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EAC plans to spend 4bn/- on sanitation, basic hygiene

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) is implementing a project on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) meant to strengthen the bloc's capacity to control infectious diseases.

Implemented in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the project will target disease epicenters in the region.

Christophe Bazivamo (pictured), EAC Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) said that the EAC has secured euros 1.5 million (over 4bn/-) from the government of Germany for the project which aims at increasing awareness and enhancing health and hygiene protective behaviours and practices, to prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19.

The project targets high-risk groups and areas in the six EAC Partner States that include cross border communities, communities along transport and waterway corridors, urban fragile communities, truck drivers, motorcycle taxi riders, taxi drivers and migrants.

It also includes community leaders and local authorities such as border officials

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'Armed assailant had to be killed'

By Henry Mwangonde

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Amos Makalla has defended the fatal shooting of an armed assailant in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, saying the decision was way better than seeking to neutralize him.

Speaking at an interview with Clouds FM yesterday, the RC said an attempt to capture the armed man alive could have exposed not only police officers to danger but also civilians who were hovering around the area.

He however acknowledged that if the gunman was arrested he would have helped the police with leading information, but that would have taken time.

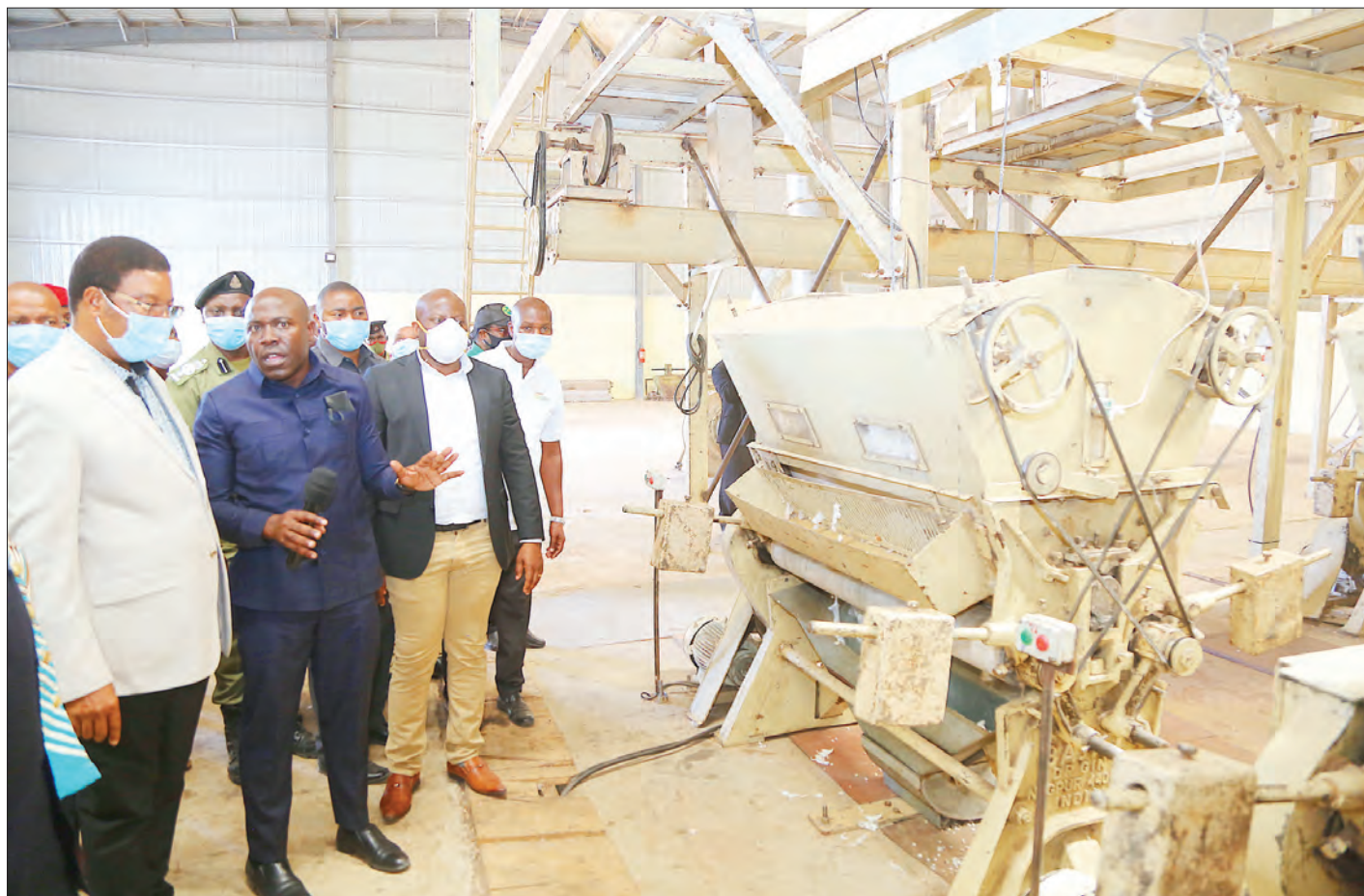
"Mind you the gunman was equipped and killed four people which means he would have killed more people if he was not controlled," he said.

The RC who is the chairman of the regional defense and security committee said it would have been costly because a huge number of people thronged the area, and were thus within range of flying bullets.

He commended the police for the job well done, saying they have demonstrated that they are ready to protect Tanzanians and their properties.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed investigation into the incident where three

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Emmanuel Njalu (2nd-L), director of NGS Investment Company Ltd's ginnyery, briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday on the operations of cotton ginnyeries. The PM had just launched the facility at Ifukutwa in Tanganyika District, Katavi Region. Photo: VPO

Mtwara has 300 homes in natural gas pipeline reach

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 300 homes in Mtwara Region have been connected to the natural gas pipeline, increasing the number of users to 425.

The Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) connected 125 homes in the first phase implementation of the gas distribution project for residents in Reli 'A' and Reli 'B' areas, along with Kyangu, Masandube and Lilungu areas.

Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemami inaugurated Phase II of the project on Wednesday, where he said the cost for connecting the homes reach 961.7m/-, at an event at Kyangu area in Mtwara District also attended by Deputy Minister, Stephen Byabato.

Others in attendance were the DC, Dunstan Kyobya, TPDC board chairman Khalfan Khalfan, Managing Director Dr James Mataragio and EWURA Director General Godfrey Chibulunjje.

"This is the second phase in the distribution of natural gas for home use in Mtwara Region. To ensure the energy reaches many people, TPDC and its subsidiary, Gas Co. (T) Ltd (GASCO) must distribute the gas to all people without discrimination," the minister stated.

Dr Kalemami said use of natural gas in the region should not be confined to public institutions and households, asking TPDC to set up a centre for supplying gas for the use of vehicles and in factories.

As for now the aim of the government is to take natural gas to rural areas, he stated, asking TPDC to continue mobilising the people to adopt the use of natural gas for domestic use.

The deputy minister said the government will make sure the resource benefits residents of Mtwara Region and the wider population in general, specifying that directives issued by the minister will be fully implemented in collaboration with institutions under the ministry.

Earlier, Dr Mataragio said the task of distributing natural gas in homes is sustainable as in the 2021/2022 financial year as the government has allocated funds for connecting 300 more houses.

Phase II of the gas distribution project is being implemented by local experts like GASCO engineers, while Phase I employed foreign contractors and costs were high, he said, noting that Phase I used about 3.2bn/- while in Phase II has brought the cost down to

Sweden grants 100bn/- to fund TASAF Phase II

By Getrude Mbago

THE government of Sweden has approved a grant of 450m Swedish

kroner, (117.8bn/-) to finance the second phase of the productive social safety net implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

PSSN II focuses more on providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-

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Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) and Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjoberg, show journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday documents relating to a SEK 450 million (117.8bn/-) grant agreement on the financing of Phase Two of Productive Social Safety Net's Phase Two to be implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF). Photo courtesy of Finance ministry



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Sweden grants 100bn/- to fund TASAF Phase II

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earning opportunities to enable them to establish small-scale businesses and projects for poverty alleviation.

Treasury Permanent Secretary Emmanuel Tutuba expressed gratitude to the Swedish authorities, noting that the grant complements government efforts towards alleviating abject poverty.

Cooperation between the two countries is growing, reflected by a rise in the number of bilateral development projects that Sweden supports, he stated.

Tanzania has benefited from Swedish support in the budget, via the Economic and Fiscal Governance Programme (EFGP), the energy sector, research cooperation, land development, education and in the social safety net sphere, he elaborated.

Ongoing projects and programmes funded by Sweden have a portfolio of about SEK 2.76 billion equivalent to 723.2bn/- and completed programmes in the past few years reach SEK 2.59 billion equivalent to 677.2bn/-, also in grant form, he stated.

On PSSN II, the Treasury chieftain said that beyond training beneficiaries on acquiring entrepreneurship skills, PSSN includes a roadmap to enabling those in need to start and expand small income generating projects.

PSSN II will be implemented from late 2020 to September 2023, fielding a \$ 883.31m budget, (equivalent to 2.02trn/-) he specified, while Swedish ambassador Anders Sjöberg said the country's development agency (SIDA) has been supporting TASAF since 2015 and expects to maintain its presence for the country's welfare.

Evaluations of PSSN phase one demonstrated significant results for close to 1.1m households living in abject poverty, included in the programme, the envoy noted

"There is strong evidence of enhanced opportunities to get an income, to send children to school as well as to access better health care. The programme provides families with basic protection from economic shocks," he asserted.

Ambassador Sjöberg said the overarching goal of Swedish development cooperation globally is to create opportunities for people living in poverty and under oppression to improve their living conditions.

Sweden considers social protection programmes as a key instrument to reach those who need immediate help, he stated.

"Therefore, support for social protection remains an important feature of Sweden's development cooperation with Tanzania for our renewed engagement covering the period 2020 to 2024.

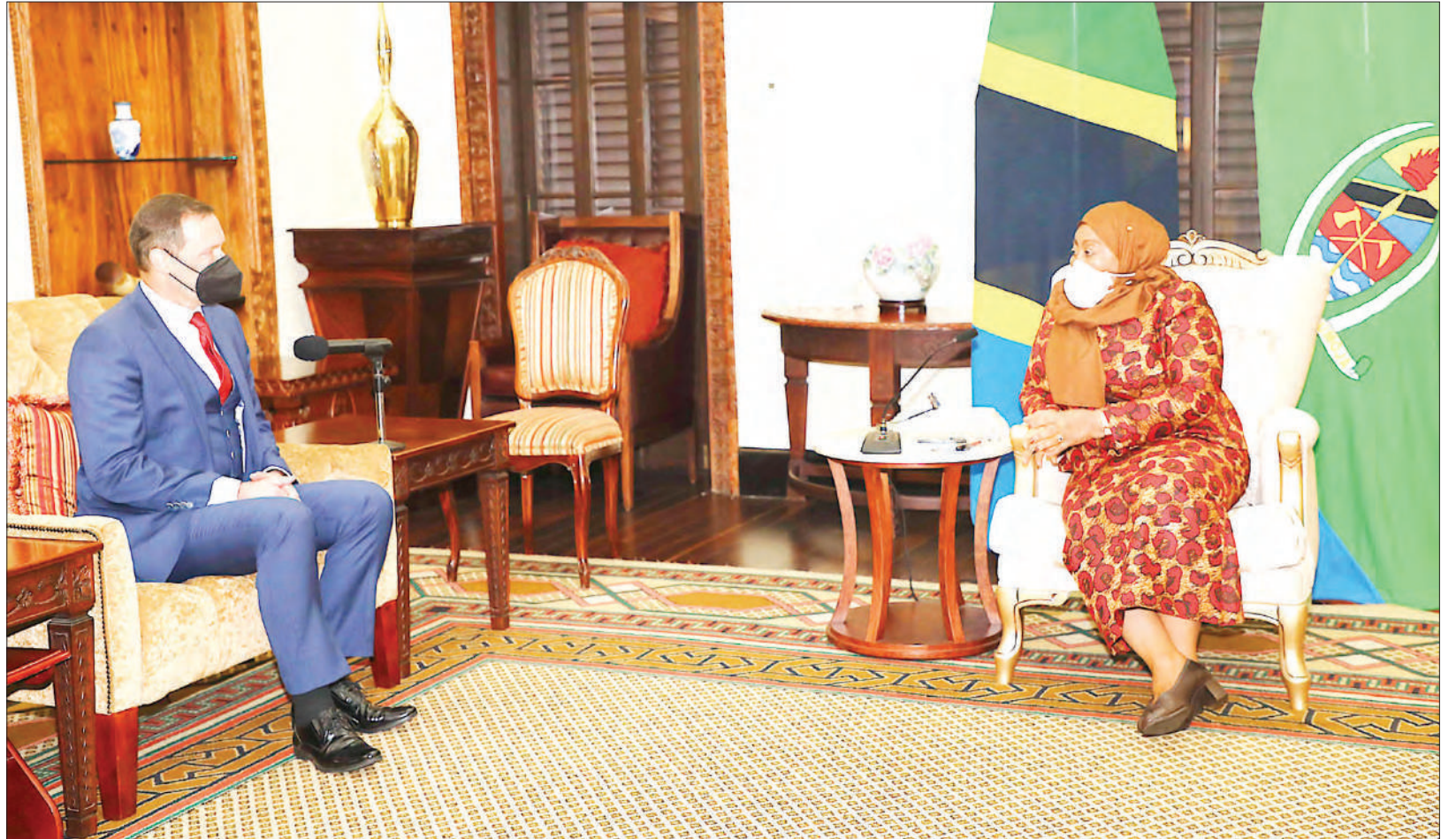
"We will continue to work with the government and engage with ordinary people and other stakeholders on the complex set of development issues facing the country and its people," he declared.

TASAF executive director Ladislaus Mwamanga lauded PSSN II as it builds on achievements in the first phase and will especially focus on productive and financial inclusion.

That will be carried out through support services in public works, savings groups, training and livelihood grants, he said, pointing out that during PSSN I, the programme reached at least 1.1m poor households with upwards of five million people.

PSSN implementation has shown itself to be innovative in reaching and assisting the poorest to take steps to overcome poverty, he affirmed.

The programme also supported at least 1.8 million secondary school children, with most of them completed their education and join various colleges, he added.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday with the newly accredited Czech Ambassador to Tanzania, Martin Klepetro, shortly after receiving his credentials. Photo: State House

EAC set to spend 4bn/- on sanitation, hygiene

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for customs, immigration and port health, expected to reach more than one million people with health and hygiene promotion initiatives.

It is targeted to install around 19 fixed handwashing facilities at selected areas in the respective member countries where the targeted spots are located, he said.

The project, which will be undertaken in close cooperation with the partner states, will contribute to the implementation of the EAC COVID-19 Response Plan (2020), the IOM COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan launched in April 2021 and the

relevant regional plans.

It will also contribute to the achievement of the WHO WASH Strategy and the regional IOM strategy for migrant population's health safeguards in East Africa and the Horn of Africa regions.

Mohammed Abdiker, IOM's Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa, said that collaboration with EAC is based on a memorandum of understanding between IOM and EAC for improving migration management in the region.

Project preparations started in June 2021 with close collaboration between EAC and IOM at the regional and country level and in July the

team started collecting baseline data from households, points of entry and health facilities along selected borders and communities to guide field operation.

The construction of the handwashing facilities and the health and hygiene awareness campaign starts at the end of this month, with the project running until December, with a final completion report expected by next January.

The German authorities are funding the programme via its Pandemic Preparedness (PanPrep) project based in the aid organization GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GmbH).

The EAC zone has experienced communicable and water borne disease outbreaks in the past and is still at risk of future outbreaks. In addition to the COVID 19 global pandemic, the EAC has experienced preventable outbreaks like cholera, measles, Rift Valley Fever (RVF), yellow fever, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and E. Coli infections over the past five years.

Due to the high human mobility in the region, the communities at the borders and along the transport corridors are continuously exposed to communicable diseases, the director underlined.



Emmanuel Mwakasaka, Chairman of the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee, addresses journalists in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after calling off a meeting meant to give Ukonga legislator Ukonga Jerry Silaa the chance to continue explaining himself in connection with allegations including showing disrespect to the National Assembly. The MP did not show up, upon which police were ordered to arrest him and take him before the committee today. Right is the committee's secretary, Maria Mdulugu. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Armed assailant had to be killed'

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police officers and a member of the SGA security firm died in the exchange of fire after an armed assailant grabbed weapons from police officers and started firing randomly.

There was an exchange of fire after the assailant moved from Selander Bridge up to the French Embassy gate, firing randomly as police started to close in.

The drama began somewhere near Selander Bridge and continued along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, ending with the shooting of the gun-wielding assailant by police outside

the embassy gate.

The previous day, the head of police operations, Commissioner of Police Liberatus Sabas (pictured) urged Dar es Salaam residents to remain calm as police continue with their investigation to identify the assailant and his intentions.



Mtwara has 300 homes in natural gas pipeline reach

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961m/-, a saving of upwards of 2bn/-.

Mtwara town is among urban areas benefiting by the use of natural gas, following building a 56.7 kms pipeline, he said, elaborating that using natural gas power in industrial operations, fertiliser production,

cooking and running vehicles is the wider aim of the project.

TPDC is putting up natural gas distribution networks in Morogoro, Dodoma, Singida and Dar es Salaam, while a number of hotels, residential premises, industries and vehicles already use natural gas in the city of Dar es Salaam, he added.

RwandAir all out to establish Kigali-Z'bar flights

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has met and held discussions with various ambassadors representing their countries in Tanzania.

In his meeting with President Mwinyi, Rwandan Ambassador

Maj Gen Charles Karamba told the Zanzibar leader of the plan for his country's airline, RwandAir to start flight between Kigali and Zanzibar by mid 2022, the step that will boost the tourism sector for both countries.

Amb Karamba also told Dr Mwinyi about the special invitation he had

brought for the establishment of cooperation between Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) and Rwanda Development Board (RDB) that aims at investment cooperation and to have a single trading centre for the two countries.

Earlier, Dr Mwinyi met with the Kuwait envoy, Mubarak Mohammed

Alsehajjan and conveyed his appreciation for the continued historic relations between the Gulf state and Zanzibar in the social service provision sector.

Dr Mwinyi also met and held discussions with Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania, Regina Hess who told the Zanzibar leader

of development plans between Germany and Zanzibar especially in the water supply and sports sectors.

President also met and held discussions with the Representative from Slovakia in Tanzania, Moustafa Khataw who told Dr Mwinyi about the plan to establish direct air flights from his country to Zanzibar.

For his part, President Mwinyi called on the representative to mobilise for his country's investors to come to Zanzibar, stressing that his government is keen in the development of the Blue Economy including oil and gas, and added that Zanzibar has ample unexploited offshore resources.



James Mbatia (L), national Chairman of the opposition NCCR-Mageuzi, hands over the revolving chairmanship of the Tanzania Centre for Democracy to ACT-Wazalendo Leader Zitto Kabwe at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zanzibar project and the changing face of foreign investments

By Correspondent Nimi Mweta

REPORTS that a United States developer, a Scottish and a Tanzanian architectural firm have reached accord with the Zanzibar authorities to put up a 70 storey tower shows that the face of foreign investment in the country is changing, on a scale not seen earlier.

Administrators at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) have for several months given clear signals that the pace of foreign investment interest in the country is growing by leaps and bounds, but this project dwarfs everything that was understood or expected up to now.

International news agencies say that the building will be the tallest in Sub-Saharan Africa and the second tallest in the continent, which means it approximates anything available in South Africa's commercial capital of Johannesburg, Egyptian metropolis of Cairo or East Africa's perennially dominant business centre, Nairobi.

The profile of the project released to the media earlier this week said that the 70-storey Zanzibar Domino Commercial Tower will be developed on the west coast, 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Stone Town. It will involve the creation of a man-made island along with a marina for yachts and cruise ships.

Reporting on Zanzibar's announcement on Tuesday to build sub-Saharan Africa's tallest skyscraper, media outlets said that the \$1.3-billion bill postulated exceeds "the archipelago's annual budget by more than 60 percent."

The 70-storey Zanzibar Domino commercial tower will be developed on the west coast, 15 kilometres

from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Stone Town, and involves the creation of a man-made island along with a marina for yachts and cruise ships.

Surpassing the isles annual budget by more than 60 percent implies that all earnings of the Isles government if put into the project would suffice to make up around two thirds of total project costs.

What is more significant is the phenomenal scale of the project and the way it attracted a leading developer to select Zanzibar for the project, as indicating growing confidence with existing policy outlook, and expectations that the East African coast and the Isles in particular is a global tourism pillar in the making.

The designs show that the finished project will house 560 apartments, luxury hotels, resorts, a golf course and a wedding chapel, on the basis of a statement issued by the New York and Dubai-based design firm xCassia, Tanzania's AICL Group and Scotland's Crowland Management Ltd.

The scale of housing and lodging facilities intended is meant to scale up the quantity and quality of tourism in the Isles, with developers in Dubai being architects of the project, with extensive cultural links with Zanzibar that have been intensified over the past decade.

Jean-Paul Cassia, founder of the xCassia, said that the design was first sketched in Paris in 2009 "after my late father, two sons and I played a round of dominos. I dreamed of building this project for over a decade," he said in the statement.

"It had all the bearings of an icon anyone could remember... All it lacked was the right visionary investor and site to make it come true," he added.

Zitto assumes chairmanship of TCD

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) has appointed ACT Wazalendo leader Zitto Kabwe as its new chairman for the next six months as per its regulations.

Kabwe is taking over the leadership from the outgoing chairman—James Mbatia, NCCR-Mageuzi's chairman.

Speaking at the handover ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kabwe said he had accepted the appointment in his capacity as party leader for ACT Wazalendo which is an active member of TCD.

Kabwe said TCD has lots of challenges, however, it gives its members a platform to discuss their issues and seek solutions. Speaking of his key focus as TCD chairman for the next six months, Kabwe noted three key issues.

"Firstly, my focus is to revamp TCD and its working environment,

and give it the status it deserves as an institution that serves political party leaders, this will help us give TCD a respectful and trusted image amongst its stakeholders, the government and the international community," said Kabwe.

He added that he will also conduct an audit of TCD financials, service

its debts and strengthen its relationship with stakeholders and its sponsors.

He noted that another focus will be to improve TCD's modus operandi and fill out vacancies such as the CEO and develop a strategic plan for the next five years which will give the institution a direction and further make

an improvement of engaging other political parties which do not have representation in parliament.

Kabwe said TCD will be utilized to strengthen democracy which had plummeted especially since after 2019 by-elections and 2020 general elections.

"This will build capacities for parties to manage

themselves, build trust, and build independent and trusted institutions that will oversee our elections, and we will further use TCD as a platform for political discussions and use those discussion as a basis to obtaining a new constitution and make minimum reforms in our political system," added Kabwe.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO OFFER VARIOUS CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO THE TRUST

About AMDT

The Agriculture Markets Development Trust (AMDT) has been established by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland in 2014 and the current Trustee is KPMG. The Trust has been established as a long term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people in Tanzania. For this financial year, the Trust is funded by the governments of Sweden and Denmark. With a strong pro-poor focus, the Trust works with the Private Sector, Government and Civil Society Organisations to promote the making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs. AMDT achieves this by investing, together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

As part of its continued improvement and planned future growth, the Trust is seeking for eligible and qualified consultants on the assignments mentioned below:

1. Consultancy to prepare a report on available opportunities for women and Youth in AMDT Selected Value Chains: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
2. Consultancy for Development of Information, Education and Communication Materials on Gender and Value Chains: <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>
3. Consultancy for In-Depth Analyses Research Studies <http://amdt.co.tz/tenders/>

All tenderers are requested to access detailed Terms of Reference and tender descriptions through the above links. The links provide for a complete tender description listing the scope, responsibilities and qualifications required.

