



National Pg 4 Clerics urged to spearhead HIV struggle



National Pg 5 Indonesia supports farmers' training centre



National Pg 6 Animal husbandry graduates for training



National Pg 7 More desks to enable social distancing



MCT triumphs on compliance in celebrating Silver Jubilee

By Guardian Correspondent

AN increase in the rate of compliance with arbitration decisions made by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) signal a record achievement of the council, with nine out of every ten decisions complied upon, the media body stated yesterday.

In an appraisal to coincide with attaining 25 years since it was inaugurated on June 30, 1995, the council said compliance with its rulings is a big credit given that arbitration of complaints is a core function of media self-regulatory mechanisms.

Among the beneficiaries of this particular service were cabinet ministers and other top functionaries. Regional and district commissioners and other officials have continued to seek MCT intervention when feeling wronged by the media, an MCT statement noted.

Tuesday was a red-letter day for Tanzanian journalism as the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) marked 25 years of service to the media and media stakeholders in the country.

The council came into being mid-1995 courtesy of the media fraternity cooperation and friends of the media, it said, noting that 25k years is a milestone in the media industry.

The council was established by media practitioners to further the spirit of self-regulation, to prevent the presence of a

TURN TO PAGE 2

EAC in crisis after EALA rejects quarterly budget

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MEMBERS of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) have refused to approve 68bn/- (USD 29.4m) for the first quarter of the 2020/21 financial year as proposed by the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers.

The furious regional legislators yesterday took the EAC ministers to task, insisting they must table annual budget estimates as directed by the treaty, prior to the quarterly also known as 'vote on account' proceedings.

EALA members unanimously stayed a request by the EAC Council of Ministers to approve a Vote on Account of \$29.4m to support EAC operations, as they await the tabling of budget estimates by the council.

EALA Speaker Ngoga Martin, upon request by the House agreed to invoke section 12 of the EAC Budget 2008, to extend the period for consideration of the EAC Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

At the same time, the assembly urged the Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to always comply with the provisions of the Treaty and the EAC Budget in regard to the preparation and presentation of the budget to the assembly.

Following a letter to the assembly by the Secretary General, the chairman of the council of ministers, Nshuti Manasseh, tabled a request for vote on account for Financial Year 2020/2021. The request was in line with Article 6 of the EAC Budget Act 2008, as a stop-gap measure to allow for continuity of EAC activities.

The council chairman noted that it had not been possible

TURN TO PAGE 2



Juma Ali Khatib (L), Vice Chairman of the opposition Ada-TADEA, collects forms in Zanzibar yesterday for nomination as the party's candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency during later this year's General Election. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

TADEA vice chairman joins bid for Zanzibar presidency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Democratic Alliance (TADEA) vice chairman Juma Ali Khatib yesterday collected nomination forms to vie for the Zanzibar presidency.

Speaking to reporters soon after he was handed the forms, Khatib said if he is nominated and eventually wins the October poll, improvement of the welfare of women will be his priority.

He said he will ensure that every woman

who delivers a baby receives a special allowance for two years to enable women have better lives to take care of their children.

He said women are an important group in the society and many of them experience hardships in the upkeep of children as some men abandon women and their children, leaving the mothers with a heavy burden to carry.

"My government will make sure that it takes good care of all needy children,

TURN TO PAGE 2

TMA predicts strong winds, gushing waves in 10 regions

By Guardian Reporter

FORECASTERS at the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) say that strong winds and waves may in the coming

days disrupt transport and economic activities in at least 10 regions.

The regions to be affected by extreme weather conditions beginning yesterday up to Saturday are those bordering the sea and two inland lakes, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

TMA main weather forecasting station manager Samwel Mbuya said in a statement that residents of the regions need to take precautions as adverse impact is possible.

Tanga, Coast, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Lindi (including Mafia Island) as well as Zanzibar are all expected to brace with strong sea waves, he said. Kigoma, Songwe,

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Seek medical advice if you
 - Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19



9 770856 542009 >

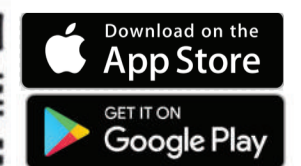
ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL RELIABLE NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES THAT YOU TRUST



To get e-paper log in: <https://epaper.ippmedia.com>

DOWNLOAD

The Guardian - IPP Media



For inquiry, Please Contacts us: epaper@guardian.co.tz, +255 745 700 710 / +255 677020701



Bas Van Lankveld (R), managing director of Arusha-based cut flowers company Fides Tanzania, briefs Minister of State in the Prime Minister Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki (C) when she visited at the firm's flower farm in Arumeru District on Tuesday. Looking on is Tanzania Horticultural Association director Jacqueline MKindi. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

EAC in crisis after EALA rejects quarterly budget

FROM PAGE 1

to bring the budget estimates in good time (by April 30) in the financial year. Under normal circumstances, this should have been done but the Covid-19 pandemic, among other reasons, had led to the delay in tabling budget estimates, he said.

He assured the assembly that the Council of Ministers would duly meet, no later than next week, to consider the budget proposals.

The Committee on General Purposes met to consider the request ahead of the afternoon sitting. Presenting the report of the committee to the House later, chairman Abdikadir Aden said whereas the request was noted, it would be irregular to invoke the

provision (section 6 of the Budget Act). He said this was the case as the chairman of the Council of Ministers has not presented EAC Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/2021 as required by Article 132(2) of the Treaty and Section 4 of the Budget Act.

"The assembly cannot be an accomplice in the commission of such illegality," he emphasised.

"It would be speculative for the assembly to approve a Vote-on-Account amounting to \$29.4m at a time when the council has not met nor even set a date for a meeting to consider and approve budget estimates," he added.

Aden informed the House the EALA Commission had engaged the Council of Ministers and the Secretary General

on the matter.

"Nonetheless, the council has not indicated when the budget estimates will be presented to the assembly. This has serious implications on the effective functioning of organs and institutions of the community," he stated.

The committee registered its displeasure over the failure by the Secretary General to appropriately guide and offer the necessary technical support to the Council of Ministers in the timely preparation and presentation of the EAC Budget Estimates for the FY 2020/2021, he stated.

"While the Secretary General noted that failure to pass a Vote-on-Account

will lead to paralysis of Community operations, the proposition was not tenable," he reiterated.

"The Community will continue to operate normally under the provisions of Regulation 29(1) of EAC Financial Rules and Regulations (1) which stipulates that appropriation shall be available to meet obligations for the financial year to which they relate, and Rule 29 (2) further states that the appropriation shall remain available for three months following the end of the financial year to which they relate.

"This is in so far as they are required to discharge obligations in respect of goods, supplies and services rendered during the financial year which they have not been settled," he added.

TMA predicts strong winds, gushing waves in 10 regions

FROM PAGE 1

Mbeya and Ruvuma are likely to experience lake winds of greater velocity and impact.

"Residents of these regions are advised to be alert as the extreme weather conditions could disrupt movement of people and economic activities," the statement affirms.

"The winds are expected to reach 50 kilometres per hour while ocean waves could rise to as high as two metres," he said.

TMA was closely following the weather patterns and would update the forecast accordingly, he said, urging people to follow up weather forecasts for information and action.

The situation is expected to normalize from Sunday as sea waves recede and lake winds slow down, he stated.

Since early this year, TMA forecasts show extreme weather in the country with coastal regions seeing heavy rains that disrupt transport in the commercial capital.

Coastal regions have been receiving downpours causing flooding, damaging key infrastructures like roads, bridges and sections of the central railway line.

The Lake Victoria zone and the north-eastern side of the Southern Highlands also received heavy rains in recent months.

Since February heavy rains have wreaked havoc in various regions, with floods killing about 40 people while leaving thousands homeless.

Deaths were reported in Lindi, Mwanza, Morogoro and Manyara regions. More than 15,000 people were left homeless after floods swept away around 1,750 houses, police reports affirmed.

MCT triumphs on compliance in celebrating Silver Jubilee

FROM PAGE 1

regulatory vacuum that would easily invite state arbitration or intervention.

Over the years, the council has made great strides, from fairly humble beginnings of running training courses for practitioners of the budding independent media, it recalled.

Conducting mediation and arbitration came aboard soon, after which the council was growing in strength and scope to the extent of facilitating collective media demands.

This effort was tied to spearheading the demand for good governance, via transparency and accountability in the context of independent and investigative journalism, the statement indicated.

MCT has also taken media self regulation to the newsrooms by giving expert support to media houses to draft in-house self regulatory and peer oversight mechanisms such as style books, internal codes of conduct, and editorial policies.

Similarly, the council has been able to engage and bring together editors and journalism trainers to agree on effective preparation of trainee reporters, incorporating values of self regulation and practical monitoring of ethical reportage in journalism foundational training.

Thematic guidelines and training manuals have also been published and made available, it elaborated.

Quality media monitoring and training programmes through regional press clubs whose journalists have benefited from is another plus attained by the council.

About 70 per cent of reportage of local content in the mainstream media comes from upcountry journalists, with MCT involvement together with partners like the Union the Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) having been crucial, it asserted.

Another major output by the council was the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence and Responsibility (DEFIR) which set out duties and obligation of media practitioners and other stakeholders, rather than espousing their rights.

This declaration was prepared by an MCT Think-Tank on the Freedom of Expression and Media Issues, led by distinguished Professor Emeritus Issa G. Shivji.

During the period the council established the Coalition on the Right to Information (CORI) which brings together 12 civil society organizations (CSOs) to fight for legislation enshrining the right to information and a progressive legal framework for media regulation.

The council supported and nurtured organizations like UTPC to a point where it had a fully fledged secretariat, a functioning board, along with operational financial, administrative and human resource systems.

UTPC is now a major player in the Tanzania media sector in its own right, as is the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), another media organization established by the council.

"As more media outlets and training institutions were established, the need for standardized journalism training curricula arose and as custodian of media development in the country,

the council took up the challenge. It set up benchmarks and worked on standardised journalism training in the country up to Ordinary Diploma level," the statement narrated.

The National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) validated the curricula for NTA levels 4, 5 and 6 and adopted it as national curricula. About 23 journalism colleges have been granted permission to use the curricula after meeting MCT and NACTE requirements, it further noted.

The council, also represented in Zanzibar, is engaged in efforts to bring up a new media law for the Isles.

A landmark court decision at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) is widely regarded as another plus for the council which, in collaboration with partners, successfully challenged sections of the Media Services Act.

"An intended appeal by the government has not been successful and MCT is now undertaking a massive effort to train editors, journalists and media trainers on what the court decision means. This includes other successful court battles like the ones challenging the ban of a number of newspapers," it observed.

MCT has also been able to engage and bring together editors and journalism trainers to agree on effective preparation of trainee reporters, and incorporating values of self regulation and practical monitoring of ethical reportage in journalism foundational training.

Since 2012, the council has established an online press freedom violations register to record violations and if serious violations are committed it is mandated to conduct investigation and make its report public.

"All these achievements of the council have been made possible by its members who now number over 200, essentially from journalism training institutions and media outlets, plus the vital support of development partners.

The first MCT president was Prof Geoffrey Mmari, followed by Prof Issa Shivji, Justice Dr Robert Kisanga (who has since died) and the current president, Retired Judge Thomas Mihayo.

Its founding executive secretary was media veteran Anthony Ngaiza, succeeded by Kajubi Mukajanga.



Ferenc Molnar (3rd-L), managing director of Eyes of Africa Ltd's gold refinery, briefs Minerals ministry permanent secretary Prof Simon Msanjila (2nd-L) at the Dodoma-based facility yesterday. Photo courtesy of Correspondent Tito Mselem

TADEA vice chairman joins bid for Zanzibar presidency

FROM PAGE 1

especially those abandoned by their fathers," he declared.

Khatib said he would ensure he implements all projects initiated by President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein that are yet to be completed including Mpiga Duri Port, the oil and natural gas terminal and the

seaweed factory.

"I will ensure I finalize these big projects for the people to develop economic activities," said Khatib, a minister without portfolio in the Isles government.

He said that Dr Shein has done a lot of things for the development of Zanzibar and he will tread on his footsteps especially on peace and security.

Already the government has started to build robust foundations of blue economy strategies and he would develop this economy for the benefit of the nation.

He would make sure he preserves the Zanzibar Revolution and the Union that was initiated by the late Abeid Amani Karume and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

Even though he comes from the opposition he recognizes that development does not discriminate party affiliation and he will serve all the people.

TADEA Deputy Secretary General Rashid Mchenga, handing him the forms, said the forms must collect supporting signatures and filed by July 7.



Tuesday was a red-letter day for Tanzanian journalism as the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) marked 25 years of service to the media and media stakeholders in the country



A commuter bus with registration number T489CHM, which was on its way from Kitunda Mwanagati in suburban Dar es Salaam to Mnazi Mmoja in the city's central business district lies in a ditch after being involved in an accident at Sirari-Kivule yesterday. Initial reports said several were injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

The Guardian Ltd journalist Raphael Kibiriti is no more

By Guardian Reporter

A senior political features writer and editor with The Guardian Limited, Raphael Kibiriti, has died after a long illness.

Kibiriti, who worked with The Guardian Limited since April 1, 2016 as a features writer of the sister newspaper-Nipashe died on Tuesday at his Wazo Hill home on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

Before joining The Guardian Limited, Kibiriti worked in various institutions including the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF).

He worked with the TPDF between 1988 and 2000. In 2001 he joined Security Group Tanzania and left in 2006.

In 2006, he joined Omega Nitro Risk Management.

Kibiriti completed his



O'Level secondary education at Kigurunyembe Secondary School from 1982 to 1985 and then went to Mzumbe High School for his A-Level studies and completed in 1988.

He also pursued his university

degree in Journalism studies at the University of Dar es Salaam from 2011 and graduated in 2014.

The late Kibiriti is survived by a wife and three children: Rogders, Louis na Lilian.

TCRA bites, fining 9 TV, radio stations over EPOCA

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has ordered nine Televisions and radio stations as well as online broadcast channels to pay a total 48m/- in fines for "violating" the Electronic and Postal Communication regulations.

Announcing the decision yesterday, the regulator also banned one online television channel for one month over ethical misconduct.

Clouds TV and Radio, East Africa Radio, Star TV, Sibuka TV, Global Online TV, Abood FM radio, Muslim University Radio, Planet FM radio, Ayo TV and Watetezi are said to have gone against various sections of radio and Television broadcasting regulations.

TCRA through its content committee banned Duma online television for one month and pay 7m/- fine for airing a story that it said was embarrassing to the general public against the online content regulations.

"The stations had at different times violated laws deliberately because they all apologised when summoned by the regulator," said the committee's deputy chairman Joseph Mapunda.

TCRA ordered Star TV to pay 5m/- for failing to balance a story with Kisarawe district officials it aired on the transfer of the Kigogo Fresh market to Kisarawe.

On Clouds FM, the committee fined the station 5m/- for airing a programme that was likely to sensitise the youth to engage in sexual activities through its programme known as 'Jahazi'.

The committee ordered East Africa Radio to pay 3m/- for violating broadcasting rules in their morning programme which said undermined the duties of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG).

TCRA said the programme's content was not supposed to be aired at that particular time because children were also part of the listeners.

According to TCRA, Clouds FM aired a programme which spoke on how octopus soup can boost men's libido.

The committee also said that little research was done on the matter and instead turned into something that amplified sexual matters.

Other radios and there fines in brackets include Global online TV (7m/-), Sibuka TV (3m/-) Abood FM- (2m/-), Muslim University Radio (3m/-), planet FM (2.5m/-) and EFM- (3m/-).

Others are Clouds TV.(2.5, Millard Ayo TV(2.5m/-) and Watetezi TV which was fined 3m/-.

All the stations were given 30 days to appeal before the fair competition tribunal if they are not satisfied. The fines are also required to be paid within the said period.



The stations had at different times violated laws deliberately because they all apologised when summoned by the regulator



25 YEARS

OF EMPOWERING THE FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF OUR COUNTRY AND CLIENTS



Dear valued customers, stakeholders and friends,

A quarter of a century ago, Stanbic Bank entered Tanzania through the acquisition of Meridian Bank. As we commemorate this significant milestone, we know that our success comes from the support of our most important stakeholders; the country, our clients our employees and society at large. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us on this journey, we do not take this for granted.

The doors to our first branch were opened way back in 1995 in the city of Dar es Salaam, then a bustling harbour of opportunities and dreams. The country had just gone through a period of liberalizing the economy which included diversification of the financial sector and more than doubling GDP growth. As Stanbic Bank, we are proud to be associated with, and having contributed to this rich history and we are committed to continuing to grow through our expanding presence, products, services and solutions that support us to deliver to you our customers and other stakeholders.

25 years on, we have expanded to service a growing and diverse range of customers, providing first class banking and financial services to individuals, small and medium enterprise businesses, as well as local, regional and international corporates - helping to shape legacies and fulfil dreams across our beautiful country.

We take pride to say the iconic nature of this anniversary brings with it a reminder of the legacy that we have built, but even more so, the responsibility we have, to continue to support this country we call home.

As we review our progress, we have recorded several firsts in the market through ground-breaking initiatives such as Bulk Payment solution using Mobile that has improved the efficiency of doing business in a safe and secure manner. Another great example of the bank's evolution is the ATM which has advanced to receiving cash deposits – ensuring we are able to service clients 24/7. Similarly, we recently introduced the Cash Deposit Machine that enables business customers to make large deposits without the need to queue at a branch. We also continue to grow our footprint as evidenced by the recent opening of our Dodoma Branch.

Our roots as a Pan African organization with more than 155 years on the continent and a presence in 20 African countries and 5 global financial centres gives us the confidence to continue to play a meaningful role as a transformational and catalytic actor in helping Tanzania achieve her development goals. This we do through the funding of key infrastructure projects including electricity, roads, airports, water, education, telecommunications and energy – ensuring a high-quality livelihood for all.

Our ability to respond quickly to client needs in challenging times - like the recent introduction of the Africa China Agency Proposition that has ensured that our clients are still able to trade in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic is testament to our commitment to drive Africa's growth. Our customers can look forward to other exciting solutions coming this year like; mobile/internet based account opening, instant loans on mobile and the introduction of agent banking.

With your support, we have been recognised through various industry accolades including; Bank of the Year, Best Investment Bank, Best Custodian Bank in Tanzania, to name but a few.

Over the last 25 years we have also meaningfully contributed to many social and community initiatives especially in health and education which we have identified as sectors where we believe we can make a difference.

On this special silver jubilee, I would like to thank our valued customers and all our Stakeholders that have continued to support us and allowed the bank to be part of your dreams. In turn, we reaffirm our commitment to helping you pursue new opportunities for shared prosperity.

As we write the next chapter of 25 years, I know that success is in our grasp due to the combined strength and support of our customers, stakeholders and the wonderful people at Stanbic Bank. We look forward with optimism and welcome you to join us as we embark on the next 25 years and beyond. We are committed to stay true to our purpose, "Africa is our home, we drive her Growth"

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Wingfield
Chief Executive

Stanbic Bank
A member of Standard Bank Group

Clerics urged to spearhead HIV struggle

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

RELIGIOUS leaders have been urged to play an indomitable role in addressing stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and Aids (PLWA), which is one of the serious challenges thwarting the war against the scourge in the country.

A member of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania in Morogoro Region, Zahara Kitime made the call here when speaking at the just-ended council's election meeting. He said HIV/Aids is no longer a threat following availability of the life prolonging drugs (ARVs).

Kitime said that those who are infected with the virus do not need to worry as they can still continue to survive while using the ARVs. He said HIV/Aids patients using the drugs are only required to adhere to professional advices from health experts.

"A lot of people lost their lives before scientists come up with the drugs, the disease is no longer a threat," said Kitime calling upon Tanzanians to check their health status so that those who test positive start using ARVs.

Morogoro Regional Sheikh, Twaha Kilango said clerics across the country are committed to support the government towards attaining the 90-90-90 campaign this year and the 95-95-95 by 2030.

Under the 90-90-90 campaign which aims at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, the government wants 90 percent of all the people living with HIV to know their status, 90 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV infections receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90 percent of all people

receiving ARVs have viral suppression.

Faith and community initiative coordinator of NACOPHA, Jovin Riziki said that in Tanzania, a total of 72,000 people are infected with HIV every year, equivalent to 200 people per day.

At least 40 percent of the new infections are youth aged between 15 and 24 years.

Riziki said: "Nearly 90 percent of the country's population belongs to different religious denominations, clerics play a crucial role in encouraging HIV/Aids testing as well as advocate for society's behavior change."

The campaign to end stigma against people living with HIV/Aids is implemented by NACOPHA through the 'Hebu Tuyajenge' project with financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Tanzania has 1.4 million people affected by HIV and the government wants 90 per cent of the country's population to know their status, whereas currently it is only 62 per cent who know their status.

It is estimated that over 3000 patients died in sub-Saharan Africa on a daily basis due to HIV in 2015.

Ten countries in Africa carry 80 per cent of the total HIV burden, namely South Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

"Nearly 90 percent of the country's population belongs to different religious denominations, clerics play a crucial role in encouraging HIV/Aids testing as well as advocate for society's behavior change."



Water deputy minister Jumaa Aweso addresses residents of Mbwawa in Kibaha District yesterday, saying water blues in the area will be history in 60 days' time. The holding of the meeting follows a directive by President John Magufuli on Sunday to the Water ministry to ensure that the area is supplied with tap water as soon as practicable. This will be implemented by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) through a 700m/- project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt not happy with land rent defaulters'

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Dr Angeline Mabula has instructed Assistant Lands Commissioners in regional lands offices to sit with government institutions that owe huge sums of land rent on how to pay back the rents from the defaulters.

DR Mabula gave the instructions here yesterday when she was officially inaugurating regional lands office in Rukwa Region as part of the ministry's efforts to open regional lands offices in various regions of the country.

So far, regional lands offices have

been opened in Tanga, Arusha, Manyara, Singida, Iringa, Njombe and Songwe regions.

She said Rukwa region has various government institutions and private individuals who owe more than 1bn/- in land rents, adding that it was a huge sum of money that could have been used in development activities including the establishment of health centres or road construction.

She explained some of the government institutions that in Rukwa Region include Tanesco, VETA, Open University (OUT) and added that to enable President John Magufuli accomplish the nation development activities there was the need for paying land rents.

According to the Deputy Minister,

government institutions are allocated with government budgets for paying various fees including land rents and nonpayment of this fee means they ignore their responsibilities.

She said her ministry met with government institutions with large sums of land rents in Dodoma Region and within one month about 21bn/- was collected indicating that these institutions had the money for paying land rents.

Meanwhile, Dr Mabula said her ministry has given its nod to the establishment of Lands and Housing Tribunal in Nkasi District, Rukwa Region.

The step follows her satisfaction with efforts of Nkasi district to start the tribunal and inspected construction

work of its buildings at Namanyere in the district, saying as of now a total of 100 district lands and housing tribunals had been approved but only 55 are operating.

Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo told the Deputy Minister that his region has only one district lands and housing tribunal while the entire region has registered 308 cases on land conflicts beginning January to June this year.

In the circumstances, he said there was the need to establish lands and housing tribunal for Nkasi District as the residents of the district have been experiencing inconveniences in travelling long distances over 160 kms to get tribunal services in Sumbawanga District.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Paul Makonda (R) leads a delegation of officials during an inspection tour of ongoing construction at Sinza Hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

French agency and Aga Khan sign 780m/- grant agreement to establish infectious disease units

By Guardian reporter

THE French Development Agency (AFD) and Aga Khan health service, Tanzania have signed a Euro 300,000 (over 780m/-) grant agreement to establish infectious diseases unit (IDU) in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza.

The grant will enable strengthening of the current system to address challenges pertaining to infectious diseases control management.

