim to minimize discrimination among the children and supported them through the provision of P.E gargets including sports jerseys and balls in order to ensure their efficiency.

He said that parents support groups were formed and supported during the implementation phase of the project where members were trained on different topics

including entrepreneurship, gender, education issues, and bookkeeping to ensure that they are capable of supporting their children.

He, therefore, cautioned the community to assist in this work making sure the school environments are more accessible to their children especially those with disabilities.

Nurdin Ally who is a standard four pupil in one of the schools applauded facilities they now en-

joyed thanks to the LC project; he said they now have renovated classrooms for their academic lessons.

"Some of our classrooms were renovated with painted floors and windows and sitting in the renovated classrooms is more comfortable than other classes whose floor is not smooth and has holes," adding that some of them are using renovated classrooms depending on which standard they

are.

According to Mbise the availability of child-to-child (C2C) Clubs in the schools has increased the confidence and reduced bullying on children with disabilities and hence improved their academic performance.

"The C2C club helped me to interact with other children and I have more friends to play with," said Julia while explaining that it has enabled her to go to school and come

back home happy and comfortable, something which was not possible before.

Salma Jackson, a mother with a disability child, said her Son used to be bullied at school, one time he reported the matter to her and she had to go to school and report the matter. Then the culprits were called and punished and since then the bullying has stopped.

Special Education Director Dr. Margret Ma-

tonya said that the government has prepared the National Strategy for Inclusive Education 2022 - 2025 and is due for signing to be used in all schools in Tanzania.

"The government insists that after the signing of the document; all schools in Tanzania will start implementing inclusive education to all schools," she revealed, adding that the preparation of the document was done in a participatory way that included many stakeholders, amongst which Leonard Cheshire who is the champion on inclusive education.

Tanzania Cheshire Foundation (TCF) chairperson Dr. Steven Masangia said that their organization will continue to make close communication with all stakeholders at the project areas.

"TCF has good communication with the project volunteers to get feedback and to learn what is really going on in the community and at school about education to children with disabilities," he intoned.

Masangia also promised a good link with the government and so that it could be simple for the organization to push some of the issues that have been communicated from the project school that needs government attention.

By Correspondent Devota Mwachanga

"I can't endure being frustrated by a man. I don't want pressure, I've broken up with two men, I am currently dating another one who I'm planning to share my future with," says Rose Kingalu, a 19-year-old girl, who is a resident of Tandika in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

Rose is among the majority of youngsters living with HIV in Tanzania. She was born HIV positive and started using antiretroviral (ARVs) treatment at the age of six.

Raised by her grandmother, Rose came to know about her status at age seven after the death of her biological mother. At the age of two, Rose was abandoned by her father.

However, she confessed to have started engaging herself in unsafe sex with different partners when she was at 16, despite knowing her health status.

"I couldn't have the guts to tell my partners that I am HIV positive, this would remain my secret, but I don't know what would happen to me if they discovered," she explains.

Adolescents living with HIV are one of the most vulnerable groups and are at risk of spreading the virus to their peers due to a lack of education on how to protect themselves and others. The reporter in collaboration with Chimbua Communication learnt how is the journey of these HIV+ adolescents to their adulthood.

According to the Network of Young People Living with HIV in Tanzania (NYP+), juvenile people between the ages of 10-20

contracted HIV from their mothers while they were still in the womb, at birth, or during breastfeeding.

Adolescents face the challenge of physical and behavioural changes that lead them to engage in sexual activity, and other risky behaviours.

Among other things, young girls and boys were partly vulnerable to having unprotected sex which is the leading cause of HIV infection in the world.

Sophia Meleki (20) a resident of Kisarawe District, Coast Region narrates: "My parents died and left me in very bad condition, I was very sick, I postponed my Standard One studies. My uncle took me to a health centre where I was diagnosed with HIV when I was seven-years-old, and immediately started ARVs treatment."

Meleki said after knowing her health status she was upset; she was aware that HIV/AIDS is dangerous since their teachers were teaching about it.

"I was crying knowing that my life was coming to an end, but thanks to health workers for counselling me," she mentioned

"I am looking good, my friends and neighbours don't know that I am HIV positive. I dropped out of school when I was in Form Two. I met my first boyfriend when I was 16 years old. I never asked men to use protection, actually they don't want to...I don't think of telling any of my partners that I am living with HIV, I am afraid to lose them," Meleki explained.

Statistics; Ministry of Health,

'Unprotected sex with teenagers put men in danger'

Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, annual Prevention from Mother to a Child (PMTCT) programme reports 2019 indicates that the number of new HIV infections decreased from 82,000 in 2018 to 77,000 in 2019.

According to the report, the country is facing a challenge of new HIV infections among youngsters between the ages of 15 and 24, making it clear that nationally the rate of new infections in young people is 40 per cent, with young women at 80 per cent and men at 20 per cent.

UNAIDS the drafted 2020 Tanzania HIV estimates suggest that there were 6,500 new infections among children below 15-year-olds.

Tanzania HIV Impact Survey (THIS) 2016-17, findings from the report revealed that 5.0 per cent of adults (15-64 years) in Tanzania are currently living with HIV. A large percentage of these adults - nearly 40% - are unaware of their positive status, well below the UNAIDS target of 90% of all people living with HIV knowing their status by 2020.

At School;

Both children with HIV and others need security, awareness and safety while at school. And education is their right in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) 4 which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable education.

More measures are needed to be taken to support the prevention of HIV and protection among vulnerable children and



to address challenges that are affecting them right from home to school.

Speaking on security and safety of children at school, Lenatus Mginwa, who is a Head teacher at Itizi Primary School in Mbeya, said they do provide education to their pupils about HIV/AIDS.

"We have special teachers who have devoted their time to give awareness to the pupils about the pandemic as a whole. For those children suspected to have HIV are excluded from heavy duties and punishment," he elaborated.

He detailed that there's no list of school children with HIV in his office, because the community is not ready to disclose their HIV status, to them living with HIV is still a confidential issue.

Mginwa explained that some men hunt for school children to sexually assault them with false belief that they are safe. This is because the community is hiding the truth about the reality, and those infected are visiting far clinics for ARVs.

At home;

"I raised Amani Kaburu,

he is 19-years-old with strong muscles, nobody can think he's HIV positive. He dates girls. His mother died when he was two after a long illness. His father committed suicide after finding out that his wife was HIV positive," Kaburu's grandmother Maua Mgesi, a resident of Buza Dar es Salaam stated.

"It reached the point that my grandson completely refused to take ARVs and stopped going to the clinic. I forced him to go and get medicine and persuaded him to take it; there were times he would not take medication for several days," she explained.

Kaburu's grandmother said there are so many challenges in rising up a HIV-positive child, as sometimes he/she can refuse to go to school, while mentioning that she persisted until Kaburu finished Standard VII.

She therefore urged caregivers to be careful when talking to children with HIV/AIDS; because they need awareness about protecting themselves and their fellow children from within the family to the street.

Byabato Kaizilege, a

resident of Buguruni, Ilala district is among the caregivers to children living with HIV, sharing his experience he said his sister was a single-parent, she underwent a caesarean birth at 36. After two years in 2006 she died and left her daughter under his care. One night she got a high fever and he took her to a paediatrician and was diagnosed with HIV.

"It needs a kind-heart to raise a child with HIV, I was forced to hide her health status from other members of the family fearing that they might isolate and abandon her when I am not around," he intoned, stating that he is a tailor by profession and he taught his niece tailoring and they are work together, adding that she is his responsibility.

The Government;

Director of Preventive Services in Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Leonard Subi said that those who deliberately infect others are not educated, they still need education.

"Infecting others is an offence, they should be held accountable according to The HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2008," he said adding that the Act states that "Any person who intentionally transmits HIV to another person and on conviction shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than five years and not exceeding ten years."

He advised people to avoid having pre-marital and unprotected sex, be-

fore going for HIV test or use self HIV kit, while insisting that the Government provides free testing service.

"Once a person tested and diagnosed HIV Negative should continue to take care of oneself, those with Positive results should start taking medications," he urged.

Dr. Subi detailed that the Act has been passed and its implementation is on-going with the aim of making all Tanzanians targeted by this Act aware of their health.

"We continue to educate the community on shunning risk behaviour, we are looking at whom / which group get more infected with HIV, and in addition we are also looking at ways to the PMCT," he emphasized.

Uganda is among African countries which have passed laws against transmitting HIV. In 2008, Magistrate Geoffrey Salaume sentenced a 47 year-old HIV-positive man for 14 years in jail for having sex with a mentally ill young woman and allegedly infecting her with HIV.

The Chairperson of NYP+ Pudensiana Mwiliza underscored that if a person is aware that he/she is HIV positive, and intentionally goes to transmit to another that is dangerous.

"Once the partner finds out he/she can do something bad, it is also wrong legally and humanly to intentionally infect someone," he said.

Mwiliza explained that many young people do not reveal the truth about their HIV status to avoid being stigmatized, refused employment, and isolated in society, the situation leads to rising infections rate.

"I'm different, I didn't lie to my husband, he is HIV Negative, we are living happily with our little baby," she intoned.

According to her, the network has 365 active members representing all districts. They are providing education to over 6000 youngsters living with HIV across the country on self-protection against new HIV infections, protecting others, proper utilization of ARVs treatment and Condoms.

Nevala Kyando Coordinator with NYP+ said the network is advancing the welfare of the majority of young people living with HIV (PLHIV) and adolescents aged 15-24 in responding to the challenges of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"We have a dedication to freeing the society from new HIV infections and improving the lives of those infected, through capacity building, networking, lobbying and advocacy programs," he affirmed.

Over 30 years have passed since the first cases of HIV/AIDS were reported in Tanzania. According to World Health Organization (WHO) report 2018, since its beginning, 75 million people have been infected with HIV and an estimated 0.8 per cent (0.6-0.9%) of adults aged 15-49 years worldwide are living with HIV.

Apart from ARVs, there is no cure for HIV/AIDS. The government is required to integrate reproductive health into the curriculum to empower students aged between 13 and 18 years to avoid putting themselves at risk, as well as give them awareness on avoiding engaging into pre-marital sex.

Plastic waste: A multitrillion-dollar problem for society

By Onke Ngculo

Plastic waste is one of the most prevalent forms of pollution and also one of the most concerning.

The societal cost of plastic for 2019 alone amounted to \$3.7-trillion, more than the GDP of India and 85% of global health spend, according to a report by global consulting firm Dalberg, commissioned by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Titled "Plastics: The cost to society, environment and the economy", the report's alarming findings show a doubling of plastic production, and a tripling of plastic pollution to 29 million tonnes, which will result in 600 million tonnes in the oceans by 2040.

As the report is released, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress will continue discussions over the conservation of plastic-affected marine life.

In comparison to the market price of virgin plastic, the report shows that the cost of plastic to society, the environment and the economy is at least 10 times higher due to data gaps, with the approach to the plastic crisis failing and disproportionately affecting marginalised communities.

Recently, the first Global Ministerial Meeting on Ma-



rine Litter and Plastic Pollution took place and several countries, including Ghana, Vietnam, Ecuador and Germany, supported a treaty to fight marine litter and plastic waste in the environment.

South Africa did not participate. In June, a leaked draft policy document showed that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment had not

joined a global treaty that sought a worldwide solution to the pollution associated with the lifecycle of plastic.

Marine litter is best addressed by rethinking how we design, use and dispose of plastics. We need to revisit and inform the entire supply chain. And if we do this, we can make our economies, societies and planet greener and healthier," said Inger

Andersen, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in a speech at the Ministerial Conference.

In efforts to reduce marine litter and create a sustainable planet, the WWF is calling on all governments to begin negotiations on the legally binding global treaty on marine plastic pollution at the UN Environment Assembly in February 2022.

Furthermore, more than two million people have signed a petition for a global treaty on marine plastics pollution, with more than 75 businesses endorsing the call, while 119 UN member states have supported the establishment of a new global agreement on plastic pollution.

Marco Lambertini, the director-general of WWF, said that the plastic problem was not showing any signs of slowing down, but that the commitment to tackle the issue had reached unprecedented levels. He said alternatives were needed to stop plastic leakage into the environment by 2030.

A WWF 2020 report on plastics points to plastic packaging being a "leaking hotspot" for waste, as 52% of raw plastic material is used for packaging.

"This is the first time we have seen such a clear assessment of some of the unaccounted costs being imposed by plastic pollution on society and they are a burden that is too high to bear – both for people and the environment," Lambertini said.

