



National Pg 2
Slovakia enhances bilateral relations



National Pg 4
Dr Hussein Mwinyi congratulates ZEC



National Pg 6
Tanga: Be alert to crocodile threat




Kongwa legislator Job Yustino Ndugai (L) takes the oath of office in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after been re-elected Speaker of the national legislative body. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Speaker Ndugai says Parliament will be effective in govt oversight

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai yesterday promised that the House will play its oversight role effectively despite being overwhelmingly from the ruling party.

In his acceptance speech shortly after being sworn-in for his second mandate in the chair, Ndugai told the public to expect serious and hot debates despite the near absence of opposition representatives.

He appealed to members of Parliament to fully play their roles in keeping checks on the government, saying the 12th Parliament has to achieve more than previous legislatures.

He reminded the lawmakers that their biggest task is to actively participate in matters raised in the House and whoever chose to keep quiet in fear of being cited as arrogant by some people or party will face challenges when seeking reelection in 2025.

He said that all MPs were elected to represent electorates by speaking in Parliament about issues affecting them, specifically cautioning CCM MPs that its

crushing majority isn't meant to relent in the push for development and fulfilling election promises.

"It is evident that vast majority of members in this House are from CCM. You have to participate as expected of you and refrain from the notion that you will just pass issues without serious debates," he said.

He reiterated the call by President John Magufuli to the nation at his swearing-in ceremony, that elections are gone and that people should get down to work, saying, "After today's oath, we should know that we are done with elections. What is left is to deliver," he declared.

Those who will be lucky to be appointed ministers and deputy ministers should expect a rough time ahead as the legislature will do everything required to deliver on public expectations, he emphasised.

"The public expects a lot from this Parliament," the Speaker underlined, pointing out the need to work overtime to meet their expectations. As the highest

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DOJ launches probe on 'baseless' Trump claims

WASHINGTON DC

INTERNATIONAL observers have criticised Donald Trump (pictured) for pushing "baseless allegations of systemic deficiencies" in last week's US election. Candidates should be responsible and not promote "harmful speculation," the Organisation of American States warned.

Bill Barr, the US attorney general, has authorised the Department of Justice to investigate "substantial" claims of voter fraud - prompting one of his top lawyers to resign. Richard Pilger said the move went against a "40-year-old non-intervention policy."

Joe Biden's team said it would only fuel the 'specious, speculative, fanciful or far-fetched claims' he professes to guard against, citing wording from Barr's memo describing claims the DOJ would not pursue. Trump and other Republicans have alleged widespread fraud, without offering any proof.

Meanwhile, the president-elect is preparing to defend the Affordable Care Act

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Serengeti, Thanda Island in World Travel Awards again

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S Serengeti National Park and Thanda Island have been named winners in this year's prestigious World Travel Awards.

The Serengeti has scooped Africa's Leading National Park category and the Indian Ocean getaway in Mafia District, Thanda Island, grabbed Africa's Leading Luxury Island.

This is the second time in a row the destinations have won the categories they first scooped last year.

"The results follow a year-long search for the world's top travel, tourism and hospitality brands. Votes were cast by travel industry professionals and the public, with the nominee gaining the most votes in a category named as the winner," World Travel Awards posted in an announcement on Monday

Graham Cooke, founder of World Travel

Awards, said: "Our winners represent the very best of Africa's travel and tourism sector and my congratulations to each of them. They have all demonstrated remarkable resilience in a year of unprecedented challenges."

"The World Travel Awards 2020 programme received a record number of votes cast by the public. This shows that the appetite for travel and tourism has never been stronger and bodes well for the industry's future as the global recovery begins."

For Serengeti, this is a third recognition in a row after it won the best African Safari Park in 2018 in ratings organized by SafariBookings.com. The win followed an in-depth study that included more than 2,500 reviews from safari tourists and industry experts.

In 2017, Tanzania was named Africa's Best Safari country by SafariBookings.com after

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Three die, one hurt in stray jumbos rampage

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

THREE people at Mtonya and Tulieni villages in Mindu and Napanya wards in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region were crushed to death by elephants who invaded the villages.

Another Mtonya villager, Zuberi Mchopa (70) was admitted at Tunduru District Hospital for treatment after surviving a similar attack.

District Wildlife Officer Limbega Ally said yesterday that the incidents happened at different times on Monday, and after learning of the incidents, he dispatched armed game wardens "to chase away the elephants."

He mentioned the deceased as Jamila Mathayo Mchopa (47) of Tulieni village, Jastini Gideon Mchopa (54) of Mtonya who was killed as he was returning home from his farm and Stephano Hassan Joseph (78) of Mtonya village who was at his farm.


He said the tragic incidents werel due to villagers conducting farming activities in wildlife corridors connecting Lumesule Forest Reserve in Nanyumbu District, Mtwara Region and the Mwalimu Nyerere National Park (earlier part of the vast Selous Game Reserve).

Newly elected councillors Richard Bazil

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The Guardian Nipashe

Congratulatory Message



The Guardian and Nipashe welcome you to send congratulatory Messages to President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan on their re - election

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi bids farewell to Zanzibar Electoral Commission chairman Judge (retired) Hamid Mahmoud Hamid (L) after holding talks with members of the commission at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Speaker Ndugai says Parliament will be effective in govt oversight

FROM PAGE 1

advisory organ to the government, the legislature is tasked with ensuring that the government delivers services to the people in a procedural and factually correct manner.

He called on the media to broadcast performance and activities of the House "so that even those deep in the rural areas can get to know what is going on."

"We will do as much as possible for people to hear and see what the 12th parliament is doing," he said. While he did not specifically say so, this avowal suggested possible reversal of current regulations barring live telecasts of proceedings as the new legislature gets down to business.

Addressing hugely decreased representation of opposition parties, he stated that he will ensure the voices of the minority are heard. "It is the duty of the chair of the legislature to protect the few who represent many people

outside the House," he asserted.

This remark came in response to Nkasi North MP, Aida Khenani (Chadema) who had wanted to know what the Speaker would do to bring anticipated changes in the legislature upon experiences of the 11th Parliament.

It was a preliminary question and answer session, with the Speaker asking the lawmakers to vote him to the chair. He even argued that the new Parliament will outshine previous legislatures in performance.

First time MPs need to take time and go through the Standing Orders since it is the guideline for their participation in the House, he pointed out.

On a lighter note, Ndugai warned them not to entertain colleagues, seeking to borrow money from them, as in the past the parliamentary secretariat had a rough time solving cases of MPs who borrowed money from one another.

Serengeti, Thanda Island in World Travel Awards again

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an in-depth analysis of reviews from safari tourists and acclaimed Africa experts. In its announcement of the win, SafariBookings.com said more than 2,500 reviews were used in the comprehensive research which included contributions from safari-goers all over the world and 22 reputable guidebook authors.

Tanzania which is the largest country in East Africa focuses on wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism, and with approximately 28 per cent of the land put under wildlife protection, it boasts of 15 national parks and 31 game reserves.

It also boasts the tallest mountain in Africa, the legendary Mt Kilimanjaro in proximity of the Serengeti, named in

October 2006 as the new 7th wonder of the world by 'Good Morning America' radio programme. The country also features archaeology Mecca of Olduvai Gorge, the scenic traveler-stuffed Ngorongoro Crater often called the 8th wonder of the world. Olduvai Gorge is known as the cradle of mankind, while Selous Game Reserve is the world's largest game reserve.

Similarly attractive and spacious is the Ruaha National Park that is sanctuary to the largest concentration of lions in Africa and also the second largest national park in the continent, the spice islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, all of which feature in UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Stone Town historical sites in Zanzibar, beach tourism and other aspects of cultural tourism.

DOJ launches probe on 'baseless' Trump claims

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in a speech later today. Republicans backed by Trump are challenging the law, known as Obamacare, in the Supreme Court today.

A survey by Politico/Morning Consult

has indicated that about 70 per cent of Republicans do not believe last week's presidential election was "free and fair."

That figure is double the pessimistic 35 per cent who believed prior to the

vote that it would not be free or fair.

And nearly two-thirds, or 64 per cent, now say they believe the result is not reliable. The polling suggested that Donald Trump's unfounded claims of widespread fraud have cut through to

his party's supporters.

Half of Democrats did not believe the election would be "free and fair" before it took place. However, since their candidate won, that proportion has shrunk to just 10 per cent.

Three die, one hurt in stray jumbos rampage

FROM PAGE 1

and Abdul Machaura, for Mindu and Nakoko wards, respectively, said the number of elephants has increased and they frequently invade villages and destroy crops.

Limbega called on residents in areas frequented by wildlife to walk in groups whenever they go to their farms in order to assist each other if wild

animals appear.

Following the tragic incidents, village officials appealed to the government to station game wardens in areas close to game reserves to restrain wild animals from trespassing settled areas.

Regional Police Commander Simon Msigwa confirmed the tragic incidents, saying that the police were still investigating the circumstances of the deaths.

Slovakia: We are ready to boost bilateral relations with Tanzania

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Tanzania, Moustafa Khataw, has promised to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, he said he wants to make sure that the economic cooperation between the two countries is improved.

"We have opened an honorary consulate office in Dar es Salaam which would be a link between Tanzania and Slovak Republic to enable the two countries meet their economic goals," he said.

More importantly, Slovak Republic stands ready to work together with all of our partners to enhance the economic well being through collaboration in trade and investments.

He said the two countries' relations have always been positive and it is his sincere believe that it will remain positive forever.

"This positive atmosphere also reflects on the promising outlook that Slovak Republic and Tanzania will enjoy from our cordial relations", he said.

The envoy said Slovak and Tanzania with all its potential would surely be able to develop stronger economic relations that will benefit the people.

The honorary Consul pledged to improve the tourism industry by inviting more tourists from Slovak to

Tanzania.

According to him a total of 3,200 Slovak tourists visited Tanzania last year where they toured various tourist destinations, including Zanzibar.

"We want to increase the number to at least 6,000 Slovak tourists that will visit Tanzania next year," he revealed.

Another area of cooperation that would be improved is investments, culture exchange and education, he said.

According to him, Slovak Republic is a developed country which Tanzanians can make use of through the consulate office which is located in Dar es Salaam.

Khataw was appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovak Republic to be honorary consul in Tanzania. The government of Tanzania has already approved his appointment in March, this year.

According to the latest OECD Economic Outlook, Slovakia is set to become the fastest growing developed economy in the world by 2020.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecasts that the Slovak economy will grow at a robust rate of 3.6 per cent in 2020, the highest GDP growth rate among OECD economies.

Trailing behind Slovakia, other fast-growing developed economies are Ireland and Poland (both 4 pc growth in 2019), Chile (3.7pc), Estonia (3.5 pc), Hungary and Latvia (both 3.9pc) and Slovenia (3.6 pc).



Comoro President Azali Assouman (in cream suit) at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before boarding a flight back home after attending the swearing-in of President John Magufuli in Dodoma on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry.

Bukoba in new battle to end malnutrition and stunting

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Bukoba have embarked in a programme aimed at eliminating malnutrition and stunting by encouraging primary and secondary schools to establish nutrition clubs that will provide a platform for students to extensively discuss issues related to balanced diet.

Bukoba District Executive Director, Solomon Kimilike revealed here yesterday when speaking at a meeting involving various stakeholders, including representatives from government, civil society organisations and media personnel.

Chaired by Kilimniko, the meeting was meant to chart ways to address malnutrition and stunting in the region, which is one of key food crop producers in the country, but reports have it that some children welfare was being endangered by malnutrition and stunting, hence, the need for immediate and serious measures to be in place.

According to the DED, serious campaign on the matter is a vital initiative that could help the district and the region at large mitigate the challenge.

So far Maruku and and Kemondo secondary schools are the only institutions, which had established nutrition clubs.

Kimilike commended the schools for their efforts, asking all primary and secondary schools in the district to emulate the spirit by establishing nutrition clubs within three weeks.

"Let students gather and discuss how to achieve optimum health, and heads of school should ensure they meet their needs," he said.

Nelson Sospater, District Education Officer for secondary schools and Joseph Matope, acting District Education Officer for primary schools promised to work on the directives for better results.

Matope also tasked all primary schools in the area to have hand washing facilities with running waters, and ensure that all schools provide

porridge at their respective premises.

District nutrition officer, Desdery Karugaba said the district performing well when it comes to nutrition related issues as they regularly communicate with parents and guardians, insisting on good environment when preparing and cooking their meals with more focus on balanced diet.

According to the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey's key findings report for 2015-2016, one in three Tanzanian children aged under five are stunted due to a chronic lack of essential growth nutrients such as vitamins and minerals. In the worst affected areas of the country, this ratio rises to almost one in two.

Business begins in House as Ndugai retains Speaker's seat

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE 12th parliament yesterday started its sitting after Members of Parliament overwhelmingly elected Kongwa Member of Parliament Job Ndugai as Speaker of the National Assembly.

Ndugai who was the Speaker in the 11th Parliament got 344 out of the 345 votes from the lawmakers as only one MP disapproved his bid to lead the August House for another five years.

He was the only contestant for the position after another candidate who had shown interest of becoming the

Speaker was blocked after failing to meet the conditions.

Speaking before the voting, the election manager who is also the Clerk of the National Assembly, Stephen Kigaigai said there were two people who showed interest in the post, one being Job Ndugai who was endorsed by Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and Bonaventure Ndekeja of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

He said his office made announcement to the interested people and parties to submit their applications not later than 9th November, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

The other condition, according to the constitution, he said is that any person nominated by a political party to vie for the highest position in the Parliament, if not MP should file application at the National Electoral Commission (NEC) who has the mandate to certify if he or she qualifies to be a Member of Parliament.

Kigaigai said that up to the 9th November, 2020 deadline, only Ndugai had submitted his application at the Clerk's Office and it was until 6:00 pm, two hours after the deadline that Ndekeja's submission through email was received.

The NLD candidate, he said did not submit application at the NEC offices as required therefore was considered to have failed to meet the set criteria, leaving Ndugai as the sole candidate.

"At this juncture I therefore declare Job Ndugai (CCM) as the only person vying for the Speaker's position" he said as members of the floor cheered the announcement. He thereafter led them to get a tentative chairperson to lead the House in an election process.

The assembly Clerk clarified that in accordance with the constitution and standing orders, the longest serving MP assumes the position of the interim chairperson, guiding the House to vote

and declare the results.

It is on that ground that he requested the Ismani Member of Parliament, William Lukuvi who has been in Parliament since 1995 to take task and preside over election process of the Speaker.

Lukuvi congratulated the fellow MPs for winning the elections, noting that it was not an easy task, reminding them that it was therefore time to vote freely in a secret ballot to elect the Speaker.

Ndugai was thereafter called to ask for votes from the MPs where he said if voted for another term, he would ensure the 12th Parliament performs better than previous Parliaments. The House took a break of thirty minutes after voting.

The MPs returned to the debating chamber at 10:29 am and the returning officer, Kaigagai had the results in hand, declaring Ndugai's approval 99.7 per cent of all votes, being 344 out of 345 ballots.



Former Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who is Ruangwa legislator, exchanges greetings with fellow legislators at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after they were sworn in. Photo: PMO

NZIGE AUCTION MART AND COURT BROKER
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YAHUSU MADAI NA. 19/2019
PETER R. MICHAEL.....MDAI
DHIDI YA
DAUD O. HAMISI.....MDAIWA

Kwa idhini tuliopewa na Mahakama ya mwanzo KAWA tutauza kwa Mnada wa hadhara gari moja aina ya SUZUKI CARY namba T 565 DNH. Mnada utafanyika tarehe 13 Novemba, 2020 saa tatu asubuhi hapo gari ilipo kwenye Yard yetu KIBULUGWA. Nyote manakaribishwa. Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga namba 0715 337045 / 0762 970909.

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HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



TANGAZO LA MNADA WA KUKODISHA BUSTANI YA MAPUMZIKO - CHINANGALI

Mkurugenzi wa Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia wananchi wote kuwa kutakuwa na mnada wa hadhara kwa ajili ya kukodisha eneo la Bustani ya Mapumziko ya Chinangali (Chinangali Recreational Park) iliyopo jirani na uwanja wa Ndege wa Dodoma. Mnanda utafanyika tarehe 21 Novemba, 2020 katika eneo la bustani kuanzia saa tatu kamili (3.00) asubuhi. Bustani hiyo ni mradi mpya na ni eneo linalovutia sana kwa mapumziko na burudani mbalimbali ikiwemo uwanja wa kisasa wa mpira wa kikapu, Uwanja wa Tenisi, Mpira wa Wavu, mabwawa ya kuongelea wakubwa na Watoto, eneo la michezo ya watoto, jukwaa la sanaa na GYM. Pia kuna maeneo ya kuuzia vyakula na vinywaji pamoja na eneo kubwa la mae-negesho ya Magari.

Siku ya mnanda kila mshiriki atatakiwa;

- Kujisajili kwenye regista.
- Kulipa dhamana ya fedha taslimu Tsh. 2,000,000/ (Millioni mbili) ambayo itarudishwa mara baada ya mnada kwa mshiriki ambaye hatafanikiwa.
- Mshindi atalipa asilimia 25 ya kodi ya pango ya kipindi cha miezi mitatu siku ya mnada na kumaliza asilimia 75 kabla ya kuanza kuendesha bustani hiyo. Aidha, atawajibika kulipa kodi zote za Serikali kwa mujibu wa Sheria za nchi.

Kwa maelezo zaidi piga simu namba **0622 020211**

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:
MKURUGENZI WA HALMASHAURI HALAMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA
10 Novemba, 2020

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE ACCESS FUND (UCSAF)




Congratulatory Message



President of The United Republic of Tanzania
Hon. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli

Vice President of The United Republic of Tanzania
Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) congratulate H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli and H.E. Samia Saluhu Hassan for being re-elected as President and Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania respectively for the period of 2020-2025. Your re-election is an emphatic approval by Tanzanians for your outstanding leadership during the past five years.

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Mwinyi congratulates ZEC on job well done

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has congratulated the Zanzibar electoral Commission for conducting well the just ended elections.

Speaking here at Zanzibar State House when he met with ZEC officials, including its Commissioners led by its Chairman, Ret. Judge Hamid Mahmoud and director Thabit Idarous Faina, Dr Mwinyi said he felt there was the need to call them after the completion of the election process in order to thank and congratulate them for the great job done.

He said the Commission has executed well its task despite small challenges that cropped up during the process, and pledged his cooperation and that his doors were open at all times to listen to the problems they might have.

For its part, ZEC congratulated President Mwinyi for his decision to call and congratulate them as well as congratulating him for being elected president of Zanzibar.

They added by saying that all the people are happy by his landslide victory and showed great hopes and expectations from his leadership.

ZEC Chairman conveyed his special thanks to President Mwinyi saying the landslide win was attributed to his policies hew issued during the

campaign period.

Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee, the Chief Secretary congratulated all ZEC officials, saying the cooperation they had exhibited spurred the achievements attained.

Meanwhile President Mwinyi met with the Security and Defense Committee and congratulated all security and defense units for the good job they executed before, during and after the election period.



For its part, ZEC congratulated President Mwinyi for his decision to call and congratulate them as well as congratulating him for being elected president of Zanzibar



East African Community Secretary General Libérat Mfumukeko (R) receives credentials from the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar, at the EAC headquarters in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi

Rufiji Basin Water Board out to identify users

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Rufiji Basin Water Board (RBWB) intends to conduct water users' identification in order to have accurate information that will help conserve water resources.

Speaking to reporters in Iringa Region yesterday, RBWB officer Florence Mahay said the move is aimed

at determining the number of licenced and non-licenced in order to keep the balance in the correct position.

The exercise will also identify the water sources that will be used and will be used by various towns and cities in the basin as part of strengthening the board's capacity.

He said the purpose of the exercise was to gather all the necessary

information in managing, coordinating and conserving water resources, in order to have accurate information that will help conserve water resources which is an important tool in stimulating sustainable economic development. Mahay explained that many consumers of water were illegal (without permits) a situation that makes the board lacking accurate information

or statistics on water status.

He also said that the board will identify the water sources that will be used by various cities and conserve them, whereby the exercise will take place for two months from now.

"Therefore, the Rufiji Basin Water Board is requesting co-operation from the public to provide accurate information that will help conserve

water resources," explained.

Rufiji basin water board is an institution under the Ministry of Water responsible for managing water resources. Water resource management functions include conducting water resource assessments, allocating water, conserving water resources and controlling water resource pollution.

To address water scarcity, the

water ministry has identified nine water basins, which are managed in a special order to enable the nation with sustainable water resources.