Interested bidders for the above tenders may send any other enquiry to: procurement@amdt.co.tz by 3rd September 2021.

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the RFP.

All applications shall be sent through procurement@amdt.co.tz

Only the qualified firm will be contacted via email.

CLOSING DATE: 10th September 2021

216426601



KCB

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general Public that **Mr. Rashid Idd Mshana**, whose picture appears below is no longer an employee of KCB Bank Tanzania Limited effective from **6th August 2021**.

Any transactions made by him on behalf of the Bank thereafter will no longer be honored and the bank will not be responsible for the same.



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“**Firstly, my focus is to revamp TCD and its working environment, and give it the status it deserves as an institution that serves political party leaders, this will help us give TCD a respectful and trusted image amongst its stakeholders, the government and the international community**”

RC directs defence, security committees to supervise revenue collections in Moro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela has instructed members of the region's defence and security committees to take part in overseeing revenue sources in local councils to know the validity of the monthly collections.

The committee is made up of district commissioners, councillors and district council executive directors (DEDs).

The RC made the decision here on Wednesday at a meeting that discussed strategies for receiving Form I students for 2022.

He said revenues collected by officials charged to collect them do not go in tandem with the councils' expectations, the situation that repeats itself every year.

He gave an example of the Msamvu Bus Stand in Morogoro Municipality that collects 3m/- per day from buses travelling to other regions, saying the amount is very little compare to the number of buses passing the bus stand every day, apart from revenue from its other activities.

"I support you, Hon Municipal Mayor, collection of revenue from

Msamvu Bus Stand is small, go with your committee to oversee the collection, even the defence and security committee should accompany you," said the RC.

Meanwhile, he directed district commissioners, councils' chairpersons and DEDs in the region to oversee all development projects being implemented in their areas.

Earlier, speaking on loss of council revenue funds, Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary, Mariam Mtunguja said officials dealing with revenue collection and then embezzle it should be taken to court.

However, she said, before they are taken to court, they must repay the money embezzled or have their assets confiscated.

For his part, Malinyi District Council chairman, Pius Mwelesa, said the step taken by the RC to allow councillors to participate in overseeing council revenues will assist in surpassing revenue collection targets.

Mwelesa said in FY 2021/2022 they have collected 216m/- for July this year from 40/- to 50m/- that was being collected per month.



I support you, Hon Municipal Mayor, collection of revenue from Msamvu Bus Stand is small, go with your committee to oversee the collection, even the defence and security committee should accompany you



Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Geoffrey Hilly (R) briefs Water minister Jumaa Aweso (2nd-L) in Tanga city on Wednesday at the launch of a project meant to improve water supply in Tanga Region. Left is Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembu. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Cultivate profitable crops, increase quality, government urges farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE government has called on farmers in the country to cultivate profitable crops as well as to enhance their quality in order to compete in both local and foreign markets.

The remarks were made here on Wednesday by Njombe Regional Administrative Officer, Judica Omary, on behalf of Agriculture Minister, Prof Adolph Mkenda at an event to unveil a One Acre Fund shop for farm inputs at Igima Ward, Wanging'ombe District in Njombe

Region.

She said the government vows to bring great transformation in the farming sector including the availability of farm inputs in time.

She added that the government continues to improve extension services to ensure food security.

She said farmers are supposed to join cooperative societies to enable them get assistance in regard to various services including access of loans.

She praised One Acre Fund for improving their services especially in reducing their charges on loans

for farm inputs from 19 per cent to 10 per cent.

"I also praise you for establishing 30 shops of this kind in Njombe, Mbeya and Songwe regions," she added.

For his part, One Acre Fund Tanzania managing director Jennifer Lindgren, said in the last eight years the institution has learned that small farmers can kick away poverty if they abide by modern farming practices.

However, she added, the aim of the institution is to assist farmers to get big harvests by educating them

on better application of farm inputs.

The assistant director of Crops Development and Farm Inputs in the ministry of Agriculture Beatus Malema thanked One Acre Fund for its initiative of establishing shops for farm inputs as these will directly help the smallholder farmers.

Esteria Kitalula and Ibrahim Nziku, farmers who joined the institution since 2018 said before that their economic situation was apathetic, but after being educated on modern farming practices, they began getting ample and better crops.



CLOSED FOR BUSINESS! This is a side-road at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam's Ubungo municipality, as captured yesterday. It is officially meant for use by pedestrians but has been invaded by small traders. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

By Guardian Reporter

WORKS, and Transport Deputy Minister Mwita Waitara has said the country's roads, power, communications, water and railways infrastructures will last long if builders thereof will work together during construction work.

Opening the third forum on infrastructures durability in Dar es Salaam early this week, Waitara said building of inclusive infrastructures was the only solution for durable infrastructures.

"Builders of these infrastructures should make sure they communicate with each other from the planning

Govt says coordination decisive in development of infrastructure

steps that one type of infrastructure should not damage another thereby causing the government repeated losses," he said.

He stressed that institutions building infrastructures should make sure they work together in all stages of construction of their projects to avoid destruction of the infrastructures.

"I congratulate you for organising

the infrastructure stakeholders' forum and I hope you will come up with a permanent solution in building infrastructures to reduce the government of huge loss in their frequent repairs," he stressed.

Dr Boniface Nobeji, representative from Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) said collaboration among infrastructures builders contributes for achievement in the value chain

in transport and distribution, thereby making the ports sector to perform well.

For his part, B&F Global Managing Director Bruno Kinyaga said the three-day forum that has placed together infrastructures stakeholders aims to go through current existing challenges and to find solutions thereof in future of the infrastructures sector.

Shinyanga green grams traders threaten to stop buying the crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

GREEN GRAMS traders in Shinyanga Region have threatened to stop buying the crop from farmers claiming that the government has banned its transportation out of the region, but sell the same to Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOs).

They say they buy green grams from farmers at 1,200/- per kilo and told to sell it to AMCOs via warehouse receipt system at 900/- per kilo saying this will cause great loss in their business.

Speaking to this paper on Wednesday this week on condition not to be named, they said, earlier, the government banned them from buying the crop from farmers but after they registered their complaints, the government caved in but came up with this condition of not transporting the crop out of the region, except to the AMCOs.

They appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene in the matter, saying that in the event the ban remains, they will stop buying the crop altogether and leave the business to AMCOs.

For their part, Shinyanga District Councillors complained about the issue of the government banning traders to buy green grams in one of their sittings, saying the traders pay farmers 1,200/- per kilo on the spot while AMCOs pay only 1,200/- per kilo on credit.

Ramadhani Kato, a farming stakeholder from Tanzania Associations of Cotton Cooperatives (TANCOP) in Shinyanga region said buying green grams via the warehouse receipt system was good, whereby the farmer initially receives 900/- per kilo and after the auction, and the crop fetches, say 1,400 per kilo, some 500/- will be paid back to the farmer.

For his part, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Philemon Sengati elaborated the issue, saying according to government directives, such crops are supposed to be sold to Tanzania Mercantile Exchange plc (TMX) via the warehouse receipt system and AMCOs from which farmers would reap huge profits.



They appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to intervene in the matter, saying that in the event the ban remains, they will stop buying the crop altogether and leave the business to AMCOs

Business council now devising new strategy on timber engineering development industry

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) through its forestry task force has finalised a strategy meant to invest heavily in the development of timber engineering industries that will help increase the value chain of forest products.

The move will also further stimulate the country's economic growth by producing more plywood to supply in the local and international market.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TNBC secretary general Dr Godwill Wanga said the forest sector has a lot to provide and what is needed is have strong strategies to utilize the opportunities.

He said that the 12th TNBC meeting under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has directed establishment of a special strategy for the implementation of engineered wood products (EWPs) programme.

"We formed a special task force which carried out a study that has successfully developed a strategy for the implementation of the EWP programme which is set to bring great benefits to the country," he said.

He said that the implementation of the programme will be supervised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and it will stimulate the establishment of more forestry manufacturing factories and thus reduce importation of alternative timber.

Dr Wanga said that the country has been losing a lot of funds by importing alternative timber, so the EWP programme will help increase the production of forest products for domestic use and even for export.

"Tanzania has been blessed with

plenty of raw materials in the forest sector compared to other countries in the East African Community that are suitable for production of alternative timber and other wood products, so commencing this programme will create market confidence in the EAC and other countries," he said.

In addition, Dr Wanga said the council in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will continue to implement all the agreed resolutions that are largely found in the country's development plan and thus stimulate economic growth.

Dr Ezekiel Mwakaluka, chairman of the forestry task force said the 6th phase is well committed and will continue creating a conducive investment environment for the forestry sector so as to stimulate the growth of other sectors such as manufacturing which will improve national productivity and increase opportunities.

"Successful implementation of such resolutions will lead to the opening of many opportunities not only in the forestry sector but also in other sectors. Let me assure you that the government will supervise and manage to ensure that the resolutions are well implemented," said Dr Mwakaluka.

"We formed a special task force which carried out a study that has successfully developed a strategy for the implementation of the EWP programme which is set to bring great benefits to the country"



Dr Ezekiel Mwakaluka (C), chairman of the Tanzania National Business Council's forests working group (FWG), speaks at the group's eighth meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is all in preparation for a strategy of developing a programme on engineered wood products, part of the run-up to the implementation of a declaration of the TNBC's 12th meeting held this June and presided over by TNBC chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Others are the FWG's co-chair from the private sector, Ben Mufungo Sulus (L), and TNBC executive secretary Dr Godwill Wanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

SCIENTISTS studying tropical forests in Africa's mountains were surprised to uncover how much carbon they store, and how fast some of these forests are being cleared.

The international study reported in nature, found that intact tropical mountain (or montane) forests in Africa store around 150 tonnes of carbon per hectare. This means that keeping a hectare of forest standing saves CO2 emissions equivalent to powering 100 homes with electricity for one year.

The study found that African mountain forests store more carbon per unit area than the Amazon

Tropical forests in Africa's mountains storing more carbon than previously believed - report

rainforest and are similar in structure to lowland forests in Africa. Existing guidelines for African mountain forests -- which assume 89 tonnes of carbon per hectare -- greatly underestimate their role in global climate regulation.

The international team also investigated how much tropical mountain forest had been lost from the African continent in the past 20 years. They found that 0.8 million hectares have been lost, mostly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Ethiopia,

emitting over 450 million tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere. If current deforestation rates continue, a further 0.5 million hectares of these forests would be lost by 2030.

Lead author Dr Aida Cuni-Sanchez, from the University of York's Department of Environment and Geography and at Norwegian University of Life Sciences, said: "The results are surprising because the climate in mountains would be expected to lead to low carbon forests."

"The lower temperatures of

mountains and the long periods they are covered by clouds should slow tree growth, while strong winds and steep unstable slopes might limit how big trees can get before they fall over and die.

"But unlike other continents, in Africa we found the same carbon store per unit area in lowland and mountain forests. Contrary to what we expected, large trees remain abundant in mountain forests, and these large trees (defined as having diameters over 70 cm) store a lot of carbon."



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 6 MONTHS PERIOD OF 01ST JANUARY – 30TH JUNE 2021

Publishing of this Statement of Receipts and Expenditure is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Government Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018 which requires Non-Governmental Organizations receiving funds exceeding Tshs. 20 Million to publish bi-annual the funds received and its expenditure.

RECEIPTS	ACTUAL
Opening fund balance	51,174,646
RECEIPTS FROM DONORS	
Disbursement from Donors	253,559,277
RECEIPTS FROM OTHERS	
Others	1,726,888
TOTAL RECEIPTS	306,460,811
EXPENDITURE	
Reliable, Concrete and up to date information on Land and Natural resources	10,065,400
Increased Access to reliable, concrete and up to date information on land and natural resources matters	49,059,896
Enhanced Knowledge base and Citizens participation in policy and decision making process on land and natural resources	2,659,000
Improved policies, practice and institutional framework governing land	29,229,576
Strengthening partnership with likeminded local and International on land rights, women's land rights, environment and climate change resilience	1,500,000
Securing programme equipment and services	39,412,535
Other programme costs	5,000,000
Improved HAKIARDHI Institutional Governance	60,561,738
Ensured availability of resources and improve Financial Management system	15,539,254
Improved quality of HAKIARDHI interventions	36,493,337
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	249,520,737
FUND BALANCE	56,940,075

FUND BALANCE: Donors funds committed for the implementation for the remaining period for the year 2021.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

UN Women Tanzania Country Office in Dar es Salaam is looking for a highly motivated, qualified and experienced Tanzanian male or female candidate to fill the following position that will be based in Singida:

Programme Analyst, Women Economic Empowerment

Application procedures:

Interested and qualified persons should visit the UNDP Job Shop on the following link: https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=101459 for detailed vacancy announcement and submission of applications before **07th September 2021**.

Applications received through other means will not be accepted.

Additional considerations:

1. Acknowledgements will be sent only to shortlisted applicants.
2. UN Women as a matter of practice does not charge any application, processing or training fee at any stage of the recruitment.
3. This vacancy is open to Tanzania nationals only.

"UN Women is an equal opportunity employer which strives to achieve overall balance in its staffing patterns".

Arusha to host global meeting on transparency and accountability

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA is set to host an International Transparency and Accountability Conference (ITAC), which is to bring on board more than 500 participants from government institutions, development partners, diplomats, advocates for transparency and accountability and CSOs.

Organised by Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA), the conference will be held between November 18 and 19, this year.

The conference is Themed: "Transformation into a culture of total accountability".

Launching the conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, WIPA executive director, Ludovick Utouh said participants will take part in the conference directly with others virtually.

The former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) said there would be five topics including financial transparency and accountability as a tool for African countries to achieve sustainable competitive advantage in the global economy.

Another topic, according to Utouh, will be the Independence of the country's audit function and its impacts on transparency and accountability in the changing scenarios of internal and external auditing principles and practices.

Other topics include, have African governments been sufficiently transparent and accountable in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic; the effectiveness of ICT in enhancing public financial transparency and accountability in Africa and becoming more transparent and accountable for public-private partnership (PPP) initiatives in the extractive sector in Africa.

"In addition to the five topics, there will be six additional topics that will be presented and discussed," Utouh said, calling on people with interest in public accountability to use the ITAC opportunities to scale up accountability in the country.

Utouh noted that the conference participants will have to register on the institute's website and pay the participation costs based on local and foreign participants' groups.



In addition to the five topics, there will be six additional topics that will be presented and discussed

Anti-poaching bodies want rhinoceros killings to draw much more strict sentences

JOHANNESBURG, SA

SOME anti-poaching organisations are calling upon the justice system to strengthen punishment against those found guilty of rhino poaching and rhino horn trafficking.

This comes after the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment recently released statistics indicating that rhino poaching incidents committed in the country within the first six months of the year have increased by 33% compared to last year, during the same period.

Nature conservationists say the rhino is among the endangered species, not only in South Africa and the African continent but across the world.

According to the Helping Rhinos organisation, there are now less than thirty-thousand rhinos living in the wild today, compared to the start of the 20th century, where there were over 500 000 of them.

According to another study released by Save the Rhino International organisation in February this year, a rhino was poached every 22 hours in South Africa in 2020.

While this may sound alarming, it is actually the lowest recorded incident of rhino attacks in a year, in the previous decade during which over 8 300 rhinos were poached in the country.

Founder of the Protrack anti-poaching organisation, Vincent Barkas, says the South African justice system needs to impose harsher punishment on those guilty of rhino poaching and rhino horn trading.

"The poachers get caught and the next morning they are out on bail. That same guy will come tomorrow again. Our laws must treat it as a more serious crime than just poaching because tomorrow there will be no more rhinos. It's a very very difficult situation that I suspect all the wildlife guys are sitting with, not only in South Africa. It's the whole of Africa that we have to think about that problem.

According to the North West Parks Board, a long term solution is needed for rhino poaching and horn trafficking.

Regional manager of 14 nature and game reserves in the North West, Johnson Maoka says there is a need to discourage the consumer market of the product, especially those using it for traditional medicine.

"But it is very unlikely since it has been a tradition practised for over six thousand years - particularly in Asia. Alternatively, persuade the

consumer countries to breed and sustainably harvest the product unlike brutally killing the source, which is the rhino, for a single use," says Maoka.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, has released statistics indicating that in the first six months of 2021, 249 rhinos were poached, whereas during the same period, last year, 166 rhinos were poached. The national lockdown is said to have contributed to the decline of the incidents in 2020, whereas in 2021 when the restrictions were eased, the numbers increased again.

Departmental Spokesperson, Albi Modise, says the justice system has been working tirelessly to curb rhino poaching.

"The arrests that were executed during the operations in the last six months or so underscore the success of the collaborative work that has been done by the different law enforcement agencies. In this instance, the work that is done by the police, the Hawks, and the SANParks enforcement officers too. Our courts have shown that over the past few months, they have been dealing with the issue of poaching as a priority area and we continue to make sure that from the point of view on enforcement we deal with it," says Modise.

Meanwhile, judgement in the case against three men who were arrested for rhino poaching in Rustenburg in the North West has been postponed to 19 October 2021 by the Mogwase regional court. The postponement comes after a COVID-19 case was recorded at the Mogwase Correctional Centre.

The North West NPA Spokesperson Henry Mamothame says the accused are facing ten charges.

"The three are facing 10 charges including the contravention of Section 57 of the National Environmental Biodiversity Act, contravention of the National Environmental Protected Areas Act, possession of prohibited firearms, and possession of ammunition. They were in possession of six rhino horns when they were arrested for leaving the Pilanesberg Game Reserve in JULY 2018. The state intends on calling an expert witness to testify on the impact of killing three rhinos at a game reserve. We also intend on calling for a long term direct imprisonment as we deem these charges to be of a serious nature," says Mamothame.

The trio will be remanded in custody as their bail was previously denied.



Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation director Vanessa Manyota makes a presentation on universal health insurance at a health financing workshop held in Zanzibar on Wednesday. We mistakenly ran the photo but with the wrong caption in yesterday's issue, an error for which we apologise. - Editor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

Form independent probe team on Tuesday's shootout, govt advised

THE Tanzanian Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has called on the government to form an independent investigative commission that will provide a sovereign report which will be used as an educative tool against crimes and how to easily detect people of such nature so that they could be reported beforehand.

The coalition's national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam a day after an incident which resulted in the death of three police officers, one security guard and left six others wounded.

He tasked responsible authorities to see how this committee can be established so that a prompt and

quick report is read to the public.

"According to eyewitnesses, information indicates that the culprit is well known, so we don't expect the investigation to take longer," he said, adding that information about such an investigation should not go unpublished.

Olungurumwa reminded that in cases like this which have happened in the past, the police did not bring back investigated information to the public. "Our call is to let them investigate and bring back the report to the public," he insisted.

He stressed that providing this report to the citizens will not only help to inform them but will also educate them on how to deal with crimes of such nature hence increasing the capacity of members to behave in a community policy.

"Citizens will be good informants to the rightful security official if they get to know the behavior of such people right from the roots," he emphasized, stating that just looking at the incident, it could not be something which just started without being calculated because the culprit was not targeting

civilians.

"By that act it could be seen that it is something that was well prepared and the culprit could not be mentally unstable because he was very selective when targeting the victims," he mentioned.

THRDC national coordinator expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, to the Tanzanian police force for losing three of their members during the incident and also to all Tanzanian citizens who were present at the time the scene was taking place.



Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi shares a light moment with Babati Rural legislator Daniel Sillo (2nd-L) and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency's Manyara regional manager Walter Kirita (L) shortly after launching a water project at Madunga village on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

PM happy with Karema port construction pace

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday expressed satisfaction with the ongoing construction of Karema port project.

He made the remarks when he toured the project in Tanganyika in Katavi Region.

PM Majaliwa said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is determined to

ensure all the projects are finalized in time.

He added that the project will be a cargo destination and transit site for goods to Keremie port in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"Am happy to hear that this project has reached this stage am hopeful that by March this year it will be finalised and ready for use

so I call upon people around here to grab opportunities as they arise," he said.

For his part, the Director General for Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) Erick Hamis said the construction of the project has reached 50-percent.

He said the construction of the project worth 47.97bn/- is expected to complete in March 2022 and has

so far employed 300 people among them nine foreigners.

He said the project is a stimulus package to the economy especially in the lake zone but also neighbouring countries of Burundi and DRC.

The Regional Commissioner for Katavi Mwanamvua Mrindoko called upon residents to make use of opportunities in the project.

9 million Africans may fall into poverty this year, says Adesina

By Special Correspondent

PRESIDENT of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has warned that another 39 million people in the continent could fall into poverty at the end of this year.

Adesina stated this at the ongoing virtual Africa Singapore Business Forum. He said the 39 million people could pass on as an added number to 30 million individuals rendered poor by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to him, the "people impact" is the worst negative consequence of the pandemic, with 30 million jobs lost and inflation spiraling out of control.

"The debt also began to accumulate. The debt to gross domestic product (GDP) went up to between 60 and 70 per cent. But that is just on the financial side. I am more bothered about the people's impact," he noted.

On the bright side, he said 85 per cent of operators in the special economic zones of Africa believed that the foreign direct investment (FDI) flow to the continent would rise significantly again while 90 per cent outside Africa believed the same.

Adesina said Africa holds the key to the global economy with enormous opportunity for return on investment (RoI), stressing that those who do not invest in Africa would probably not invest at all. He added that the continent has improved tremendously in the ease of doing business.

The development banker, however, said poor infrastructure had blighted the potential of the continental economy but that recent investments by AfDB and other stakeholders are reversing the story. He called for "resilient and quality" infrastructure to make Africa truly attractive to the rest of the world.

While the rest of the world slowed down in their investment in Africa, he said, Singapore has

increased in that regard. He said the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) provides huge opportunities to Singaporean companies to expand their footprint in the regional market.

Singapore's Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who joined Adesina on a panel, said public sector reform was an urgent and necessary action plan to leapfrog the Africa economy.

Shanmugaratnam said there are huge opportunities in digitalisation and education for Singapore and Africa to explore as they scale-up their relations.

He pointed out that innovation, in every sphere of economy, would help Africa to reduce the cost of business operation and make it more efficient, noting that Singapore would be very useful to Africa in achieving innovation and energy efficiency.

The minister said the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) need incentives to help them export to the rest of the world. Credit, he said, "is very important to achieving this". In doing this, he said, an innovation that will increase banks' ability to assess the creditworthiness of SMEs would necessarily be put in place.



The debt also began to accumulate. The debt to gross domestic product (GDP) went up to between 60 and 70 per cent. But that is just on the financial side. I am more bothered about the people's impact



Tanzania Association of Accountants governing council member Ally Bukuku pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday opening a seminar for accountants and auditors on amendments to tax laws. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

GSM group has donated mattresses worth 100m/- to government hospitals in order to improve health services in the country.

Handing over the equipment at Sinza Palestina Hospital in Dar es Salaam, group's chief commercial officer, Allan Chonjo said the aim of the donation is to equip hospitals so that they can be comfortable in helping different patients that are being treated in the facilities.