The funds will enable the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam to adequately respond to pandemics, such as Covid-19 including addressing issues pertaining to inadequate health infrastructure and capacity.

The IDU will complement the efforts of the government in reducing the transmission of infectious diseases and support the containment of any pandemics, to protect individuals' risk of severe to critical illness.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Sulaiman Shahabuddin, regional chief executive officer, Aga Khan health services, East Africa said the unit will address a critical need for a safe health care environment with appropriate facilities to provide quality services for those in need.

The CEO said the grant provided as part of the worldwide "Covid-19 health in common" initiative launched by the French President and implemented by AFD in response to the worldwide public health crisis caused by the global pandemics.

He said the grant will more specifically contribute to four thematic areas including infrastructure development to cater the increasing demand of infectious disease patients requiring expertise clinical care through a standardized quality of care including diagnostic services and clinical care.

Shahabuddin said the facility is

advanced approach to health systems improvement to combat infectious disease will inform operational research and long-term preparedness for sustainability and any unexpected future outbreaks.

He added that Aga Khan Hospital will continue to work closely with the government in training of frontline workers to enhance their skills, improve practices and competencies.

"The IDU will enable further collaboration and collective efforts on infection control, containment, case isolation and treatment, and health system responsibly," he said.

The CEO added: "This new unit at the Aga Khan Hospital which is a zonal referral hospital will leverage its technical and implementation capacity through existing clinical and support service delivery platforms to execute the planned care interventions for infectious disease patients."

Stéphanie Mouen, AFD country director said the social commitments taken by the hospital have been decisive in AFDs decision to indeed participate in the funding of this well thought initiative for the hospital and the country.

"This is aligned with the objectives pursued by AFD to ensure such project provides maximum desired impact for populations," said Mouen.

"AFD further believes that the initiative will demonstrate its responsiveness and efficiency in support of the development of our partners, in particular in East Africa," he added.

Mouen said that alongside the initiatives being conducted by France at multilateral level, the new agreement demonstrates its determination to provide support through its bilateral aid for Tanzania.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Liaise with Tanzania foreign envoys for markets of horticultural products - govt

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki has called on the horticultural sector to work together with Tanzania's envoys in various countries to look for foreign markets.

Kairuki was speaking during her working tour of Arumeru district where she visited farms belonging to seven horticultural firms.

"When President John Magufuli came into power he found this sector with sales valued at USD 412 million per year, but now sales had gone up to USD 779 million per year," she said.

She said the sector will increase the nation's coffers if the horticultural firms will increase investment while taking into consideration the products, quality, and added that the government is ready to listen to investors on various challenges they face in order to find solutions thereof.

She added that in the past five years the government has put up an enabling and friendly environment for investors in the country in order to make Tanzania attain middle level industrial nation.

She said in order to attract more investments in the country, the government has dispensed with some laws that were obstacles to investors as well as abolishing certain taxes and levies.

She said as of now the national economy is fast growing due to an increase of big investors in various sectors especially in the agricultural sector.

Arumeru District Commissioner Jerry Muro used the occasion to thank President Magufuli for abolishing more

than 150 levies that were a hindrance to the development of the investment sector.

He pledged for continued better and friendly environment for investors in the district as the people depend on agriculture as their main economic activity.

He said among the seven horticultural farms that have been running, the government had repossessed three of them and will work together with investors to revive them.

"We have already allocated an investor with a capital of USD 3 billion and we shall soon start working on those farms," Muro said.

Managing director of Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) Dr Jaqueline Mkindi said they

had succeeded to transform the horticultural sector from USD 60 million industry to USD 780 million per year.

She said the government working together with TAHA and other agricultural companies removed more than 50 laws that were a hindrance to in the agricultural sector.

She said in the five year period the national economy has grown fast among 10 countries with fast growing economies according to the World Bank report for 2019.

She said Arumeru District is home to huge horticultural farms in the country, but in the last ten years many farms became disused and wiped out hundreds of jobs, hence she asked the government to revive the farms.



A police officer pictured yesterday supervising the exhumation of the body of Tulizo Konga (38), who was buried 90 days ago, at Igumbilo village, Chimala ward of Mbarali district, Mbeya region. This comes after the deceased's close relatives questioned what was said about the circumstances of her death and demanded another postmortem. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Do not charge fees for time when schools were closed - Z'bar govt

By Guardian Reporter, Unguja

THE Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has directed owners of private schools including headmasters thereof not to charge school fees from parents for the period starting April to June this year when the schools were closed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The directive has come after some owners of the schools had required parents to pay fees for the period the students were not at school.

Speaking to reporters Minister Riziki

Pembe Juma said the government's decision to close schools was aimed to prevent huge assemblies of people and therefore called on the owners of the schools not to dismiss students for not paying the fees.

He said the parents will start paying fees for their children for the period starting July 20 this year.

He said it is the responsibility of schools owners to adhere to all procedures from the Zanzibar Government through his ministry to ensure students continue their lessons without any inconveniences.

He said stern legal steps will be taken against those who will violate the government directives, including court action and closure of their schools.

"We cannot close our eyes to all those who will disregard these directives," he stressed.

Meanwhile Minister Riziki reminded teachers, students, parents and all citizens in general to continue taking precautionary measures against the Covid-19 pandemic by adhering to guidelines issued by health experts.

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Dr Zainabu Chaula, has directed authorities to ensure that all the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) centres built by the Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) in the country operate profitably so as to cover operational costs and thus propel economic growth.

Dr Chaula made the directive this week when she visited and inspected ten ICT centres in the Isles.

According to her, most of the centres have been generating losses and failing to operate effectively because they provide the ICT services free of charge to the community.

"We should not entertain free of charge services, the government's major aim to construct these centres was to bring ICT services close to people, we expected that through service provision, the centres would be able to operate themselves and generate profits," she said.

Ministry orders ICT centres to run profitably, drive economic growth

Dr Chaula further wanted the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) and the Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC) to be more innovative and bring their services in the ICT centres.

"Services, such as mobile money, vouchers and SIMcards as well as the online postal services. These are the opportunities which you should be looking at to grab and improve your services," she said.

For his part, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Work and Transportation in Zanzibar Shomari Omar acknowledged that the centres have been operating unprofitably for years as its leaders lacked an extra eye to run them commercially.

"It is true that the government spent a lot of funds to construct these centres. If these centres will be improved to provide quality internet services, more people will join thus improving income

and profits," he said.

Esvatie Massinga, manager of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in Zanzibar said that the authority is working to come up with a special programme which will bar students and customers from watching porn videos in the ICT centres.

"We want these centres to be used to promote safe use of digital technology and not as centres of unethical actions, so we are going to supervise very closely to ensure that laws are not violated," Massinga said.

Earlier, USCAF executive director Justina Mashiba said that the construction of the ten ICT centres spent 1.13bn/- (equivalent to 113m/- each).

According to her, the government estimated to generate a profit of 6m/- annually from each centre if well supervised.

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Indonesian Embassy in Tanzania has donated an operational motorcycle and a water pump for the Farmers Agricultural Rural Training Centre (FARTC) in Mkindo, Morogoro Region.

The donation was handed over to the director of FARTC, Gratian Kairembu by the Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia in Tanzania Prof Ratlan Pardede.

"We hope that the donated equipment will help the centre in their endeavours towards assist the farmers in increasing their productivity," said Ambassador Pardede.

The Mkindo farmers training centre was founded in 1996 through the friendship between farmers from Tanzania and Indonesia under the agency of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Tanzania.

The centre has seriously assimilated rice farming in Mkindo village and neighbouring villages of the district,

the region as well as the country.

Since its inception in 2000, there has been a marked improvement in cultural rice production practices whereas farmers have increased their yields from between 5 and 6 tonnes of paddy per hectare per year to between 13 and 15 tonnes per hectare per year.

The centre has been useful to the community around who could use the premises in various community based educational seminars. It also provided professional advices to farmers from within and outside the Mkindo village.

The Embassy of Republic of Indonesia in Tanzania remains committed to strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation in all the sectors.

Last year, when speaking during the Indonesia - Tanzania Industrialisation forum, the ambassador pledged to facilitate and assist the private sector

from his origin country to link potential partners in Tanzania.

He also said that Indonesia as the largest economy in South East Asia depends on its industries to sustain its economic growth.

Indonesia's manufacturing industry contributed around 10 percent to our GDP in 2018. This made Indonesia among the top countries that have significant contribution from its manufacturing industry.

The value of Indonesia's export from the manufacturing industry also showed an increasing trend from US \$ 153 billion in 2017 to US \$ 162 billion in 2018.

Tanzania as one of the most strategic countries in East Africa that serves as a gateway to the African continent would need to find potential partners to bring forth its vision of becoming a semi industrialised country by 2025.

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has halted a plan by authorities in Arusha Region to take over ownership of a 2.9 acres land belonging to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha for educational development projects.

Arusha regional commissioner, Idd Kimanta said this yesterday during his visit at the Sinoni Primary School. He said the president has allowed the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha to continue executing its intended projects on the specific land.

The area was initially under St Murumba church, Sinoni Parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha.

Kimanta said that proposals by the Arusha city council to compensate the church with another land plot in the outskirts of Arusha have been completely halted.

"We do not have authoritative powers to challenge the president, when top leaders make decisions, it is upon us to implement. Let the church

Plans to take over church land terminated, says RC

continue with its intended plans on how to use the land," said the regional commissioner.

When at Sinoni Primary School, the RC directed the school management to put in place special stairs to enable pupils with disabilities to easily reach the fourth floor when the building is completed.

"You have a good plan, but you should ensure presence of infrastructures for pupils with disabilities because they cannot use the normal stairs," said Kimanta.

Catechist at St Murumba church, Philip Jacob thanked the president for his wise decision.

"We are happy for the president's decision; we can now continue executing our programmes," said the Catechist promising the church will continue praying for the president.

President Magufuli announced decisions to halt the proposed plan by Arusha city council last month when speaking at function to swear-in leaders he appointed to various government positions including the new Arusha RC.

The church area is among many disputed land plots in the city. Former Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo had earlier ordered the city council to take over the church land and compensate them with another plot in city's outskirts, the plan that was opposed by former Arusha City Director, Dr Maulid Madeni.

"You have a good plan, but you should ensure presence of infrastructures for pupils with disabilities because they cannot use the normal stairs"

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
 ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has been receiving numerous complaints from consumers regarding shortfalls in the bundles, products and services offered by the Mobile Network Operators (Licensees). After receiving the complaints, the Authority conducted a thorough investigation, which revealed that Mobile Network Operators do provide unclear, incomplete and inaccurate terms and conditions for their bundles, products and services contrary to Regulations 4 and 7(3) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Consumer Protection) Regulations, 2018 and Regulation 12(4) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Tariff) Regulations, 2018.

Upon identifying licensees' violation of the aforementioned Regulations, on 5th November, 2019 TCRA issued a directive that required the Licensees to rectify the shortfalls detected on their bundles, products and services before 31st December, 2019. However, the Licensees, failed, neglected or refused to comply with the said directive.

Pursuant to Section 48 of the TCRA Act, Cap.172 R.E. 2017 of the Laws of Tanzania, the Mobile Network Operators, **Airtel Tanzania Plc, Zanzibar Telecoms Plc, Viettel Tanzania Plc, MIC Tanzania Plc** were ordered to appear before TCRA on **11th June 2020 and Vodacom Tanzania Plc, Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation, Smile Communications Tanzania Ltd, on 12th June, 2020** to show cause why regulatory measures should not be taken against them for the breach committed. The Mobile Network Operators appeared before TCRA as ordered.

After consideration of each Licensee's defence, the breach committed, as well as the need to protect consumers of Telecommunications services against breaches of Law, Regulations, License Conditions and Directives issued by the Authority, TCRA penalized each licensee as follows: -

<p>A. Airtel Tanzania Plc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 350,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Three Hundred and Fifty Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020; 	<p>E. Viettel Tanzania Plc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 130,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings One hundred and Thirty Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020;
<p>B. MIC Tanzania Plc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 300,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Three Hundred Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020; 	<p>F. Vodacom Tanzania Plc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 400,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Four Hundred Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020;
<p>C. Smile Communications Tanzania Ltd,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 15,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Fifteen Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020; 	<p>G. Zanzibar Telecoms Plc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To pay, within fourteen (14) days, a fine of TZS 25,000,000/= (Tanzania Shillings Twenty-five Million), only. 2) To rectify the anomalies and report to the Authority how they have complied with by 30th July, 2020.

Should any of the Mobile Network Operators fail to comply with the above Order, TCRA shall proceed to take further regulatory and legal action against them without further Notice and at their own costs and consequences.

ISSUED BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

2nd July 2020

Stakeholders meet to plan future of skills development

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS and actors in the country's skills development arena met in Dodoma on Tuesday to map the way forward and develop a strategic plan for skills development.

They also discussed the way forward for the country's National Skills Development Programme (NSDP).

The consultative dialogue which was led by The Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) attracted members from the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA), Ministry of Agriculture and REPOA.

Participants highlighted the need for more institutional links between the government educational, training institutions and the private sector.

ATE Executive Director, Dr Aggrey Mlimuka called for more coordinated efforts stating, "We need to make sure that the private sector is ready for and requires the skilled youth workforce we are creating, otherwise all our skills development efforts will not yield results."

ILO Skills National Programme Officer, Comoro Mwenda echoed the importance of a coordinated response to skills development.

He said: "The arena of skills development currently has many actors; this platform will allow us to decide how we can coordinate our actions better and create an effective network to face opportunities and challenges the future of work presents. ILO is committed to working with the government to find innovative and forward looking solutions for skills development."

Mutalemwa Benedict from the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) said: "There is a need for research to highlight the

future labour market trends and needs. We also need to assess the key skills needed for each sector."

Participants also identified other key areas for intervention including more integration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and technological across various sectors as well as better skills needs anticipation.

The forum served as a launch pad for all future skills development programmes while working from the ongoing programmes by the government in collaboration with ILO.

The stakeholders urged the ministry and ILO to expand on the success of existing skills development programmes like the Quality Apprenticeship in Hospitality programme and Recognition of Prior Learning programmes which created viable and attractive skills training and certification opportunities for the country's youth.

The national skills development programme endeavours are expected to provide solutions to tackle youth unemployment in the country.

The programme works to enhance both the employability and entrepreneurship skills among youth while boosting the capacity of local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to provide new employment opportunities for young women and men.

Both, ILO and the government are working towards the realisation of the 2019 Abidjan Declaration entitled 'Advancing Social Justice: Shaping the future of work in Africa'.

The declaration calls for strengthening of capacities of all people to benefit from the opportunities of a changing world of work through investing in human capital by strengthening education, skills, re-skilling, up-skilling, and lifelong learning to leverage technology and the new types of jobs it helps create.



Dar es Salaam resident Rostam Kamazi (R) waits for his turn to pay for his life insurance cover at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) grounds yesterday through an NMB Bank Plc agent. The world-acclaimed fair opened yesterday and is scheduled to run until July 13. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in collaboration with Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) at Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza Region has registered 163 deaths of stillborn babies for the year 2018/19 following research conducted in Misungwi and Nyamagana Districts.

This was revealed mid this week by the Coordinator of Medical Treatment from the Ministry of Health Veronica Mpazi at the research stakeholders' meeting on deaths of stillborn babies held at St Dominic Nyakahoja in Mwanza City.

Ministry, university concerned over high number of stillbirths

"The ministry, in collaboration with CUHAS started researching on the cause of deaths to stillborn babies since 2018 in the two districts, which revealed that out of every 1,000 babies born, 163 die while stillborn," Mpazi said. "In addition national statistics show that out of every 1,000 babies born 29 die while stillborn, hence the ministry has embarked on medical inquiries in

big regional hospitals, including those at Dodoma, Morogoro, Shinyanga, Singida, Amana and Benjamini Mkapa Hospital," she said.

She said there are inadequacies due to poor service to pregnant women when they lose their babies in this way, including mental depression.

CUHAS Head in the Faculty of Medicine Dr Rose Mjawa said the

research aims to prevent such deaths in the country, the issue that seems to be forgotten.

She said one cause for deaths of stillborn babies include delay in taking decision to go the health centres, patriarchy on the part of the head of the family, diseases, travelling challenges and lack of special equipment for delivery at health centres.



Dr Godwin Mollé (C), Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, shares a light moment with CCBRT Hospital CEO Brenda Mwangi (R) at the Dar es Salaam-based hospital yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Livestock Training Agency (LITA) will from this September start to implement a special incubators programme to young livestock development graduates across the country.

With a view to improving the key economic sector, the countrywide initiative targets to infuse impetus to the young experts to engage themselves in self-employment.

LITA Acting Director (Production), Balija Luyombya said the move is meant

Animal husbandry graduates for training

to push for expanded employment opportunities among Tanzanian youth from across the country.

He said the project will see establishment of at least five incubator centres at different LITA campuses.

An occupational incubator is an organisation, or a place which accelerates and systematises the process of creating successful enterprise by providing them with a

comprehensive and integrated range of support, including space, business support services, clustering and networking opportunities to address their needs and develop their business ideas.

"According to the set plans, the programme will start by attracting at least 100 livestock graduates," he noted.

Luyombya added that they have

decided to establish the incubator centres after conducting a special survey which established that from 2011 to 2017, out of 4000 livestock graduates in the country, it was only 1.6 percent that managed to employ themselves in different livestock projects.

He stated that in an effort to overcome a grim statistic in the livestock sector, LITA through its campuses will extend the formal entrepreneurship courses

by linking the graduates with the incubator centres as comprehensive entrepreneurship practical training and give more exposure to make them successful entrepreneurs.

The Acting Director expressed that the state-owned agency will be selecting best livestock graduates at its campuses in order to assemble them in the said incubators for at least a period of 18 months. "At the centres,

the graduates will be imparted with employability skills as additional 'softer' skills, being part to complement their academic achievement towards self-employment, including practical experience," he added.

He however said the LITA incubation process will be linked into three stages namely, pre-incubation, incubation and post-incubation.

According to Luyombya upon completion of the vital programme the incubatees are expected to come up with useful accumulated entrepreneurship competencies.

CFR invites tertiary institutions to bolster economic diplomacy

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania-Mozambique Centre for Foreign Relations (CFR) has invited tertiary institutions, private sector agencies and organisations to work together to enable Tanzanians handle competitively and skillfully international economic, business, trade and investment transactions.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the future of Tanzania in a globalised world, the CFR Acting Director Jeremia Ponerá said the globalised worlds focus on economic diplomacy was an unkind reality nations had to live with and Tanzanians had no choice but to strengthen skills in economic diplomacy to be able to handle competently and benefit from ever-changing global economic, business, trade and investment trends.

When the entire world is bent on pursuing economic diplomacy, it would make little sense for Tanzanians to remain onlookers. I appeal to Tanzanians to come forward for short and long courses in economic diplomacy to build the capacity to compete with other nations, he said, adding that the course was in line with governments strategy to promote international trade, business and industrialisation to accommodate changing global trends.

Dr Ponerá said courses have been reworked to meet the current competitive trade, investment and industrial global trends and needs, calling on members of the business community to take appropriate courses

to equip themselves with knowledge to meet international trade standards. Tanzanians, he said, need to have broad knowledge in various languages to be able to make profitable business. Serious persons with Standard Seven Education would be able to take courses of their choice, he assured.

The director invited public institutions to join CFR to concretise economic diplomacy and make strategies for promoting national economy. There are a number of good tertiary institutions here. If we cooperated we would put in practice economic diplomacy and even propose ways of solving problems in the Great Lakes Region that have stood in the way of regional economic growth, he said adding that the centre was cooperating with the Open University of Tanzania in offering peace and conflict management courses.

Dr Ponerá said the centre was a public institution just like any other Tanzanian public institution although it was run jointly by the two countries since 1978.

Students would choose foreign languages to take courses. They would choose from Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Korean and Russian.

The post-1990s realities have forced governments to work with the private sector in pursuing economic diplomacy -- a departure from the traditional politics-based diplomacy.

The centre plans to open zonal campuses in Dodoma, Arusha and Zanzibar.



Michael Mtie (L), a senior technician with Tanzania Breweries Moshi-based malting plant briefs Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (R) yesterday on operations at the facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

‘Provide more desks to allow social distancing in schools’

By Beatrice Philemon

PARENTS and guardians in Kilwa District, Lindi Region have called on the government to provide more desks to allow observance of social distancing in schools so as to avoid the spread of coronavirus to students.

Chairperson of Mgongeni Women Reflection Circle Action, a meeting held at Kilwa Kivinje, Halima Madadi, made the appeal yesterday during the group's meet to discuss the effect of coronavirus to the communities, challenges and what should be done.

The call comes two days after the reopening of primary and secondary schools across the country following the closure of the institution in March this year due to the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting was organised by Tumaini Jipya la Wanawake Kilwa Women's Platform with the support from ActionAid Tanzania.

“As parents we want our children to sit on desks in accordance with social distancing measures; to play our part, we will give our children masks, sanitisers and soap to wash their hands to protect themselves and millions of students across the country,” she said.

“As for needy students from less fortunate families who cannot manage to purchase these protective items,

we as parents and stakeholders have the responsibility to mobilise and donate the same for them because the main goal is to protect all students in schools.”

Elaborating on the effects of covid-19 to the community, she said the majority of women in Kilwa Kivinje are currently undergoing economic hardships because they have been abandoned by their partners.

According to her, fishing is one of the major economic activities of the residents of the mainly coastal district with majority of Kilwa Kivinje residents engaged in fishing, food vending and small scale farming.

Elaborating on education development for children, she said the coronavirus has immensely affected their children's education as most of them didn't continue with e-learning when schools were closed.

“Instead of learning at home, students were involved in running small businesses like selling snacks in the streets, food vending and other activities while their colleagues from well-to-do families studied online,” she said.

The group has decided to embark on this initiative to support the children after discovering that life was very difficult for them as their mothers were struggling to get required resources.

UDOM ready for empowerment of young professionals

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE University of Dodoma (UDOM) has set aside funds to help empower up and coming young professionals in order to gain more competence in research, it has been revealed.

This was said here this week by the university's College of Business Studies and Law principle, Adam Mwakalobo during a press briefing after opening training on freedom of speech for professionals.

He noted that the fund is accessibly on competitive approach whereby the young and talented professionals are encouraged to apply for funding that is aimed at improving their researches.

“Our target is to empower young professionals and they are welcome to apply for funds and thereafter conduct research in their areas of competence,” said Mwakalobo, adding that despite the small support, they are also helped to publish their work.

He noted that the training will be

ongoing to continue enabling the professionals gain more new skills since there are a lot of developments in education sector. Mwakalobo noted that there are many things that get into the market every day, thus professionals need regular training.

The professor added that academicians need the freedom to publish their work in accordance to things they see, experience and encounter since this is important consideration for their promotion at

work places.

On his side, the director of law department at UDOM, Ines Kajiru noted that the training has been convened in to help build capacity of young academicians in different ways.

“Very many people benefit from such trainings, for instance, today lecturers and academicians at the school of business studies and law at UDOM are getting the same,” he said.

He added that the aim of the training

is to constantly empower professionals and improve their understanding on freedom of expression and freedom of education.

Nicodemus Kusenha, secretary at the East African Network for University Law Clinics (EANUALAC), also observed that the training is important in creating more awareness on freedom of expression and self recognition.

“In legal terms if you talk of freedom of expression it encompasses a lot

of things such as limitation of the freedom, there are rights but there are some things one cannot talk about despite the freedom,” he said.

He singled out the national law on statistics that prohibits unlawful debates, mention or use of certain issues and data, hence the need to know the limits.

The training was organised in collaboration with other centres for legal aid providers in East African universities.