The basins generally conserve water, create beautiful scenery that attracts local and foreign tourists, and the basins also include rivers used for transportation, fishing, irrigation and hydropower sources.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT
AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

VACANCIES AT THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION (UPU) IN SWITZERLAND

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is a member of Universal Postal Union on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania. The UPU is based in BERNE, SWITZERLAND.

TCRA wishes to inform the general public that UPU invites applications from suitably qualified Tanzanians for the following posts available at the (UPU) Headquarters.

Reference Number: 4750 (DRH.COOP.RH) 1110
Post: IT Development Coordinator, grade P 5 (non-core)
Postal Technology Centre Directorate e

Reference Number: 5422 (DRH) 1112
Post: Projects Manager, grade P 3
Policy, Regulation and Markets Directorate (DPRM)

Applicants are requested to complete Official Application Form via the UPU's e-Recruit system (erecruit.upu.int).

All Applications will have to be submitted through TCRA for recommendations not later than 12th November 2020 by 4PM, after which they will be forwarded to UPU for further processes.

Details on duties, responsibilities and qualifications may be accessed on the UPU's website: www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Careers.

Issued by:

Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
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14414, DAR ES SALAAM.
Email: dg@tcra.go.tz

Protection of Serengeti wildlife faces human activity challenges - institute

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

PROTECTION of wildlife and other creatures in Serengeti National Park is facing challenges posed by the increase of human activity, including panning for gold on the banks of Mara river.

Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) has cautioned people living around the park to avoid discharging water saturated with chemicals into the river that is used by wildlife for drinking.

Speaking at the Mara-Mori forum

that aims to protect ecosystems in the Serengeti National Park, Dr Emmanuel Masenga, TAWIRI director called on people living in the areas to avoid cutting trees and throw wastes into river Mara.

He said the preservation of the river that flows along the middle of the park was essential because its water is used by the wildlife and other creatures that were essential for the country's tourism sector.

Kanuni Kanuni, environmental coordinator from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) said people living in the

Serengeti and Kenya's Masai Mara National Park's peripheries have from time to time been trained on environmental preservation.

He said in that plan they incorporated government officials, traditional leaders and other stakeholders including NGOs on tree planting campaign and cultivation of environment-friendly crops.

"We are assisting small miners to conduct their production activities by adhering to environmental regulations and avoid discharging poison water into the river," he said.



Dar es Salaam city director Sipora Liana (gesturing) points to one of the buildings at new upcountry bus terminal in the Mbezi Luis suburb. The ultramodern facility is just about completed and is expected to start trial runs by the end of this month. Left is the project's supervisor, Dr Godwin Maro. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

RC orders crackdown on cement price hikers

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela has instructed district officials and other leaders in the region to conduct crackdown on traders who hike the price of cement, as the ex-factory price of the commodity had not gone up.

The RC gave the instruction here yesterday during his visit at Kilimanjaro Cement factory in the city after reports of cement price hikes in some shops.

He said the aim of the crackdown was to identify and take steps for all traders who will be found to have deliberately hiked the cement price after hearing about cement shortage following the factory's mechanical breakdown.

"My order to government officials and other leaders at all levels to conduct crackdowns in your areas to find traders who hike cement price and should take legal steps against them including withdrawal of their trading licences," he stressed.

He also warned traders to stop hiking prices without official announcement, adding that many traders have the habit of hoarding goods in their go-downs and whenever there are production hitches they raise the prices the products.

"Cement is in plenty in the factory and its price had not been raised hence it illegal for the traders to take decisions of their own in hiking price," he said.

Filbert Nshange, the factory's chief financial officer explained that they have not raised the cement's ex-factory price contrary to claims, only that in the past one month, production stopped due to mechanical problems of the plant.

He said they have two ex-factory prices - for buyers from Tanga City they sell at 11,600/- per bag and for traders coming from outside Tanga the price is 10,600/- per bag.



Cement is in plenty in the factory and its price had not been raised hence it illegal for the traders to take decisions of their own in hiking price



Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (L) issues orders in connection with the sudden rise in the price of cement. This was shortly after he had made an inspection tour of cement factories in the region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Lulu George

Elders in Mbeya request enhanced health insurance

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SENIOR citizens in Mbeya City have called on the government to issue enhanced health care insurance services to enable them get treatment at major health centres.

Gwantwa Mwakitalima, the chairman of the elders' 'Tumaini la Wazee' group in the city told reporters here that among obstacles for them was lack of health insurance acceptable to hospitals.

Mwakitalima said as for now the health insurance provided to them is acceptable only at health centres and dispensaries, and added that from the nature of their diseases, they ought to get treatment at hospitals.

Mwakitalima also appealed to the government and other stakeholders to provide them with food, accommodation and money for medical treatment.

He said due to financial impediments the elders, who hail from Nonde, Itiji, Maendeleo and Majengo wards in the city have no money to fend for themselves.

Rose Wilson, community worker providing services to the group said obstacles she encounters is that many of them have no financial means and ability to go for treatment at health centres.

She said many of them suffer from blood pressure and diabetes and have lost all ability to fend for themselves.

One of the elders, Mariana Chande said due to her age and the disease she was suffering from, she can no longer do any productive work that can give her even one meal a day.

Prakseda Mbulu, Secretary of Women of Purpose, a group for women reporters said apart from providing occasional assistance to the group, they also have the obligation to speak for their plight.



One of the elders, Mariana Chande said due to her age and the disease she was suffering from, she can no longer do any productive work that can give her even one meal a day

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Govt help sought as scarcity of bags sees farmers fail to haul cashews to markets

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

A shortage of bags facing cashew nuts farmers in Nanyumbu and Masasi districts who are members of Masasi and Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU), has made hundreds of tonnes of the crop fail to reach the ongoing cashew nuts auctions for more than a month now.

Cashew nuts farmers from various Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in Masasi District told this paper yesterday that for more than a month now there had been an acute shortage of bags in MAMCU, the situation that had seen many of them fail to take the crop to the auctions, and called for immediate government intervention.

Peter Jamali, a cashew nuts farmer and member of Mpetu AMCOS in Masasi District said the situation for cashew nuts farmers in AMCOS was pathetic, as huge quantities of the crop were packed in smaller sulphate bags (viroba) that are unfit for cashew nuts storage.

Jamali said in the circumstances there was great possibility of the crop to lose its quality by the time it is sent for sale, thereby lowering the price as well.

He said as for now it was difficult to know exactly the tonnage of the crop that fail to reach main warehouses for auctioning, but it was believed to be in hundreds of tonnes.

Another cashew nut farmer identified by only one name - Ajuwaye said they were surprised to see MAMCU without gunny bags and called for immediate government intervention.

He said bags shortage experienced during every cashew nuts selling season was becoming hardcore in MAMCU inflicting untold losses of incomes by farmers.

Salumu Mwarabu, Mpemwena AMCOS secretary said the volume of

the cashew nuts reaching auctions was small compared to what farmers had produced, adding that the main reason for the situation was the shortage of the bags.

Speaking to this paper about the complaints, Joseph Mmole, MAMCU manager for Masasi and Nanyumbu districts said the shortage of bags was attributed by the failure of the agent contracted to distribute the bags to do so on time.

"True, there are hundreds of bags of cashew nuts that had not reached the auctions due to lack of bags for storage, but we as the secondary union was making a follow up," he said.

He said the demand of bags for MAMCU's Masasi and Nanyumbu districts was one million bags, but so far only 500,000 bags were available.



True, there are hundreds of bags of cashew nuts that had not reached the auctions due to lack of bags for storage, but we as the secondary union was making a follow up



Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila pictured recently planting a memorial cashewnut tree at Mbarali Police Station, where Mbarali Estate Company has supported the construction of a building. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Tanga city residents urged to be alert to crocodile threat

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

NATURAL resources department is warning Tanga City residents to be on the lookout for crocodiles, which are on the increase in Kange dam located close to the city's bus terminal.

Crocodiles are on the increase in the area, which come from Mkurumazi river, which is close to people's settlements.

Natural resources officer in the city council, Aneny Nyirenda urged people to be alert of the alligators, the

dangerous predators.

Nyirenda warned women and children who wash clothes and swim in the dam to be careful as they should be watchful as the reptiles can attack people at anytime.

"So, people should avoid doing activities in the dam and river too as they are known for their ambush hunting technique, the crocodiles are indiscriminate hunters and attack any animal that comes within reach including humans.

"Their attack usually takes the form of coming out from the water and

clamping its victim in its powerful jaws, dragging them back into the water to drown them before stashing them under submerged branches or rocks to eat later," he said.

According to the official, the largest freshwater predators come from Mkurumuzi river to the dam as they look for food.

Crocodile is known for its aggressive nature and they are involved in most fatal attacks on humans, killing an estimated 300 people each year in the continent.

In 2018, it was reported that 17 people

were killed, and several others injured by crocodiles on the banks of Zigi river since January in Muheza District, Tanga Region.

Muheza district forestry officer Jane Madege blamed villagers for ignoring the government's warnings to stay away from the river.

"We've been asking people not to engage in any activities within 60 meters from Zigi river because apart from exposing themselves to the crocodiles, it is also against the environmental protection law," said Madege.



Small traders put up kiosks near along Nyerere Road in Dodoma city yesterday, making movement along street pavements especially tricky. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

Chunya District tobacco production to increase following rise in demand

TOBACCO production in Chunya District, Mbeya Region is expected to increase from 9 million kgs in the 2019/2020 farming season to 10.6 million kgs in the coming season.

Mayeka Simon, Chunya District Commissioner told this paper early this week that the estimates for the increase is due to great demand by buyers for the district's main cash crop.

He said for the tobacco farming tradition, every year buyers issue

requirement estimates of the crop before the season begins so that when farmers start farming they are certain of the market.

"This year estimates show an increase of the demand from our stakeholders, this is an opportunity for our farmers to expand their farms to meet that demand," he said.

Mayeka said the price for tobacco was also expected to rise a little compared to the last season, that was due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some tobacco farmers in Chunya District received the news with great jubilation and thanked the government and the new elected leaders for this achievement.

Daud Mpigauzi, one among tobacco farmers said the increase for the demand provides scope for expansion of the only cash crop in the district.

However, he appealed to the government that when it mobilises for increased production, it should also not forget to increase the price as well.

TSB to assess sisal plantations countrywide, says chairperson

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANZANIA Sisal Board (TSB) has embarked on an operation to assess sisal plantations across the country and warned to revoke ownership from the investors who had failed to develop them.

Mariam Nkumba TSB chair made the remarks yesterday here urging all investors to address the challenges because the board will not hesitate to repossess the farms, as it has been given full authority to do so.

"We have embarked on a special operation to assess all sisal plantations in a new move aimed to strengthen production of sisal, through the exercise, we will know the actual number of the plantations and farmers," she said.

The board chair pointed out that land was a major resource in boosting the production of the crop so the board will ensure that sisal farms are well developed.

She added: "When visiting the farms, we expect to see them clean and well prepared. Those which are undeveloped will be repossessed by the government and given to investors with the ability to develop them," she added.

According to her, the board is well prepared to make major reforms in developing the plantations to increase sisal production and revenue generation in order to benefit the country.

For his part, sisal farmers; agriculture marketing societies chairman, Greyson Nyari acknowledged that majority of farmers are still grappling to have modern processing machines of crop.

"In a bid to produce quality sisal, farmers need to have modern machines which will make the procedures easier with little costs," he said.

Sad Kambona, TSB director said the sisal industry has been growing year by year due to high demand of sisal for various industrial uses like automotive,

construction and many others.

"There is high demand of sisal in Spain and Morocco, where tonnes of the produce are needed. The traders have been purchasing it at a fair price," he said.

Kambona further said that currently the sisal industry in the country is implementing its Ten Years' Sisal Development Plan for 2011-2021 whose major focus is to increase production and productivity, increased value addition of sisal, increase number of smallholder farmers in sisal production.

Dr Catherine Senkoro, executive director of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Mlingano said that the government through the institution will produce five million seedlings of sisal crop.

Tanzania sisal industry is the oldest industry in the country which was established in 1893 when sisal plant was first introduced in the country by a Germany agronomist Dr. Richard Hindorf who brought the plant from Yucatan Mexico. From Tanzania then sisal spread to other sisal growing countries in Africa mainly Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Angola and South Africa. However, at the moment Angola and South Africa are no longer producing sisal.

The major markets for Tanzanian sisal are China, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Hispania, India, German, Japan, Kenya, Libya, Uganda, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Egypt. Tanzania is the world's second largest producer of sisal after Brazil. It currently, has a total area of 153,540.61 hectares which is equivalent to 383,851.525 acres.

"We have embarked on a special operation to assess all sisal plantations in a new move aimed to strengthen production of sisal, through the exercise, we will know the actual number of the plantations and farmers"



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TERMS OF REFERENCE Request for Proposal – RFP

WWF SUSTAINABLE FOREST PROGRAMME – EAST AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR HARMONIZATION/TRANSLATION OF CUSTOM DOCUMENTS FOR THE TIMBER TRADE AND OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS IN EASTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Programme Name	East Africa Sustainable Forest Programme TZ
Countries	Kenya, Congo Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania/Zanzibar and Uganda
Names of Implementing Partners (if relevant)	Forest-dependent communities, National CSOs, National Government institutions, Private sector, International Multilateral Institutions
Places to be visited/Stakeholders	Customs office in Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Mozambique and Tanzania/Zanzibar, Madagascar Ministry of finance, Revenue authorities, Ministries/departments/agencies of natural resources/forests, legal officers, police force, CITES,
Transport	Road transport and Air transport
Proposed timing	November 2020

1. Programme overview

The Eastern Africa Sustainable Forest Programme had a 5-years strategy (2016–2020) and was designed to add value to the work that is already being implemented at the country level particularly going beyond things that are bilateral and regional in nature. For the five year period, the programme focused on three key areas as follows:

- **Strengthening CSOs regional and inter-governmental collaboration: The programme aim**
 - i) to work directly with government agencies, in a collaborative and facilitative manner;
 - ii) support dialogue (e.g. Annual East Africa Timber Trade Stakeholders' Forum) and regional processes in partnerships with Regional Economic Commissions
 - (ii) strengthen regional CSOs dialogue to advocate for change and hold government and private sector accountable.
- **Improving transparency and sustainability of timber trade supply/value chains: This strategy seek to**
 - i) establish and support bilateral customs–customs cooperation between Mozambique and China,
 - (ii) work with regional trade blocks (SADC/EAC) to operationalise forest and natural resources protocols; and
 - (iii) support implementation of existing bilateral and regional agreements on illegal trade in timber and other forest products.
- **Promoting innovations on community-based forestry enterprises:**

This strategy seek to

- support WWF country offices and their partner CSOs at learning and
 - adopt best practices for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through South-South learning.
- The assignment will be carried in 6 countries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

2. PURPOSE AND USE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE

The purpose of harmonization/ translation of custom documents for tracking timber trade and other forests products is to address language barrier faced by customs officers to track illegal timber trade and other forest products in the ports of entry. Logging and timber trade provide some of the most immediate economic benefits from forests in terms of generating government royalties, private investment, rural incomes from forest product sales and employment. Extensive illegal timber trade and other forest products within East, Central and Southern African countries continue to be major constraints in the management of forest among other factors which is a result of language barrier since all these countries use different languages. The first step for these countries to address these challenges includes to address the language difference, and to strengthen trade controls in the border districts is to come up with an official manual with translated documents on transboundary timber trade supply chains from harvesting, processing transporting and marketing (local and international) into seven languages spoken in the EAC and SADC member states; English, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Arabic, Portuguese and French. This process requires going more than a simple translation such that it will have to seek uniformity in legality/illegality compliances within the member states in order for other states to help monitor cross-border forests products trade.

The document will embrace Exportation and Importation certificate which includes licences, Transit pass (TP), Invoices, Bill of lading, export and import permits, Trade agreement, customs clearance, phytosanitary, registration form, tax identification number, Inspection certificate, harvesting license, MoU between the seller and buyer, MoU between log processor and seller, MoU between seller and middlemen, Royalties payment, Custom payment, award letter that allows harvesting, Hammering of logs for legality purposes, shipping documents, packing lists, Export permit from the country of origin and Plant import certificate. In order to have the best trading of forest products across the EAC and SADC countries and consequently the information dissemination and communication to become successful, there are need to harmonized timber forest products standards such as timber, logs, poles, plunks, wood fuel and Non timber forest products standards including honey, wax, gums, tannins & charcoal. Incorrect estimates of forest products quantity affect the economic vitality of enterprises and forest owners. Furthermore, National catalogue for timber and non-timber forest products from each partner will need to be harmonized.

2.1 Specific Objectives

- 2.1.1 To prepare webinar meeting to inform EAC/SADC member states on the intention of collection of all custom documents used in timber trade within and beyond EAC/SADC member states as mentioned above (Exportation and Importation certificate which includes licences, Transit pass (TP), Invoices, Bill of lading, export and import permits, Trade agreement, customs clearance, phytosanitary, registration form, tax identification number, Inspection certificate, harvesting license, MoU between the seller and buyer, MoU between log processor and seller, MoU between seller and middlemen, Royalties payment, Custom payment, award letter that allows harvesting, Hammering of logs for legality purposes, shipping documents, packing lists, Export permit from the country of origin and Plant import certificate)
- 2.1.2 To collect samples of all custom documents which are used to transport forest produce between or on transit countries (here we refer targeted countries (Kenya, Congo Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania/Zanzibar and Uganda)
- 2.1.3 To develop manual/booklet with all custom documents being translated in 7 languages for the targeted countries in EAC and SADC.

3. Scope of Work

- 3.1 The consultant will have to collect all relevant custom documents involved in the timber trade supply chains from harvesting processing transporting and marketing (domestic market and shipping overseas). Custom documents as mentioned above include; Exportation and Importation certificate which includes licences, Transit pass (TP), Invoices, Bill of lading, export and import permits, Trade agreement, customs clearance, phytosanitary, registration form, tax identification number, Inspection certificate, harvesting license, MoU between the seller and buyer, MoU between log processor and seller, MoU between seller and middlemen, Royalties payment, Custom payment, award letter that allows harvesting, Hammering of logs for legality purposes, shipping documents, packing lists, Export permit from the country of origin and Plant import certificate.
- 3.2 Development of manual/booklet with all custom documents being translated in 7 languages for the targeted countries in EAC and SADC.

4. Implementation Arrangements

WWF Tanzania will facilitate and arrange all necessary meetings and interviews according to the work plan agreed by the consultant. The selected consultant shall arrange logistics for the mission including hotel reservation and transportation, unless requires support from WWF Tanzania. Time Frame to implement the assignment is expected to start on 1st

December to 31st December 2020.

5. Consultancy Report

The translation documents report will be produced within timeframe in the below format;

Title Page

- Report title, project or programme title, and contract number (if appropriate), Date of report, Authors and their affiliation, Locator map (if appropriate)

Programme title: WWF Sustainable Forest Programme – East Africa and Madagascar

REPORT TITLE: HARMONIZATION/TRANSLATION OF CUSTOM DOCUMENTS FOR THE TIMBER TRADE AND OTHER FOREST PRODUCTS IN EASTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

• PREFACE

- Acknowledgements
- List of Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Executive Summary (between 2 to 4 pages)
- Principal findings and recommendations,
- Summary of lessons learned

– BODY OF THE REPORT (max 25 pages)

A. Introduction (max 3 pages)

- Concise presentation of the project/programme characteristics
- Purpose (What were gaps which pushed into this assignment intervention) objectives, and intended use of the translated documents in timber trade supply chain (reference and attach the ToR as an annex)
- Methodology and rationale for approach (Webinar meetings; literature review on the list of timber trade consulted documents of each country collected; in depth interview of key informants; and any other source containing information in the timber trade supply chain; composition of the Expert Working Group in timber trade in the said countries (EWG-Timber Trade) team, including any specific roles of team members

B. Project/Programme Overview

- Concise summary of the Programme's history, evolution, purpose, objectives and strategies to achieve sustainable utilization of the timber trade goals (attach the Zanzibar declaration or any other strategy)
- Essential characteristics: context, underlying rationale, stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Summarise WWF's main interest in this project or programme

C. Findings of the study/intervention

- Findings organised by each of the three core objectives, including sufficient but concise rationale.
- Translated Timber trade documents in these countries and translated into 7 languages (English, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Arabic, Portuguese and French.).
- Tables, graphics, and other figures to help convey key findings

D. Recommendations

- Recommendation organised each of the three specific objectives, including sufficient but concise rationale – recommendations should be specific, actionable and numbered.
- WWF-Tanzania to facilitate printing of translated documents and dissemination
- Capacity building to all actors along the timber supply chains

E. Overall Lessons Learned

- Lessons learned regarding what worked, what didn't work, and why
- Lessons learned with wider relevance, that can be generalised beyond the project

F. Conclusions

- General summation of key findings and recommendations

Annexes

- Terms of Reference
- Itinerary with key informants
- Documents consulted including all documents used in the whole timber supply chains
- Any reports regarding timber trade in the countries these intervention is to be undertaken
- Project/programme theory of change/ logical framework/ conceptual model/ list of primary goals and objectives
- Specific project/programme and monitoring data, as appropriate
- Summary tables of progress towards outputs, objectives, and goals
- Maps
- recommendations summary table

6.0: SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS (COMPULSORY)

Application from interested Consultant (s) should include:

- Letter of expression of interest.
- Technical proposal detailing the methodologies for information gathering including stakeholder consultations; logical activity flows timelines, and roles of team members.
- Financial proposal and
- Detailed CV of team leader and Co-team member(s), describing consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting such consultancy/activity in his/her previous assignments

Interested applicants are required to direct their *soft copy applications only* to the procurement e mail tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

**Adressed to; Secretary Procurement Committee
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni**

P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam, TanzaniaEmail: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

6.1: The mode of submission is as follows:

- Applicants should submit electronic copies of their application to procurement department through the email address provided above; .
- Applicants should also submit hard copies (optional) of their application in a sealed envelope printed with title of the assignment).. These documents should be submitted at the WWF Tanzania Office, located Kiko Street, Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam.