"We know our government hospitals have a number of patients that need to be taken care of and these mattresses will help them in fulfilling their duties as they serve a great number of people in need of medical attention," he explained.

He noted that being able to share

GSM provides mattresses worth 100m/- to government hospitals

part of the profit with the people in need is such a worthy cause and donating GSM Foams is part of the group's corporate social responsibilities contribution to the community.

Chonjo said the donation of the mattresses will be a country wide movement where government hospitals will be beneficiaries and for now Sinza and Bunju hospitals in Dar es Salaam will be reached first, followed by hospitals in other regions, given the demand.

He noted that apart from hospitals GSM will also be donating in orphanage centers adding that they

will start with Charambe Orphanage center to hand over their donation.

"The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project that has started now will be completed at the end of the year in which we will make sure we are giving back to the people as much as we can so that we can at least be part of their blessing," he guaranteed.

For his part, Ubungu Municipal Council acting chief Medical Officer Allen Kalombora saluted GSM generosity while acknowledging the high demand of mattresses in these hospitals and that for them to be able to help is much appreciated.

"I would like to call on more companies to please help as much as they can so that our people can have more mattresses to lie on," he urged.

Edwin Bisakala who is the Principal Health Secretary at Sinza hospital said that they are expecting to open new six wards that will be having 20 beds each. While mentioning that they will be having more than 80 beds that need mattresses, he therefore called on different stakeholders to please come and aid them with mattresses because the need is urgent.



Manyara Regional Mining Association secretary Tareq James (C) with Simanjoro District Council works engineer Daniel Mahona (L) and Minerals Commission official Elias Azaria pictured shortly after surveying an area earmarked for the construction of a hospital within the fenced tanzanite mining site at Mirerani yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Graduates to be 'exported' under skills partnership model

By Wachira Kigotho

CHRONIC unemployment of university graduates in Sub-Saharan Africa is driving universities and other tertiary institutions in the region into forming partnerships with some European countries to train middle-level migrant workers to fill skills shortages that exist in those foreign labour markets, as one way of reducing the number of jobless young graduates in most African countries.

Of concern is that many educated and skilled young African people cannot find meaningful work in their countries, either because their skills are not aligned to the needs of employers or because there is an absolute lack of jobs, ostensibly creating pressure for illegal migration towards Europe.

According to a report from the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Africa's Youth: Jobs or migration, the working-age population in Sub-Saharan Africa is booming and currently there are

about 16 million young Africans who are facing unemployment and who are ripe for migration.

To discourage irregular migration that leads young people to taking dangerous journeys through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, Nigeria has taken the first steps towards designing migration pathways with select countries in Europe, notably France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

In a road less travelled, selected universities and some tertiary institutions in Nigeria will be allocated public resources to train a large number of skilled professionals for overseas jobs.

According to a joint report by the World Bank and Centre for Global Development, Expanding Legal Migration Pathways from Nigeria to Europe: From brain drain to brain gain, published in July, the suggested global skills partnership model will prioritise graduate middle-level skills in health care, construction

management and information and communication technologies.

The European Commission has found that most of the shortages occur in six fields, namely: health care, construction, engineering, mechanics, ICT and hospitality, stated the report.

In their analysis, the authors of the report, Samik Adhikari, an economist at the World Bank, Nkechi Linda Ekeator, a labour migration consultant at the World Bank, and their associates from the Centre for Global Development, including Michael Clemens, a senior research fellow, and Helen Dempster, a senior associate for policy outreach, migration, displacement and humanitarian policy, stated that, although Nigeria is Africa's largest economy, most of its young graduates from the universities and technical institutes had been struggling to get well-paying jobs.

According to the World Bank, the number of international migrants

from Nigeria has increased from about 450,000 in 1990 to 1.4 million in 2019, as a result of steep unemployment rates.

But, whereas the global skills partnership between Nigeria and European countries has been described by Ylva Johansson, the European Union commissioner for home affairs, as the future of migration between Africa and Europe, there are fears that the model might fuel brain drain in Nigeria and other African countries that might be ready to export professional skilled labour.

The issue is that, while the partnership is targeting Nigerian tertiary institutions to use public resources to train nurses and other health care personnel for European countries, Nigeria's ratio of one nurse for every 1,135 in the population and one midwife for every 1,697 in the population is among the lowest in the world, which is similar to that of most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Innovation necessary for equal access to COVID-19 treatment

By Special Correspondent

THE international community should learn from the vaccine inequality seen during the Covid-19 pandemic to avoid repeating mistakes that could stifle access to treatments for the virus, a report says.

The report published by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi), a global non-profit research and development organisation, calls for increased political attention to and funding research for the development of Covid-19 medicines.

"We've seen major scientific advances and the development of technologies, particularly vaccines, at breakneck speed but we've also seen truly grotesque disparities in access to those vaccines," says

Monique Wasunna, director of DNDi's regional office for Africa.

Only 1.85 per cent of Africa's populations have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, according to Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, while many high-income countries have more than half of their populations vaccinated.

There is a risk that as high-income countries achieve high rates of vaccine coverage, their focus may shift almost entirely to investing in surveillance, testing and follow-up vaccination, adds Wasunna.

The report says: "The battle for equitable access to medical innovations has been raging since the mid-1990s, beginning with the struggle for global access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV, and repeating time and time again for other diseases - from hepatitis C and cancer to diabetes and Covid-19."

"Why is such a feat of science - resulting in life-saving technologies so soon after the emergence of a deadly global pandemic - benefiting only a fraction of those who need it?"

The report highlights a need for increased and sustained funding to drive innovations for tackling

diseases, and binding rules to govern research and development, as well as equitable access to essential health tools such as gloves, masks, intensive care beds and vaccines.

According to Wasunna, the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), a global collaboration to accelerate the development and delivery of COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines, has fallen short in critical ways. She believes unequal representation of policymakers, experts and civil society from low- and middle-income countries has resulted in a lack of prioritisation and funding for research driven by and in low- and middle-income countries.

"ACT-A should explicitly address intellectual property barriers and improved transparency of development, production, and supply, and support collaboration between ACT-A pillars to enable a 'test and treat' approach to early treatment," Wasunna said.

"We strongly support the proposal of South Africa and India to the World Trade Organization, which would allow countries to choose whether to grant or enforce patents and other intellectual property related to Covid-19 and to take other steps necessary to ensure open sharing of knowledge and data, including through technology transfer. "We urge other countries to support this proposal without delay."

Stakeholders in the ACT-A have proposed a strategic review of the initiative, which will consider any "challenges and gaps", according to an online statement by the World Health Organization, one of the partners.

Benjamin Kagana, a senior research officer at the Vaccines for Africa Initiative, University of Cape Town, South Africa, urges African countries, research institutions and scientists to stop working in isolation and form a solidarity collaboration model within Africa and the rest of the world to promote access to Covid-19 vaccines and treatments.

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Taking A New Look
At The News
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Reinstating primary school leavers to finish civil service careers is justified

OVER 4,000 former civil servants with primary school leaving qualifications doing lower-end jobs in the public sector, including cleaning, running errands and driving have been reinstated in their jobs after having been sent packing in the 'fake certificates' drive several years ago.

In media reports on the move announced by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on Wednesday, some confusion was evident between the 'fake certificates' removals and the issue of 'ghost workers', the latter an altogether different sphere of concern.

In the former context the issue concerns poorly qualified real employees, while in the latter numerous bureaucrats and at times members of the public swindle the State through fake salaries.

Admittedly, reinstating thousands of civil servants who were found to have cheated on their qualifications looks like abetting a wrong, but there are other parameters worth considering.

Former president Benjamin Mkapa had a special liking for a maxim commonly used in diplomacy: 'it takes two to tango'. The suggestion here is that the government has merely owned up that these people were employed and were working to the satisfaction of their employers and heads of department.

To say that the certificates of those 'cornered' and chucked out were false is one thing, while to accept that they were capable of doing the work assigned is another.

Were this matter to be put to legal debate, it could have zeroed in on whether the employees in question delivered on their official duties and thus could keep the jobs except for unexpected intrusion of certificates checking.

One can't say they had no case to answer, as employment is tied up

with qualifications so as to get the best people for the jobs.

But a broad section of the labour movement thought they were unjustly treated. They pleaded; the president listened, and on balance the government is compelled to listen to all quarters of public needs.

Addressing delegates at the Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) annual general meeting, the prime minister pointed out that the government has paid arrears amounting to 176bn/- to retired teachers.

These could be payments touched upon during this year's May Day celebrations, including the president's promise to work on those issues, and now the government has taken concrete action.

This gesture of "welcoming back home" civil servants axed earlier as well as hefty payments made to retired teachers will have its pluses and minuses. Instituting keen reforms will help the nation - the government, in particular - see how things work out in the years ahead.

When the government is doing less commerce and there are many corporate bodies, it will need more taxes and hire more teachers, nurses, medical doctors and even law enforcers.

Recent statistics showed huge gaps in the number of medical caregivers needed countrywide and what we have at present, even as the government moved to reverse the tide in the new financial year.

The point here is that awareness and mobilisation levels are such that each sphere of public welfare is capable of upsetting cohesion at the political level if not addressed as appropriate.

This is why the government needs to do the most it can to put its act together much more assertively but as justifiably so as to end with much higher revenue but without having this run at the expense of public welfare.

If well conducted, study on revenue shortfalls will see reform dividends

OPINION will likely be divided on a new move set out by the Treasury, where the government is constituting a team of experts to review the country's taxation system and establish why revenue collected is low despite reasonably elevated economic growth levels.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said on Wednesday that the ten-strong team, which includes economists and financial experts, will look into technical issues commonly blamed for the mismatch between revenue collection, expenditure and economic growth. Simply, growth is high, revenues are low and expenditure is high.

In social science research, whether it is economic policy or some other aspect of society, the old principle of 'you reap what you sow' will always apply.

In the main, it depends on assumptions put into the research to virtually determine its objectives and likely conclusions.

It is rare that research actually poses a question and seeks to go about finding out why it is the case. Rather, it first solves it and then proceeds to test that idea to make it capable of being demonstrated. How far it will be accepted will largely depend on actual or desired policy intentions.

One such impression that comes to mind is the maxim that 'we need to widen our tax base', as if up to now there are people eligible for tax payment but are not paying.

Experience in the past half year or so, much effort has gone into simplifying the range and collection

of taxes chiefly to make the country more hospitable to local and foreign investments.

This parameter is sort of missing in the preliminary statement of the problem, in which case it is taxes that are targeted on the basis of existing growth trends, which the framework of the question sees as satisfactory.

So there is a kind of probability that tax planners wish for a swing of the pendulum to more effective revenue collection, in contrast with the patience that the president has pronounced - that uplifting the local and foreign investment atmosphere will pay dividends.

Meanwhile, the study may even provide the pad from which to push economic reform even further. For instance, when it is said that public expenditure is still too high in that one-third of it goes into servicing the national debt; it can be compressed.

So there is some sort of trap in relation to the direction of investigation and the technical tools the minister talked about. This is because one trouble with technical approaches is that they could seek to generalise digital taxation, like the universal use of electronic fiscal devices virtually on all sorts of businesses except hawking.

That would be at variance with a positive atmosphere for investment. Therefore, nothing can be prejudged.

However, if the focus is directed at statutory expenditure like the national debt or inefficient spheres of the economy like public organisations which can yield big dividends if offloaded to the market, it may work.



Severe malaria in young children in Africa markedly cut by vaccinations, prophylaxis

By Special Correspondent

PROVIDING the world's first malaria vaccine RTS, S / ASOI for infantsE Pre-rainy season antimalarials could significantly reduce life-threatening malaria cases in Sahel, Africa. New England Journal of Medicine..

NS Randomized controlled trial London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and partners Institute de Recherche en Science de la Sante, Burkina Faso, and Malaria at Bamako University of Science and Technology in Mali Coordinated by the Research and Training Center.

It tracked about 6,000 children in Burkina Faso and Mali for 5 to 17 months. malaria. Three years later, a combination of seasonal antimalarial medications (known as seasonal malaria chemoprevention / SMC) and vaccination, compared to seasonal malaria chemoprevention, is a clinical episode of malaria, severe malaria as defined by WHO. Hospitalization and malaria deaths were reduced by about 70%. 1 person.. SMC is the approach currently used in both countries.

Researchers have found that this new combination approach has the potential to prevent malaria in most of Africa, where malaria is still prevalent and is seasonally transmitted, resulting in decision makers regarding the use of malaria vaccines. It states that it is important evidence for.

Seasonal vaccination with RTS, S / ASOIE It has also been found to be as effective as SMC's four annual courses in protecting against clinical malaria.

After nearly 20 years of progress, the decline in malaria cases and deaths has stagnated in many countries in recent years. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 World Malaria Report In 2019, there will be 229 million malaria cases, with an estimated 409,000 deaths from malaria, most of which occur in children under the age of five.

Professor Brian Greenwood of LSHTM and members of the research team said: "The world has made great strides in tackling malaria, but the pace of progress has slowed significantly in recent years. New intervention is urgently needed, especially in many parts of the Sahel. The burden of malaria South of Sahel, which remains very high.

"The purpose was to find out if it was RTS, S / ASOIE Giving the child three doses may be more effective in areas with seasonal infections vaccination Booster doses before



the malaria infection season and before the rainy season for the next few years. The results are very impressive and may pave the way for potential new approaches to malaria control."

In 2018, the World Health Organization and RBM Partnership for Malaria Eradication to launch a 'High Burden-High Impact' program focused on countries where malaria burden remains high and new approaches to malaria control are needed. Cooperated with each country. Six of the ten African countries participating in this program are located in Sahel and Subsahel in Africa, including Burkina Faso and Mali.

In these countries, malaria mainly occurs in just a few months of the year. SMC, which administers the antimalarial drugs sulfadoxine pyrimethamine and amodiaquine to infants every month during the rainy season, is very effective in preventing malaria. Nevertheless, malaria remains the leading cause of death and hospitalization among more than 20 million children under the age of 5 in most areas where SMC is currently deployed.

Large Phase 3 trials have previously shown that three RTS, S / ASOIE vaccines provide approximately 50% protection over a year. However, in the months immediately following vaccination, the efficacy is much higher, about 70%.

In this double-blind, randomized controlled trial, 6,000 children were divided into three intervention groups. One received RTS, S / ASOIE

The third of those who received vaccine only, SMC only, and those who received a combination of vaccine and SMC.2..

The team has a combination of RTS and S / ASOIE vaccination And SMC was more effective than either vaccine Or SMC only. Episodes of clinical malaria, hospitalization for severe malaria as defined by WHO, and death from malaria were reduced by 62.8%, 70.5%, and 72.9% in the combination group, respectively, compared to the SMC alone group. Similarly, these results were reduced by 59.6%, 70.6%, and 75.3% in the combination group, respectively, compared to the vaccine alone group.

Professor Daniel Chandramohan of LSHTM and members of the research team said: "The results of the study were much more successful than expected. Our study shows a combination approach using seasonal malaria vaccines. The lives of millions of young people in Sahel, Africa. It could save. Importantly, no new patterns of side effects were observed.

"Now, more research is needed to find out how to implement seasonal malaria vaccination on a large scale and most effectively."

There was some evidence that the efficacy of the combination intervention for clinical malaria was higher in the months following the primary vaccination than after the booster vaccination, but efficacy was seen in each year of the study.

The drugs currently used for SMC continue to be effective in the study area, but if resistance to

them increases in the absence of alternatives, seasonal vaccination with RTS, S / ASOI should be given. E It can be a potential solution.

Professor Jean Bosco Uedraogo of the Sante Institute of Science in Burkina Faso said: "We are truly proud of the contribution of the African research team to these wonderful results. This evidence is taken into account by decision makers as a new additional strategy to save the lives of children in Africa.

"Collaboration with partners between malaria endemic countries and in the north is essential to the success of malaria, including the Sahel countries. Our work is in this logic of north-south and north-south partnerships with these impressive successful results. It is a part."

Professor Alasan Dicco of the Malaria Research and Training Center (MRTC) in Mali and members of the research team said: E As effective as chemoprophylaxis of seasonal malaria. This new anti-malaria tool could mean that the disease is no longer the leading cause of death or hospitalization for the first time in our environment.

"This is great news for malaria control. We look forward to swift policy making and the addition of this new tool to reduce the intolerable burden of malaria in the region."

Dr. Pedro Alonso, Director of the WHO Global Malaria Program, said: In a groundbreaking pilot, more than 740,000 children who received regular pediatric vaccinations in Ghana, Kenya and Malaria received more than 2.1 million malaria vaccines.

"The level of family vaccine intake in a relatively short period of time demonstrates a strong community demand for vaccines and the ability of childhood immunization programs to deliver it."

In light of the initial positive results of this Phase 3 trial, children will continue the trial in assigned groups for an additional 1-2 years until they reach the age of 5 in Burkina Faso and Mali. You are eligible to receive an SMC. The results of this extended study will be available in 2022.

The authors acknowledge the limitations of the study, including achieving very high levels of coverage, as both antimalarials and RTS and S vaccines were administered under test conditions. If seasonal vaccination is recommended as a regular intervention in a country with high seasonal malaria, more studies will be conducted to determine how to perform this intervention most effectively within a routine program will become necessary.

Leadership training turns youth from supporters to leaders

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

ALI Choloni (30) is a man of many firsts. He is the youngest ever person to be elected chairman of his Kiwawa village located in Mandawa Ward, Kilwa District, Lindi Region.

After taking office in 2019 local government elections via CCM ticket, he collected 27mn/- in levies from various sources in two years—the highest amount the village has ever pocketed in such a short period of time since it was founded in 1964.

“The highest amounts of revenue recorded by previous leaders range between 2mn/- to 3mn/- per year,” he said during a recent interview.

But Choloni is not the only young leader shaking things in Kilwa District. Said Malenga (34) was also elected chairman of his Matandu Njenga hamlet located in Kilwa Kivinje ward.

He tussled with older folks in the primaries of his own party CCM before squaring it out with flag-bearers of other parties and finally emerged tops.

This list of young leaders also includes Hassan Kiseko who was elected chairman of Mitole Songosongo in Mitole Ward at just 34. He says he had a lot convincing to do to convince the electorate.

“I was not only young, I was a known opposition CUF cadre before joining CCM before the polls so many were suspicious of me,” he said.

All these young leaders are beneficiaries of Kilwa Local Rights Programme (LRP) which is implemented in the district by ActionAid Kilwa since 2018.

Under the LRP, a total of 574 youth from Mandawa, Kilwa Kivinje, Mitole, Njinjo, Kilwa Masoko, Miguruwe and Lihimaliao wards were trained on leadership, Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS), gender equality, organic farming, good governance, effects of corruption, budgeting, how to make traditional pesticides and how to access loan from funds allocated for youth by Kilwa District Council.

The beneficiaries were also trained on climate change and how to mitigate it, how to look for market for their farm produce. The programme provided the trainees with varieties of improved seeds as a capital.

Malenga said through the knowledge and skills gained from the training, he became confident enough to contest the seat that was by default, previously reserved for folks aged 50 and above.

To empower others, he has sensitized youth through hamlet meetings to utilize loans offered by Kilwa District Council through its Social Development Department.

So far, four economic empowerment groups namely Hunters groups, Tumaini Letu Umoja Women Group, Mapambano Group and Mama Lishe Group have been established at Matandu Hamlet.

The clusters are engaged in horticulture, grain mill-



Youth from Njinjo village Kilwa District attend Public Expenditure Tracking System (PETS) training which was conducted recently by ActionAid Kilwa with support from ActionAid Tanzania. Photo: Beatrice Philemon

ing projects, motorcycle taxi business as well as food vending.

“All the groups are doing well as none has defaulted on loan and for me this is a huge achievement,” he said.

As for Choloni, since his election victory, he says he has been able to introduce a new leadership style at Kiwawa village of holding general meeting every three months in which revenue and expenditure reports are read.

“Previously, the mandatory meetings were held but financial reports were not made public; when I came to office, I made that mandatory and that has been well received,” he said.

Choloni said the biggest benefit he got from the training was turning from a shy man who could not stand before a crowd and utter a word to an orator who held public rallied and got elected.

Kilwa Youth Development Initiative (KIYODI) Chairman Justine Lai who is also a beneficiary of the training said after receiving the education in 2018 they formed the organization to among others, encourage youth to contest leadership position.

“In the 2019 local government elections, a total of 21 members of KIYODI contested various leadership positions and six won,” he said.

Before Action Aid Kilwa’s intervention with the train-

ing, participation of youth in politics was negligible as they were mainly used by old folks to marshal support during campaigns.

Local Rights Programme Officer Joyce John said ActionAid Kilwa is currently working with youth through reflection cycles and KIYODI in all eight villages to help them effectively participate not only in politics but other areas that affect development in one way or the other.

“Things have really changed here for the better and because it is youth who hold keys for the future, I believe there are better things to come,” she said.

What the Pfizer-approval story says about US media ecosystem

By Jon Allsop

IN recent weeks, amid broader questions about the surge of the Delta coronavirus variant in the US and the vaccination campaign to counter it, journalists have periodically pressed health officials as to when the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) might fully approve the vaccines, which had been administered, up to now, under emergency-use authorisation.

Two weeks ago, ABC’s George Stephanopoulos asked Francis Collins, the director of the US National Institutes of Health, whether the FDA “needs to be doing more”.

Collins assured him that the agency was working “twenty-four seven” on the approval process, then stressed that there was already “incredible evidence” for the vaccines’ safety and effectiveness – and urged the unvaccinated to get a shot immediately.

“If you’re on the fence, get off the fence. Go,” Collins said.

Late last week, the New York Times reported that the FDA hoped to approve Pfizer and BioNTech’s vaccine for US adults as soon as this Monday, accelerating its self-imposed Labour Day deadline, and that was exactly what happened.

The approval was a huge story across the mainstream media landscape, knocking the crisis in Afghanistan off the top of many news homepages and TV bulletins.

“We begin tonight with a major breakthrough in a different type of forever war,” Joy Reid said on Monday, at the top of her show on MSNBC – “the war against COVID-19”.

Stories about the approval usually cited two main reasons for its importance: the possibility that it might assuage the concerns of some vaccine skeptics, and the extra cover it would give employers to mandate vaccination among their staff.

A number of institutions, including the US military, were quick to make use of the cover. Some

reporters and commentators balanced the two reasons; others emphasized one over the other. Reid described the approval as “a shift from a vaccine push to a vaccine must”.

Those who focused on the first reason often cited recent polling, from the Kaiser Family Foundation, suggesting that around three in ten unvaccinated Americans might be more likely to get a shot if it were formally approved.

Others cautioned against placing too much faith in that figure, noting Kaiser’s own caveat that it might be “a proxy for general safety concerns”.

The explanation given here was that a large majority of unvaccinated respondents to its poll either thought that the vaccines were approved already or didn’t know one way or another.

“The news of the full authorisation would seem to be likely to push familiarity with that status higher,” Aaron Blake wrote, in the Washington Post.

“From there, it’s about whether that actually makes the difference for enough people. Being ‘more likely’ to get the vaccine doesn’t mean you’ll do it,” he added.

Alison Buttenheim, an expert on vaccine hesitancy at the University of Pennsylvania, told the Times that we’re likely talking here about “a vanishingly small number of people in real life”.