At present, plastic pollution reduces marine ecosystem services by up to \$2,500-billion each year. About 2,370 tonnes of plastic waste is generated in South Africa every year. Of that, 70% is collected, but just 14% of it (including imported waste) is recycled. DM/OBP

By Laura Owings

A Some experts say improved training and integration care strategies in SAs proposed National Health Insurance system could lay the groundwork for improving the response to rare diseases.

Little is known about the number of people in South Africa who are living with rare diseases. In fact, there is no recognised definition for rare disease in the country, contributing to inadequate record-keeping and very little data on prevalence, treatment options and support structures.

This is compounded by a lack of capacity in both the public and private sectors to recognise and test for rare diseases and the impossibly high price tag associated with some of the medicines available to treat them, which often are not available in SA.

Together, this creates a burden of disease that seems to be quietly and systemically ignored. However, some experts say improved training and integration care strategies in South Africa's proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) system could lay the groundwork for improving the response to rare diseases.

"The NHI is an approach that may address imbalances and ensure equity,"

says Dr Helen Malherbe, doctoral research fellow at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform (Krisp). "We need appropriate strategies and political commitment because right now we're not meeting the needs of this population."

What is a rare disease? A rare disease is a health condition affecting a small number of people compared with other diseases commonly identified in the population. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are between 5,000 and 8,000 known rare diseases worldwide, affecting an estimated 400 million people.

Some are easily recognised, such as cystic fibrosis or Lyme disease. Many others are less known, such as trisomy 18 or cat eye syndrome. There are rare diseases affecting the brain, muscular system, metabolism, heart, blood, lungs, kidneys, and other organs and systems.

According to the advocacy group Rare Diseases South Africa (RDSA), about 3.6 million people in SA have a rare disease.

Prevalence figures, however, are not definitive. In South Africa, and elsewhere, there is no agreed definition for rare disease. Indeed, one study

What happens to people in SA who have rare diseases?

identified 296 definitions for rare disease from 1,109 international organisations, including South Africa, the UK, US, European Union and Japan. According to the study, rare diseases are defined as conditions affecting from five to 76 patients per 100,000 people.

Further complicating this is the fact that 70% of rare diseases are caused by genetic factors and are considered congenital disorders. Many of these genetic diseases manifest during a person's life and are not identified at birth.

"If we aren't able to quantify rare diseases in SA, then cases are going to go undiagnosed, the clinical features aren't going to be characterised, and the knowledge won't be appropriately shared," says Malherbe, who is also the director of research and epidemiology at RDSA.

Lack of capacity Jean-Mari van zyl-Smit is possibly the first adult woman in South Africa to be diagnosed with Pompe disease. An inherited and often fatal disorder that affects the heart, skeletal muscles and respiratory system, it reportedly oc-

urs in around one in 40,000 people. With plummeting oxygen levels that sent her to hospital on her 21st birthday, Van zyl-Smit didn't initially know she had a rare disease.

"The doctors did all the tests, but they couldn't figure out what was wrong," she says. Her condition progressed so that she could only breathe with the help of a ventilator.

"They said I would never live without the machine," she says. She became severely depressed and attempted suicide before seeking help from a psychiatrist.

In 2013, Van zyl-Smit was contacted by German doctors researching rare diseases.

"They wanted to do tests and send them overseas. That's when they told me I have a rare disease," she says.

In South Africa, the ability to diagnose a rare disease is hindered by a lack of capacity and resources, according to research, putting the time to diagnosis for rare diseases in general higher than the estimated 5.5 to 7.5 years in high-income countries.

nosis drops substantially because these aren't areas where rare disease is talked about and referral pathways aren't in place," she says.

Burden of disease One explanation for this gap is the heavy load already on South Africa's healthcare system.

The WHO says the country faces a significant burden of disease resulting from communicable diseases such as HIV and TB, and non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes.

While training of healthcare professionals must focus on these public health needs, Fieggen says a sensible approach to rare diseases is needed.

"It doesn't help to throw huge resources at something that will have minimal management impact," she says. "But the way in which rare diseases have been relatively ignored isn't constructive."

Facilitating the recognition of rare diseases and referral pathways in physician training may make a difference.

"One thing that could be instilled in training is to recognise that if things are atypical in their presentation, there should be a discussion with a referral centre," says Associate Professor Ian Ross, a senior consultant endocrinologist at UCT and Groote

Schuur Hospital.

Ideally, he says, there should be centres of excellence that deal with rare disorders. "Because there is a need. Each person has the right to healthcare, and that speaks to the marginalisation of some individuals because they don't always have access."

The most expensive drug in the world Zolgensma is a promising once-off treatment that could improve the quality of life for Tasnim Jadwat's daughter. Diagnosed at nine months old with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a genetic disease causing the muscles to waste away, the initial prognosis was heart-breaking.

"We were told to take her home, and not to even bother with vaccinations because she only had three months to live," Jadwat says. "We were ready to give up."

But time went on, and their daughter stayed with them. She is now 12 years old. Maintaining her health has only been possible with specialised medical equipment purchased from abroad, as no medications were available for her condition.

That was until 2019 when the family learned about the US Food and Drug Administration's approval of Zolgensma, a form of gene therapy.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI. Includes a radio schedule table with columns for Monday to Sunday and detailed program listings for each time slot.

RESISTANCE

Alexander Forbes' shareholders oppose remuneration policies

JOHANNESBURG

Shareholders who want to discuss remuneration implementation report must approach the company by September 15. A significant proportion of Alexander Forbes shareholders voted against its remuneration policy at its AGM on Friday.

Shareholders holding 42% of Alexander Forbes shares that voted at the AGM were against the non-binding resolution adopting the company's remuneration report. At last year's AGM, 94% of shareholders approved the advisory vote on the company's remuneration policy.

After displaying the results of the vote, Alexander Forbes chair Marilyn Ramplin said the company had completed an extensive governance roadshow before its AGM. This process included engaging with institutional shareholders representing 70.2% of its shares in issue.

"The road-show dealt with feedback about the company's remuneration policy and its implementation report. However, despite these engagements, ordinary resolution 5.2 [dealing with the company's remuneration policy] has unfortunately received a vote against by over 25% of the company shareholders," she said. Advisory votes need 75% support. If this threshold is not reached, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange requires the company to address the issue with its shareholders.

Ramplin asked any other shareholders who wished to discuss Alexander Forbes' remuneration implementation report to approach the company by 15 September. "Depending on this feedback, the company will establish whether a further meeting of concerned shareholders is required. If so, we will communicate the details in an announcement," Ramplin said.

There was also strong shareholder opposition to the re-election of Andile Mazwai. Shareholders holding almost

44% of Alexander Forbes shares voted against Mazwai's re-election as a non-executive director and audit and risk committee member.

He is a former CEO of the Rebois Property fund, the National Stokvel Association of South Africa and Barnard Jacobs Mellet. Mazwai is presently the founder and chief executive of the iKhalo Property fund. Citywire contacted Mazwai about the AGM vote, but he declined to comment as he said he was unauthorised to speak on behalf of the Alexander Forbes board about the matter.

Over 39% of shares voted at the AGM were cast against the re-election of non-executive director Richard Head as an audit and risk committee member. At last year's AGM, shareholders overwhelmingly backed Head's election to the audit and risk committee.

Alexander Forbes' shareholders tabled no questions at the AGM, and they passed the other 13 AGM resolutions with an approval rate of over 91%. Thus, despite the opposition to the four resolutions, shareholders passed all 17 resolutions tabled at the AGM. African Rainbow Capital (ARC) owns 35.1% of Alexander Forbes, while Mercer Africa has a 14.3% stake, and the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) owns 5.1% of the company.

An ARC spokesman said the group does not comment on how it votes on resolutions at AGMs. "We prefer to proactively engage the board of management of such a company on any material matters and share our position on a particular resolution - mostly well before the meeting," he added.

Mercer Africa could not provide details about how the firm voted on Friday. A GEPF spokeswoman referred Citywire to the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), which handles AGM votes on behalf of the GEPF. The PIC did not provide details by the end of Friday.

ADVICE

Eskom CEO says carbon capture being considered in South Africa

CAIRO

A meaningful, focused effort by stakeholders is required for the new 2Africa cable to have any significant impact in Africa, according to industry experts.

The new 2Africa sub-marine cable is a collaboration between China Mobile International, Facebook, MTN GlobalConnect, Orange, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone and WIOCC and it is tipped to be the biggest cable network, with four new branches. The new branches will increase the cable landings to 35 in 26 countries with a total of 37,000km of fibre and 180Tbps capacity, improving connectivity into- and around Africa.

"It's encouraging that private investors are taking a leading role in providing this connectivity, but they'll need to work closely with host governments to get the initial projects off the ground and to ensure longevity," said Alex Booth, Associate Managing Director at business intelligence company Kroll.

He told ITWeb Africa that that public-private partnerships would work well for the project and that the benefits would be felt throughout the economies of the newly connected nations - if wider policy takes advantage of the opportunities.

"The 2Africa project is likely to bring direct benefits through jobs and contracts, but it's the potential indirect and long-term impacts which will be

key in rebuilding - both public and private actors should be looking to take advantage of the opportunities increased connectivity will bring," Booth added.

Combined with new technologies such as 4G and 5G, the increased connectivity will have a positive impact on areas like education and healthcare. For the cables, the inland backbone connectivity is still a challenge to countries. According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC), one kilometre of fibre costs US\$30,000. Africa needs 500,000 kilometres to achieve full connectivity at US\$15-billion.

Booth believes the development of sub-sea cables and the development of the inland networks should be developed side by side. "There's also the question of cable landings versus inland infrastructure, but it's a mistake to see them as separate, in a zero-sum game. They are both closely linked and rely on each other for connectivity and internet penetration, so should be pursued in tandem."

He added that "At this stage, the very fact of investment and focus on digital infrastructure in Africa is a good thing, and those involved should be looking at how to build on this momentum, rather than lamenting where it has come." According to Booth, 2Africa's connection to Saudi Arabia will improve infrastructure links between Africa and the Middle East.

INCENTIVE

Black Rock CEO: Mahenge likely has world's fourth largest graphite reserve

By Guardian Reporter

MAHENGE District in Tanzania's Morogoro Region is said to have the fourth largest high grade graphite reserve with an estimated 212 million metric tons.

Black Rock Mining Limited's Managing Director and CEO, John de Vries, said in a presentation last week at an Africa Down Under conference presentation that Mahenge's graphite has also got a low deleterious impurities and favourable metallurgy which makes it able to produce up to 99 percent TGC concentrate purity, solely with conventional flotation processing.

Investors in Mahenge graphite will leap big because the mining site has, "Access to key infrastructure, grid power, rail, airstrip, water and tailings disposal (dry stack) and logistics advantages with processing through Dar es Salaam high volume container port," de Vries said.

He said production will be done by substantial pilot plant operations of 110 tonnes and has been underwritten by a strategic partnership with POSCO of China and off-take agreements AISC margin of 63.1 percent.



Black Rock Mining Limited's managing director and CEO, John de Vries.

"The mine can produce three grades of product which provides the capacity to switch to higher quality product to achieve pricing premiums and a lowest peak capital expenditure per annual tonne of production of any development stage global graphite project," the Black Rock chief executive and director added. Mahenge offers a

unique combination of high quality geology and world class geology which means that Tanzania is set to become a meaningful producer of graphite into the growing global market, he noted.

Black Rock's Mahenge Graphite mine share is based on planned annual 85,000 tonne versus estimated global production output

in 2024 of 2.325 metric tonnes. Graphite is used in the manufacture of components of electric cars such battery pack. Global graphite demand is forecast to exceed supply by 2023. EV-driven intensification of graphite demand will have profound impact with unique competitive advantages driven by geology and Geography.

CENSURE

Kenya blames 'rogue traders' for EAC trade rows

NAIROBI

Kenya has blamed persistent trade disputes among member states of the East African Community (EAC) on incidents of dishonest traders breaking the rules of cross-border commerce.

Adan Mohamed, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Regional Development, said disputes in recent months between Kenya and its neighbours have largely been a result of non-conformity with controls and standards governing trade.

"Whilst the rules are very clear, there are some private business entities that abuse those rules. And the abuse of those rules is what normally leads to some of these disputes," he told the Business Daily in an interview.

Kenya has over the years been involved in intermittent trade spats largely with Tanzania and Uganda over tariff and non-tariff rules, prompting intervention by respective ministers and sometimes heads of state. The EAC Common Market Protocol, which came into force in July 2010, requires member states to open up their borders to facilitate free movement of goods, labour, services as well as capital.