6.2: Deadline for submission is **10am, Thursday 19th November 2020**. Please, send electronic copies of the full proposal to the email address provided above.

- More information can be found in the following website links: https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/ ; https://wwf.panda.org/jobs_wwf/

7. Evaluation will be done according to WWF Procurement Guidelines and only successful applicant will be contacted.

Climate change could cause abrupt biodiversity losses

THE impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems are already evident. Projections indicate that unless emissions are rapidly reduced the climate crisis will get substantially worse. As ocean warming causes fish stocks to migrate toward cooler waters to maintain their preferred thermal environment, many of the nations that rely on commercial fish species as an integral part of their economy could suffer.

A new study published in Nature Sustainability from the University of Delaware, the University of California, Santa Barbara and Hokkaido University, shows that nations in the tropics—especially Northwest African nations—are especially vulnerable to this potential species loss due to climate change. Not only are tropical countries at risk for the loss of fish stocks, the study found there are not currently any adequate policy interventions to help mitigate affected countries' potential losses.

The researchers used previously projected changes in the distribution range of 779 commercial fish species to estimate the number of species exiting national jurisdiction under contrasting emissions scenarios up to 2100.

Tropical nations in particular stand to lose the most species because there are few if any stocks to replace those leaving. Under a moderate emissions scenario, the research showed that by the year 2100, the average tropical nation could lose 7 percent of the species that were present in 2012.

While the exit of stocks from national fisheries is inevitable, carefully designed international cooperation could ease the impact on individual nations while preserving the resource for others. In addition to looking at the species loss, the researchers examined 127 international fisheries agreements, looking at the large, regional ones as

well as smaller bi-lateral agreements. They found that none of the agreements have language that prepares countries for the exits of stock, climate change or range shifts.

Traditional fisheries management assumes that fish are a renewable natural resource and that so long as their geographic range is static, they will remain plentiful in the absence of overfishing. But the long-term migration of a species out of a country due to climate change means that fish stocks may not always be renewable on the level of a given jurisdiction, even if they remain renewable on an international scale. For the jurisdiction losing the stock, this creates an incentive to overfish before it exits.

How to handle liability for loss and damages from climate change—including whether countries that are more developed and have emitted more carbon dioxide should be compensating countries that are less developed—has been an ongoing discussion throughout the annual United Nations' Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings during which countries work to address climate change.

In the most recent COP 25 meeting in Madrid in December, compensation was again discussed, and the meeting highlighted the interplay between climate change and the ocean, but fisheries were not addressed.

While the Small Island Developing States have so far concentrated on concerns about becoming climate migrants as their land is overtaken by the ocean, Oremus said the study should encourage them and other tropical nations to bring fisheries into the conversation. For many nations where fish are one of the main economic resources driving their gross domestic product, this is something that they'll want to take into account when they join together to try and negotiate climate agreements.

Ethiopia's slide into civil war is unfortunate reading, indeed

FIGHTING has begun between the armed forces of the Ethiopian federal government and provincial authorities in Tigray, home to the dominant ethnic group in that country before the current administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took over back in 2017, amid yet another crisis, mass demonstrations, etc. The conflict arose from reforms carried out by the new premier, where the old guard (and mainly coming from the rebel province) complained they were being targeted in corruption cases. We have seen something of the sort in political tussles across the border, but not descending into war.

A rather surprising element in how Ethiopia descended into civil war was the postponement of elections that were earlier due to take place in August, but postponed on account of lockdowns ordered in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic from mid-March. Powerful Tigray political forces weren't convinced of this alibi and soon organized their own polls at about the time the national polls would have been held, and as the federal government did not follow suit to get the vote going, the region's legislature passed a motion of non-recognition of the federal government. As tensions continued, armed groups mobilized in Tigray readying for worsening conflict attacked an army camp for federal troops, crossing a government red line.

This descending into civil war is a lesson in political reform, and perhaps in global attitudes concerning reform in Africa generally, as the measures in vogue since around 1999 have overly focused on political reform, to ensure that countries hold free and fair elections. This view doesn't address basic questions of why countries descend into unrest and civil war, as such issues involve making choices

on what economic systems work and which don't, and what ought to be done. Most African countries have retained tribal or communal structures dotting the countryside, where groups clash about water, land, livestock and posts.

The speed at which African countries slide into civil war on account of sharper struggles for control of resources, or dominating governments in order to decide on resources in favor of this or that part of the country isn't homogenous. But scarcely any African state is free from resource pressures leading to civil war, and for one thing, with most African economies nearly equaling at least a quarter of economies of smaller European powers, advanced economies want to trade with Africa, not aid it beat its odds. In other words there is no development aid formula for civil wars, but the International Criminal Court can assist.

Another strategic element that is being missed among analysts of African civil wars is that African states or national communities need a different integrating force from the sort of motleys of forces they have in each country, as virtually each of them suffers from economic stagnation in one way or another.

The worst case scenarios are still the bigger economies where conflicts rob them of ability to reach their potential (by Western or Far East standards), but even smaller economies have a sorry tale of stagnation since independence. This integrating force is to absorb their respective ethnic Diasporas by granting dual citizenships and allowing purchases of property at the local level, by themselves and their partners from the countries they were residing. This gives local people the cash to move into business and employ others, while purchasers basically start larger projects that industrialise the country. Conflict ends then.

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: 0686101335
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



Dear Mr Trump, who is now in a shithole?

By Bayo Akinloye

AT the height of his power as US president, Donald Trump exhibited the worst form of indiscipline the world had seen in an American president. He was embarrassing to watch on the world stage.

His lack of decorum and poor behaviour was bewildering; his foul-mouthed utterances and regular rants, even more perplexing. No tradition or institution was too sacred for him to disrespect. Fellow world leaders were regularly at the receiving end

of Trump's bad uncouth and bad behaviour.

For four years, Trump lived in a bubble, an alternate universe alienating everyone else. He was more interested in building walls rather than building bridges. He had a penchant for banning and separating parents, who wanted a taste of the American dream from their children.

In his arrogance and distasteful language, which became the hallmark of his presidency, Trump once described Nigeria as a shithole country and even went to the extent of issuing visa ban against Nigerians wishing to

immigrate to the United States.

Of course, Nigeria was not the only country that suffered humiliating treatment in the hands of his government. Many others were not spared.

In his pompous, insufferable, self-enthralled and vain pursuit of America First, he pulled America, the leader of the free world and the moral force of democracy and civilisation out of international treaties and multilateral agreements that had guaranteed world peace in the last 70 years.

He had come to see himself as invincible. But yesterday, his presidency

marked by chaos, indiscipline and arrogance suffered a humiliating defeat by a former vice president, Joe Biden, in the US presidential election, which held on Tuesday. Trump has now joined the unenviable list of one-term presidents.

The question many Nigerians are asking Mr. Trump following the unceremonious end of his presidency is, who is now in a shithole?

Even as he continues to whine about voter fraud, and that he won 'the legal vote', he knows in his heart that the end of his presidency is near and struggling to live with the new reality.

How Joseph R. Biden, Jr. became America's 46th president

By Samuel Barbay Gaye

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., was born on November 20, 1943 in the city of Scranton, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to a working class family. His father was a furnace cleaner and a used car salesperson. As a kid, Joe's dad lost his job in Scranton and had to seek employment in a neighboring state, Delaware. The rest of the family would join Joe's father in Delaware later. Delaware became their new home and remains Joe's home today. Joe Biden remained member of the working/middle class even while he was Senator of the great state of Delaware. He would commute on the train from Delaware to Washington and back daily.

During Biden's thirty-seven years (37) in the Senate, he was a moderate (center-left) senator on most issues. He was a champion of the middle class in the US Senate. Ordinary Americans (Democrats, Republicans, and Independents) saw in Senator Biden a man who fought for them. He also worked across the aisle and became friends with folks who were ideologically different from him. Biden knew that in the game of politics, even your opponents have to claim a win or victory on some occasions and on some issues. Biden's brand of politics isn't to demonize the opponent or ostracize him or her, but to try and build consensus where consensus can be built. That is why even though he and the late Senator John McCain and Lindsey Graham were ideologically far apart, they maintained a friendship and traveled the world together.

About two years ago, I posted on Facebook that Joe Biden would be the best candidate to defeat President Trump and make him a one term president. The reason for this call was simple: most people who voted for President Obama and then switched and voted for Trump would prefer voting Biden over Trump in 2020 given all that was unfolding in the Trump administration. When Biden decided to seek the presidency, he delivered his first speech in Pittsburgh, PA. That was

politically strategic on his part. Even though Pittsburgh is a city that leans Democratic, western Pennsylvania is not.

From the very get-go of Biden's campaign, he was determined to rebuild the coalition that Barack Obama built that gave him two presidential terms, but Hillary lost; hence, losing the presidency to Donald Trump in 2016. Therefore, during the Democratic primaries when new comers like Beto O'Rourke, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, and Amy Klobuchar were seen as folks who could inspire Democrats to victory against Trump, pragmatic Joe Biden simply promised democratic primary voters that he could rebuild the "Blue Wall" Trump took away from the Democrats in 2016. His pitch was I can retake Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

Joe Biden owes a lot to Black voters for his election as the 46th President of the United States of America. When Biden lost the Iowa caucus and the New Hampshire primary, he was written off by all political pundits. His poor showing in the first caucus and primary in the country falsely signaled that Democrats were looking for something new.

They did not want to return to the same old folks (like Hillary or Biden) who have spent decades in politics. Biden's little momentum was deflated after those two agonizing losses. His campaign was broke while the leading candidate in the race, Bernie Sanders had won two in a row and raising millions and breaking fundraising records. The wind was surely in Bernie's sail and it appeared he was on the verge of becoming the Democratic nominee (something he narrowly lost to Hillary four years earlier).

While the political pundits were writing Joe's political obituary, they remembered that Joe had not participated in Democratic primaries for about twelve years. That means someone like Bernie Sanders had a head-start on Joe because he had participated four years earlier and still had his political infrastructure in

place. But what they forgot was Joe had served as the Vice President to America's first Black President. Not only did he serve Barack well, he was very loyal to President Obama. He was also a confidant to Obama. Joe Biden's White family and President Obama's Black family became one American family.

After Biden's political obituary was read and his political coffin was about to be interred right by his son, Beau, the South Carolina primary reared its head on February 29, 2020. On the eve of that primary, The Honorable James (Jim) Clyburn resoundingly endorsed Joe Biden and urged his kinsmen and other fellow Americans to vote Obama's former Vice President. In his unapologetic endorsement of Biden, Jim said these famous words: "We know Joe. But most importantly, Joe knows us."

Buoyed by Jim Clyburn's endorsement, Joe Biden won the South Carolina primary by 256,047 votes (48.4%), gaining thirty-nine (39) out of the South Carolina's fifty-four (54) delegates. To put this win in better perspective, Joe beat 11 candidates and walked away with 72% of the state's total delegates to the Democratic Convention. With the solid Black support for Joe Biden in South Carolina, he transfigured from an underdog to the lead horse in the race to secure the Democratic nomination.

Joe was not abandoned by Black voters after he secured the Democratic nomination. In fact, he solidified that support. Biden will be the 46th President of the United States in part due to support he received in cities with considerable Black population in the country. Georgia, a Red state is in play in 2020 primarily because of Blacks, young people, and women in Atlanta and its growing suburbs. Michigan came back to the Democratic fold because of Black, young, and women voters in and around Detroit. Wisconsin returned to its Blue status because Black, young, and women voters showed up in Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Madison. The biggest

prize of them all, Pennsylvania (with 20 electoral votes) finally sealed the rebuilding of the "Blue Wall"; thus, sealing the Presidency and making Donald John Trump a one term President—only the fourth President to serve one term in modern era. Thanks to Black, young, and women voters in Philadelphia and its suburbs that sent a clear and unwavering message to Donald J. Trump that you don't mess with America's democracy.

No one situation made Trump a one-term President. Even though I have highlighted a few, permit me to add two other factors that finally placed the icing on Biden's political cake that has made him the oldest President in America's history. Trump's handling of the Coronavirus pandemic further exposed his chaotic and erratic style of leadership. He mismanaged America's handling of the pandemic that has led to the death of more than two hundred thirty-eight thousand Americans. Secondly,

Trump's demonization of anyone who disagrees with him contributed to the Republican Party losing Arizona, a reliably Red state. Trump's feud with the late Senator John McCain, a beloved son of Arizona (even in death) made some of McCain's staunch supporters in the state to cross party line and support Biden. When Trump lost Arizona and its eleven (11) electoral votes (as called by Fox on Tuesday, November 3), I knew the election was over and it was just a matter of time for Joe Biden to be named President-elect of the United States of America. The role Latinos played in flipping Arizona and Democrats retaining Nevada is also very laudable.

Congratulations, Joseph R. Biden, 46th President of the United States of America. Your decency, your loyalty, your compassion, your humility, and your courage have brought you this far. Go and Make America Proud Again (MAPA)!

Samuel Barbay Gaye, Jr. is a Liberian immigrant, political pundit, and a centrist Democrat

Regional aviation college and snags in advanced of training flight personnel

By Beatrice Philemon

ALTHOUGH aviation in the country is growing rapidly, it is facing a shortage of aviation personnel like aircraft maintenance engineers and flight dispatchers.

To address this challenge, the government needs to invest in aviation colleges, enabling those who run such colleges to obtain sufficient learning and teaching materials. They also need to have workshops and instructors, to attain set targets in skilled aviation sector labour force.

Regional Aviation College Principal, Hulka Omar says that the college has begun to offer the aircraft maintenance engineering (AME) course and the flight dispatch/flight operations course to students.

More than 170 students pursuing the AME course graduated and were employed by airline companies like Precision Air, Air Tanzania, Coastal Airlines, Auric Air and a Dubai flight company.

Demand for AME graduates is high, with 60 percent likely positions still unmet, he said, proceeding to

invite students dreaming to join airlines to pursue the AME course as employment opportunities are still high, with offers from Nigeria, Kenya and Dubai.

AME is a technical training course preparing students in the maintenance of an aircraft, its various parts and engines. Students must pass science related subjects with a D pass and above, he stated.

Before a flight starts, AME experts work hard and make sure that each and every functional system in the aircraft is in working condition. The safety standards must be being followed so that the aircraft is flight worthy.

In short, AME professionals play a crucial role in the smooth functioning of aeroplanes, so it is an opportunity for Tanzanians. So far the college has 15 qualified instructors who studied in Canada, UK, China, Uganda, Pakistan, Scotland and other countries.

Before introducing the AME course, such experts were hired from Britain, Germany, USA, France and elsewhere, with local airline firms spending much money to hire them.

Elaborating on flight dispatch/flight operations course, he says this is a six-month course introduced in 2014. Such personnel provide pilots with navigation information, relaying flight plan guidelines to ensure safe flight, he says.

Flight crew cannot fly without the help of a team of people on the ground, aircraft dispatchers being a crucial link, checking flight fuel, flight plans, load control/weight balance, safety guidelines and weather patterns. No flight can take off without the dispatcher's permission, he pointed out.

The flight dispatcher must take into account the weather, at the start and during the flight and at its final destination. That means studying winds, thinking about alternative destinations, fuel requirements, altitudes and general traffic flow, he elaborated.

So far more than 350 students have graduated in this course, with graduates obtaining jobs in airports around the world with firms such as Swissport and United Aviation Services (UAS).

Students with ambition to work for airlines companies or airports should pass at least four science subjects that include geography, physics, mathematics, chemistry with four D passes or above.

"You don't need to have diploma in this course; even form four leavers can join our college for the flight dispatch course," he says

Upon completion of study, graduates obtain an internationally recognized certificate making them employable in local and foreign airlines, he said.

Extensive information on weather and forecasting is required in order to provide pilots with accurate information so that flights make it to destination safely and on time.

"When the plane is in the air, the dispatcher will continue to monitor and relay that information to the pilot. If there is weather approaching that might pose a threat, the pilot and dispatcher will together determine how to land the plane safely," he specified.

Operational decisions often come straight from a dispatcher who has to let pilots know of any safety hazards or changes that can come up without warning, he further noted.

Dispatchers figure out how much fuel will be consumed during the flight, additional fuel that should be on the plane in case the pilot has to steer clear of weather or get to an alternate airport, he said.

As for 2020/2021 plans, the college is introducing the cabin crew course, another on dangerous course of flight, airport operations, air cargo as well as air fare and ticketing courses.

The regional aviation college offer basic certificate, full certificate and diploma courses in flight dispatch/operations, airport operations, air cargo advance marketing, travel and tourism, airline customer service plus ground operations management.

Others are marketing and management, business studies, hotel management, human resources management plus purchases and supply chain management.

Registration of Form IV and VI leavers continues for students with ambition to work for airlines, airports, airport ground, handling companies, travel agencies, tour companies and hospitality industries.



Children in Crossfire
GIVING CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO CHOOSE

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Development of Digital Tools and Database for Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System

Children in Crossfire is an Irish-based international NGO whose purpose is to respond to the rights and needs of young children caught in the crossfire of global poverty and injustice. Children in Crossfire Tanzania focuses on increasing access to quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) supporting children's developmental needs and giving them a chance to reach their fullest potential. More information about the organisation can be found at www.childrenincrossfire.org

Children in Crossfire Tanzania currently implements ECD programmes with a particular focus on early learning. We are commissioning a consultancy to review our current monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system and lead a process to digitalize it by developing digital tools and database which will be used to collect, store and analyse programme data.

We are looking for a MEL consultant specialist with extensive knowledge and expertise in **designing and developing digital MEL systems and tools suitable in a development programming context.**

For a detailed **Terms of Reference** for this consultancy, please contact: jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org. The Terms of Reference sets out the scope of work, deliverables and timelines; as well as the required experience and qualifications of the consultants, and tendering procedures and selection criteria.

A proposal (no more than 7 pages) should be submitted by email to Children in Crossfire on the following email: jobstz@childrenincrossfire.org indicating in the subject line: "Proposal – Digitalising MEL System and Tools". A short cover letter should indicate the candidate's availability to undertake the assignment within the proposed timescale for the consultancy. Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

The closing time for receipts of applications is **23:00hrs on Tuesday 17 November 2020**, local time in Tanzania.









SPECIAL CONGLATULATIONS

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Azania group of Companies join fellow Tanzanians in congratulating **Hon. Dr. John Magufuli & Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan** for being elected again the 6th Phase President and Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Azania Group Thanks all their Customers for continuing to trust us and we promise to provide them with Guaranteed Products for daily use.