Annual tree-planting to protect Pangani basin kicks off

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Pangani Basin Water Board (PBWB) has embarked on an annual tree planting programme aimed at protecting the north-eastern catchment area.

The exercise started this week as part of celebration of the board's 29th anniversary of service which came along with other activities such as three-day awareness creating to the public on its activities.

Speaking to this paper in Moshi Municipality yesterday, the PBWB's Chief Executive Officer Segule Segule said that his institution will hold such event every year.

Pangani Basin Water Board (PBWB) was established in July, 1991 in accordance with the Water Utilisation (Control and Regulation) Act No. 42 of 1974 and its subsequent amendments. But the former Act has been repealed and replaced with recently enacted Water Resources Management Act No. 11 of 2009.

“We will continue to have such event every year which will go together with series of activities including creating awareness on our activities to the public, tree planting on water sources

and cleanliness of water trenches, among many others,” he said.

He clarified that as opposed to belief by some quarters that PBWB is responsible for water supply, the board is only responsible for water resources protection and provision of permits for water users. “The head office of the basin is located in Moshi Municipality in Kilimanjaro Region while two other offices are situated in Arusha and Tanga regions to ease our services to the public,” the CEO explained.

According to Segule, the PBWB is comprised of ten members drawn from public institutions as well as private sector. Others are representatives of catchment water committees, local government authorities, water and sanitation authorities as well as the ministry responsible for water.

“The chairperson and members of the board are appointed by the minister responsible for water. According to the Water Resources Management Act of 2009, the Basin Water Board is financially and administratively autonomous body. The water officer is the secretary to the board,” he explained.

Segule added that the board is also implementing the Pangani River Basin

Management Project (PRBMP) which is generating technical information and developing participatory forums to strengthen integrated water resources management in the Pangani Basin.

“This includes mainstreaming climate change, supporting the equitable provision and wise governance of freshwater for livelihoods and environment for current and future generations,” he said.

“PRBMP has four major components: environmental flow assessment, community participation in water resources management, climate change and groundwater assessment (to support the integrated water resource management and development plan.”

The project is implemented by PBWB with technical assistance from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) and the local NGO PAMOJA.

PRBMP is co-funded by the government of Tanzania, IUCN Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), the European Commission (EU) through a grant from the EU-ACP Water Facility and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNDP.



Kiteto district executive director Tamim Kambona (L) launches a community awareness campaign on disaster prevention and preparedness on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

INSURANCE

Career Opportunity

UAP Insurance Tanzania is a member of the UAP Old Mutual Group in East Africa, which is a subsidiary of Old Mutual Limited (OML). UAP Insurance has been in operations in Tanzania since 2013 following the acquisition of the majority stake in Century Insurance Company.

We are proud of our contribution in the growth of the Insurance Industry and our commitment is to enable our customers achieve their financial goals through the provision of innovative insurance solutions.

UAP Insurance Tanzania contributes to the communities that we operate in through CSR activities in education, health and social welfare and participates in industry initiatives aimed at improving financial literacy and inclusiveness in the country.

The Company operates a large footprint in the country with offices in all major cities and now wishes to recruit a high caliber individual to fill the following senior position.

Head – Business Development & Marketing

Reporting to Managing Director, the incumbent will be responsible for:- proactive response to identified business opportunities, providing leadership and direction to the business development and marketing team, leading business acquisition and retention initiatives to ensure achievement of set top-line and profitability targets, driving brand building activities aimed at making UAP Insurance as a world class insurer, readily recognized within Tanzania and the East African region

Interested candidates are requested to visit www.uap-group.com and click on Careers to view the full job details and apply online for the role by **Wednesday 15th July 2020**.



The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 2 JULY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Maputo Protocol reinforces women's rights in totality

WOMEN'S rights are the rights and entitlements claimed for women and girls worldwide, and they formed the basis for the women's rights movement in the 19th century and the feminist movement during the 20th century. In some countries, these rights are institutionalised or supported by law, local custom, and behaviour, whereas in others, they are ignored and suppressed. They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls, in favour of men and boys.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include the right to bodily integrity and autonomy, to be free from sexual violence, to vote, to hold public office, to enter into legal contracts, to have equal rights in family law, to work, to fair wages or equal pay, to have reproductive rights, to own property, and to education.

The African Union Commission (AUC) women, gender and development directorate (WGDD) has kicked off a series of engagement on the validation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) Scorecard and Index (MPSI).

The Scorecard and Index is an innovative contribution to the body of tools that seek to enhance accountability and assess the progress on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

The Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index has been developed to support effective gender equitable COVID-19 response and recovery monitoring and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. It underscores the need to uphold women's rights obligations

encapsulated in the Protocol during the COVID-19 crisis, to mitigate the harsh impact of the pandemic on women. This is especially important as women are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and responses that exclude gender equality and women's concerns might have long-term negative impact on women.

WGDD in collaboration with Africa Leadership Forum and Plan International organized a first review of the "Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index Framework: A COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monitoring and Implementation Tool", with representatives of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Agencies and civil society. The framework will be implemented in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) to support national as well as regional monitoring and implementation efforts of the Maputo Protocol.

AU Commission's Women, Gender and Development Directorate, Acting Director Victoria Maloka, restated the commitment of the African Union to promote and protect women's rights and to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, during and post the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the importance of Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index framework in ensuring that the progress made in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) is not compromised, noting that the series of engagement for its validation will involve various stakeholders, including the AU member states. "The Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index is important because it is a monitoring and evaluation tool that will be used not only as a safety measure against violations of women's rights during the emergency crises, but also to protect women's rights in the long run.

Spirit of cooperatives lives on, even with globalisation

JULY 4 is a moment that stakeholders around the world mark International Co-operative Day, an annual event for the global co-operative movement observed on the first Saturday in July since 1923 by the International Co-operative Alliance. This year it falls on July 4, with stakeholders in the local and regional cooperative movement, where they have put up some arrangements, can exchange experience in what has been happening in the cooperatives sector over the past year. Such stock taking is not an easy matter as the work of cooperatives tends to diminish, with their place being taken by individuals using mobile phones to connect with agents, bypassing coops.

Chroniclers say that since 1995, the United Nations and the International Cooperative Alliance have been setting the theme for the celebration of the day worldwide. But owing perhaps to the current lockdown atmosphere in many countries, it has not been easy to organize overarching activity reflecting the importance of cooperatives in national and regional economic or social life. Yet at times cooperatives become a success owing to other factors, including increased inclusion of marginalized groups of people into the economy, when infrastructure is improved.

The situation where the country was celebrating the case of a small miner who dug up two tanzanite stones and was paid 8bn/- when they were bought by the Treasury, banking 7.5bn/- after taxes, without frauds being played upon him or the country, is a case in point. The spirit of the cooperative moment is one of wishing success for each one of us rather than individually, and at cut-throat competition with everyone else. The cooperative movement in part grew in tandem with frustration with the market economy, but as a matter of fact it is an aspect of

markets, that it targets fairness in the working environment, rightful pay for labor, goods given.

When one talks about cooperatives in the country, the reference is likely to be on agricultural cooperative unions and the part they have played in organizing the peasants for self growth and participation in development as a whole. When one looks at that aspect it is possible to conclude that the days of vibrant cooperatives may be done with, as private buyers have greater clout owing to easier communications, and knowledge of the market even in remote rural areas. So rural producers no longer have to rely on a more connected semi-urban elite in district offices who know about markets and national agencies to deal with, with peasants at the receiving end.

At the global level however, the International Day of Cooperatives is essentially organized by the International Cooperative Alliance and affiliated with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) of the United Nations, not an agro-sector agency. It means that the world of cooperatives is focused on the labour rather than on the produce of members of cooperatives. That is why all such activities emancipating small miners of small crop producers - like forced hiking of cashew produce in the course of the past year - stand at par as tied to cooperatives activity generally.

Stretching further the sense of cooperatives, it also includes political participation as without such cooperative effort at picking the right leaders to make the key decisions, nothing can be done. The cooperative spirit includes mobilizing for participation; only with strong participation are accountability mechanisms reinforced. Passivity reflects corruption - or it leads to the same.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Borrowing from IMF will only deepen South Africa's crisis

By Dick Forslund

IF you take the devil in the boat, you have to row him to the shore, and the International Monetary Fund makes it clear that no one gets a loan from it without pursuing an economic policy that the IMF supports.

South African Finance Minister Tito Mboweni is creating panic before his tabling of the Supplementary Budget. He is speaking of an imminent "sovereign debt crisis".

By doing so he is pretending that the R1.8-R2-trillion state pension and unemployment insurance mega funds don't exist - half of them currently placed on the shaky stock market. He believes nothing can be done to halt the \$10-25-billion in illicit capital outflows from South Africa every year.

Mboweni doesn't think a graduated wealth tax on the richest 1 per cent of the population is possible or that the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) could "monetise" a part of the government debt to mitigate the exploding unemployment and widespread hunger - to cite just one of the measures suggested by 34 economists, scholars and others in an open letter to the SARB published earlier this month. The economists demanded a change in the whole macroeconomic framework to grapple with the Covid-19 crisis, warning that failure to do so risks "degenerating into a failed economy, society and state".

The crusade against "the public sector wage bill" was concretised into a plan for large reductions in public employment; cutting R160-billion in wage costs over three years. There is no way this can be done by wage freezes or even wage cuts.

The government is being taken to court for abandoning the third year of the 2018 wage agreement long before any lockdown crisis, but have the unions asked the Treasury about its plan for public sector employment?

The Presidential Health Summit in October 2018 estimated that there were 35,000 vacancies in the public health sector alone. Two years later we are faced with a draconian plan to cut the size of the public sector as a share of the whole economy. The finance minister must now take the opportunity to clarify how his R160-billion cut translates into public sector job losses.

The website of IMF provides information about the Rapid Finance Instrument or any other loan. It makes it clear, however, that no one gets a loan from the IMF without pursuing an economic policy that the IMF supports.



South African Finance minister Tito Mboweni

If you take the devil in the boat, you have to row him to the shore.

If we argue that the smallanyana IMF loan and the \$1-billion loan from the New Development Bank are promoted for political purposes, the opposition will be called "ideological". This is said to be in contrast to "scientific thinking" that allegedly is guiding the loan applications.

But as a cautionary tale that may throw light on Mboweni's plans, let us look at how another "small" dollar loan has developed over time and served South Africa.

Over the years, many have demanded it should be cancelled completely as so-called "odious debt", recognising that the giant coal power project was against the interests of the country, and approved despite the threat it posed to climate change and its being riddled with corruption from the start. These were things the World Bank was aware of, but it still did not stop the credit from growing.

To cancel such a debt may sound radical but it would get much international support today.

In March, Mboweni co-chaired a meeting of African finance ministers that sent a letter to the World Bank, the IMF and the European Central Bank. Given the Covid-19 crisis the ministers asked for \$100-billion in emergency loans to African countries.

But on that point, the United Nations Conference for Trade and Industry (UNCTAD) has a different view. UNCTAD is against new loans from global institutions to governments in trouble. It does not support the mere postponement of payments until the end of the year, as the IMF decided in April for a range of countries, and

the China Development Bank (CDB), from which Eskom in March 2019 had borrowed \$2.05-billion, using a \$4.5-billion CDB facility.

To summarise: a loan in dollars is not "cheap" only because of a 1.1 per cent interest rate. The rand has dropped 20 per cent in value to the dollar since January. The rand might stand at R20, R21 or R22 to the dollar next year. Nobody knows.

The cost for a dollar loan increases when the rand falls in value. Now in June 2020, the rand has been hovering around R17.20 to the dollar, but is extremely volatile. In May, the rand stood at R18.29 to the dollar on average. That same month, Eskom made \$45.4-million in loan repayments to the World Bank and \$78.7-million in payments of interest and charges. The sum of \$124.1-million cost Eskom about R2.27-billion. In April 2010, they would have cost R0.9-billion. The amount payable in rands has more than doubled, or by an extra R1.4-billion.

Since 2010, Eskom has paid the World Bank \$1.548-billion at a steadily worsening exchange rate. Only 25 per cent of that amount, \$392.85-million, counted as repayments of the loan, while \$1.156-billion were paid in interest, fees and charges.

At the current pace, the Medupi loan will be repaid by the turn of the century, and given the letter from all African finance ministers, what is the Treasury saying to the World Bank about it? What is the government's position in the international debt relief debate? Mboweni should explain this in the Supplementary Budget speech.

To summarise: a loan in dollars is not "cheap" only because of a 1.1 per cent interest rate. The rand has dropped 20 per cent in value to the dollar since January. The rand might stand at R20, R21 or R22 to the dollar next year. Nobody knows.

Indeed, the Treasury has always commended itself for borrowing domestically in the Budget Reviews. This year, the plan was to go below 10 per cent in foreign borrowing. In contrast, state-owned enterprises like Eskom have 40-45 per cent of their loans from abroad. This has always been seen as a problem.

There are no rational reasons for the government to change its borrowing policy during this unprecedented crisis.

The two dollar loans in the pipeline are political. The government has several alternatives to them. For these reasons we hope that when it comes to a vote Parliament will reject the foreign borrowing plans.

UNITED NATIONS

Africa must go beyond ending conflict and tackle root causes

Hanna Tetteh is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union. As head of the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU), Ms. Tetteh spoke with Africa Renewal's Kingsley Ighobor on, among other issues, the current state of the UN-AU partnership and how women and young people can help resolve conflict. These are excerpts from the interview:

How is the partnership between the United Nations and Africa Union going?

There are currently three partnerships between the UN and the AU: There's the Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA), one on Peace and Security, and another on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. A fourth partnership framework, on human rights, has been negotiated but not yet signed. The partnership that's largely implemented by the UNOAU is the one on peace and security, and it plays to the strength of the AU because it has been more successful so far as a political organization than as an economic integration organization. We do common analyses and take common positions, and we have achieved progress.

What are some of the challenges or opportunities in the UN-AU partnership?

With every partnership, you're not going to agree on every issue. But we have had more consensus than disagreements. We worked closely together, and with IGAD [Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Eastern Africa], to help re-



Secretary-General António Guterres, right, meets with Hannah S. Tetteh, Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union. File photo

solve the second round of conflict in South Sudan. That resulted in the establishment of a new transitional government this year.

Last year, we worked together on the Central African Republic to negotiate a new peace agreement. We look forward to elections in that country later this year, assuming COVID-19 will allow. We support AMISOM [African Union Mission in Somalia]. The AU force is providing military support for the transition process. UNSOM [the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia] and AMISOM help with political engagement and logistics. We have been challenged by the Libya process where the AU would like to be more proactive in resolving the conflict. Even then, we have made significant progress there following a peace summit in Berlin in January 2020.

How is COVID-19 impacting peace and security in Africa?

Countries in conflict already have infrastructure and resource challenges: inadequate health-care facilities and low number of medical personnel, and so on. And then COVID-19 arrived on our doorsteps. In addition, most African countries, in conflict or not, have large informal economies wherein if people don't work in

a day, they can't feed themselves. So, lockdowns have put a strain on people's lives, especially those in the informal sector. In countries with elections coming up, the pandemic is challenging because the virus is passed through human contact, which happens at campaign events. We have about 15 or so more elections to go this year, and appropriate healthcare protocols will be needed to protect people.

Could post-COVID-19 recovery be an opportunity for Africa to build back better?

Yes, but it will depend on the policy choices member states make, as well as the resources available to them. A few countries are middle income countries—higher middle-income or lower middle-income. Those countries have the resilience and the resources to undertake prevention, response and recovery measures. But the LDCs [Least Developed Countries], whose economies are much more fragile, will need a lot of preparedness to develop appropriate policy responses that don't require a huge outlay of resources. The international development community can help such countries build back better.

Is there a role for pan-African institutions such as the AU in building back better?

As I mentioned, the AU has been more of a political organization than an economic organization. But its development agency [African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)] and other pan-African institutions such as the African Development Bank and, on the UN side, the Economic Commission for Africa, can help countries develop policy responses.

How is the Silencing the Guns 2020 campaign going?

'Silencing the Guns 2020' is the theme of the AU for this year, which is why it's getting a lot of attention. But the Silencing the Guns campaign started in 2013, on the 50th anniversary of the AU [formerly, the Organisation of African Unity]. The idea was to accelerate efforts at ending conflicts through mediation. In some cases, as with South Sudan, progress has been made. In some cases, as with the Sahel, we haven't made the desired progress. We also see that conflict is spreading to other countries outside of Mali-Niger and Burkina Faso being the most vulnerable lately. I don't think we can silence all the guns this year because of all the challenges, but it is a valid aspiration.

What more work can be done to silence the guns in Africa?

There needs to be an acceleration of mediation efforts. It is not easy to mediate in the way in which we are having this conversation [via video link]. When you want to bring political actors and communities together, you organize face-to-face

discussions that enable people to come to agreements, and then you support them to implement such agreements. COVID-19 is challenging that kind of support and intervention.

Do you envision an Africa without war?

There is potential because the last two or three decades have witnessed considerable political progress and economic growth, and several conflicts have ended. But we need to look beyond simply ending conflicts to addressing the root causes of conflicts. And the root causes of conflict lie in bad governance which creates inequalities and does not promote growth and development. It's important that we realise that peace is not a state that once achieved, can be taken for granted. Even countries that are relatively stable need conditions that help consolidate and enhance peace and stability—good governance, inclusiveness, strong institutions, the rule of law, etc.

Is Africa moving in the right direction, considering there are more democracies today than, say, 20 years ago?

The fact that we have more democracies today than previously is a good sign. But regular elections in and of themselves do not mean democracy. Democracy is about respect for human rights, good governance, responsive institutions that people can interact with, including a framework for the protection of stability through law and order, so people can go about their daily lives and achieve their dreams and their aspirations.

How is COVID-19 affect-

ing refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons in Africa?

In some instances, the pandemic has worsened the situation. As cases increased in some countries, the response has been to deport irregular migrants. And in the refugee camps, especially in areas in conflict or coming out of conflict, it's been difficult to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The IOM [International Organisation for Migration] has urged countries to respect the rights of refugees and to provide necessary facilities that safeguard them from the disease. The IOM also called for a halt to the deportation of irregular migrants at this time of COVID-19.

From a peace and security perspective, what are the challenges that may impede successful implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)?

The challenge for AfCFTA is not so much peace and security; it's concluding negotiations for the rules of origin. It is also ensuring the agreement is implemented in a way that benefits economies. Because, remember, the AfCFTA is a very ambitious experiment to encourage trade among African nations. Some countries may lose customs revenues, and so those countries need to see the benefits of free trade.

What are your views on the role of women in peace and security in Africa?

Unfortunately, women are not included enough, and that needs to be addressed. Creating lasting peace and security in countries or communities in conflict involves negotiating a peace agreement and a process of reconciliation—that involves

men and women. In situations where you are trying to rebuild communities, it requires the participation of the entirety of the community to make sure that the peace is consolidated. The UN has supported the AU's project of developing a cohort of female mediators—FemWise Africa—for deployment in countries to ensure more women and young people are brought into the processes of mediation and peacebuilding.

Do young people have a role to play in conflict prevention, possibly re-education?

Absolutely. You can't build peace without encouraging young people to be part of the peacebuilding process. They are the ones recruited as irregular fighters. You have to think about disarmament, demobilization and reintegration into communities. You make sure they don't have the incentive to be part of organizations that terrorize communities. You want them to be part of the productive economy.

What is your message to Africans in these trying times?

We are a very strong and resilient continent. We have been through difficult times before. We have more democracies now and we've also seen economic growth. We need to be engaged in rebuilding our countries and creating an inclusive platform for integration. We are a continent of multiple ethnicities, and our diversity should be our strength. In the same way we condemn acts of discrimination in other parts of the world, we should not discriminate amongst ourselves on the basis of ethnicity. That's an important aspect to promote our growth and development and to strengthen peace.

AGENCIES

Open budget more likely to transform citizenry's lives

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

Literature indicate that as governments launch massive spending measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest Open Budget Survey (OBS) points to weak transparency and oversight of governments spending.

OBS 2019 found that while many governments and citizens have embraced the open budgeting agenda, some countries struggle to translate good intentions into better practice, and others may not yet be convinced. Rates of progress on open budgeting reform are far too slow to counter mounting frustration with the state of exclusivity and inequality and to make headway on development goals.

Citizens' demands for more participation in the budget process continue to be frustrated as evidenced in recent times... Average global scores on the OBS participation measure remains stuck at dismal levels: 14 out of 100.

Presenting the Open Budget Survey (OBS) 2019 during a Policy Forum Virtual Debate on Open Budget Survey 2019: Reflecting on transparency, participation and oversight in Tanzania, Open Budget Survey Researcher and Head of Programmes at HakiElimu, Bonaventura Godfrey, said that Tanzania transparency

score has silently increased to 17 (out of 100).

He mentioned the reasons behind the increase of the score, among others as, Tanzania has increased the availability of budget information by: Publishing the Citizens Budget online in a timely manner; and by increasing the information provided in the Pre-Budget Statement and Enacted Budget.

To him an open budget survey was important because it measured the budget transparency, participation and oversight.

According to Godfrey, OBS enhanced transparency and ensured budgets were implemented in line with their stated objectives. However, only 30 of the 117 surveyed countries have adequate scores both for audit and for legislative oversight.

He said that a transparency score of 61 or above indicated a country was likely to publish enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.

Godfrey has noted that if in future the government wanted to score higher it should prioritise the following actions to improve budget transparency:

Publish the Executive's Budget Proposal and In-Year Reports online in a timely manner. Specifically, all volumes of the budget books should be posted online in draft form, as submitted to the National Assembly, before the budget is approved. The Executive's Budget Proposal should be pub-



Open Budget Survey Researcher and Head of Programmes at HakiElimu, Bonaventura Godfrey insists on a point. File photo.

lished at least in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature.

It is the government's most important policy instrument. It presents the ways the government plans to raise revenues and where these funds are allocated, thus transforming policy goals into action.

The In-Year Reports should be published within three months of the end of the respective reporting periods.

Produce and publish the Mid-Year Review and Year-End Report online in a timely manner.

He however, said that transparency alone was insufficient for improving governance.

Inclusive public participation was crucial for realising the positive outcomes associated with greater budget transparency.

The OBS also assessed the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful participation in the different stages of the budget process.

It examined the practices of the central government's executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators, aligned

with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency's Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies, and scores each country on a scale from 0 to 100.

Godfrey said that the survey indicated that Tanzania has a public participation score of 9 (out of 100). He noted Tanzania's public participation score of 9 in the OBS 2019 was moderately lower than its score in 2017, which was 15 score.

The reason given was due to the cessation of showing the Bunge sessions live to the public.

According to him, Tanzania's Ministry of Finance and Planning has established public consultations during budget formulation to further strengthen public participation in the budget process.

He therefore, has urged it to prioritise the following actions: Pilot mechanisms to monitor budget implementation; expand mechanisms during budget formulation that engage any civil society organisation or member of the public who wishes to participate; actively engage with vulnerable and under-represented communities, directly or through civil society organisations representing them.

Godfrey said that although the Tanzania's National Assembly has established public hearings related to the approval of the annual budget, but should also prioritise the following actions:

Allow any member of the public or any civil society organisation to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval; allow members of the public or civil society organisations to testify during its hearings on the Audit Report.

Also he suggested that the Tanzania's National Audit Office should prioritise the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process: Establish formal mechanisms for the public to assist in developing its audit programme and to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Regarding the oversight, Godfrey said that the OBS has shown that the legislature and supreme audit institutions in Tanzania, together, provided weak oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of 33 (out of 100).

Tanzania's National Assembly provided limited oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage.

To improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritised: Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.

A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.

In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts

funds specified in the Enacted Budget between administrative units; spends any unanticipated revenue; or reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls during the budget year.