Kenya early March banned maize imports from Tanzania and Uganda after the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) and the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) raised concerns that some of the consignments had surpassed the maximum aflatoxin levels of 10 parts per billion.

That row - together with other unresolved ones involving animal and animal products, confectionery and juices as well as cement - prompted Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu to make the



Adan Mohamed, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary (minister) for East African Community.

first official state visit to Nairobi to try to repair strained trade relations between the two countries.

Earlier in April Kenya had sent a high-powered delegation to Kampala, led by Trade Cabinet Secretary Betty Maina, to flatten trade barriers hindering the smooth flow of goods such as sugar and farm produce.

However, Uganda's Agriculture minister Frank Tumwebaze in a Twitter post last week to his Kenya's counterpart Peter Munya protested Nairobi's decision to limit sugar imports to 18,923 tonnes as opposed to 90,000 tonnes agreed in the April deal.

Mr Mohamed, without making direct reference to Uganda, said there have

been cases where sugar imported elsewhere has been repackaged and rebranded to look as if they were manufactured in the EAC market.

Past reports have singled out Ugandan traders as notorious for importing sugar from Brazil and reselling them to Kenya as Ugandan products. "Countries want to make

sure that you demonstrate that this is a product from East Africa and not a product from other places that are being paraded and packaged as an EAC product," Mr Mohamed said.

"The principle behind having a customs union is that no business is being disadvantaged. You don't give other people unfair advantage to actually come to get access into EAC without enjoying the same benefits."

Trade disputes The unending trade tiffs among EAC member states have slowed growth in intra-regional trade, currently estimated at about 15 percent of total volumes, despite the bloc being the most integrated in Africa.

EAC secretary-general Peter Mathuki in May blamed the unending trade disputes within the bloc on failure to enforce the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Act, 2017, and establish the EAC Committee on Trade Remedies to amicably resolve persistent rows. "The EAC Elimination of NTBs Act 2017, shall facilitate the resolution of persistent NTB and force partner States to refrain from imposing new ones," Dr Mathuki told the Business Daily in May.

"The mechanisms to report and resolve NTBs, as stipulated in the NTBs Act 2017, include compensation where the Council [of Ministers] finds that the imposing partner State caused unnecessary trade loss to the affected Partner States as shall be determined by the Committee on Trade Remedies." Removal of non-tariff trade barriers alone, the Arusha-based EAC secretariat estimated earlier in the year, will double intra-regional trade to 30 percent, rising to 50 percent in coming years.

EMPOWERMENT

Women entrepreneurs applaud TMEA, TWCC on project for capacity building

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN entrepreneurs in the country have applauded Trade Mark East Africa and Tanzania Women Traders Association for giving them knowledge and skills on how to brand, package and market their merchandise in the region and globally.

"The training which I have undergone through this project has been eye opening and knowledge building for small scale traders who have been struggling with our goods to penetrate the markets," said Susana Komba, a honey packaging trader based at Temeke Stereo in Dar es Salaam.

Komba said before joining TWCC and get access to TMEA funded training last year, it was difficult to sell her products to supermarkets in major cities of the country because of poor standards and quality of her product which had no identification.

"Packaging is an important aspect when targeting middle and high end consumers who are willing to pay more for my commodity, which therefore demands that I put the honey in quality plastic or glass bottles with all necessary information of the source," she said.

The mother of two further noted that getting in touch with regulatory officials from Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Tanzania Trade Development Authority and Tanzania Revenue Authority, among others.

"Getting in touch with these regulatory bodies has given us extra knowledge on branding, labelling and proper packaging of products so that we can compete in East Africa and beyond," said Sauda Juma, a food additives maker based in Mto wa



TradeMark East Africa country director for Tanzania, Monica Hangi (c), views products made by women entrepreneurs. It was at an exhibition organised by the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce in Dar es Salaam last week. Left is TMEA project manager Elibariki Shamy while right is TWCC executive director Mwajuma Hamza. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Mbu in Arusha.

Juma said through the project, she also managed to get exposed to what the international market has in stock in terms of competition. "Our participation at this year's Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair was an important milestone in exposing us to highly competitive and experienced entrepreneur both local and foreign," Juma said.

She explained that the DITF exposure allowed many of them also get local and foreign partners to work with and where possible to

act as each other's agents in markets where they have no access. "Someone is in Singida and wants to sell sunflower oil in Dar es Salaam where I have a shop then we agreed on terms and because an agent, others got foreign partners based in Kigali, Rwanda and Kampala in Uganda," she noted saying TWCC has enabled many local women entrepreneurs build networks with online forums where knowledge and experiences are shared.

The TMEA financed project which is implemented by TWCC,

the Women in Trade Project has so far witnessed more than 200 women traders get vital knowledge and skills to produce high quality products to compete in both the local and regional markets.

TMEA's Country Director for Tanzania, Monica Hangi said in Dar es Salaam last week during the TWCC's exhibition which was also meant to congratulate women entrepreneurs who took part in the 45th DITF, at which the women's chamber won an award.

"Congratulations to TWCC

Chairperson, Mercy Silla and TWCC Executive Director, Mwajuma Hamza for a job well done. Many of these entrepreneurs now have TBS logo, they can sell their products abroad, they have reliable markets that is a big deal for us," Hangi said.

She said TradeMark East Africa's project had the goal of helping Tanzanian women traders to do business not only locally, but cross borders by securing permanent reliable markets. "Sometimes you can find a market but you no longer have enough products to continue producing but for most their production is sustainable," she added.

Seconding his boss, TradeMark East Africa Women in Trade Project Manager, Elibariki Shamy also paid tribute to TWCC and their members for the success. "We are really happy, because we have supported TWCC, and they have proved to be very effective, especially in reaching out to rural women," Shamy said.

He said when the project started, many of the women had no TBS quality mark hence failed to reach the larger markets and compete. "For example, there are women who now export cashew nuts to Uganda; there are women who are exporting batik to Kenya. There are many women who have soap products or similar, they can sell them at supermarkets, because through this training, not only TBS, there is also a barcode issue, initially they did not have a barcode," he said.

EXPANSION

Mozambique recovers from 1.3pc contraction in 2020 and grows by 2.8pc this year

MAPUTO

Consultancy Fitch Solutions expects the Mozambican economy to accelerate to a 2.8% growth this year, well below the 5.5% average of the last decade, but recovering from last year's 1.3% contraction.

"We expect Mozambique's GDP to grow 2.8% this year, and that the government will not implement containment measures as harsh as those applied in the second quarter," reads a comment on the data released by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) in Mozambique at the end of August, which show growth of 2% in the second quarter of this year, following expansion of only 0.1% in the first three months of the year, both compared to the same period of the previous year.

The comment, sent to consultancy clients, says that, due to the slowdown in containment measures, "conditions in the labour market will continue to improve gradually, strengthening the disposable income of families and consumer confidence, which will lead to a moderate recovery in private consumption."

Public spending will also increase, the analysts add, particularly in the fight against insecurity in Cabo Delgado and in the purchase of vaccines against the Covid-19 pandemic, which will encourage economic activity. In addition to public spending, the recovery in Mozambique's main exports also supports the forecast for economic recovery this year.

"National coal production is expected to recover from a 16.9% contraction in 2020 to a 10.6% growth, with the main miners resuming operations, and aluminum prices are also expected to register a strong increase, from US\$1,731 per tonne to US\$2,300 this year, supporting a robust recovery in exports this year," the analysts point out.

On Monday of last week (August 30), the INE announced that GDP grew 1.97% in the second quarter of this year against the same period in 2020. It is the second consecutive quarter of growth, after a 0.12% rise in the first quarter of 2021, signalling a recovery from the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The performance of economic activity in the second quarter of 2021 is attributed in the first place to the tertiary sector, which grew by 2.82%, with greater emphasis on the Hotel and Restaurant sector with a variation of 4.03%," the INE wrote.

AGRI-BUSINESS

Ngoma farmers buoyed by green technology for irrigation

KIGALI

This week, Ngoma District inaugurated a Rw271 million hillside irrigation scheme to water fruits and vegetables in sectors of Zaza and Mutenderi, a green technology that uses solar energy to distribute water on 20 hectares of smallholder farmers' lands.

Targeted to benefit around 1,200 residents, the project established solar pumping systems and constructed two water reservoirs of 500m³ each to irrigate 10 hectares in the Zaza and 10 hectares in Mutenderi, using Lake Mugesera water in Zaza and source water in Mutenderi.

Currently, farmers have planted at Zaza site crops including bell peppers, French beans, watermelon, and eggplants, while in Mutenderi site, there are bell peppers, tomatoes, cabbages, carrots, onions, and eggplants.

"The only role of the lake was water for home use," declared Sophia Mukamukiza, 25-year old farmer from Nyakariba, Ruhinga Cell, Zaza. "We used to plant two seasons a year, but now we will plant anytime. This will help us grow financially. Of course there will be a big difference," she added.

Denyse Nyiramahoro, hailing from Nyagahandagaza Village, Ruhinga Cell, Zaza Sector, has planted French beans, and this is the first time she ever goes into agriculture; and she hopes things will go well for them.

"Only strong people were in



A vegetable farmer waters her garden in Kigali.

agriculture here, because irrigation was difficult, gasoline was too expensive for irrigation using pumping systems. But now, it is easy, you just connect a hose in hydrants and the crops are watered," she said. Faustin Sebahire Uwihanganye, from Ruhinga, Zaza Sector, has one hectare, where he grows bell

pepper, chili and watermelon.

He has been in agriculture for about 15 years, but he used to do it traditionally, using watering cans. He later bought pump systems thanks to the government programme Nkunganire, where one pays 50 percent of the system's price. Since the establishment of the new scheme, Uwihanganye

has already harvested bell pepper from his farm for the season C which runs throughout the dry season. "On one hectare, we had to invest Rwf600,000-700,000 on gasoline and irrigation systems. Only people with capacity could do that kind of investment, no vulnerable farmer could do it, this project came to make it all easier,"

he discussed.

To secure the sustainability of the scheme, the farmers were grouped into a cooperative, with the committee making sure the farmers pay maintenance fees at the end of the season, in order to repair damaged materials. He is the leader of Terimbera Muhinzi, the cooperative founded by 35 members, 14 of them being women.

The project was introduced to increase the capacity of farmers in terms of horticultural productivity, climate resilience, and access to markets for a better livelihood of vulnerable groups in the two sectors, implemented by Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) and funded by Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA). "The sun that previously caused drought is now changing people's lives as it is now the source of power to irrigate the crops," stated Uwizeye Belange, the Executive Secretary of RWARRI.

Jean Marie Vianney Havugimana, from FONERWA, said this is achieved in partnership with Ngoma District under the Government Programme named "Small-Scale Irrigation Technology (SSIT)" led by Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). "It came to help mitigate the effects of climate change, to transform smallholder farmers' lives," he mentioned.

RED-FLAG

Zimbabwe warns firms against using arbitrage for profiteering



Zimbabwe's central bank governor, John Mangudya.

HARARE

Zimbabwe's central bank governor John Mangudya has urged large corporates to stop "manipulating the exchange rate" by exploiting the gap between the parallel-market and official currency prices for profiteering.

The governor expressed concern that companies are snapping up more foreign currency than they are allowed to through the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's auction system, then selling it on at inflated prices.

"They are manipulating the auction system through arbitrage behaviour. Some of them are coming to the auction with more than 50 surrogate entities and we have picked that up," Mangudya said in an interview Monday. "They come to the auction and they are allocated the foreign currency at Z\$86 but they offload it at Z\$140 on the parallel rate."

Under the auction rules, primary producers are allowed to bid for as much as \$500,000 during the weekly auction while secondary

producers can bid for a maximum of \$100,000. Mangudya said the entities are also pricing their goods and services using the parallel rates, despite having accessed the dollars at the auction system. "At the end of the day, it's the consumer who will be forced to pay more and that is simply not fair," he said.

Zimbabwe's central bank last year abandoned a currency peg and set up a weekly auction to ease a severe U.S. dollar crunch that forced companies to turn to the parallel market for foreign currency. Since

then, officials have regularly raised concern over the abuse of the auction system.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has previously issued warnings to private companies he blames for undermining his efforts to turn around an economy plagued by annual inflation of 50% and foreign-currency shortages. In May, he published penalties for companies and individuals for currency manipulation that include fines of Z\$1million (\$11,620) as well as a "total ban" from the auction.