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 +255 788 088 888
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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS GOODS AND OR SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring various services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various goods and or services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REF NO.	SERVICES & GOODS TO BE PROCURED
GGME01062	Provision of Gardening Services for Geita Gold Mining Limited at Geita Mine
GGME01063	Supply and Delivery of Cochrane Invisible ClearVU Fence and Accessories for Geita Gold Mining Limited at Geita Mine

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%	
COMMERCIAL		
Company Profile	1.25%	
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%	
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%	
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%	
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%	
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%	
List of Directors	1.25%	
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%	
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE		
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	5%	
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	5%	
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS		
OSHA Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Environment Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	2.5%	
Safety and Environmental Policies	2.5%	
PAST EXPERIENCE		
At least 3 Names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	2.5%	
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2.5%	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		
Evidence of Office Location in Geita Town	20%	GGME01062
Certificate of Registration as Labour Based Technology Company under CRB or Registered Business for Gardening and Landscaping Company	20%	Provision of Gardening Services for Geita Gold Mining Limited at Geita Mine
CV of Key Personnel's with Qualifications and Trainings from Ministry of Works/TANROAD on Labour Based Technology	10%	
Proof of Ownership of Gardening Services Tools & Equipment specifically Lawn Mowers	10%	
Total Score in %	100%	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		
Dealership Agreement with Cochrane Manufacturer (OEM)	60%	GGME01063
		Supply of Cochrane Invisible ClearVU Fence and Accessories for Geita Gold Mining Limited at Geita Mine
Total Score in %	100%	

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 20 November 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring various services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REF NO.	SERVICES & GOODS TO BE PROCURED
GGME01058	Provision of Maintenance of Mills during shutdown
GGME01040	Supply of Qualified Labour and Equipment for Maintenance in the Process Plant
GGME01009	Provision of Maintenance of Compressors (Sullair Champion Screw Compressors)

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%	
COMMERCIAL		
Company Profile	1.25%	
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%	
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%	
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%	
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%	
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%	
List of Directors	1.25%	
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%	
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE		
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	5%	
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	5%	
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS		
OSHA Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Environment Compliance Certificate	2.5%	
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	2.5%	
Safety and Environmental Policies	2.5%	
PAST EXPERIENCE		
At least 3 Names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	2.5%	
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above)	2.5%	
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	2.5%	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		
Provide qualified mechanical artisans with extensive experience (10 years) in large SAG and ball mills	10%	GGME01058
Proof of expertise in: Full condition monitoring of mill shells, drive units and associated auxiliaries Replacement of major mill components, e.g. girth, pinion, gearbox, lubrication systems, slipper pads etc Replacement and commissioning of mill shells	30%	Provision of Maintenance of Mills during shutdown
Ability to respond and report to site on short notice	5%	
Proof of ability to conduct annual inspections on mills	15%	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		
Proof of ability to Supply qualified skilled labour and equipment and tooling for plant maintenance	20%	GGME01040
Proof of ability to execute planned shutdown tasks at a given time	10%	Supply of Qualified Labour and Equipment for Maintenance in the Process Plant
Proof of ability to execute major plant projects and fabrications.	10%	
Proof of ability to assist with major plant unplanned breakdowns	15%	
Proof of being Registered by the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) in Tanzania	5%	
TECHNICAL CRITERIA		
Proof of technical Capability to conduct Maintenance of Sullair Champion -Screw compressors	12%	GGME01009
Proof of ability to Supply of correct spares for Sullair Champion -Screw compressors	12%	Provision of Maintenance of Compressors (Sullair Champion Screw Compressors)
Sullair Champion -Screw compressors 3000hrs service	6%	
Sullair Champion -Screw compressors 6000hrs service	6%	
Proof of ability to conduct major overhaul of compressors and annual inspection of all 160kW – 185kW Sullair Champion -Screw compressors	12%	
Proof of ability to conduct Safety and PRF inspections	12%	
Total	100%	

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 25 November 2020 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

Just launched: New digital mentorship for Africa's women-owned businesses

By Special Correspondent

A New digital female-driven mentorship platform that aims to support and empower women in business in Africa has launched.

Bureau Veritas, a company that specialises in testing, inspection, and certification, has partnered with TWAA, a global women empowerment platform, to create the BV Women in Africa Mentorship Programme. The partnership will allow TWAA to promote its offering globally and across Africa.

Marc Roussel, President of Government Services & International Trade & Senior Vice President for Africa comments on the launch of the new programme.

"The Bureau Veritas Group operates in several countries across Africa. The organization has a very strong ethos on gender balance and women empowerment. As such many of our CSR initiatives focus on the support and development of women both inside and outside of the organization. The TWAA initiative is a unique way for our Group to engage women in supporting each other through a BV dedicated mentorship programme. This platform creates a unique opportunity to invite many of the great women of BV to support other women within Africa."

The Bureau Veritas Group aims to engage TWAA as a knowledge sharing and mentorship platform for women across the continent, promote women in the workplace, support women by decreasing the existing gender gap in the digital arena, and supporting TWAA's vision to create gender equality in the social, economic and cultural sectors of Africa.

Providing women with digital tools, the platform connects users to suitable mentors and mentees, facilitating the growth of a women-based community and increasing access to opportunities for participants.

Irene Kiwia, founder of TWAA explains the aims of the partnership and the launch of the mentorship programme.

"This platform was built to help organizations with a

strong women empowerment agenda such as Bureau Veritas accomplish their goals by providing a platform to engage, connect, mobilize and impact their women communities through mentorship, knowledge sharing, and access to opportunities. TWAA provides a safe and private space with relevant digital tools for women to thrive and aims to bridge the gender digital divide which can be ramped up if organizations globally become the drivers of the platform."

Utilising a digital platform, the mentorship programme aims to reach women located across Africa, even in remote areas. During the programme, users will be able to connect, engage, and upskill themselves in the digital arena and business, resulting in overall empowerment.

"This initiative will contribute positively to the social compact and development within the African continent and it is my fervent hope that other companies will come on board and support this program," adds Roussel

Available digitally, women in business are able to access the platform, which is currently available in English, French, and Swahili.

The BV Women in Africa Mentorship Programme hopes to expand the languages that the programme is available in, with the possibility of it being available in Yoruba, isiZulu, Portuguese, and Arabic.



COVID-19 hits life-saving health services in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

THE COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to key health services in Africa, raising worries that some of the continent's major health challenges could worsen.

The preliminary analysis by the World Health Organization (WHO) of five key essential health service indicators that include outpatient consultation, inpatient admission, skilled birth attendance, treatment of confirmed malaria cases and provision of the combination pentavalent vaccine in 14 countries finds a sharp decline in these services between January and September 2020 compared with the two previous years.

The gaps were the widest in May, June and July, corresponding to when many countries had put in place and enforced movement restrictions and other social and public health measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

During these three months, services in the five monitored areas dropped on average by more than 50% in the 14 countries compared with the same period in 2019.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought hidden, dangerous knock-on effects for health in Africa. With health resources focused heavily on COVID-19, as well as fear and restrictions on people's daily lives, vulnerable populations face a rising risk of falling through the cracks," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

"We must reinforce our health systems to better withstand future shocks. A strong health system is the bedrock for emergency preparedness and response. As countries ease COVID-19 restrictions, we must not leave the door open for the pandemic to resurge," said Dr Moeti. "A new wave of COVID-19 infections could further disrupt life-saving health services, which are only now recovering from the initial impact."

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa was unacceptably high, accounting for about two-thirds of global maternal deaths in 2017. Preliminary data indicates that COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate women's health challenges and the new analysis found that skilled birth attendance in the 14 countries dropped.

In Nigeria, 362 700 pregnant women missed ante-natal care between March and August 2020. Over 97 000 women gave birth away from health facilities and over 193 000 missed postnatal care within two days of giving birth. There were 310 maternal deaths in Nigerian health facilities in August 2020, nearly double the figure in August 2019.

An additional 1.37 million children across the African region missed the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine which protects against Tuberculosis (TB) and an extra 1.32 million children aged under one year missed their first dose of measles vaccine between January and August 2020, when compared with the same period in 2019.

Immunization campaigns covering measles, yellow fever, polio and other diseases have been postponed in at least 15 African countries this year. The introduction of new vaccines has been halted and several countries have reported running out of vaccine stocks.

"Now that countries are easing their restrictions, it's critical that they implement catch-up vaccination campaigns quickly," said Dr Moeti.

"The longer, large numbers of children remain unprotected against measles and other childhood diseases, the more likely we could see deadly outbreaks flaring up and claiming more lives than COVID-19."

WHO has issued guidance on how to provide safe immunization services, including how to conduct a careful risk assessment before implementing preventive mass vaccination, with attention to appropriate protective measures to avoid transmission of COVID-19.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
President of the United Republic of Tanzania



Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council
Excellency Dr Hussein Mwinyi President of Zanzibar

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), wishes to congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania **His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli** and President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar **Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi** for their resounding victory in the recent October 28 General Elections.



Port for
blue economy
for Zanzibar progress.

Why natural wet sponge of the Eastern Arc Mountains is being sent to 'graveyard' -Part I

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE natural wet sponge of the Eastern Arc Mountains is being sent to the graveyard. Unlike in the past, currently, the number of upstream rivers and waterfalls are disappearing permanently and thousands of hector of forests are being degraded through illegal practices. An investigation conducted for nearly six months along the Arch Mountains has revealed that the natural wet sponge which usually holds water all the year-long while releasing it gradually in the form of waterfalls is swiftly drying. This potential Eastern Arc Mountains (EAMs) contains about 100 endemic species of animals, about 270 endemic species of plants, and about 50 percent of the forest cover (451,948 ha), within the largest remaining patches. The existence and survival of all these depends also on how the villagers surrounding the EAMs conserve and manage the village land forest reserves (VLFR) because they are interdependent.

The villagers and the natural resource committee of Handeni and Kilindi districts which form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains say if that situation continues unstopped, the life cycle of three major rivers of Ruvu, Pangani and Wami is also in danger. They will be soon subjected to natural death.

Legal and economic experts have also described the predominance of the activities as contrary to the law. They include illegal agricultural activities in the forest reserve, charcoal harvesting, pastoralists, illegal timber and logs harvesting. These activities are threatening the existence of this important forest reserve along the Eastern Arc Mountains. The unsustainable activities have largely affected clean supply of water into the major rivers for the residents of Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Coast and Tanga regions. They have also cleared the most valuable timber trees for illegal trade.

The case of Gole village, Handeni district, Tanga Region

The EAMs are not an island; they need total and conservation support and initiatives from in and outside the Arch Mountains. One of these are the village land forest reserves especially those adjacent or close to the Arch Mountains.

Gole village lies on the foothills of the Eastern Arc Mountains in Handeni District, Tanga Region. The villagers have 233 households with a total population of 1,668 including 835 women and 833 men are the custodian of about 6,782 hectares of Gole Village Land Forest Reserve (GVLFR). Here, the Guardian conducted an investigation to ascertain the major drivers of the degradation, the impacts caused and the gauge the efficacy of the conservation initiatives that has been undertaken in this VLFR which form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Additionally, the investigation was geared at ascertaining the extent of institutional coordination in dealing with forest crimes in Handeni District. The institutions include the ministry responsible for forest management and its agencies thereto, district authorities where forest reserves are found (Handeni), ward and village authorities.

Different interviews which also involved field visit, attending the village meetings and sources from the village documents revealed that Gole Village Land Forest Reserve which was established in 2012 is disappearing. After its establishment the village developed the Forest Management Plan that was approved by the Handeni District Council on 9th July 2014. The Village Harvesting Plan has been developed for five years from August 2015 to July 2019, and reviewed in 2020 for next five years. The 2020 sustainable harvesting plan for timber trees show that, the forest is still worth of about \$100,000 annually, through sustainable sell of standing tree. The establishment of the VLFR is in accordance with policy statements number 5 and 6 of National Forest Policy 1998, sections 4 (b) (i) and 32 to 41 of the Forest Act No.14 of 2002, the Lands Act No.4 of 1999 and the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999 which permits the establishment of Village Land Forest Reserves.

The Guardian learnt that the classification of land under these laws automatically recognised land set for reserves to be among the three categories of land others being the general land and villager land. The establishment of this VLFR is also in line with Tanzania's Forest Policy of 1998 which among other issues calls for community participation in conservation and management of forest resources.

Further investigation revealed that there is a gross violation of various Tanzania's laws and legislations. (Land Act No. 4 of 1999, Forest Act No. 14 of 2002, Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999, Water Resources Management Act) and the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004.

Main illegal activities that degrade the village land forest reserve

Gole village chairman Bakari Malinda explained that the village forest reserve has been invaded by agro-pastoral who have forged village documents to justify their illegal activities in the forest reserve. Controversial allocation of village to famous agro-pastoral and business people is contrary to the provisions of the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999. The investigation revealed that there were no minutes of the village assembly approving the said land to some agro-pastoral neither in Kilindi nor Handeni districts. The size of the land allocated to these agro-pastoral do not correspond to what the villagers are mandated to allocate.

When this paper visited Negero village where



One of 30 timber harvesting and processing workshops in the forest reserve. Gole village chairman Bakari Malinda (right) and other members of Gole village natural resource committee show pieces of timber harvested in the village land forest reserve along the Eastern Arc Mountains. Our reporter had requested the village chairman and his committee to go along with him through the village land forest reserve during this investigative mission and that is when they impounded the timber after the culprits ran away from their timber harvesting and processing workshop site. Photos: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

these agro-pastoralists claim to be allocated land but in interview with village leaders, they disclosed that there were no records to verify the process and acquired land.

A field survey revealed that the agro-pastoral dealers have even constructed water dam in the village land forest reserve and charging fees to villagers for the use of water, a situation which contravenes the provisions of the Water Resources Management Act which requires permits for large water uses. Gole village chairman Bakari Malinda explained that during the dry season, pastoralists are charged 1000 per each cow to get access to water.

"This is illegal since large water users require permits, there were no evidence as to whether there was a permit granted in this case," he said.

Unbridled illegal felling down of trees

A field survey of the forest saw a group of illegal timber and log harvesters who after they had seen this reporter by far, they quickly dumped their equipment such as chain saw, axe and ran away. The site was no different from home as there were home cooking utensils such as pots, spoons, clothes, and shoes. About 30 workshops for illegal timber harvesting and processing were found in the reserve. In an interview with environmental expert, lawyer Musa Mnasiizu from Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC) said part XI of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002 enumerates a number of forest crimes and such illegal activities are contrary to the provisions of the Forest Act No. 14 of 2002. The activities conducted in this reserve are punishable under the law. Environmental degradation as the result of illegal livestock keeping in the forest reserve, this is contrary to the provisions of the Environmental Management Act No. 20 of 2004 which calls upon for people in Tanzania to take necessary measures to protect the environment.



A member of Gole village natural resource committee shows pieces of timber at another site harvested in the village land forest reserve along the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Our investigative reporter also observed that there is a problem of institutional coordination in addressing the situation in Gole Village Land Forest Reserve (GVLFR). This was evidenced by the fact that some government officials were publicly accused of taking sides to protect those involved in the forest degradation. For example, it was revealed that some members from the Village Natural Resources Committee for Gole village were illegally detained by the Police in Handeni in exchange for culprits who were arrested with their cattle illegally grazing in the Gole Forest Reserve. The village natural resource committee members John Gasaka and member Abdallah Mwingwa said those protecting the invaders into the forest reserve had been corrupted. As a result they could not enforce laws and implement their mandates vested to some of them.

Lack of institutional coordination was also associated with lack of clear information as to what actually transpired, some of village leaders were even not aware of boundaries between Kilindi and Handeni districts and henceforth becoming hard for them to intervene.

Inability of village members forming the forest reserve to benefit from sustainable use of forest resources.

An investigation revealed that there is inability of village members forming the forest reserve to benefit from sustainable use of forest resources. This is due to uncertainty on boundaries of the forest reserve and pending case in Land Tribunal in Korogwe District which has precluded villagers from conducting activities that are legally permitted by the Forest Act, No. 14 of 2002 where they could benefit from sustainable use of forest resources. It was also observed that the village has failed to use its village harvesting plan due to the land use conflict.

For instance, Gole village based in Handeni District conducted regular forest patrols such that, between May and June, five serious forest crimes (perceived to be implicated with corruption scandals), involving village forest land grabbing, illegal encroachment and grazing of 640 cattle were identified, reported and punished, where by three culprits were fined based on provision of village forest by-laws, and they are still working with the district council to resolve two cases.

The village also has been working actively with one of the community based forest conservation project to resolve court case number 20/2019 (waiting for judgment at Korogwe District Land and Housing Tribunal), as well as Police case number IR/882/2020- both between Gole village and a famous agro-pastoralist called Lekoko, who is claiming for a substantial portion of the 6,782 hectares of Gole VLFR to be his grazing land. Kwefingo village based in Korogwe also opened and made close follow up of police case number KOR/RB2067/2020, followed by court case KOR/IR/602/2020 concerning illegal clearing of 3 acres of Sakare forest cover. The case was determined and the culprits agreed to pay a fine of 500,000/- although they did not pay on time. On 9th July, the culprits were arrested and remanded in police custody for a day until they promised in writing to make the payments by 23rd July 2020. So far the villagers are still monitoring the actions.

On 4th September 2020, Handeni District Executive Director wrote a letter to Commissioner for Land, Tanga Region to request for independent land surveyor to verify for boundary of the conflicting part of land if is either in Gole village, Handeni District or at Negero village, Kilindi District as demanded by the pastoralists claiming for the piece of the forest land. From 7th to 11st independent land surveyor visited the two villages Gole village in Handeni and Negero village in Kilindi District to verify the conflicting land issue as a last case evidence before final judgment, the land surveyor collected relevant information through field visits, observation, documents review and consultation with different stakeholders, that is Kilindi Land Office, Handeni Land Office and Gole village for information gathering.

Sought for comments, the former Handeni District Commissioner Godwin Gondwe who was the district commissioner by then, said a number of actions have been put in place to ensure that this situation is addressed. These includes declaring the area free of any economic activity until when the pending case that was filled by forest invaders in Land Tribunal in Korogwe is determined, allowing Gole village natural resources committee to continue with patrolling the area. He called for collaboration between the two districts of Handeni and Kilindi to have this problem resolved.

On the other hand, the newly appointed DC for Handeni Toba Nguvula said he has gone further to issue an order to suspend grazing and all other illegal activities that are being conducted in Gole Village Forest Reserve by all people. The villagers have commended the efforts saying this is the most significant steps for the forest reserve to protected against all forms of encroachments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nsekela attributes 'Best Bank Award 2020' to customers

By Guardian Reporter

LOYAL and committed clients are the reason behind CRDB Bank Plc's sustained growth which has attracted global attention from US based Global Finance magazine which named it as the 'Best Bank in Tanzania 2020.'

Commenting on news that the Dar es Salaam based lender has been recognised by the leading business and finance magazine this year, CRDB Bank Plc's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the bank's loyal customers and dedicated staff members are behind the success that has transcended globally.

"Our bank would like to dedicate this award to our esteemed customers who have supported products and services that we offer sustainably," Nsekela said adding that apart from depositing their savings with CRDB, clients have also been taking loans which grew by 15 percent to 3.7trn/- by September this year.

The banking group which has wide-

ly invested in both physical and digital channels to extend its services to the majority unbanked populations of rural Tanzania, also maintained a healthy loan book with an improved non-performing loans ratio of 4.7 percent down from 7.5 percent reported in the same period in 2019.

"Our digital channels have played a big role in the bank's growth with over 80 percent of transactions taking place outside the physical branches," the CEO cum MD noted while stressing that his management will continue to give customers what they ask for in respect to its slogan, 'the bank that listens.'

Among its key digital channels include TemboCard which has access to over 700 ATMs and 17,000 CRDB Wakalas countrywide, SimBanking, SimAccount, Internet Banking, MasterCard and Point of Sales (PoS) outlets.

Nsekela further added that loyal customers and committed staff are also behind the 31 percent net profit increase to 120bn/- during the third quarter of this year hence the Global Finance award should be for them.



CRDB Bank Plc's CEO and managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela, speaks at a past event.

Commenting on the awards, Global Finance Publisher and Editorial Director, Joseph Giarraputo said, "The banking industry is increasingly challenged by rising customer demands for safe real-time access with total control and broad flexibility."

"For 27 years, the Global Finance Best Bank Awards have

helped corporate treasurers and Chief Finance Officers identify the banking partners most able to deliver top-notch financial services delivered via innovative technology," Giarraputo noted.

Founded in 1987, Global Finance magazine has a circulation of 50,000 and readers in 188 countries with a

diversified audience which includes senior corporate and financial officers responsible for making investment and strategic decisions at multinational companies and financial institutions.

INCENTIVE

Nigeria exempts Dangote cement from land border closure

LAGOS

THE Nigerian government has allowed Dangote Cement to resume exports across its land borders, raising hopes that Africa's most populous nation may be opening up trade with neighbours after a year-long blockade.

President Muhammadu Buhari's administration gave its authorisation for Africa's biggest producer to export cement to Niger and Togo in the third quarter for the first time in ten months, Michel Puchercos, chief executive officer, said on an investor call in Lagos. The export was made possible "through authorisation giv-

en by this administration," he said.

The exemption to Dangote Cement is seen as a softening of the government's position on a border closure that started in August last year, and could open the way for other businesses to fully resume exports across the country's land barriers.

Nigerian authorities closed borders with neighbouring countries including Benin and Niger to curb smuggling and boost local production. Although the blockade encouraged the consumption of locally grown produce such as rice, it hurt factories across West Africa, which rely on Nigeria's market of 200 mil-

lion people.