A legislative committee should examine the Audit Report and publish a report with their findings online.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Tanzania National Audit Office, the following actions are recommended: Require legislative or judicial approval to appoint and remove the head of the supreme audit institution.

Ensure audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions. Tanzania does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI).

IFIs are increasingly recognised as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

Godfrey said that if the financial systems are transparent they would increase government's credibility in the international arena. And thus, enabled the government to easily access loans and grants from development partners and donors.

He further noted that transparency caused the citizens who have put it in power to trust their government; and encourages tax-payers to pay taxes willingly after

seeing how their money is spent.

Godfrey said that when the documents are put online, it would be easier for a large part of the population to access it instantly.

According to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), over 30 million Tanzanians are connected to internet. So, publishing the documents online was vital for them.

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions such as the legislature and auditor in the budget process.

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds.

This report presents the global findings of the Open Budget Survey 2019 - the seventh assessment since the OBS was launched in 2006.

Research for OBS 2019 was conducted in 117 countries by civil society groups and budget experts and reviewed by independent, anonymous experts. Governments were invited to comment on the draft results and the majority did so.

BY JAKKIE CILLIERS, MARIUS OOSTHUIZEN, STELLAH KWASI, KELLY ALEXANDER, TK POOE, KOUASSI YEBOUA AND JONATHAN D MOYER

The poor lose again: Impact of COVID-19 on Africa

The impact of COVID-19 is usually measured in rates of infection, deaths, jobs lost and the hit on national economies. But there's another metric – the surge in extreme poverty – that describes the most severe effect of the pandemic on people in Africa. While recession, infections and hospitals dominate the current daily headlines, the personal economic consequences of the virus are what will linger.

To measure progress towards the goal of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030, the World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on income of less than US\$1.90 per day. This year the virus will probably push an additional 12 million Africans below this threshold. The forecast will increase to an additional 26 million people if the crisis extends into 2021, according to a new report by the ISS, Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) and Frederick S Pardee Center for International Futures at the University of Denver.

The study uses the International Monetary Fund's April 2020 growth forecast, mortality data from Imperial College in London and additional data on African responses to the pandemic. It models three scenarios on the likely impact of COVID-19 on Africa's economic growth, per capita income, poverty and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.



Extreme poverty rises in all scenarios modelled in a new study of Africa's development trajectory. File photo

Africa's development trajectory has suffered a severe setback. The headline goal of the SDGs is the elimination of poverty, but extreme poverty rises in all of the report's COVID-19 scenarios, and African growth rates are significantly below what is required to alleviate it.

In the best-case scenario, extremely poor Africans make up 35% of the continent's population in 2030.

The World Bank agrees. It calculates that the 2020 downturn will likely increase sub-Saharan Africa's poverty rate by at least two percentage points, returning the continent to 2015 poverty levels and effectively wiping out five years of progress.

Africa's rapid population

expansion, projected to grow from 1.34 billion today to 1.71 billion by 2030, has long been recognised as a factor offsetting development progress, since it is not accompanied by sufficiently rapid and inclusive economic growth.

In 2019 about 470 million Africans lived in extreme poverty, equivalent to 37% of the continent's population. Our pre-COVID-19 forecasts anticipated that about 570 million Africans, or 33% of the continent's population, would still be living in extreme income poverty in 2030. In our best-case COVID-19 scenario – premised on a sharp global economic recovery in 2021 – the number of extremely poor Africans will increase to 603 million

or 35% of the continent's population.

We have to look at the health, economic, social and political consequences of COVID-19 as a series of entwined phenomena.

The immediate health impact, measured in infections and deaths, is well known and widely reported. But efforts to combat the potential health effects of COVID-19 spark an economic, social and political chain reaction. This ultimately reduces the global growth that drives the longer-term consequences of the virus on the continent. The proportion of Africa's undernourished population is set to increase, and infant mortality will by 2030, be three times higher than the UN's 2030 target in

the SDGs.

COVID-19 afflicts older people most severely. The disease is expected to have relatively low mortality rates in Africa compared to other regions. While Africa benefits from its younger population, this is offset by its comorbidities like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. In addition, vulnerabilities caused by poverty, poor nutrition, weak healthcare systems, crowded settlements, and inadequate access to clean water and sanitation are likely to lead to higher death tolls, offsetting the demographic age advantage.

In our scenarios, we use Imperial College estimates that between 350 000 and 1 450 000 additional

deaths in Africa may be attributed to COVID-19 in 2020, but likely much less thereafter. Our study forecasts an additional 1.8 million to 5.3 million deaths in Africa by 2030 as a consequence of the pandemic, many of them due to indirect effects.

Once the pandemic itself subsides, mortality generally results from lower government revenues, particularly the impact of reduced health spending. Government revenues in Africa are estimated to drop in 2020 by US\$45 billion from the pre-COVID forecast, and public and private health expenditure will decline by US\$3.7 billion. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and maternal

mortality all increased in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone after the Ebola crisis of 2014 to 2016 that diverted resources away from basic health care.

Every year about 700 000 Africans die from AIDS, and slightly fewer from malaria, but over five years this mortality may increase by up to 36% if the pattern is repeated.

Economic contraction due to COVID-19 is compounded by many countries' high levels of debt.

Africa has been seriously affected by a crisis not of its making. The disease has exaggerated existing challenges, forcing governments to contend with limited resources as they experience increased debt and a decline in growth prospects.

Economic contraction is compounded by many African countries' high levels of debt. Costs of servicing debt have increased to roughly US\$40 billion annually. The currency depreciation experienced by many African countries in 2020 has also increased the costs of servicing debt. COVID-19 is thus likely to trigger a debt crisis in some African countries unless creditors agree to substantive amelioration effects.

Once again it is the poor who suffer most. There will be many more poor people, and they are the most vulnerable to the next crisis, whether it's climate change, a pandemic, conflict, or an unforeseen catastrophe.

Agencies

Whether it's hand hygiene, physical distancing, disinfecting surfaces, wearing masks, or reaching out to protect the most vulnerable, behaviour change has a key role to play in tackling the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

That's why a new brief from the World Bank, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Harvard Kennedy School and Project Clear provides guidelines and principles to help governments develop national communications strategies for behaviour change.

The brief draws from academic literature, recent research, analysis of existing initiatives, and examples from projects across the world to offer 10 essential components for rapidly developing a communications strategy to combat COVID-19:

- **Step 1: Set up a communications task force.** An agile and action-oriented task force, headed up by a national focal point, is needed to execute the strategy and should include representatives from the Ministry of Health, the private sector, media, behavioural scientists, and creative and communications specialists.
- **Step 2: Mobilize resources, including from the private sector.** Core government funding for COVID communications needs to be mobilized rapidly and can be complemented with help from donors and from the private sector, who have many relevant skills to offer.
- **Step 3: Define which behaviours need to change and by whom.** Campaigns need to be specific and clear about what behaviour they want people to adopt. Hand hygiene and physical distancing are key to interrupting COVID-19 transmission in the community, as shown below.
- **Step 4: Review what is being done internationally and locally.** Country programmes need to be aware of global developments, gathered from authoritative sources including WHO, Compass, the World Bank and Hygiene Hub. The task force also needs to map all existing national efforts, as well as quickly counter misinformation.
- **Step 5: Review what is known about the drivers of risk behaviours and rapidly fill in knowledge gaps.** An effective national plan needs to engage the population with messages that are new and surprising in order to grab people's attention. The communications must motivate action by making the behaviour something that people will want to do. Above all, the advocated behaviour has to be possible. Rapid in-depth research into what people are doing and why, especially in vulnerable or marginalized groups, is vital.
- **Step 6: Produce a creative brief and theory of change.** A creative brief is the guiding document that sets out the problem, purpose, objectives, target behaviours, audience characterization, channels of communication, persuasive argument, tone, personality, measures of

Members of 'Mikono Safi Tanzania Salama' campaign team hold a poster on Covid-19 prevention while on a road show in Mbeya Region on Tuesday. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

10 steps to developing communications strategy to help combat COVID-19



impact, and the materials required from the creative team.

- **Step 7: Develop a unifying national brand.** Governments need to brand their national campaigns to help establish trust and credibility and ensure coherence. The logo should be based on existing government brands but have new, eye-catching elements, while the slogan should encapsulate the primary insight of the campaign.

- **Step 8: Deploy using the most relevant channels for the target audiences.** Content may take various forms, including TV and radio commercials, memes for social media, or content for existing TV and radio shows. The aim is to generate discussion and social media sharing -

for messaging to go viral, it must be worth sharing.

- **Step 9: Rapidly pre-test and continually revise materials.** In emergency conditions, some pre-testing, for example through phone calls with small samples of target audiences, is possible – allowing course corrections before materials are released. Content will need to be revised and refreshed often, since the impact diminishes as surprise fades and circumstances evolve.
- **Step 10: Monitor, evaluate, and share lessons.** Continual monitoring of the effect of communications on behaviour and behavioural indicators is essential, even if the circumstances of a pandemic make this challenging.

The pandemic has focused attention on the vital

importance of behaviour change. However, behaviour change is not just a matter of providing information; it requires strategies to ensure that people pay attention, and that they want to, and can, change their behaviour. To achieve this, behaviour change communications need to be surprising and cause a re-evaluation of the behaviour so that individuals will be motivated to act. Performance of the behaviour should be enabled.

Strategic planning is hard in a pandemic, but is achievable, can be rapid, and will pay off in terms of programme effectiveness. Following the above guidance can help governments encourage citizens to choose better behaviours now and sustain them into the future.

● **Co-authored by: Valerie Curtis, Robert Dreibeibis, Myriam Sidibe, Jason Cardosi, Chris Bonell, Kaposi Mwambuli, Sian White, and Robert Augner.**

By Correspondent Mutayoba

Arbogast, Bukoba

Vegetables prove lucrative venture for retired Kamala

Stephen Kamala (64) has decided to venture into horticulture agriculture to generate income but also ensure availability of fresh and healthier vegetables to his fellow elders and the community at large.

Kamala who had worked as an expert in sugar factories in Tanzania and Uganda, is currently residing at the Kigarama village in Misenyi district, Kagera region.

When you visit his home you will be welcomed by pleasant scenery of various vegetables including tomatoes, cabbages, onions, carrots, okra, ginger, peppers, and many others all grown around his house.

"I have decided to engage in this kind of farming since it does not require a huge portion of land to practice," he said adding that since most of the elders face high risks of getting diseases, it was important that they start consuming



the healthiest vegetables which are rich in vitamins and minerals.

"I came up with the idea of introducing a vegetable patch after realizing its health importance as well as the ability to protect old people from various diseases such as cancer," he said.

Kamala says engaging in such type of farming keeps him busy throughout the day, which is a good thing since old people are advised to do a lot of physical exercises to avoid body malaise.

The old man expects to generate at least 13m/- per year from the business.

Most of the people visiting his garden patch inspire the way he practices horticulture agriculture by using satchet bags which he places around his house.

Kamala says that using satchet bags for vegetable farming is the easiest because the bags keeps the moisture for a longer period hence no need for watering the gardens frequently.

He has also created a WhatsApp group where he shares the knowledge with fellow villagers. This is also a tool that makes him to market his produces to his customers in and outside the village.

Kamala has been encouraging young people including graduates to engage in the business to start generating income as they wait for employment.

Pride: A classic case of lack of accountability for parastatals

By Guardian Correspondent

THE current Controller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Parliament this year, gives a grim view of what happened at the Promotion of Rural Initiative and Development Enterprises Limited (PRIDE).

The once profitable and long considered one of the best run public financial institutions; PRIDE is now on the rocks with its director hunted by law enforcement agencies.

Started with a modest capital of US\$4,000 from Norway government through NORAD in 1993, PRIDE made its name by providing credit to small and micro entrepreneurs. By 2017, PRIDE had over 100,000 customers and 72 branches all over the country.

In 2008, the CAG report indicated that there was confusion on the issue of who really controls PRIDE, after the government of Norway decided to pull out of running the company.

It is interesting that until now, there has never been any official communication from both governments as to why the Europeans decided to quit. What is now known is that the withdrawal of the Norwegians was the beginning of the troubles that befell to the company.

Five years later, in the 2012/2013 report, CAG again asked about the issue of ownership. Once again, the government did not act on the recommendations and the issue dragged on.

In 2012/2013, CAG was alarmed by the report from the Treasury that omitted PRIDE from the list of public parastatals. CAG wanted to know why the company he audited in 2008 was now not on the list without explanation?

Ten years on since the issue was introduced and seven years after CAG asked about PRIDE's omission from the government corporations list, this year's report gave a damning verdict at the affair of the corporation.

The lack of accountability that ultimately got PRIDE to its knees was so criminal that now the Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) is now investigating the matter.

Unfortunately, the investigation comes a bit late because the damage has already been done.

At a press briefing in Dar es Salaam recently, PCCB Director General, Brigadier General John Mbungu, said that PRIDE's immediate former executive director,

Rashid Malima, is on the run now after the corruption czar started the investigation.

PCCB claims Malima now resides in the United States of America after slipping from the country through Namanga border. Malima was PRIDE's top boss since its inception 28 years ago.

The CAG indicates that PRIDE was once a very profitable organisation. From the humble beginning of USD 4,000, the company had given out loans in the equivalent of close to 20bn/-; with 8.82bn/- issued to its customers and 11.14bn/- as credits to its own staff.

A closer look into the audit report by the CAG shows that PRIDE, on its end days, gave more money to its own staffs that it did to its outside creditors. This doesn't make a lot of sense.

The major problem with this structure, as was found out by an independent auditor, was that when these staffs were discharged from work or quit by any reasons, there was no follow up which means all the money was lost.

Apart from these credits, PRIDE also invested in shares and real estate projects that were supposed to earn them more money.

The story of its downfall is disheartening.

In the 2018/2019, the CAG noted about the problem of having government corporations which have no board of directors. Without the people to guard the national interest, the managers are prone to misbehaviors that can be costly.

It is also a big problem when one man stays in power for a long time. Rashid Malima was PRIDE's top executive for 28 years. Without the guardians, it was easy from him to assume that the company was his own and could do whatever he wishes.

It is time we think about the time in which a person can be effective in top leadership position. To stay in the top position for a time close to the whole generation is not good for businesses.

The issue of PRIDE was first raised in the CAG report in 2008. It is likely that the government knew about what was going in the company months or years before it became public. As a shareholder, it had all the information.

All the way, from 2008 up until 2015, CAG was asking questions and some newspapers reported on the matter. Yet, the government did not do anything.

It means that it has taken after the corruption czar started to act decisively on the matter. But, as I noted earlier, it is a bit late for the damage has already been done.

The major thing that can come out of the PRIDE saga is the lack of proper follow up on the CAG recommendations. If the government and the Parliament had acted on the advice by the Auditor General, PRIDE could have been saved earlier.

But because of the dilly dallying, the company is now broke and the small and micro entrepreneurs are struggling for credits. This impact heavily on the economy.

By law and the constitution, the CAG has been mandated to be the government advisor on the financial matters. It is imperative that the executive follows up and acts on the recommendations timely and decisively.

PRIDE invested on shares in banks and other financial institutions. The current CAG reports that the company invested 2.31bn/- to Bank M which has been liquidated recently. The liquidation means the money has been lost forever.

Also, 47.68bn/- which were credited to PRIDE from institutions which are based outside the country were not reported to the Central Bank of Tanzania (BoT) as requested by the laws and regulations of Tanzania.

It is unlikely that the 11.14bn/- credited to PRIDE's own staffs will ever be recovered.

What happened to PRIDE must not happen again to any other public institutions. This is a very bad experience that should not be re-lived.

But some hard questions need to be asked. First and foremost, after the CAG report uncovers the graft and lack of mismanagement at the PRIDE - who made the decision to invest and with what criteria?

Secondly, who is the legal owner of PRIDE? Third, what is going on with the PRIDE at this moment in time? Fourth, who will carry the burden of the loss caused by the mismanagement of the company?

Finally, the Treasury Registrar has the duty to inform the public about the PRIDE issue and the fate of its management. If actions will be taken against those responsible for the loss, the public will also be eager to know.



Violence against women in Zanzibar unabated despite laws and policies

By Guardian Reporter

IT is becoming a common occurrence every day. Hardly a day passes in Zanzibar without a case of violence against women, whether in a rural or in urban settings.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Indian Ocean archipelago takes the form of physical, mental, social or economic abuse against a person because of that person's gender and includes violence that may result in physical, sexual or psychological harm and suffering to the victim. It may also include threats or coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life.

Women in Isles experience a variety of forms of violence including battery, sexual abuse and exploitation, rape, defilement (rape of a child) and incest.

Mwanaidi Wajih of Muyuni village in Unguja views GBV as a challenge that thwarts women prosperity in Isles, calling for more efforts to address the vice.

Citing her own experience, Mwanaiidi says three years ago her daughter was sexually abused when she was at IO. On the fateful day, Mwanaiidi sent her daughter to collect leaves of palm trees, which are used as a material to make fences, baskets and roofs.

"My daughter wasn't alone. She went with her fellow children. But when she came back I discovered something fishy in her body, it seemed as someone had raped her. I took her to hospital and doctors confirmed that she was raped," she said, adding:

"The man who did that to my child was identified. We reported the incident to the police station. A case is currently in court, but until now there are no measures taken against the perpetrator. He is freely moving around. This situation hurts me a lot."

According to Mwanaiidi, GBV incidents are on the increase in Zanzibar despite a number of interventions which are in place. "I urged parents to be more careful with our children and the government should take stern measures to the GBV perpetrators," she says.

A 31-year-old Amina Juma Makame from Jambiani village in Zanzibar is a survivor of GBV. Her husband has beaten and insulted her repeatedly. She says she has reported him to the authorities several times but he has never been arrested.

The mother of six says she has nowhere else to go since her husband is the sole breadwinner.

"I am scared that one of us will be badly injured if we continue to fight. Sadly, my family just looks the other way, having

washed their hands after seeing that we have not tried to resolve the problem. The cause of our fights is poverty. Many of the fights start when he can't get his preferred relish," says Amina.

Said Dude, Zanzibar-based anti-GBV activist cites low level of education as a challenge that fuels the uncouth behaviour in the country.

"There is a need to scale up awareness campaigns about GBV. The idea will make more women aware of their rights and where to report," he suggests.

Dude says most of the GBV acts are from closer members of the families, "so it becomes harder for the family to take further action against the perpetrators. They remain mum to maintain the relationship."

He also suggests the need for amending the laws, coming up with stiffer penalties such as death penalties for the perpetrators as the current 30-year imprisonment seems to be not enough.

Khamis Juma, state attorney from DPP office in Mjini Magharibi Region says: "Almost all cases are sent to court on time are, unless they have no clear evidence and thus needing more time for investigation."

He urges the public to submit their complaints in the DPP office if in anyway, they haven't been satisfied with their cases

development. "Our door is always open for anyone to come and bring his/her complaints, we have been receiving a number of complaints and worked on them," he says.

According to him, bringing all the needed evidence is an important aspect when it comes to proceeding cases.

"It is a normal procedure that every case needs to have substantive evidence for the cases to go on. A case which has no merit is removed from the court as any weakness provides room for advocates to defend their clients. So, it is important for people to have all the required evidence for their cases to proceed," the officer says.

He also cites witnesses as a challenge hindering GBV fight to proceed, saying: "There is a tendency for witnesses not to appear in court and if they appear they don't talk anything and sometimes they provide information in favour of the accused."

"Several times I met with such cases, whereby the victim defend the man who abused her and some say that she was her partner and she wasn't ready to put him in trouble," he says.

But, the Zanzibar law is very clear that a witness who fails to appear in court or refuse give evidence is to be remanded for eight days, he says.

By Len Brand

IN today's troubled world, the African Union is projecting that exports and imports of African countries will this year fall by at least 35 per cent from the level reached last year, which is a loss estimated at around \$270-billion.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has also estimated that the continent may lose half of its GDP growth (from 3.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent), chiefly owing to supply chain disruptions, shrinking investment and lower remittances.

With this scenario, top of mind for those companies doing business in Africa is the need to ask themselves: How are we going to continue working in Africa knowing this?

First and foremost, for us at Tata, it is the ability to draw on the strong ethics entrenched in all of our businesses, and this is what has always guided - and will continue to guide - us as to how we approach the market. Our ethos of integrity and ethics is ingrained in everything we do.

Of course, mindset is critical and it has to be right in order to make business work on the continent. It is important to find out what matters to people, now and in the future.

As a team, we spend a lot

Enabling the dream: Questions firms with operations in Africa should get answers to



Len Brand

of time in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and other parts of Africa in an attempt to understand each scenario and situation a little bit better each time we travel in each particular country.

For us, it's not only about the sale; rather, it is about helping to solve problems. If you get this right, the commitment to the sale will come later. It's all about solving the issues first.

Another key factor is knowledge of the markets in which we operate. Understanding the different regions will unlock doors into areas where others may find access difficult. It is important to appreciate the unique situations in each market in order to achieve success.

A strong driver in the way we as an organisation approach a new challenge or business opportunity is to take a step back, assess the risk, mull it over and then collectively work out a plan as to how to mitigate any risk which may present itself, and ultimately enable the customer's dream to come true. By doing this, it makes it a lot

easier to proceed with confidence and allocate the necessary funds to unlock the potential.

Ultimately, it's about harnessing the support of a strong team and choosing the right people to work closely with. For me, while building a healthy, viable company, the plans and dreams from when I took over as CEO of Tata Africa three and a half years ago, are bearing fruit and falling neatly into place.

Focusing on building a strong leadership team I can trust and work with has given me comfort in placing responsibility on them to run with operational issues in each and all of the countries where we have a presence.

Today, Tata is a brand that is synonymous with ethical business operations in Africa. It is committed to its vision of building and sustaining relationships with cooperation and trust, creating employment opportunities and making its contribution to the social development of local communities.

There is no secret as such behind our achieve-

ments other than appreciating the need for ethical business conduct, having the right mindset, being up to speed with respect to knowledge and understanding of the different markets, striving to enable the customer's dream come true, and working with the right leadership team.

The Tata group began its relationship with the African continent in 1977 with the establishment of Tata Zambia. In 1994, it inaugurated Tata Africa Holdings in Johannesburg, which now serves as the group's headquarters in the continent - with a presence in 13 countries. It operates in engineering, services, telecommunications, information technology, chemicals and materials.

Tata places a premium on quality and ethical business operations. It is committed to its vision of building and sustaining relationships in Africa with cooperation and trust, creating employment opportunities and making its contribution to the social development of local

communities. It also contributes to the promotion of the social and economic development of local communities through education, entrepreneurship and health initiatives.

• Len Brand, Chief Executive Officer at TATA International Africa Distribution Vertical, has travelled and worked in Africa for more than 25 years. Prior to his position as CEO at TATA International Africa, Len Brand spent 22 years focused on agricultural mechanisation equipment as well as and golf and turf equipment in sub-Saharan Africa, Germany and the US, for six of those years in the role of MD at John Deere Sub-Saharan Africa. He sits on the BRICS (an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Institute's Advisory Board. In this piece, he shares some key pointers and thoughts on how he and his team have managed to navigate their way forward in doing business in Africa.

Agencies

By Christina Lee

While the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing mass protest movement in the US led to a reckoning of institutional racism in the media, Europe has been business as usual.

Last week, German broadcaster ARD hosted an all-white panel of male experts to discuss racism and police violence, including a columnist well known for commentary like: "Corona-fear: Am I racist if I don't want to sit next to Chinese people on the subway?" In Denmark, a government policy of punishment for people living in state-defined immigrant "ghettos" gains more coverage abroad than in the rest of Europe.

The role of the media is to be unsparing in examining society and itself, including when it comes to inequality and discrimination. Why hasn't European media been up to the challenge?