BULLISH

Aluminium jumps again as Guinea coup adds to supply worries

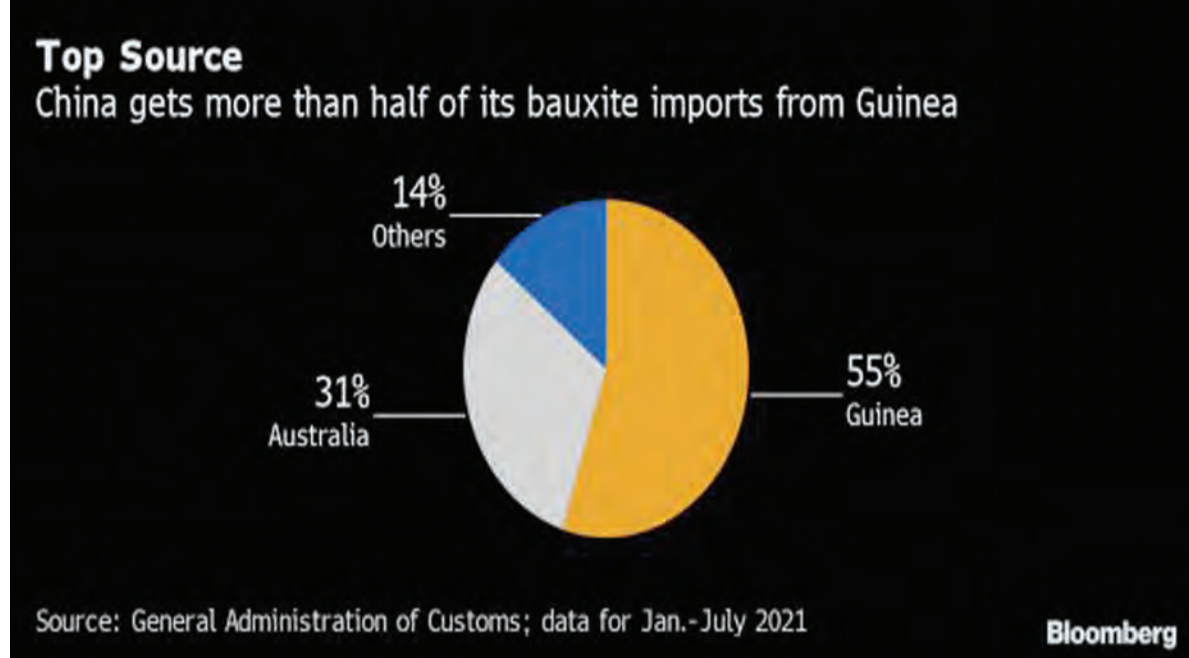
LONDON
Aluminium climbed to the highest in more than a decade after a coup in Guinea fuelled concerns over raw material supplies, at a time when global output is already constrained and demand is booming.

Aluminum prices gained in London and Shanghai and producers' shares surged – industry leader Aluminum Corp. of China, or Chalco, jumped as much as 10%, while United Rusal traded 15% higher. Guinea is a major supplier of bauxite, the feedstock needed to make aluminum, and accounts for more than half of the imports by China.

A unit of the military seized power Sunday and suspended the

constitution, with head of special forces, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya, urging the army to back him. While the unrest raises the possibility of disruption, so far there's no sign that shipments or mines have been affected. Chalco, which has a bauxite project in Guinea, said all of its operations are normal and it has ample bauxite inventories at its plants in China.

Aluminum, which is used in everything from car parts to drinks cans and home appliances, had already climbed about 38% this year in London before the coup, as consumer demand and economic activity rebound. At the same time, smelters in China have struggled to maintain output during a seasonal power crunch and as Beijing seeks to



Pie chart showing Guinea's share of the global bauxite market.

rein in the country's carbon emissions.

While Rusal founder Oleg Deripaska warned that the market "can be

seriously shaken" by the situation, traders were still waiting on Monday for further clues about potential supply cuts.

The bauxite market has been in surplus for years, and any disruption would need to be severe to alter that dynamic, according

to Michael Widmer, head of metals research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "I'm bullish aluminum, but for different reasons,"

Widmer said by phone from London. "That said, if you do have issues in a country that supplies 20% of bauxite to the global market, then clearly that will be a problem."

Prices on the London Metal Exchange rose as much as 1.8% to \$2 775.50 a ton, the highest since May 2011, and traded at \$2 756.50 as of 10:34 a.m. In China, futures jumped as much as 3.4% to the highest since 2006, before paring gains to 2.2%. Other industrial metals were mixed on the LME, with copper little changed and nickel down 1.8%.

"Investors are quite concerned given China buys a big chunk of bauxite from Guinea," though there haven't been reports of disruptions yet and the extent of any impact will depend on how the situation

evolves, said Xiong Hui, chief aluminum analyst with Beijing Antaika Information Development Co. Investors are also looking at ongoing production cuts in China's Guangxi province, which is further tightening the market, Hui said.

The energy-intensive aluminium industry has come under increased scrutiny as part of Beijing's pollution crackdown. China produces around 60% of the world's total, with concerns around output prompting some of its largest smelters to pledge to ensure supply, and metal to be released from state reserves to ease tightness. The country has become increasingly reliant on imports, a rare development that's drained global supplies of the usually abundant metal.

COMPETITIVE

Xiaomi surpasses Apple to become world's biggest smartwatch maker

NEW YORK

Apple will announce the new Apple Watch Series 7 later this month but ahead of its launch, Xiaomi has already surpassed the company as the top smartwatch maker. The Apple Watch Series 7 will contribute a lot to the growth of the wearable given it is coming with a brand new design. As for now, Xiaomi is the lead smartwatch maker in the second quarter of this fiscal year.

According to a new market intelligence report from Canalys, Apple's 7.9 million smartwatch sales fell short of Xiaomi's 8 million sales in the second quarter, allowing the latter to become the top smartwatch maker. Xiaomi also beat Huawei and Fitbit's numbers, while Samsung scored the last spot in the number of sales.

"We have to take into account that Xiaomi launched a new smartwatch this quarter while Apple users are holding their purchases for the Apple Watch Series 7 launch. Henceforth, the Apple Watch Series 7 could give a solid boost to the number of sales when it is here later this month. Xiaomi's Mi Band 6, on the other

hand, stood as a ladder for the sales to climb," Canalys said in the report.

Xiaomi's performance was bolstered by the launch of the Mi Smart Band 6, despite India, one of Xiaomi's strongholds, not on the initial global launch list. "Xiaomi made a wise move to hasten the release of the Mi Band 6, which is a more compelling device than its predecessor," said Canalys Research Analyst Cynthia Chen. "Xiaomi's quick pivot to basic watches also helped the company boost its wristwatch shipments by 1.3 million units this quarter."

In addition, Xiaomi leads the way with its smart bands which are functional but not as much as sophisticated smartwatches like the Apple Watch. When separated from bands, the Apple Watch scored a whopping 31.1 percent market share with Huawei coming at 9 percent and Xiaomi at 5.7 percent.

Apple offers a variety of health-related features and it continues to add more with every release. The Apple Watch Series 7 is expected to arrive with a blood pressure sensor but is still early to speculate as the final word rests with the company.



Xiaomi's Mi Smart Band 6 smartwatch



ITV	THURSDAY 22 April	SATURDAY 24 April	SUNDAY 25 April
SUNDAY 18 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Movie rpt: Nzowa 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mizengwe 21:35 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: Laana 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	WEDNESDAY 21 April 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 Isidingo 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 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari	FRIDAY 23 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 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 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 17:30 Kisilam 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto	SUNDAY 25 April 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Movie rpt: Laana 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:15 Mizengwe 21:35 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: Who's Back 00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

WORLD

Guinea coup leader promises national govt as politicians held

CONAKRY

THE leaders of a military coup in Guinea promised on Monday to set up a transitional government of national unity after ousting President Alpha Conde and dissolving his cabinet.

Sunday's coup, in which Conde and other top politicians were detained or barred from travelling, is the third since April in West and Central Africa, raising concerns about a slide back to military rule in a region that had made strides towards multi-party democracy since the 1990s.

The takeover was widely condemned by international powers, placing pressure on the new military leaders to offer a plan beyond the toppling of the old order, and to

reassure investors that Guinea's significant ore exports would not be cut.

"A consultation will be carried out to define the major framework of the transition, then a government of national unity will be put in place to lead the transition," coup leader Mamady Doumbouya, a former French legionnaire officer, told a meeting of Conde's ministers and senior government officials.

"At the end of this transitional phase, we'll set the tone for a new era for governance and economic development," he said, flanked by armed soldiers in red berets.

Doumbouya did not say what the transition would entail or give a date for a return to democratic elections.



Coup leader Mamady Doumbouya

His seizure of power was buoyed by widespread disaffection with Conde, 83, who promised stable democracy but once in power violently silenced opponents, failed to reduce poverty and last year decided to run for a third term in power - a move many said was illegal.

The coup was welcomed by many, but spooked the mining sector. Guinea holds the world's largest bauxite reserves, an ore used to produce aluminium. Prices of the metal shot to a 10-year high on Monday, though there was no sign of supply disruptions.

In an effort to quell fears, Doumbouya said sea borders would stay open so mining products could be exported. A nightly curfew now in place does not apply to the mining sector, he said.

"I can assure business and economic partners that activities will continue

normally in the country. We are asking mining companies to continue their activities," he said.

Light traffic resumed, and some shops reopened around the main administrative district of Kaloum in Conakry that witnessed heavy gunfire throughout Sunday as the special forces battled soldiers loyal to Conde. A military spokesman said on television that land and air borders had also been reopened.

Still, a crackdown was evident. Doumbouya prohibited government officials from leaving the country and ordered them to hand over their official vehicles.

The politicians who attended Monday's meeting were later escorted by soldiers in red berets through a jeering crowd to the army unit's Conakry headquarters.

Two diplomatic sources said Prime Minister Ibrahim Kassory Fofana, Presidential Affairs Minister Mohamed Diané and National Assembly Speaker Amadou Damaro Camara had been arrested.

Amnesty International, in a statement on Monday, called on the coup leaders to clarify the legal basis for Conde's detention, and to free those Conde had arbitrarily detained in the months surrounding last year's election.

Regional experts say however that unlike in landlocked Mali where neighbors and partners were able to pressure a junta there after a coup in August 2020, leverage on the military in Guinea could be limited because it is not landlocked and also because it is not a member of the West African currency union.

Agencies

Seventy countries are using Sputnik V vaccine, Russian embassy reminds French diplomat

PARIS

SEVENTY countries are currently using Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, the Russian Embassy in Paris said on Twitter in response to a tweet by French Secretary of State for European Affairs Clement Beaune.

Earlier, Beaune once again questioned whether it would be reasonable for the EU to purchase Sputnik V, in particular stating that Slovakia had not received all the vaccine doses it had ordered.

"Everyone makes a choice. Seventy countries with a total population of four billion have already approved Russia's Sputnik V vaccine and started to use it on a wide scale," the Russian embassy pointed out.

Russian diplomats also cited French expert Marie-Paule Kieny, who said that Sputnik V was undoubtedly an effective vaccine.

Slovakia's Ministry of Health announced earlier that the country would stop using the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine that it had begun to use on June 7.

The registration of those wishing to be vaccinated was completed on June 30. More than 15,000 residents of the country expressed their wish to get the jab.

Slovakia received 200,000 doses of the vaccine from Russia but decided to use only 40,000. About six weeks ago, the Slovakian Ministry of Health reported that Russia had repurchased 160,000 doses of the vaccine at the same price for which it was sold - \$9.95 per dose.

Agencies

Japan minister Kono may gain rival camp's support in PM race

TOKYO

JAPANESE COVID-19 vaccine minister Taro Kono's chances of becoming the next leader of the ruling party, and subsequently prime minister, were boosted yesterday when a rival's party faction splintered.



Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will hold a leadership election on Sept 29, after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga announced last Friday he was stepping down. The winner of the vote is all but assured to be Japan's next prime minister.

So far only former foreign minister Fumio Kishida has announced his candidacy, but Kono and former internal minister Sanae Takaichi have expressed an ambition to run for the post in recent weeks.

Kono (pictured) is considering holding a news conference by the end of the week to announce his candidacy, domestic media said.

Following a meeting of former Japanese defense minister Shigeru Ishiba's LDP party faction on Tuesday, lawmaker Mamoru Fukuyama told reporters members were divided about whether to support Ishiba in a leadership vote or back Kono who is from another faction.

Ishiba said last week he was ready to serve as prime minister if the conditions are right. At the faction meeting, he did not say he would not run in the election, Fukuyama said.