Dangote resumed land export with "restricted volumes," and plans to grow the trade using the sea channels, according to Puchercos.

A total of 69 tons was exported through land borders in the period, less than one percent of the 11,741 tons of cement exports while ship-

ping by sea is also being explored, the company said.

The Lagos-based company's plan to buy back some of its shares has been delayed by market volatility and low liquidity, which have affected valuation, Guillaume Moyon, acting chief financial officer said at the same conference call.

RESCHEDULING

Sanlam in talks with parent firm to delay repaying loan, again

NAIROBI

UNDERWRITER Sanlam Kenya is negotiating for a second extension of a Sh2.8 billion loan repayment to its parent company, Sanlam Group. The Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firm was initially meant to settle the amount in 2019 but was unable to make the payment in the period when its cash holdings stood at Sh1.1 billion.

It then negotiated an extension to settle the debt in December 2020 –

an arrangement that has been scuttled by the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, prompting the underwriter to seek a further extension of the repayment. "We are in the final stages of restructuring this facility given the pandemic situation.

"Sanlam Capital was also able to allow us to restructure this (outstanding loan)," Sanlam Kenya Group chief executive Patrick Tumbo said without disclosing the terms of the renegotiation. To settle the debt, Sanlam Kenya put on market land and



Sanlam Kenya CEO Patrick Tumbo.

buildings valued at Sh900 million that it planned to sell by the end of this year.

"The group had acquired a loan facility from Sanlam Capital Markets totalling \$34 million (Sh3.6 billion) for a period of two years whose interest is referenced to the three-month Libor plus seven per cent margin," the company says in its annual report for the year ended December 2019.

"The facility was obtained to settle inter-company balances with related parties, recapitalize the group's insurance businesses and finance completion of the Sanlam Tower. Sanlam Life paid \$7 million (Sh745 million) in the year under review while Sanlam Plc have extended repayment to end of 2020."

Since it built a Sh2.7 billion new headquarter (Sanlam Tower) on Waiyaki Way in Nairobi, the insurer has been selling more of its properties.

The properties it has previously listed for sale include former head office Sanlam House on Nairobi's Kenyatta Avenue. According to its half-year trading results, the company reported a Sh99.1 million after-tax losses down from a Sh639.6 million net profit posted during the same period last year.

EXPANSION

Africa's biggest drugmaker pivots to vaccine

DURBAN

ASPEN Pharmaceutics' deal to make Covid-19 vaccines for Johnson & Johnson caps a broader effort by Africa's biggest drugmaker to adapt to the pandemic, having earlier repurposed older medicines and deployed anaesthetics to battle the virus.

The Durban, South Africa-based company has the rights

to the corticosteroid dexamethasone, which was found in June to reduce the mortality of critically ill patients by as much as 33%. The pharma group also sells the anti-gout drug colchicine, which has been used to prevent respiratory distress arising from the coronavirus, and makes anticoagulants like fraxiparine that treats blood clots.

"In February, we looked at

how we best respond to this looming disaster facing us and we split it into three buckets – what we can do at a therapeutic level, what can we do at a vaccine level and what can we do to generally help society," Stavros Nicolaou, a senior Aspen executive, said in an interview. This has "positioned us globally as a company that had a multifaceted response to this pandemic."

Aspen's role as a local manu-

facturer of these treatments is a bonus for South Africa, as it eases the need to import medicines that are in high demand worldwide. While the country's pandemic peaked in July, two provinces have recently seen a notable up-tick in cases and some epidemiologists are forecasting a resurgence from January, albeit less severe than the first peak.

To be in a position to make the

J&J vaccine, Aspen has invested about R3 billion (\$191 million) in a plant in South Africa's coastal city of Port Elizabeth. The facility has the capacity to make as many as 300 million doses a year, enough to enable exports to the rest of the continent, which has fewer resources to produce an inoculation.

Elective surgery

The pandemic itself has not

all been good news for the drugmaker. Aspen withheld its annual dividend for a second consecutive year in September with demand for some of its products dropping as patients deferred elective surgery.

The company's regional brands portfolio, which includes a sleeping aid, an iron supplement and a pain killer, accounts for 44% of total revenue. This unit's income only rose

3% in the year through June as social-distancing measures impacted the demand for medicines used for communicable diseases not related to Covid-19.

Still, Aspen has taken steps to adapt and the shares are up slightly for the year as a whole. "With a lot of these pandemics you land up repurposing older drugs because that's the ones you've got experience in. Some of them work out, others don't."

HIRE-PURCHASE

Vodacom partner with Laina Finance to bring smartphone financing to Tanzanian clients

By Guardian Reporter

LOCAL subscribers of Vodacom Tanzania Plc can now get a smartphone on loan thanks to a partnership announced by the telco with Laina Finance Limited yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

Announcing the good news in the commercial capital, Vodacom's Head of Sales and Distribution, Consumer Business Unit, George Lugata said the move is aimed at boosting smartphone penetration in the local market.

"Promoting digital inclusion means ensuring every Tanzanian has access to a smartphone and as a company we have deployed different strategies to push for smartphone penetration in the country," said Lugata.

He explained that the market's largest telecommunications company decided to partner with Laina Finance to introduce the smartphone financing plan to en-

able more Tanzanians obtain the handset in a convenient and affordable way.

"As Vodacom we have championed rolling out affordable handsets like smartkitochi in the market which retails at only 48,000/-," he added.

According to the latest Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, there has been steady growth in both mobile and internet usage in the country as internet penetration peaked 48 percent by mid this year.

This has resulted in an increase in smartphone penetration in the country but despite this growth, an estimated two fifths of the population remain offline and are excluded from the socio-economic benefits of the internet.

"Access to affordable smartphones is the key to bridging this gap and ensuring every Tanzanian is connected to the internet," said Laina Finance Limited's Gen-

eral Manager, Mrisho Shomari while pointing out that bridging the digital divide is critical to catalyse Tanzania's ambition of transforming from a historically agricultural economy to an increasingly knowledge-based, semi-industrialised middle-income economy by 2025.

"Our partnership with Vodacom banks on our experience in financial services and expertise in technology to support their customers across the country get affordable smartphones through flexible loans," he added.

Vodacom customers can apply for a smartphone loan for select devices at the company's shops nationwide on credit following an assessment. With the financing plan, customers can get a smartphone worth up to 1m/- after a 40 percent initial deposit followed by flexible monthly instalments of up to three months through M-Pesa.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's head of sales and distribution - Consumer Business Unit, George Lugata (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of a smartphone financing plan in partnership with Laina Finance Limited. He is with Laina Finance general manager Mrisho Shomari.

EXPLOITATION

Horticulture exporters on the spot for fleecing farmers

KIGALI

WHEN farmers in Nyanza District got a Rwf6 billion irrigation dam in 2015, beneficiaries were expecting to earn a lot of income that would lift them out of poverty. The dam with 1.82 million cubic meters and irrigation system has a capacity to irrigate 301 hectares in three sectors of Nyanza District, namely Rwabicuma, Nyagisozi, and Cyabakamyi.

The multibillion project was supposed to benefit 2,640 households but some of them, who invested in horticulture, are counting losses after they accused 'exporters of fleecing them.' Gerard Habimana, the president of farmers' cooperative 'Jya Mbere Muhinzi Nyanza' told The New Times that they supplied Rwf34 tonnes of chili worth Rwf24.2 million to Diversity Venture Company Ltd but they only got a payment of Rwf2 million.

"Now, we are in a dilemma. We have no more capital. Some farmers have abandoned agribusiness because they are discouraged. We are trying to negotiate with other companies but it is yet to mature," he said.

He said that the total post-harvest losses have amounted to 'Rwf100 million' considering the other produce that rotted away due to lack of market. The farmers, who grow their crops on 50 hectares, had grown chili on 16 hectares. The farmers had invested between Rwf2 million and Rwf3 million per hectare and each hectare yields between 7 and 10 tonnes.

They started to harvest in February, 2020 but ended up into unexpected losses. "There are many farmers but the chili farmers were 35 farmers. We were supposed to sell at Rwf700 per kilogramme," he said. The New Times has learnt that the same issues have affected other farmers in other areas such as Kigali, Rulindo district, Kayanza, Kirehe and others.

Seeking justice

According to a copy which The New Times has seen, some farmers like Alexis Ndekezi have taken the exporters to courts and a pretrial conference will be held on November 19 at the Commercial High Court in Nyamirambo at 10:30. It is not the first time that there have been wrangles between farmers and exporters are not the first that have affected farmers.



Farmers sort chili for export in Nyanza District.

For instance in 2018, coffee dealers contracted to supply about 60 containers of unroasted coffee to a Canadian firm never got payment of Rwf4.5 billion. The firm later returned the coffee to the farmers, who suffered losses.

MPs' recommendation

Edda Mukabagwiza, the Vice Speaker in charge of Legal Affairs and Government Oversight, told The New Times that MPs recently toured different parts of the country and are compiling reports and recommendations that also looked into farming cooperatives issues.

"We are compiling reports of what all MPs found during field trips. We are going to follow up and put all issues in recommendation. If the plenary sitting approves, we will also submit recommen-

dations to the Prime Minister.

Concerning the issue of chili farmers, I told the Nyanza District administration to handle it. Again we recommend cooperative agencies to help farm cooperatives prepare contracts with exporters that will avoid further swindling," she said.

Exporters react

Speaking to this paper, Marie Immaculée Muwayezu, the Manager of Diversity Venture Ltd, admitted that they owe money to farmers in Nyanza but explained it is Rwf17 million instead of Rwf22 million as farmers say.

She explained that the issue was caused by Covid-19 disruptions adding that they are in wrangles with over 14 farming cooperatives across the country which they didn't pay. "NAEB suspended

us but we requested to let us continue work so that we get income to pay farmers in installments. We need a meeting with farmers and NAEB for negotiations because if we do not open, we will not be able to pay them," she said.

What NAEB says

NAEB Communication Officer, Pie Ntwari told this reporter that the Kenyan company had been swindling farmers since 2019 and therefore it was suspended. "It was not due to Covid-19 impact that made the company struggle. Even before Covid-19, the company had been fleecing farmers in the country. NAEB asked that investor to pay farmers but refused. It has been breaching its contract with farmers. We can't allow it to reopen if it doesn't show trust to pay the farmers it swindled," Pie Ntwari, NAEB Communication Officer.

OPPORTUNITY

Gilat Telecom has good news for African fibre, satellite operators

CAIRO

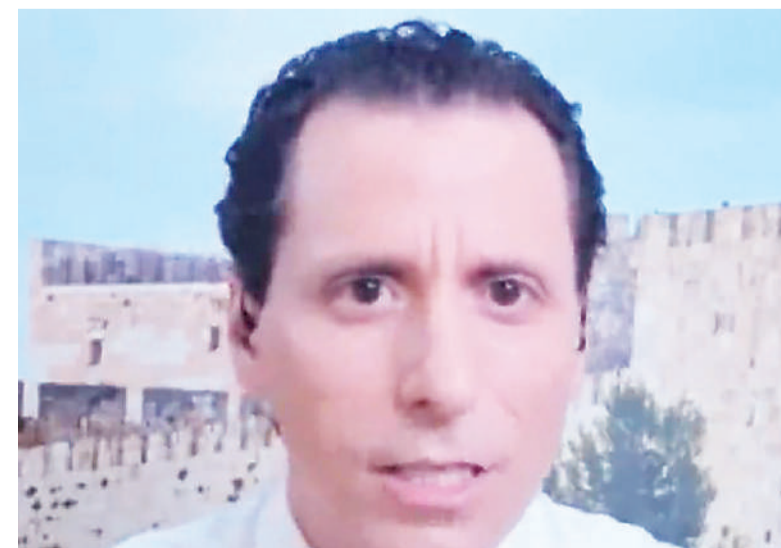
CONNECTIVITY services provider Gilat Telecom has announced significant new enhancements to its Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN MAX), which it claims is particularly relevant for African operators with fibre and satellite networks that are aiming to markedly increase network availability and bandwidth.

According to Gilat Telecom the enhancements centre around the integration of technology from F5 that enables complex traffic management de-

isions based on client, server, or application status.

Gilat Telecom is also leveraging F5's event-driven scripting language, which it says is key to addressing application delivery challenges across any environment. The connectivity services company says the integration of F5 makes it even easier to intelligently manage network traffic, including building smart monitors that sample various network components.

"Depending on the samples, it is possible to change the traffic path, save bandwidth, improve performance, and perform



Amir Cohen, CTO of Gilat Telecom.

bandwidth control. Additional traffic management and bandwidth optimisations are driven by AI and machine-learning algorithms,"

reads part of a statement released by Gilat Telecom.

Amir Cohen, CTO of Gilat Telecom added: "Our SD-WAN MAX

solution enables MNOs, ISPs and enterprises across Africa to achieve more capacity from less hardware and software. The integration of F5's software is one of a number of improvements we have made in response to suggestions from our customers and partners."

The enhanced SD-WAN MAX system empowers Gilat Telecom with more scope to specifically address the needs of African MNOs, ISPs and enterprises. The company asserts that most MNOs and ISPs in Africa use both satellite and fibre networks to maximise coverage creating asymmetric traffic routes with end-customers receiving traffic over satellite and sending over fibre.

"Gilat Telecom's SD-WAN lets service providers and MNOs centrally control the route that both satellite and fibre traffic takes to and from the customer. It ensures different applications - voice, streaming, caching (Facebook, Netflix, Microsoft cloud services etc.) - can be identified with automatic prioritisation, and according to customer requirements. This enables the enterprise to save bandwidth - and money - and gives users faster connectivity," the company explains.

Collaboration with Spacecom

In August Gilat Telecom announced a partnership with Spacecom, operator of the AMOS satellites fleet, to develop a faster, more reliable and more cost-effective satellite service for organisations of all sizes across Africa."

ECO-FRIENDLY

SA investors exit local coal project on climate worries

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African investors have pulled out of a local multi-billion dollar coal-fired power plant project, putting its construction at risk as opposition to the use of fossil-fuels in the country grows despite crippling power shortages. Across the world, investors are coming under increasing pressure to ditch coal, the most polluting of fossil fuels, and switch to greener energy.

The latest exits from the 630 megawatt (MW) Thabametsi coal-based power plant project in the water-scarce northern Limpopo province follow the withdrawal last month of South Korea's state-run Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO), and South Africa's big four banks last year after they were targeted by environmental activists.

Africa's biggest CO2 emitter and one of the world's top-ten coal producers had pledged to reduce emissions by more than one third by this year under the Copenhagen Accord by retiring numerous coal plants and intensifying renewable energy investments.

But the government says it is reliant on coal to increase generation capacity at state-owned power utility Eskom following years of electricity shortages and rolling blackouts. KEPCO, which held a 50% stake in the project, told Reuters last week it had initially pledged about \$2.1 billion in funding.

South Africa's biggest state pension fund manager the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), told Reuters they would no longer support the project, which was planned to come online in 2021.

"We would not consider supporting it in its current form. We recognise that there is a need for clean coal," IDC said in a statement. PIC said it had decided not to continue backing the project, without given further details.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) said it was reassessing the project to determine if it was in-line with its policy of a "just transition towards a low carbon economy." Only Japan's Marubeni, which along with KEPCO held a 50% stake, remains a backer of the project. The company's local office did not respond to requests for comment.

Africa's biggest CO2 emitter and one of the world's top-ten coal producers had pledged to reduce emissions by more than one third by this year under the Copenhagen Accord by retiring numerous coal plants and intensifying renewable energy investments

DIVERSIFICATION

Rishi Sunak sets out Britain's bid to remain a financial leader with first green bond issue

LONDON

BRITAIN'S finance minister Rishi Sunak set out plans to bolster the UK's position as a global financial leader on Monday with the issue of the country's first green bond next year, as the country looks to extend its dominance in green finance and financial technology. In his first speech on financial services, Mr Sunak said the sector will be essential to the UK's economic recovery as the UK embarks on a new life outside the EU in the Covid-19 era.

Mr Sunak said the government was unilaterally setting out how it would let EU financial services firms operate in Britain after the post-Brexit transition period ends on December 31, as it was now clear there were "many areas" where the EU was not prepared to even assess access to British firms. "We are starting a new chapter in the history of fi-

ancial services and renewing the UK's position as the world's pre-eminent financial centre," Mr Sunak said.

"By taking as many equivalence decisions as we can in the absence of clarity from the EU, we're doing what's right for the UK and providing firms with certainty and stability. Our plans will ensure the UK moves forward as an open, attractive and well-regulated market, and continues to lead the world in pioneering new technologies and shifting finance towards a net zero future."

To help the UK meet its 2050 net zero target, Mr Sunak said the government will issue its first Sovereign Green Bond in 2021, subject to market conditions. The bond will help finance projects that will tackle climate change, finance much-needed infrastructure investment and create green jobs across the country.

Mr Sunak also unveiled more

robust environmental disclosure standards so that investors and businesses can better understand the material financial impacts of their exposure to climate change, price climate-related risks more accurately, and support the greening of the UK economy. The UK will become the first country in the world to make Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) aligned disclosures fully mandatory across the economy by 2025, he said.

Mr Sunak's comments came the same day that former Bank of England governor Mark Carney called on banks, insurers and fund managers to invest in private sector initiatives and profit from "the greatest commercial opportunity of our time" to help companies transition to a net zero future.

Mr Carney, a UN special envoy for climate action, told the three-day Green Horizon Sum-



UK finance minister Rishi Sunak told the House of Commons on Monday that the government's approach to financial services will be guided by what is right for the country.

mit on Monday that achieving net zero targets on greenhouse gases required "a whole economy transition, involving

every company, bank, insurer and investor", who can now profit from "changing consumer preferences and new climate

policies."

Mr Carney set out a private finance strategy ahead of Cop 26, the UN climate summit to be hosted by the UK which was due to start Monday in Glasgow. However, the event has been pushed back to November 2021 by the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, Britain's market watchdog is introducing rules requiring the majority of the UK's listed companies to make better disclosures about how climate change affects their business. The regulator intends to introduce a new rule for reporting periods beginning from January 1 next year, Financial Conduct Authority chief executive Nikhil Rathi said on Monday at the Green Horizon Summit.

Mr Sunak also outlined proposals to strengthen the UK's position as a global green finance hub and said the country will accelerate the drive for net zero ahead of the Cop 26 UN summit in November next year.

BoE governor Andrew Bailey told the summit that the UK has not abandoned its commitment to climate change despite prioritising people's jobs, livelihoods and businesses over climate change at the start of the Covid-19 crisis.

"I believe that was the right response in the face of such an emergency and in all conscience it was not right to say to people that they would be denied a livelihood because their employment was of the wrong sort for the climate," Mr Bailey said. The BoE injected a further £150 billion (\$195bn) of stimulus into the UK economy last week as it warned a second wave of the coronavirus pandemic will lead to a slower, bumpier recovery.

CAUTION



Markets vaccine rally graph.

Markets gone 'rogue' on vaccine news sober up to tough questions

NEW YORK

AFTER a frenzy of vaccine optimism lifted global stocks to a record and sent heavens into a tailspin, some strategists said the moves may have gone too far and tough questions remain unanswered.

News that the inoculation developed by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE was more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 infections sparked a surge of bets Monday on stocks such as cruise operators and airlines that wilted amid the pandemic. Traditional refuges such as Treasuries, gold and the yen slumped.

But experts said the shot still has hurdles to clear, adding questions about its production, distribution and performance remain unanswered.

That tempered the euphoric earlier embrace of a potential path out of the health crisis. Concerns about US fiscal stimulus, the transition of power to President-elect Joe Biden and surging virus cases also came back to the fore.

Monday's vaccine news was a positive and profound shock that "catalysed a rogue wave of rotational optimism across global bond curves and risk-assets alike," Edward Acton, rates strategist at Citigroup Inc., wrote in an email.

However, he added "there's a great deficit of information we're facing when analysing a post-vaccine landscape - with plenty of room for disappointment."

A successful vaccine would shake up the prospects for the global economy. Yet some forecasters remain cautious about changing their outlooks without clarity on how quickly a shot can be rolled out.

The pandemic continues to escalate in the US, Europe and elsewhere, with global cases now past 50 million.

While markets were surprised by the efficacy of the Pfizer inoculation, the "challenge from here is looking through rising virus cases, slowing data and perhaps less

stimulus until a vaccine can be widely distributed in mid-2021," Stuart Kaiser, equity-derivatives strategist at UBS Securities, said in an email.