In general, the coverage of the approval channelled a contradiction of sorts. The story is premised on institutional credibility – if the FDA weren’t a trustworthy messenger, its approval would be meaningless.

And yet the main reasons the story matters are inextricably bound up with persistently high rates of vaccine skepticism in America, a phenomenon that is itself inextricable from widespread distrust of credible institutions. What’s more, the reasons pull in opposite directions, offering a carrot and wielding a stick.

This is not to say that the approv-



al isn’t a big story, or to criticize the coverage. Nor are the contradictions here irreconcilable – indeed, they could actually help the press to tease out the diversity of fears and motivations among vaccine skeptics, some of whom may respond better to carrots and others to sticks.

As I’ve written before, coverage of vaccine skeptics has sometimes had an unhelpful flattening effect – tarring them all with the same brush of irrational, Trump-loving crazy.

Nonetheless, the contradictions here do illuminate some truths about our information environment. One has to do with how different outlets respond to institutional cues.

The same mainstream outlets that treated the FDA’s verdict as big news in and of itself have also, by and large, made it clear from the beginning that the vaccines are safe and effective.

They also generally serve audiences that are already vaccinated at higher rates than the country at large and, on the whole, are probably more likely to trust government authorities – especially under President Biden.

By contrast, outlets (notably on the right) whose

coverage has been more skeptical of the vaccines were never likely to do a U-turn based on the word of Biden’s FDA.

According to CNN’s Brian Stelter, Fox News covered the approval story much less than CNN and MSNBC on Monday – and some network voices who did talk about it brought a skeptical tone, including by renewing their opposition to vaccine mandates. Laura Ingraham, a host, said that Biden was using the approval “to take away your rights”. Marty Makary, a guest, meanwhile suggested that the administration had manipulated the approval and other Covid-19 stories to distract attention from Afghanistan.

“They can sit here and confirm and make official whatever they want. It doesn’t change the fact that there are people who have questions,” Dana Loesch, a right-wing radio host, said on a Fox show hosted by Jesse Watters.

At one point, two Fox hosts asked within a minute of each other whether the FDA’s decision was “rushed” and “what took so long?”

The dissonance was widely mocked online. But it spoke, in a sense, to another apparent contra-

dition in coverage of the approval – the FDA has, in fact, moved both quickly and slowly, depending on how you define those terms.

Again, different commentators emphasized different definitions, with some stressing that the FDA accelerated its processes compared to how long it typically takes to approve a vaccine and others arguing that it didn’t go fast enough to meet this moment of acute crisis.

David Leonhardt, of the Times, wrote – in an article headlined “FDA, not FDR” – that “American history is rich with examples of government officials doing what the FDA decided not to do in this case: overhaul their process in a time of crisis”.

The debate is a new iteration of one that has recurred in media coverage throughout the pandemic: the proper balance between rigour and urgency.

It’s another example, too, of scientific processes that would normally not attract much media attention playing out under a spotlight of harsh scrutiny – changing public perceptions of routine procedures and, sometimes, altering incentives for decision-makers.

Progress that looks quick in the cool light of history can look glacial in the glare of the twenty-four-hour cable news cycle.

The historic speed of the approval arguably makes it an important story regardless of its immediate impact on vaccine skepticism. But the feeling persists that, in a country with a more responsible, better-adjusted information ecosystem – and much higher levels of early vaccine uptake – the approval would probably not have been seen as that big a deal.

The mainstream news media are part of that ecosystem, even if they aren’t responsible for its worst ills. The approval hasn’t been the only FDA story in the news this week – the agency also responded to reports that some Americans have been taking ivermectin, an anti-parasitic drug that is typically given to livestock, to ward off the coronavirus.

“You are not a horse...You are not a cow. Seriously, you all. Stop it,” the FDA wrote in a tweet.

“The eye-catching putdown echoed, predictably, through many a headline – offering a stark contrast to the institutional sobriety of the approval story. It was yet another jarring tonal clash in an era that has been full of them.

Fauci apologises for saying US may not get Covid under control until autumn 2022

By Zachary Stieber

Dr Anthony Fauci, US President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, on Monday apologised for indicating that the United States might not get Covid-19 under control for about a year.

In an interview on NPR, Fauci said that if things went well, including more people getting vaccinated against the virus that causes Covid-19, then "as we get into the autumn and the winter, we could start to really get some good control over this as we get into 2022".

"I have to apologise. When I listened to the tape, I meant to say the spring of 2022. So I did misspeak," he said later on CNN.

"In the conversation with Mary Louise Kelly, she was saying, when do I think we can get some control?" he noted, adding: "I said if we can get through this winter and get really the majority, overwhelming majority, of the 90 million people who have not been vaccinated, I hope we could start to get some good control in the spring of 2022. I didn't mean the autumn. I misspoke, my bad."

Alongside being President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, Fauci is the longtime director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. He frequently appears on television programs to discuss developments in the US response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fauci has received criticism for misspeaking a number of times, and for acknowledging that he misled the American public on the issue of masks early in the



Dr Anthony Fauci listens as President Joe Biden speaks at the White House in Washington, on August 10, 2021. Photo: Jim Watson/AFP via Getty Images

ber of times, and for acknowledging that he misled the American public on the issue of masks early in the

pandemic because of concern over mask supply.

"When he's pressed about the number for herd immunity, at first, it was 60 per cent, then all the way up to 90 per cent. When people asked him, 'Why does your goal-post keep moving?' he says: 'Well, I feel like the American people are now ready to hear what I have to say,'" Dr Nicole Saphier said on The Epoch Times' "American Thought Leaders" programme in June.

The change in Fauci's position from the autumn to the spring of next year also drew some criticism, with Dr James Todaro, a partner in Greymatter Capital, writing on Twitter: "Cases always plummet in the spring - regardless of vaccination."

Fauci was speaking after US drug regulators granted approval to Pfizer's Covid-19 shot.

Approximately 61 per cent of the total US population, or 201.7 million people, had gotten at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose as of this Monday (August 23), ac-

ording to US federal data. People 12 years old or older can get a vaccine.

Fauci said he believes that approximately 20 per cent of the roughly 90 million Americans who have not been vaccinated against the virus will now get vaccinated because of the approval.

One way to motivate people to get vaccinated, he added, is the imposition of vaccine mandates.

"I think you're going to see a lot more mandates and hopefully a combination of people who, on their own, decide because of this stamp of approval that they want to get vaccinated, combined with the mandates that we may be able to make a big dent in that 90 million people or so who are eligible but not vaccinated," he said.

Biden, a Democrat, called on American companies to implement vaccine mandates during a speech on Monday.

Fauci also said he was hopeful and was looking forward to returning to normalcy, but claimed that a return to normal was "up to us".

"And when I say up to us, I mean it's really how many people get vaccinated, how many people step up and say, you know, we've had enough of this, we've got to put an end to this terrible outbreak that has completely disrupted our lives," he said on "CBS This Morning" on Tuesday.

On the issue of herd immunity, or the number of people who have been vaccinated and who enjoy immunity against the coronavirus owing to their having recovered from Covid-19, Fauci said it's still not clear.

"You don't know whether that's 80, 85, or 90 per cent. You just don't know," the doctor, who has largely ignored the growing body of science on natural immunity, said.

"And when you don't know, the thing to do is to just do whatever you can to get as many people vaccinated as you can. And when you reach that point, you'll know it, because you won't have any infections."

Zachary Stieber covers US news, including politics.

Need to keep close eye on CX as Covid-19 drives digital transformation in East Africa

By Marko Reis

THE socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been devastating for most parts of the world, with East Africa no exception and seeing far-reaching effects across most industry sectors.

Before the outbreak of the coronavirus, East Africa was the continent's fastest-growing region - with an average economic growth of 5 per cent per year. This plunged to 0.9 per cent in 2020 but is expected to increase to at least 3 per cent this year, according to a Deloitte paper.

Nonetheless, the damaging effects of the pandemic ushered in the new normal and had the unintended consequence of accelerating the pace of digital transformation in many East African countries.

Having been a buzzword for several years, digital transformation became a necessity for organisations that had to abruptly change how they operate and how they meet growing consumer needs.

Fundamentally, digital transformation is a huge process that enables many opportunities for businesses, even for those that have never considered going digital. For most businesses, once they see what technology is capable of today and where it will be tomorrow, there is simply no turning back.

However, to be effective, digital transformation must always be coupled with a focus on customer experience (CX), the explanation being that customer expectations have evolved and grown rap-



idly over the past few years.

Targeted and personalised

An organisation's strategy to effectively enhance CX should include a strong focus on targeted and personalised communication. The modern customer no longer wants to be a number in a budget or to be seen as a "revenue bringer".

Customers expect to experience some type of contextual empathy from the brands they communicate with. At the same time, organisations must also ensure that they effectively utilise the data they pull in from personalised communications, further enhancing the CX by understanding a customer's preferences and interests based on these past interactions.

Unfortunately, brands often utilise customer information on a very shallow basis, resulting in customers being bombarded with irrelevant offers

and information that the customer isn't interested in.

All too often, companies spend lots of money on communication or communication tools to pass irrelevant information onto their customers.

From a customer's perspective, this means sending out the wrong message and customers may feel that the brand doesn't know them. This can easily prompt them to switch to an organisation that does this better.

We also see that while many companies have "Know Your Customer" processes in place, this is largely done as a regulatory compliance measure. Few companies take the time to leverage this data to get closer to their customers to provide a more efficient and effective CX.

Furthermore, many companies still insist on working in silos, where different departments have separate budgets, key performance indicators

(KPIs), as well as their own goals and targets.

Therefore, what digital transformation might mean for an IT department might not be the same for marketing, with the result that there are multiple simultaneous projects being driven across different departments.

The end result is that the customer will not perceive any difference, as digital transformation in this case would be little more than a box-ticking exercise that does not solve any specific problems.

By extension, if your CX was not up to par before - this is not the desired outcome. In fact, the disparate messaging coming out of these different departments would be confusing for customers and would do little to improve CX.

Mismatch

It is sad that there are still some companies in the East African region that still live in the pre-Covid-19 era, as markets lack knowledge about what can be achieved with new technology. Thus, there is often a mismatch between what the market expects and what companies think the market needs and wants.

In the circumstances, while many still cling to the old way of doing things, customers are rapidly losing interest in these brands.

It is important that organisations move away from inflexible, expensive and difficult-to-manage legacy systems when they decide to implement digital transformation, and instead look to new technology solutions.

It is also strongly recommended that organisations

stop operating in silos, with different departments chasing different goals. These disparate divisions will likely pursue different digitalisation projects, which in the end will have no impact on the customer.

It is then that digital transformation simply becomes a box-ticking exercise unable to solve any problems.

Digital transformation is a huge process and, in the hands of the wrong tech partner, can also be complex. Thus, it must be implemented and measured in the right way.

It is not recommended that organisations attempt the implementation themselves. While it might seem like the cheaper option, organisations often end up spending more than they anticipated when they run into difficulties.

Ideally, companies should look for a partner that will act as a trusted advisor, consultant and solution provider to guide them along this journey. At the same time, partners should educate the market about digital transformation instead of merely focusing on sales when the market jumps on a specific hype train.

Organisations in the East African region must move with the times. The 'new normal' is not going anywhere - and there is no going back to the usual way of doing things.

Digital transformation has the potential to bring many new opportunities to modern enterprises, but CX must remain an integral part of their digitisation strategies.

Marko Reis (pictured) is Regional Manager - East Africa at Infobip.



CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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New study shows where to focus efforts to save long-neglected small mammals

By Special Correspondent

BOTH the mouse and the shrew are critically endangered species. But if you haven't heard of them, you're not alone.

Many small-bodied mammals, those typically weighing less than a kilogram (2.2 pounds), still remain poorly studied and understood, even by researchers and conservationists.

This is despite the fact that two small-mammal groups – Rodentia (animals like rats, mice, beavers, porcupines, chipmunks, marmots, voles and muskrats) and Eulipotyphla (shrews, moles, hedgehogs and solenodons, among others) – together contain nearly half of all known mammal species.

Now, a new study has published an updated picture of both super-diverse mammalian groups. By mapping the distributions of rodents and eulipotyphlans, using the latest information from the IUCN Red List, researchers have identified hotspots where all of the globally threatened species from the two groups occur.

They've also identified regions that are home to rodents and eulipotyphlans whose conservation status is currently classified as data deficient, or DD. These are species for which we don't have sufficient knowledge about population, distribution, or threats to their survival. In the absence of this information, we don't know their conservation status.

"We hope that this study helps to direct people to hotspots where their actions can have the maximum impact," said Rosalind J. Kennerley, the lead author of the study and co-chair of the IUCN's specialist group for small mammals. "We'd like to see more people both choosing to do research on small mammals and of course taking part in

active conservation efforts to conserve them."

Being tiny has meant that many threatened rodents and eulipotyphlans are sliding toward extinction unnoticed. About 76 of the known 454 eulipotyphlan species are globally threatened. These include animals that are one of a kind, like the only two living species of the solenodon, one of the few venomous mammals on our planet. The Cuban solenodon (*Atopogalecubana*) is currently listed as endangered.

The study found that almost 40% of the at-risk eulipotyphlan species occur within just six regions: Cameroon, the Albertine Rift (covering parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda), Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, and the Southwestern Ghats in India.

When it comes to rodents, 324 of the 2,231 known species are threatened with extinction. Nearly 34% of these threatened species are found in 10 regions, including Mexico, the Cameroon Highlands, Southwestern Ghats, Sri Lanka, Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, and Java.

The forests and deserts of Mexico, for instance, are home to 27 threatened species, including eight critically endangered ones, like the big pocket gopher (*Orthogeomys laianus*).

"We suspected that we would see these overall findings, but the number of hotspots still came as a wake-up call," Kennerley told Mongabay in an email. "We have an enormous task on our hands to ensure small mammals are on the conservation agenda in all of these regions."

Small mammals are, however, rarely the focus of conservation programs, the authors write. Even protected areas are seldom designed with mice, moles, shrews or other small mammals in mind.



"In general small mammals are relatively ignored if you compare them with some of the more obvious charismatic large mammals," Kennerley said. "Megafaunas tend to be the ones where there's more media coverage, there's greater amounts of research, and there's certainly more funding directed towards them. That inevitably means that when protected areas are being created and managed, it's the larger species which people consider rather than the smaller ones."

That's not to say that small mammals don't have any formal protection. Protected areas established for larger, more charismatic species do sometimes include the ranges of small mammals in the area.

"No doubt, rodents and shrews do not get the love they deserve," Stuart Pimm, the Doris Duke professor of conservation at Duke University, who was not involved in the study, told Mongabay in an email. "But, we may be doing a good job of protecting them anyway."

Pimm and his colleagues have previously mapped the distribution of small mammals and found that the world's protected areas, both small and large, at least partially protect the ranges of several small mammals.

Even then, living inside a protected area doesn't guarantee protection, especially if conservation and research efforts in the parks remain focused solely on the larger mammals, while their smaller counterparts continue to be ignored. Moreover, just because a protected area exists on paper, it doesn't necessarily mean that that area is

indeed well protected, said Kennerley. "On the ground there could be many different activities happening to damage species and habitats." Overall, the study found that five eulipotyphlans, such as the Scater's shrew, Phillips' Congo shrew (*Congosorexphillipsorum*) and the Andaman spiny shrew (*Croci-durahispida*), and 44 rodents, such as the Elvira rat (*Cremnomyselvira*) and the emperor rat (*Uromys imperator*), have ranges that fall completely outside of any protected areas.

Clearly, small mammals are an understudied lot. But knowing which ones are threatened and where those species live can be useful to plan and kick-start conservation actions to better protect them, the authors say.

For several rodents and eulipotyphlan species, though, we have almost no information: nearly 17% of species in the two groups are currently listed as data deficient by the IUCN. That's a higher percentage than mammals as a whole, where about 14% are listed as data deficient. Their populations could be increasing or declining. Some species may even be nearly extinct – we simply don't know.

One big reason why small mammals are studied less is because, well, they're small, Pimm said. "And they are often nocturnal, which makes things even worse."

Many small mammals also live in hard-to-access landscapes. Then there's the complexity of taxonomy, the science of describing and classifying different species. With the availability of better techniques

to study taxonomy, what were once considered single species are now known to be made up of several, Kennerley said. "Whilst we are learning more about the true diversity within these, there is often still not a huge amount of information known about the newly described species, meaning that they are often listed as DD."

According to the study, most data-deficient eulipotyphlan species occur within three regions: the Congo Basin, southern and central China, and Laos and Vietnam. On the other hand, most data-deficient rodents occur within 18 regions, including in the northern tropical Andes, Argentina, Brazil, Borneo, Sulawesi and New Guinea.

"In regions of high aggregations of DD species we want to encourage more researchers to focus on small mammals and undertake ecology studies," Kennerley said. Knowing where these species are distributed, what their population trends look like, the kinds of habitats they prefer, and the threats they face, would be crucial to moving them out of the data deficient category, she added.

The authors say they hope the study will not just get people excited about working with small mammals, but also encourage funders to invest in conservation or research projects focusing on these long-neglected but species-rich animal groups.

"It's great to now have this objective research to call upon, so that when we speak to potential funders, we can confidently explain why small mammals matter and be able to show proof of why certain regions or species are important to focus on," Kennerley said.

"The diversity of small mammals is amazing, so the more people we can get enthused, the better!"

AfDB's Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund provides more than \$7.3 million for youth jobs and skills

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank Group (AfDB) has approved eight project proposals to receive funding in an important milestone for its Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy.

Approved proposals will receive grant funding of more than \$7.3 million to operationalize their activities, creating several new enterprises and an estimated 20,000 jobs for youth across the continent.

Several of the approved proposals were submitted in response to a call from the Human Capital, Youth and Skills

Development Department (AHHD) through the Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund (<https://bit.ly/3gw7LvF>) late last year. Bank offices, complexes and departments from across regional member countries submitted nearly 24 proposals for committee review.

Themes submitted included capacity building for entrepreneurs, climate change, gender, affordable housing, food security, migration and textiles, with the common thread of creating decent jobs for young women and men.

"The diverse range of themes

and interests demonstrates the degree that our Bank peers understand that creating jobs for Africa's growing youth population is a cross-cutting issue to be factored into operations across the continent," said Martha Phiri, Director of the Bank's Human Capital, Youth and Skills Department. "The Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund is increasingly viewed as a destination resource for financing our scale up efforts to create decent jobs for young women and men," she added.

The Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy calls for the integra-

tion of jobs and skills for youth across Bank operations to maximize the impact on increasing employment opportunities. It specifically mandates embedding youth employment into Bank plans, projects, staff training and systems, and increasing the Bank's influence and support in regional member countries. One of the projects approved is leveraging technical collaboration with the International Labor Organization to develop the Bank's employment marker.

Approved projects include business development support for agricultural entrepreneurs

selling online in Malawi and Zimbabwe, training to help staff members of Libya's Ministry of Labour better meet the needs of young entrepreneurs including women and people living with disabilities, an online training and accelerator program for entrepreneurs in the textile, apparel and accessories industries, and an initiative to boost job creation in climate change adaptation and resilience in Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Guinea, Morocco, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Chad, Gabon and South Africa.

The Youth Entrepreneurship

and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund provides project preparation and co-financing for Bank projects and places great emphasis on employability, entrepreneurship and job creation through enterprise and value chain development. The Fund has also supported countries that implement policies conducive to private sector development and youth employment. Also in line with the Bank's commitments under the fifteenth replenishment of the African Development Fund-the concessional window of the African Development Bank Group-the call

for project proposals reflects the Human Capital, Youth and Skills Development Department's strategic intent to leverage and integrate youth employment and employability into the Bank's operations in African Development Fund countries.

Launched in November 2017, the Fund promotes the creation of sustainable jobs for young Africans by equipping youth and women-led start-ups, as well as micro, small and medium enterprises with the skills, financial support and enabling environments to run bankable businesses.

Madagascar gets to the brink of climate change-induced famine

By Special Correspondent

MADAGASCAR is on the brink of experiencing the world's first "climate change famine", according to the United Nations, which says tens of thousands of people are already suffering "catastrophic" levels of hunger and food insecurity after four years without rain.

The drought - the worst in four decades - has devastated isolated farming communities in the south of the country, leaving families to scavenge for insects to survive.

"These are famine-like conditions and they're being driven by climate not conflict," said the UN World Food Programme's Shelley Thakral.

The UN estimates that 30,000 people are currently experiencing the highest internationally recognised level of food insecurity - level five - and there are concerns the number affected could rise sharply as Madagascar enters the traditional "lean season" before harvest.

"This is unprecedented. These people have done nothing to contribute to climate change. They don't burn

fossil fuels... and yet they are bearing the brunt of climate change," said Ms Thakral.

In the remote village of Fandiova, in Amboasary district, families recently showed a visiting WFP team the locusts that they were eating.

"I clean the insects as best I can but there's almost no water," said Tamarina, a mother of four, who goes by one name.

"My children and I have been eating this every day now for eight months because we have nothing else to eat and no rain to allow us to harvest what we have sown," she added.

"Today we have absolutely nothing to eat except cactus leaves," said Bole, a mother of three, sitting on the dry earth.

She said her husband had recently died of hunger, as had a neighbour, leaving her with two more children to feed.

"What can I say? Our life is all about looking for cactus leaves, again and again, to survive."

Improve water management
Although Madagascar experi-



ences frequent droughts and is often affected by the change in weather patterns caused by El Niño, experts believe climate change can be directly linked to the current crisis.

"With the latest IPCC report we saw that Madagascar has observed an increase in aridity. And that is expected to increase if climate change continues.

"In many ways this can be seen as a very powerful

argument for people to change their ways," said Dr Rondo Barimalala, a Madagascar scientist working at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

Viewing the same atmospheric data at Santa Barbara University in California, director of the Climate Hazards Center, Chris Funk, confirmed the link with "warming in the atmosphere", and said the Madagascar authorities needed to work to improve water

management.

"We think there's a lot that can be done in the short term. We can often forecast when there's going to be above normal rains and farmers can use that information to increase their crop production. We're not powerless in the face of climate change," he added.

The current drought's impact is now being felt in larger towns in southern Madagascar too, with many children forced to beg on the streets for food.

"The prices in the market are going up - three or four times. People are selling their land to get some money to buy food," added Tsina Endor, who works for a charity, Seed, in Tolanaro.

Her colleague, Lomba Hasoavana, said he and many others had taken to sleeping in their cassava fields to try to protect their crops from people desperate for food, but this had become too dangerous.

"You could risk your life. I find it really, really hard because every day I have to think about feeding myself and my family," he said, adding: "Everything is so unpredictable about the weather now. It's a huge, huge question mark - what will happen tomorrow?"

Can Zambia's ex-governing party bounce back after poll defeat?

LUSAKA

AS the Patriotic Front (PF) departs from the throne of governing Zambia, questions have started arising on whether the party will be able to survive and possibly come back into power.

There is no doubt that the future of the party hangs in balance if events after the bitter loss in the just-ended elections are anything to go unless the party takes drastic measures to re-organise itself.

The PF, which has been governing Zambia since 2011, lost power to the United Party for National Development (UPND) during the Aug. 12 general elections.

On the other hand, the party suffered losses in its strongholds where the UPND made inroads by grabbing both parliamentary, local government and mayoral seats.

A number of the party's senior members, including former ministers, lost their parliamentary seats.