Kono and Ishiba regularly come in high in the lists of lawmakers that voters favour as prime minister.

Grass-roots LDP members will vote in the leadership election along with the party's members of parliament, and whoever wins will lead the party to the lower house election that must be held by Nov 28, making public appeal an important factor in choosing the new leader.

Massive stimulus

On the economic policy front, Kishida has called for a package of more than 30 trillion yen (US\$273 billion) that will be funded by issuing bonds to cushion the blow from the coronavirus pandemic, a magazine reported.

"We must support the economy with large-scale monetary easing and fiscal stimulus to protect people's lives from the pandemic," he was quoted as saying in an interview by Diamond magazine.

Tokyo's Nikkei share average rallied as much as 1.3 percent, moving past the psychological barrier of 30,000 at one point for the first time since April, on hopes the LDP will compile additional economic stimulus.

Finance Minister Taro Aso, however, signalled a cautious stance on Kishida's call for big stimulus.

"It would not be easy to agree on such talk without taking the actual situation into account. There's no way to comment without knowing on what the 30 trillion yen would be spent on," Aso told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

He questioned how the spending would be used given public works worth 20 trillion yen remained unspent and Japanese firms hoarded a record internal reserves and private sector holds massive financial assets.

Sanae Takaichi, who is also expressing interest in running and has the backing of former prime minister Shinzo Abe, has called for freezing a target for balancing the budget until the BOJ's 2 percent inflation target is met.

Agencies

Sinopharm gets nod to test drug for COVID-19

BEIJING

CHINESE drugmaker Sinopharm has gained approval to launch clinical trials of a COVID-19 drug based on human immunoglobulin derived from vaccinated people, the company said recently.

The drug is the world's first COVID-19 therapy that uses plasma containing rich amounts of antibodies to fight off the novel coronavirus, and it adds to the company's expanding portfolio of medical products targeting the disease, including four vaccines that have already been rolled out or are being researched.

The experimental medication is being developed by Beijing Tiantan Biological Products, administered by China National Biotech Group, a Sinopharm subsidiary. It obtained

clinical trial approval from the National Medical Products Administration on Aug 30.

Zhu Jingjin, a senior official of China National Biotech Group, said the experimental medication uses plasma from healthy people who are fully immunized with inactivated vaccines, and contains high levels of neutralizing antibodies.

"The drug can have therapeutic effects on people with moderate or severe illnesses," he told China Central Television during an exhibition in Beijing on Saturday.

Zhu added that the drug has completed preclinical studies and animals tests, and has demonstrated marked efficacy in relieving the symptoms and damage caused by the virus in animal tests.

The new drug is based on



Visitors look at giant replica bottles of COVID-19 vaccine produced by Sinopharm subsidiary CNBG using mRNA technologies at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing, China on Sunday. AP

a promising treatment used during the COVID-19 epidemic, according to the company. At the height of the domestic outbreak early last year, China began infusing patients with convalescent plasma of people who had recovered from the disease.

The National Health Commission said in February last year that the therapy had yielded positive outcomes in safety and efficacy, and it

was officially added to a national diagnosis and treatment guideline the same month. As the virus has been brought under control in China, leading to a sharp drop in patients able to donate the convalescent blood needed to make the medication, increasing numbers of fully vaccinated people in the country have helped guarantee supplies of raw materials, according to Chen Kun, another senior official at China National Biotech Group.

In an interview with Global Times, Chen said the drug has been given to patients during recent sporadic local outbreaks and has also shown efficacy against emerging variants. However, he also noted that when and whether the drug can be approved for market use remains uncertain.

Xinhua

US poorer, more militarised, more polarised 20 years after 9/11 attacks, say scholars

CHICAGO

"TWENTY years after the September 11 attacks, America is poorer, more militarized and more polarized," said Juan Cole, a professor of history at the University of Michigan (UM) who studies the ongoing political change in the Middle East.

Instead of a lean, targeted counterterrorism policy, the United States launched big, messy wars, Cole said.

"The unnecessary wars and long-term military occupations for which Washington elites made September 11 a pretext cost trillions ... running up the national debt to alarming levels," he said.

Tens of thousands of veterans suffer from war injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder and

suffer high suicide rates. Police departments that received excess war material became distant from their own communities and often seemed like occupation forces themselves.

"The wars and occupations manifestly failed, diminishing U.S. standing in the world," Cole stressed.

Adam Horwitz, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the UM, holds that Sept. 11 is unique in that it has an impact and holds meaning for all Americans. "In many ways, it is more of a 'memorial day' than the actual Memorial Day in the United States."

"Sept. 11 is an opportunity for a more somber reflection of those we lost on that day, as well as the veterans and their families who experienced losses in

the subsequent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq," Horwitz said.

"The tragedy" of Sept. 11 "resuscitated a politics of fear that was directed against Arab and Muslim immigrants in the same way that the politics of fear was turned against Italian immigrants in the early 20th century, German immigrants in World War I and Japanese immigrants in World War II," said Ann Lin, associate professor of public policy at UM's Ford School of Public Policy.

"But the evidence of history, and of the past 20 years, shows that immigrants fight for the U.S. in wars, create the technology that keeps America safe and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of other societies and nations," the professor said.

Yasmin Moll, an associate professor of anthropology from the UM, echoed Lin's words. "The narrative of a clear-cut 'us' versus a clear-cut 'them' was easy to adopt in the aftermath of September 11."

Moll said the narrative depicts Arabs and Muslims as fundamentally terrifying. "These media representations left room neither for the ordinary experiences of individual Arabs or Muslims nor for the collective trauma of Arabs and Muslims as themselves victims of political violence and terrorism, whether here in the United States or abroad."

Javed Ali, an associate professor of practice at UM's Ford School of Public Policy, holds that 20 years after Sept. 11, the

United States is at an inflection point with respect to its posture against terrorism, with a shift more towards combating domestic terrorism as against international terrorism.

Unlike the immediate years following Sept. 11 and through the campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria in the mid-2010s, counterterrorism is no longer the dominant national security issue that draws an outsized level of policymaker and public attention, as well as money, resources and personnel, Ali said.

Despite a smaller focus on counterterrorism in the years ahead, "terrorism will continue to present challenges both domestically and abroad," he said.

HIGH-LEVEL officials of the U.S. government believe that continuing to hype the "origins-tracing investigations" can exhaust China's diplomatic resources, increase U.S. leverage toward China and hedge against China's influence, according to informed sources.

Washington does nothing better than slandering and discrediting other countries.

From calling a small tube of white washing powder evidence of weapons of mass destruction to make an excuse for starting the war on Iraq to fabricating the story of Iraqi soldiers bursting into a Kuwaiti hospital, dumping premature infants in incubators onto the ground and leaving them to die on cold floor to incite

US attempt to contain China bound to end up in vain

anger among the public against Iraq before waging the Gulf War, the U.S. has never hesitated to cook up lies for its political needs.

By ordering the intelligence community to investigate into the origins of COVID-19, the White House attempts to play the same old trick to contain China, with the once-in-a-century pandemic as a tool.

As a U.S. expert put it bluntly, the U.S. has been trying to restrain China in various ways as it worries that China will surpass it and become a major force in the world.

However clever their political calculation is, U.S. politicians have underestimated the judgment of the

international community.

Over the last few days, many international personages have spoken out from a sense of justice against Washington's evil intention of politicizing the pandemic and scapegoating China for its incompetence to control the virus, pointing out sharply that the U.S. is using the global tragedy to achieve its political goals and that its attempt to blame China for the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is irresponsible and unacceptable.

In the face of the pandemic unprecedented in the past century, China has shown a strong sense of responsibility and courage.

From bringing the pandemic under control in a short time to supporting other countries in fighting the virus, promoting global anti-epidemic cooperation and advancing science-based COVID-19 origin tracing,

China has been playing the role of a responsible major country all along. No lies or slanders will be able to wipe out the country's contribution to the global fight against the pandemic.

In a world that is confronted with mounting global challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, a sound and stable China-U.S. relationship not only conforms to the interests

of both countries, but meets the expectations of the international community.

In fact, since the beginning of the new century, China and the U.S. have carried out effective cooperation on major issues such as handling the 2008 global financial crisis, fighting against Ebola outbreak, and enhancing global climate governance.

However, in recent years, the U.S. has constantly challenged China's bottom line and escalated suppression of China to undermine the country's core interests, inflicting serious difficulties and challenges upon their bilateral relations.

The root cause of these problems

is U.S. politicians' misunderstandings about China. They have wrongly regarded China as the biggest rival to the U.S. and tried every means to obstruct and disrupt China's course of modernization.

It is driven by this wrong mindset that U.S. politicians have ridiculously considered the complex international situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic a great opportunity to contain China.

America's problem is that it still lives in another world - a world that is neither the present nor the future, pointed out an international media outlet, commenting on the wrong mindset the U.S. has shown in handling its current relations with China.

People's Daily

Russian-US dialogue on diplomatic staff yielding no progress – Lavrov

ST. PETERSBURG

THE dialogue between Moscow and Washington on issues of diplomatic personnel is yielding no progress, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

“We do maintain bilateral dialogue concerning diplomatic staff, but it is moving nowhere, running around in circles ultimately,” he said.

“We asked them [Americans] to equally apportion the number of their staff here with the number of our diplomats in the United States and not to hire hundreds of Russian nationals who, as a matter of fact, are doing diplomatic work. Now we have parity,” the minister recalled.

“They said they don’t have enough staff so they are forced to close their consulates general and actually freeze visa issuance activities. These are attempts at applying unseemly pressure, attempts at bargaining for a unilateral advantage,”

Lavrov noted.

He stressed that Russia has no objections against reopening the US consulate general in St. Petersburg but will not be begging Washington to do it.

“We never asked them to close the consulate general as they did. It was their initiative. I don’t know what the reasons behind that were,” he said. “It’s up to them to decide. We will not be begging them to resume the operation of the consulate general here. We never prohibited the work of this diplomatic mission.”

At the end of US President Barack Obama’s second term in December 2016, the United States arrested two Russian diplomatic facilities - countryside houses in the states of New York and Maryland.

On August 31, 2017, already under President Donald Trump, the US Department of State demanded Russia close its consulate general in San Francisco and two trade missions - in Washington and New York.

Agencies

Climate-smart practices helping Kenyan farmers amid reduced rains

NAIROBI

THE rains have become scarcer in Kenya, with farmers having to deal with extended dry periods that have affected crop production especially for those who do not use irrigation. For a number of farmers in the country, this has caused despondency but for others, adoption of climate-smart practices has come in handy.

One of climate-smart practices that is increasingly being adopted by smallholder farmers in Kenya is the use of organic fertilizer obtained from animals and plants.

The other one is growing crops in shallow pits filled with plant waste that retains moisture. The two technologies are helping smallholder farmers in both urban and rural areas to grow food in gardens amid dry spells.

“I grow my vegetables using chicken manure which I source from the neighborhood. I have applied it on my entire farm and despite the failure of rains, I don’t lack vegetables,” Moses Kimutai, a farmer in Kitengela, south of Nairobi, said recently.

Kimutai noted that he adopted animal manure following advice from agriculturalists, who informed him that when applied to the soil, manure helps retain moisture besides making it fertile.

“This also minimizes water usage as the soil remains moist. Thus, even without rains, crops thrive,” he said. He mulches his crops that include traditional vegetables, using grass, which further helps him minimize irrigation water.

“I don’t have drip irrigation but I water my kitchen garden using a can. I do it once a week but my crops are still thriving,” he said. Use of mulch, according to Beatrice Macharia of Growth Point, an agro-consultancy in Kajado, south of Nairobi, is one of climate-smart organic practices, which minimizes water usage particularly at

this time when the rains have become erratic.

“We encourage farmers to mulch their crops especially at this time when one is not assured of the rains. Besides, the organic practice helps cut irrigation water expenses,” she said.

Margaret Gacheru, who farms tomatoes in Kiambu, on the outskirts of Nairobi, uses slurry from her biogas unit as top dressing organic fertilizer for her crops to thrive. With regular failure of the rains, farmers in nearly all parts of the country are also adopting shallow pits to grow food.

The technology that has been widely used in semi-arid areas where rains are scarce is now gathering steam across the country as rains become erratic.

To start, farmers dig a shallow pit measuring 60 cm length by 60 cm width and 30 cm depth. The pit is then filled halfway with plant materials that include dry leaves, maize or rice waste.

Animal manure is then added and mixed with top soil thoroughly. The pit is then left for sometime for the plant material to decompose.