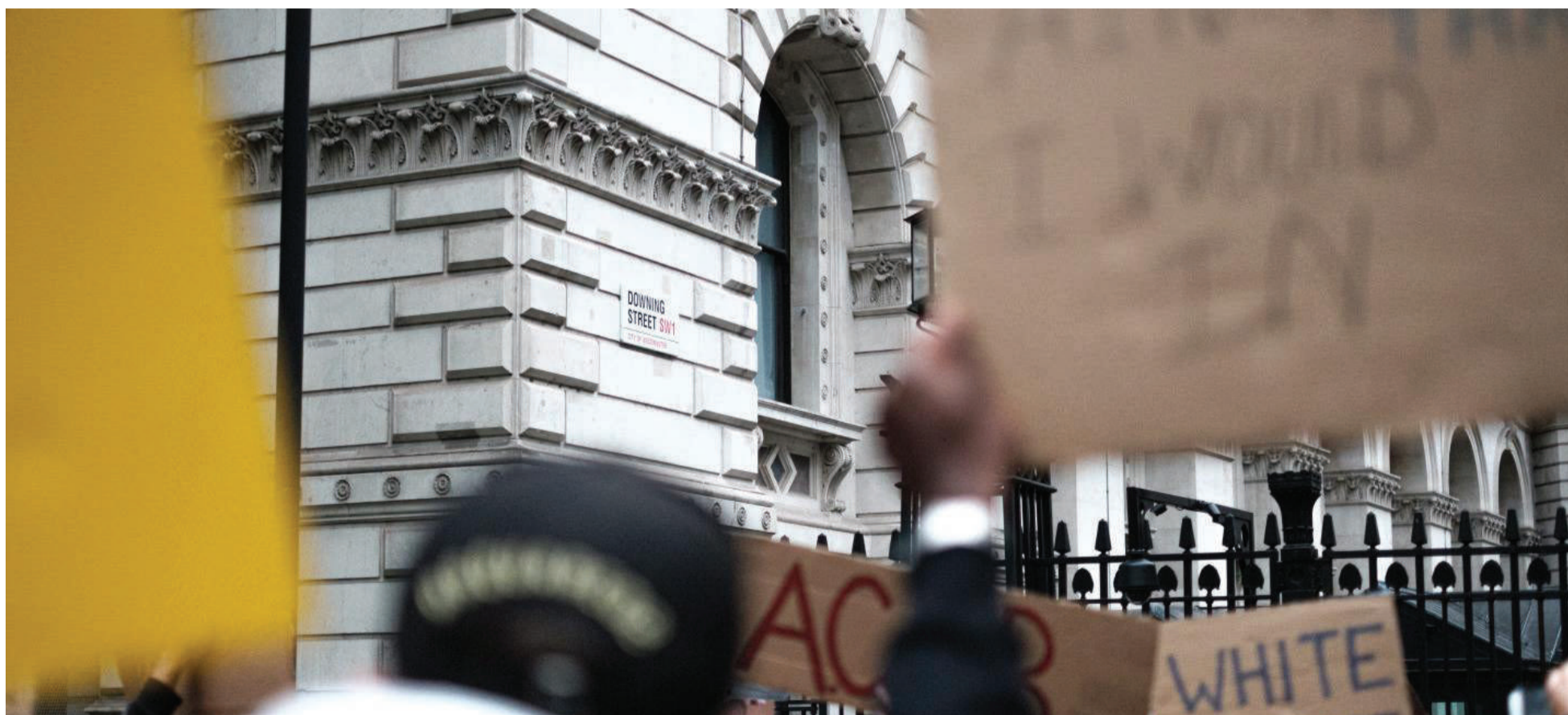
Lack of accountability

Much like the culture of newsroom misogyny that broke into the open during the #MeToo movement, the racism towards Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC) journalists has pushed many people out of the field.

A 2016 study from England showed that the country's news industry was 94 per cent white, while in Germany, where 25 per cent people have at least one migrant parent, that holds true for only 6 per cent of editors, according to a 2020 study by Neue Deutsche Mediamacher.

"For too many years, I've had too many conversations with people who say that their careers have been ruined or curtailed by racism in newsrooms and the media in this country," says British journalist Marverine Cole, award-winning director of BBC radio documentary "Black Girls Don't Cry" and director of journalism at Birmingham City University. "The stories are horrific across broadcast-

European media has racism problem, and time is ripe for a serious rethink



ing and print.

For example, in Belgium, journalist Cécile Djunga went viral in a video where she spoke of the racism she faced as one of the country's few Black voices in the media. Last year in Germany, employees of state-financed broadcaster Deutsche Welle came forward to complain of a culture of racism and harassment in the newsroom.

DW denied this claim, which points to a lack of acknowledgement and accountability by news organisations - which Cole suggests is widespread.

"A lot of these organisations hide the bullies," says Cole, adding: "I know of cases where abusers have been moved to another part of the country and they carry on. And they don't get punished at all."

In a field where jobs are scarce and numerous people work on freelance contracts, it is risky to come forward and potentially lose jobs or

assignments for pointing out discrimination.

Word choice

The absence of consequences for racist behaviour happening behind the scenes, and the lack of people of colour in positions of power, is reflected in a press that frequently repeats racist and dehumanising stereotypes, or fails to account for historical context.

"The media don't call out institutional racism," says Miriam Aced, assistant director of the Berlin-based Centre for Intersectional Justice, adding: "It is viewed as something person A does to person B intentionally and with bad will. The fact that racism is structural, historical and institutional is not understood."

But racial profiling, police violence and hate crimes continue to be major issues in many European countries, directed against people perceived as outsiders.

In France, for instance, a

new report by Human Rights Watch documents how Black and Arab youth are subjected to frequent police abuse. Across Europe, meanwhile, the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed widespread racial profiling and targeted harassment by police in at least 12 European states, according to a new report by Amnesty International.

"The narrative we see is that racism is something that happened in the past that was a static event like colonialism, the Holocaust or the slave trade, but there's no understanding that it has a continuity to it," says Aced.

Not only do the media leave out historical context, but the language they use actually has major consequences on the public's perception of current events, like the refugee crisis, which came to a head in 2015. "A lot of the media, particularly in 2015 but even to this day, in their coverage and in the photos and language they have used, maybe uncon-

sciously, have fueled a narrative of invasion and fear," says Judith Sunderland, Milan-based deputy director for Europe and Central Asia at Human Rights Watch.

She adds that the misuse of language like "illegal immigrants" to describe people seeking asylum, as well as a framing of people migrating as having wildly different cultural values, has produced coverage that explains migration as a threatening, emergency scenario, rather than an everyday phenomenon that has been going on in Europe for hundreds of years.

Activists have hesitated to point out that the media's discussion around migration is racist for fear that such wording could cause people in the political middle to tune out, or even turn towards the right.

"Now the debate has been blown wide open," says Sunderland after the widespread protests against police brutality emerged in

the US and started conversations about race in newsrooms around the world. She recently published a piece comparing deaths at sea in the Mediterranean to deaths from police violence in the US.

Creating new spaces

The journalism industry in Europe has some major work to do to create more inclusive newsrooms, and more inclusive coverage, but not all journalists are willing to wait around for newsrooms to fix these problems.

"What's beautiful is that some people who have worked in these places and been pushed out or have not had a great experience are setting up their own beautiful and excellent digital spaces, like Gal Dem, Black Ballad and Melanmag," says Cole. Adding: "They're from young, vibrant, exciting voices who thought, 'You know what? We're just gonna do our own thing.'"

"We can no longer wait for

these institutions to do the speaking for us, we have to tell our stories ourselves," adds Aced.

But such projects require resources and funds to build - funds that often go to bigger newsrooms. Many of the biggest project grants are for already established publishers with a proven track record, though this may be changing.

Although a glance at the funding recipients for Google's Digital News Innovation Fund shows well-established names like Der Spiegel, de Volkskrant and Il Sole 24 Ore, there are also funds for "prototypes" trying out new models. But to have the knowledge and the skills to apply for, and receive, such grants, it helps to already have some big name experience behind you and your network.

Whether it's getting funding for a new journalism project, receiving an investigative journalism grant or getting published in a big newspaper, the people in the decision-making roles are mostly white and are looking for journalists who have already established themselves in these same big-name networks, composed of mostly white journalists.

It can be very difficult for newcomers without name recognition to break in at all, let alone when discrimination comes into play.

To create an even playing field, Europe's media elite needs to take a step back and consider how institutional racism in society and in their own newsrooms has shaped which stories get told, how they are told and who is trusted to tell them.

• A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Christina Lee is a freelance writer and editor, who leads Hostwriter's Ambassador Network.



Thursday 2 July 2020

CRDB boss pays tribute to Treasury, business community for profitability

By The Banker Reporter

SUSTAINED economic growth, vibrant private sector and Bank of Tanzania's improved banking industry regulations all played an important role in CRDB Bank Plc's impressive performance last year.

The bank's Chairman, Ally Laay told shareholders in the first ever virtual annual general meeting that with economic growth of 6.8 percent last year, small and medium size businesses grew at a higher rate thanks to better business climate prevalent in the country.

CRDB which made a net profit of over 120bn/- last year, had its shareholders endorse over 44bn/- to be paid as dividend this year, an increase of 45 percent compared to last year's performance when 68bn/- net profit was made.

"Bank of Tanzania continued to improve regulations in the banking industry to encourage banks to increase lending to the private sector. Such improvement including lowering of liquidity deposits from eight to seven percent which resulted into an increase of loans to the private sector to 11 percent from 4.9 percent in 2018," Laay said.

He further noted that the central bank's



CRDB Bank Plc board chairman Ally Laay speaks during the virtual AGM last week. File photo.

easing of regulatory requirement was backed by an increase in liquidity from 4.5 percent in 2018 to 9.6 percent last year which enabled the home-grown largest lender to perform well.

Laay said his board also made a decision to windup CRDB Microfinance Bank Limited, a subsidiary targeting small businesses during the year and transferred its assets and liabilities to the holding company to improve efficiency.

"Tanzania remained our biggest market during the year with a bigger profit share generated here. Our CRDB Burundi and CRDB Insurance Broker Limited subsidiary companies have continued to perform well in their respective business domains," the board chairman noted.

Presenting details of 2019 performance, CRDB Group's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said businesses continued to improve with growth in all key indicators including loans and advances, deposits and assets, which grew

by eight percent to 3.4trn/- from 3.1trn/- in 2018.

Nsekela noted that deposits grew by 11 percent to 5.2trn/- while net assets also increased by nine percent to 6.6trn/-. "Our customer base also grew by 50 percent across the group from two to three million. Overall customer satisfaction has shown positive trends, as a result of our transformational efforts in digitising customer feedback routes and service touch points," Nsekela noted.

He further reported that the group has improved its asset quality by reducing non-performing loans from 8.3 percent to 5.5 percent which is the biggest improvement, compared to an industry average currently pegged at 11 percent.

"On the innovation front, we keep soaring. In the last financial year, we have launched several innovative financing solutions for different sectors and customer segments aiming at addressing financial challenges that impede growth," the group CEO stated.

CBK faced with protest over free money transfers

NAIROBI

Telecommunication companies and banks have protested the Central Bank of Kenya's move to extend the free mobile money transaction fees without consulting them.

The firms said that CBK should have sought their opinion before unilaterally extending various relief measures on mobile phone payments by a further six months, which will see banks and telcos like Safaricom lose billions of shillings.

Executives at the firms, who did not want to come on record, said that CBK should have extended the free service for a shorter period or introduced discounts on the transfer charges to cushion the organisations from losses.

"We were not consulted given the billions we stand to lose," said a top Safaricom executive who sought anonymity for fear of CBK reprisals. "We should have gone the Rwanda way or at least extended for a short period."

CBK introduced the measures to encourage cashless payments on mobile phones because the government said avoiding the physical use of cash would help contain the spread of the virus in the country. Under the CBK directive, mobile phone money transaction fees under Sh1,000 are free with banks removing charges for customers moving cash between their mobile wallets and bank accounts.

Safaricom had earlier said that the free M-Pesa service had seen it lose an average of Sh1.8 billion monthly since mid-March, a pointer that it could miss sales of up to Sh16.2 billion in the nine months to December. The Sh16.2 billion is equivalent to about a fifth or 19.1 percent of M-Pesa's annual sales, underlining the impact of the pandemic on Safaricom's earnings. Safaricom declined to issue an official comment over the extension.

At least six bank executives told the Business Daily that they had no prior knowledge of CBK's directive, arguing that the free service was a moral appeal and not a legal order. Through their lobby group – the Kenya Bankers Association (KBA) – the banks had planned for their members to decide on the fate of the free cash transfer ahead of the CBK order.

"CBK issued the directive without consulting anyone and did not even have the courtesy of acknowledging that banks have played a huge role in the initiative," said one executive. Kenya has so far reported 5,384 positive cases of Covid-19. It reported its first case on March 12.

KBA chairman and KCB chief executive, Joshua Oigara, said the bankers will meet with CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge Friday, but refused to comment on whether he was consulted ahead of the order. "We do not comment on matters of the Central Bank, it has made a directive and we have a meeting with the governor tomorrow after the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) meeting," Mr Oigara said.

CBK had quoted regulation 43 (2) of the National Payment System when it extended the cash transfer relief. The section refers to caps placed on mobile phone cash transfer like the increase of the daily transaction limit to Sh300,000 per person from the initial Sh140,000.

Mobile financial services users are also able to hold more money in their wallets and the total monthly limit for transactions was also removed. The various limits were originally introduced to stem cases of money laundering and the CBK has said it has increased its surveillance after their removal to ensure compliance.

Horticulture industry attracts U\$30 million in foreign direct investments

By The Banker Reporter, Arusha

THE money minting horticulture industry which earns the country over US\$770 million per annum has attracted US\$30 million worth of foreign direct investments in the last four years.

At a meeting with Tanzania Horticultural Association staff in Arusha earlier this week, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Investments, Angellah Kairuki said the FDI flow of the past four years is a clear sign of investor's growing interest in the industry.

"We are impressed with Taha for working closely with the government to develop the horticulture industry in the country to the extent of being attractive to foreign investors," Kairuki said adding that the government is reviewing national investment laws and regulations to accommodate and reflect the current situation, as part of measures to create a conducive environment for investments.

"In the 2020/21 budget, we have scrapped several fees and levies totalling to 60 of them in our efforts to improve the doing business environment in the agriculture sector. We hope this tax relief will translate into the competitiveness of our commodities," she noted.

Experts say that FDI has played a very significant role in increasing growth of the horticulture industry by importing technological and expertise needed. "It's no surprise, the horticulture export value increased from US\$64 million in 2004 to US\$779 in 2019," said Taha's Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi while briefing Kairuki.

As more private investors jump into the industry,

growth will continue to skyrocket with Dr Mkindi stating that horticulture has a potential of generating up to US\$3 billion in revenue for the country per annum.

Way back in 2004, there were less than 50 horticultural farmers in the country with insignificant production volumes for export markets. Nearly 16 years later, Taha has brought together over 4.5 million both large scale and smallholder farmers into a single bloc.

With an annual growth rate of 11 percent, the horticultural industry has turned into the growth driver of the entire Tanzania's agriculture. Its input to overall agrarian exports value has grown by 30 percent on average.

Fresh data shows that Taha supported farmers in the country have witnessed harvests in horticulture increasing by between 300 and 400 percent in a decade. An example is that of onion growers who have recorded substantial yields from previous 200 to 700 crates per acre per season over the period under review, Taha's statistics indicates.

The data further shows incredible growth in horticultural production in Zanzibar, leading to the decrease of imports of fruits and vegetables from the Mainland from 80 percent in 2013 to 40 percent currently.

Production of crops such as tomatoes, cucumber, watermelon and sweet pepper has swelled by over 400 percent in the past six years, prompting Zanzibar to graduate from being a net importer of tomato from Tanzania mainland to exporter. Official statistics show that in 2018, Zanzibar farmers exported a combined surplus of 507 metric tonnes of tomatoes to the Mainland, fetching over 1.2bn/-.



Angellah Kairuki (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for investments with Taha Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi on a familiarization tour to horticulture farms in Arusha earlier this week. Photo courtesy of Taha.

Gold heads for biggest quarterly gain since 2016 on virus woes

SINGAPORE

Gold headed for the biggest quarterly advance since 2016 amid a surge in demand for haven assets due to the coronavirus outbreak, which shows no signs of abating.

Bullion has been rising due to a resurgence in virus infections, with new hot spots emerging and the World Health Organisation warning that the worst of the pandemic is still to come because of a lack of global solidarity. More US areas took steps to scale back reo-

penings, while Australia's Victoria is imposing a four-week lockdown in some parts of the metropolis of Melbourne in an attempt to contain a spike in cases.

There's also increased geopolitical tension after China's top legislative body approved a landmark national security law for Hong Kong, a sweeping attempt to quell dissent that risks US retaliation and the city's appeal as a financial hub. Meanwhile, the Trump administration earlier said it was suspending regulations allowing special treatment to Hong Kong

over things including export license exceptions.

The precious metal has rallied 17% this year as the health crisis prompted a wave of stimulus from governments and central banks as they tried to minimise the damage to the global economy. Investors also continue to pile into gold-backed exchange-traded funds, with holdings at a record.

"Low interest rates, monetary policies and the coronavirus are all at play," said Howie Lee, an economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. in Singapore. "The

\$1,800 level is a psychological hurdle. At current prices we see gold pushing the boundaries of what our model implies as fair value, so we may need a larger collapse in Treasury rates to push gold past the \$1,800 level."

Spot gold was little changed at \$1,770.36 an ounce at 12:07 p.m. in London as the dollar climbed. Prices are up 12% in the three months ending June 30, and are set to cap seven straight quarters of gains, the longest such stretch since 2011.

The \$1,800 mark "is not far

away so it can happen quickly," said Commerzbank AG analyst Carsten Fritsch. "But further beyond will be more difficult." Investors will be closely watching comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell due later Tuesday. In remarks prepared for testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, Powell stressed the importance of keeping the coronavirus contagion contained as the US economy bounces back from its deepest contraction in decades.

'Swissport profit nosedive due to Fastjet collapse, Etihad cut-off'

By Francis Kajubi

THE collapse of budget airline, Fastjet and Etihad Airways' decision to sever ties with Swissport Tanzania Plc, caused the cargo handling firm's net profit to dramatically drop by 69 percent from over 7.4bn/- in 2018 to 2.3bn/- last year.

The massive decline in profits prompted shareholders to suspend decision to approve dividend payment this year so as to enable the company embark clear its business oriented debts and stay afloat.

Briefing reporters in Dar es Salaam this week after a virtual annual general meeting held on Monday which brought together 174 shareholders, Swissport CEO Mrisho Yassin said the AGM which was the first of its kind to be held online in 35 years of the company's inception due to COVID-19 outbreak also approved payment of 1bn/- as corporate tax in 2019 compared to 3.3bn/- paid in 2018.

Yassin said the airport ground-handling company which paid dividend of 3.7bn/- to shareholders in 2018, forecasts that net profit will fall to 839m/- this year due to

the coronavirus pandemic.

"The number of flights handled during the year decreased to 8,421 from 14,051 handled in 2018 which is equivalent to a decline of 40 percent; The decrease was attributed by the cessation of operations by Fastjet and Etihad Airways, the loss of Rwandair and KLM, and the reduced frequencies by some of our airline customers," he said.

Before COVID-19 eruption across the continent in February this year, the company projected to get net profit of 5bn/- from 41bn/- gross revenue generated this year. Yassin said cargo tonnage was marginally higher vis-à-vis last year with 18,779 tons of cargo being handled compared to 18,551 tons handled in 2018.

"The cargo business is still very stable compared to the ground handling business, the latter of which has been significantly affected by the ongoing liberalization of the ground handling market," the Swissport CEO lamented.

The increase in cargo volume was attributed to the increase in export of perishable products, in particular avocados.



Swissport CEO, Mrisho Yassin.

NMB expert calls upon business owners to insure property, lives



NMB Bank Plc's senior insurance manager Martine Massawe addresses business people at a past event.

By The Banker Reporter

THE business community including petty traders should adopt a culture of insuring their businesses and lives to protect themselves against disasters and other market forces.

NMB Bank Plc's Senior Insurance Manager, Martine Massawe said earlier this week while visiting business owners to present them with insurance contracts signed with the lender that insurance cover is a necessity for every business and property.

Massawe said insurance is an important service to any business because it gives owners confidence and assurance of sustainability in case of disasters such as fire outbreaks, theft, floods or any other forces that

harm lives and businesses.

"Insurance will compensate you for such losses and allow you to continue doing business after a disaster strikes," he said while inviting the business community to get insured with NMB through credit which the bank has in place already.

"Right now we have a loan scheme in place to enable qualifying business people get insurance cover with us and repay it in instalments while their business is safely covered," he noted adding that NMB targets to mobilise small and large business owners to safeguard sustainability of their activities.

The NMB Senior Insurance Manager further noted that insurance cover loans and services are available at

all branches countrywide as the country's largest bank wants to shield them against disasters.

Other insurance covers that the bank provides include crop insurance, education, health and disaster. He explained that NMB is now offering insurance services following approval and introduction of bancassurance regulations by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority and Bank of Tanzania to allow banks to offer such services.

NMB has partnership with several insurance companies including National Insurance Corporation, Sanlam Life, UAP, Jubilee Insurance, Zanzibar Insurance Company and Reliance Insurance.

Vodacom ordered to hand over financial records on 'product'

JOHANNESBURG

In the latest round of the legal battle between Please Call Me inventor Nkosana Makate and Vodacom, the telecoms giant has been ordered to hand over financial records related to the service, as well as value-added services contracts it had with other service providers, to assist in determining the value of the ground-breaking idea.

The North Gauteng High Court said on Monday that it gives Vodacom 21 days to hand over the records so that it will be able to determine how much is owed to Makate. The former employee previously rejected an offer of R47 million in the hope of achieving a R20 billion settlement.

The figure reflects a 5% share of an estimated R205 billion in revenue that Makate believes was generated from the Please Call Me service, including interest calculated over an 18-year period in the 20-year battle.

Makate approached the courts seeking that Vodacom CEO Shameel Jooosub disclose the documents the group relied on to conclude that R47 million was the amount due to him for the idea. Judge Jody Kollapen had handed down a judgment that orders Vodacom to commence negotiations in good faith to determine a reasonable compensation payable to Makate.

"In the event of the parties failing to agree on the reasonable compensation, the matter must be submitted to Vodacom's Chief Executive Officer for determination of the amount within a reasonable time," the papers read. Vodacom is ordered to pay the costs of the action, including costs of two counsel, if applicable, as well as the costs of an expert.

Restructured Equity loans cross Sh100 billion mark

NAIROBI

Loans restructured by Equity Group #ticker:EQTY have crossed the Sh100 billion mark in the race to cushion customers hit by the coronavirus crisis.

Managing director James Mwangi on Tuesday told investors during a virtual annual general meeting that the restructured loans are equivalent to 30 percent of the bank's entire loan book. The majority of the loans are from workers hit by job cuts and unpaid leave as well as small businesses that need urgent help to survive the economic slowdown caused by the disease.

"So far we have accommodated customers who required relief by restructuring payments up to 30 percent of the entire loan book," said Mr Mwangi. "We needed to protect our customers so that their business and any income-generating activities can survive and recover after Covid-19."

Equity loan book stood at Sh379.2 billion at the end of March, meaning that the restructured loans amount to about 26.4 percent of the gross loans. The bank did not comment on the potential impact of the loan restructuring on its earnings this year. Its net profit in the three months to March dropped 14 percent to Sh5.2 billion.