The S&P 500 index closed at a two-month high on Monday, while the Nasdaq 100 index fell. Investors rotated out of defensive technology names into shares that would benefit if the pandemic ebbs. Principal Global Investors Chief Strategist Seema Shah wrote in a note that "market sentiment may be in the early stages of a burst of positive energy."

Value shares - stocks trading at lower multiples to profits or book value - jumped globally. JPMorgan Chase & Co. strategist Marko Kolanovic said the vaccine news buttresses the case for the value rotation to endure.

Jim Vogel of FHN Financial said the reaction in bonds looked "appropriate," while stocks seem "slightly ahead of themselves." Sundial Capital Research Inc.'s Jason Goepfert noted that bursts of equity gains such as in the past week can often see a pullback as the moves are digested.

The vaccine-sparked global stock rally stalled Tuesday and havens such as gold and the yen clawed back some of Monday's losses. S&P 500 futures slid 0.7% of 2:55 p.m. in Tokyo, erasing the gains sparked by the Pfizer release.

Progress toward an inoculation could also have an impact on the timing and scope of fresh spending on US pandemic relief, according to Michael Purves, chief executive officer at Tallbacken Capital Advisors LLC.

The "stronger the vaccine news becomes, it seems reasonable to assume that a Republican Senate will fight for a considerably smaller fiscal package the economy and the markets can count on," he wrote in a note. That could wind up becoming a "considerable market vulnerability," he added.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 07 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 08 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Wake up
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: Without Daddy
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 09 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Albu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45

22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW

TUESDAY 10 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kesho leo rpt
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTW

WEDNESDAY 11 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
09:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
19:00 Ijue Sheria
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Wananchi Housing
21:45 Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 DWTW

THURSDAY 12 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI

6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ripoti Maalum
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 DWTW

FRIDAY 13 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
11:00 The Base
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Ibadaya ya kislamu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Utalii
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 The Base
00:30 DWTW

SATURDAY 14 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
17:00 Igizo: Mtego
18:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10

22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 15 Nov

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Without daddy
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Cheza pesa
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: Wageni wangu
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Sat 07 Nov

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga Kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: Midnight child
23:00 Series rpt: Godwin
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 08 Nov

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
15:15 Albu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 09 Nov

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny

14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Godwin
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 10 Nov

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Godwin
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 11 Nov

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Godwin
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 12 Nov

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Godwin
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 13 Nov

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Godwin
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Albu Yako
20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Ouster of US defence chief sends shockwaves through Washington

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump abruptly fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Monday, sending shockwaves through Washington.

"Mark Esper has been terminated," Trump tweeted. "I would like to thank him for his service."

The announcement came only days after a Pentagon spokesman said Esper "has no plans to resign, nor has he been asked to submit a letter of resignation."

Mark Meadows, the White House chief of staff, reportedly called Esper to give him a heads-up that the president's tweet was going to be sent out. In a letter to Trump on Monday, Esper said he accepts the president's decision to replace him as he serves "the country in deference to the Constitution," while stressing his efforts to keep the Pentagon "out of politics."

Esper, 56, began to lead the US Department of Defense in mid-2019 after serving as secretary of the Army. During his tenure at the Pentagon, Esper played a major role in implementing the Trump administration's national security policies and mobilizing military resources to help the country address the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, he was at odds with the

White House on several occasions over domestic issues. This summer, when demonstrations against police brutality and racial injustice swept across the country and Trump threatened to deploy active-duty troops to respond to violence arising from the events, Esper held a press conference in Pentagon making clear his opposition to the idea.

"The option to use active-duty forces in a law enforcement role should only be used as a matter of last resort, and only in the most urgent and dire of situations," Esper said in June. "We are not in one of those situations now."

Recently, Esper reportedly helped lawmakers on Capitol Hill craft legislation to pull the names of Confederate leaders from military bases, after the national reckoning over police brutality, racism, and slavery, despite public opposition from Trump.

Nancy Pelosi, top Congressional Democrat, said in a statement that "it is concerning that reports show that this firing was an act of retribution," arguing that the move could put the country's national security at risk.

A flurry of other Democrats, including House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, also lashed out at the firing of Esper and



US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

its timing. Democrat and former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has declared victory for the 2020 presidential election, while sitting President Trump hasn't conceded and is pushing for legal challenges. "In the national security community, it is well known that periods of presidential transition leave our country exposed to unique threats," Smith said in a statement. "It is imperative that the Pentagon remain under stable, experienced leadership."

Trump tweeted on Monday that Christopher Miller, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, will be the Pentagon's acting chief "effective immediately."

Miller, 55, was sworn in as director of the National Counterterrorism Center, aligned under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, in August this year.

Most recently, he served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations and combating terrorism.

Jim Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican and chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, tweeted he is looking forward to "working with him to ensure that these pri-

orities remain paramount and to working with President Trump to maintain stability at the Pentagon, particularly as we work to enact the 60th annual NDAA.

"Inhofe was referring to the National Defense Authorization Act, a bill authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth policies for the department's programs and activities.

James Mattis, the Trump administration's first defense secretary, resigned in late 2018 over policy disagreements with the president. In May 2019, Trump announced intention to tap Patrick Shanahan, then acting defense secretary, to formally lead the department but the decision was reversed a month later when Shanahan said he was withdrawing.

Days later, the president said he would name Esper for the post in a permanent capacity. The nomination quickly passed the Senate with a bipartisan support.

Before joining the Trump administration, Esper was the vice president for government relations at Raytheon, a major U.S. defense contractor.

Xinhua

Biden's victory may worsen US sanctions against Russia, says Japanese analyst

TOKYO

JOSEPH Biden's victory in the US presidential election will apparently result in Washington's tighter sanctions against Russia, including those in the field of export of fossil fuels, one of Japan's leading specialists on the former Soviet Union, Nobuo Shimotomai, has told TASS.

"With the advent of a Catholic president the Democratic Party's habitually strong pressure on Russia on various issues, including Ukraine, will soar," said Shimotomai, an honorary professor of Tokyo's Hosei University, author of two dozen books on various aspects of Russian politics and history. "The probability of sanctions will grow."

As the trend towards ecologically clean energy sources gains strength in the United States and the European Union countries, there is a great risk the import of fuels will begin to be taxed with the aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, which would be equivalent to sanctions against Russia."

Shimotomai believes that an acute standoff between the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States will continue and a new conflict between the new president and the Senate may flare up.

"In a situation like this US policies will be domestically-centered, so reformatting relations with Russia in the interests of dealing with world problems will be rather hard."

The current Japanese government, Shimotomai said, has vowed commitment to the policies of the previous Shinzo Abe-led Cabinet, which sought a dialogue with Russia.

"However, the possibility of some major shifts on this track is insignificant, given the coronavirus pandemic situation, the global economic crisis and US-Chinese confrontation," Shimotomai said, adding that Biden's election might open up new opportunities for Russian-Japanese relations.

On November 3, American citizens headed to the polls to elect 435 representatives to the House, 35 senators out of 100 to the Senate, and the President and Vice President of the United States.

Though the vote count is still underway, major US media outlets project that the Democratic contender has presumptively won the presidential election.

Both Fox News and Associated Press have put Biden over the top, beyond the needed 270 vote threshold. Trump is challenging the current outcome, claiming irregularities in the ballot processing in key swing states, and has filed lawsuits to fight his case in court.

Agencies

Afghan woman shot, blinded, for getting a job

KABUL

THE last thing 33-year-old Khatera saw were the three men on a motorcycle who attacked her just after she left her job at a police station in Afghanistan's central Ghazni province, shooting at her and stabbing her with a knife in the eyes.

Waking up in hospital, everything was dark. "I asked the doctors, why I can't see anything? They told me that my eyes are still bandaged because of the wounds. But at that moment, I knew my eyes had been taken from me," she said.

She and local authorities blame the attack on Taliban militants - who deny involvement - and say the assailants acted on a tip-off from her father who vehemently opposed her working outside the home.

For Khatera, the attack caused not just the loss of her sight but the loss of a dream she had battled to achieve - to have an independent career. She joined the Ghazni police as an officer in its crime branch a few months ago.

"I wish I had served in police at least a year. If this had happened to me after that, it would have been less painful. It happened too soon ... I only got to work and live my dream for three months," she told Reuters.

The attack on Khatera, who only uses one name, is indicative of a growing trend, human rights activists say, of an intense and often violent backlash against women taking jobs, especially in public roles. In Khatera's case, being a police officer could have also angered the Taliban.

The rights activists believe a mix of Afghanistan's conservative social norms and an emboldened Taliban gaining influence while the United States withdraws its troops from the country is driving the escalation.

The Taliban are currently negotiating in Doha, Qatar, with the Afghan government to broker a peace deal in which many expect them to formally return to power, but progress is slow and there has been an uptick in fighting and attacks on officials and prominent women around the country.

"Though the situation for Afghan women in public roles has always been perilous, the recent spike in violence across the country has made matters even worse," said Samira Hamidi, Amnesty International's Afghanistan campaigner. "The great strides made on women's rights in Afghanistan over more than a decade must not become a casualty of any peace deal with the Taliban."

Agencies

US criticised for police brutality, racism at UN rights review

GENEVA

MAJOR powers, including allies, criticized the United States for its human rights record on Monday during a UN review, citing the use of the death penalty, police violence against African Americans and the separation of migrant children from their families.

Activists also said that the Human Rights Council's examination of the United States, the first since May 2015, amounted to an indictment of the Trump administration's policies and called for President-elect Joe Biden to usher in reforms.

Dozens of delegations took the floor at the half-day session to voice concerns and make recommendations.

"What we saw today was unsurprising condemnation by many countries around the world of the United States' human rights record," Jamil Dakwar, director of the human rights program at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), told a news briefing.

"We've heard country after country...calling and urging the United States to take serious measures to address structural racism and police violence," he said.

The Trump administration, which quit the Geneva forum in June 2018 accusing it of an anti-Israel bias, defended US policies.

"Our presence in this process demonstrates our nation's commitment to human rights," Robert Destro, US Assistant Secretary of State, told the talks.

The case of George Floyd, an African American who died in May after a police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, ignited massive protests across the United States and the world, putting the country's human rights record in the global spotlight once again.

Alexander Maugeri, US deputy assistant attorney general, said that authorities in Minnesota had filed second-degree murder and manslaughter charges in Floyd's death.

"A number of member states raised concerns about discrimination and excessive force in policing. Where there is misconduct by police officers or law enforcement agencies, state and federal law provide remedies," Maugeri said.

China and Russia called on the United States to root out racism and police violence, while Cuba and Venezuela said it must provide equal access to health care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

France called on US authorities to halt executions at the federal level, close Guantanamo Bay detention facility, and "guarantee women and girls access to their rights and sexual and reproduc-



A protestor holds a 'Black Lives Matter' sign during a march to the Police Union building in Portland, Oregon, on Sept 4, 2020 to denounce police brutality and racism. (AFP)

tive health." Britain called for "ensuring access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services."

Joshua Cooper of the US Hu-

man Rights Network, a national network of campaigners, said that more than a dozen countries voiced concern at the US position on family planning.

"The United States made clear that they don't see abortion as a human right," said Denise Labertev of the Women LEAD network.

Agencies

China makes decisive achievements in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects

THE recent fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) fully recognized China's huge economic and social progress achieved during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) period.

Starting from the overall situation of the cause of the Party and the country, grasping the trend and laws of global development, and analyzing domestic and international situations in an in-depth manner, the session deliberated and adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic

and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

It is a guiding document that marks the country's new journey to fully build a modern socialist country and march toward its second centenary goal, as well as a guideline for China's economic and social development in the next five years and even a longer period.

For the present and the years to come, to implement the spirit of the session will be an important political task of the Party and country, so the decisions and requirements formulated by the proposals can be put into practice.

The 13th Five-Year Plan period marked a decisive stage for China to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

Facing complicated international situation, as well as arduous tasks of domestic reform and development, especially the impacts from COVID-19, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core stayed true to its original aspirations, united the Whole Party and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to forge ahead, advanced the causes of the Party and the country, and overcame all kinds of challenges. As a result, the socialism with Chinese characteristics kept progressing.

Practices once again proved that, as long as China adheres to the leadership of Xi Jinping, the core of the CPC Central Committee and the entire Party, and unites the whole Party and the Chinese people of all ethnic groups, it will be able to tackle all challenges and risks on its way ahead, and steadfastly advance the socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

The session gave a high evaluation on the decisive achievements in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. During the last five years, China's economy, science and comprehensive national strength were lifted onto a new

level. The country maintained economic stability, further optimized its economy, made remarkable progress in poverty reduction, enhanced its efforts in pollution control, improved its ecological environment and continuously expanded opening-up.

The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative achieved fruitful results; people's livelihood was prominently improved; and the society was kept stable and harmonious.

More importantly, in the past five years, major breakthroughs have been made in comprehensively deepening reform, com-

prehensively enhancing the rule of law, and comprehensively strengthening Party discipline. The country's national governance system and capability were accelerated, which further demonstrated the advantages of the CPC's leadership and the country's socialist system.

Besides, the Chinese people of all ethnic groups are also ready to progress with a higher morale.

All of these have provided strong political guarantee and power for China to embark on a new journey to fully build a socialist country.

To finish building a moderately prosperous society of a

higher level in all respects to the benefit of over one billion people by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC, is another goal raised by the CPC in the 21st century, as well as a solemn commitment made to the people.

Since the CPC Central Committee raised the strategy of building a prosperous society when China just implemented the reform and opening-up policy, the Party has always taken the aspirations of the people to live a better life as the focus of its efforts, and worked for it for generations.

People's Daily

Ethiopia 'seizes airport in Tigray', AU seeks ceasefire

NAIROBI

ETHIOPIAN troops took an airport in the Tigray region during an offensive against local leaders defying Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's authority, state-affiliated TV said yesterday, as the African Union (AU) called for an end to bloodshed.

Hundreds have been killed in an escalating conflict that some fear could slide into civil war given the deep animosity between the Tigrayans and the government of Abiy, who comes from the majority Oromo ethnic group.

Various Tigrayan forces surrendered during the seizure of Humera airport, near the border with Sudan and Eritrea, while the military also captured a road leading from the town to the Sudanese border, the Fana broadcaster reported.

Reuters could not confirm the report, and there was no immediate response from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which governs the state of more than 9 million people.

Abiy, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, ordered air strikes and sent troops into Tigray last week after accusing the TPLF of attacking a military base. Tigrayans say Abiy's government oppresses and discriminates against them and behaved autocratically in canceling a national election.

The Addis Ababa-based AU bloc called for peace talks and a ceasefire. "The chairperson (Moussa Faki Maha-

mat) appeals for the immediate cessation of hostilities and calls on parties to respect human rights and ensure the protection of civilians," it said in a statement.

Rushing to front line

Reuters reporters on Monday traveling in Tigray and the neighboring Amhara region saw trucks packed with militia fighters and pickups with mounted machine-guns rushing to the frontline in support of the federal government push.

Warplanes have bombed arms depots and other targets, both sides say, while aid workers and security sources have reported heavy fighting on the ground.

Military and security sources in Amhara, on the side of the federal troops, have spoken of 500 deaths on the Tigrayan side and hundreds also from the national military.

Amid calls from the United Nations and others for talks, Abiy's spokeswoman denied suggestions from some diplomats that he was ignoring mediation efforts and endangering stability in the poor and turbulent Horn of Africa region.

"There is no rebuffing of anyone by the prime minister. He had acknowledged and given gratitude for the concerns shown," the spokeswoman, Billene Seyoum, told Reuters.

"Nevertheless, Ethiopia is a sovereign nation and its government will ultimately make decisions in the long-term interest of the country and its people."



Ethiopia's Amhara militia fighters, who combat alongside federal and regional forces against the northern region of Tigray, stand in the town of Musebamb, Ethiopia, on Nov 7, 2020. (AFP)

War fears

The 44-year-old prime minister is Africa's youngest leader and won his Nobel prize for democratic reforms and for making peace with Eritrea. But his militancy against Tigray has alarmed diplomats in Africa and a full-scale war could further damage an economy already reeling from the coronavirus crisis.

Abiy, a former soldier who once fought alongside Tigrayans against Eritrea, took over in 2018 after a Tigrayan-led government had dominated politics since rebels from their

region toppled Marxist military rule in 1991.

But his attempts to open up a repressive political climate also led to an explosion of ethnic problems, with hundreds killed and hundreds of thousands forced to flee their homes in clashes over the last two years.

Abiy believes he can quell the Tigrayan leadership militarily, diplomats told Reuters, though they are a battle-hardened group from a 1998-2000 war with Eritrea and the defeat of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991.

TPLF forces and militia allies number up to 250,000 men and possess significant hardware, experts say.

"Our law enforcement operations in Tigray are proceeding as planned: operations will cease as soon as the criminal junta is disarmed, legitimate administration in the region restored, and fugitives apprehended & brought to justice - all of them rapidly coming within reach," Abiy tweeted on Tuesday.

The TPLF has called him "merciless" with air strikes.

Agencies

Russian MP does not expect US' approach to Russia to improve from Biden in White House

MOSCOW

THE Democratic nominee Joe Biden who has won the US presidential election as the American media outlets claim, will hardly make positive contributions to Washington's policy regarding Russia, Chairman of the Russian State Duma (lower house) Foreign Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky told reporters on Sunday, adding though that Moscow is ready to cooperate with any head of the US administration.

"Unfortunately, one should not expect substantial changes for the better regarding Russia," he said. "Biden together with President [Barack] Obama launched sanctions at various levels against Russia," the deputy noted, adding that the Democratic nominee directly called Russia "the main enemy" of the United States in his pre-election rhetoric. "That is why one should hardly expect any of the Russian politicians to applaud this time on account of the results of the American election," he said.

"However, Russia - and that has been stated at the top level - is ready to cooperate with any US president. It is still one of priorities, particularly at the parliamentary level, to normalize bilateral relations," Slutsky stressed.

"All aspects and possibilities of the Russian-American dialogue" will be analyzed at a meeting of the round table in the State Duma at the end of November, he added. "We are not speaking about a new 'restart' so far, though it is necessary to look for ways of efficient cooperation, first of all in such areas as global healthcare, strategic stability, arms control, cybersecurity, and peaceful space," Chairman of the State Duma Committee said.

Pakistan court orders arrests over Christian teen's forced marriage

KARACHI

A Pakistani court ordered several arrests on Monday in the case of a Christian teenager who was allegedly forced to

convert to Islam and marry a 44-year-old Muslim man, an incident that sparked street protests by church groups and rights activists.

The high court in Sindh province - where the legal marriage age is 18 - instructed police to arrest suspects including the cleric who conducted

the wedding ceremony. Court-appointed doctors said the girl was about 14. "This being the case... it was not possible for her to enter into a legally

valid marriage," the judges said in an order seen by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We direct (police) ... to carry out a full investiga-

tion into this matter," they said, scheduling the next hearing for Nov 23. The 44-year-old man - a neighbor of the girl's family who was arrested last

week, several of his relatives and the cleric could be jailed for up to three years and fined if convicted.

Agencies

China makes sure everyone shares fruits of development during 13th Five-Year Plan

IN Shibadong village, Huayuan county of central China's Hunan province, Shi Quanyou, a local resident, has been operating an agritainment resort in the picturesque village and marched toward prosperity step by step.

In Baqiu township, Xiajiang county, east China's Jiangxi province, more than 5,000 middle-and low-income families who used to live in shanties now have moved to spacious new houses.

In the brand-new teaching buildings in Mashu township, Qiaojia county, southwest China's Yunnan province, students read aloud happily in classrooms surrounded by lush mountains and lucid waters.

Chinese people have enjoyed a more and more prosperous life, which could be seen from their high-definition 4K TVs with large screens, double-door and high-capacity refrigerators and washing machines with sterilization and drying functions.

More and more residents have purchased dishwashers and robot mops to liberate hands, and more homes in the country have been equipped with air and water purifiers as people pursue a healthier lifestyle.

In addition, Chinese people have rapidly growing choices for clothes and are enjoying food from all over the world.

During China's 13th Five Year Plan (2016-2020), the per capita disposable income of Chinese residents rose from 23,800 yuan (about \$3,557) in 2016 to 30,700



Children play games in the classroom of a kindergarten in Zhoutan township on the outskirts of Tongling, east China's Anhui province. File Photo

yuan in 2019.

The growth rate was faster than the average annual growth rate of per capita GDP in the same period.

As people's income increases, they have seen a significant improvement in the quality of life.

In 2019, the Engel coefficient for Chinese residents dropped to 28.2 percent, marking the eighth consecutive year of decline. The figure has met the criterion for a "wealthy" living standard outlined by the United Nations (UN).

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in 2012, the CPC Central Committee has put poverty alleviation in a prominent place of state governance, and carried out a round of poverty eradication with unprecedented intensity, scale, and impact.