“In arid areas, one can wait for the rains to fall and then plant crops or they can irrigate them and then plant. With this technology, one does not need rains for many months,” said Macharia.

“It rains rarely in Makueni where we farm but we are among the top producers of mangoes and oranges because we use these pits,” said Herman Mulei, a farmer.

He noted that farmers are coming from other parts of the country to learn about the technology from them to beat the effects of climate change.

Kenya, like other countries in Eastern Africa, is set to experience drought between October and December, a time when the region experiences rains, according to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction Center.

Xinhua



El Salvador leads world in adopting bitcoin as legal currency

SAN SALVADOR

EL SALVADOR on Tuesday became the first country in the world to adopt bitcoin as legal tender, a real-world experiment proponents say will lower commission costs for billions of dollars sent home from abroad but which critics warned may fuel money laundering.

The change means businesses should accept payment in bitcoin alongside the US dollar, which has been El Salvador’s official currency since 2001 and will remain legal tender.

President Nayib Bukele, who has pushed for adopting the cryptocurrency, says it will help Salvadorans save about US\$400 million the government calculates is spent annually on commissions for remittances.

Last year alone remittances to El Salvador amounted to almost US\$6 billion, or 23 percent of its gross domestic product, one of the highest ratios in the world.

Doubters say bitcoin could increase regulatory and financial risks for the Central American nation, and polls show Salvadorans are wary of the volatility of the cryptocurrency, which can shed hundreds of dollars in value in a day.

To warm up a skeptical public, Bukele has promised every citizen US\$30 in bitcoin if they sign up for a government digital wallet.

Ahead of the launch, El Salvador bought 400 bitcoins, Bukele said, helping drive the currency price above US\$52,000 for the first time since May.

Some citizens are optimistic. “It’s going to be beneficial ... we have family in the United States and they can send money at no cost, whereas banks charge,” said Reina Isabel Aguilar, a store owner in El Zonte Beach, some 49 km southwest of capital San Salvador.

Known as Bitcoin Beach, the town of El Zonte aims to become one of the world’s first bitcoin economies.



A poster inside a barber shop shows customers can enjoy discounts if they pay with bitcoin, in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, on Saturday. AP

In the run-up to the launch, the government has installed ATMs that will allow bitcoin to be converted into dollars and withdrawn without commission from the digital wallet, called Chivo.

Bukele on Monday looked to temper expectations for quick results and asked for patience.

“Like all innovations, El Salvador’s bitcoin process has a learning curve. Every road to the future is like this and not everything will be achieved in a day, or in a month,” he said on Twitter.

The cryptocurrency has been notoriously volatile, rising to more than US\$64,000 in April and falling almost as low as US\$30,000 in May this year.

The move to make bitcoin legal tender alongside the US dollar has mud-

died the outlook for El Salvador’s quest for more than US\$1 billion in financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Analysts fear adopting the cryptocurrency could fuel money laundering in a country with serious problems of government corruption and organized crime.

After Bukele’s bitcoin law was approved, rating agency Moody’s downgraded El Salvador’s creditworthiness, while the country’s dollar-denominated bonds have also come under pressure.

But Bukele, who does not

shy away from controversy, on Monday retweeted a video that showed face superimposed on actor Jaime Foxx in a scene from Django Unchained, Quentin Tarantino’s film about American slavery. The video portrayed Bukele whipping a slave trader who had the IMF emblem emblazoned on his face.

Bukele later deleted the tweet.

His own tweet reads: “we must break the paradigms of the past. El Salvador has the right to advance towards the first world.”

Agencies

Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area holds first shopping festival

CHINA’S Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area kicked off its first online shopping festival on Sept. 2.

As the largest online activity joined by the highest number of merchants in the area, the shopping festival brings over 13 million products from 298,000 renowned brands in some 100 industries, such as food, cosmetics, digital equipment, home appliances, personal care, furniture, and home decor, and clothing.

The shopping festival fell on Sept. 2 as the date symbolizes “9+2”, the nine cities and two special administrative regions (SARs) that form the Greater Bay Area.

It promoted 92 quality products manufactured by the nine cities and two SARs, including food, dietary supplements, fashion items from Hong Kong and Macao, and time-honored and novel products produced by the nine cities in the Pearl River Delta.

The Greater Bay Area is one of the most open and economically dynamic regions in China. The shopping festival demonstrates the characters of the local brands in the Greater Bay Area, as well as their innovation and vitality. It is conducive to the integration of the area and will drive consumption upgrade.

Multiple renowned brands from Macao participated in the shopping festival. Tai Kin Ip, director of the SAR’s Economic and Technological Development Bureau, said



The first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Shopping Festival opens on Thursday. [Photo/People.cn]

he hopes the online activity can encourage Macao’s enterprises to embrace new retailing models, expand sales, improve brand influence, and contribute to the economic development and cultural exchanges in the Greater Bay Area.

In recent years, livestream marketing has significantly brought consumers from the Chinese mainland closer to Hong Kong and Macao products. The economical commodities from the Chinese mainland are also enriching the choices of the consumers in the two SARs and changing how they perceive the industrial development of the Chinese mainland.

Washing machines, vacuum

robots, kitchen appliances, and a series of products favored by Hong Kong and Macao consumers such as cosmetics and digital products, will be offered at favorable prices during the shopping festival, and 6 million commodities will be sold to the two SARs agent-free. With next-day delivery guarantees for over 80 percent of the commodities, the parcels shipped from the Chinese mainland will arrive in Hong Kong and Macao on the second day of shipment.

Initiated by the Ministry of Commerce and organized by Alibaba, the shopping festival will last three weeks to Sept. 22.

Xing Yue, vice president of Alibaba, introduced that the

average daily orders placed by consumers in the Greater Bay Area are as much as 30 million, or 350 each second. As a carnival spurring new consumption and supply, the shopping festival also provides an opportunity for the digital economy to drive the upgrade of merchants and industries in the Greater Bay Area.

Besides, information on The Full Moon Rises in the Great Bay concert, a grand gala celebrating the annual Mid-Autumn Festival, was released at the launching ceremony of the shopping festival. The concert, to be held on Sept. 21 in Shenzhen, Guangdong province, will interact with the shopping festival.

People’s Daily

LONDON/DUBLIN

Britain plans to further extend post-Brexit grace periods on some goods imports to Northern Ireland, Brexit minister David Frost said on Monday, in a move designed to give London and Brussels more time for talks about trade with the province.

The fate of British-ruled Northern Ireland was the most contentious issue in Britain’s negotiations over its exit from the European Union, which was completed on Dec 31, and it has continued to cause friction.

To avoid imposing a hard border on the island of Ireland, Britain agreed to leave some EU rules in place in its

UK to extend Northern Ireland’s Brexit grace periods

province of Northern Ireland and accept checks on goods arriving there from elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

London has since said the arrangement is not working and wants it changed, while the EU rejects renegotiating the treaty.

“To provide space for potential further discussions (with the EU), and to give certainty and stability to businesses while any such discussions proceed, the government will continue to operate the protocol on the current basis,” Frost said in a written ministerial statement.

“This includes the grace periods and easements currently in force,” he said.

The European Union took note of Britain’s plans, but said it was not pursuing further legal steps against London.

“At present, the Commission is not moving to the next stage of the infringement procedure launched in March 2021, and is not opening any new infringements for now,” the bloc’s executive said in a statement.

Officials in London and Brussels have been trying to prevent the dispute from escalating into a full-blown trade

war.

The European Commission agreed in July to freeze legal action against Britain for making changes to the protocol that Brussels says breach the Brexit treaty.

London has now indicated it would prolong grace periods, suspending new checks on cross-channel trade due to kick in within weeks.

Ireland is a key player in post-Brexit trade talks and Irish deputy prime minister Leo Varadkar, speaking after a meeting with British Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove, said he expected the

British move to lead towards attempts to reach a more permanent solution.

“The expectation is that the United Kingdom will announce a further extension of the grace periods, not just in relation to Northern Ireland but also imports from the EU and Ireland into the UK,” Varadkar said in an interview with Irish state broadcaster RTE.

“It is important that we use the period of any extension that may occur really to get down to business and to try to put in place more permanent ... arrangements to make

sure that the protocol is made more workable,” Varadkar told RTE.

But Varadkar warned that any more permanent solution secured between London and Brussels would have to be within the confines of the existing agreement.

Varadkar said Gove had told him that Britain “doesn’t want to walk away from the protocol but does want to make it more workable”.

Irish Prime Minister Michael Martin said last month he believed the issues could be resolved with the right political will.

At present, the Commission is not moving to the next stage of the infringement procedure launched in March 2021, and is not opening any new infringements for now

The Guardian

SPORT

CEO GOLF DAY 2021



Exim Bank Tanzania's Zanzibar Branch Manager, Mwinyimkuu Ngalima (L), hands an award to a golfer, Jacques Els, who ended third in the men's category of the 2021 CEO golf competition held in the Isles early this week. The institution was one of the showdown's sponsors. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Coach Suleiman happy with Namungo FC new signings

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

NAMUNGO FC head coach, Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco', has congratulated the team's leadership for making meaningful signings for the 2021/22 season.

'Morocco' made it clear that the Lindi-based outfit has nothing to lose next season and sees the squad make its way back to CAF showpieces.

Namungo FC has signed 13 experienced Mainland Premier League players from various local teams to see them return to their place internationally after last season's participation in Confederation Cup.

'Morocco' said the registration made by his outfit followed his recommendation so he would not have any challenges in choosing who should start with and the depth of the squad eliminates minor challenges.

The tactician pointed out: "We haven't roped in many players, those

are my preferences and about the number of strikers brought in while I still have others, I have my goals, and this season the best scorer must come from the team I coach."

'Morocco' stated: "I know each of the players' potential. There is no new player for me. All those I have signed I have witnessed them play for the teams I met in the league so I believe they will not let me down. We so far need to prove our worth."

The coach said he expects more competition due to the signings made by the top-flight outfits, adding outfits roped in players depending on the availability of cash for the exercise.

"The registration did not only focus on strikers, looking from the midfield, defense, and forward line, I have found a good replacement, I, therefore, do not expect to rely on one player... there are more than two players in every position," he said.

Haji Manara apologizes to Yanga members, followers

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's new spokesman, Haji Manara, yesterday issued an apology to the outfit's members and followers for provocation he subjected the latter into during the former's presence at age-old rivals, Simba SC.

Manara disclosed once he visited his side's offices in Dar es Salaam that he has apologized for the provocation.

He was received by Yanga's elders before entering the outfit's offices located at Jangwani and Twiga streets' junction.

Manara was showered with water as a sign of cleansing as he was entering Yanga's building.

"I have returned to the club that raised me and is part of my life. My parents, despite playing and working here, raised me here."

The official's father, Sunday Manara, and the latter's brother, Kitwana Manara, were successful players at the club in the 1970s and 1980s.

The official stated: "My elders if I had committed mistakes, I politely apologize. I just had to do so... it was an opportunity to come and work for the historic champions."

Manara has joined Yanga from age-old rivals, Simba SC, an outfit he served

as a fan and spokesman for a long time and with plenty of success.

He expressed regards to Yanga's fans, members, and leaders for the way they received him in various places including on social media.

Manara pointed out: "This is difficult, a person is welcomed by people he was required to welcome, traditionally, the elders are welcomed by the young but today I have been welcomed by my elders."

"I also owe this to Yanga members and fans across the country, for the way I have begun working and for the reception on the peak of 'Wananchi Day', and on social media, I owe a lot to them and I ought to work hard and professionally," he said.

The outspoken official disclosed: "Yanga is my home because I was born in the same area, including playing inside the building, in the players' rooms, in the sense that I'm back home where I grew up."

Earlier, Yanga's Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mbatha, welcomed Manara at Yanga saying the officials will work with the newly appointed spokesman with great success.

Mbatha and Manara used to work together at Simba in the position they have taken at Yanga.

Mainland Premier League braced for thrilling battle for top honour

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NUMBERS do not lie at all! Football followers should check out the new Simba SC squad, then check out the newly signed players in the club's forward line and they will know Msimbazi Street side has this season set out to scale great heights.

One might probably not understand a thing. Simba SC and Yanga have made good registration, seeking to strengthen their respective attacking forces.

Both squads have roped in good players, replacing some of their key footballers that have been sold to prominent clubs in the continent.

Simba, which finished the season as Mainland Premier League champions for the fourth consecutive season with a total of 78 goals, has lost just two stars, Luis Miquissone and Clatous Chama.