Questions have since started being raised as to whether the party will be able to survive after losing power given that the situation has been worsened following reports that incumbent party President Lungu may not continue as leader of the party.

A number of party members have already started leaving the party, with most of them joining the now governing UPND.

The questions are being asked considering that two former governing parties have not been the same after

losing power.

Both United National Independence Party (UNIP), which ruled Zambia from 1964 when the country got independence and the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) which succeeded it are currently only existing on paper with no representation at either parliamentary or local government level.

Party members have since started calling for an overhaul of the current leaders in Central Committee, the party's governing council, over its poor performance in the just-ended elections.

Party members are especially calling for the firing of the secretary-general whom they are accusing of being behind the dismal performance in the elections.

The members are especially angered that the selection of candidates to contest parliamentary seats was flout with corruption, resulting in strong party candidates being sidelined.

This resulted in the sidelined candidates standing as independents, with most of them winning in constituencies where they stood.

The party youths are appalled that the executive committee decided to hold a meeting to review the party's performance during the elections and to chart a way forward.

The executive committee met on Aug. 21, where it was agreed that the party should conduct an introspection and postmortem to establish what could have caused its loss in the just-ended elections. Given Lubinda,



Immediate former Zambian president Edgar Lungu

who was appointed as new Chairperson for Information and Publicity at the meeting, said the introspection shall take the form of candid review of all policies, occurrences, statements and all other omissions and commissions made especially by

those entrusted with the mandate to provide leadership.

He told reporters during a press briefing that the review process will commence within the shortest possible time, adding that lessons learned will help the party make necessary

amends.

Lubinda, who expressed confidence that the party will bounce back, added that the party still has a strong base with a number of lawmakers and councilors.

Antonio Mwanza, who was ap-

pointed as the party's National Youth Chairman, also expressed optimism that the party will bounce back, adding that the party has learned lessons from the loss.

He said the postmortem to be undertaken will be based on an internal analysis, adding that it will be a continuous process that will help the party chart a way forward. "We have learned a lot from this election and we will continue with our retrospection. It will be an honest analysis of what went on internally," he said in an interview with a private television, Diamond TV.

But party youths believe that the party needs a complete overhaul if it will have any chances of bouncing back.

Indeed, as the main opposition political party, it will injurious to the country's democratic dispensation if it is allowed to die.

Despite the country having over 30 political parties, many of them only exist on paper. Renowned constitutional lawyer John Sangwa says the party should not be allowed to die because the country's democratic system needs strong opposition political parties for it to work effectively.

According to him, there is a need to get rid of the culture of destroying political parties through defections and mismanagement of political organizations.

The PF, he said, needs to rebrand and re-organize itself after losing elections instead of sinking into oblivion.

Xinhua

China will work with Africa to formulate, implement China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation

ON Tuesday, Assistant Foreign Minister Deng Li introduced China's proposals for the China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation at the China-Africa Internet Development and Cooperation Forum.

Deng (pictured) said that President Xi Jinping stressed that China will explore broader cooperation with Africa in such new business forms as digital economy, smart city, and 5G at the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 last year. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the proposal for China and Africa to cooperate in building a Digital Africa during his visit to Africa earlier this year. China is ready to work with Africa to formulate and implement a China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation.

First, strengthening the digital infrastructure to unclog the information artery of economic and social development. China will share its digital technologies with Africa to promote digital infrastructure connectivity. Chinese enterprises will be encouraged to

work with their African partners to participate in digital infrastructure projects including fiber optic backbone networks, cross-border connectivity and new-generation mobile communication networks. China will also help expand Internet access in Africa's remote areas to connect the last mile of the information network.

Second, growing the digital economy to promote integrated development of digital technologies and the real economy. China will support Africa in raising the level of digitization in the public and corporate sectors and promoting industrialization by applying new technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and mobile payment. China will strengthen e-commerce cooperation with Africa to bring more quality African products into the Chinese market, and leverage cross-border e-commerce to speed up the integration of Africa's information and industrial chains.

Third, promoting digital education to overcome the "talent bottleneck" that constrains digi-



tal innovation. China will implement the "Talented Young Scientist Program", the "Cirrus Innovative Talent Exchange Program" and other initiatives to step up China-Africa cooperation on distance education and provide further support for Africa in training young talents in digital-related fields. China will also encourage Chinese enterprises to enhance exchanges and cooperation with Africa's digital innovation

professionals.

Fourth, promoting digital inclusiveness to benefit the wider African public. China will support African countries in applying digital technologies to transportation, medical care, finance and other livelihood areas, building "smart cities", and leveraging digital technologies to strengthen state governance and control the pandemic.

Chinese enterprises will be encouraged to participate in the development of Africa's public service platforms such as e-government networks and e-payment and digital currency services.

Fifth, jointly upholding digital security and enhancing digital governance capacity. China welcomes African countries' participation in the Initiative on Jointly Building a Community With a Shared Future in Cyberspace and the Global Initiative on Data Security. China stands ready to work with the African side to strengthen dialogue and communication in such areas as cybersecurity emergency response and Internet-related legislation, shape an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for digital development, and explore and formulate global rules on digital governance.

Sixth, building cooperation platforms to promote digital progress through exchanges. China stands ready to explore with Africa the establishment of a high-level dialogue platform on China-Africa digital cooperation, and strengthen communication and exchanges with African governments and organizations

such as Smart Africa. China will continue to host activities such as the "China Innovation Tour for African Young Scientists" and support the building of the China-Africa Innovation Cooperation Center.

Deng stressed that China's initiatives are not empty visions that stay only on paper. China will work with the African side to formulate and implement this partnership right away and strive for early harvests. With the support of the Chinese side, several fiber optic backbone network projects will soon be implemented. In September, the "African Products Online Promoting Season" and China-Africa BDS Cooperation Forum will be held in succession.

China will also work with Africa to make plans for the digital cooperation initiatives to be launched in the next three years, which will be included in the outcome document of the next FOCAC meeting.

The forum, hosted by the Cyberspace Administration of China, was attended by ministerial-level officials from African countries and the African Union Commission in charge of digital and telecommunications affairs, diplomatic envoys to China, Chinese and African scholars and entrepreneurs.

Agencies

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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APM TERMINALS: NO MORE INTEREST IN DAR PORT'S CONTAINER TERMINAL

By Property Watch Reporter

NETHERLANDS based APM Terminals which operates a number of ports in Africa, has said it has no immediate plans to manage Dar es Salaam Port's container terminal after the expiry of the contract between the Tanzania Ports Authority and Tanzania International Container Terminal Services in 2025.

APM's Senior Press Officer, Marko Mihaji said in an email response this week that so far The Hague headquartered company is busy concentrating on improving operations at several ports that it operates in Africa.

"Of course we always investigate potential upcoming opportunities in markets where we are not present, but at the moment there is no specific engagement in Tanzania," Mihaji said saying however that currently he has little information on the topic.

In 2012, APM Terminals had contacted Ministry of Transport seeking to invest at Dar es Salaam Port Berth 13 and 14 but failed to do so because officials were in working with an unknown Chinese firm which wanted to invest billions of shillings.

The then APM Terminals Vice President responsible for business development, Hans Ole Madsen said the company failed to reach a deal with Tanzania Ports Authority and Ministry of Transport to invest in Berths 13 and 14.



Dar es Salaam Port's container terminal, which has been under Ticts since 2000.

"APM Terminals have made various suggestions to Tanzania Ports Authority including

assisting TPA on berths 5-6-7 where they currently operate. In addition APM Terminals

have offered to take on the construction of berths 13-14 but the feedback we have so

far from the Transport Ministry is that there are ongoing discussions with Chinese com-

panies, which have given similar offers," Madsen said in an electronic message.

He said the Ministry of Transport is currently re-visiting the company's proposals to acquire Berths 13 and 14 and that APM Terminals sees a lot of promise in the port of Dar es Salaam where only TPA and Tanzania International Container Terminal Services handle cargo. "We believe that it can only benefit the port and the country to have the entry of another world-class port operator, which would introduce competition at the port to the benefit of all port users," he noted.

As part of A.P.Moller-Maersk, APM Terminals currently operates Côte d'Ivoire Terminal and Tema Port in Ghana. The conglomerate also operates ports in Costa Rica, Italy and the US. "We invested US\$ 438m in our terminals, with the largest investments being a terminal modernisation project in Los Angeles, USA, and equipment replacements," the group said in a recent report.

During 2020, investments continued with the development of our new Côte d'Ivoire Terminal (CIT) in Côte d'Ivoire, the expansion of APM Terminals Yokohama in Japan, equipment upgrades at our Russian terminals, the report stated.

Panic as insurers cancel covers for modified cars

NAIROBI

THOUSANDS of motorists face cancellation of insurance covers as underwriters intensify a crackdown on modifications said to be compromising the safety and performance of their vehicles.

Common alterations that may put vehicle owners in trouble include engine tuning, fitting alloy wheels, height spacers and other modifications meant to reduce the risk of theft or vandalism. Several underwriting firms are already turning away those with modified vehicles – leaving motorists in limbo since the law prohibits them from driving uninsured cars.

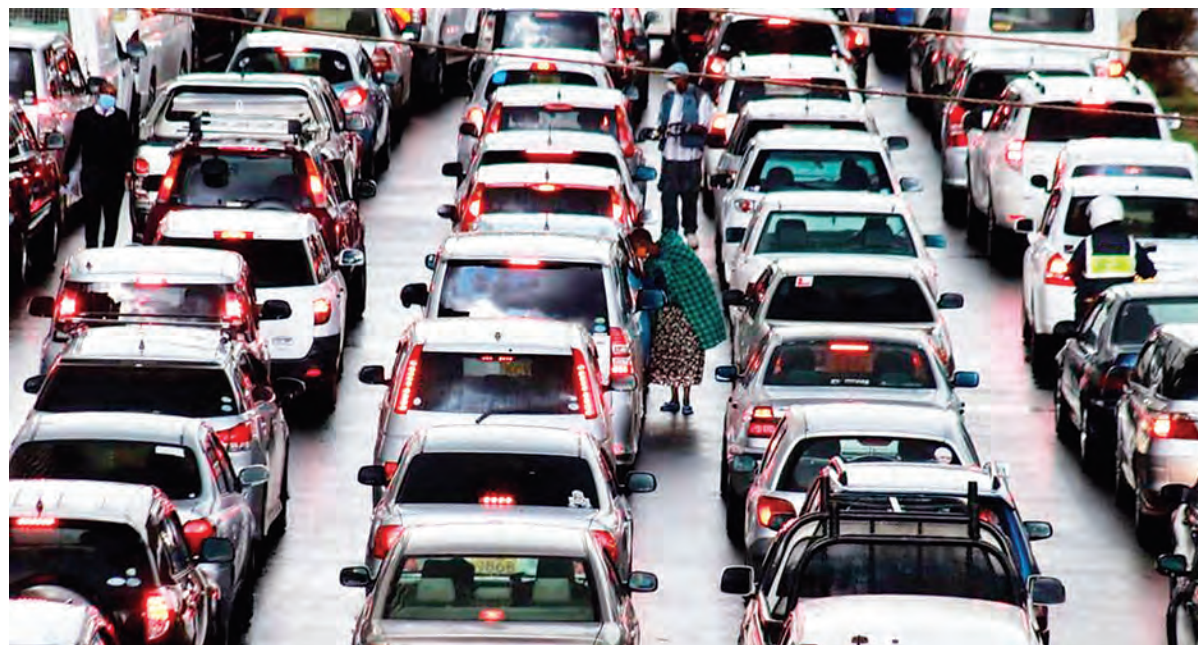
UAP Insurance Company on Monday informed its customers that it would no longer insure vehicles that have been modified from using petrol or diesel to liquefied

petroleum gas (LPG). The insurer said some of the modifications have been done without authorisation from the car manufacturers, raising questions on the safety of such vehicles.

"Such modifications lower safety precaution standards and aggregate our exposure to liabilities in case of an accident," said George Odinga, UAP Insurance general manager for underwriting and reinsurance.

"We have therefore taken a decision not to onboard or renew cover for any vehicle with such modification done without manufacturer's approval." The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) had in report ruled out any increased risk of fire when it licensed LPG-operated vehicles.

But UAP has instructed its valuers to be highlighting such modifications in their valuation reports so that the underwriter decides whether it is a risk worth taking. "The modification



Modified cars in Nairobi.

has completely changed the risk from a standard motor vehicle risk to the level of a tanker on the road carrying LPG – highly flammable," said Mr Odinga.

The development is a blow to several companies and hundreds of garages that have been earning revenue from modified vehicles to satisfy customers' preferences for

increased comfort, higher efficiency, and distinctiveness. Laurence Okulo, a proprietor at Frigate Motors, said he had witnessed a rise in demand for conversion of engines and face-lifting of vehicles.

"We charge as from Sh150,000 on modifications but it could go as high as Sh500,000 or Sh1 million depending

on the extent of modification as customers seek high performance and trendy look," said Mr Okulo. Modifications or customisations are added parts that do not come from the factory, also referred to as aftermarket.

Insurers nonetheless concede that some changes, like some engine modifications, maybe impossible for many people to detect. Some insurers in markets such as Europe require owners to apply for modified car insurance – a type of insurance that covers modifications to a vehicle.

However, many Kenyan insurers argue that modifications are making it hard to determine the risk profile of vehicles and therefore almost impossible to pick the right level of premiums. ICEA Lion General Insurance senior motor assessor Peter Mzungu said insurers now have to insert modifications as exclusions in vehicle insurance contracts to avoid disputes with customers.

Blue Amber ready to take advantage of Zanzibar's new tax, residency scheme

ZANZIBAR

PENNYROYAL'S Blue Amber development in Zanzibar is one of the first real estate projects to be awarded Strategic Investment Status (SIS) by Zanzibar's government.

Blue Amber is a 411-hectare luxury mixed-use waterfront, resort development spread along the Muyuni coastline in the north-eastern part of Zanzibar. It incorporates residential, hotel, tourism, and community and public amenities.

Initially launched in 2017, the development was delayed, explains Gene Redelinghuys, marketing manager for Blue Amber Zanzibar, as "there were several agreements and approvals needed from the Government of Zanzibar which took years for them to finalise and issue."

"The tax and residency benefits, which Blue Amber Zanzibar actually took the lead on, took a long time for the government to finalise, but eventually it came through," comments Redelinghuys.

Construction of the first villa residences and visitor's centre commenced in the first quarter of 2020 and are due for completion within the next 18 to 24 months. Subsequent phases will include the development of further hotel, residential and retail sub-projects around the anchor developments. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed in the next two years.

The new tax and residency programme introduced by the government of Zanzibar is now available for foreigners wanting to live and invest in the island. Until now, the Investments Act of 2018 provided procedures and criteria for SIS projects with incentives and allowances to real estate developers, however the



A model residential house at Blue Amber in Zanzibar.

same was not offered to those wanting to buy property in the country.

With the introduction of the new investor programme recently announced by the government, foreign buyers are

now able to acquire a residency permit as an investor, meaning the party will be allowed to live in Zanzibar as a non-citizen. They are also not required to live in Zanzibar permanently.

Business investors wanting

to invest in ventures such as restaurants, bars, watersports and retail operations will receive similar benefits as real estate investors through approved 'Strategic Investment' projects only.

R32.8bn Nigeria tax demand triggers MultiChoice tumult

JOHANNESBURG

A DISPUTE between Nigerian tax authorities and MultiChoice Group, Africa's biggest pay-TV provider, intensified Wednesday, showcasing the risk international firms face as the continent's largest economy tries to bolster revenue collections.

MultiChoice was ordered by a Nigerian tribunal to pay 50% of a disputed 1.8 trillion naira (R65.6 billion) tax bill, prompting a rush to sell shares of the Johannesburg-based company and erasing R3.58 billion of market value in less than two hours. The stock gained 3.6% at 9:23 a.m. local time on Thursday after the company said that the court directive doesn't compel it to pay half of the disputed amount.

It may turn into a protracted standoff, if history is an indication. In 2015, South Africa's MTN Group was slapped with a R74.70 billion fine for failing to deregister subscribers in Africa's most-populous nation without proper registration. While the continent's largest mobile-phone provider eventually settled – after months of negotiations – for a far lower penalty, its stock hasn't fully recovered.

"Nigeria, while the biggest economy in Africa, comparatively has very low levels of tax collection," said Greg Davies, a fund manager at Cratos Capital Pty. "This has sometimes led to difficult situations for South African companies operating in the country. The South African government should speak out on this, as it potentially also has an impact on pension funds invested in businesses such as MultiChoice."

MTN went on to have disputes over tax and dividends withdrawn from Nigeria, its biggest market. Nigeria's tax revenue as a proportion of gross domestic product is one of the lowest globally, according to the International Monetary Fund. President Muhammadu Buhari's government collected 8.26 trillion naira (\$20 billion) in taxes last year. That compares with South Africa's \$85.3 billion.

And it's not just tax battles that are a concern for South African investors. Earlier this year, Shoprite Holdings, Africa's largest food retailer, followed at least four other companies in exiting the West African nation after struggling with supply-chain disruptions and repatriation of funds.

WATUMISHI HOUSING RESIDENTIAL UNITS ALMOST SOLD OUT IN DODOMA

By Francis Kajubi

AS the rush by civil servants and private sector to the new capital city in Dodoma gathers pace, Watumishi Housing Company has sold over 90 percent of its residential properties.

WHC's Head of Public Relations and Sales Affairs, Maryjane Makawia said in Dar es Salaam mid this week that the 70 housing units which have between one and three bedrooms were constructed at a cost of 3.2bn/-.

Makawia said despite the coronavirus pandemic continuing to affect economic activities and growth, the market improved last year compared to 2019. "In comparison, housing units put on the market last year were fewer than those of 2019. This is because the real estate business was not good in Tanzania and East Africa in general due to the virus," she said.

She pointed out that the 70 residential unit were completed and put in the market last year with purchasing prices that ranged between 45.76m/- and 91million/- for a standard studio and three bedroom respectively.

"We hope that Dodoma will continue doing great because of the new capital," Makawia added while saying that residential houses in Dar es Salaam have not performed well because of the central government's decision to relocate its seat to Dodoma. "In addition, Covid-19 also



A bird's eye view of WHC's Kisasa Hilltop residential units in Dodoma city.

had disturbed the property market. This forced the company's shareholders to opt for industrial investments rather than real estate business," she noted.

According to her, WHC shareholders are pension funds namely; Public Service

Pensions Fund (PSPF), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and National Housing Corporation (NHC).

"The future looks bright although this will take time, thanks to our shareholders who

have hope that the business will bounce back as before," the WHC Head of Public Relations and Sales Affairs stated adding that everyone is welcome to buy property erected by the state developer.

This year, the company plans to con-

struct 500 residential units in Dodoma as demand in the capital remains robust. Makawia said the project is being implemented in phases starting 2014 with 847 residential and commercial properties erected by 2019 valued at 43.4bn/-.

Multi-billion dyke that could end floods in Kigali's commercial hub

KIGALI

RECURRENT floods that have been affecting Nyabugogo, Kigali's commercial hub hosting the main terminal for commuters to different parts of the country could soon end following multi-billion facilities including new Muhazi dyke being constructed to control floods.

The area is between Nyabugogo River and Mpazi drainage that usually flood and affect businesses. Researchers warn that businesses around Nyabugogo River and its other water catchment areas in Kigali could face further losses due to flooding if no urgent actions are taken to address the problem.

According to studies, small businesses in the area lose Rwf178.2 million annually due to the recurrent floods to which Nyabugogo River also contributes. The Nyabugogo River is 45.97 km long, measured from the outflow of Lake Muhazi in Eastern province to its confluence with the lower Nyabarongo River near Kigali.

Davis Buggingo, the Flood Management and Water Storage Development Division Manager at Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) said that the construction of a new Muhazi dyke that will cost Rwf3



Main entrance to Nyandungu Eco-Tourism Park in Kigali.

billion to lessen floods towards Nyabugogo commercial hub will be completed soon.

"The current unprotected dyke breaks and has the potential of flooding the Nyabugogo area which is a commercial hub in Kigali city to cause significant damages of properties and lives. The new dyke is very crucial in fighting such problems," explained Buggingo. Dyke is a long wall or embankment or a barrier built to prevent flooding by regulating

or holding back water from a river, lake, or even the ocean.

Lake Muhazi, which is a flooded valley where the dyke is being constructed, spans over around 38 km. Drained by the Nyabugogo River, the lake empties into the Nyabugogo River, which flows southwards to Kigali where it meets the Nyabarongo River, part of the upper Nile.

An integrated water resources manage-

ment plan shows that three main packages namely urban flood control and Nyabugogo wetland restoration in Kigali, protection of Lake Muhazi through promotion of non-consumptive and efficient water use as well as catchment restoration, farmland improvement and rainwater harvesting could reduce the floods.

The new Muhazi dyke being constructed by China Geo Engineering Corporation, to

replace the current old one, will be 6.5m high with crest elevation of 1437.5 m where it is anticipated to be completed in September 2021. The current old dyke was constructed in 1999 as an emergent solution, but the lake was drying due to an uncontrolled outlet.

Businesses in the Nyabugogo area have requested the government to fast-track the flood control facilities as rainy seasons are starting. Pierre Muhire, a businessman who trades food and drinks around Nyabugogo bus terminal recalls the time his shop was submerged with floods in April last year.

"The water comes from different corners especially Mpazi drainage and Nyabugogo River. I incurred a loss of about Rwf60 million and I have not yet recovered from the losses due to additional effects of Covid-19. It is better the construction of flood control facilities we are seeing be fast-tracked before rainy seasons hit us again," he said. Muhire said that he has been struggling to pay back bank loans due to the huge losses.

Mpazi drainage expansion
 The City of Kigali has also started to rehabilitate and expand Mpazi drainage that has been causing floods. The drainage collects waste and rainwater from homes in the sectors of Nyamirambo, Gitega and Kimisagara all in Nyarugenge, towards Nyabugogo.

During heavy rains floods destroy several properties and carry the debris all the way to the Nyabugogo valley. The project to cost Rwf8 billion started with expanding two major bridges to enable direct flow of drainage water into Nyabugogo River.

Dangote oil refinery will buy at least 300,000 barrels of Nigeria's output, NNPC announces

LAGOS

DANGOTE'S oil refinery will buy at least 300 000 barrels per day of Nigeria's crude production, the state oil firm said on Wednesday, after the government granted approval for a 20% equity purchase in the project promoted by Africa's richest man.

"We structured our equity participation on the basis that the refinery must buy at least 300 000 barrels of crude oil per day of our production," said the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp's managing director, Mele Kyari. "This guarantees our market at a period when every country is struggling to find market for their crude oil," he told lawmakers in Abuja.

Nigeria produces under 2 million barrels per day and has been seeking to attract a shrinking pool of capital for fossil fuel development. President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law this month an oil overhaul bill that has been in the works for nearly two decades. The government this month gave NNPC the green light to acquire the stake in the oil refinery for \$2.76 billion.

The NNPC has said its move to work with

private companies was in line with safeguarding the country's energy security and would not undercut plans to fix its own refineries. Nigeria, Africa's biggest crude oil exporter, imports virtually all its fuel due to moribund state refineries, which has prompted NNPC's interest in Dangote's oil refinery.