More and more poverty-strick-

en villagers in China have got rid of poverty and embraced a better life.

In 2019, registered poor population in China was reduced to 5.51 million, compared with 55.75 million in 2015 and the incidence of poverty fell from 5.7 percent to 0.6 percent during the period.

China has achieved decisive results in the fight against poverty.

The country aims to lift all poor rural residents living below the current poverty line and all poor counties out of poverty by the end of this year, which will be a miracle created by China in the history of human's fight against poverty.

Hundreds of millions of children in China have equal access to high-quality education and everyone has an opportunity to pursue a splendid life.

Compulsory education has seen a narrower gap between urban and rural areas; students from poor families have been guaranteed equal right to education; special education has secured rapid and sound growth.

In 2019, 94.8 percent of the students enrolled eventually completed their nine-year compulsory education.

The attendance rate for nine-year compulsory education in the country surpassed the average level of high-income countries. Gross enrollment ratio in China's senior high schools rose to 89.5 percent, above the average level of medium-high income countries.

Meanwhile, China has established the world's largest higher education system with a gross enrollment ratio of 51.6 percent.

By involving all residents in its health development, China has tried to ensure that everyone enjoys the rights to medical care and health insurance. As the country continues to increase investment in health, the proportion of individual health expenditure in the nation's total continues to decrease.

A hierarchical medical system has been implemented comprehensively in China and more and more residents have signed up family doctors. The integration of the Internet into the medical field has made medical services more efficient and convenient.

People's Daily

Pfizer, BioNTech announce COVID-19 vaccine candidate over 90 per cent effective

WASHINGTON

AMERICAN drugmaker Pfizer and German pharmaceutical company BioNTech announced on Monday data analysis shows their COVID-19 vaccine candidate is more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 in participants without evidence of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The results came from the first interim efficacy analysis conducted on Nov. 8 by an external, independent Data Monitoring Committee (DMC) from the Phase 3 clinical study of the vaccine BNT162b2, according to a statement of Pfizer.

Analysis evaluated 94 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in trial participants. As the study continues, the final vaccine efficacy percentage may vary, according to the company.

The DMC has not reported any serious safety concerns and recommends that the study continue to collect additional safety and efficacy data as planned.

The Phase 3 clinical trial began on July 27 and has enrolled 43,538 participants to date, 38,955 of whom have received a second dose of the vaccine candidate as of Nov. 8, 2020.

The trial is continuing to enroll and is expected to continue through the final analysis when a total of 164 confirmed COVID-19 cases have accrued, according to Pfizer.



Photo taken on Nov. 7, 2019 shows the booth of Pfizer Inc. during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China. (Xinhua)

The study also will evaluate the potential for the vaccine candidate to provide protection against COVID-19 in those who have had prior exposure to SARS-CoV-2, as well as vaccine prevention against severe COVID-19 disease.

In addition to the primary efficacy endpoints evaluating confirmed COVID-19 cases accruing from 7 days after the second dose, the final analysis now will include new secondary endpoints evaluating efficacy based on cases accruing 14 days after the second dose as well, according to Pfizer.

Pfizer and BioNTech are continuing to accumulate safety data and currently estimate that a median of two months of safety data following the

second and final dose of the vaccine candidate will be available by the third week of November.

The two companies plan to submit for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the vaccine to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after the required safety milestone is achieved.

Participants will continue to be monitored for long-term protection and safety for an additional two years after their second dose.

Along with the efficacy data generated from the clinical trial, Pfizer and BioNTech are working to prepare the necessary safety and manufacturing data to submit to the FDA to demonstrate the safety and quality of the vaccine product produced, according to Pfizer.

Xinhua

India's Modi facing tough battle in first vote since pandemic

By Bloomberg

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party, which is in coalition with the ruling alliance in Bihar, is fighting a tough battle to retain control of the eastern state as vote counting began yesterday.

The vote tally has been slowed down considerably because of COVID-19 protocols in place, and no clear verdict had emerged by late yesterday afternoon.

Trends show the ruling coalition that includes Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) pulling ahead in some 127 seats. The opposition grouping, led

by the charismatic 31-year-old politician Tejashwi Yadav was leading in 106 seats in the 243-member state assembly. Most exit polls have shown citizens rejecting the ruling coalition in favor of the opposition alliance.

About 25 percent of the votes polled have been counted so far, according to Election Commission officials in New Delhi. It's not immediately clear when a final vote count will be available.

Bihar is India's poorest state, but with a population larger than any nation in the European Union it sends 40 lawmakers to federal parliament, giving it outsized political importance. Losing the state amid soaring unemploy-

ment and an economy experiencing the sharpest dive in decades will be a setback for Modi, who invested a lot of political capital in the campaign.

The state is currently governed by Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United) party who has ruled for three straight terms. But in the face of an anti-incumbency wave Modi was the main campaigner, addressing more than a dozen rallies across the province despite pandemic restrictions. Modi's BJP entered an alliance with Kumar's party after the last election in 2015.

If confirmed, the loss is likely to turn attention to Modi's policies - including setting in motion the world's strictest



virus lockdown - and embolden the opposition to question his handling

of India's pandemic. The stay-at-home order and the job losses it triggered led to an exodus of poor migrant workers, over 1.5 million from Bihar alone, from India's big cities. With more than 8.5 million cases, India's virus infections trail only the United States.

The spotlight is now on Yadav, the youthful leader of the Rashtriya Janata Dal party and the chief ministerial candidate of the opposition alliance. A one-time cricketer and the son of a former chief minister, Yadav sought to win over younger voters with the promise of a million government jobs. Bihar's unemployment rate has climbed to 12 percent - almost double that of the na-

tional average of 6.7 percent - since the lockdown.

"A loss will also put pressure on the center to concentrate more on populist policies that give a fillip to job creation," said Ajay Bodke, chief executive officer for portfolio management services at Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt. "With a massive shortfall in tax revenues and divestment proceeds due to economic slowdown as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, the government needs to expedite structural reforms hobbling medium-term growth which are bound to create backlash among sections of society."

Agencies

SPORT

Goodluck Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

ON November 13, this year, the Taifa Stars will take to the field to face off against one of the mighty Maghrebs of African football, the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia, in a critical AFCON finals' qualifier of enormous importance for the Stars.

It bears noting here that the Taifa Stars have a distinctly unflattering record against all manner of North African opposition, which is cause for great concern especially when one remembers that the key Taifa Stars vs Tunisia clash will take place away from home in the Tunisian capital, Tunis.

With the atmosphere come D-Day expected to be hostile and discouraging in Tunis, the Taifa Stars will have to display mental fortitude and exceptional courage to keep their focus fixed on the encounter itself without being distracted and demoralized by the anticipated jeering and booing from the Tunisian spectators in Tunis.

Heading into this weighty clash, two things loom extremely large over any other.

The first is that this is a do-or-die, all-important AFCON Qualifier for the Taifa Stars.

The other thing is that bearing in mind our precarious position in the group (third), the primary task of the Taifa Stars will be to elude a defeat, which would be catastrophic and consequential for our prospects of progressing to the AFCON finals, which are doubtlessly continental football's premier championship.

Interestingly, our opponents the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia are sitting prettily at the

apex of the group.

Naturally, this suggests then that they will be gunning to gain a result, which would see them consolidate their position at the top of the group.

This, of course, raises the stakes for the Taifa Stars. Regarding the Stars, the recall of some members of the old guard like the dependable pair of hands, goalkeeper Juma Kaseja and the seasoned defender Erasto Nyoni ought to inject more experience into the fold of the national team, experience which may prove to be particularly crucial as the Stars gear up to face their 'Moment of Reckoning' against daunting opposition.

Let us strive now to move on. Indeed, it may have escaped the attention of many, what with the veritable Annus Horribilis we've all had and all but the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games are now scheduled to be staged in the same city next year.

In what was sagacious advice, the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) recently urged domestic sportsmen and sportswomen not to forget about the grand sporting spectacle and also in those same remarks, the TOC called upon local athletes to prepare well for the Tokyo Olympics next year.

This advice was right on the money, I believe. Indeed, even taking into consideration current constraints on sports due to COVID-19, the last thing we as Tanzanians want to see is that customary last gasp, eleventh hour attempt to prepare for a multi-sport global event where those athletes who are ill prepared are usually found wanting.



Senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars.

No spectators means no roars, the magic of the Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga.

THE roars were endless Sunday at the Masters, coming from everywhere for just about everyone.

One moment stood out in 2011.

From below the rise of the fairway on the par-5 eighth hole, it sounded like a sonic boom. That was an eagle cheer coming from the green, no doubt. But for whom?

"Tiger Woods just came through," a marshal said, and thus ended the mystery.

But it didn't end there.

Woods, who started that final round seven shots out of the lead, now was tied for the lead. Moments later, as Woods headed to the ninth tee, another cheer rang out from the 18th green. And then, another one down by Amen Corner. And then a third cheer in the direction of the 15th green.

More birdies? Eagles? No, it was the crowd scattered across the golf course responding to seeing scoreboards change as Woods moved into a tie for the lead. He couldn't keep it going. That was the year eight players had at least a share of the lead at some point on the back nine until Charl Schwartzel finished with four straight birdies.

An incredible day. Amazing atmosphere. And now, silence.

This Masters in November will be missing the patrons because of the COVID-19 pandemic and missing the very essence of what makes Augusta National so magical.

"It echoes there. It travels," Woods said. "It's unlike any place in the world."

Woods has heard his share. He probably can still hear the lusty chants of "Tiger! Tiger!" after he celebrated a fifth and most unlikely Masters victory last year.

Or the change in pitch from anticipation to letdown to delirium when his chip on the 16th hole in 2005 trickled down the hill, stopped

for a full second on the brim of the cup until gravity took over and the ball dropped for a birdie.

Ask what one moment stood out and it wasn't even for him.

He was paired in the final round with Davis Love III in 1998. Right behind them was 58-year-old Jack Nicklaus, making an early charge, chipping in for birdie on No. 3.

"The roars were so much louder. Those were Nicklaus roars," Woods said. "And that's what I had grown up watching and got a chance to experience in person."

Nicklaus had company in producing a cheer that Phil Mickelson still remembers. It was the second round of 1991. Mickelson, the 20-year-old U.S. Amateur champion, opened with a 69 and was on the 18th green.

"Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus were playing together and on the 16th green, one of them made the putt from down below to the front right up-on-top pin. And the place erupted to the point where the ground actually shook and you could feel the vibrations in my feet," Mickelson said.

"And moments later, the other player - I don't know who putted first between Tom and Jack - made the same putt and the place erupted again," he said. "That was my first Masters."

A charge even more stunning than Woods in 2011 - which also fell short - was Jordan Spieth in 2018. He started the final round nine shots behind, and his birdie on the 16th put him at 9-under for the day and tied with Patrick Reed. Along for the ride that day was Justin Thomas, friends with Spieth since they were teenagers.

"He made about a 35-footer and that was the loudest roar I've ever heard in my life. It felt like the ground was moving. It was insane," Thomas said. "I'm getting goosebumps just thinking about it, talking about it. It was unreal."

SPORTS

Simba SC's Hans Poppe now off-tune with blame game



Simba SC fullback, Shomari Kapombe (L), dribbles past Yanga striker Ditram Nchimbi in Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The teams settled for 1-1 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's outspoken leader, Zacharia Hans Poppe, once again, set tongues wagging with one of his quotable quotes in a post-match interview after his side's 1-1 derby draw against Yanga in the last weekend.

Simba SC, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', managed to equalize five minutes before normal stoppage time of the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash after Yanga took the lead in the first half, but it was a stalemate that did not cover them in glory.

They dominated possession but could not score the winner.

Hans Poppe was not impressed with the performances of several key players and even a hard-earned equaliser was not going to stop him from making his feelings known.

The club's board member could not contain himself from accusing his three players.

Hans Poppe questioned Clatous Chama, Luis Miquissone and Rally Bwalya's derby performances.

He claimed there is a reason for what he termed as below par performances

and they will have to find out what happened behind the scene.

"Is this the Clatous Chama you and I know and have seen? He has played below par and he should explain to us," Hans Poppe said.

"We will talk with him to know whether he was sick or injured. He has to give us an explanation. It's not just Chama, you've seen Miquissone (Luis) and Bwalya (Rally), it's not easy to accept their performance. They will all be grilled for explanations," he noted.

We all know how the former Tanzania army officer is a no nonsense, uncompromising and results-oriented person but his comments might cause damage to the club.

The latest comment is likely to put the three players under enormous pressure. Hans Poppe has put them in a tight corner. Those without a strong mentality might lose their cool and focus.

It is fair to understand Hans Poppe's comments because the three players have had good starts to the season.

Chama has five assists while Miquissone has six assists in the VPL. More was expected. One would say they are victims of their own success.

However, Hans Poppe forgot that because of their good performances, they were under scrutiny from their opponents who came with a proper strategy to contain them. Instead of analysing the situation, Hans Poppe chose to play the blame game.

The blame game is mostly irrational. It often ends up stigmatizing other people. It is a one-sided game. It is not about understanding what happened, but about making the

other part responsible.

Find someone to blame who cannot fight back. When shit hits the fan, the easiest thing in the world is to point fingers and find some poor unsuspecting targets to blame.

Chama, Miquissone and Bwalya cannot be given the chance to express themselves in the public the same way Hans Poppe did. The three foreigners have been made an easy target.

When a respected leader such as Hans Poppe throws open his mouth to blame his players before the public for what has happened, they are pretty much saying: "Hey, it's not our fault! It was completely out of my control!". It is an admission of weakness, loss of control.

In other words, Hans Poppe is admitting that Simba were outwitted by their rivals. Blaming is a nothing but temporary distraction.

The reality for Simba is that they have to work twice as hard to retain the title in a season where their rivals have improved significantly and are ahead of them in the league race after 10 matches.

This is Simba's worst start in a campaign in recent times, but it is not late. There are 24 matches to go in the title race, we are not sure what will happen between now and the end of the campaign but surely Hans Poppe calling out his players is not helping out Simba's cause.

Aces Cricket Club cruises to 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tourney final

By Guardian Reporter

ACES Cricket Club has booked a place in the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's final, posting four-wicket victory over Gymkhana Cricket Club in the semi-final, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The match, also termed as 'Qualifier I', brought together sides which finished at the top in groups A and B of the competition.

Group A matches ended with Aces Cricket Club clinging on to the top spot, posting victory in four games the team took part in.

Group B leaders, Gymkhana Cricket Club, equally enjoyed unbeaten spell, winning all four duels they featured in.

A spirited bowling showing by Aces Cricket Club turned out to be pivotal in the team's ability to come out victorious in the thrilling tie, which took place at Leaders Club venue.

Aces Cricket Club won toss, chose to bowl and restricted Gymkhana Cricket Club to 116 runs for seven wickets in 20 overs.

Gymkhana Cricket Club's plan to finish with a good total was exhibited by skipper Abhik Patwa's scintillating showing, given he scored 61 runs which included nine fours.

The experienced all-rounder had opened the innings with youthful Abdulrahman Akida, the latter though did not last long, ending with three runs.

Vishal Patel and Harshel Shah, also Gymkhana Cricket Club's experienced performers, chipped in with 17 runs 10 runs respectively.

Early exits of promising players, Mohamed Yunus and Zamoyoni Ramadhan, turned out to be a huge blow to Gymkhana Cricket Club's pursuit of an imposing score.

The two youthful players failed to end with good scores, managing to record



Aces Cricket Club's medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, reacts after executing a delivery in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's match pitting the outfit against GP Pak Stars, which took place at Leaders Club venue in the city recently. Aces Cricket Club has booked a place in the tournament's final with four-wicket victory over Gymkhana Cricket Club in a semi-final, which took place in the city on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CRICKET CLUB

five runs apiece.

The same could be said of equally promising batsman, Nassor Zahoro, given he too had a brief spell and ended with two runs.

The side's junior players, Kartik Syal and Yash Hirwania, closed the innings out, scoring four runs not out, which include a boundary, and unbeaten one run.

Aces Cricket Club's pacer, Ally Mpeka, and medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, tormented Gymkhana Cricket Club, posting two wickets apiece.

In response Aces Cricket Club batsmen covered every blade of grass and went on to secure a place in the final after notching 117 runs for six wickets in 20 overs.

They experienced a wobbly start after the side's openers, Ankit Baghel and Jumanne Mohamed, had a brief spell.

Baghel recorded 10 runs, clearing the boundary twice, and his presence was brought to an end by Gymkhana

Cricket Club's Ramadhan.

Jumanne was also the same bowler's victim, exiting the crease after notching three runs.

Two more quick dismissals of Ejaz Aziz and Raza Baloch meant the squad's medium and low order batsmen had to play their hearts out, if the team stood chance to turn tables on the opponents.

Jumbe, who came on at number six, lived up to expectations as he notched 40 runs not out which consisted of three fours and two sixes.

A brief innings by the other key low order batsman, Nassib Kelvin, did little to frustrate the club's chase, given Bhavesh Govind, exhibited his batting virtuosity. Jumbe partnered experienced batsman, Govind, to see to it the squad gets down to successful chase.

Govind ended with 15 runs not out, clearing the boundary twice.

Ramadhan took two wickets and gave away in four overs in Gymkhana Cricket Club's unsuccessful attempt to thwart Aces Cricket Club's chase.

Gymkhana Cricket Club did not completely crash out of the tournament, the squad was set to face winners of the competition's Eliminator, pitting Caravans Club against Aga Khan SC, which was expected to be played the same weekend, to seek progression to the final.

Azim Thakur, Aces Cricket Club's senior player and the club's founder, expressed his delight at his team's victory over their semi-final opponents, saying he looks forward to an equally pulsating final.

He noted: "Thanks for the support offered by everyone including players and their families, as well as opponents, and the organizing committee for their hospitality."

Thakur stated his team expect a good game of cricket in the final, noting although Aces Cricket Club does not have a crowd support, the team hopes cricket enthusiasts will attend the clash and support them.

He stated that Aces Cricket Club, which boasts of a composed skipper in Govind, has plenty of players that can respond to big moments, insisting at least eight of the team's players are match winners on their own.

He pointed out it all boils down to how the players react together and togetherness is Aces Cricket Club's secret for success.

He further had special praise for gifted player, Jumbe, saying the youngster has been living up to expectations for the side particularly in crucial games.

From Arsenal and Barcelona to Djibouti: Alex Song has new goals

CAIRO

ALEX Song used to play for marquee European clubs Arsenal and Barcelona. Now, he is preparing to line up with Arta Solar 7 of Djibouti in the CAF Confederation Cup.

It will be a tall order for the 33-year-old Cameroonian as the team from the tiny Horn of Africa nation drew Al Mokawloon Al Arab (formerly Arab Contractors) in the preliminary round draw in Cairo Monday.

While success in Africa has eluded the Cairo outfit of late, they won the now defunct African Cup Winners Cup three times between 1982 and 1996.

Mokawloon qualified by finishing fourth behind African giants Al Ahly and Zamalek and 2020 Confederation Cup runners-up Pyramids in the Egyptian Premier League.

The route to Africa for Arta was less daunting as they lifted the FA Cup in Djibouti, a country ranked 51st in Africa and 185th in the world.

This will be their third consecutive Confederation Cup appearance with a heavy defeat by Kariobangi Stars of Kenya in 2018 followed by a better showing when going down to Al Khartoum of Sudan.

Should the virtually unimaginable happen and Arta eliminate Mokawloon, they would face an even bigger obstacle in continental giants Etoile Sahel from Tunisia.

Etoile are the only club to have won all five current and now defunct CAF competitions – the Champions League, Confederation Cup, Super Cup, African Cup Winners Cup and CAF Cup.

Apart from playing for the senior team, Song will supervise youth development at Solar during his two-year contract.

- Refused pay cut -
The Douala-born relative of Cameroon football legend Rigobert Song was ditched by Swiss side Sion this year after refusing to take a pay cut necessitated by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Apart from wearing the colours of Arsenal and Barcelona, Song



played for Bastia in France, Charlton Athletic and West Ham United in England, Rubin Kazan in Russia and Sion.

Meanwhile, Confederation Cup title-holders Renaissance Berkane of Morocco received a preliminary round bye and await the winners between AS Kaloum of Guinea and Tevragh-Zeina of Mauritania.

Berkane hail from the citrus fruit-producing northeast of Morocco so it is no surprise that followers of the team fondly call them the 'Orange Boys'.

They have made steady progress in four Confederation Cup appearances, going from preliminary round losers in 2015 to quarter-finalists three seasons later and runners-up in 2019.

A new goal for Renaissance will be to emulate CS Sfaxien of Tunisia and TP Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and win back-to-back titles.