Chama has moved to Morocco's RS Berkane, Miquissone was roped in by Egypt's Al Ahly.

Miquissone scored nine goals for Simba, Chama went to Morocco with eight goals he notched for Simba.

The two midfielders worked together to score a total of 17 goals, meaning Simba released consistent footballers.

However, Simba has signed five strikers, all of whom notched 32 goals in their respective clubs, almost double the number of goals lost because of the departure of Miquissone and Chama.

Simba signed Mbeya City FC's goal-getter Kibu Denis, who is yet to be announced by his new side, finishing last season with seven goals for the Mbeya outfit.

Pape Ousmane Sakho (Teungueth Rufisque), scoring eight goals, and Yusuph Mhulu (Kagera Sugar) scoring nine goals, Peter Banda (Sheriff Tiraspol) scor-

ing six goals and Jimson Mwanuke from Gwambina FC who finished last season with four goals and his former team getting relegated, are as well new footballers that have joined Simba.

With Simba assembling footballers with a total of 32 goals they notched for their former outfits there is certainly competition in the side.

The side also has five remaining goal poachers including John Bocco, Chris Mugalu, Meddie Kagere, Hassan Dilunga that have all scored a total of 46 goals.

Captain Bocco was the top scorer last season with 16 goals, Mugalu finished second with 15 goals, while Kagere scored 13, Dilunga and Ajibu notched two apiece.

With Simba bringing in the right replacements for Miquissone and Chama and recruiting equally competent new performers, their age-old rivals, Yanga, may have to wait a long time to wrestle the top-flight dominance from Simba.

Simba could be seen as having already scored enough goals even before the season begins.

In terms of Yanga's record, the club released five players who notched 14 goals all season, equivalent to a third of their 52 goals throughout the season.

The players left by Yanga are Michael Sarpang who scored four, Tuisila Kisinda (five), Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos' (three), Waziri Junior, and Haruna Nyonzima each scored one goal apiece.

Yanga has signed four strikers who all scored 22 goals in their former clubs, namely Jesus Moloko and Fiston Mayele from DR Congo's AS Vita, Heritier Makambo from AC Horoya of Guinea, and Dickson Ambundo from Dodoma City FC.

Records show Mayele, who finished the season with AS Vita, scored 13



Yanga's forwards, Yacouba Songne (L), and Dickson Ambundo, take part in training with their teammates in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's local and continental tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

goals, Moloko netted two goals,

Makambo scored three goals and did not get a chance to play regularly for Guinea's top-flight club, AC Horoya, while Ambundo finished with four goals.

Meanwhile, Yanga has retained their five strikers whose last season's goal-scoring record is not pleasing.

The attackers, namely, Yacouba Songne, Saïdo Ntibazonkiza, Deus Kaseke, Farid Mussa, and Ditram Nchimbi, notched few goals.

The mentioned goal-getters, except for Songne, could hardly match midfielder, Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto', who scored five goals for Yanga last season.

Last season Songne emerged as Yanga's top scorer with eight goals, while Kaseke followed with six goals, Salum (five goals), Ntibazonkiza (four goals) while Mussa and Nchimbi posted one goal apiece.

This shows how much

Yanga was in short supply in goals the previous season.

Due to the records of the players who left last season, Yanga can hardly claim the outfit can competently challenge Simba.

Former Simba coach, Masoud Djuma, says the biggest thing the team has done is to retain its key attacking players.

He says if Simba has let go of two key players like Miquissone and Chama there must be some weaknesses but if they are to deal with them, the newly registered ones have to do better.

Djuma pointed out: "The only thing they need next season is to do well and not anything else so those players who have been brought in may have good records, but they have to display better standards."

Former Simba coach, Jamhuri Kihwelo 'Julio' says if Yanga coach, Nasreddine Nabi, calmly builds his side, he can have a good team

because they just lack cohesion.

The coach revealed: "If he can see to it newly signed footballers can forge coordination with the players who were there last season, the squad will bring competition against their rivals, Simba, in scoring and all areas, I believe next season there will be a tough battle."

Former Yanga coach, Mwinyi Zahera, also said that with the type of players registered at the Jangwani Street side, there is a greater chance of the squad challenging Simba than in the previous four seasons, as the incoming footballers will add sharpness to the front line, while Simba is not to be underestimated at all.

A good number of the top flight sides have equally roped in prolific footballers from in and outside the country, which means a lot is expected from them next season.

Simba SC in pursuit of dominance next season

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC leadership has insisted that next season they will continue to win trophies as their squad is more mature than the previous four seasons.

The side's Board of Directors' vice-chairman, Salim Abdallah, stated so, noting that this season, their rivals ought to be aware Simba is determined to make sure it wins every title.

Simba has made it clear they are out to clinch all three titles starting with the Community Shield that will pit the outfit against Yanga in Dar es Salaam on September 25.

Salim said Simba is determined to make sure it achieves the goals that it has set for the coming season.

According to the official, they are looking forward to performing better than the way they



Simba SC players participate in training in Arusha early this week to shape up for the Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

did the previous season.

The official was adamant their first international goal is to make it to CAF Champions League in the semi-finals.

Salim revealed: "There is nothing we can hardly do, our goals for next season are the same as last season, we need to defend our trophies and we have what it takes to achieve success, our

players are raring to fight for them, let's meet on the field."

The official moreover stated everything comes with preparation as Simba had made great preparations and ultimately flourished.

Abdallah pointed out Simba went to Morocco for pre-season preparations, seeking to substantiate their pedigree, and

now they are continuing with another camp located in Karatu, Arusha for the new season.

Namungo FC is already camping in the same district and will be using the grounds adjacent to the ones Simba use.

Salim said the Premier League defending champions registered footballers to meet big goals they have set.

Simba has won four consecutive titles in the Mainland Premier League last season and two consecutive Confederation Cup silverware.

They have lifted Community Shields four times in a row while their age-old rivals Yanga have come out on top and decided to sign seriously this season.

The country's champions are expected to play against TP Mazembe of DR Congo at the culmination of the 'Simba Day' festival on September 19.

This match is a reminder of the CAF Champions League quarterfinal match of the 2018/2019 season in which Simba was beaten 4-1 by the DR Congo football powerhouse.

Simba Sports Club urged its members and fans to turn out in large numbers at the peak of the festival to be able to get enthralling entertainment organized for the day.

Striker Haller stars as Ivory Coast trump Cameroon

CAIRO

FORMER West Ham attacker Sebastien Haller scored twice in nine minutes to give the Ivory Coast a 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over fellow African top-10 nation Cameroon in Abidjan on Monday.

Haller, who moved to Ajax Amsterdam last January after scoring 14 goals in 54 outings for the Hammers, converted a penalty on 20 minutes and later outpaced a defender and fired into the far corner of the net.

Moumi Ngamaleu pulled one goal back from another penalty, on 61 minutes, to set up a tense finish to the Group D showdown.

Ivory Coast top the table with four points after two rounds, Cameroon have three, and Mozambique one and Malawi none ahead of their match on Tuesday.

Group D is the only section of 10 in Africa featuring two countries among the 10 highest ranked in the continent -- the Ivory Coast were 12th when the draw was made two years ago.

Meanwhile, South Africa edged Ghana 1-0 in Johannesburg through a 83rd-minute Bongokuhle Hlongwane goal and replaced them as Group G leaders.

Fielding a young, inexperienced side under recently hired Belgian coach Hugo Broos, the South Africans should have broken the deadlock earlier.

Percy Tau, who has quit English Premier League club Brighton to join Egyptian and African giants Al Ahly, had a first-half headed goal wrongly disallowed for offside.

Evidence Makgopa, one of many new faces after Broos complained about inheriting an "old" squad, missed a sitter just after half-time, poking the ball wide of an unguarded goal.

But with time running out and weakened Ghana looking like taking a point home, Hlongwane connected with a low cross and the ball rolled into the net via the far post.

Ghana lacked Premier League trio Daniel Amartey, Jordan Ayew and Jeffrey Schlupp as South Africa is on the British coronavirus "red list", which requires travellers to isolate for 10 days when they return.

- Goal-shy Uganda -

South Africa have four points and Ghana three from two matches, and Zimbabwe one and Ethiopia none ahead of their meeting in Bahir Dar on Tuesday.

Mali, who are seeking a first World Cup appearance, took a firm grip on Group E by forcing a 0-0 draw away to 10-man Uganda.

Defender Murushid Juuko was shown a straight red card on 65 minutes and Uganda had to settle for another goalless stalemate, after holding Kenya last week.

Benin failed to build on a matchday 1 win in Madagascar and had to come from behind to draw 1-1 with Group J rivals the Democratic Republic of Congo in Cotonou.

Both goals were headed by senior players during the opening half with Dieumerci Mbokani, 35, putting the Congolese in front and Jordan Adeoti, 32, levelling.

AFP

Messi slams decision to halt Argentina-Brazil

SAO PAULO

ARGENTINA captain Lionel Messi has said he was dismayed by the Brazilian health authorities' decision to stop Sunday's World Cup qualifier after the match had started.

Just five minutes after kickoff at Sao Paulo's Corinthians Arena, officials from the health authorities entered the pitch to announce the game could not continue because of a breach of the country's quarantine protocols by four of Argentina's Premier League based-players.

"Listen to me, we've been here [in Brazil] for three days," Messi said on the pitch, with his comments heard on television. "Were they waiting for the game to start to come here? Why didn't they warn us before?"

Brazil's health regulator, Anvisa, claimed that Argentina internationals Emiliano Martinez, Cristian Romero, Giovanni Lo Celso and Emiliano Buendia twice breached health protocols.

Lo Celso, Romero and Martinez were included in Argentina's starting lineup. Under Brazilian rules, visitors from the UK entering the country must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival.

In a statement, Anvisa accused the players of providing "false" information on their health forms and considered their presence in Brazil "a serious health risk" and advised for the immediate quarantine of those players.

Brazil's Football Confederation (CBF) was "absolutely surprised" by Sunday's events and said in a statement that Anvisa could have acted "days earlier" and not after the game had started.

Anvisa director Antonio Barra Torres claimed the players in question were notified prior to the game that they had to isolate and did not do so.

Argentina Football Association (AFA) president Claudio Tapia, whose squad returned to Buenos Aires in the early hours of Monday, said his players have followed all the health protocols set by CONMEBOL.

A World Cup every two years? The pros and cons of Wenger's FIFA blueprint

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

CAN you imagine a world where there is a major international tournament held every year? The idea is closer to becoming a reality than you might think.

Following a proposal by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation in May, FIFA is now carrying out a feasibility study into the practicalities of altering the World Cup cycle from four years to two, meaning that continental championships (like the Gold Cup, European Championship and Copa America) would be sandwiched in the alternate years. The study is being led by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (now FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development) and 166 of FIFA's 210 national associations have given their backing to the research into the idea.

There is resistance, though. UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin voiced his opposition last week, while the major leagues have yet to be canvassed and convinced. But, speaking in L'Equipe at the weekend, Wenger spelled out the thinking behind the proposal to not only increase the regularity of World Cups, but also redraw the international calendar in a way that suits all elements of the game.

It would mean more major tournaments but fewer international breaks, more opportunities for nations to stage World Cups, and clubs suffering less disruption from international fixtures.

So what does it all mean, and what are the pros and cons of Wenger's blueprint for the international game?

WHY IS THERE EVEN A PLAN TO HAVE BIENNIAL WORLD CUPS?

FIFA president Gianni Infantino wants bigger World Cups -- the 2026 finals in the United States, Mexico and Canada will be the first 48-nation tournament -- and he also wants the international game to reclaim some of the financial power, commercial impact and status of the club game.

Staging World Cups every two years, as well as continental championships in the intervening years, would ensure a fixed, annual slot in the football calendar for the international game to dominate the agenda.

There is also a view within FIFA that the four-year World Cup cycle is an outdated model, an anachronism in a world driven by social media and 24-hour news, and that younger audiences, and sponsors, want more high-quality events rather than having to wait four years for World Cups to come around.

And there are many nations, including Saudi Arabia, who want a shot at hosting a World Cup. Staging one every two years would enable FIFA to clear the backlog of nations including China,



Arsene Wenger

England, Morocco, Spain and Argentina who could otherwise be waiting for decades to stage a World Cup on home soil.

While Wenger's study is focused on the men's game and untangling the congested calendar, there are also plans to stage a biennial World Cup in the women's game. "We don't want to copy what the men are doing. We want something specific for women and for the women's game," Infantino said in 2020. "We need to get those creative juices flowing."