NEWSINDEPTH

Ecobank shareholders hold 32nd AGM, describe 2019 as successful year

By The Banker Reporter

LAST year was a period when Ecobank Transnational Incorporated made substantial progress on multiple fronts such as broadening innovative product range with upgraded core banking application platform, increased customer numbers, among others.

Ecobank Group's CEO, Ade Ayeyemi told shareholders during the 32nd annual general meeting held in Lagos, Nigeria earlier this week that the Pan African bank also established new partnerships and initiated programmes to transform customer experience and embed the desired conduct, culture and ethics throughout the organisation.

"Each of our three business lines improved their profitability and positioned Ecobank for sustainable long-term success. Post-year-end, the effectiveness of our digital ecosystem came into sharp focus amid the current global challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, enabling us to provide seamless continuity of service to our customers," Ayeyemi said.

While paying tribute to outgoing Ecobank

Group Chairman, Emmanuel Ikazoboh. Ayeyemi noted that the departing leader had served the group diligently during his tenure with invaluable stewardship, counsel, strategic expertise and oversight.

"I also seize the opportunity to congratulate and welcome on board our incoming Chairman, Alain Nkontchou and look forward to working with him as he leads the board," he added while pointing out that the Covid-19 is having devastating effects and causing severe disruption to families, businesses and economies across the group's sub-Saharan footprint.

In his final speech, Ikazoboh said the group which is in the final lap of a five-year 'Roadmap to Leadership,' laid and achieved much improved business and operational foundations, leadership in digital products with scalability, strong corporate governance and continued expense discipline.

"We continue to focus on making substantial strides towards ensuring a return on equity above the cost of capital across the group despite the challenging economic conditions especially with the COVID-19, whilst also maintaining our

commitment to driving economic development and financial integration across Africa," he said.

During the AGM, ETI shareholders were pleased with progress made in 2019 and approved all the resolutions, which included the election of two new directors - Professor Enase Okonedo and Simon Dornoo. Professor Enase Okonedo will replace Arunma Oteh who has resigned from the board.

Shareholders also ratified the co-opting of Deepak Malik, a nominee of Arise BV, Zanele Monnagotla, a nominee of Public Investment Corporation and Dr George Agyekum Donkor, the representative of Ecowas Bank for Investment and Development as directors.

The mandates of the firms - Deloitte & Touche, Nigeria, and Grant Thornton, Côte d'Ivoire as joint auditors were renewed. The AGM was followed by an extraordinary general meeting at which shareholders voted for the cancellation of the resolution on the consolidation of shares earlier approved on June 17, 2016.

Shareholders also voted for the amendment of Articles of ETI including a provision for the option of electronic general meetings going forward.



Ecobank group chairman Emmanuel Ikazoboh (C), CEO Ade Ayeyemi (R) and incoming chairman Alain Nkontchou pose for a souvenir photo before the 32nd AGM held in Lagos this week.

Reflections on growth of banking industry as bank clocks 25 years

Our silver jubilee celebrations find us at a poignant and bittersweet moment in modern history due to the novel Coronavirus health crisis that has necessitated new ways of working and merry making.

Over a quarter century ago, Tanzania's banking sector was liberalized, paving the way for new players in a competitive sector that currently has over 40 financial institutions. As it marks its 25 years in the country, Stanbic Bank reflects on the strides it has made in enabling businesses, people's lives and the country's development. Moreover, the bank remains committed, particularly at this pivotal moment to

support the growth of the private sector, empowering people's dreams and advancing Tanzania's economy.

Since liberalization of the banking sector in the early 1990s, the sector has been instrumental in facilitating economic growth through direct and indirect employment, diversified financial services and innovative solutions. For instance, the introduction of Home Loans in 2008 provided an avenue for individuals to own houses.

Traditionally, Tanzanians use their lifetime savings to build their retirement homes and the practice has been passed on through generations. Since its introduction, improvements have been made to mortgage loan

By Desderia Mwegelo

Desderia Mwegelo is Head of Marketing and Communications at Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited.



terms. The Stanbic home loan now has a pay back period of up to 20 years and is not limited to purchase but also includes renovations and building - an option preferred by many Tanzanians. Recognizing the desire for home ownership, the bank strives to empower individuals to take a step

forward towards achieving their dreams making the bank one of the top five providers of home loans.

Leveraging on our more than 155-year presence in Africa, we have a unique understanding of the continent; our strength lies in the local insights and expertise of our people that help us meet Africa's

aspirations and drive her growth.

In Tanzania, through collaboration with the government and other key stakeholders, Stanbic Bank is involved in resource mobilization efforts for mega infrastructure projects in critical sectors such as water and transport. This has contributed to creating

an enabling environment for inclusive growth that seeks to improve the living standards of all people.

More recently, out of our deep-seated knowledge, we have developed the new Africa China Agency Proposition to help companies navigate these unprecedented times following disruptions of global supply chains due to the Coronavirus outbreak. This customized solution is a seamless procurement process from ordering to delivery utilizing the bank's approved and accredited network of agents and suppliers.

The bank is intricately embedded in the country's business landscape which allows us to quickly respond to the needs of our customers, identify the

potential that exists in the market and design the most effective financial solutions to capitalize and build on that potential.

With over three million enterprises contributing 27 percent to GDP, the country's SME sector is an important contributor to Tanzania's long-term development. In support of these plans, in May 2020, the bank initiated an entrepreneurship challenge that aims to catapult the dreams of entrepreneurs. There has been an overwhelming response from entrepreneurs with over 600 entries. Five entrepreneurs will be selected based on the impact of their projects in their communities and

awarded 50m/- in total.

A silver jubilee wouldn't be complete without acknowledging the accolades we picked up along the way: from being recognized by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) as Tanzania's "Best Custodian Bank" to the coveted Banker of the Year Award. Our milestones and achievements serve as a critical determinant of where we've been and where we're headed.

As we mark 25 years in Tanzania, the iconic nature of this anniversary brings with it a recognition of the responsibility that is upon us to effectively play a catalytic role in advancing the growth of a country we call home and the dreams of her people.

Mobile money is booming in Africa as countries shun cash owing to Covid-19

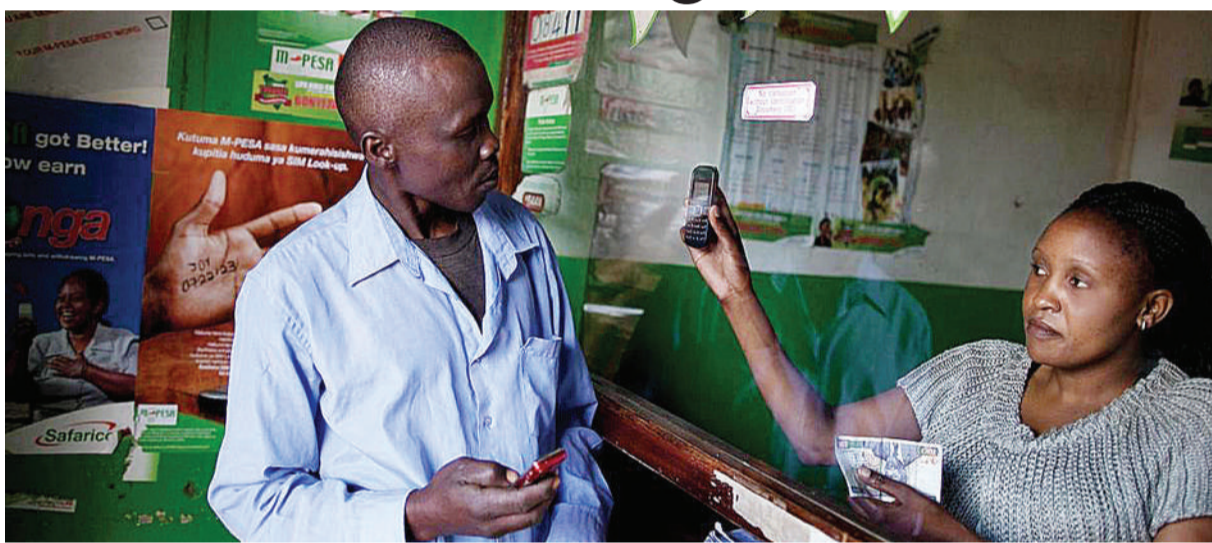
NAIROBI

Africa's burgeoning mobile banking industry has gained fresh momentum with governments boosting payments through phones, a measure aimed at curbing the coronavirus by reducing the physical exchange of cash.

Kenya is ramping up its use of technology platforms offered by Vodafone Group's M-Pesa, Airtel Kenya and Telkom Kenya since the pandemic to disburse aid directly to businesses and individuals using mobile money rather than through banks or food parcels. Ghana, on Wednesday, also started pumping stimulus to at least 100,000 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises using mobile money.

Pioneered by Vodafone's Nairobi-based Safaricom in 2007, mobile money has become an indispensable part of how Africa's population of 1.2 billion pay for goods and services, buy funeral cover or borrow money, without a smartphone. Now, the need from governments to find a quick and safe way of sending funds during the pandemic is underscoring the service's increasingly systemic role.

"The government disbursing monies via M-Pesa shows high integrity has been accorded to the platform," said Tracy Kivunyu, an analyst at Tellimer in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. While Europeans are shunning cash for cards over hygiene concerns, some African nations lack the infrastructure to rely only on plastic. As restrictions on movement to curb Covid-19 infections prevent custom-



M-Pesa mobile-phone money transfer service in Kenya is one of popular fintech products in Africa.

ers from accessing cash, more are turning to mobile money to fill the gap. After Kenya's partial lockdown started in March, a million new users joined M-Pesa, taking subscribers to 25 million, or about three quarters of Kenyans over 15.

In Ghana, mobile money purchases reached a record in March, according to central bank data, while a cash shortage in Zimbabwe means 90 per cent of transactions are done digitally. Nigerian start-up digital bank Kuda said it opened more accounts in April than the last three months combined. Togo, a nation of 8 million, was able to distribute emergency financial support to 500,000 people, mostly women, in less than two weeks using mobile phones, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"These changes, triggered by Covid-19, have enabled the acceleration and scaling of cashless and digital economies," said Serigne Dioum, head of mobile-financial services at MTN Group, the continent's largest wireless carrier. "They support our ambition to transition to an end-to-end platform, creating a digital market place, connecting consumers to businesses and businesses to businesses."

Mobile money is the fastest-growing source of income for

wireless-network operators like Johannesburg-based MTN and the African units of Newbury, England-based Vodafone Group. Sub-Saharan Africa has more mobile money accounts than anywhere else in the world, with about 396 million at the end of 2018, or 46 per cent of all customers, according to the GSMA, the global mobile operator industry group.

Heightened reluctance to use potentially virus-spreading cash will probably continue once the economies rebound, said Peter Ndegwa, the chief executive of Safaricom, who took the post in April, said in an interview. M-Pesa is used by more than 37 million people across seven African countries.

The crisis has also quickened the next phase of M-Pesa's development: a bigger push into financial services for Kenya's small to medium-sized businesses. Expanding revenue streams into business-related payments will help generate higher margins from M-Pesa's ecosystem, said Tellimer's Mr Kivunyu. Safaricom has 173,000 merchant partners who can receive payments over M-Pesa and has the technology to enable more services once regulatory approvals are granted.

"In terms of employment, the small business sector is the lifeline of

this country," Mr Ndegwa said. That led to a partnership between Safaricom and Visa to explore and develop digital payment systems to further expand M-Pesa's reach. It also ties into Safaricom's strategy of coaxing more people onto 4G devices, which would let customers access more sophisticated financial services. Most Kenyans don't have internet-enabled phones, so half of M-Pesa transfers are made via text message.

In Ghana, companies other than mobile network operators can now get licences, which could prompt a drop in prices with more competition, said Archie Hesse, chief executive of Ghana Interbank Payment and Settlement Systems. Ghana is disbursing part of its 600 million cedis (\$104m) Covid-19 stimulus package via mobile money, said Kosi Yankey-Ayeh, executive director of the National Board for Small Scale Industries.

The start of MTN's mobile money service in Nigeria in August, along with initial approvals for Globacom and 9Mobile, means a sleeping giant is awakening in Africa's most populous country, long served only by banks. Uzoma Dozie, chief executive of Sparkle, a Lagos-based digital bank that began operations this month, expects to reach half a million customers in the next 18 months.

World Bank okays US\$300m budget support to Uganda

KAMPALA

The World Bank has approved a 300 million-U.S.-dollar budget support to Uganda that will help the east African country mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The international lender in a statement posted on its website early this week said the budget support dubbed Uganda COVID-19 Economic Crisis and Recovery Development Policy Financing, is the first budget support operation in more than six years.

The financing, according to the bank, will address the fiscal financing gap while supporting reforms that will provide immediate relief to individuals and businesses that have been most affected by the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the economy and livelihoods. This budget support operation will enable the government to provide vital services, social safety nets and a more robust shock-responsive system for the long term, and the economy to recover faster," said Tony Thompson, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda.

The bank said lockdown restriction measures like closure of businesses has had severe impact on the economy and people's livelihoods. "An estimated 3.15 million could fall deeper into poverty, adding to the 8.7 million Ugandans currently living below the poverty line," the statement said.

The bank said the situation has been worsened by the onset of heavy rains and flooding, and a locust invasion whose impact was expected from April-June.

The country's overall economic growth is projected at 3 to 4 percent in the financial year 2019/20 (which ends on June 30), lower than the 6.3

percent that had been anticipated for the year, according to the bank.

The financier said to secure the funds, Uganda has undertaken policy measures that directly benefit many low-income households. Farmers will be supported to access high quality agricultural inputs, seeds and fertilizers using e-vouchers to boost nutrition and food security.

"Social protection programs through cash for labour-intensive programs will be expanded to benefit 500,000 individuals while the current senior citizen grant will cover an additional 71 districts to support the elderly," the statement added.

Uninterrupted access to essential utilities like electricity, water and sanitation services has been guaranteed through subsidies, and tax exemption extended to supplies and equipment used in treatment of COVID-19, according to the bank.

To stimulate recovery of private sector, businesses in distress will receive tax relief alongside the liquidity measures from the Central Bank to commercial banks, microfinance institutions and credit institutions, which allows them to provide a moratorium on loan repayment for businesses and individual borrowers that have been affected by the pandemic for up to 12 months.

In addition, government has committed to stronger transparency and management of state-owned enterprises debt and payment of domestic arrears to suppliers. As of June 30, Uganda had 889 cases of COVID-19, 809 recoveries from the virus and no death registered since the index case that was reported on March 21, according to the ministry of health.

AgriTask expands digital agricultural insurance services in southern Africa

MAPUTO

AgriTask, a leading global developer of a holistic agronomic operations platform, and Holland Mozambique, a premier insurance group in Mozambique, announced today the partnership to provide digital solutions to local stakeholders offering crop insurance for farmers in their respective value chains.

To enable the use of high-resolution data at a national scale, the platform creates a village-based geographical clusterization for the whole country, and will integrate additional data layers

used to enhance risk assessment. Insured farms will be registered and mapped onto the platform, offering the real-time tracking of relevant parameters at each plot and at the portfolio level. The partnership will include data capturing tens of thousands of smallholders initially, with the expectation that it will increase ten-fold.

Dr. Rom Aviv, Managing Director - Head of Insurance of AgriTask, commented: "An operations platform is the prerequisite to implement a rigorous agricultural insurance scheme at scale. Data requirement in crop

insurance is highly complex and multidisciplinary, ranging from agronomy, climate and geospatial, to finance and administration. Creating a robust digital infrastructure can greatly enhance the existing methods.

For countries prone to natural disasters such as Mozambique, it can also serve to strengthen preparedness and rehabilitation efforts, such as by generating alerts for the relevant farmers to take precaution. We are pleased to partner with Holland, a premier insurance company who shares our vision for greater protection for smallholders."

Israel Muchena, Managing Director - Agricultural Insurance of Holland, commented: "We see a significant opportunity to expand our agricultural insurance practice from both business and impact perspectives. As a company, we continue to work hard to improve climate resilience and food security for hundreds of thousands of smallholders in Africa. We are pleased to collaborate with AgriTask that brings enabling technologies and shares the same goals as ours. At Holland, we take pride in innovating and delivering improved insurance solutions for our clients."



Tony Thompson, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda.

WORLD

Countries warned of coronavirus resurgence amid easing of restrictions

BEIJING

COUNTRIES have been warned of a resurgence of the novel coronavirus pandemic as an increasing number of governments gradually ease lockdowns and embark on economic recovery.

Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-diseases expert, said on Tuesday the United States is "not in total control" of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving a dire warning that infection cases could go up to 100,000 per day. "We are now having 40-plus thousand new cases a day.

I would not be surprised if we go up to 100,000 a day if this does not turn around," Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told senators at a hearing held by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Fauci's comments came as the U.S. daily number of reported new cases is outpacing that of April, bringing the total tally to more than 2.6 million, with

over 127,000 fatalities as of Tuesday afternoon, showed data from Johns Hopkins University.

He warned that some states are "skipping over" checkpoints in the federal reopening guidelines and that this is leading to new hotspots in states like Texas, Florida and Arizona. The outbreaks in various parts of the country put "the entire country at risk" and "clearly we don't have this under control," Fauci added.

In the United States, many states have either paused or partially reversed their staged re-openings over the resurgence of COVID-19 cases nationwide, while mandating mask-wearing in public places. Governor Ron DeSantis of southeastern state Florida on Friday ordered to close bars immediately as a record 8,942 new COVID-19 cases were reported in a single day. The previous record of 5,511 was set just two days before.

"It is increasingly clear that many governors reopened their states too

quickly, reigniting the virus and hurting their economies," Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Analytics, wrote Monday in an analysis, citing the states of Arizona, California, Florida and Texas.

On Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell warned that a second outbreak of the coronavirus could force governments and people to "withdraw again from economic activity." In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday announced a 5-billion-pound (about 6.2-billion-U.S.-dollar) plan to fuel economic recovery, saying the government "is wholly committed not just to defeating coronavirus, but to using this crisis finally to tackle this country's great unresolved challenges of the last three decades."

An earlier planned easing of lockdown restrictions from July 4 is expected to bring the hard-hit tourism industry to a rebound, with a phased resumption of operation.

Out of the over 400 sites that English Heritage cares for, only six sites are currently open. On July 4, 44 sites are set to be open and a similar amount from Aug. 1, with some sites remaining closed possibly until next year.

In the last few weeks, businesses in Turkey are wary of a second wave of coronavirus contagion following the government decision to relax lockdown restrictions since June 1. In the last 10 days,

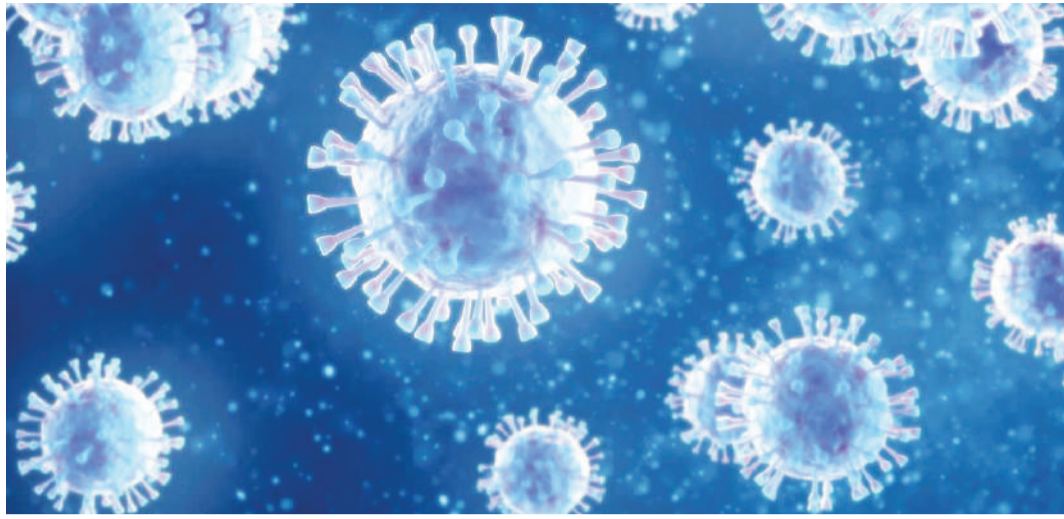
Turkey recorded between 1,200 and 1,500 new daily cases, compared with between 800 and 900 daily infections during the strict lockdown period.

"The economy cannot survive another round of business shutdowns. We are facing this massive threat because people are not taking necessary precautions," Machinery Exporters Association Chairman Adnan Dalgakiran said during a television interview, referring to citizens who are reluctant to wear masks and disrespect distancing rules.

After revising down its forecast for the global output last week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday also revised down its forecast for the Asian economy amid the mounting COVID-19 fallout, projecting a 1.6-percent contraction in 2020 and warning of "clouds on the horizon."

"Projections for 2020 have been revised down for most of the countries in the (Asian) region due to weaker global conditions and more protracted containment measures in several emerging economies," Chang Yong Rhee, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, wrote in a blog post.

The projection came as COVID-19 continued to spread in the Asia-Pacific region while the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the worst was yet to come in the pandemic as global cases and death tolls climbed. **Xinhua**



52 countries welcome China's adoption of law on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong

GENEVA

SPEAKING at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Cuba on behalf of 52 countries welcomed the adoption of the law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by China's top legislature.

The number of countries, which signed the joint statement Cuba read at the session, is expected to rise.

"Non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states is an essential principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and a basic norm of international relations," a representative of Cuba read the joint statement.

"In any country, the legislative power on national security issues rests with State, which in essence is not a human rights issue and therefore not subject to discussion at the Human Rights Council," said the statement.

"We believe that every country has the right to safeguard its national security through legislation, and commend relevant steps taken for this purpose."

"In this context, we welcome the adoption of the decision by China's legislature to establish and improve a legal framework and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) for the purpose of safeguarding national security, as well as China's reaffirmation of adherence to 'one country, two systems' guideline," the statement said.

"We are convinced that this move is conducive to ensure 'one country, two systems' is steady and enduring, and that Hong Kong enjoys long term prosperity and stability. The legitimate rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents can also be better exercised in a safe environment," it continued.

"We reiterate that Hong Kong is an inseparable part of China, that Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs that brook no interference by foreign forces. We urge relevant sides to stop interfering in China's internal affairs by using Hong Kong related issues," it concluded.

Chinese lawmakers on Tuesday voted to adopt the law at the 20th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

It took effect at 11:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday in Hong Kong. The promulgation of the law was signed by HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam and published in the Gazette, according to a statement of the HKSAR government.

The law that has 66 articles in six chapters clearly defines the duties and government bodies of the HKSAR for safeguarding national security; the offenses and their corresponding penalties; jurisdiction, applicable law and procedure; office of the central people's government for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR; and other contents. **Xinhua**



Hong Kong citizens celebrate the passage of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in Causeway Bay of south China's Hong Kong, on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

Issues of bilateral relations discussed by Russian, Belarusian presidents, says spokeswoman

MINSK

PRESIDENTS Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus and Vladimir Putin of Russia discussed current issues of bilateral relations on the sidelines of the unveiling ceremony of the memorial to Red Army soldiers who died during World War II in Russia's city of Rzhev, Lukashenko's press secretary Natalia Eismont told TASS on Tuesday after his brief visit to Russia.

"Taking into account the situation, the presidents discuss at the working level all issues that needed to be discussed," she said. The two presidents took part in the unveiling ceremony of the Rzhev memorial, took part in the Memory Garden action and planted fur-trees in memory of soldiers who died during World War II, and visited the Victory Museum.

S.Korean president to push for DPRK-US talks before US presidential election

SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in has said that his country will make all-out efforts to ensure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States hold talks before the U.S. presidential election.