The 650 000-barrel-per-day refinery, owned by billionaire tycoon Aliko Dangote, is under construction in Lagos, the biggest city in the most fuel-consuming nation in the region. The refinery is scheduled for commissioning by January. The NNPC signed term sheets with Dangote Group in June for the stake in its \$19 billion oil refinery and is in talks with banks to borrow to buy the stake.

Castro Elias pointed out that the introduction of these mechanisms offers many advantages, especially because everyone at airports, ports, borders will know that gemstones or precious metals for export need to be packed in a certain type of packaging. In addition, the document that the person exporting carries must be issued by the Kimberley Process Management Unit of MIREME, with all the numbers matching.



In yesterday's issue we ran a story on Akiba Commercial Bank in which we quoted its general manager for commerce, Webster Kaunga. However, we mistakenly used the wrong photo. Here is the correct one. We regret the error and apologise for any inconvenience it will have caused. Editor

TECHNOLOGY

The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

SAUDI ARABIA CREATES 555,000 NEW JOBS AS IT PRESSES AHEAD WITH VISION 2030 PLANS

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia created 555,000 new jobs in the last four years as the kingdom looks to develop \$1 trillion worth of new projects that are part of its Vision 2030 initiative that aims to diversify the economy away from oil.

Vision 2030 is expected to lead to a \$1.3tn investment by state-owned oil company Saudi Aramco into Saudi Arabia's private sector in the next decade, as well as increased home ownership for citizens and a lower unemployment rate.

Petrodollars are helping fuel projects like the \$500 billion futuristic development known as Neom on the Red Sea coast as well as developments in Riyadh, Jeddah and other cities across the kingdom, a report by global property consultancy Knight Frank said.

"Between 2016 and 2020, 555,000 new jobs have been created across Saudi Arabia and between 2021 and 2030, a further two million jobs are expected to materialise," Faisal Durrani, partner and head of Middle East Research at Knight Frank, said quoting data from Oxford Economics.

The kingdom's economic reforms have led to the emergence of new quasi-government entities and there is a growing demand from businesses to set up their operations in Saudi Arabia to capitalise on new opportunities, Mr Durrani said.

This is "reflected in the upturn in foreign investment licences being issued - these have almost doubled from about 700 in 2018 to nearly 1,300 last year - this is a good indicator of the expansion of the jobs market", he said. "Saudi Arabia's national unemployment rate fell to 11.7 per cent at the end of the first quarter this year, down from 12.6 per cent at the end of 2020 and the lowest level in five years."

About \$300bn of the total spending is dedicated to new infrastructure projects, including vast new passenger rail networks and a brand new airport for Riyadh, which is expected to be the home base for a new national airline, according to Knight Frank.

"The aggressive targets laid out



Saudi Arabia is developing a number of new projects including an \$8 billion mega entertainment project named Qiddiyah.

by the government around attracting 100 million annual visitors to the country by 2030 means both adequate and first-class gateways need to be created," Mr Durrani said. "And we're already seeing the first of these trickling through. Take, for instance, the new cruise terminal at Jeddah Islamic Port - the first cruise routes are already in operation."

The cruise industry alone is set to create up to 50,000 jobs nationally, according to the Public Investment Fund, and 1.5 million cruise visitors are expected annually by 2028. The kingdom is also spending nearly \$575bn to deliver over 1.3 million new homes, more than three million square metres of offices and over 100,000 hotel rooms, mostly along the Red Sea coast with Neom being the main project, the report said.

In Riyadh, more than 100,000 new homes are expected by the end of 2023 and close to three million square metres of new office space is being built, along with over 12,000 hotel rooms, spread across mega projects worth an estimated \$63bn.

New developments in the capital include the \$20bn Diriyah Gate Project with 20,000 housing units, \$17bn King Salman Park community with 12,000 units as well as an \$8bn mega entertainment project named Qiddiyah. Other schemes include \$7.8bn King

Abdullah Financial District, \$3.2bn Mall of Saudi being developed by the UAE's Majid Al Futtaim Group and The Avenues Mall.

"Most private sector real estate developers were sitting on the fence during the first few years following the announcement of Vision 2030, however, we have seen inquiries for development consultancy and development management services increase significantly over the last six to 12 months," Harmen de Jong, partner, real estate strategy and consulting at Knight Frank, said. The private sector "has also now got much more clarity around how the plans for Vision 2030 are to be rolled out, as momentum builds around delivering the new vision for Saudi Arabia", Mr de Jong said.

"As a result, we have seen heightened activity in real estate development concepts involving hospitality, retail and entertainment. This trend is being further supported by the ease of access to cheap credit provided by government-backed finance agencies such as the Tourism Development Fund."

Last year, Saudi Arabia's Tourism Development Fund signed an agreement with two of the country's major lenders, Riyadh Bank and Banque Saudi Fransi, to finance tourism projects worth up to 160bn Saudi riyals

(\$43bn) in the kingdom. The emphasis to boost home ownership among Saudi citizens to 70 per cent by 2030 from 60 per cent at present is also fuelling demand for the real estate sector, according to Mr Durrani.

"The government is already 8 percentage points ahead of schedule and this has been possible through the widening of access to bank lending, or mortgages, through programmes such as Sakani as well as the Wafi scheme, which regulates the sale of off-plan homes. Furthermore, the cut to VAT (value added tax) from 15 per cent to 5 per cent for home purchases has also fuelled the market," he said.

Saudi Arabia's economy is expected to grow 2.4 per cent this year and 4.8 per cent in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund. The kingdom's non-oil economy is projected to grow 4.3 per cent this year, according to the fund.

Princeton digital launches third Jakarta data centre

SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE-based Princeton Digital Group continues to draw on Indonesia's fast-growing internet economy as it launches development of its third data centre project in the Jakarta area and sixth overall in Southeast Asia's most populous nation.

The new 22-megawatt data centre, called Jakarta Cibitung 2 (JC2), is expected to be a \$150 million investment for the Warburg Pincus-backed firm and is being built within the same campus that houses PDG's existing JC1 in Cibitung, an emerging cloud hub about 35 kilometres (21.7 miles) east of central Jakarta.

The expanded 35MW campus will serve global cloud companies and domestic internet firms in the Jakarta area as the world's fourth most populous nation ramps up adoption of cloud-based services, PDG said Wednesday in a press release. "PDG's growth in Indonesia demonstrates our continued ability to expand rapidly in markets that matter to our customers," said co-founder, chairman and CEO Rangu Salgame.

PDG expects to bring the 23,850 square metre (256,719 square foot) facility online by the fourth quarter of 2022. Located in an industrial zone with access to electricity from two nearby power plants, PDG is aiming for a high level of efficiency, with the project designed to have a power usage effectiveness ratio (a measurement of how much

energy is used to power the computing equipment compared to HVAC and other facility overhead) of less than 1.4.

"Jakarta is an exciting market, Cibitung being the pre-eminent cloud cluster in the region," said Stephanus Tumbelaka, PDG's managing director for Indonesia. "With the expanded campus, PDG has become a significant player in the Indonesian market. With the explosive economic growth and rapid digitalisation by both government and private sectors in Indonesia, the market is core to PDG's strategy."

The Jakarta data centre co-location market is expected to grow at a five-year compound annual rate of 23.7 per cent through 2025, according to a report from Structure Research. On a megawatt basis, total inventory is forecast to grow at a five-year CAGR of 23.1 per cent, the consultancy said. In addition to JC1 and JC2, PDG has one data centre each in the cities of Bintaro, Surabaya and Bandung in Java and one in Pekanbaru in Sumatra.

PDG's three-pronged strategy of acquisitions, carve-outs and greenfield development has enabled the operator to quickly expand its regional footprint to 19 data centres in five countries. The most recent additions include a 97MW hyperscale campus in development near Tokyo, a 48MW multi-storey campus under construction in Navi Mumbai and a completed 42MW campus in Shanghai.



Princeton Digital's JC1 data centre in Jakarta in Indonesia.

State removes title deed obstacles for developers

NAIROBI

THE State has sealed a legal loophole that risked blocking investors from phased development of high-rise buildings on parcels of land where some complete units had been sold and titles transferred to owners.

A newly published policy by the Lands and Physical Planning ministry will see the Sectional Properties Act 2020 amended to allow for a phased and mixed development of properties. "Increasingly there is a need by developers to develop their pieces of land in phases. If the land is under one title it presents a problem under Sectional Properties Act since the head title cannot be surrendered until the entire land has been developed," the policy says.

"There is, therefore, need to ensure that the land can be subdivided into phases to allow for separate head titles to be surrendered and thus allow for the application of Sectional Properties Act." Under the current law, once a title is committed to sectional properties, the original owner ceases to enjoy any reversionary rights which, after registration of sectional units, are enjoyed by the individual unit owners.

"In areas of mixed-use development, there is need for a mechanism of maintaining minimum economically viable parcel sizes concurrently with the ability to grant individual land rights to multiple landowners especially in high-density or high-value areas," says the policy.

The government says the change will allow issuing of titles under phased development so that developers undertake high-rise development, such as offices or residential apartments, on large parcels of land in stages. With these changes, the developers will now be able to issue separate ownership documents for units of buildings sitting on one title deed even when the entire land is not fully developed.

Developers with huge tracts of land have faced challenges with the law since it transfers rights immediately to unit owners, who can stop them from utilising the extra spaces. Once a title is committed to sectional properties, the rights of use move from the original owner to the individual unit owners.

China property investment totals \$12.4bn in Q2 2021

BEIJING

CHINA continued its reign as Asia Pacific's biggest real estate market in the second quarter with \$12.4 billion in property investments, a total that was up 6 percent compared with the same period in 2020, according to Real Capital Analytics.

Last year's introduction of the Three Red Lines policy targeting heavily-indebted companies only accelerated China's emergence as the top property investment market in the region by prompting sales of once-untouchable assets, the property information provider said in its recent Asia Pacific Capital Trends report.

The mainland total outstripped by more than 50 percent the amount invested in Australian property during the period, with Oz racking up \$8.1 billion in deals, a 45 percent jump from the same quarter in 2020. Japan, meanwhile, saw investment plunge 47 percent year-on-year to \$5.5 billion, but RCA cautioned against reading too much into the drop. "One of the main themes we are seeing is the rise of China as the biggest investment market in the region, at the expense of Japan," said David Green-Morgan, RCA's managing director for APAC. "It is not so much about Japan falling back - it remains one of the biggest and most resilient real estate markets globally - but China's seemingly unstoppable growth trajectory. China's emergence at the summit of the most-invested markets in the region has quickly become the norm."

The rebounds in China and Australia were part of a broader upswing across Asia Pacific during the second quarter, with investment activity in the region reaching \$40.3



billion, up 11 percent compared with the same period last year, when many countries had locked down in the face of the pandemic.

Among the primary drivers for the recovery in investment was an 82 percent surge in industrial deals, which hit \$13.4 billion during April to June to come within striking distance of the \$13.6 billion recorded in the office sector.

South Korea and Singapore rounded out the region's top five markets with respective volumes of \$5.5 billion (up 36 percent year-on-year) and \$3 billion (up 58 percent), while Hong Kong was next with \$2.7 billion (up 79 percent). Still, it was

China's irresistible rise that commanded the most attention, with JLL reporting that Asia's biggest economy saw its third-highest quarterly volume ever for real estate investment.

In its Asia Pacific Capital Tracker, the property consultancy said that while mainland landlords continued to suffer from a glut of office space that has pushed up vacancy rates, the country's rising industrial segment picked up the slack.

"Though traditional sectors such as office and retail still accounted for more than half of the total transactions, there was also a new trend in the market," said Eric Pang, JLL's

head of capital markets for China. "Some investors exited traditional sectors and made investments into alternative assets, such as data centres and industrial parks."

China chalked up Asia Pacific's largest deal for a single industrial asset during the second quarter with Singapore-based GLP's \$942 million purchase of the GLP Songjiang Internet Data Centre in Shanghai from Zhejiang Century Huatong Group. Beijing-based GDS contributed the second-largest industrial deal for a single property with its acquisition of the GDS BJ15 Data Center in the capital city from CITIC Group for \$587 million.

WORLD

G7 allies fail to sway Biden on delayed Afghan withdrawal

THE United States clashed with some of its closest allies over US President Joe Biden's insistence on sticking to an Aug 31 deadline for the withdrawal of troops intended to shut down a frantic international evacuation effort from Taliban rule.

Biden insisted after virtual talks with other leaders of the G7 group of nations on Tuesday that the US and its closest allies would "stand shoulder to shoulder" in future action over Afghanistan and the Taliban, despite disappointing them in their urgent pleas to allow time for more airlifts from Kabul.

The Western allies have evacuated more than 80,000 people, including their citizens, NATO personnel and Afghans at risk, since Aug 14, the day before the Taliban swept into the capital, Agence France-Press reported on Wednesday.

The US leader was adamant that the risk of terror attacks was too great to accede to appeals from G7 allies to keep what are now 5,800 US troops at Kabul's airport beyond the end of the month, anchoring the airlifts.

The United Kingdom and other allies had urged Biden to keep US forces at the airport longer. No country would be able to evacuate all their citizens and at-risk Afghan allies by the Aug 31 deadline, allied officials had said.

"We will go on right up until the last moment that we can," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who had openly lobbied to keep the airport presence after the end of August. He acknowledged he was unable to sway Biden to extend the US military presence in Tuesday's talks.

Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general of the Royal United Services Institute think tank, told Newsweek that as part of the "special relationship" with Washington, British leaders had expected to be consulted on the Afghanistan withdrawal.

Illusions punctured

"The withdrawal has punctured common illusions on the extent of Britain's military dependence on the United States," Chalmers told the magazine. "British leaders had convinced themselves that they had real influence in successive wars in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. Now the reality of dependence without influence has been exposed."

Chalmers said that one result of the US move "could be that the UK government will take European defense cooperation more seriously" than it has for many years. "This could be one of the few positive side-effects from this sorry debacle," he said.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson attends a virtual summit of G7 leaders in London on Tuesday. They discussed how to complete the withdrawal and deal with the Taliban now that they have seized power. XINHUA

A senior French official said President Emmanuel Macron had pushed for extending the deadline but would "adapt" to the US sovereign decision. "That's in the hands of the Americans," he said.

In a partial show of unity, the G7 leaders expressed "grave concern about the situation in Afghanistan", calling for "calm and restraint to ensure the safety and security of vulnerable Afghan and international citizens, and the prevention of a humanitarian crisis".

The leaders said they would "judge the Afghan parties by their actions, not words", echoing previous warnings to the Taliban not to revert to the strict Islamic form of government that they ran when they last held power from 1996 to 2001.

On Monday, CIA chief William Burns met with Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Kabul for talks in which the Taliban underscored they would not accept a US military presence at the airport beyond Aug 31. It was the highest-level meeting so far between the Biden government and the new rulers of Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on Tuesday also said his group would accept "no extensions" to the deadline.

Amid the chaos in Afghanistan, Biden's approval rating has fallen to the lowest point in his seven-month presidency, with sentiment also influenced by increases in

COVID-19 infections, according to a poll by US broadcaster NBC.

The poll, conducted from Aug 14 to 17 and released on Sunday, found 49 percent of respondents approve of Biden's job performance sliding below 50 percent for the first time, while 48 percent disapprove.

Putin warns of threats

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday criticized the US and its allies for leaving Afghanistan in chaos that raises potential security threats for Russia and its allies in Central Asia.

Addressing a ruling party meeting in the Kremlin, Putin said: "There is a danger that terrorists and different groups that found a refuge in Afghanistan will use the chaos left by our Western colleagues and try to launch an expansion into neighboring countries. That will pose a direct threat to our country and its allies."

"We're not going to meddle in Afghanistan's domestic affairs or involve our military in a conflict where everyone is against each other. The Soviet Union had its own experience in this country. We have learned the lessons we needed," he said.

Agencies

US should invite WHO to probe coronavirus origins at Fort Detrick, UNC

BEIJING

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson on Wednesday urged the United States to stop political manipulation on the issue of coronavirus origins tracing, saying the United States should invite WHO experts to launch a probe into Fort Detrick and the University of North Carolina (UNC) to find the source of the virus if it is bent on insisting the lab-leak theory.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily press briefing after the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland wrote to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), and submitted two non-papers on Fort Detrick and UNC, as well as an open letter signed by netizens demanding an investigation into Fort Detrick.

Wang said China's stand on global origins

tracing is consistent and clear, adding the issue is a science-based one, and China always supports and will continue participating in science-based origins tracing.

The conclusions and recommendations of the China-WHO joint study report have been recognized by the international community and the scientific community, and must be respected and implemented, Wang said, adding that future global origins study should and can only be carried out on this basis.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) has received WHO experts twice. It is extremely unlikely that the novel coronavirus was leaked from the WIV - this is the clear conclusion of the China-WHO joint study report, the spokesperson said. Those who insist that the possibility of a lab-leak cannot be ruled out should investigate Fort Detrick and the UNC in the principle of fairness and justice.

Wang said the international community, including the American public, has long held concerns over the illegal, non-transparent, and unsafe activities of Fort Detrick, citing bio-safety incidents in 2019 that led to the shutting down of the lab and the ensuing outbreaks of illnesses with similar symptoms of COVID-19.

For the UNC, the spokesperson pointed out the Baric team leads the world in researches in this field and has already advanced capabilities to synthesize and modify coronavirus.

"We hope the international community can work hand in hand to resist the backlash of politicization and bring the origins study back to the right track of scientific cooperation," Wang added. Also on Wednesday, Fu Cong, director-general of the Department of Arms Control of the Foreign Ministry, said the United States, while clamoring for an investigation into other countries' bio-medical labs, is the only country

standing in the way of establishing a multilateral verification mechanism under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). "I wonder if the U.S. obsession with Chinese biological labs signifies a change in its position on a verification protocol. Simply put, is the U.S. government ready to withdraw its opposition to the negotiations of a verification protocol under the BWC?"

Fu said the litmus test would come as early as next week when the Meetings of the States Parties to the BWC takes place in Geneva. "China will once again call for the restart of negotiations on a verification protocol," Fu added. Xinhua

Iranian president pledges 'serious openings' as his proposed cabinet wins parliament's vote

TEHRAN

FOLLOWING the votes of confidence for the majority of his proposed cabinet from the parliament on Wednesday, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi pledged "openings" for the Iranian nation.

"Serious openings are underway and we will see a change in people's lives, and this is possible and achievable," said Raisi, adding they will hold the first meeting of the government on Thursday, according to Tasnim news agency.

"Due to the conditions of the country over COVID-19 (resurgence) and economic difficulties in the living condi-

tions of people, it was necessary for the government to be formed immediately in order to reduce the problems and change the conditions in favor of the people," he said.

Ministries controlling the livelihood, economy, welfare and health of people are at the forefront and will begin their work quickly, he added.

The Iranian president said that the nomination of proposed ministers was based on the efficiency criteria, like expertise, anti-corruption and honesty with people.

"The lawmakers better to know that the issue of anti-corruption is important and central for people," he said,



stressing that he will not tolerate the slightest corruption. The Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday gave votes of confidence to 18 out of 19 ministers proposed by Raisi, according to the Parliament's website.

The lawmakers started the

debates on the qualification of the nominees last Saturday and decided on the list of the cabinet on Wednesday.

In the parliament meeting, after hearing the last defenses of Raisi about his proposed ministers, the lawmakers expressed their opinion on the competence of each of the nominees and then cast their votes.

Among the 19 in the list, the candidate for Ministry of Education was the only person who failed to win the approval of the parliament. According to the law, the president has three months to nominate the remaining minister.

On Aug. 11, Raisi submitted

the list of proposed ministers to the parliament. Among the approved, Hossein Amir Abdollahian became Iran's foreign minister.

He was former deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former special aide to the speaker of the parliament on international affairs. Javad Owji, former head of Iran's National Gas Company, was appointed the minister of petroleum. Raisi on Wednesday appointed Mohsen Rezaei, one of his rivals in the June presidential election, as the vice president for economic affairs.

Xinhua

US House committee demands Trump White House records

WASHINGTON

A congressional committee investigating the deadly Jan 6 attack on the US Capitol issued its first demands for documents from government agencies on Wednesday, including communications involving some of former President Donald Trump's closest advisers and family.

The House of Representatives Select Committee asked for White House communications records on and leading up to Jan 6. The panel also made extensive requests for material from the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Justice, and the FBI, National Counterterrorism Center and Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The committee's Democratic chairman, Representative Bennie Thompson, gave the agencies two weeks - until Sept 9 - to produce the materials. It expects to make additional requests as the investigation moves forward.

"Our Constitution provides for a peaceful transfer of power, and this investigation seeks to evaluate threats to that process, identify lessons learned and recommend laws, policies, procedures, rules, or regulations necessary to protect our republic in the future," Thompson wrote in a letter to the National Archives and Records Administration, which holds records from the Trump administration, and the seven other government entities.

Trump, in a statement late on Wednesday, called the committee's request "a partisan sham and waste of taxpayer dollars."

Mobs of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol as Congress was meeting to certify Democrat Joe Biden's presidential election victory, and delayed that process for several hours as then-Vice President Mike Pence, members of Congress, staff and journalists fled from rioters.

Nearly 600 people have been arrested in connection with the Capitol attack.

The panel said it wanted information on the attack itself and the run-up to the events of the day, including the gathering and dissemination of intelligence, security preparations and the role agencies played in defending the Capitol.

It asked for documents related to planning for and concerns about violence surrounding the rally on Jan 6 where Trump made a falsehood-laden speech before his followers headed for the Capitol.

The Select Committee also requested information about personnel changes between the Nov 3, 2020, election and Jan 20, 2021, when Biden took office, and asked for documents and communications about possible attempts by Trump to remain in office despite losing the election.

Trump aides and family

Among the requests were documents and communications about Trump's allegations of election fraud, involving Trump's former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, and the members of his legal team including Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell and Kurt Olsen.

The letters also ask for documents and communications related to members of his family, some of whom had official roles at the White House. Those included first lady Melania Trump, his sons Donald Jr and Eric, daughter Ivanka, daughter-in-law Lara and Ivanka Trump's husband, Jared Kushner.

Somalia launches information portal to spur cross-border trade

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA on Wednesday launched a trade information portal to facilitate cross-border trade and provide businesses with a transparent environment.

The portal is the government's latest move to improve cross-border trade and facilitate Somalia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) by complying with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Abdulkadir Sharif Shekhuna, state minister at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said the portal, <https://stp.gov.so/>, which provides a unified source for all cross-border trade information, will lower costs and simplify trade procedures for Somali importers and exporters.

"With the launch of the Somalia Trade Information Portal, we hope that our business community will have a useful tool to find the information necessary to facilitate their import-export activities," Sharif said in a statement issued in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia.

According to the official, more than 90 laws, regulations, procedures, and other trade-related measures from over a dozen government agencies can now be accessed online. Businesses can also access licenses, permits, and applicable fees since the portal will provide the business community with easy access to information on import and export regulations and procedures.

Xinhua

E China's Hangzhou revives historical and cultural heritage of centuries-old Grand Canal

TAKING a "water bus" at the Wulinmen Wharf in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, and traveling north for about 30 minutes along the Grand Canal, a vast waterway connecting Beijing and Hangzhou, one can arrive at the Gongchen Bridge, a stone arch bridge over the canal.

To the east of the bridge stand lofty modern buildings, and historical and cultural blocks are situated on the other side. Standing on the bridge spanning the Grand Canal, visitors can feel both the hustle and bustle of modern life and charm of the historical heritage of Hangzhou.