IS THERE MUCH OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN?

Yes, and primarily from UEFA. Sources have told ESPN that the UEFA hierarchy regard the plan as nothing less than a way to curtail the power of Europe within the world game.

In a letter to Football Supporters Europe (FSE) at the weekend, UEFA president Ceferin cited his "grave concerns" over the proposal and accused FIFA of launching a "PR campaign" without consulting confederations or national leagues.

European football is the powerhouse of the world game, with the leading domestic leagues, richest clubs and Champions League all giving UEFA huge influence. And it will be 20 years next year since a non-European nation last won the World Cup (Brazil in 2002).

But the increasing financial reliance of major European teams on sponsors and owners from Asia -- namely Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, China -- and the U.S. has shifted the balance of power and given FIFA the opportunity to canvass support for a radical overhaul of the international calendar.

The African Confederation (CAF) has backed

the study and there is a growing support in Asia, so UEFA has a battle on its hands.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF WENGER'S BLUE-PRINT?

Wenger believes that increasing the regularity of World Cups will ultimately boost all aspects of the game.

He has proposed two international breaks, in March and October, and groups of four nations playing just six qualifying games which Wenger believes will ensure "more high-stakes and high emotion games."

The plans are still a work in progress, so detail on how those four-team groups would be put together is light, but it seems that minnows such as Andorra, San Marino and Gibraltar would have to pre-qualify as lower-ranked nations have done for years in Africa, Asia and North/Central America.

Wenger claims that the "beauty and prestige of a tournament" depends on its quality rather than regularity and suggests that playing every two years will give the world high-class international fixtures and memorable tournaments.

He believes that, by having just two international breaks each year, leading clubs will see the advantages of having

their players for longer and with less disruptive fixture calendars. And he is also proposing a compulsory 25-day rest period for players after international tournaments.

THIS DOESN'T SOUND VERY WORKABLE, DOES IT?

If you factor in a 25-day break after a four-week summer tournament, then that amounts to close to two months when players are away from their clubs. When you consider that the leading clubs all embark -- pre-COVID 19 pandemic -- on lucrative pre-season friendly tours, there is an obvious area of confrontation between club and country before the competitive action even starts.

Reducing international breaks to two per year sounds great in practice, but can a World Cup qualification campaign really be boiled down to just six games? UEFA has 55 member nations and even in a 48-team World Cup, is only due to have 16 participants, so it would mean 14 qualifying groups if you kept the likes of Andorra and San Marino involved.

If that was the case, there would be some very unchallenging groups for the major nations and not many of the "high stakes/high emotion" games that

Wenger believes are necessary.

Africa has 54 member nations and only nine slots in a 48-team World Cup, so the maths in their qualifiers would be even more complicated. South America, meanwhile, will have six qualifiers from 10 member nations, so their qualifying campaign could be over after just a couple of fixtures.

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME IS IN NEED OF REFORM, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?

The World Cup remains the pinnacle of the game and it would still be difficult to find a player who would place winning the Champions League above lifting the World Cup, but it is outside the major tournaments that international football is struggling to remain relevant and interesting.

There are just too many games that are one-sided non-events, but even though England beat Andorra -- who are ranked 156th in the world -- 4-0 at Wembley on Sunday with a virtual second string selected by manager Gareth Southgate, over 67,000 fans turned up to watch. When you factor in the gate receipts and TV money, even the biggest associations will still want to play games that have little or no competitive edge, purely because of the financial benefits.

England haven't lost a World Cup qualifier since 2009 and Spain's defeat to Sweden last week was their first in the format since 1993, so there is a clear issue in terms of competitiveness during the qualifiers. Continental heavyweights continue to miss out on World Cups -- Netherlands, Italy and the United States all failed to qualify for Russia 2018 -- but that can be down to imbalanced groups or just a bad campaign. Too often, though, the qualifiers can be predicted before a ball has even been kicked.

So perhaps introducing pre-qualifiers for the lower ranked teams and creating more competitive groups is the way forward. But how many associations will realistically vote for fewer fixtures and groups that make it harder to qualify?

WENGER'S PLAN HAS ITS POSITIVES, THOUGH?

Yes. Few fans, players, sponsors or broadcasters would turn down the spectacle and ex-

citement of a World Cup every two years. The traditionalists might complain about diminishing the value of the tournament by staging it every two years, and the clubs would certainly have their issues, but football is ultimately about entertainment and glory. The World Cup delivers both in huge quantities.

Increasing the regularity of World Cups would also help solve the political and geographical problem of fairly distributing hosting rights.

Africa has staged just one World Cup -- 2010 in South Africa -- and Morocco has tried and failed on five occasions to host the tournament. England, the home of the Premier League, has not staged it since 1966, while Argentina, Uruguay and Chile are desperate to take the tournament back to South America for only the second time since 1978.

Australia and China also want to host a World Cup, so even if today FIFA agreed a running order of Morocco, England, Argentina, China and Australia on a four-year cycle, it would be 2046 before Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide had a chance to be gripped by World Cup fever.

There are too many countries that are willing and able to host a World Cup that continue to be frustrated, so creating a two-year cycle would ensure a truly global spread of tournaments in the years ahead.

SO WHEN WILL THIS ALL BE DECIDED?

Having embarked on his study in May, Wenger has suggested it could all be resolved by December, but that would appear to be an ambitious timescale, particularly with the prospect of strong opposition from UEFA, as well as the major leagues and top clubs.

The international calendar is now set all the way up to the 2026 World Cup, so no change could take place until 2028 at the earliest -- and UEFA is due to stage Euro 2028 that year. So realistically, a new biennial World Cup cycle is unlikely to kick in until 2030 (the centenary of the tournament) and the soonest this could feasibly be voted on is at the 2022 FIFA Congress.

It is a thorny subject, but one with gathering support and UEFA may find itself outflanked on this issue. Football is an evolving game and, as Wenger says, "we have to anticipate the future."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

A World Cup every two years? The pros and cons of Wenger's FIFA blueprint

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FIFA lauds COSAFA region for investment in women's football

PRETORIA

SECRETARY General, Fatma Samoura, and FIFA's Chief Women's Football Officer, Sarai Bareman, were in Durban over the weekend to attend the final of the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League | COSAFA Qualifiers, where they shared the organization's vision for the future of the women's game.

Mamelodi Sundowns booked their ticket to the continental finals with a 3-0 win over Black Rhinos Queens of Zimbabwe in Saturday's decider, and Samoura says the inaugural Women's Champions League competition will have a positive influence on national teams in the region.

"It is important that we promote the club and league competitions because those represent the nurseries for the national teams," Samoura said.

"The [CAF] Women's Champions League is also critical for providing the best players to the national team."

Samoura says that the expansion of the FIFA Women's World Cup from 24 to 32 teams in 2023 will also have a positive spin-off for Africa.

"I was in France two years ago, where I saw for the first time the South African national team competing at the [Women's] World Cup.

"From what we have seen the gap between South Africa and elite women's football is so narrow, and by coming here we would like [to encourage] the whole country to support South Africa to close that gap further."

But she adds that for women's football to reach its potential, investment is needed in the game.

"We need more investment. We might not generate the revenue that the men's game does, but we have seen what the girls are capable of doing when they belong to big clubs. My plea is to get more investment from corporations in the COSAFA region."

She adds that with the expanded focus of FIFA on women's football, there has never been a better time to get involved in the sport.

"My advice to the girls is to believe in yourself and dream big, and you can achieve those dreams."

Bareman echoed those thoughts and says FIFA has massive plans for the women's game in the coming years.

"Women's football is a top priority at FIFA, and you can see that by the presence of our Secretary-General [Samoura] here, but also the support at the highest level from our President Gianni Infantino," Bareman says.

"For us, it is about investment. We have 211 member associations around the world, and it is very important that with the support we offer to those countries, there is ring-fenced funding that is specifically for women's football.

"In addition to funding, we also assist our member associations with development programs like coaching and administration, and Women in Football leadership capacity building.

"We are trying to tackle each facet of the ecosystem in the women's game. We have a long way to go, and it is important to grow sustainably and that we have a clear strategy."

Bareman also had special praise for the work being done in the COSAFA region, led by General Secretary Sue Destombes.

"I love the work that COSAFA is doing for women's football. They are one of the regions that we have seen has been consistently investing in the women's game, especially through competitions as we see here."

"It is the first-ever qualifier for the CAF Champions League and at the same time, they are also investing in youth with a [Girls] U-15 tournament as part of the legacy program."

"So, there is a lot of work happening with Sue and her team, and COSAFA is a wonderful region and example for women's football."

Bareman says the ultimate goal is to bring parity between the men's and women's games.

"We want to see women's football in the mainstream, and what that means is that, in the end, we are not referring to men's football or women's football, it is just football." "We want to see more women in leadership positions, these sorts of things should be normalized. And we can only do that by growing at grassroots [level] and to get more people participating, but also investing at the top level."

AGENCIES

Cricketers set for 2021 Caravans T20 Cup competition



Representatives of firms, which sponsor this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup, hold kits to be used by the participating sides, during the showdown's opening ceremony which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS to improve cricket promotion in Tanzania have garnered support via the unveiling of the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup, which begins at the end of this week.

The showpiece, which takes place every year, is hosted by Caravans Cricket Club in cooperation with DC and Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA).

The tournament brings together top cricketers from various parts of the country.

This season's tournament, Caravans Cricket Club officials disclosed, features the top 10 clubs in the country which will be playing under the franchise model.

Each of the outfits is backed by top corporates in the country.

The competition's hosts,

Alliance Caravans, have been drawn into Group B along with Aurobindo Aga Khan Sports Club, Horizon Teleports Annadil Burhani Cricket Club, Honest Logistics SKLPSC, and Balakrishna Strikers.

Group A has defending champions Aruti Aces Cricket Club, Kaon Lions, Harab Motors Pak Stars, NTS Bosch Gymkhana, and FMED Upanga.

The group stage draws were conducted with all of the showdown's sponsors in attendance.

Other sponsors include Pepsi, Jihusu, Flashnet, RAS Logistics, Mlimani City, AOnne, Kishen Enterprises, Sa-

maki Samaki, Delta Africa, DeepHeat, and GI Security.

The tournament's opening fixture is to take place on September 11 and the final is scheduled for October 17.

Matches will take place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval and Leaders Club venue.

Caravans Cricket Club is one of the prominent cricket clubs in the country and is renowned for its annual cricket tournament, held during the last quarter of the year.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup has been hosted annually since 2015 and the previous editions had brought to-

gether domestic players and foreign counterparts from countries including Kenya, India, Pakistan, and South Africa.

Petrofuel Limited is the title sponsor of this year's tournament, which will bring together 10 sides.

The Colourflex firm is the showpiece's co-sponsor along with TATA International.

Aruti Aces Cricket Club emerged as the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup showpiece's champions, beating NTS Bosch Gymkhana by 99 runs in an exciting final, held in the city on November 22.

Azam FC leadership satisfied with pre-season training

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC leadership has revealed it is grateful to the side's technical bench under head coach, George Lwandamina, for using the short time they had to complete the training program for the 2021/22 season.

The Dar es Salaam side Monday returned from pre-season camp, which took place in Zambia, to finalize build-up for the season.

The outfit's leadership statement was released in a brief evaluation of the camp the squad set up outside the country.

Azam FC squad arrived in Dar es Salaam late at night from Ndola, where it set up camp for more than a week, as well as taking part in several international friendly matches.

Thabit Zakaria, Azam FC Information Officer, said the squad's camp went well and they are satisfied with the preparations.

However, Zakaria said despite the success, some issues did not go well, and they have taken the situation as a challenge that has hindered them, to a certain percentage.

The leader revealed the team missed some of the players called up to their respective countries' national teams which battle it out in African qualifiers 2022 FIFA World Cup.

He said they had only 19 players instead of 29, a situation which hampered their preparations to be accomplished in the manner they had hoped.

"The camp was very successful, we got to play friendly matches, they gave coach Lwandamina a chance to see his squad's shortcomings, but he could not



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

hold technical training due to the absence of a section of players," Zakaria said.

He said they have returned to the country to continue regular training

to prepare for their CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round fixture against Horseed SC of Somalia, to ensure they get good results.

Azam FC will play both preliminary round ties in the city. The hosts will battle it out in their first match at the Azam Complex on Saturday.

Horseed SC will thereafter participate in the second-leg fixture at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam next weekend.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW COME I HAVE SO MANY QUOTABLE QUOTES WHILE YOU HAVE NONE?

YOU TALK TOO MUCH!