Moon (pictured) made the remarks during a video conference with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, which was held on Tuesday to discuss ways to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, the South Korean presidential Blue House said yesterday.

A Blue House official, who declined to be identified, told a press

briefing that Moon said during the video conference that he will make efforts to maintain a dialogue momentum among the two Koreas and the United States.

Moon was quoted as saying South Korea hoped to push for dialogue efforts between Pyongyang and Washington before the U.S. presidential election, calling for the European Union (EU) to play its role.

The South Korean leader said during the video conference that his country will make all-out efforts to let the DPRK and the United States sit face-to-face for dialogue before the U.S. presidential election.

When asked whether the DPRK-US talks means a summit, the sen-



ior Blue House official said "yes."

Denuclearization talks between the DPRK and the United States have stalled since the second summit between top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald

Trump ended without any agreement in February 2019 in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

Tensions escalated on the Korean Peninsula after the DPRK demolished the inter-Korean joint li-

aison office building in the DPRK's border city of Kaesong last month in protest against anti-Pyongyang leaflets sent across the border by South Korean civic group activists, mostly defectors from the DPRK. The DPRK has also cut off all communication lines with South Korea.

The Blue House official told reporters that since the destruction of the Kaesong liaison office, the security offices of the Blue House and the White House have closely communicated.

The official noted that President Moon's thought about the DPRK-US talks was already delivered to the U.S. side, which also empathized with the thought. **Xinhua**

Do not annex parts of the occupied West Bank - UK PM

LONDON/JERUSALEM

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson cautioned Israel yesterday against annexation in the occupied West Bank, saying it would violate international law and harm its drive to improve relations with the Arab world.

Israeli leaders decided in May that a cabinet debate on annexing parts of the West Bank, under a U.S. plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace, could begin from July 1, raising speculation the government would convene on that date.

But with no agreement yet with

Israel's main ally Washington on the scope and timing of the move, and talks ongoing, no cabinet session was scheduled for yesterday.

"Annexation would represent a violation of international law," Johnson said in an opinion piece for Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's top-selling daily, echoing remarks he made in parliament last month.

"Annexation would put in jeopardy the progress that Israel has made in improving relationships with the Arab and Muslim world," Johnson wrote, calling for a solution that allows justice and security for both Israelis and Palestin-



ians.

Under the peace blueprint that U.S. President Donald Trump announced in January, Israel has said it intends to extend its sovereignty to Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank, in up to 30 percent of the territory.

Palestinians, who have rejected the Trump proposal, seek to establish a state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Israel captured those areas in a 1967 war and withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005.

Palestinian leaders, the United Nations, European powers and Arab countries have all denounced annexation and considered settlements that Israel has built on occupied land as illegal.

Israel disputes this, citing biblical, historical and political roots in the West Bank.

Johnson, whose maternal great-grandfather was a Moscow-born Jew, said he had once worked in an Israeli kibbutz during his youth. In the opinion piece, he said he has been "a passionate defender of Israel". **Agencies**

Any attempt to undermine China-Africa relations doomed to fail

CHINA and Africa have reached wide consensus and great results at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 held on June 17, demonstrating their determination to defeat COVID-19 with solidarity and cooperation at such a crucial moment.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, however, has recently issued a statement, staining China's commitment to Africa out of no reason and trying to impede China-Africa anti-epidemic cooperation.

For the mainstream media in the U.S., this clumsy trick of Pompeo was not a surprise. In fact, such accusations, which distort the truth, won't change China-Africa cooperation no matter how they are repeated, and the farce will only make Pompeo and oth-

er U.S. politicians ridiculous trying to break the indestructible China-Africa relations.

True friends can withstand the test of severe challenges. In the face of COVID-19, China and Africa, which share the same outlook and destiny, have offered mutual support, fought shoulder to shoulder with each other and strengthened friendship and mutual trust.

China has always stood firmly with the African people. It has provided batches of medical assistance for Africa, sent over 10 medical teams to Africa, shared its experience in epidemic prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment, and announced a series of measures to support Africa's response to COVID-19 and improve the public health capability of African countries.

Leaders of African countries have acknowledged that China has set a good example of assisting Africa amid the epidemic, which demonstrated once again with concrete efforts that China is a true friend and reliable partner of African countries in times of difficulties and challenges.

Although Pompeo has gone out of his way to spread a political virus against China, the African people have their own judgment.

Pompeo's lies and slanderous remarks about China couldn't possibly stand in front of the fact that China and Africa have treated each other under the principle of equality and sought cooperation for mutual benefits.

Out of zero-sum thinking and the pursuit for political interest, Pompeo

is doing everything to make up stories to stir things up. No wonder it is hard for an untrustworthy person like Pompeo to understand or accept the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith that China has adhered to and the values of friendship, justice and shared interests that China has upheld toward Africa.

It is evident to all that China-Africa investment and financing cooperation has played an active role in facilitating the development of Africa and improving the livelihood of the African people.

As pointed out by some leaders participating in the summit, unlike those who only pay lip service, China genuinely thought for Africa and had offered sincere help to Africa.

It is already recognized that China-Africa cooperation is for China to complement Africa's development through its own growth. China has helped build a series of production projects and large-scale infrastructure projects at the request of African countries, which has greatly helped African nations get started with developing their economy and enhanced their capacity for independent development.

To cushion the impact of COVID-19 on African countries, China will give greater support to those African countries that are hardest hit by the coronavirus and under heavy financial stress on the basis of implementing G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).

By politicizing the debt issue,

Pompeo has used China-Africa cooperation as an excuse to assault China. As wicked as the attempt may be, it is doomed to fail.

For Africa, the financing from China is an essential choice, said W. Gyude Moore, a senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development, adding that the "debt-trap diplomacy" reflects Western anxieties, not African realities.

In fact, African countries know perfectly who their true friend is. Dambisa Moyo, Zambian economist as well as author of Dead Aid, has conducted an in-depth analysis on the issues left by the traditional "donors" of Africa from the West and considered China's investment the best hope for Africa to develop economy. **People's Daily**



Photo taken on April 28 shows the Yangsigang Yangtze River Bridge in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province. (Photo: People's Daily Online)

Why is China good at doing mega projects?

OVER the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese people have given rise to numerous engineering marvels.

From lagging behind other countries in transportation facilities to having the world's longest high-speed railway mileage and expressway mileage, China's road construction has achieved leapfrog development.

From designing and building the first super-large bridge - the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge - to constructing the world's longest cross-sea bridge - the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge - China's bridge construction has become a name card of the country.

From launching spacecraft to lunar exploration, from deep-sea manned submersibles to homemade aircraft carriers, China has turned ambition into reality.

How can China complete so many super engineering projects in only a few decades?

The achievements are inseparable from the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the advantages of its socialist system.

To build the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in the 1960s, the country spent 287 million yuan, while the gross output value of industry and agriculture in China back then was only 140 billion yuan.

Almost all of the country's bridge experts were called together to design the bridge and over 7,000 builders were employed to construct the bridge from both the northern and southern banks of the Yangtze River.

It took eight years to finish the bridge and it opened a new chapter for China's construction of megaprojects.

jects.

The reason the country is able to undertake and finish major engineering projects is that it is able to concentrate all national efforts on big issues.

The South-to-North Water Diversion Project, the largest of this kind in the world, is another example of how China effectively executes plans with concerted efforts.

To guarantee that the project could proceed smoothly, about 380,000 people were relocated and 500,000 residents were re-employed, as the project passes through 100 counties in seven provinces and cities.

Party organizations and governments at all levels mobilized local officials to talk with all impacted residents to make sure they would be willing to relocate.

The resettlement was completed within two years, a miracle in the relocation of inhabitants in the world. Such efficiency is a valuable asset.

What is special about megaprojects? It is not only just about the size, but also about the technological innovation.

China has seven of the world's top 10 ports in terms of handling capacity. The Yangshan Deep-Water Port in Shanghai is one of them. Its Phase IV container terminal is the largest automated container terminal in the world.

The core technology of the automated port was developed by China.

Driven by innovation and craftsmanship, China gives full play to its institutional strengths as an economic and tech powerhouse, making these megaprojects possible.

People's Daily Online

EU condemns presence of foreign mercenaries in Libya

TRIPOLI

THE European Union (EU) Delegation to Libya on Wednesday condemned the presence of foreign mercenaries in Libya and called on all Libyan and regional players to make efforts to lift oil blockade.

"We call on all Libyan and regional actors to constructively engage in efforts to lift the blockade. We strongly condemn the presence of foreign mercenaries in Libya, including the Sharara oilfield and any other oil infrastructure," the Delegation said in a statement.

structure," the Delegation said in a statement.

"The presence of mercenaries endangers the integrity of the installations and facilities, with possible long-term implications for Libya's oil production," the statement said.

The delegation, the diplomatic mission representing the EU in Libya, expressed support for the UN-backed government's National Oil Corporation (NOC) "in its efforts to resume oil production while also seeking to ensure transparency in the utilisation of oil revenues."

"All actors, Libyan and foreign, should ensure the NOC is able to fulfill its vital mandate unimpeded on behalf of all Libyans," the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry of the UN-backed Libyan government on Saturday said that there were "mercenaries" allied with the rival eastern-based army, which shut down oilfields and ports.

According to the NOC, Libya has lost more than 6 billion U.S. dollars since oil exports were suspended in January. **Xinhua**

EU excludes United States from 'safe' travel list

BRUSSELS

THE European Union has excluded the United States from its initial "safe list" of countries from which the bloc will allow non-essential travel from yesterday.

The 27-member bloc gave majority approval on Tuesday to leisure or business travel from 14 countries beyond its borders, the Council of the EU, which represents EU governments.

The countries are Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and Uruguay.

China has also been provisionally approved, although travel would only open up if Chinese authorities also allowed in EU visitors. Reciprocity is a condition of being on the list.

Russia, Brazil and Turkey, along with the United States, are among countries whose containment of the virus is considered worse than the EU average, and so will have to wait at least two weeks for approval.

The move is aimed at supporting the EU travel industry and tourist destinations, particularly countries in southern Europe hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It acts as a recommendation to EU members, meaning they could potentially set restrictions on those entering from the 14 nations.

Within hours of the EU announcement, Italy, which has one of the highest COVID death tolls in the world, said it would opt out and keep quarantine restrictions in place for all nations that were not part of the free-travel Schengen area.

Canada said it was extending its mandatory quarantine order for travellers until at the least the end of August and a travel ban for most foreigners until the end of July.

The EU's efforts to reopen internal borders, particularly within the 26-nation Schengen area which normally has no frontier checks, have been patchy as various countries have restricted access for certain visitors.

Nicholas Calio who heads an US airline trade group representing Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, United Airlines and others, said the US government and EU had discussed potential enhanced screening of EU-bound Americans in recent days.

He said he is hopeful that "at least on a limited basis" some American travel to the EU could resume soon.

Agencies

At 99, CPC governance legitimacy shines brighter in time of global uncertainty

BEIJING

THE Communist Party of China (CPC) is embracing its 99th anniversary as it leads the country's homestretch toward building a moderately prosperous society in all respects despite the impact of COVID-19 and a global economic recession.

The CPC has reaffirmed its commitment to realizing its first centenary goal of creating a well-off society for 1.4 billion Chinese people on schedule. This transformation will be one of the world's most exciting stories in modern history.

This miracle is created by a political party that has faced misunderstanding, distrust and even misjudgment that its existence would be short-lived.

Uncertainties ripple through the world today, calling into question the definition of governance legitimacy. In this context, the CPC's ideas and practices are increasingly relevant and inspiring in the eyes of the international community.

STAYING TRUE TO FOUNDING MISSION

Ever since the Party's founding on July 1, 1921, the Chinese communists have been struggling to seek fulfillment for the Chinese people, and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. After seven decades of governance, the CPC has transformed China from an isolated agricultural society into the world's second-largest open economy.

Now the CPC is leading the nation's battle to wipe out the absolute poverty that has haunted the nation for thousands of years. The Party sends its finest cadres to the frontlines to make sure not a single family is left behind on the nation's way to common prosperity.

Sticking to its people-centered philosophy, the Party never stops striving to meet the people's needs for a better life, ranging from those in education, employment, medical services and housing, to environment, security, and fairness and justice.

The Party has no special interests of its own. It has never been afraid of breaking the shelters of vested interests, and sweeping out obstacles hampering development.

That is why the CPC is competent to think both strategically and pragmatically. The leadership keeps its eye on the country's sustainable future and formulates long-term plans, while at the same time setting short-term goals to solve prominent issues that concern the people the most.

A recent survey by the Pew Research Center finds China tops the 2019 global rankings in terms of the levels of satisfaction with government performance, with over 86 percent of Chinese surveyed expressing satisfaction, far above the global average of 47 percent.

This wide public support is the key to the CPC's strength and confidence in



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission

long-term governance.

STICKING TO ITS OWN PATH

The CPC has created China's recipe for success, officially called "socialism with Chinese characteristics." It is a path suited to China's national conditions.

Following this path, China keeps pushing forward reform and opening up. The market-government relationship, where the market plays a decisive role in resource allocation and the government better serves its duty, boosts steady and healthy economic development. Stability is maintained. Social creativity is sparked. The principle of "the people running the country" is put into practice in China's political and social activities.

China is proving its resilience in the face of challenges, with its innovation faster, middle class bigger, cultural life richer, and confidence stronger than ever before.

As the global economy contracts by 4.9-percent in a coronavirus-driven plunge in output, China is the only major economy that could see growth this year, according to a forecast by the International Monetary Fund.

ABILITY TO PURIFY, IMPROVE, REFORM ITSELF

To have the courage to carry out self-reform and conduct strict self-governance is the most distinctive part of the Party's character.

The CPC has drawn lessons from many political forces that have failed to break the historical cycle of gaining political power only to lose it. It tightens discipline, improves work styles, fights corruption, and punishes wrongdoing. China has also completed massive institutional reform, touching upon a wide range of entities of the Party and the state, paving the way for future development. Its self-reform will never end.

The CPC is a dynamic organization with a strong ability to learn and to adapt. It has been advancing theoretical explorations and adapting Marxism to a Chinese context. By improving itself, the CPC has enhanced its ability to lead the country in the course of innovation-driven, coordinated, green, open, and shared development.

STRESSING UNITY & VITALITY

The CPC upholds democratic cen-

tralism. It fully expands intraparty democracy, giving play to the initiative and creativity of Party organizations at all levels as well as its members. Once decisions are made, they should be effectively implemented.

The Party exercises overall leadership and coordinates work in all areas. Under the CPC leadership, people's congresses, governments, and supervisory, judicial, procuratorial, and social organizations work together coordinately.

Such mechanisms are especially vital for a big country with complicated national conditions. The system has proven efficient in pooling resources to deal with major problems, such as epidemic prevention and control, relieving natural disasters, and supporting the development of ethnic minorities.

The CPC forges a contingent of competent and professional officials, who are a central pillar of strength for the cause of the CPC. Its distinctive organizational arrangements of selecting and appointing officials guarantee the centralized, unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee, and maintain stability and continuity of policies, while stimulating vitality for development.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The CPC maintains an open mind towards development experiences of other countries, and is ready to share its own in this increasingly connected world. It embraces the surging trends of global multi-polarity, economic globalization, IT application, and cultural diversity.

The Party is committed to building a community with a shared future for humanity. China has become an indispensable force in resolving global and regional issues, from wealth inequality and trade and investment to climate change, terrorism, and peace-keeping.

The CPC has not only sought to serve the Chinese people, but also made contributions to the development of the whole world through the Belt and Road Initiative, said Salah Adly, general secretary of the Egyptian Communist Party. "China pursues a strategy of international cooperation based on mutual benefit, peace, and prosperity."

China is now moving closer to the world's center stage, and closer than ever before to national rejuvenation.

The victory to realize the first centenary goal lies ahead, but so do hardships. China is still the world's biggest developing country. It is also facing a complicated external environment, especially when protectionism and unilateralism are bringing uncertainty to the world.

The CPC must continue to reinforce itself for another lofty target: a great, modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful.

As it turns 99, the Party is starting anew to answer history's call in a new era. **Xinhua**

Putin takes part in vote on constitutional amendments

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin took part in the nationwide vote on the amendments to the Constitution yesterday.

The head of state visited a polling station at the Russian Academy of Sciences building in southwestern Moscow, where he traditionally votes at elections.

On Tuesday, Putin addressed Russians in the run-up to the main voting day on July 1. He called on all Russians to vote, noting that the amendments would be approved only if the citizens backed them. According to Putin, the proposed changes will enshrine key values of the Russian people in the basic law.

The nationwide vote on amendments to the Russian Constitution kicked off on June 25. Though the Russian president's decree sets July 1 as the official voting day, Russians were also provided with the opportunity to cast their ballots on June 25-30 in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. According to the Central Election Commission's decision, polling stations across the country will be open from 8:00 to 20:00 between June 25 and July 1.

People can also cast their ballots at home or in temporary locations set up in residential areas. In addition, residents of Moscow and the Nizhny Novgorod Region were able to vote online. The vote count will begin after the voting process is over at 20:00 local time on July 1.

Hundreds of George W. Bush administration officials to back Biden, group says

WASHINGTON

HUNDREDS of officials who worked for former Republican President George W. Bush are set to endorse Democratic White House hopeful Joe Biden, people involved in the effort said, the latest Republican-led group coming out to oppose the re-election of Donald Trump.

The officials, who include Cabinet secretaries and other senior people in the Bush administration, have formed a political action committee - 43 Alumni for Biden - to support the former vice president in his Nov. 3 race, three organizers of the group

told Reuters. Bush was the country's 43rd president.

The Super PAC will launch on Wednesday with a website and Facebook page, they said. It plans to release "testimonial videos" praising Biden from high-profile Republicans and will hold get-out-the-vote efforts in the most competitive states.

The group is the latest of a number of Republican organizations opposing Trump's re-election, yet another sign that he has alienated some in his own party, most recently with his response to the coronavirus pandemic and nationwide protests over racial injustice and police brutal-

ity against Black Americans.

"We know what is normal and what is abnormal, and what we are seeing is highly abnormal. The president is a danger," said Jennifer Millikin, one of the 43 Alumni organizers, who worked on Bush's 2004 re-election campaign and later in the General Services Administration.

The other two members who spoke to Reuters are Karen Kirksey and Kristopher Purcell. Purcell worked as a communication official in the Bush White House. Kirksey was on the Bush 2000 campaign, and later in the Agriculture and Labor Departments. Millikin said the group was



not yet ready to name all its members or its donors. It has to provide a list of initial donors to the Federal Election Commission by October.

Bush's office has been informed about the group, but the

former president is not involved and has not indicated if he approves of its aims, she said.

Freddy Ford, a spokesman for Bush, said Bush had retired "and won't be wading into this election."

Bush, who is still admired by many moderate Republicans, won praise for saying the May 25 death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, in police custody reflected a "shocking failure", and urged that protesters be heard.

Earlier, he released a video calling for Americans to unite in the face of the pandemic.

'COUNTRY OVER PARTY'

Despite policy differences with Biden, "hundreds" of former Bush officials believe the Democrat has the integrity to meet America's challenges, the 43 Alumni members said.

"This November, we are choosing country over party," said Purcell. "We believe that a Biden administration will adhere to the rule of law... and restore dignity and integrity to the White House."

"We really have had overwhelming support for our efforts," Kirksey said.

As a Super PAC, the group's members are forbidden by law

from working with or communicating with the Biden campaign, but can raise unlimited amounts of money and run ads or hold events to support the candidate.

The Biden campaign declined to comment.

Erin Perrine, a Trump campaign spokeswoman, said of 43 Alumni for Biden: "This is the swamp - yet again - trying to take down the duly elected President of the United States."

Dozens of Republican former national security officials are set to back Biden, claiming that Trump is a threat to U.S. security, people involved in the effort told Reuters. **Agencies**

SPORT



FILE PHOTO: Bollywood actors and co-owners of football clubs Bachchan and Kapoor react as retired cricketer and co-owner of the Kerala Blasters Sachin Tendulkar speaks during the emblem-unveiling ceremony of Indian Super League in Mumbai. (Agencies)

The billionaire, Bollywood and the future of Indian soccer

MUMBAI

A STORM could be brewing in India's top-flight soccer, a glamorous and acrimonious world that encompasses Asia's richest man, the cream of Bollywood and a self-styled former gangster.

Mukesh Ambani, the billionaire tycoon who commands the Reliance Industries corporate empire that owns the Indian Super League, is facing pushback to his family's dominance from some executives in the country's soccer association and clubs.

At stake is the financial future of soccer in a country devoted to cricket. The outcome of the power struggle could also help shape whether India can ever become a world force in the game, realising ex-FIFA president Sepp Blatter's description of being a "sleeping giant" - and, of course, the big dream: whether it can one day play in or even host a World Cup.

Ambani's holding group launched the Indian Super League, an elite competition of newly created teams, in 2014 with the aim of attracting investment and big global names, much like the Indian Premier League has in cricket.

However tensions have been building over who ultimately calls the shots: the Indian soccer association, which technically governs soccer at all levels, or Ambani's group which owns the top league of 10 teams.

It's a rare power split in global soccer, and a recent dispute between Ambani's camp and the association illustrated differing visions over the direction of the Indian game, whose national team is ranked 108th globally.

This year, before the COVID-19 pandemic, a top executive at India's soccer association, Kunal Das, wrote to Martin Bain, the Ambani lieutenant who heads Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), a Reliance holding company that owns the league.

The national coach, employed by the association, has complained that the enlisting of so many foreign recruits in Indian soccer could hold back the development of home-grown players. Das, in a March email exchange seen by Reuters, said the governing body had the right to limit the number of foreign players allowed to compete in the Super League.

The dismissal was swift.

"Contrary to the position in your email, all competition regulations rather need approval from FSDL," Bain responded, according to a copy of the email exchange seen by Reuters.

The football association backed down for this season.

Representatives for Reliance and FSDL did not respond to repeated requests for comment for this article. The soccer association's media director, Nilanjan Datta, declined to comment, but said questions about tensions with FSDL were "baseless".

Requests for comment from Bain and Das, via FSDL and the association, were not responded to.

INDIAN GAME OF TWO HALVES

The player issue is disputed globally; some argue imported veterans stand in the way of domestic talent, while others say they haul up standards and share skills and experience.

But the exchange also reflects a conflict

within the Indian game.

FSDL and the Ambani family's supporters says the Super League has raised awareness and money for a disorderly and underinvested sector, and brought in marquee players such as Italy's Alessandro Del Piero and France's Robert Pires.

Ambani's wife Nita, FSDL's chair and the public face of the league, has expressed hope India will qualify for the 2026 World Cup, and one day host the event. And some Super League club owners are committed to what they consider a soccer revolution.

"Indian players are benefiting from the arrival of quality foreigners and coaches," said Mandar Tamhane, CEO of JSW Bengaluru FC. "Football has become a lot more tactical and technical," he added. "The exposure has helped Indian football develop."

But the Ambanis' influence is resented by some club owners in India's traditional football league, the I-League, who say the Super League is sucking attention and investment from the rest of the game and stunting its long-term development.

"This is a hostile takeover if there ever was one. They basically own football," said Ranjit Bajaj, a self-described former gangster who found redemption in soccer, and a prominent figure in the game who took Punjab's I-League side to a national championship in 2018 as its owner. "It's really sad."

The Ambanis did not respond to requests for comment made via Reliance.

The family is accustomed to domestic business dominance.

The Reliance empire, with a market value of about \$153 billion, includes India's leading telecom firm, a major retailer, its largest refining complex, a news outlet and a Bollywood studio. The group's revenue last fiscal year accounted for around 3% of India's \$2.9 trillion economy.

'SUCH A DIFFICULT SITUATION'

Reliance and partner IMG Worldwide bailed out the cash-strapped soccer association a decade ago, pledging around \$140 million over 15 years in return for sponsorship, licensing rights and running the Super League.

The association remains dependent on the deal money. It sent six emails to Reliance executives between May and October last year, reviewed by Reuters, saying payments of \$6 million had not been received. One warned of a "severe cash flow crunch" and said the association had to put payments to suppliers on hold.

A Reliance executive answered twice, once saying it would take more time to release the payment and then saying the payment was in process.

Reliance did not respond to requests for comment on this email exchange.

The soccer association has considered whether it would be possible to renegotiate parts of the contract, according to an audio recording reviewed by Reuters of its president speaking to I-League executives at a meeting last year, although it is not clear which parts.

"When you're dealing with a giant like FSDL, whose parent is Reliance, legally you will land up in such a difficult situation," association President Praful Patel said in the July meeting.

REUTERS

Date My Family Tanzania premieres on DStv today

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

A local version of a successful reality television series, known as Date My Family Tanzania, is set to premiere today on DStv channel, Maisha Magic Bongo.

The show is set to give DStv Bomba viewers a front row seat in witnessing singletons find love.

"Date My Family is a dating show. It therefore seeks to find people with similar interests and match them according to their individual requirements through a series of three dates with the singleton's family in an attempt to get to know the singleton without meeting them" Ronald Shelukindo, MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, stated.

"After the three dates, the bachelor or bachelorette will choose their favourite family and go on a date with the singleton that was represented," he said.

The show, he pointed out, is all about the fun and adventure of finding a potential partner and will resemble situations that the audience can identify with.

He stated the channel collaborated with a local production company in Tanzania to produce the first season of the hit reality show.

The producers are no stranger to the channel having worked on top productions such as 'Harusi Yetu' as well as 'Mwantumu'.

Shelukindo equally expressed his excitement with working with the highly talented crew once again and delivering yet another riveting show that will keep view-



Famous Tanzanian film producer Aziz Mohammed speaks during the launch of new DStv reality show, known as Date My Family (DMF), in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Date My Family is a dating show with a twist, where bachelors and bachelorettes share a meal with three different families while their potential partner watches how everything unfolds from a monitor in a separate room. Family speaks volumes about the character of a person. Date My Family explores this fundamental truth by allowing individuals to select a prospective date based on the behaviour of the family during a meal. Aziz is the producer of one of the most famous local series 'HUBA'.

ers glued to their screens every Thursday evening at 7pm.

He stated: "The show is a new concept for the channel and is extremely entertaining, youthful and suitable for the whole family."

"Our mandate to our customers is to be Africa's most-loved storyteller and MultiChoice has remained true to its commitment in delivering nothing but the best in local story telling that audience can relate to" he said.

Shelukindo further disclosed MultiChoice is committed to cultivating and supporting

the growth of the economy through partnerships with local businesses.

Date My Family (DMF) is a dating show with a twist, where bachelors and bachelorettes share a meal with three different families while their potential partner watches how everything unfolds from a monitor in a separate room.

Family speaks volumes about the character of a person. Date My Family explores this fundamental truth by allowing individuals to select a prospective date based on the

behavior of the family during a meal.

All in all, it is the family that either makes or breaks the chances of a date.

Maisha Magic Bongo is a local general entertainment channel that offers a mix of locally produced content for the Tanzanian market.

The content mix consists of a variation of genres ranging from Drama, Telenovela's, Comedy, Music, Documentaries as well as Reality Shows. The channel is available on DSTV Bomba, Channel 160.

NBA to stop season if virus spreads

NEW YORK

SPREAD of the coronavirus would prompt the NBA to stop the 2019-20 season, commissioner Adam Silver said Tuesday.

Speaking on the TIME 100 Talks, Silver said the league is "reasonably confident" about its plan to restart the season in Orlando on the Disney World campus in July. But if the virus spreads among players and personnel in Florida, Silver said the league will have no choice but to pull the plug.

"Never full steam ahead no matter what," Silver said. "One thing we are learning about this virus as much is (it's) unpredictable, and we and our players together with their union look at the data on a daily basis. If there were something to change that was outside of the scope of what we are playing for, certainly we would revisit our plans. We are testing daily. We haven't put a precise number on it but if we were to see a large number of cases and see spread in our community, that would of course be a cause to stop as well."

Dr. Anthony Fauci said Tuesday in testimony in Washington, D.C., that he has become more concerned with the surge in COVID-19 cases in Florida, Texas, California and Arizona.

The NBA is working closely with medical experts and plans to modify guidance and recommendations based on all available information, Silver said.

"We are going to see as we go," Silver said. "Certainly if cases are isolated, that's one thing. A lot of the determination will be our understanding of how our community became infected. That will be part of our judgment in terms of whether we should continue. But certainly if we had a lot of cases, we are going to stop. You cannot run from this virus."

"I am absolutely convinced that it will be safer on this campus than off this campus because there aren't many situations that I am aware of where there is mass testing of asymptomatic employees," Silver added of the NBA's plan to resume play at Walt Disney World Resort.

"In some ways, this is maybe a model for how other industries can ultimately open. But I am only going to say we will be responsible and watch what is happening, but the biggest indicator will be if we begin to see a spread in our community."

Fauci previously said the "bubble" approach or a campus environment would give sports the best chance of success without advancing the spread of COVID-19.

"I'll say of course when we designed this plan, we were not seeing the kind of increases in cases, frankly not just in Florida and Texas but at least of the last few days, the majority of states in the United States are seeing



FILE PHOTO: The NBA logo is displayed as people pass by the NBA Store in New York City, U.S., October 7, 2019. REUTERS

increases in COVID cases," Silver said.

"Our model was designed for this. Our model was designed to protect us and our players from the cases in the outside community. Maybe at the time we designed it, we didn't think it would be as necessary as it is now but at least we are preparing for it."

Meanwhile, the Denver Nuggets closed their training facility over the weekend after two members of their party that was set to travel to Orlando for the season's restart tested positive for COVID-19, a source close to the matter confirmed.

The team's 35-person party made up of players, coaches and staff was tested on Saturday. It was not immediately clear who tested positive but the facilities were closed as a precautionary measure. The team and the league did not comment on reports of the closure.

Nuggets coach Michael Malone said this month that he had tested positive for the novel coronavirus in March, while center Nikola Jokic tested positive in Serbia last week.

The New Orleans Pelicans said on Tuesday that three of their players had also tested

positive for COVID-19.

"They're not in 'quarantine'. They're in self-isolation and they test daily," Pelicans Executive Vice President David Griffin told reporters. "When they can have two negative tests - or rather tests that are good results for us - they can return to activity with the team."

Last week, the league said 16 of 302 players had tested positive for COVID-19 and were in self-isolation.

NBA teams were set to travel on July 7 to Florida where the NBA plans to restart the suspended season on July 30 at Disney World, with all games, practices and housing at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex inside the Orlando resort.

The Nuggets are third in the Western Conference standings, behind the Los Angeles Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers, and they are scheduled to play the Miami Heat on Aug. 1 in their first game after the hiatus.

The Pelicans, who had a 28-36 record before the season was suspended, will kick off the season restart July 30.

REUTERS

UEFA says fully committed to Champions League finale in Lisbon

BERN

UEFA said on Tuesday it was fully committed to staging a Champions League Final Eight tournament in Lisbon in August despite several suburbs of the city preparing to go back into lockdown as novel coronavirus cases climb again.

The European soccer body's president Aleksander Ceferin said he saw "no need for a Plan B" after discussing plans with Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa, although UEFA recognised that organising the tournament represented "great challenges".

"During the meeting, all parties underlined they are fully committed to working together in a collaborative manner in order to deliver a successful event in Lisbon," UEFA said in a statement.

"The participants discussed the fact that this is an unprecedented tournament which presents great challenges, but reinforced their belief that the necessary conditions will be present in Portugal."

Last Thursday, the Portuguese government said that those people living in the affected areas of the capital - 19 parishes not including downtown Lisbon - would be allowed to leave home only to buy

essential goods or to travel to and from work.

The measure will be in place from July 1-14 and will then be reviewed.

The tournament will use a straight knockout format and the quarter-finals and semi-finals will be staged over one leg, instead of the usual two, with the final to be held on Aug. 23.

"I shared a complete update on the COVID-19 situation in our country and added that all measures are being taken to ensure that we will host this tournament in a safe and secure manner," said Costa.

Ceferin said he was confident that "we will conclude the season in a positive way in Lisbon. There is no need for a Plan B."

Paris St Germain, Atletico Madrid, Atalanta and RB Leipzig have already qualified for the quarter-finals.

The four last-16, second leg matches which still have to be played - Manchester City v Real Madrid, Bayern Munich v Chelsea, Juventus v Olympique Lyonnais and Barcelona v Napoli - will take place on Aug. 7/8, either at the originally scheduled venues or in Portugal.

REUTERS

Setien won't apologise to Griezmann for late sub

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Quique Setien said bringing Antoine Griezmann on earlier against Atletico Madrid risked "destabilising" the team after leaving the Frenchman on the bench for the third time in four games.

Griezmann came on in second-half stoppage time against his former side as Barca were held to a 2-2 draw that further damaged their flagging title hopes. If Real Madrid beat Getafe on Thursday, they will move four points clear with just five games to play.

Setien opted for a midfield four against Atletico, and when he did eventually bring on another attacker, in the 85th minute, he opted for Ansu Fati. Griezmann, a €120 million signing from Atletico last summer, finally came on with just three minutes of additional time remaining.

"The problem is not everyone can play," Setien told Movistar when asked about the World Cup winner's absence. "We have to make decisions. Maybe it wasn't logical to bring him on [that late], but it was worse to not do so."

"A player like him can always do something. We didn't bring him on before because the team was doing well, Riqui [Puig] was doing well, we always try to have [Luis] Suarez and [Lionel] Messi on the pitch. It is difficult to find a place [for Griezmann] without destabilising the team."

Griezmann, 29, has been ever-present in his first season at Camp

Nou, scoring 14 goals, but he has fallen out of favour in recent weeks.

He started on the bench against Sevilla, Celta Vigo and now Atletico - three games Barca drew - as the Blaugrana have given up a two-point lead over Madrid at the top of the table.

"I don't agree with that I have no confidence in him," Setien added in a news conference. "He's an important player, but I understand it's tough for him to come on with so little time left."

"I will speak with him [on Wednesday]. I won't say sorry, because [it's about] decisions, but I understand he may feel bad, and I feel bad for him because he's a great person and a great professional."

Barca had twice led Atletico in a game dominated by refereeing decisions. Diego Costa's own goal had opened the scoring early on, before three penalties were awarded by referee Alejandro Hernandez Hernandez.

Diego Costa missed the first, but it was re-taken and scored by Saul Niguez after Marc-Andre ter Stegen was ruled to have stepped off his line too early. Messi converted his 700th career goal from the spot to restore Barca's lead before another Saul penalty earned a point for the visitors.

Barca next play on Sunday, away at Villarreal. Before then, Madrid play Getafe and Athletic Bilbao, meaning Setien's side could be seven points off the pace the next time they take to the pitch.

(Agencies)

Ozil's wages won't influence selection, says Arteta

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta insists unhappy Mesut Ozil will not be selected just because he has a huge salary.

Ozil is reportedly the highest-paid player in Arsenal history on a weekly salary of £350,000 (\$433,000).

But the German World Cup winner has rarely justified that contract and is yet to play a minute of football for the Gunners since the season resumed after the coronavirus hiatus.

Arteta stressed a "tactical decision" had kept Ozil out until the FA Cup win at Sheffield United, when it was reported the 31-year-old was injured.

The former Real Madrid star, who arrived at Arsenal in 2013, will be assessed ahead of Wednesday's Premier League game against Norwich following back soreness.

But, regardless of his fitness, Arteta has stressed he only ever picks his team on footballing merit.

Asked if Ozil's wages had any im-

pact when it comes to team selection, Arteta replied: "Never."

"That (Ozil's contract) is an agreement that the player and club were happy to do, to move ahead and it is never something that I question."

"I think players are paid whatever they deserve because there are two parties here and that should never be something I have to judge."

Arteta revealed Ozil is unhappy at being sidelined but said he would expect nothing less from a player wanting to play their part.

"I believe that he's not very happy because he's not playing," he said.

"But as well he picked up an injury the other day and we have to wait and see how he evolves."

"I'm expecting a player that is not playing to feel hurt and disappointed."

"I want all my players at their best and to have the ability to be able to pick them to help the squad as much as possible and that's the only intention I have."

AFP

2021 Africa Cup of Nations now postponed by a year due to virus

CAIRO

NEXT year's Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon has been postponed until 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Confederation of African Football announced Tuesday in a video conference.

CAF president Ahmad Ahmad said African football's governing body took the decision as "health was the main priority".

African countries have suffered to varying degrees from the pandemic with South Africa the hardest hit among those south of the Sahara, recording more than 144,000 cases, while Egypt has suffered the worst in North Africa with over 66,000 infections.

"The peak of the pandemic has not been reached yet," Ahmad added.

The Cup of Nations was set to be played in January and February 2021, reverting back to its traditional winter slot after experimenting with a summer tournament in Egypt last year.

The CAF Champions League will complete its matches in September while the Confederation Cup will wrap up towards the end of this year with a 'Final Four' expected to take place in Morocco.



The Africa Cup of Nations has been delayed from 2021 until 2022 due to the coronavirus pandemic (AFP Photo)

These last two competitions were interrupted in March ahead of the semi-finals phase.

Another tournament that has also been pushed back is the African Nations Championship for domestic-based players. It will kick off in Cameroon in January 2021.

Other CAF special events including its star-studded awards ceremony, featuring the likes of Liverpool duo Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane, have also been cancelled.

CAF members who attended the meeting did not discuss regional qualification matches for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Ahmad said the current decisions are subject to change with the fluidity of the virus contagion.

- New women's competition -

Ahmad also announced the cancellation of the women's Cup of Nations which was scheduled to take place in November while revealing the launch of a new club competition for 2021.

"I am expressing my pride in seeing the birth of a women's Champions League on the African continent," the CAF president, who faced allegations of sexual misconduct last year, said.

The embattled president, who was also questioned last year by French authorities in Paris over corruption allegations, added that new board elections are tentatively scheduled for March 2021 in Mauritania.

His chequered tenure of the scandal-prone body saw the departure of Moroccan general secretary Mouad Hajji in March.

Last week, FIFA pledged \$1.5 billion in grants and loans as a relief fund to help national and continental federations in stemming the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

CAF announced the allocation of an additional \$16.2 million to assist national associations in mitigating COVID-19's financial challenges.

Other regional football competitions slated to be played this summer have also been delayed such as the European Championship and Copa America.

A number of top European leagues have returned to action over the past month and a half, with matches played in empty stadiums and under strict health protocols.

AFP



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the Bundesliga trophy on Saturday (AFP Photo)

'It's our turn again': Treble-chasing Bayern eye Champions League glory

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich are expected by the club's own hierarchy to take the next step towards the treble in Saturday's German Cup final before they attempt more Champions League glory in August.

The German press dubbed Bayern 'FC Nimmersatt' (never satisfied) after celebrating an eighth straight league title last Saturday, the 30th in the club's history.

"The team is in such good shape that they are able to win every title this season," said Bayern president Herbert Hainer.

Before tackling Europe and a possible repeat of their 2013 treble, Bayern face Bayer Leverkusen in Berlin in Saturday's Cup final having already lost to the Werkself this season.

Leverkusen sporting director Rudi Voeller has promised a "big fight" as they look to repeat November's shock league win when Jamaica winger Leon Bailey scored twice at the Allianz Arena.

Bayern are expected to secure the league and Cup double for the 13th time.

"We'll tackle everything, those are our goals," said Bayern head coach Hansi Flick, who only took over mid-season.

"At Bayern, you always think a bit bigger. First the Cup is in focus and then it's important the team has some time off and the staff can clear

their heads.

"After that, we'll prepare intensively for the Champions League."

Flick plans to send his players on a two-week holiday after the Cup final before a training camp ahead of their last-16 second leg against Chelsea on August 7 or 8.

They hammered Frank Lampard's Blues 3-0 in February's first leg in London, making Bayern among the favourites to be European champions.

Bayern could face a disadvantage against

potential opponents in the Final 8 tournament in Lisbon, due to start on August 12, from leagues which are not scheduled to finish until late July.

La Liga runs until July 19, while the Premier League is set to end a week later, with Serie A not slated to come to a conclusion until August 2.

Only PSG and Lyon will have had less game time than Bayern and RB Leipzig, as Ligue 1 was ended early due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We just have to make

sure that we make the best of the situation," Flick said.

"It could be an advantage because one or two players would be available again."

Bayern's forwards are in stellar form. Thomas Mueller produced a Bundesliga record 21 assists this season, while striker Robert Lewandowski has netted 49 times in 42 games, including 11 in the Champions League.

Bayern have been European champions five times and two of their 2001 title-winning team are being groomed to take

charge.

Former midfielder Hasan Salihamidzic is sporting director, while ex-goalkeeper Oliver Kahn will replace Karl-Heinz Rummenigge as chairman in 2022.

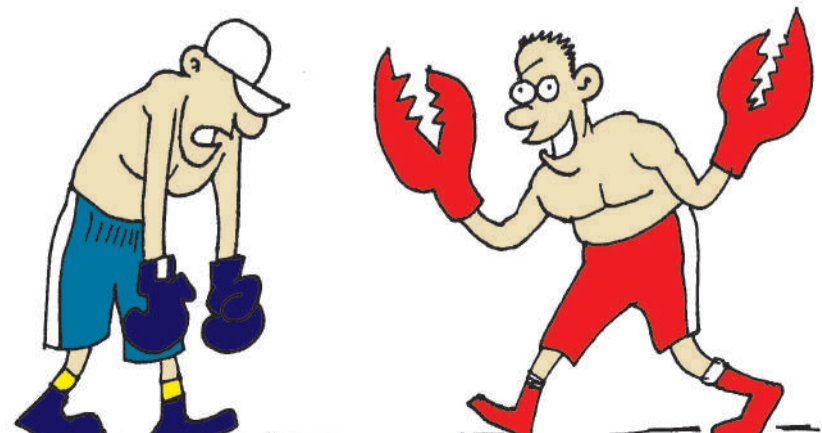
"In 2001, we won the Champions League together playing in jerseys, now we want to repeat that success with him in suits," said Salihamidzic.

"Oliver feels the same way -- we'll give everything to see it happen."

"It's our turn again."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga coach eager for victory in Federation Cup semis

SPORT

2021 Africa Cup of Nations postponed by a year due to virus

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Yanga fullback, Juma Abdul (L), attempts to shoot past Kagera Sugar midfielder, Awesu Ally, when the clubs locked horns in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last eight clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Yanga won 2-1. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

YANGA head coach, Luc Eymael, has implored his players to concentrate on the last four of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

The outfit sailed through to the semi-finals of the tournament after posting 2-1 victory over Kagera Sugar in a gripping last eight clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Eymael disclosed after

the final whistle it was not easy for his squad to progress to the last four, therefore, they must prepare well for the next duel.

"I congratulate my players for the way they gave their all, now I want to insist they should focus on other games," the Belgian tactician stated.

"The encounter with Kagera Sugar is now over, Federation Cup is a tournament we are currently putting our focus on."

He was adamant that helping Yanga participate in continental tournament via lifting the ASFC silverware is his main task.

"We still have matches left in the Vodacom Premier League but the ASFC is much more worthy, given the league is almost over," he disclosed.

"The league's champions are already known, our club's supporters should keep on cheering us and we will do our best to see

to it we excell in the ASFC." He disclosed they are ready to face any opponent that will book a place in the last four of the ASFC.

Yanga's opponents in the ASFC last four were expected to be known after yesterday's last eight match between defending champions, Azam FC, and Simba SC.

Azam FC knocked First Division League (FDL) outfit, Ifehu

FC, out of the ASFC last 16 via penalty shootout to sail through to the quarterfinals.

Simba SC edged fellow Vodacom Premier League squad, Mwadui FC, 2-1 in the last 16 to make it to the quarterfinals.

Winners of the ASFC land opportunity to battle it out in the second tier of continental club tournaments, CAF Confederation Cup.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SALAMA Na

Every thursday at 9pm

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msozi Kilaani (r)
13:30 Kati Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 UBONGA Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

'SalamaNa' is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

eastafrica RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Arusha draughts leagues set to start in March next year

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ARUSHA intends to formalize the checkers board games with introduction of draughts leagues that are expected to commence on March 6 next year after all of the local clubs here have been enlisted.

A game of checkers may not be promoted in the local media but it has just come to light that more than 80 percent of Arusha residents, especially elderly persons, play it on a regular basis.

Due to that, the city is planning to organize the first ever Draughts Game Festival, whose dates are yet to be announced.

The games will take place following the recent official registration of the Arusha Regional Draughts Association.

The city's Sports Officer, Benson Maneno, admitted that the draughts association has been provided with a recognition certificate.

All of the sport's local clubs operating at ward and street levels, Maneno stated, will also be registered so that they may get support in their sporting endeavours. "We are going to officially launch the Regional Draughts Game Association during the proposed maiden festival to be held soon," Maneno disclosed.

He stated that prizes and trophies will be issued at the event.

Maneno said draughts events, whether big or small, now need to be supervised, promoted.

Draughts players, he noted, as well need to be involved in regional, national and even international events.

Maneno, who is also the Deputy Registrar of Sports Associations and Clubs in-charge of the Arusha Urban District, explained further that after the planned Arusha Draughts Festival, the region intends to conduct special training seminars to all checkers clubs in the city.

Draughts' importance comes from the fact that even the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, used to be an ardent player of the board game.

Benedict Mlawa, the interim Chairman of the Arusha Regional Draughts Association, said the checkers board games are played practically everywhere in the country.

The games, he stated, are however usually played informally and in disorganized manner.

"It is high time that draughts events, usually simply taken as entertainment excursions, become defined and official, helping to generate income for the players and country as whole," he said.

He noted that soon special leagues are to be introduced on district, regional and national qualifying levels.

Waluguru Original Band artiste comes up with new rap

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO's Waluguru Original Band's artiste, Greyson Semsekwa, has stated he has come up with new rap, dubbed 'Dereva Shusha Mizigo', which will be found in tracks to be released by the group.

Semsekwa said the rap is an attempt to express his desire to make successful comeback in domestic music circle.

The artiste had opted out of music for a long time after he had left African Stars Band 'Twanga Pepeta'.

"I'm currently based in Morogoro, working for Waluguru Original Band, I have composed a rap dubbed 'Dereva Shusha Mizigo', which will be found in the band's new album we are currently working on," Semsekwa disclosed.

He disclosed right now the band has composed six songs, 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapeenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe'.

His new rap, he noted, is found in all songs.

"One can live anywhere, not necessarily in Dar es Salaam, that is why I decided to head to Morogoro and I'm staying here, making full use of my talent at Waluguru Original Band," he noted.



Waluguru Original Band's artiste, Greyson Semsekwa. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

He stated the domestic dance music boasts of followers all over the country and, for that matter, he hardly sees need to live in Dar es Salaam.

He maintained Morogoro as well

offer chance for a musician to enjoy success the same way the artiste can excell in music in Dar es Salaam.

"All in all people living outside Dar es Salaam are too enjoying life,

that is why I opted to live in Morogoro and keep on making full use of my talent which helps me earn my living," he disclosed.

Semsekwa rose to fame in dance music domestically after joining

the then Extra Bongo Band early in 2000.

He won a lot of plaudits with his impressive raps which include the most famous 'Kichaa Kapewa Run-gu Usijaribu Kupita Mbele Yake'.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