The Grand Canal, which stretches

nearly 3,200 kilometers, is made up of the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal, the Grand Canal built during the Sui Dynasty (581-618) and Tang Dynasty (618-907), and the Eastern Zhejiang Canal, which is an extension to the Beijing-Hangzhou Canal.

With a history of more than 2,500 years, the Grand Canal is hailed as a grand project created by ancient Chinese people. The "golden waterway", known as a crucial path for the transportation of goods in ancient China, is injecting new vitality into the city.

After putting into operation "water buses" along arteries of the canal, Hangzhou has launched four charac-

teristic routes for sightseeing, not only allowing visitors to tour around the city by traveling along the river, but benefiting commuters in the city.

The Hangzhou section of the Grand Canal is surrounded by rich historical and cultural remains.

In 2014, the Grand Canal was incorporated into the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, including six heritage sites and five riverways of the Hangzhou section, which runs for about 110 kilometers, making Hangzhou one of the cities with the most heritage sites among all cities along the canal.

While vigorously promoting the comprehensive conservation of the Grand Canal, Hangzhou has improved road networks, enriched scenic spots, beautified the surroundings of the waterway, set up a museum for the canal and created a public space for leisure activities near the canal, fully showing culture along the waterway and making the "calling card" of the city more shining.

The protection of the Grand Canal has been based on the city's development and integrated into the renovation projects of the city.

Under the principle of "renovating ancient buildings while preserving

their original features and ensuring minimal intervention", Hangzhou has improved the three historical blocks along the canal to protect and inherit its cultural heritage while actively boosted the development of cultural tourism in recent years.

Gongshu district of Hangzhou, together with the Grand Canal Group, has been renovated while keeping the traditional features of ancient buildings in historical blocks near the canal. At the same time, it has improved the infrastructure for residents and allowed over two million residents to live comfortably and pleasantly on the banks, reshaping a characteristic

urban waterfront landscape.

The three historical blocks along the canal in Hangzhou have different development orientations. Based on their geographical positions, they are designed as a miniature typical water town in south China, a block featuring relaxed pace of life, and a scenic area of intangible cultural heritage, respectively.

The closely related three blocks, while forming along the canal an area that enables the public to enjoy culture and entertainment activities, help spread excellent traditional Chinese culture among more people.

People's Daily

African researchers urge for sustainable harvesting of sandalwood amid threats

NAIROBI

FORESTRY researchers and security experts from the eastern Africa region have urged governments to put stringent measures in place and facilitate sustainable harvesting of sandalwood trees.

Wycliffe Mauta, a researcher at Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), on Wednesday said that sandalwood trees were in great demand since it is used as medicine and raw material for the cosmetic industry.

"Smuggling and trafficking of sandalwood is in high demand due to the international market demand," Mauta said at a webinar meeting in Nairobi, capital of Kenya, stressing that regional governments should move with speed to save the tree species from getting extinct as a result of high demand globally.

Arthur Owuor, a researcher with Our Trees, We Need Answers, a Uganda-based conservation lobby, noted that policies exerted pressure to save sandalwood, shea butter and other tree species from extinction in the region.

Owuor urged governments to raise penalties for the offenders so that they can stop smuggling and trafficking of the products.

"There is an urgent need to provide communities in regions where sandalwood is found with alternative livelihoods to save the trees from demise," said Bernard Kamondo, a research scientist at KEFRI.

The tree species is currently only available in the wild but efforts are ongoing to collect the seeds on a timely basis. KEFRI is partnering with local communities to work on a propagation project, where they are breeding the specimens of sandalwood to help in producing more seedlings.

"Once complete, the propagated seedlings will be available to farmers for commercial growing," said Kamondo.

Joyce Kimani, regional coordinator for the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), said that sandalwood trafficking is a thriving criminal enterprise in the region, blaming the internet for fueling environmental crime and trade of African sandalwood.

"Like all organized crime, sandalwood trade attracts tax evasion, corruption, violent crime, fraud, and money laundering," said Kimani.

The researchers said that the tree should be valued and looked at as a cash crop, urging governments to embark on public education to enlighten communities on the importance of protecting the endangered tree species.

According to the researchers, smugglers who work with cartels and brokers have penetrated remote villages in the region, whose local residents have limited knowledge of the trees' commercial value. African sandalwood was listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a threatened species in 2018.

Agencies



France plans to roll out booster shots in nursing homes in Sept

PARIS

FRANCE plans to roll out COVID-19 vaccine booster shots in nursing homes from Sept 12 or September 13 onwards, Prime Minister Jean Castex said yesterday.

Meanwhile, people aged over 65 and those with existing medical conditions will be able to book appointments for a booster shot from early September, Castex told RTL radio, adding there must be a six-month delay between the second and the third shot.

France's Haute Autorite de Sante (HAS) health watchdog on Tuesday recommended a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot for those aged 65 and over and for those with existing medical conditions that could put at them serious harm from COVID-19.

Global tally

Coronavirus cases worldwide surpassed 213.92 million while the global death toll topped 4.46 million, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

WHO

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday that the data on the benefits and safety of a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot were inconclusive.

"When some countries afford to have the booster and others are not even vaccinating the first and second round, it's a moral issue," he said during a media briefing.

In another development, the WHO has backed a proposal to set up a US\$10 billion fund to plug the financial gap in the global healthcare system exposed by the pandemic.

The annual Global Health Threats Fund is part of efforts by G20 finance ministers to double spending in health care and boost the financial capacity to respond to future pandemics, said Singapore Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam during a WHO press briefing on Wednesday.

Africa

A third wave of COVID-19 infections in Africa has stabilized with 248,000 cases reported in the last week, the World Health Organization said on Thursday, while vaccines administered over the same period tripled to 13 million compared to the previous week.

The number of confirmed cases in Africa reached 7,592,195 as of Wednesday evening, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The death toll rose to 191,048 while the number of recoveries stood at 6,717,483, it added.

Agencies

CPC releases key publication on its mission, contributions

BEIJING

THE Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Thursday released a key publication on the Party's mission and contributions.

The document, titled "The CPC: Its Mission and Contributions," stressed that over the past hundred years, all the struggles, sacrifices and efforts made by the CPC and by the Chinese people under its leadership have been directed to one goal – the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

It added that "achieving national rejuvenation is the historic mission of the CPC," and the Party "has made an unbreakable commitment to bring the people a happy life."

It also pointed out that the CPC is dedicated to the people and forever puts their interests first. It said the CPC follows the underlying trends of social development and respects the people's principal role in making history.

The CPC pursues the lofty goal of working for the wellbeing of the Chinese people, and it does everything in the interests of the people, the document said.

The document said that Marxism is the single guiding ideology, the very soul of the CPC, and the banner under which it strives.

According to the document, in order to achieve independence, development, and prosperity, the CPC must have robust and decisive leadership.

"It is the CPC's solidarity and unity, its firm leadership, and its strong governance capability that have rallied and united hundreds of millions of the Chinese



The Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee releases a document titled "The CPC: Its Mission and Contributions" at a press conference in Beijing yesterday. Xinhua

people and overcome a multitude of difficulties and crises," it said.

Also, the document said the CPC has always been able to maintain vigor and vitality and stand at the forefront of the times despite the many hardships it has endured in the past hundred years. This is because the Party has constantly engaged in significant self-reform while leading the people in a great social revolution. To maintain its health and vigor, the CPC exercises effective self-supervision, practices

strict self-discipline in every respect, consistently pursues improvement, and advances with the times, the document said.

Moreover, it stressed that the CPC is a political party that seeks happiness for the people and progress for humanity. The CPC has always pursued the shared human values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom. It has championed internationalism, stood on the right side of history and the progressive side of

humanity, and contributed to world peace and development.

At a press conference Thursday, Wang Xiaohui, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said the document expounds the idea, practices and achievements of the CPC's governance in China, shedding light on the issue about where the CPC comes from and where it is heading.

The document, which includes a preamble, a conclusion and five chapters, gives the answer about what kind of political party the CPC is, Wang said.

Upholding the banner of socialism and adhering to the road of peaceful development, the CPC will deepen exchanges with political parties from all over the world, promote cooperation among countries to seek common development, and make constructive efforts in building a better world, he added.

Xinhua

TOKYO

Japan's Suga faces challengers in ruling party leadership race

JAPANESE former foreign minister Fumio Kishida challenged Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga yesterday for the leadership of the ruling party, as the premier struggles with crumbling approval rates ahead of a general election.

Suga repeated that he would seek re-election in the Sept 29 race for Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president, while ex-internal affairs minister Sanae Takaichi also threw her hat in the ring.

The winner is virtually assured of being prime minister

because of the LDP's majority in parliament's lower house. The LDP chief must lead the party to a general election by Nov 28, which the Sankei newspaper said will be held in October or later.

"The people feel that their voices are not reaching the LDP," Kishida, 64 (pictured), told a news conference.

"I am running... to show that the LDP listens to the people and is a party that offers broad choices, and to protect our nation's democracy," said Kishida, adding he would aim for a more



equitable, diverse society. The challenges to Suga may not topple him as leader, said

Hiroyuki Ueno, senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Asset Management. "My sense is, most people in markets expect Suga to win unless he decides to quit by himself."

The LDP-led coalition is not expected to lose its majority in the powerful lower house, but forecasts suggest that Suga's party could lose the majority that it holds on its own, an outcome that would weaken whoever is leading the LDP.

Suga, 72, took office last September with support of about 70 percent but his ratings have

sunk below 30 percent as Japan battles its worst wave of COVID-19 infections and many of his LDP lawmakers fear for their seats.

LDP Secretary-General Toshihiro Nikai, who was key to Suga's victory last year, said on Wednesday he still backs the prime minister. The party's smallest faction, led by former cabinet minister Nobuteru Ishihara, was also lining up behind Suga, Jiji news agency reported.

Other party bosses, including former premier Shinzo Abe and Finance Minister Taro Aso, have not commented publicly.

Agencies

Digitalisation enables Mogao Grottoes in China's Dunhuang to transcend time and space

IN the office of culture heritage digitalization research center of Wuhan University in central China's Hubei province, researcher Huang Xianfeng clicked on the screen of a computer, thus "opening" a mottled wooden gate of a famous UNESCO World Heritage site, the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu province.

As soon as the virtual gate opened, magnificent ancient murals leapt to the eyes. Images of flying apsaras on these murals, including their clothing patterns, were vividly shown to the finest of details. As the viewing angles changed, everything in the caves was presented to viewers in front of the computer screen.

Thanks to the use of digital technologies, researchers have created the 3D models of Mogao Grottoes without a single deformation in computer, allowing people to observe every little detail of the spectacular cultural heritage of the site even if they couldn't visit the place in person.

For the groundbreaking achievement, scientific researchers of two generations in Dunhuang Academy China and Wuhan University worked ceaselessly for more than a decade.

Dunhuang Academy China began to explore the application of digital technologies in the preservation of cultural heritage in the 1990s, when digitalization was still a new term. However, the work had to be suspended after several attempts, as researchers lacked mature technologies and precision instruments and only had access to low-resolution film cameras.

In 2007, Zhu Yixuan, a professor at the State Key Laboratory of Information Engineering in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing of Wuhan University, and her husband Li Deren, also a renowned expert in surveying and mapping, went to Dunhuang for investigation at the invitation of Fan Jinshi, then president of Dunhuang Academy China.

Seeing that the once bright colors of beautiful murals and delicate patterns of clay statues in Mogao Grottoes gradually fade as time passed by, they were deeply worried.

"We hope to help the ancient artworks in those caves transcend time and space through scientific and technological means, and revitalize Dunhuang with digital technologies," Zhu said.

After tremendous amount of research and argumentation, the couple eventually decided to employ modern photogrammetry and remote sensing technologies to achieve 3D digital reconstruction of Mogao Grottoes and build a



Tourists visit Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu province, April 9, 2021. File photo

3D digital model in computer.

In 2008, Zhu, who was then more than 70 years old, led a team made up of more than ten researchers from Wuhan University, including Huang, to Dunhuang. The main task of the research team was to scan Mogao Grottoes with 3D laser scanners, take pictures of the caves, and then process relevant data.

"To put it simply, we first scanned the grottoes to get their 3D frameworks and shapes and then added colors and patterns to them to create highly accurate and colored 3D models," Huang explained.

Since the murals and Buddhist statues in the grottoes were created more than 1,000 years ago, they were already very fragile when these researchers tried to revitalize them through digital technologies.

"Some murals were extremely mottled and could be easily damaged," Huang recalled, disclosing that researchers were very careful every time they used instruments in the caves of the Mogao Grottoes.

After obtaining the precious raw data, the research team found that the complexity of modeling and adjustment for a 1:1 digital replica of the UNESCO World Heritage site was far greater than expected. And traditional technological means of surveying and mapping couldn't satisfy the needs of the task.

In an effort to solve the bottleneck, Huang went to Dunhuang again with his doctoral students Zhang Fan and Zhang Zhichao. They were determined to develop independent and controllable modeling software, for which they often skipped meals and sleep and programmed for more than 20 hours

straight a day.

More than two months later, a software tool which can handle high-quality texture mapping for complex models of cultural heritage was finally created, breaking through obstacle blocking a critical link in the digitalization endeavor.

After the technical obstacle was overcome, Li put forward the idea of collecting more data to integrate Mogao Grottoes with its surrounding environment in digital models.

"Not only data on Mogao Grottoes, cultural heritage data in Dunhuang should all be collected and recorded so that we can provide more comprehensive information for the protection of cultural heritage," Li said.

A year later, Huang went to Dunhuang the third time with several other teachers and students. During the over two months they spent in the city, these researchers conducted large-scale aerial survey with laser scanners carried by borrowed transport plane, and used ground laser scanners and close-range photogrammetry instruments to carry out a survey of the surroundings of Mogao Grottoes, including the precipices where grottoes are located and the ancient buildings of the site, obtaining all kinds of data on the cultural heritage site.

"In the past, we didn't know the distance between grottoes as we didn't have 3D data that can help see the whole picture. Now we are even able to tell the thickness of the walls, which offers important data support for the preservation of the grottoes," Zhang Fan said.

People's Daily

Extreme rainfall more likely with climate change

WITH climate change, leading scientists warn that lethal floods are now up to nine times more likely.

Lethal floods refer to those caused by extreme rainfall, like the ones which swept parts of Germany and Belgium last month.

Extreme weather will become more frequent and intense as climate change warms the planet, according to new research by the World Weather Attribution initiative.

Meteorologists found that such downpours are now 3 to 19 percent heavier in the region, compared to when the climate was 1.2 C cooler 150 years ago.

The findings back up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's landmark report this month, which said there is unequivocal evidence that human activities were warming the planet, and that this is making extreme weather events increasingly more likely and more severe.

Devastating floods have struck Western Europe and China this year, while extreme heat waves have caused havoc in Russia, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Canada and the United States.

More than 200 people were killed, homes destroyed, and businesses and infrastructure wrecked as record-breaking rainfall caused devastation in Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg between July 12 and 15.

"We will definitely get more of this in a warming climate," said Friederike Otto, the group's co-leader and associate director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

The WWA initiative used attribution science, a method which uses meteorological measurements and computer simulations to find out whether climate change made extreme weather more likely.

"These floods have shown us that even developed countries are not safe from the severe impacts of extreme weather that we have seen and that are known to get worse with climate change," said Otto, as quoted in a Financial Times report.

Urgent global challenge

"This is an urgent global challenge and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and has been for years."

In a Sky News report, climate researcher Sjoukje Philip from the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute said they combined the knowledge of specialists from several fields of study to understand the influence of climate change on the severe flooding last month, and to make clear what they can and cannot analyze in this event.

"It is difficult to analyze the climate change influence on heavy rainfall at very local levels, but we were able to show that in Western Europe, greenhouse gas emissions have made events like these more likely," Philip said.

Last month, the WWA group of scientists drew attention with the pronouncement that the recent record-breaking heat wave in North America would have been "virtually impossible" without human-caused climate change.

Agencies

SPORT



Yusuf Mhilu of Kagera Sugar in action during one of the side's fixtures in the 2020/21 Premier League, held in Kagera. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

Mhilu, Metacha, and Waziri Junior should chart out plans for future

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THERE are many unanswered questions about Yusuf Mhilu, he is a gifted striker, I do not know which team will he play for next season, is it Kagera Sugar or Simba SC? Soccer culture in Tanzania is very tough.

Simba SC has introduced the youthful forward, who has a contract with his team Kagera Sugar, as one of the former's newly signed footballers, and for that, we find it difficult to identify which team Mhilu belongs to.

His issue has two major chapters. The first chapter is that Mhilu joins a list of players, who have been abandoned by a big team and then gone to a modest team.

They did great and then returned to a big team. Football followers should remember he used to play Yanga.

When he went to Kagera Sugar, Mhilu seemed to have regained his edge and Simba SC has sought his signature with vigour.

Simba SC leadership has high hopes for Mhilu. The scenario had once happened to Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga.

He left Yanga and went to Mtibwa Sugar, put scintillating showing for the Morogoro squad, and was registered by Simba SC.

It as well once happened to Waziri Junior. He played well for Toto Africa of Mwanza.

Junior was later signed by Azam FC, he didn't perform well, he went to Mwanza's Mbao FC and regained his edge and Yanga roped him in.

He could not do it like Dilunga. He failed for the second time at the Jangwani Street squad.

Mhilu returns to a big team to again try his luck. Hopefully, it will turn out to be great and sports enthusiasts wish all the best for him.

He has only one test at Simba and our local football, namely stepping into John Bocco's shoes at Simba and proving his worth within our football.

The strikers, who seek to emulate Bocco's exploits in our local football, are Mhilu, Junior, Charles Ilamfya, Reliants Lusajo, and others. However, the gap between them and Bocco is huge. The second thing in Mhilu transfer is the way Simba has approached it.

Why should the outfit announce a player who has not seen out his contract with his club?

Simba seems to be the beacon of change in the running of football in the country at the club level, so, how does a role model make this kind of mistake? In the past, we were accustomed to these mistakes and then they went away.

Such modest clubs like Polisi Tanzania, Coastal Union, Mtibwa Sugar, and others do not make such mistakes.

Why should Simba make a sluggish mistake like this, what will Simba do if Kagera Sugar decides to take the case to the world soccer governing body, FIFA, then Simba could be banned by FIFA and CAF from registering players for several windows.

Stories with two sides do not end here. We have goalkeeper, Metacha Mnata, he is currently a free agent who is on the radar of Kinondoni Municipal Council FC after his previous club Yanga announced to have parted ways with him.

Metacha should learn something from his exit at the Jangwani Street club.

A lot of fans have been talking of many incidents of misconduct that Metacha has been involved in at Yanga before the club decided to leave him.

I hardly really like listening to one-sided stories but I can point out my views on Metacha for one incident.

The one incident that he pointed a middle finger at Yanga fans at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam shortly after Yanga had featured in a Premier League tie, that was the last time he wore the club's jersey. Just after that incident, I asked myself one question. For example, which popular side will the shot-stopper move to, should the keeper be left Yanga?

The answer was probably abroad. Simba has the number one goalkeeper in Aishi Manula and he is the goalkeeper who puts Metacha on the bench when the duo earns call-up for the senior national team.

Azam FC has number one goalkeeper, Ugandan Mathias Kigonya, who took over after inconsistency and many errors of Tanzanian goalies, David Kissu and Benedicto Haula.

Before committing any of his misconducts, Metacha should have known that there was no popular team he could play for domestically if he had no plans to go abroad. Unfortunately for him, he has fallen for KMC FC. I say it is bad luck for him because he was a regular in such a popular team like Yanga. Life has gone fast for him. In a shutter speed.

After completing the sign-on fee given to him to sign a contract with KMC FC he will find himself being part of a team that goes to Mbeya, Mwanza, Kagera, and elsewhere mostly by bus transport.

He will find himself in a team that does not camp in a big hotel.

He will find himself in a team that even if after winning a match they will never be given 10m/- per player as a match-winning bonus.

Simba and Yanga players are often given lots of cash prizes when they win either a home match or away match.

The life at Simba and Yanga is crippling our youthful footballers so much so that when one leaves either of the two, he will find it difficult time going to play for teams like Namungoa FC and KMC FC.

As a result, the footballers endure frustration and ultimately plan to quit football.

If a soccer player has been able to get drunk in a prominent team's camp, akin to that of Yanga, and insulted officials, how can he fail to do the same when he joins KMC FC, where player services are not as satisfactory as those offered by Simba and Yanga?

Junior is one of the players that Yanga had high hopes for when they signed him to form an ambitious squad last season. It seems life has been difficult for him again in a popular outfit.

His last attempt to make his presence felt at Yanga came in this season's Kagame Cup, played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and Azam Complex.

Junior could not impress, he was not deadly in front of goal. Yanga's goal against Nyasa Big Bullets FC, which was first said to have been scored by Junior, turned out to be an own goal by one of Nyasa Big Bullets FC's defenders.

The central defender was under pressure to head away a cross by Yanga winger, Dickson Ambundo, from the left side, the center back instead headed into his side's net under pressure from Junior.

The two clubs ultimately settled for a 1-1 draw. Junior and Yanga have agreed to part ways. Junior is a hero because he is the one who asked for the contract to be terminated.

I do not know what plans he has, but before we go any further, we must ask ourselves who is to blame between Junior or Yanga.

SPORTS

Government hails Serengeti Lite for its talent search

By Guardian Reporter

DIAMONDS are forever, so goes the saying. Diamonds are treasured gems due to their value and attractiveness.

However, they are rare until they are discovered, mined, and exposed to the market, that is when they reveal their true value and importance.

So too are talents, strengths, brilliance, and power, they are everywhere but until they are unleashed through exposure in a given platform, they will always remain untapped.

Talents, especially among the youth, are ubiquitous but it is said that due to various reasons, rarely are they brought to light and so most of them go undiscovered to the disadvantage of those who harbor them.

Significantly, the lack of the requisite platforms to showcase their talents is the major reason that most youths see their aptitudes go up in smoke.

However, there are organizations and companies such as Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), which, having seen the plight of talented youth, have come up with innovative methods to give the youngsters a second chance to display their abilities.

Recently, SBL, through its Superbrands-award-winning beer brand, Serengeti Lite, launched a new campaign dubbed, 'Take a Bite Out of Life', a campaign that, among other things, targets to provide its youthful consumers with an opportunity to showcase their talents, preparing them to achieve whatever their aspirations may be in life.

The campaign targets those who do not want to settle for the ordinary and are keen on looking for experiences that offer more than a product in a brand that captures the spirit of youthfulness which entails, among other attributes, freedom, and self-expression.

Apart from providing them with an opportunity to showcase their talents, the campaign enables its consumers to enjoy every moment to the fullest.

The consumers further get a chance to savour the alluring fuller taste of Serengeti Lite beer, the only truly Tanzanian beer, made in Tanzania by Tanzanians, to be consumed by Tanzanians.

The three-month campaign will provide a platform to 5,200 contestants who are above 18 years old from across the country who will participate in a DJ competition whereby three lucky winners will walk away with DJ kits of up to 7m/- and will also be adopted as official DJs where they will be involved in future brand promotions and activation activities.

Just like diamonds are valuable, so is talent. Locally and even across the globe, scores of talented men and women have managed to make it in life through making good of their talents.

That is why, SBL, through the 'Take a Bite of Life' campaign, seeks to give talented youths a chance to hone their skills and hence prepare them for a brighter future.



National Arts Council of Tanzania (BASATA) Acting Executive Secretary, Matiko Mniko, speaks during the official launch of Serengeti Lite's campaign, dubbed 'Take a Bite Out of Life', which is geared towards discovering Disk Jockey (DJ) talents. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

The participants who will not have made it to the finals will also enjoy various prizes which include Beer Buckets, Branded Merchandise and most importantly, will have had the privilege of having a platform to showcase their talents under the umbrella of the popular Serengeti Lite beer brand.

Speaking during the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam, the Acting Executive Secretary for National Arts Council of Tanzania, Matiko Mniko, said the campaign will enable youths with hidden talents to get a platform to demonstrate their talents and reap big out of it.

"What Serengeti Lite has done is quite big. We have scores of youth with amazing talents but they fail to get the right platform to demonstrate their capabilities. On behalf of the government I would like to express my sincere appreciation to SBL for coming up with this campaign that will allow every interested

youth to amplify his or her talent," Mniko said.

Mniko revealed: "As a government, we recognize arts as essential to the economic wellbeing of an individual and as also a contributor to the overall economic development of our country."

The official revealed: "Through this nationwide campaign, SBL is going to contribute to the creation of new employment opportunities and also expose talents of thousands of youths who will take part in the DJ search competition".

Mniko urged talented youth to come forward and seize the opportunity, saying that the government considers it a beneficial initiative and further urged other stakeholders to come up with similar ideas that will help to expose talents in other fields.

The SBL Senior Brand Manager, Mainstream Beer, Wankyo Marando, said anyone who is above 18 can participate in the competition from wherever he/she is since the competition covers the whole country.

"Announcements on the venues of the competition will be made in every region and district and will be done through roadshows, radio interviews, and Serengeti Lite Social media pages," Wankyo said.

To participate in the DJ competition, interested participants are requested to register in one of the outlets dedicated to the competition within their local areas and are required to have their playlists. There will be auditions every week.

Winners will be obtained through a voting process where judges will have 60% of the votes while the remaining 40% percent of the votes will come from the consumers.

Wankyo urged consumers to participate in the promotion by voting physically or through SBL's social media pages.

Mohamed Nabi still grappling with getting coordination in Yanga

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach, Nassredine Mohamed Nabi, landed in Tanzania earlier this week and announced that he has not yet found coordination for his team despite being in Morocco in preparation for the new season.

The Mainland Premier League giants had headed to Morocco for a 10-day pre-season training to shape up for the 2021/22 season.

The training was, though, suspended four days before completion because a section of the outfit's footballers had got call-ups for their respective countries' national soccer squads which will play in Africa Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

Speaking to journalists, Nabi said: "Team coordination has yet to be realized, we need about a month or three months because the team is not being built in a short period."

"All of the players we signed are good because we were following them, if we get more time we will be better," the tactician disclosed.

And striker, Said Ntibazonkiza, said: "As the coach said, the time was short but if we connect well we will be better, the squad is better."



Yanga's Tunisian head coach, Nassredine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

complete preparations for next season.

The decision was announced by Yanga's Competition Committee's vice-chairman, sponsors, Hersi Said, who said various reasons led the club to make such difficult decisions.

Said, who is as well Director of Investment at GSM Group, Yanga's sponsors, said missing some of their players who are required to join their respective countries' national teams, is the main reason.

The official stated that a total of eight Yanga players have been called up to their respective countries national teams.

Yanga set up a week-long camp in Morocco in preparation for the new season of the next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Champions League.

Meanwhile, Yanga's newly signed players will be officially unveiled at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday at the culmination of a week of social activities hosted by the club, known as 'Mwananchi Week'.

On the day, Yanga's new players will be seen for the first time when the squad takes on Zambia's Zanaco FC in an international friendly match at the stadium.

Mbappe 'wants to leave PSG' amid Madrid bid

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain sporting director Leonardo said that Kylian Mbappe wants to leave the club and confirmed the French giants turned down an offer from Real Madrid for the France international.

Sources told ESPN on Tuesday that Madrid saw their €160 million offer for the 22-year-old's rights rejected, but were hopeful of agreeing to a deal before the transfer window closes on Aug. 31.

"Kylian Mbappe wants to leave, that seems clear," Leonardo told French outlet RMC on Wednesday. "If he wants to leave, we are not going to keep him, but it will be done under our conditions."

"We have spoken a lot with Kylian and he always tells us the same thing. Kylian has always promised us that he would never leave the club on a free transfer." Mbappe has a year left on his PSG contract and has refused multiple offers of a renewal, meaning the Ligue 1 club risk losing him on a free transfer in June 2022.

Speaking in a joint interview with four French media outlets and the Spanish newspaper Marca on Wednesday, Leonardo hit out at Madrid's approach to the negotiations, calling their behaviour "disrespectful, incorrect, illegal and unacceptable."

"Verbally we've said no to Madrid," Leonardo said. "We haven't received another offer. We've never wanted him to leave, we've never imagined it, we made a very important offer and an even better second one to renew."

"The player gave his word that he wouldn't leave PSG for free but in the end that looks like the strategy, for him to leave for free."

PSG signed Mbappe from AS Monaco for €180m in 2018 follow-

ing a year loan and Leonardo said they were not prepared to offload him for lower than that.

"We aren't going to get rid of a player for less than we paid for him at 18 years old," he added. "We have to pay an amount we owe to Monaco, and we don't consider the offer to be sufficient."

Sources have told ESPN that Madrid are considering another bid for Mbappe before the transfer window shuts.

Madrid could wait until next summer to sign the forward but multiple sources have told ESPN that they have decided to do everything in their power to show the player the club are "determined and committed" to signing him.

Sources have told ESPN it would take an offer of around €200m to make PSG consider accepting a deal, and Mbappe remains Florentino Perez's main target ahead of Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland.

"Kylian is the centre of our project but he isn't above it," Leonardo added. "If he stays or he goes, it will always be with our conditions. If he wants to go, he'll go, but with our conditions like any other player. We won't change the plan a week from the close of the market."

"There's been a global strategy for the last two years to arrive at this moment, to make an offer with a week until the end of the market that they know we won't accept, and say: 'Oh well, we've tried and they didn't want to and we'll have the right to sign him for free.'"

"Our objective is for him to stay and renew. Madrid have made an offer. And Mbappe has always promised that he would never leave the club for free. Let's see what happens in a year's time... honestly, we're not happy."

(Agencies)

Arteta hopes return of hat-trick man Aubameyang boosts Arsenal

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta hopes the return of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang fires an Arsenal revival after the Gabon striker marked his first start this season with a hat-trick in the 6-0 League Cup second round win at West Bromwich Albion.

Aubameyang missed Arsenal's shock defeat at Brentford in their Premier League opener after he contracted Covid-19.

The Arsenal captain came off the bench in Sunday's 2-0 home defeat against Chelsea but could not spare his side from their worst ever start to a season.

With the pressure mounting on Arsenal boss Arteta, Aubameyang rode to the rescue against Championship promotion chasers Albion at the Hawthorns.

He scored Arsenal's first goals this season with two close-range efforts in the first half before sealing his hat-trick with a curling strike after the interval.

Nicolas Pepe, Bukayo Saka and Alexandre Lacazette also got on the scoresheet to at least temporarily ease the pressure on Arteta.

Aubameyang gave his shirt to a young Arsenal fan as the travelling support hailed their team's talisman.

AFP

FIFA asks Prem, LaLiga to release WCQ players

LONDON

THE English Premier League and Spanish LaLiga should release players for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers next month to "preserve and protect sporting integrity," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Wednesday.

The top flight leagues in England and Spain said on Tuesday they backed clubs refusing to make players available for qualifiers in countries where the players would have to quarantine on their return, particularly South America. Italy's Serie A also released a statement on Wednesday saying they would support clubs that do not release players.

The Premier League said nearly 60 players were set to travel to 26 countries on Britain's "red list" while LaLiga said 25 players from 13 different clubs are affected with likely more to follow when Ecuador and Venezuela announce their squads.

"I am calling on a show of solidarity from every member association, every league, and every club, to do what is both right and fair for the global game," Infantino said in a statement.

"Many of the best players in the world compete in leagues in England and Spain, and we believe these countries also share the responsibility to preserve and protect the sporting integrity of competitions around the world."

Man City needed Harry Kane, so who do they turn to now?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

FIRST Lionel Messi, now Harry Kane. Manager Pep Guardiola is becoming accustomed to missing out on his top targets at Manchester City and, make no mistake, he will regard the failure to tempt Kane from Tottenham as being more damaging to his club's hopes of success than the inability to persuade Messi to leave Barcelona for the Etihad Stadium 12 months ago.

Messi was always a vanity project for City -- a chance to boost the club's global popularity by landing arguably the greatest player of all time. Kane, though, was a necessity, and his decision to stay at Spurs leaves Guardiola with less than six days left in the transfer window to find somebody capable of scoring the goals that he had been expecting the 28-year-old to deliver this season.

City will try to move on quickly from the disappointment of Kane's decision to abandon his attempts to leave Spurs for the Premier League champions, because they have to. With all-time club record goal scorer Sergio Agüero leaving City for Barcelona at the end of his contract earlier this summer, Guardiola has needed to find a world-class centre-forward to fill the void. Kane was the only serious candidate in the eyes of the City manager.

But despite making it clear as early as May that he wanted to leave Spurs in order to win major honours, a huge gulf between City and Spurs in the fee required to sign Kane has proved to be too wide to bridge -- Spurs wanted £150 million, City were reluctant to go above £100m -- and it has left last season's Premier League winners scrambling around for alternatives in the final week of the transfer window.

Thanks to City's immense wealth due to their owner, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, it would be foolish to write off their prospects of doing a big deal between now and next Tuesday's 11 p.m. BST (6 p.m. ET) transfer deadline. But whoever they end up signing, it will not be Kane and it means that Guardiola's blueprint for this season is in tatters.

No transfer is ever guaranteed to succeed, but Kane was as close to a nailed-on certainty as there is had he been able to force a move



Who will Man City target after missing out on Kane?

from Spurs to City. His incredible consistency in a Tottenham shirt has seen him score 20 or more Premier League goals in five of the last seven seasons. He hit 17 and 18 goals respectively in the two campaigns when he fell short of the 20 mark, so Guardiola and City know they could expect the same again, if not more, at the Etihad.

With a team that creates as many chances as City, feeding off crosses and passes from Kevin De Bruyne, Jack Grealish, Phil Foden, Riyad Mahrez and many others, Kane would have seen his chances-per-game rocket in a blue shirt. And Guardiola would be assured of having a star player who knows the Premier League inside out, as well as one who is capable of playing in a three-man forward line, as a lone striker or even as a No. 10. Guardiola demands versatility from his players and Kane has that in abundance.

Aside from a habit of being sidelined at least once a season due to injury, it is difficult to find any downside to Kane as a player, which is why Guardiola was so determined to sign him as Agüero's replacement. But having announced that he is now staying at Spurs, Kane has left City and Guardiola with a major problem. With Agüero gone and Gabriel Jesus not of the quality required to lead the line for City as a goal scorer, Guardiola must come up with Plan B -- and fast.

So what are the options? Two obvious solutions have already been crossed off the list with Messi signing for Paris Saint-Germain and Romelu Lukaku leaving Inter Milan for Chelsea.

Had City known a month ago that Kane would stay at Spurs, it is inconceivable to think that they wouldn't have used the funds set aside for him to make a move for Messi, but that ship has sailed. City could now enter the race for Kylian Mbappe, a player always rated highly by Guardiola, and attempt to hijack Real Madrid's €160m move for the PSG forward, but Mbappe and Real have been flirting with each other for so long that it's difficult to envisage him leaving Paris for anyone else.

Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland is another option, but Chelsea tried and failed to persuade the

Norway forward, or his club, to the negotiating table this summer and all odds favour the 21-year-old staying at Signal Iduna Park for one more season and then triggering a reported €75m release clause when it becomes active in 2022.

Cristiano Ronaldo and Juventus are both open to a move away from Turin this summer, but aside from the 36-year-old's connection to Manchester United, it is debatable as to whether he does enough off the ball for a Guardiola team. Aside from versatility, Guardiola demands a high work ethic from all of his players. Ronaldo, for all of his goal scoring qualities, is not the type to drop deep or press the opposition defenders.

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski is a potential option. Guardiola worked successfully with the Polish striker when he was manager at Bayern, and Lewandowski has hinted at moving away the Bundesliga champions. At 33, he still has plenty to offer and will contribute goals and work-rate wherever he goes, but City may shy away from paying a big fee for a player in his early 30s.

So that leaves Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Lautaro Martínez -- two players who are both available due to their clubs, Arsenal and Inter, needing to raise cash for signings.

Aubameyang, at 32, is a high earner but a proven Premier League goal scorer, while Martínez has impressed with Inter and would likely have signed for Barcelona last year but for the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At 24, Martínez would be a better long-term option, but Aubameyang is a ready-made Premier League striker with a proven record, although he is in the Ronaldo bracket when it comes to work rate. But that is the problem that City is left with after Kane's decision to stay at Spurs. They need a solution, but none of them are as close to perfect as Kane would have been.

Without a striker, City will struggle to retain the Premier League title or win the Champions League. The stakes are high, and Kane has left them with precious little time to do anything about it.

Pep Guardiola plans to leave Manchester City in

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola is likely to leave the Premier League champions when his contract expires in 2023 as he wants to take a break before venturing into international football, he said on Wednesday.

Guardiola signed a new deal at City in November 2020, and said it will likely be his last before leaving the Premier League side.

"The next step will be a national team, if there is a possibility," Guardiola was quoted by Spanish daily Marca.

"After seven years at this club, I think I'm going to have a break. I will need to rest after being somewhere so many years and also stop to evaluate what we've done and to try to learn from other coaches."

"If, during this process of stopping, there is a chance to coach a national team then I think I'd like that. I'd like to coach at a European Championship or Copa America or World Cup. I'd like to experience that."

Former midfielder Guardiola has won three league titles with City and as many with previous clubs Bayern Munich and Barcelona as manager. But the Champions League trophy has eluded him at City after he lifted two at Barca.

Guardiola also won six league titles and the 1992 European Cup with Barcelona as a player, having scored five goals in 47 internationals for Spain.

The Manchester City boss has tracked Tottenham's Harry Kane all summer, but the striker confirmed on Wednesday he will remain in north London for this season.

"It was incredible to see the reception from the Spurs fans on Sunday and to read some of the messages of support I've had in the last few weeks," Kane posted on social media, ending speculation over his future.

"I will be staying at Tottenham this summer and will be 100 per cent focused on helping the team achieve success."

City have not dismissed the possibility of signing Cristiano Ronaldo after Kane committed his immediate future to Tottenham, sources have told ESPN. There is still room in Guardiola's squad for a striker following the departure of Sergio Agüero to Barcelona, and while privately City are playing down the chances of signing Ronaldo, the idea has not been completely ruled out.

Sources have told ESPN that a number of obstacles would have to be overcome, including Juventus' demand for a transfer fee and Ronaldo's high wages, which would not fit into the structure at the Etihad Stadium. The 36-year-old has a year left on his contract at Juventus.

Meanwhile, Manchester City have not dis-

missed the possibility of signing Cristiano Ronaldo after Harry Kane committed his immediate future to Tottenham, sources have told ESPN.

Kane posted on social media on Wednesday to confirm he will not leave Spurs this summer, bringing an end to City's pursuit of the England captain in this transfer window.

Sources have told ESPN that Spurs refused to negotiate a potential deal for Kane with the Premier League champions.

There is still room in Pep Guardiola's squad for a striker following the departure of Sergio Agüero to Barcelona, and while privately City are playing down the chances of signing Ronaldo, the idea has not been completely ruled out.

Sources have told ESPN that a number of obstacles would have to be overcome, including Juventus' demand for a transfer fee and Ronaldo's high wages, which would not fit into the structure at the Etihad Stadium. The 36-year-old has a year left on his contract at Juventus.

ESPN reported in June that representatives

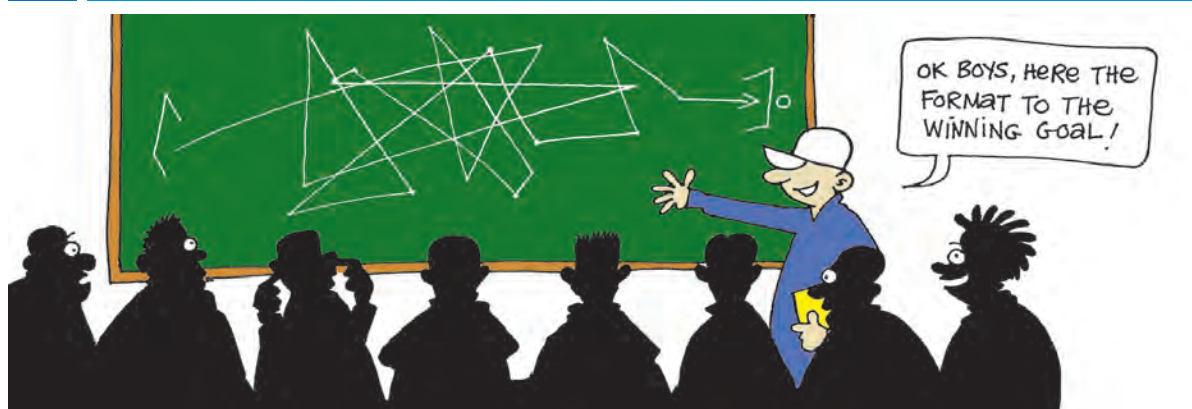
were assessing interest in the Portugal international from some of Europe's leading clubs.

Ronaldo came off the bench as Juventus began their Serie A campaign with a 2-2 draw with Udinese on Sunday. He left training early on Wednesday with an apparent arm injury.

City have until the deadline on Tuesday to secure a striker after Kane announced he will not move this summer.

Guardiola insisted ahead of the 5-0 win over Norwich that he is happy with his squad, and it remains a possibility that the club will not bring in another forward before the close of the window.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man City needed Harry Kane, so who do they turn to now?



Ibrahim Ame. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba SC defender opens up on loan move to Mtibwa Sugar

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC central defender, Ibrahim Ame, has opened up on his recent loan move to Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar, confirming his club has permitted him to seek new challenges on another side.

Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions' leadership revealed the towering defender and fullback, David Kameta, have moved to other top-flight outfits on loan.

Kameta has joined Mara's Bishara United, the youthful right fullback joined Simba SC from Lipuli FC, now featuring in First League.

The fullback could not make his presence felt in the Msimbazi Street club, leaving Shomary Kapombe as a fullback playing regularly in the position.

Ame was signed by Simba SC at the end of the 2019/20 season from Coastal Union of Tanga, but the defender has failed to get a chance to play in the first team.

The defender's move to Mtibwa Sugar seeks to help him step up his performance and possibly prompt Simba SC's head coach, Didier Gomes, to bring him back to the squad at the end of the 2021/22 season.

He had already confirmed his intention to join any of the Premier League clubs in Mainland Tanzania.

Ame pointed out: "I have been allowed to look for a team to challenge me next season after sitting on the bench for a long time and I am already in talks with those teams."

The player disclosed: "Mara's Bishara United also showed interest but their payment was not satisfactory so all I can tell you is that I will be a Mtibwa Sugar player."

He said apart from trying to prove his worth, his goal is to be seen and get a chance to be called up to the senior national team.

Twelve players from Simba SC have earned call-ups to their respective countries' senior national teams for Africa Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

The footballers are Aishi Manula, Mohamed Hussein, Israel Mwenda, Erasto Nyoni, Shomari Kapombe, Kennedy Juma, John Bocco, and Muzamiru Yassin, selected for the senior national squad.

Perfect Chikwende (Zimbabwe), Taddeo Lwanga (Uganda), and Meddie Kagere (Rwanda) are also the national team duties.

Simba is lately taking part in a pre-season camp in Morocco to gauge skills before taking part in next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Champions League.

According to Simba, the footballers have already left Morocco, joining the side's footballer that left the camp for various reasons.

Simba SC allays fears on 'Simba Day' cancellation

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC leadership has calmed the team's members and fans by affirming the outfit's plan to host this year's 'Simba Day' festival.

The team's leadership yesterday posted a brief statement on the issue on the outfit's social media pages.

Before the statement, Simba SC members were in a state of uncertainty as to whether the side could organize the 'Simba Day' festival this year.

Preparations for the 'Mwananchi Day' festival, organized by Simba SC's age-old rivals Yanga were the ones that put pressure on Simba SC followers.

The Simba SC fans' fears came about following the growing silence on the hosting of the 'Simba Day'.

Acting Simba SC Information Officer, Ezekiel Kamwaga, said yesterday they will announce a special date for the festival which is held annually and involves fans and members.

Kamwaga said preparations for the festival are progressing well and their team will play an international friendly match against the biggest and most prestigious team in Africa at the festival.

The official revealed: "We will announce the official date of our festival, preparations are going well so far."

"Our team will play a friendly match against the big teams here in Africa on 'Simba Day', we want to be different from other teams playing with modest outfits."

In another development, Kamwaga added that Simba SC player Ibrahim Ajib has already signed a new two-year contract to continue serving the squad.

However, Simba SC leadership is expected to present detailed information towards the 'Simba Day' festival whose date of release has not yet been announced.



Acting Simba SC Information Officer, Ezekiel Kamwaga

Twiga Stars applaud President Samia for offering support



Senior national women's football team Twiga Stars' players take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's COSAFA Women's Championship, which has been slated for September 28 to October 9 in South Africa's Nelson Mandela Bay. PHOTO: TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national women's soccer team Twiga Stars' players have congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan for showing interest in sponsoring the CECAFA Women's Championship.

President Samia had promised to sponsor the next year's CECAFA Women's tournament during an event for congratulating the national U-23 team after winning the CECAFA U-23 Challenge Cup which took place in Ethiopia.

The function took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

She also made a statement on how female players are fit and asked people to opt-out of issuing unkind remarks on the footballers.

Samia's statement sparked a debate among domestic football stakeholders.

Speaking at a press conference in

the city yesterday, Twiga Stars players praised President Samia for being at the forefront of promoting women's football.

Esther Mabanza, one of Twiga Stars' players, thanked President Samia for backing the squad and urged individuals and firms to come forward to support the President's efforts to promote women's football.

"We thank the President for supporting us by sponsoring women's football and we also ask various stakeholders to come forward to reduce the challenges in women's football," Esther noted.

Twiga Stars' other player, Janeth Christopher, too congratulated President Samia for her backing and asked stakeholders not to take the President's statement negatively as it gives them the impetus to work hard.

Janeth disclosed: "There is a state-

ment made by the President, who is like our mother, about us posing as men, a statement that has been taken differently by some people."

"We ask them not to take it negatively as the statement motivates us, so, we are working on it," Janeth added.

Stumai Abdallah said football needs an individual, who takes part in it, to be strong.

The footballer pointed out Twiga Stars have to practice to keep fit so that people opt out of underrating the players.

"Despite our mother's statement being taken negatively by some football stakeholders, we have to realize our responsibilities," the footballer noted.

"The game of football moreover is not easy, we need to work hard, and the kits we wear have to be acceptable in the community," Stumai said.

EATV

FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



eastafrika

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 Friday Night Live

88.1FM

DAR ES SALAAM