Those who could stand in their way include the four former African champions in the field – Entente Setif and JS Kabylie of Algeria, Orlando Pirates of South Africa and Etoile Sahel.

Preliminary round matches are scheduled for November 27-29 and December 4-6 and those in the last-32 stage will be played on December 22-23 and January 5-6.

The 16 survivors of the qualifying rounds go into a separate draw against the CAF Champions League last-32 losers with places in the group draw up for grabs.

AFP

CAF Champions League draw does Kaizer Chiefs no favours

JOHANNESBURG

THERE was no luck for South African fallen giants Kaizer Chiefs when the CAF Champions League preliminary round draw was made in Cairo Monday as they were paired with Cameroon outfit PWD Bamenda.

It promises to be a tough two-leg tussle with the overall winners facing 2018 semi-finalists Primeiro Agosto of Angola soon after for a place in the lucrative group phase.

Bamenda are debutants with much to prove as no Cameroonian club has won the elite African club competition since a Canon Yaounde side boasting stars like Thomas N'Kono and Theophile Abega lifted the trophy 40 years ago.

Then, the best footballers from the central African country played at home. Now, those who display talent as teenagers are snapped up by European clubs, greatly weakening the domestic game.

If Bamenda have no Champions League pedigree, they are sure to be a typical Cameroonian club, full of physicality, skill, stubbornness in the face of adversity and oodles of national pride.

Soweto-based Chiefs think of themselves as one of the biggest clubs in Africa and when it comes to off-field activities such as marketing they have few equals.

But success has eluded the holders of 53 domestic competitions since winning the last of four South African Premiership titles five seasons ago under England-born coach Stuart Baxter.

They have hired local, Italian and German coaches since, but 20 attempts at winning a league or cup competitions failed.

Chiefs' Champions League record would embarrass a club from a much lesser football power than South Africa as they have never reached the group stage in five appearances.

"Our Champions League performances have not been what one would expect from a club like Chiefs," concedes club founder, chairman and for-

AFP

Why more injuries and more games is no coincidence

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

WHAT do Cristiano Ronaldo, Christian Pulisic, Ansu Fati, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Joshua Kimmich all have in common? Other than being some of the biggest names in world football, they have all suffered injuries that have left them either out of, or likely to miss, this week's international break.

Here we are, two months into the 2020-21 season in early November, and the players are already struggling to keep pace with the incessant workload – according to The Athletic, muscle injuries in the Premier League in the first five weeks of the season were up 42% on the same stage in the previous campaign.

Rather than having to play international games this week, what the players really need is a rest.

Some will get just that, with several Serie A clubs blocking their players from leaving for international duty due to COVID-19 concerns and a worrying outbreak in Denmark raising the prospect of all overseas Danish players being unable to return home without having to enter quarantine.

But for the others, the internationals will go on and the leading players will have to play yet again.

Ronaldo, who limped out of Juventus' 1-1 draw with Lazio on Sunday with an ankle injury, may yet report for Portugal's triple header against Andorra, France and Croatia, while Pulisic has been named in Gregg Berhalter's 24-man squad for the United States' two games against Wales and Panama, despite the Chelsea forward being sidelined since late October with a hamstring injury.

But Ansu (knee), Alexander-Arnold (calf) and Kimmich (knee) will all be absent when their international teams play this week and there are plenty of others who have suffered injuries in a season that has been congested like never before due to the fixture list being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESPN reported this summer that football's top players would face an unprecedented test of their endurance this season, with some having no more than two weeks' rest in a 13-month campaign from June 2020 to July 2021, due to last season not finishing until mid-August and the new one beginning in early September.

Managers have voiced their concerns over the demands being placed on players, who have seen the pre-Christmas fixture schedule packed with two triple-header international breaks and six matchdays in the Champions League and Europa League – all crammed into an eight-week period.

It was always going to be heavy-going this season, with the second half of the campaign also seeing



Cristiano Ronaldo

busier-than-usual fixture lists. And in England, the two-week winter break introduced last season will not be repeated this term with too many games to squeeze into a short time.

England manager Gareth Southgate was one of the first to speak out over the workload – Southgate, after all, may need his players to be fit and firing all through to the delayed Euro 2020 final at Wembley on July 11.

"The calendar is packed and it needs collaboration from everybody to try to resolve that," Southgate said in September. "It's easy to try to cram everybody's desire in, in terms of their own competitions, but the reality is that the best players end up playing in the most matches and we have to try and play our part in terms of navigating that."

Southgate was right to flag up the problems ahead, but nothing has been done about them and managers are becoming increasingly agitated by the pressure of having to get a team ready to play every three or four days.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer used his post-match news conference after Saturday's 3-1 win at Everton to complain about his team having to play at 12.30 p.m. GMT on Saturday, having travelled to Turkey to face Istanbul Basaksehir on Wednesday evening.

"The kickoff time set us up to fail," Solskjaer said. "We have been to Turkey, played loads of games this season already,

we got back Thursday morning and we are playing Saturday lunchtime, it's an absolute shambles. Players this season, in these times, a pandemic, mentally and physically, it's draining."

United were victims of the Premier League TV deal, which gave BT Sport a Saturday 12.30 p.m. GMT slot. If BT Sport selects United, then the Premier League can do nothing about it, although a change to the rules, preventing teams in action in Europe on Wednesdays from playing in the early Saturday slot, would be a positive step.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was equally critical of the fixture list following his team's 1-1 draw at Manchester City, which resulted in the loss of Alexander-Arnold, with the German making it clear that everybody – clubs and national teams – will suffer.

"Usually in a season we all have an October, November and then a very, very tricky December," Klopp said. "This year, the October is like the December, the November is like the December and the December is still like the December. This intensity is really difficult. We lost Trent [against City] and I'm pretty sure Gareth Southgate is not fine [with that]. If we continue like this and hopefully we can play a Euros in the summer, if they happen, let's see who will be part of that, which players."

The most obvious solution to the overheated fixture schedule would surely have been to shelve the forthcoming

international break or, at the very least, reduce the list to just one game.

Sources have told ESPN that, having postponed Euro 2020 this summer, UEFA was determined to stage the Nations League in the opening months of the season for both sporting and financial reasons for the competing nations.

International fixtures, and the finances they generate, are the lifeblood to many associations, especially due to the money earned from broadcasting revenue at a time when crowds are reduced, or prohibited altogether, as a consequence of the pandemic. But while the club managers can stomach losing their players for competitive internationals, it is the friendlies that prompt so much frustration.

The United States, having not played an international fixture since February, can legitimately cite the need to use this break, but it is difficult to see the benefit of Portugal facing Andorra, the team sitting 145th in the FIFA World Ranking, unless it has been set up to help Ronaldo (101) – if fit – close in on Ali Daei's world record of 109 international goals.

When England arranged a Wembley friendly with New Zealand – ranked 121 by FIFA – for this week, sources told ESPN that it was primarily scheduled to honour a broadcasting deal which required a game to be played. No game would mean breaking the terms of the TV deal and the prospect of having pay back a sum described by sources as "seven figures."

New Zealand have since pulled out of the fixture due to concerns over COVID-19, but England have filled the gap by securing a friendly with Republic of Ireland, rather than allowing Southgate's players to have much-needed rest.

With eight months of this season still to play – Euro 2020 and Copa America both run until mid-July – the determination of most major nations to play three internationals in the space of six days in November seems nonsensical. Not to mention there is another treble-header of matches in March when 2022 World Cup qualifying gets underway.

And it points towards more top stars being injured and unavailable when the season reaches its climax, for both club and country

Finland coach remains focused on Euro 2020 dream despite wait

HELSINKI

THE postponement of Euro 2020 put Finland's major tournament debut on ice but, when the finals do come around, the Nordic nation have their sights set on emulating the remarkable recent achievements of Iceland.

One of the enduring memories of the last European Championship in France in 2016 is that of Iceland – roared on by a huge support and their "Viking Thunder Clap" – knocking out England on their way to the quarter-finals.

Iceland reached the last World Cup too, and still hope to go to the next Euro along with Finland, who will be there when it finally goes ahead a year behind schedule.

"In a way it's already a dream for us to play in the finals, but we are not going there just to participate, we want to achieve something more," Finland coach Markku Kanerva told AFP in an interview ahead of his team's latest get-together and a friendly against world champions France on Wednesday in Paris.

"It's the same with Sweden in the World Cup, they did very well," said Kanerva, with a nod to Finland's neighbours who reached the quarter-finals in Russia in 2018.

"I believe they are examples for us because they are from the Nordic countries as well and there are some strengths in all our Nordic countries, mentally and, as I mentioned, we are organised teams and we can also learn what have been the key factors behind their success."

In a nation of 5.5 million people where football plays a distant second fiddle to ice hockey, Finland had never really come close to reaching a major tournament before, even in the days of the great Jari Litmanen, a Champions League winner with Ajax in 1995.

But Kanerva was appointed in 2016 and led them to Euro 2020 as they finished second in qualifying behind Italy.

"We weren't the favourites in our group because Italy was the favourite, then Bosnia and Herzegovina and Greece as well, they were the main candidates to qualify. And we managed to surprise them," said Kanerva, whose side are 55th in the FIFA rankings.

- Pukki 'a huge figure' -
He was grateful for the goals of Norwich City striker Teemu Pukki, a "huge figure in Finnish football" according to Kanerva, and who contributed 10 in the qualifying campaign as the team did their bit to raise the sport's profile at home.



Markku Kanerva

"People are talking more about football and congratulate us, me and all the players as well, and there are many people who said, 'I never believed the Finnish national team could qualify for a major international tournament,' and they're very proud of that, and we are as well."

"The players believe in themselves and as a team we believe we can achieve something new and we actually did it."

Excitement about going to the Euro increased when they were drawn in the same group as neighbours Russia, Denmark and the world's top-ranked team Belgium.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Simba SC confident of knocking out Nigerian opponents in 2020/21 CAF Champions

SPORT

Why more injuries and more games is no coincidence

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC striker, Meddie Kagere (L), negotiates his way past Zambia's Nkana FC defender in a second leg of the first round of a recent CAF Champions League, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Simba SC knocked Nkana FC out of the first round.

Mwakinyo vs Paz fight's preparations in top gear

By Guardian Reporter

PREPARATIONS for the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Super Welterweight and International Boxing Association (IBA) Super Welterweight titles' bout between Tanzania's Hassan Mwakinyo and Argentina's Jose Carlos Paz, slated to take place at Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam on Friday, have gathered pace.

The bout, set to take place in the day that is also referred to as 'Jackson Group Fight Night', will have several other undercards which will bring together domestic boxers and their foreign counterparts.

All foreign foreign boxers, the fights' organizers disclosed, have made their way into the country for the fights.

As Paz arrived last Saturday, famous boxer Fatuma Zarika, a Kenyan boxer who is based in Dubai, UAE, Alex Kabangu from Democratic Republic of Congo, Patience Mastara (Zimbabwe) and Alice Mbewe from Zambia are also in Dar es Salaam.

Mwakinyo will defend his WBF Intercontinental Super Welterweight title against Paz while another Tanzanian boxer Hussein Itaba will face Kabangu. Alice will trade punches with Tanzanian boxer Zulfu Macho.

All boxers were introduced yesterday during the official weigh-in at Colosseum Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking at the press conference, Jackson Group Sports Managing Director, Kelvin Twissa, said all preparations for the bouts are complete and he called on professional boxing fans to attend the bouts.

Twissa said tickets are on sale and are sold for 150,000/- for each of seats reserved for the rest of the venue, and 3m/- for a 10-people table.

He said with eight boxers from six different countries meeting in one ring on one night, the company is looking to elevate the boxing scene in Tanzania by promoting a one-of-a-kind boxing event tailored to the experience of those attending the event and those viewing at home.

"Here at Jackson Group Sports we have spoken of our commitment to the growth of boxing as a sport in Tanzania. One of the ways to make this possible is by making it as formal an event as possible by bringing a touch of class and elegance to boxing hence attracting more partnerships both locally and internationally," he noted.

He disclosed: "With Azam TV HD, we have found a secure partner to broadcast our boxing night to all our fans inside and outside Tanzania. We look forward to more international bouts being hosted in 2021. Azam Media is the leading sports broadcaster in the country offering more the Vodacom Premier League and multiple international sports events."

"With our partnership with pay-point giants Selcom & online ticket vendor Nilipe, we have set up a state-of-the-art way to buy tickets for our clientele ensuring a smooth and simple way to buy tickets."

"The tables come with drinks service and waitresses to ensure prompt service for all."

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's board member, Crescentius Magori, is confident that the club can manage to knock Nigeria's Plateau United out of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League.

The Tanzania representatives will face-off with the Nigerian side in the CAF Champions League preliminary round.

This was confirmed during

the draws of the CAF Confederation Cup and CAF Champions League preliminary round held in Cairo, Egypt on Monday.

Magori was in a bullish mood after the draws' announcement, expressing his confidence that Simba SC could go through to the first round.

He disclosed: "It is a tough match, because Nigeria is a continental football powerhouse, but given Simba's pedigree we will battle to knock them out."

"I believe we have a good squad that has what it takes to triumph. We will qualify for the next round."

Simba SC will visit Plateau United for the first leg between November 27-29, 2020 at the New

Jos Stadium before hosting them at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium for the second leg between December 4-6, 2020.

The aggregate winners will then play against either Mozambique's Costa do Sol or Zimbabwe's Platinum for a place in the group stages of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League.

Last season, Simba SC failed to go past the preliminary stage of the CAF Champions League after they were eliminated by unfancied UD Songo of Mozambique on away goals' rule.

While Nigerian sides have been a problem to Tanzania's representatives, Simba SC will

take comfort in the fact that Plateau United have only qualified for CAF inter-club competitions on two occasions.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's Namungo FC will face South Sudan's Al Rabita in the preliminary round of the 2020/21 CAF Confederation Cup.

Namungo FC will host Al Rabita between November 27-29, 2020 in the first leg

at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam before meeting again for the second leg between December 4-6, 2020 in South Sudan.

If Namungo FC will win the tie, they will then meet Sudan's Al Hilal Obeid in the first-round showdown.

Al Hilal Obeid are among the 13 clubs that have been handed byes for the preliminary round.

Namungo FC, coached by Thierry Hitimana, are currently struggling for form in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) campaign.

They have won just four of their 10 opening league matches, with their main problem being their lack of goals.

The Lindi-based side booked a continental ticket for the first time in their history after reaching the final of the previous season's Federation Cup and took on Simba SC in the duel.

Despite losing the game 2-1 to Simba SC, Namungo FC qualified for the second tier of CAF club tournaments since Simba SC had won the VPL and were eligible to play in the CAF Champions League.

Mkalekwa vows to defeat Shauri in non-title bout

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IT has been a very good year for professional boxing in Tanzania. The sport's fans have been witnessing various bouts since the resumption of sporting activities at the domestic level.

If a person talks about boxing in the country, then he or she can hardly forget professional Welterweight boxer Saleh Mkalekwa, who is doing justice to his talent when he is in the ring fighting for victory.

The Dar es Salaam boxer, currently based at Mbagala, is expected to go toe-to-toe with compatriot, Ramadhan Shauri, in a non-title Welterweight bout at the Next-Door Arena at Masaki in the city on November 28.

This will be the first domestic bout for Mkalekwa this year after taking part in four consecutive fights abroad and losing all at different times.

Mkalekwa, who rose to prominence for the first time in 2008, won his first seven fights in a row before losing four straight bouts by Technical Knockout (TKO) and Knockout (KO).

His record stands at victory in seven fights, and eight losses. Out of the seven wins, he has come out victorious by KO in one bout.

The boxer had a lot to say heading into the fight against Shauri and opened up about his boxing career and personal life.

Speaking about his first professional fight, Mkalekwa said: "My first fight was good, I fought well, the issue of getting paid is confidential, I can't talk about how much I was paid."

When asked about his family, he said: "Yes, I have a wife and three children, two daughters and a son, and I live with them."

Every boxer has his own boxing training schedule, for Mkalekwa, he trains during the evenings and mornings.

He disclosed: "My exercise time is usually in the morning and in the evening, I start from 6am to 8am in the morning and in the evening, I start from 5pm to 7pm."

"I exercise and run and I also train according to the fights I take part in."

Speaking on the type of foods he eats that helps him to be fit and in good shape, Mkalekwa opened up: "I really like to eat my native foods, like ugali, seafood, okra, leafy vegetables and fruits and I like to eat all these varieties during the day," he said.

In Africa, superstition is not a new thing, even boxers are said to use black magic heading into the fights.

This, Mkalekwa pointed out, is, though is quite different to him, given he does not emphasize the use of black magic.

"The issues of superstition in boxing are there especially for the people of Africa, we believe in those issues but what I believe in the game of boxing to defeat your wizard opponent is to practice and nothing else," he stated.

He said: "Practicing and disciplining in the end will have a positive effect, but boxers should not believe that witchcraft will bring them victory."

Mkalekwa, who vowed to defeat Shauri in the non-title bout, had a lot to talk about the fight.

He noted: "First of all, I thank God that I have got where I am today, I'm doing well with my training, I have prepared myself well to please my boxing fans and Tanzanians in general."

"I want to urge my fans to stay tuned for Mkalekwa's entertainment, they should come out in large numbers to see my wonders, many do not know me and have never seen me because I was fighting a lot of bouts outside the coun-

try."

"My opponent Shauri should plan and get well prepared because I'm different now, he was for a long time dodging to fight me, finally we get to meet each other, now he needs to prepare well and let's show each other tyranny".

"My statement to the fans is that talking too much is not about fighting but the hands are the ones that speak on the ring and everyone will praise you in their words and others are helping us win fame when we beat them."

After the November 28 bout, Mkalekwa is expected to fight in Nigeria in the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Africa title bout.

In addition to the November 28 bout between Mkalekwa and Shauri, the day will see Tanzania's Salim Mtango fight Philippines' Eduardo Mancito 'The Nightmare' in an international fight, whereas Tanzania's Iddi Pialali is expected to fight Arnel Tinampay from the Philippines.

Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) boxer, Selemani Kidunda, will step up to the ring to compete for the national Super Middleweight title against veteran, Said Mbelwa.

In other bouts, Shadrack Ignas will fight Vincent Mbilinyi while Ismail Galiatano from TPDF will face Mustafa Doto.



Dar es Salaam's professional boxer, Saleh Mkalekwa (R) punches pad during a training session overseen by one of his coaches in Dar es Salaam recently. Mkalekwa is preparing for a non-title bout, which will see the boxer face Ramadhan Shauri in the city on November 28. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SALEH MKALEKWA ENTERTAINMENT

Simba SC, Namungo FC's opponents in CAF club competitions revealed

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's opponents for the 2020/21 CAF Champions League preliminary round have been confirmed.

The Tanzania representatives in the premier club tournament at the continental level will face-off with Nigerian side Plateau United.

This was confirmed during the draws of the CAF Confederation Cup and CAF Champions League preliminary round held in Cairo, Egypt on Monday.

Simba SC will visit Plateau United for the first leg between November 27-29, 2020 at the New Jos Stadium before hosting them at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam for the second leg between December 4-6, 2020.

The winners between the two sides will then play against either Mozambique's Costa do Sol or Zimbabwean Platinum for a place in the group stages of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League.

Last season, Simba SC failed to go past the preliminary stage of the CAF Champions League after they were eliminated by unfancied UD Songo of Mozambique on away goals rule.

While Nigerian sides have been a problem to Tanzania representatives, Simba SC will take comfort in the fact that Plateau United have only qualified for CAF inter-club competitions on two occasions.

Other CAF Champions League fixtures for East African teams include Zanzibar representatives, Mlandege, taking a trip to Tunisia to face CS Sfaxien.

Kenya's Gor Mahia will battle it out with Rwanda's APR while Vipers SC of Uganda will face off with Al Hilal of Sudan.

Meanwhile, Tanzania's Namungo FC will face South Sudan's Al Rabita in the preliminary round of the 2020/21 CAF Confederation Cup.

They will host Al Rabita between November 27-29, 2020 in the first leg before meeting again for the second leg between December 4-6, 2020.

If Namungo FC win the tie, they will then meet Sudan's Al Hilal Obeid in the first-round showdown.

Al Hilal Obeid are among the 13 clubs that have been handed byes for the preliminary round.

Namungo FC, coached by Thierry Hitimana, are currently struggling for form in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League campaign, winning just four of their ten opening league matches, with their main problem being their lack of goals.

The Lindi-based side booked a continental ticket for the first time in their history after reaching the finals of the previous season's Federation Cup and locking horns with Simba SC in the clash.

Despite losing the game 2-1 they qualified since Simba SC had won the league and were eligible to play in the CAF Champions League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastAfrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM