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TANAPA: Rhinoceros numbers rising again



ECSTATIC: Graduates from the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy's Kigoma, Mwanza and Singida campuses in jubilant mood at their graduation ceremony held in Singida municipality at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Dotto Mwaibale

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

RHINOS are becoming more numerous in Tanzania, with the latest count putting their number at 190 and the population is projected to reach 205 by 2023.

Philbert Ngoti, an assistant conservation commissioner at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and national rhino coordinator, made this observation over the weekend at the closure of a two-day editors and senior journalists' convention hosted by the conservation agency.

The conservator said that in the 1970s, Tanzania had 10,000 rhinos in various national parks and game reserves but the decimation of the animals neared extinction during the 1990s, reaching the low end of 15 towards the end of the decade, stirring up international alarm.

There was a situation of uncontrolled poaching in the roaring days of free market and adoration of all sorts of speculative visitors putting up a façade of investment but having other agenda.

At the same time, donor fatigue was creeping, occasioning a poachers' haven of frustrated wildlife conservation staff and paperwork without effect in government accountability, to push

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Support unity government, Zanzibar president appeals

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has called upon Zanzibaris to support the newly formed Government of National Unity (GNU) to spur economic development.

Dr Mwinyi issued the appeal over the weekend in his greetings to Muslims after Friday prayers conducted at Masjid Jibril, at Mkunazini.

The formation of the joint cabinet was in line with the requirements of Article 9(3) of the Amended 1984 Zanzibar Constitution which provides for power sharing in the Isles.

GNU has already been formed and



He however asserted that although some people were not happy with reconciliation, this is an opportunity to educate them to come into the fold for the benefit of all Zanzibaris

leaders involved have agreed to settle their differences in order to unite the people of Zanzibar and Pemba in disregarding their political and religious affiliations, he asserted.

He said Islanders' prayers have been answered and both parties have agreed to work together for the interest of Zanzibaris. "It is my hope that you will no longer live in animosity," he declared.

He said religion demands that all the people be united and embrace solidarity as well as love one another, appealing to Zanzibaris to continue supporting the GNU for their development.

He, however, asserted that although

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Registrar now disbands coops' bank committee

■ Dissolves Ushirika Towers Joint Enterprise forthwith

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Registrar of Cooperatives Societies, Dr Benson Ndiege (pictured) has dissolved the committee formed to oversee the setting up of the National Cooperative Bank, calling on the Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives



(TFC) to come up with new strategies.

He said the committee has done nothing in its eight years of existence, affirming that no one knows what the committee is doing and its chairperson even signs payments without knowing what the sums are supposed to be used

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Jan-Henrik Kuhlmann

AfDB commits \$20m in \$60m off-grid energy lending fund

■ It is part of global solar-based COVID-19 impact recovery drive

By Guardian Reporter

MULTILATERAL development lender African Development Bank (AfDB) has committed US\$20 million to a US\$50-60 million COVID-19 recovery fund for companies which distribute solar home systems and clean cooking stoves and set up green mini-grids and other off-grid

renewable systems across the continent.

The directors of the AfDB last week agreed to allocate US\$20 million from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa set up by the Danish government in 2011 - and thereafter backed by public funds from Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the US and the UK - to its new Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform.

Three co-founders of the initiative, selected by competitive means, will supply a further US\$30-40 million to the programme, an AfDB press release said over the weekend.

London-based investment bank Lion's Head Global Partners and New York venture capital business Social Investment Managers and Advisors will be partners, along with Dutch impact investor Triple Jump, which said money

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TANAPA: Rhinoceros numbers rising again

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poaching to the limit.

It was at that time that global pressures from CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) stepped in, but this time it was elephants whose numbers were being decimated, as rhino had become so rare that some had to be airlifted from South Africa to prepare for large numbers in Tanzania's national parks.

The situation of the rhino could then be reexamined as one of the world's most endangered high profile species, whose horn is sought after in East Asian markets for medicine, and in an array of other markets for jewellery, clothes and souvenirs.

Local conservation was given a shot in the arm with the coming of the fifth phase government, whose hot pursuit of complacency, corruption and rot at various levels of governance changed things for the better, enabling the wildlife authorities, in conjunction with the police, to dismantle poaching networks.

Rhino numbers went up sharply in the period, so that by 2018, there were 161 and within two years a total of 190 rhinos were in national parks, an increase of 28 rhinos in two years.

"We're working on a five-year black rhinos protection strategy, aimed at increasing the number of rhinos to boost the tourism industry," he said when presenting a paper on conservation management of rare species in Tanzania and anti-poaching efforts

Rhinos are tracked by special devices fastened on selected animals or in solitary way, which monitor their movements and the data is received at various stations, he said, noting that no rhinos had been killed by poachers in recent years.

One rhino died of an illness last year, and TANAPA plans to relocate rhinos to Burigi-Chato and Arusha national parks, along with introducing northern white rhinos to more local sanctuaries to widen viewing access for the species.

During the period, a total of 11,838 poachers were arrested in various national parks in an operation lasting four years and thousands of weapons seized.

John Nyamhanga, the

TANAPA'S assistant conservation commissioner for law enforcement and strategic security, said the use of military weapons and modern technology by poachers pushed the government to set up a paramilitary unit in TANAPA as part of the anti-poaching drive.

During the 2016/17 period, the unit arrested 115 poachers in the first year and 54 the following year, while this year only ten poachers have been arrested, he said, noting that the number of poachers is smaller but the impact is huge due to the use of more sophisticated technology.

There is also an increasing trend of pastoralists taking livestock into national parks, thus threatening the country's conservancies, while increasing human-wildlife conflicts and climate change cripple national parks' conservation efforts, he pointed out.

He pointed at emerging criminal groups who use national parks as hideouts to conduct unlawful actions, which threatens the country's security.

"We've managed to address this challenge with aid from communities around the parks," he said, presenting a paper on the importance of paramilitary units in scaling up wildlife conservation.

Godwell ole Meing'ataki, an assistant conservation commissioner said that 69 alien weed species have invaded some of the country's national parks, posing a threat to wildlife, as the more versatile invasive species were suffocating wildlife habitats and harming ecological sustainability.

TANAPA was assessing the spread of invasive species to take control measures, with new invasive species invading the national parks virtually on a daily basis through rain, wind and migrating birds, he stated.

Significant results had been registered toward the control of invasive species in Mahale, Rubondo, Mikumi and Udzungwa national parks, the conservator added.

"We're working on a five-year black rhinos protection strategy, aimed at increasing the number of rhinos to boost the tourism industry"



Witness Kileo (L), public relations manager at CRDB Bank Plc's Oysterbay (Dar es Salaam) branch, briefs former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (R) on how women are empowered through the bank's Malkia Account. This was at the Second Women's Window general meeting held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CHRAGG calls upon students to conduct more research on gender-based violence

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has called on students in higher learning institutions to conduct more research on gender-based violence, saying there is need for more understanding on the problem.

Speaking during a conference on gender based violence held at the University of Dodoma (UDOM) at the weekend, the Commission's deputy chairperson, Mohamed Khamis Hamad said students in the higher learning institutions have a major role to play in the fight against the vice.

The conference was part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10th December on the Human Rights Day.

Hamad said the commission thank both governments for various efforts to end gender-based violence, calling on students to be champions for campaign against the vice. "Students in higher learning institutions are part of the society and since they are still within the education system they should be empowered to conduct more research on the problem," he said.

He noted that one of the efforts is the establishment of strategic plans to eradicate gender violence on women and children in both mainland and Isles aimed at reducing the problem.

Another strategy, he said is the establishment of 420 gender and children's desks at police stations throughout the country enabling 58,059 casualties to get services.

He named another efforts such as creation of 12 One Stops Centres that provide services to victims of gender-based violence and 11,520 for protection of women and children at village to the national level.

The deputy chairperson also emphasised the need for public servants, non-governmental organisations to focus on strengthening public service ethics to avoid cases of gender violence against women and children.

However, he noted that despite the efforts by the government, the commission has realised several challenges that hinder the efforts to build gender-based violence free society. Some of the challenges include bad traditions and beliefs that allow underage to get married instead of continuing with education, female genital mutilation and sexual corruption at work places and higher learning institutions.

Support unity government, Zanzibar president appeals

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some people were not happy with reconciliation, this is an opportunity to educate them on the need to come into the fold for the benefit of all Zanzibaris.

It is also important for the people to continue maintaining unity and peace to enable the government honor the various campaign pledges, he stated, emphasizing that the government is required to continue finding solutions to the many challenges that Zanzibaris face including ending corruption, gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse.

"We are going to work on all these challenges," he told the gathering.

Mid last week, ACT-Wazalendo chairman Seif Sharif Hamad took oath of office as First Vice President of Zanzibar, for the formation of GNU.

After taking the oath to office, the First Vice President extended his gratitude towards President Mwinyi for clear intention and willingness to reconcile inter-party and communal differences.

He said President Mwinyi has shown his readiness to work with the opposition by accepting the opposition's recommendation that he be appointed as First Vice President.

Maalim Seif pointed out that the GNU is meant to be a guide towards Zanzibar's efforts to reconcile, not a power sharing tool for the interests of political parties.

ACT's willingness to participate in GNU is testimony to the party's good intentions and willingness to cooperate with the ruling party towards finding lasting solutions to existing problems, he declared.

"We have agreed to work together to ensure that what happened before, during and after the October 28 elections does not happen again," the veteran opposition leader added.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul (C) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend being briefed on three-in-one vials used in the vaccination of chickens. That was shortly before she launched the operation, which was implemented in tandem with a Tanzania Veterinary Association meeting. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

AfDB commits \$20m in \$60m off-grid energy lending fund

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from a separate fund established by the Shell Foundation and Dutch development bank FMO would also contribute to the Covid recovery plan.

"We are pleased to be selected

to co-manage the Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform, which will be blended with funding from the Energy Entrepreneurs Growth Fund," said Triple Jump's head of sustainable energy, Jan-Henrik Kuhlmann, in a statement.

The finance, including the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa contribution, will be used to offer loans to off-grid companies at concessional rates of interest, the AfDB said, noting that the move had been endorsed by

organizations including the Brussels-based Alliance for Rural Electrification, Nairobi-headquartered Africa Mini-Grid Developers Association, and Dutch non-profit Gogla, earlier known as the Global Off-Grid Lighting Association.

Registrar now disbands coops' bank committee

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for.

"The committee has failed to come up with new ways of forming the bank. When the plan to start the bank was hatched in 2012, various stakeholders raised a total of 393m/-, the same amount available in the account to date," he elaborated.

The plan was to establish the bank within four years but despite the committee meeting three times a year there is nothing to show, he stated further, blasting it for "just eating any profit earned by the existing startup capital."

"If you have failed to help establish the bank in eight years, how can you come up with new ideas?" he demanded, declaring that the committee's mandate was null and void. The money in the account should not be touched until there new measures are in place.

Officiating at the 25th Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives general meeting, Dr Ndiege ordered the dissolution of the Ushirika Tower Joint Enterprise, a body formed to steer the construction of the Ushirika Towers at Mnazi Mmoja in Dar es Salaam.

The enterprise is working under an unclear environment, just waiting to get money from TFC and has siphoned between 600m/- and 700m/- of shareholders' money, he declared.

While the construction of Ushirika Towers was almost completed; some cooperative societies' top officials audaciously teamed up and formed the organization with intention to get money from the towers.

Dr Ndiege said it is surprising that the buildings stand on TFC ground but a different entity emerges to control income accrued through rents paid by tenants.

He declared the joint enterprise as dissolved with immediate effect and the best possible is that it could be set up as a department within TFC.

He said that the great challenge facing TFC is loan repayment, as there are few new tenants to occupy the buildings on account of diminishing of business turnover in the past few years. TFC has a 59bn/- loan to repay while the buildings are valued at approximately 53bn/-, he asserted.

He pointed at intense changes taking place in TFC despite having changed the board of directors and management, specifying that these efforts are aimed at making it stronger and boost the dynamism of the entire cooperative sector.

TFC board chairperson, Theresia Chitumbi stated that establishing the cooperative bank has been delayed due to lack of capital. About 15bn/- needs to be available to make the project feasible, she added.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority acting director general Vallery Chamlungu (4th-R) receives a trophy from Dr Charles Mwamaja, Commissioner of Finance Development in the Finance and Planning ministry, in Dar es Salaam after the agency emerged among the winners of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors accounting standards awards for last year. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NARCO vaccinates cattle against contagious disease

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO) has started vaccination against contagious bovine caprine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), treating 9,237 head of cattle at the Kongwa based farm.

The move is among the directives issued by the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki in December, this year.

NARCO's acting general manager, Masele Shilagi said this in a speech to the minister when he visited NARCO yesterday, adding that the vaccination exercise took about ten hours.

Shilagi said after the launch of the exercise it will be rolled out to other livestock owned by private investors within the NARCO farm: "We have alerted the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) in efforts to get vaccine doze for 6800 livestock still left in 13 ranches and the vaccinations will start next week," he said.

The NARCO boss appealed to livestock keepers neighbouring Kongwa ranch not to be worried since the government has taken positive steps towards fighting against the disease.

On his part, minister Ndaki who made an impromptu visit at the ranch in Kongwa after the outbreak of the disease called on the acting NARCO manger to ensure all cows were vaccinated against the disease.

He said, "Make sure all cows in the national ranches are vaccinated against this deadly disease",

CBPP is caused by the bacteria mycoplasma mycoides species. As the name suggests, CBPP mainly affects the lungs and the membranes that line the thoracic cavity resulting in fever and respiratory distress such as laboured or rapid breathing, cough and nasal discharge.

About 15 per cent of infected animals die in endemic areas and up to 70 per cent when introduced into naive herds, lactation loss is up to 90 per cent.

It has a devastating impact on livestock owners. It leads to reduced incomes through lower animal productivity, trade restrictions imposed on live cattle by disease-free countries, increased costs for veterinary services, and death.

CBPP is currently considered to be the most important bacterial livestock disease in sub-Saharan Africa. It currently affects over 20 countries in Africa and is suspected to be present in Asia.

The economic implications of CBPP are difficult to estimate since diagnostic surveys for many regions in sub-Saharan Africa are absent, but preliminary estimated costs of at least USD 100 million per year in Africa, approximately USD 6.1 million per country are likely.

Duwasa: Stop of human activity within Makutupora Water Basin

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PEOPLE living around the Makutupora Basin water source in Dodoma City have been ordered to immediately stop human activities including farming and livestock keeping in order to protect the Basin as it was the only water source for the City.

Speaking here at the weekend on the Protection of Water Resources, Peter Shemelekwa, Head of Mzakwe Urban Water and Sanitation Authority

(DUWASA), in collaboration with Wami-Ruvu Water Basin Office that also administer the Makutupora Basin have been taking various steps to ensure the water source was protected to ensure reliable supply of water.

Journalists from various media visited the Wami-Ruvu Basin to report on water resources protection through Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) funded by USAID.

He said since Dodoma has been a great increase of water requirement

and the capacity for the Makutupora Water Basin was 61.5 million litres per day from 19 boreholes within the City.

"Here we are is one among deep water well - Well No 118/75 dug in 1975 and has the capacity to pump out 177 litres of water per hour that is conveyed to reservoirs for distribution to Dodoma residents," Shemelekwa said.

"Makutupora Water Basin is the only water source depended by our capital city and since the government started shifting to Dodoma, water requirement

increased substantially, hence we advised people living around the Basin to take care of the environment.

"There are some activities that should not be carried out within the Basin, including tree cutting for charcoal, farming by using fertilizer and livestock grazing," he stressed.

He said there are laws in place for anyone found to be engaged in such human activities within the Basin, and warned that DUWASA were closely working together with Makutupora TPDF Camp to protect the water source.

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TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200435

The Government of Tanzania through its Ministry of Industry and Trade, with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking Consultancy Services to undertake a study on the impact of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) on trade performance in Tanzania and development of a national NTBs elimination and resolution strategy.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarka.com quoting the tender title and number. This tender is open to firms/consortiums only. The closing date for submission of proposals is **21 January 2021**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven days or less prior to the submission deadline.

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Abt Associates, a global leader in implementing technical assistance programs and research in the fields of economic growth, agriculture, social and environmental policy, and climate change, seeks highly qualified candidates for the anticipated USAID Comprehensive Client Centered Health Program for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in Tanzania, or the Tanzania C3HP RMNCAH Activity, which seeks to increase the demand for and use of quality integrated RMNCAH services in target regions, particularly women of reproductive age, youth and children, by improving access to quality RMNCAH services in both facilities and the surrounding communities, promoting positive health-seeking behaviors among Tanzania's population, and enhancing the overall policy environment for RMNCAH service delivery.

All positions will be based in Dar es Salaam and are contingent upon project award to Abt Associates.

Chief of Party (COP) - The COP's primary responsibilities are aimed at providing overall leadership and technical direction of the entire project activity, ensuring an integrated vision among different components and actors, and a focus on achieving the results defined in the project's scope of work. Candidates must have a Master's degree with at least 15 years of senior-level international project management experience in designing, implementing and managing large, complex health systems strengthening and service delivery programs in developing countries. Experience working in Tanzania required.

Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) - The DCOP, under the supervision of the Chief of Party, assists in developing and implementing innovative approaches to strengthening the capacity of Tanzanian institutions and communities to deliver quality, integrated health services. Candidates must have a Master's degree with at least 12 years of relevant experience or a Bachelor's degree and 16 years of relevant experience, including serving in a senior technical position for public health and/or international development project. Must possess technical expertise in FP/RH and MNCH and have demonstrated leadership experience supporting technical strategy for an international donor-funded health service delivery program.

Finance and Administration (F&A) Director - The Finance and Administration (F&A) Director, under the supervision of the Chief of Party, will have primary responsibility for financial, accounting, contract and compliance management for the project. S/he will provide supervision and oversight of the program's finance, administrative and human resources support staff, and establish the Activity's financial systems and procedures required to ensure compliance with USAID regulations and local labor laws. Candidates must have a Master's degree in finance, business, accounting, or other relevant field, and at least 12 years of experience managing project finance and administration for international development programs, or Bachelor's degree and 16 years of relevant experience. Expertise in USAID contract and compliance regulations required.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Director - Under the supervision of the Chief of Party (COP), the MEL Director is responsible for designing the project's monitoring, evaluation, and learning agenda and creating systems to measure and document program process, output and impact data results by routinely and systematically collecting, analyzing and presenting program data for project staff, partners and donors. Candidates must have a Master's degree and at least 12 years' experience in statistics, M&E, or a related field, or a Bachelor's degree and 16 years of relevant experience. At least five years of professional experience supporting MEL activities on international donor-funded programs. USAID MEL experience required. Experience conducting research and evaluation in HIV/AIDS, malaria, FP/RH, MNCH, WASH or nutrition is desired.

Senior Technical and Administrative Specialists - In addition to the individual positions above, Abt is looking to fill several senior technical and administrative positions. These positions will be providing technical guidance and administrative management for a range of activities within the project. Qualified candidates will have a minimum of 10 years working on these issues for USAID or other international organizations in Tanzania.

Interested candidates may send a CV and cover letter to TanzaniaJobs@abtassoc.com. Please include the position title and "Tanzania RMNCHA" in the subject line of the email. One email per position application. **Deadline for applications is December 31, 2020.** Tanzanian nationals are encouraged to apply. Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

Abt Associates is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer committed to fostering a diverse workforce. Abt Associates provides market-competitive salaries and comprehensive employee benefits.

ARU comes up with new technology for alternative production of charcoal

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

ARDHI University (ARU) has invented new technologies to produce alternative charcoal from waste products in order to improve skills and employment opportunities among universities graduates and small farmers.

This was revealed over the weekend in Dar es Salaam by ARU Vice Chancellor Prof Evaristo Liwa, when speaking during the 14th graduation ceremony held at the university premises.

A total of 927 graduates were awarded first degree, masters' degree and four PhDs by the university Chancellor former Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya.

He said the project has helped to plan, to measure and provide title deeds in Mbarali District and has also helped areas for small industries to produce charcoal and infrastructure to transport resources to be used by those industries.

He mentioned other opportunities that were created by that project as availability of capital, copy right, the decrease of land conflict and decrease of pandemic diseases.

Prof Liwa said the university also did research on how to improve the use of new technique of irrigation system at Rufiji Valley to increase efficiency and increase productivity in Iringa District while also solving some challenges of water use in Rufiji river.

Prof Liwa said under the sponsorship of Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), the university also did research on natural technology of house construction which can not be damaged by earthquake in Dodoma and that research will enable academicians to use the expertise in innovating modern building in the region.

He said the achievement of the university is the fruits of collaboration of management and all staff including foreign

development partners.

Prof Liwa mentioned some of them as Sida of Sweden, GIZ and DAAD of Germany, Norway, Denmark and China also recognized the contribution by the Ministry of Education, Science and Higher Learning for the growth of the university (ARU) something that made the institute to be strong every year.

"Specifically I would like to congratulate all graduates for this achievement you have made in your history and for the nation because I know your journey was not that easy but eventually you made it congratulations.

He said for academic year 2020/21 ARU enrolled 1,653 first year students for the first degree and 97 for Masters' degree while four were for PhDs.

He said ARU have introduced 13 programmes of first degree, Master's degree and PhDs taking into consideration the employment market while the country is in the industrialisation process.



Tanzania Breweries Ltd Plc communications manager, Amanda Walter, introduces the company's 'Isiwe Sababu' crusade against gender-based violence during the commemoration of '16 Days of Activism Against GBV' held in Monduli District at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Foundation in need of 165m/- for mother/child mortality reduction

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

ABOUT 165m/- is needed to reduce mother and infant mortality, medical research and treatment of mouth diseases especially of teeth for children living in difficult environment for undertaking surgery.

This was revealed by Dr Mercy Minde, chairman of Kamanga Healthcare Foundation (KHF) who is also specialist on children's diseases when speaking about the institutions responsibilities and raising funds from stakeholders.

She said the money would be used in four projects including reduction of mother/infant mortality during birth, the project they plan to begin with Mwanza Region using new technology.

She said the projects are expected to take one year to be completed and expect to reach

600 children in order to get 75 per cent of children with various health challenges and 25 per cent of children needing specialised treatment.

"We expect to do this work in Mwanza Region in both Nyamagana and Ilemela districts for the first project, and subsequent projects will involve going around all district hospitals in the region," said Dr Minde.

Dr Thomas Rutachunzibwa, Mwanza Regional Medical Officer, speaking on behalf of Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella at Kamanga Healthcare Foundation fund raising event, said they have been having very good cooperation with the hospital hence the money being sourced will do great work to the beneficiaries - health care to mother and child to reduce deaths.

"I beg you to dig deeper into your pockets in order to

eradicate the challenges by sending your funds through CRDB A/C No 0133517445900 in favour of Kamanga Healthcare Foundation," said Rutachunzibwa.

Dr Rodrick Kabangila, managing director of Kamanga hospital said the hospital was registered as a non-profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in 2014.

"Up to now KHF has never received any assistance, financially or otherwise from international sponsors, except assistance from its associates and close stakeholders. Through these contributions we have been able to pay for the costs of patients in emergency situations especially those who were unable to pay for such costs," Dr Kabangila said.

He called upon various stakeholders who might be touched to ensure they assist in this hard but well intentioned journey by contributing to the community which is in dire need.

Dodoma has conducive investment climate - DC

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA District Commissioner Josephat Maganga has said Dodoma Region continues to put in place friendly and enabling environment for people to invest in various areas as part of the implementing of President John Magufuli's directives.

The DC remarks were given here at the weekend when launching GSM shops selling clothing, office and household furniture.

He said at present the government has removed

bureaucracy and red tape for investors to get various permits in accordance to what the President said when inaugurating the 12th Parliament last month.

"We believe that investors' achievements mean the nation's achievements, so by investing in Dodoma, you can also invest in the country's other regions," DC Maganga said.

He further said GSM have invested at the appropriate time as Dodoma City was for a long time in need of such services.

"Your presence here with these goods is the right thing you have decided as we used to follow furniture from Dar es Salaam," he

added.

He said Dodoma still has adequate land for investments in various services such as health, education, infrastructure and factories.

Fatma Abdallah, GSM managing director praised President Magufuli for putting in place an enabling environment for investments.

She said the situation will increase the number of investors as according to the President, all investors' permits should be issued within 14 days.

"Apart from the clothing and furniture shops, GSM will continue to invest in other economic and social sectors.

Eco-schools programme implemented in Mvomero District betters academic performance, secures the environment

By Beatrice Philemon

THE eco-schools programme implemented by the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) at primary schools in Morogoro Region has helped to improve the surrounding environment and pupil's academic performance.

The programme which is supported by the Danish government through the Danish Outdoor Council (DOC) was implemented at Mkindo primary school in Mvomero District with 960 pupils.

Briefing journalists and TFCG staff who visited the school recently, Mkindo primary school environmental teacher, Stella Nganilevanu said the programme has also equipped pupils with agricultural knowledge since they have been trained on how to grow banana, tree seedlings for timber and fruits as well as beekeeping.

The main objective of the eco-schools program is to improve the school environment, pupil's academic performance and establish micro projects to overcome various challenges facing the school such income.

The programme was officially introduced at the school in 2016, she said.

"We are grateful to the TFCG for coming up with this program

since it has helped in transferring agricultural knowledge to the surrounding community to enable them to earn cash to improve their livelihood," she added.

She said through banana cultivation, the school was able to sell 25 bunches of banana worth 200,000/- in 2018 as well as launch a school feeding program that benefits about 960 pupils. She said that provision of food to pupils has contributed to increased academic performance and enrollment.

"A bunch of banana is sold at between 3000/- and 5000/-," said the school's environment teacher adding they have started a tree nursery that has 250 seedlings for both fruits and timber.

She said they have purchased 10 modern beehives whereas beekeeping activities and conducted at the Boma suburb to help the school to earn cash, conserve the environment and improve the community's livelihood. She said pupils have also planted various tree species around the school to prevent soil erosion.

Retired school committee chairman, Ramadhan Mdolwa: "Many villagers have benefitted with agricultural education offered at the school, they are now massively engaging in banana cultivation and tree planting for

fruits and timber."

He said they villagers were impressed with the micro projects established at school, hence deciding to embark on commercial production of the crop.

"We are facing challenges of theft, some dishonest villagers stole banana from the school farms; we have now decided to construct a fence to protect our farm products," he said.

A Standard Six pupil, Oscar Adrian; "We now have the knowledge on how to cultivate banana in modern ways, most of us can grow tree seedlings for timber and fruits."

Adrian noted that decisions by the school management to start offering free meals to pupils have contributed to increased academic performance especially in science subjects.

Eco-schools programme officer in Mvomero District, Judith Kiwale added that the project has expanded beyond the schools whereas villagers are now cultivating banana commercially.

The programme was officially started in 2015 with 20 primary schools in Mvomero District. In 2017 the program expanded to cover 70 primary schools in Kilosa, Mufindi, Morogoro and Mvomero districts.



Songea municipality residents witness the handing over of a car to the winner of Vodacom's 'Shangwea' promotion raffle, Gloria Kamanga at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Venture into agribusiness, PASS Trust urges women

By Guardian Reporter

THE private agricultural sector support- PASS Trust has called on women agricultural entrepreneurs to take advantage of existing PASS products to grow themselves economically through enhanced engagement in agribusiness.

Speaking at the 2020 annual Madirisha women cooperative society meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam and graced by former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, PASS managing director Nicomed Bohay said women contribute significantly to the country's development through their engagement in agricultural activities.

Bohay said PASS Trust in supporting women in agribusiness will continue to ensure women benefit from PASS Trust Credit Guarantee of up to 80 per cent as opposed to others who benefit up to 60 per cent.

"We understand how much women do, how much role they play in the agricultural sector. Our 80 per cent credit guarantee is meant to boost them towards accessing funds to support their productions" Said Bohay.

Madirisha women cooperative society brings together women in agribusiness who are producing different products for sale. The society makes it possible for women to access markets as a group and bargain together for favourable prices.

"And this makes it possible even for PASS Trust to be able to support these

groups through our credit guarantee. Through PASS, these women will be able to access funds through our credit guarantee, and will enable them increase production and sell more. This in turn will benefit families by improving lives," says Bohay

Over 1200 women who attended this year's Madirisha conference were excited at how PASS Trust credit guarantee scheme was favouring women in agribusiness.

Videos of women beneficiaries played at the conference revealed that small scale women traders in agribusiness projects who were considered uncredit worthy due to their lack of collateral were now serious traders after PASS Trust held their hands through the Trust's credit guarantee to the bank.

PASS Trust working with over 14 commercial banks in Tanzania have been able to uplift such women and many other agribusiness entrepreneurs who previously were not bankable.

A woman from Kahama popularly known as Mama Mageuzi is one such women that has benefited from PASS credit guarantee scheme. She was described as thriving millionaire in agribusiness, having started small and now owning rice processing mills as well as a packaging factory, courtesy of PASS Trust credit guarantee. Others are Mama Agnes Adam Mwakatole from Njombe, a thriving maize farmer, Chetu Omari Korongo, a thriving rice farmer from Morogoro among others.

Over 1.5 million agribusiness entrepreneurs have benefited

from PASS Trust credit guarantee scheme since the year 2002 when PASS trust began its services. 45 per cent of the beneficiaries have been women entrepreneurs in the whole agricultural value chain.

In the year 2019 alone, 267,000 agribusiness entrepreneurs benefited from pass Trust credit guarantee, 42 per cent of these beneficiaries were women.

In its 2018-2022 strategic plan, PASS Trust plans to benefit women in agribusiness even more.

VACANCY

LUBRICANT SALESMAN NEEDED

JOB DETAILS:

A motor vehicle lubricant startup company is looking for candidate in lubricant sales. To be successful in this role, you should have worked in the Tanzanian lubricant industry for at least 2-3 years.

Requirements

- Experience and familiarity in the lubricant market in Tanzania is a must
- Computer literacy - MS Office
- Fluent in English and Kiswahili. Other languages will be an added advantage.

Send CV to hr.carbonix@outlook.com



Room to Read®
World Change Starts with Educated Children.®

Organization Profile

Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are achieving this goal by providing support during the two most critical time in a child's education: primary school for literacy acquisition and secondary school for girl's education. Our Literacy Program trains and coaches teachers, creates quality books and curricular materials and establishes libraries filled with diverse children's books in local languages that can be enjoyed at school or home. Our Girls Education Program helps girls build skills to succeed in secondary school and make key life decisions by providing life skills curriculum, opportunities for mentorship and peer support, and family and community engagement. Room to Read collaborates with local communities, partner organizations, and governments to test and implement innovative models that can be integrated into the education system to deliver positive outcomes for children at scale. To date, Room to Read has reached 18 million children in 37,000 communities across Bangladesh, Cambodia, Grenada, Honduras, India, Jordan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia, and plans to benefit 40 million children by 2025. Learn more at www.roomtoread.org.

Position: Senior Officer, Accounting & Finance (1)
Location: Dar es Salaam

Position Overview

The Senior Officer accounting and Finance will assist and report to the Accounting and Finance Manager. Primary responsibilities include assisting in maintaining all aspects of the organization's finances and accounting, reporting and compliances with policies and guidelines. The position will have regular interactions with all staff.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for maintaining field office records accurately and properly.
- You are responsible for accurate payment and retirement of field staff travel advances. All payment will be approved after a copy from Intact is attached together with compliances checklist. This copy will form basis of approval.
- Maintaining books of accounts and accurately and regularly for country and field offices.
- Keep and update record of all accounts and transactions.
- OFAC Compliance check; You are responsible for timely OFAC check as per Room to Read guidance's
- Submitting all statutory compliances updates and e-filing.
- Monthly Cash Forecast
- Cash Forecast and management: You will be compiling cash forecast as and when submitted by program Managers for AFM review.
- Statutory and internal audit;
- In Collaboration with both AFA and AFM, you will work together in accomplishing the Statutory Audit
- Budget Preparation in Adaptive;
- You will be another key actor in budget preparation process
- Tracking Staff advances;
- You will be responsible tracking and approving staff Salary and travel advance
- Support and indirectly manage the Finance Associate.

Qualifications and Experience:

- ACCA or CPA qualified is a must.
- Accounting and/Finance degree from recognized University /college
- Familiar in accounting packages
- 3 to 4 years' experience in accounting and finance preferably in an international NGO environment
- Proficient in MS Excel, MS word and power point
- Working knowledge of accounting, reporting and administration
- Detail oriented and extremely organized
- Results oriented; commitment to quality and efficiency
- Adept at using accounting software, Excel and other Microsoft Office applications
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Willing and able to work in a fast-paced, growth-oriented environment
- Flexible attitude towards changing priorities and ability to multi task.
- Takes initiative and a team player
- Excellent interpersonal skills

Position: Officer, Girls Education Program (1)
Location: Kibaha

Position Overview:

The Girl Education Program Officer will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of Room to Read's Girls Education Program (GEP), including planning, implementing and monitoring and quality assurance of the program both at the Country Office and at the field level. The incumbent will be constantly engaged in working to improve the Girls Education Program in all working district ensuring that Girls Education Program is effectively and timely implemented. This position requires skills in Project Management, Training and facilitation, alternative education program, Life Skills, Networking, Budgeting, and Supervising. The Program Officer will directly report to the Field Operations Manager and will supervise Social Mobilizers. This position is based in the field office.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Organize and oversee the complete process of setting up Room to Read Girls Education Program (Girls Education Program). Collaborate with other Room to Read Tanzania Girls Education Program staff to update the Operational Plan on an annual basis along with the budgeting for the coming year.
- Lead the Annual Planning and Budgeting (AP&B) process for the Girls' Education Program operations.
- Identify, engage and assess schools interested in Girls Education Program and formulate strategies for implementation Schedule and conduct regular one on one meetings, mid-year performance review and annual performance review to monitor the girls' progress and address issues as they arise.
- Train and supervise Girls Education Program field based committees and social mobilizers to ensure that they are able to support the girls and complete their roles effectively.
- Visit project schools as needed to supervise program activities at the sites and organize discussions with school management teams and local authorities.
- Gather feedback and ensure that schools and communities deliver on their portion of the challenge grant and on all terms of agreement with Room to Read.
- Complete detailed and accurate written reports in a timely manner to Regional and Global Offices as required. Participate in any other activities, which may be required to be undertaken to fulfill the objectives of the organization.
- Establish and manage relationships with other NGOs, government officials and local educational facilities/authorities; schedule and attend meetings with them to coordinate planning and implementation of projects.
- Develop and facilitate capacity building training for Social Mobilizers (SMs), NGOs, Partners representatives, team members, girls, parents and the community at large. Represent Room to Read at relevant meetings.
- Provide regular updates on program activities and plans at regular meetings with Tanzania Country Office management staff
- Document best practices and lessons learned during field work and share with other project sites, relevant local staff, the Country Director and appropriate Regional and United States based Global Program Officers
- Collect data and conduct data entry into the Global Solution Database system
- Participate in developing Quarter and Annual report on timely basis
- Develop and submit Monthly/Quarterly Cash forecast on timely basis
- On monthly basis, develop Field staff fund request and submit expense reports on their behalf
- Support Girls Education Program Manager on development/ review of new content modules - contextualization

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor Degree in Sociology, Gender, psychology, humanity or any other Social Sciences degree
- Certification in Life skills training is an added advantage
- 3-5 years' experience in girls education field
- Strong coaching, mentoring and training and presentation skills
- Experience working with NGOs
- Effective English communication skills (oral and written) and capability to relate and interact with multicultural teams and represent the organization in professional forums
- Willingness to work with strict deadlines
- Ability to conduct training as a trainer
- Ability to travel frequently, occasionally on short notice, and, when required, for extended periods of time
- Supervisory experience.
- Prior success working closely and building relationships with diverse groups of people
- Effectiveness in working or volunteering in a non-profit organization that is focused on maintaining high quality work and low overhead
- Prior experience in a fast-paced, growth-oriented global or regional organization
- Proven track record of achieving results
- Ability to juggle multiple priorities simultaneously and take initiatives.
- Report writing experience

To be successful as a member of the Room to Read team, you will also:

- Have a passion for our mission and a strong desire to impact a dynamic non-profit organization
- Be an innovative and creative thinker - you are not afraid to try something new and inspire others to do so
- Have a very high level of personal and professional integrity and trustworthiness
- Have a strong work ethic and require minimal direction
- Work well independently as well as part of a team
- Thrive in a fast-paced and fun environment

Application Procedure:

Please visit our website at www.roomtoread.org and click on the "careers" link under about us tab. This will take you to Room to Read's Career Portal. Click on the See Current Vacancies with full Job descriptions; to find this vacancy, select the vacancy you are interested and click apply to begin the online application process. If you do not hear from Room to Read within one month of the closing date, please accept that your application was unsuccessful. Please note that late applications will not be considered and correspondence will be limited to short-listed candidates only.

Room to Read is proud to be an equal opportunity employer committed to identifying and developing the skills and leadership of people from diverse backgrounds. Women are encouraged to apply.

Room to Read is a child safe organization. CLOSING DATE: 22nd December, 2020.

Police happy with helmets donation

By Guardian Correspondent

TRAFFIC Police Commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa has commended the Federation of Automobile Association (FIA) and Michelin International for their donation of 850 protective crash helmets that were distributed to Boda boda riders in Dar es Salaam last Saturday.

The event was organised by the Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) and presided over by the former President Jakaya Kikwete.

Mutafungwa said AAT, FIA, and Michelin International have been in the frontline for their donations to the Traffic Police Force in the most valuable resourceful way.

"Helmets are expensive to acquire but compulsory according to our road traffic rules and regulations should be worn by all riders in efforts to minimise injuries and save lives of riders, passengers and pedestrians when accidents happen", he said.

Besides the high-quality helmets approved by the United Nations, Mutafungwa went further to acknowledge the huge road safety initiatives taken by AAT, FIA, and Michelin International for the installation of road signs for Dar es Salaam roads especially those close to schools as an important safety factor.

In his speech, Mutafungwa urged Bodaboda riders to ensure they undergo training, acquire valid driving and business licences, insured, avoid overloading, observe speed limits, avoid alcohol during driving and save lives while maintaining road infrastructure.

"Make use of this day to make positive changes with regard to road safety", concluded the traffic boss.

AAT president Nizar Jivani said Tanzania has been lucky to get the helmets' donation from FIA and Michelin International in efforts to improve road safety. He said an estimated 1,400 people die every day as a result of accidents that involve motorcycles across the globe. He said the United Nations, FIA, and Michelin International have set a target to reduce accidents up to fifty per cent globally by the year 2030.

He said wearing helmets brings huge driving composure to both drivers and passengers.

Jivani urged the government to impose new regulation of deploying yellow coloration of motorcycles and tricycles in order to improve sight and identity at the night.

Kikwete appreciated the invitation while congratulating Traffic boss Mutafungwa for keeping close cooperation with AAT and Dar es Salaam Regional authorities in the improvement of road safety. He appreciated AAT's training of 5,000 Boda boda drivers, 2,500 primary school teachers of 143 school who trained for road safety signs, over 1,000 truck drivers who trained for defensive driving and fire fighting.

The former president who looked healthy and jovial insisted on the acquisition of high-quality protective helmets either through importation or local manufacturers. "Make sure you set up desirable standards so that the country obtains and use durable protective helmets for safety considerations," he insisted.

He hailed boda boda transport for easing life through rapid and affordable transport services. However, the former President was disappointed with the dark side of boda boda transportation particularly for riders who involve themselves in criminal activities.

He was unhappy with death statistics and injuries sustained by both riders and passengers. Kikwete said he has been excited to see bodaboda transport has been assimilated to supplement communication for the public and ease traffic congestion as well as the dependence of UDA and Dala dala.

It's ten years of bodaboda assimilation as approved public transport.

He still insisted bodaboda drivers avoid accidents by making use of road signs, wearing helmets, and ignore those who resist wearing helmets particularly ladies with unique hairstyles. Dar es Salaam Region's secretary of Bodaboda organisation Daud Laurian requested Dr. Kikwete to be a patron of their country's body launched during the day.



Hubert Kairuki Memorial University acting chancellor John Ulanga congratulates Juvenalius Anselim, named the university's 2020 Best Doctor of Medicine (Surgery) graduand, at graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Despite Covid-19, we maintained timetables - HKMU

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) has said that despite the challenges in the face of COVID-19 pandemic in the education sector, the college managed to overcome and continued with its daily school timetables through internet.

Prof Charles Mgone, HKMU Vice Chancellor (VC) said this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend during the 18th graduation ceremony held at the college's premises.

According to him, the varsity's students didn't miss any class due to COVID-19 despite sending them for a long holiday.

"We have invested heavily in Information Communication Technologies (ICTs). So when the disease recorded in the country, we only changed some few systems to enable our students continue attending classes while at home," he said.

According to him: "The use of internet is not new to us because even before

the pandemic we were prepared to offer education and do all our activities through modern technology. We thank God and government leaders who lead us through such difficult time."

Prof Mgone said that HKMU will also continue to sponsor its staff to pursue different courses including masters and PhDs level inside and outside the country.

He said that four HKMU lecturers have recently completed Master's programmes with support from the university naming them as Dr Fulgence Mpenda, Dr Jane Nyandele, Dr Hosiana Msechu and Dr Zahra Moraweji

The HKMU vice chancellor further said the university currently has 15 lecturers undergoing PhDs studies and seven Master degrees in different courses while seven lecturers have been promoted.

He said in a move to improve teaching the university has employed new staff to serve the increasing number of students saying that from December 2019 up to November, this year they had recruited eight staff.

Prof Mgone also said HKMU academicians and students have been carrying out researches on various areas including those on communicable and non-communicable diseases.

He said this year some HKMU academicians' researches came up with solutions including new ways to fight malaria, relationship between Sickle cell, early symptoms for diabetic patients and different diseases facing premature babies where majority of them were nationally and internationally recognised.

Chairperson of the board of Kairuki Health and Education Company, Kokushubila Kairuki congratulated all HKMU staff for their hard work in serving the public.

"Specifically I would like to commend VC Prof Mgone as he has been very innovative and creative, it is his innovation that made this university continue with teaching even during the prevalence of COVID 19. While others decided to close their universities he did his best to ensure that everything goes on well," he said



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Identify your talents and utilise them - ED

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

HIGH school students have been challenged to identify their talents and utilise them for solving various problems within their communities as they have the power to change the world.

"Youth have all it takes to make dynamic and lasting impacts on the lives of countless individuals, but they only need to start engaging with the community now instead of waiting until adulthood," HakiElimu executive director, said John Kalage

Speaking during the Uwezo Award ceremony over the weekend, HakiElimu executive director, John Kalage said: "Students are the ones to change the way we live as a community through their inborn talents, once developed further, such talents can benefit particular societies and the country at large."

Uwezo Award aims at recognizing talents among high school students and seeing how students through their detailed plan can work in preparing projects that will have an impact in their community.

Kalage added that high school students shouldn't wait until adulthood to start engaging with communities as they can start right now by working on different projects that can solve problems around their communities.

"Whenever you showcase your talents on the field or classroom, anyone with a little bit of time and a sincere desire to help can accomplish amazing deeds and truly make a difference in your local community and the world at large," he noted.

He added: "Everything starts from inside, any student who feels from within that he or she has an idea which will help get rid of certain troubles within the community should not wait until adulthood, but start implementing them while at school."

Country Director, Great Hope Foundation (GHF) Noelle Mahuvi said that students through a project dubbed 'Community Change Project' explains their project and how they can help their community.

Mahuvi noted that this year they had over 140 high school students from Dar es Salaam and

Coast regions who took part in the community change project, but only 35 among them have been awarded in the category of gold, silver and bronze.

She added that the foundation is currently working on a number of initiatives that will help it to reach many students in the coming years.

Representing students, Godfrey Raymond from Kibaha boys secondary school who also won the golden category commended the founders of the award saying it motivates students to be more innovative.

He said through their project they were able to buy buckets and had washing liquid soaps which are used by students to prevent Coronavirus. He said some of the hands washing facilities were also donated to Tumbi referral hospital in Coast Region.

"We also donated various items including pads, toothpaste and soaps, stationeries and food stuffs to the Green Pasture orphanage center," he said adding and students were also engaged in an environment cleaning exercise at the Mlandizi market.



Tigo 'ambassador' artiste Lucas Mhavi alias Joti (R) presents a Samsung Note 20 handset to the winner of the mobile phone service provider's 'Jaza TukuJaze Tena' promotion raffle, Habiba Ali. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Reporter

Tamwa-Zanzibar urges legal authorities to reinforce efforts to help GBV victims

THE Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA)-Zanzibar has urged legal authorities to reinforce efforts and increase justice delivery to victims of gender-based violence (GBV) in the Isles.

The association has expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of

the court in the Pemba North Region on resolving various cases of violence.

Dr Mzuri Issa, TAMWA-Zanzibar executive director said in a

statement yesterday that victims of violence have been undergoing a hard time due to physical and psychological torture, a situation that also affects their

development.

According to Dr Mzuri, unfortunately, some courts in the Isles have been granting bails and even setting the accused with others serving trivial punishment that do not correspond to the injuries they made.

"Recently, TAMWA-Zanzibar received a report that a suspect Salim Khamis Ali popularly known as 'Panga la Shaba' (43), a resident of Taifu in Kinyasini shehia who raped his own child in Pemba has been released on the grounds that medical reports have shown that the child had committed sexual immorality before."

The incident was reported at Wete police station on December 6, 2019, and with its file number IR471 / 2019 stating that Salim Khamis Ali is accused of raping his

daughter under the age of 13.

As per the judge at Wete Court in Pemba North Region, Abdalla Yahya Shamhuni, the suspect committed the offense on November 30, 2019, at around 3:00 am in Taifu area, and that the suspect defiled her young daughter which is against the country's laws.

On December 7, 2020, Judge Shamhuni ruled that the suspect found not guilty because there was no enough evidence to prove the allegations.

"In his report, the doctor stated that he inserted two fingers into the victim's private parts and they were able to pass smoothly without any problem, something which proves that the victim has done the same incident before and that it was not her first time,"

he said.

He added: "After reviewing the evidence presented by the prosecution side, the court found that the accused was not guilty of the offense and thus set him free under section 220 of Act No. 7 of 2018 by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government Act," Judge Shamhuni said.

Dr Mzuri urged the government and justice bodies to think deeply about the impacts left to the victims of GBV acts before issuing a ruling to the suspects.

"Setting free these culprits could affect children in Zanzibar even more, we will not achieve the war against violence if our justice instruments will continue doing this, children are tomorrow's manpower of the nation so we should all together protect their rights," she added.

Dr Mzuri further urged the ministry of health and social welfare to train its workers especially health workers on child rights protection.



Pius Makalle (in cap), Absa Bank Tanzania's head of commercial services, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend presenting foodstuffs, solar panels and a deep freezer worth a total of 6.7m/- to Upanga Juvenile Detention Centre manager Darius Damas (5th-L). It was a donation by the bank's staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fund donates sanitary pads to primary schools in Nyasa

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme has presented a consignment of 2,502 sanitary pads donated by Social Action Trust Fund (SATF) for students in seven primary schools in Nyasa District.

THE RC presented the Nyasa District Commissioner Isabela Chilumba with sanitary pads and 834 pieces of underwear at a short event at the Regional Commissioner's Office here.

The RC mentioned the schools to benefit from the assistance as those with Std IV to Std VI

from seven primary schools - Kilosa, Likwilo, Muongozo, Ukuli, Kuhamba, Liparamba and Lumeme. "I call on Nyasa District officials to ensure it works together with SATF, and before the use of the items, students should be trained through their health clubs," RC Mndeme stressed.

She said the donation was a result of government's efforts to ensure there was an enabling environment for girl students to study without impediments.

Edgar Kihwelo, SATF projects officer said the institution works together with 19 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 16 regions

and 32 districts in Tanzania Mainland.

He said since its establishment 193,000 children living in difficult environments have been provided with assistance in their education and 900 households have been empowered economically.

He said in its project in Nyasa District established in 2019, SATF has assisted 103 primary and 80 secondary school students.

Speaking after receiving the assistance, Nyasa District Commissioner Isabela Chilumba thanked SATF for the assistance saying it will enable school girls attain their life dreams.

MBEYA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



8TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Vice Chancellor of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) would like to inform all 2019/2020 MUST Graduands and the general Public that the 8th MUST Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday 18th December 2020 starting from 09:00 am at the University Main Campus.

Graduands should confirm their participation in the graduation ceremony through the following addresses; admission@mustnet.ac.tz, dus@mustnet.ac.tz or through Tel. no. +255 [0]25 2503016 or Mobile 0754 463572.

Graduands will be required to pay Tshs. 40,000/= (non refundable) for hiring Graduation Gowns. Payments should be made through SIMS not later than Wednesday 16th December 2020.

Graduation Gowns will be issued from Wednesday to Thursday (16/12/2020 - 17/12/2020). No Gowns shall be issued on the Graduation day.

Rehearsal for the event will be carried out on Thursday 17th December 2020 at the Nyerere Hall from 10:00 am.

All Graduands wishing to participate must attend the rehearsal.

You are requested to act accordingly to avoid last minute disappointment.

N.B Certificates will be issued on the Graduation day.

Issued by:
THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
MBEYA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth

ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT CALL FOR APPLICATION

Announcement Type:	Annual Program Statement
Funding Opportunity Number:	AY-APS-003
Issuance Date:	December 14, 2020
Deadline for Questions:	Open and Ongoing
Deadline for Submission of Concept Papers:	January 13, 2021
Submit Concept Papers to:	AYGrants@DAI.com

To Interested Applicants:

DAI is pleased to announce applications for funding to implement Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth project which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth (AY) aims to implement activities that will empower young people in Tanzania to enhance their employability, entrepreneurship, leadership, community engagement and healthy life skills. Interventions for this project will be implemented in Iringa (Kilolo, Iringa DC, Iringa Municipal and Mufindi), Mbeya (Mbeya City, Mbeya Rural, Busokelo, Mbalaria Kyela and Rungwe DC) and Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba).

This Annual Program Statement (APS) will outline the **priority areas** for application, **expected results**, **funding type**, **application process**, and **procedures required** for submitting applications. All applicants are encouraged to propose a mix of approaches and/or activities that will achieve the results indicated under the project's objectives, outputs and technical scope.

Feed the Future Tanzania Advancing Youth through its grant's facility seeks to enhance income-generating potential across agricultural and other rural value chains and facilitate access to information, skills, and opportunities to ensure their success in business start-ups and sustained employment. AY is both market and demand driven; it connects youth with opportunities while providing them with life skills, an entrepreneurial mindset, and basic job seeking capabilities and skills in areas demanded by private sector employers and agribusiness sector players.

AY focuses on developing and delivering training and mentoring in the three 'L's -Livelihoods, Leadership and Life Skills - designed to offer youth choices and to facilitate their journey along a pathway to richer, fuller, healthier and productive lives. This approach capitalizes on youths' passion, energy, and positive attitude. Furthermore, the program builds youths' capacity to contribute effectively to the economic development of Tanzania by creating examples of lawful, responsible, and accountable leaders. The program is focused on increasing incomes and employability skills across agriculture value chains and includes the recently initiated industrialization program.

This APS will however focus on tackling two areas, the Intermediate Result One which focuses on Livelihood and the Intermediate Result Two which focuses on Leadership. These two areas are outlined below: -

- IR1: Entrepreneurship and workforce-readiness skills of youth increased; and
- IR2: Leadership and positive community engagement by youth strengthened;

The program will engage a **three-step process to select eligible grant applications to implement activities** that will empower young people in Tanzania to enhance their employability, engage in business, learn leadership skills, and civic engagement.

Step 1 Concept Note

Interested organizations should submit concept papers, in English and with a five-page limit, summarizing proposed activities that will detail how a grant will contribute to more employability skills, actual employability, better life skills and new or expanding business opportunities. Concept notes shall be submitted to the following email address: AYGrants@dai.com.

Concept paper submission deadline	
Deadline Date	January 13, 2021

The full detailed Annual Program Statement (APS), including all terms and conditions for interested organizations may be obtained at this link: <https://bit.ly/37SpMiP>. The detailed APS also contains more information on **eligibility**, **direction and guidance on what is expected in the concept note**.

Concept note applicants will receive confirmation of submission and responses to any questions within 24 hours of submission. Advancing Youth will provide feedback on concept note submissions within 30 days of submission deadline.

Step 2: Bidders Meeting

This stage will involve only the applicants whose concept papers have been approved to proceed to the next stage of application. AY will conduct a one-day bidders meeting for applicants. At the bidder's meeting key AY staff will:

- Provide feedback on submitted concept notes and highlight areas of improvement
- Present project's scope and targets
- Present contractual requirements for all applicants including project branding and environmental compliance
- Provide guidance on how to complete and fill the grant application form
- Provide guidance on the budget template

Step 3: Full Application

Following the Bidders meeting, applicants will submit a full application for consideration of a grant award. The issuance of this APS nor the request to submit a full application does not constitute an award nor commitment on the part of AY nor does it commit AY to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and application process. The number of awards and amount of funding available is subject to change. AY reserves the right to fully or partially fund the applications submitted. Further, AY reserves the right to make no awards from this APS.

In case you require any clarification or have any questions please send an email to AYGrants@dai.com

Partnership between STAMICO, Indonesian firm deserves support

THE State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) has stepped up its international profile after winning this year's 'Appreciation Award' from Indonesia, the fourth edition of the award rankings, as the best business partner in the mining industry. According to STAMICO there is a long-term strategic partnership with the Indonesian Mining Corporation-PTTimah, leading to the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in developing various mining projects in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region.

The partnership has opened doors for experts in mineral from its Indonesian counterpart entity to explore investment sites in the country and take samples (tin and gold ore) to the mining laborator operated by the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) in Dodoma for closer examination.

There are strategic areas linking STAMICO with Indonesia, including tin mining that is expected to start in the near future.

According to STAMICO acting managing director Dr Venance Mwase these initiatives are synchronised with President John Magufuli's efforts to improve and develop investment in the country by ensuring investors rapidly access relevant information.

Ambassador Pardede praised STAMICO for facilitating the signing of the MoU as part of the provision of professional cooperation to investors, and developing communication with the PTTimah institution despite challenges posed by the outbreak of Covid-19.

Mwase explained that considerably developed plans also

exist in the tin mining project and improving the foreign market for minerals, which is of significant interest for artisanal miners in the country.

"We have plans to visit the PTTimah Institute in Indonesia following a long standing invitation to share experience on mining industry operations."

Tin mining began early in the Bronze Age, as bronze is a copper-tin alloy. Because tin is used in solder, it is crucial to tablet computers, smartphones, and other electronic equipment. (For example, the Apple iPad uses 1-3 grams of tin, and in just two components of its 7000 solder points.) According to Apple Inc., tin is the most common metal used by that company's suppliers

Tin is a relatively rare element in the Earth's crust. Tin extraction and use can be dated to the beginnings of the Bronze Age around 3000 BC, when it was observed that copper objects formed of polymetallic ores with different metal contents had different physical properties.

The earliest bronze objects had tin or arsenic content of less than 2 per cent and are therefore believed to be the result of unintentional alloying due to trace metal content in the copper ore.

It was soon discovered that the addition of tin or arsenic to copper increased its hardness and made casting much easier, which revolutionised metal working techniques and brought humanity from the Copper Age.

The first evidence of tin use for making bronze appears in the Near East and the Balkans around 3000 BC. It is still unclear where the earliest tin was mined, as tin deposits are very rare and evidence of early mining is scarce.

Supporting family farming offers unique opportunity to meet needs of the future

A family farm is generally understood to be a farm owned and/or operated by a family; it is sometimes considered to be an estate passed down by inheritance. Family farm businesses can take many forms, from smallholding farms to larger farms operated under intensive farming practices. In some geographies, most farm families have structured their farm businesses as corporations, limited liability corporations, and trusts, for liability, tax, and business purposes.

In the United States for example, a 2014 USDA report shows that family farms operate 90 per cent of the nation's farmland, and account for 85 per cent of the country's agricultural production value. The concept or definition does not easily translate across languages or cultures, as there are substantial differences in the agricultural traditions and histories between countries.

Thus, in the United States, a family farm can be of any size, while in Brazil, the official definition of a family farm (agricultura familiar) is limited to small farms worked primarily by members of a single family.

Farms that would not be considered family farms would be those operated as collectives, non-family corporations, or in other institutionalised forms. At least 500 million of the world's [estimated] 570 million farms are managed by families, making family farms predominant in global agriculture.

Against this backdrop, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) have joined forces to foster inclusive and sustainable family farming

as the central cornerstone for a vibrant, productive and profitable agriculture across the Near East and North Africa (NENA).

This was announced recently during the e-launch of the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF) in the NENA region. The event brought together government ministries, farmers' organizations, civil society, research institutions and international organisations to define priorities and implement a regional action plan for this decade.

"Family farms worldwide have immense potential to become core players and to support developmental strategies aimed at increasing food security, making food systems sustainable and managing natural resources," said Dina Saleh, IFAD's regional director for the Near East, North Africa, Central Asia and Europe Division. "Family farming is viewed as an optimal model, effectively helping to restore environmental degradation and sustain natural resources. For generations, farmers have looked after the farms they inherited from their ancestors with great care and with the desire to pass on the responsibility, and we are strongly committed to supporting them."

"Taking into consideration the specific characteristics of the NENA region and its unique challenges, it is of paramount importance to introduce a new generation of enabling policy environment and technical interventions tailored to the region, with focus on the socio-economic inclusion of youth and women, to promote agri-food systems transformation, while putting family farming at the center," said Serge Nakouzi, FAO deputy regional representative for the Near East and North Africa.

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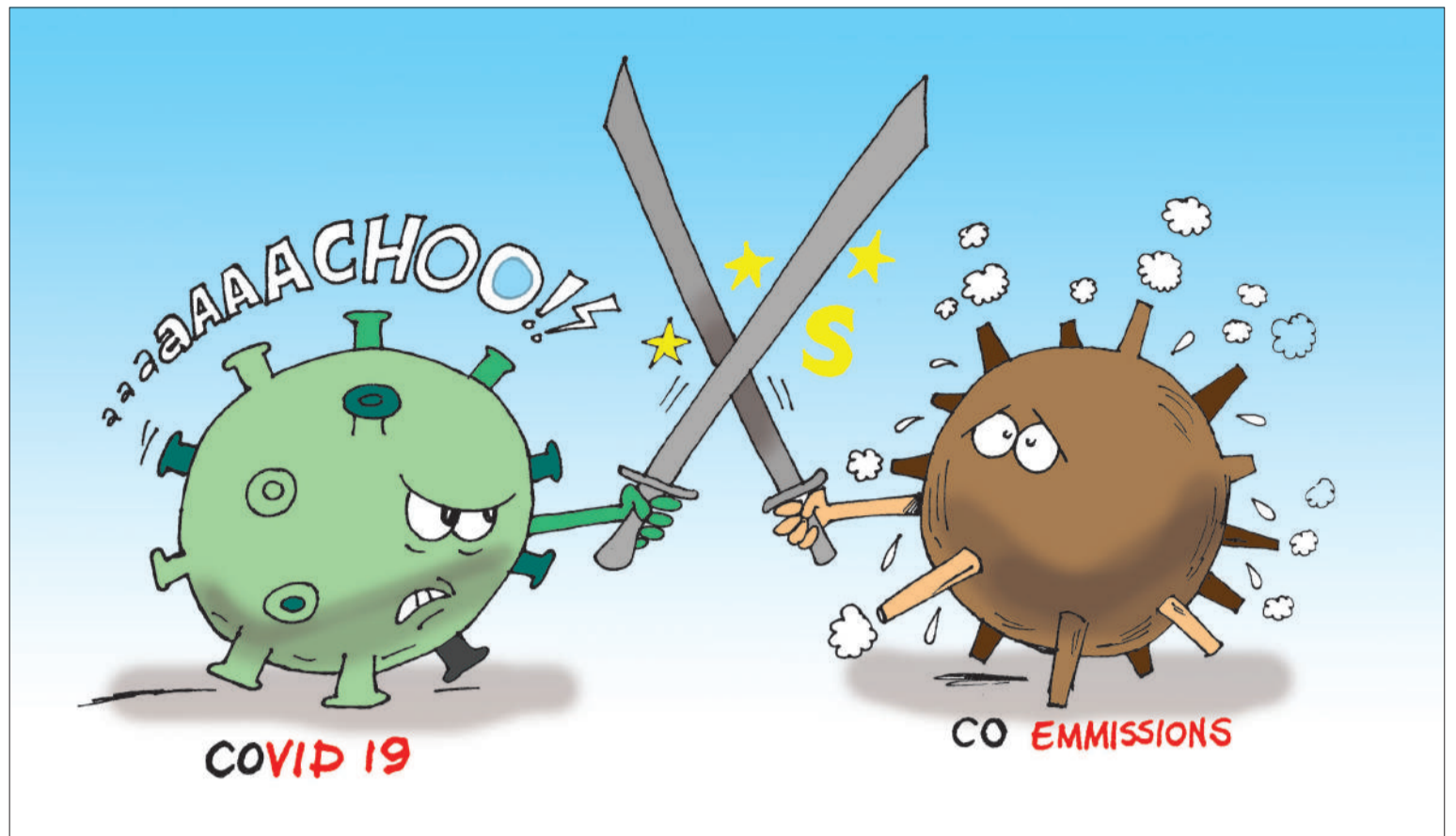
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By Siddharth Chatterjee

ON 10 December every year, we celebrate Human Rights Day, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration guarantees a spectrum of human rights that belong to each of us equally, and unite us as a global community and upholds our humanity.

This year, 2020, has been one of unprecedented challenges and has underscored the need for renewed action to promote and protect human rights. The COVID-19 pandemic has tested societies across the globe, and set back human rights gains and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In Kenya, the multi-faceted impacts of the pandemic - on gender equality, health, education, livelihoods, rule of law and the economy - have tested efforts by the Government, United Nations, development partners and civil society to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, Vision 2030 and the Big 4 development agenda, and challenged us to ensure that we leave no one behind.

The crisis has hit the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest, and entrenched existing inequalities, discrimination and human rights challenges. Gender-based violence has skyrocketed;

By Dominic Chavez

AS the world marks the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, a promising movement for carbon neutrality is taking shape.

By next month, countries representing more than 65 per cent of harmful greenhouse gases and more than 70 per cent of the world economy will have committed to achieve net zero emissions by the middle of the century.

At the same time, the main climate indicators are worsening. While the Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced emissions, carbon dioxide levels are still at record highs - and rising. The past decade was the hottest on record; Arctic sea ice in October was the lowest ever, and apocalyptic fires, floods, droughts and storms are increasingly the new normal.

Biodiversity is collapsing, deserts are spreading, oceans are warming and choking with plastic waste. Science tells us that unless we cut fossil fuel production by 6 per cent every year between now and 2030, things will get worse. Instead, the world is on track for a 2 per cent annual rise.

Pandemic recovery gives us an unexpected yet vital opportunity to attack climate change, fix our

Human rights must be at the heart of COVID-19 recovery

loss of employment and livelihoods have put further strain on families; the right to education is at risk for many children, particularly girls; and inequalities in access to water, adequate housing and health services have heightened vulnerabilities.

In this context, the theme of Human Rights Day 2020 is "Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights", highlighting the need to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis by putting human rights at the heart of recovery efforts. This is a call to action and for unity of purpose to tackle discrimination, address inequalities, encourage participation and solidarity, and promote sustainable development for the benefit of all.

As the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, once remarked, "The pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of our world". The crisis has exposed and exacerbated deep inequalities, entrenched discrimination and gaps in human rights protection. Only measures to close these gaps and advance human rights can ensure we fully recover and build back a world that is more resilient, just and sustainable.

Paris Agreement on climate change: The world's most urgent mission

global environment, re-engineer economies and re-imagine our future. Here is what we must do:

First, we need build a truly global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050.

The European Union has committed to do so. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 110 countries have done the same. So, too, has the incoming United States administration. China has pledged to get there before 2060.

Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for net zero - and act now to get on the right path to that goal, which means cutting global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels.

In advance of next November's UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, Governments are obligated by the Paris Agreement to be ever more ambitious every five years and submit strengthened commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions, and these NDCs must show true ambition for carbon neutrality.

Technology is on our side. It costs more to simply run most of today's coal plants than it does to build

COVID-19 has created an opportunity to build back a more equal and sustainable world - based on a "new social contract" that respects the rights and freedoms of all, and addresses the inequalities exposed by the pandemic. This "new social contract" - uniting Governments, the people, civil society and private sector - is the only way that we will meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this Decade of Action to deliver upon the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, it is imperative to prioritise participation and inclusion, to ensure that we leave no one behind. Successful COVID-19 recovery efforts require the robust participation of civil society and inclusion of communities, to ensure the voices and priorities of the most affected, vulnerable and marginalised inform the recovery efforts. Public participation is a key tenet of the Constitution of Kenya, and has a key role to play in the COVID-19 recovery.

It is clear that this pandemic cannot be surmounted by a single actor. It is against this backdrop that the United Nations Country Team and the Government of Kenya, in line with the motto Umoja ni Nguvu

(Unity is Strength), have identified strategic areas of cooperation and engagement under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as the Socio-Economic Response Plan, that target COVID-19 recovery needs and continue the trajectory towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This is underpinned by a human rights-based approach that prioritises equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, and accountability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we are all in this together - and solidarity is the only way forward. Everyone has a role to play in building a better post-COVID world for present and future generations, and we must harness the active participation of communities, civil society, private sector, Government and the international community.

On this Human Rights Day, let us all commit to Stand Up for Human Rights to build back a more equal and sustainable society that advances the rights and freedoms of all. This unity of purpose will pave the way to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and delivering upon Kenya's Vision 2030.

new renewable plants from scratch. Economic analysis confirms the wisdom of this path. According to the International Labour Organization, despite inevitable job losses, the clean energy transition will create 18 million net new jobs by 2030.

But we must recognize the human costs of decarbonization, and support workers with social protection, re-skilling and up-skilling so that the transition is just.

Second, we need to align global finance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's blueprint for a better future.

It is time to put a price on carbon; end fossil fuel subsidies and finance; stop building new coal power plants; shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making. Banks must align their lending with the net zero objective, and asset owners and managers must decarbonize their portfolios.

Third, we must secure a breakthrough on adaptation and

resilience to help those already facing dire impacts of climate change.

That's not happening enough today: adaptation represents only 20 per cent of climate finance. This hinders our efforts to reduce disaster risk. It also isn't smart; every \$1 invested in adaptation measures could yield almost \$4 in benefits.

Adaptation and resilience are especially urgent for small island developing states, for which climate change is an existential threat.

One of our best allies is nature itself: nature-based solutions could provide one-third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Indigenous knowledge can help to point the way. And as humankind devises strategies for preserving the environment and building a green economy, we need more women decision-makers at the table.

Next year gives us a wealth of opportunities to address our planetary emergencies, through major United Nations conferences and other efforts on biodiversity, oceans, transport, energy, cities and food systems.

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

PM's order on oil palm research promotion across the country extends to Katavi Region

Directives of the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa that require Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) to address shortage of edible oil in the country by scaling up oil palm production has landed in Katavi Region.

When visiting TARI Kihinga in Kigoma Region early this year to assess the progress of research, production and dissemination of improved oil palm of Tenera variety seeds in the region, the Premier instructed that to offset the shortage of edible oil, TARI should extend research and production throughout potential areas in the country.

Tenera, improved seeds of oil palm variety being new variety after crossing two local varieties namely Dura and Pisifera which are female and male respectively, will now be produced in Katavi Region for the farmers and other stakeholders.

Currently, the research, production and dissemination of improved oil palm of Tenera variety seeds are being conducted in Kigoma Region and the seedlings are being disseminated to all district councils including Uvinza which has similar ecology of oil palm production with Katavi Region.

Given Premier's directive, TARI had requested Katavi Region which has similar ecology a total of five hundred acres of land for promoting oil palm project. Tanganyika district council in the region agreed to give TARI five hundred acres of land at Luhafwe investment block located some 40 kms from Majalila's Tanganyika district council's headquarters.

Besides oil palm production, the research centre will also deal with research and production of other main strategic crops such as cashew and cotton among other commercial and food crops.

Speaking during handing over the land in presence of the district councillors, Katavi Regional Commissioner Juma Homera said TARI decision to open up research farm is in line with the President's vision of industrial economy.

"In Katavi our main agenda is agriculture, we are implementing the ruling party CCM manifesto. We have therefore, put in place comprehensive plans and strategies to transform agriculture and the lives of our people and the farmers. We want our farmers to graduate from subsistence to commercial agriculture so that they can effectively and efficiently contribute to our industrial economy," he said.

We are encouraging research, industries and investment. That's why TARI has come to put up research centre so that our farmers



Katavi Regional Commissioner Juma Homera (2nd-R) congratulates TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo during the handing over ceremony of five hundred acres of land in Tanganyika District for research purposes. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

can adopt different technologies, best agriculture practices, increase production, get adequate raw materials to feed mushrooming industries in our region," he added.

Citing an example, he said that in Tanganyika there are many investors coming in to invest in different sectors and some of them have already opened up cotton processing factory that has the capacity to process more than fifty tonnes per year. He urged Katavi residents and the farmers to cooperate with them for increased productivity.

"Honourable Councillors, I urge you to cooperate with TARI, this institute will help you much to change your people from substance to commercial farmers. Look! today there are going to put up research centre, in the future they will build research college for our children which is another advantage on your side," he added.

He said that Katavi Region has cultivated more than eighty acres of cashew, the cashew seedlings were ferried from TARI Naliendele but now, with the coming of the new research centre into the region, the farmers will be able to get them easily in the region.

"We have brought to you Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo and his team and I have directed

that the work should start immediately within three months, we want to see things moving. I therefore urge you all councilors and the farmers to visit regularly the research centre to learn and transmit the technology to other farmers. This is how we can transform agriculture in our region. We want our farmers to use the research centre to graduate from smallholder farmers to agribusiness," he said.

He called on Katavi farmers to make use of the President's initiative to improve national and regional transport infrastructures saying the residents of Katavi will soon secure huge market in the neighbouring countries of DRC Congo, Burundi and many others.

"Our President is improving transport system, making them easier for local and international trade. Unlike in the past, currently we have flights coming into our region, construction of railway and huge port at Karema division are underway. These transport system will enable farmers ferry their farm produce to the neighbouring countries via Lake Tanganyika very easily than ever before." He said.

TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said that the efforts of multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of Oil Palm

at all potential areas in the country is to heed the directive from the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

He said research, production and disseminating improved commercial Tenera variety of seedlings to the local government authorities and to farmers in Katavi and elsewhere is basically trying to address the issue of importation of vegetable edible oil from Malaysia and some other countries like Costa Rica, which in recent years has cost the nation billions of shillings.

Tenera variety produces 5 times higher oil palm compared to dura. Most farmers in Tanzania grow exclusively dura type with low yielding potential in old farms which have been established in 1920s and have never been replanted ever since. This is one of the main causes for low oil palm yield in Tanzania.

"Actually we import 365,000 metric tons of edible oil which cost approximately 443bn/- annually. This should not be the case because Tanzania has a potential land to produce all types of vegetable edible oil that we need in this country," he said.

"If we can utilize well potential land of this country, definitely the nation will be able to reduce or eliminate importation of vegetable edible oil and get surplus

for export," he said.

Dr. Mkamilo commended the efforts being done by Katavi Region office and Tanganyika district council, particularly the Regional Commissioner Juma Homera. The district's Regional Commissioner Salehe Mhando and the district Executive Director for their efforts and willingness to cooperate with TARI.

"TARI has already started working on some strategic crops such as cashew and cotton. I am promising to cooperate with the regional authorities to transform agriculture and the people of Katavi through research and production of improved varieties," he said.

With available opportunities we have, especially if we can use Oil Palm it is possible for the country to be able to produce more than 570,000 metric tons of vegetable Oil which actually is required per year. Currently Tanzania only produces 40 percent of the required edible oil while 60 percent is actually imported from other countries, said Dr. Mkamilo.

Tanganyika district council chairman commended TARI for choosing Katavi as its next potential area for research and production of improved Tenera varieties saying other government institutions should emulate this good example.

"Tanganyika has plenty of potential land for agriculture. There is suitable land for all crops one may wish to grow. I therefore, take this opportunity to invite all local and foreign investors to come in our region to invest in different sectors.

About oil palm in Tanzania

There are three oil palm varieties grown in Tanzania. Dura is the widely grown variety in Tanzania. The variety is characterized by thin mesocarp, thick shell and low yield potential. Dura constitutes about 90 per cent of all oil palm trees grown in Tanzania. The second variety is Tenera, characterized by thick mesocarp, thin shell and high yielding potential. The third variety is Pisifera which is characterized by thick mesocarp and have no shell. Pisifera constitutes about less than 0.01 percent of all oil palm trees in Tanzania and are hardly found.

The motive of TARI to produce more Tenera seeds which is the only improved oil palm variety is to raise its production percent in Tanzania. Tenera variety is also considered as an improved commercial variety by large oil palm producing countries.

Generally to boost oil palm production in Tanzania for increasing palm oil availability, among others, three most important interventions are being fulfilled: The first intervention is the production of improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera) and supply to farmers. The second intervention is to deploy all the potential area for palm oil production in Tanzania by planting Tenera variety. The third intervention is to replant the old oil palm trees existing in Tanzania with Tenera variety.

TARI priority is to produce improved oil palm variety (Tenera) and supply to oil palm growers at the same time sensitizing oil palm growers on the importance of replanting their old oil palm trees with Tenera variety. Given the availability of improved oil palm variety, Tanzania has a potential to be a big producer of palm oil because there is ample land suitable for oil palm production.

In Tanzania, palm oil is the most consumed oil due to its widespread availability and, at a relative lower-price. In 2016, Tanzania edible oil consumption was estimated to be 570,000 MT, 64 percent of it being palm oil, 30 percent sunflower oil and 2 percent cottonseed oil. In the same year, Tanzania edible oil production was estimated to be 210,000 MT, 83 percent of it being sunflower oil, 5 percent cotton seed oil and 2 percent palm oil. This indicates that about 99.3 percent of palm oil consumed in Tanzania is imported from other palm oil producing countries. Tanzania spends about 434bn/- per year to import edible oil from foreign countries. Such expenditure stands as one of the stumbling block for the economic growth of the country.

Rising youth unemployment: A waiting time bomb

By Joy Nguri

Current youth unemployment figure in Nigeria is estimated at about 17.1 percent of the over 200 million population. This data are estimates from the International Labour Organization, ILO, an agency of the United Nations saddled with developing policies to set labour standards.

Globally, youth unemployment refers to the percentage of the unemployed within the age group of 15 to 24 years as compared to the total labour force. However, the case in Nigeria is peculiar, as the unemployed youth age bracket is within 15 to 38 years. In 2018, the unemployment rate was approximated at about six percent.

The alarming rise in youth unemployment and the equally disturbing high levels of young people who work but still live in poverty show how difficult it will be to reach the global goal to end poverty by 2030, unless governments worldwide redouble their efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and decent work.

Thus, recognising the need to invest into creating and building youth entrepreneurship, governments and international agencies have embraced long term agenda to co-operate and collaborate in formulation of strategies and



implementation plans for building training programs, building awareness amongst the youth and the families and empowering the youth with the required skills and knowledge to pursue entrepreneurship as a career option.

This underscores initiatives by the CBN to create platforms for the youths to be engaged in wealth creation. In 2016, the Bank launched Youth Empowerment Development Programme (YEDP) to confront the hydra-headed high unemployment rate in the country. This, the Bank launched in collaboration with the Bankers' Committee, and it was part of its efforts to deepen credit delivery to

address the challenges of unemployment, promote entrepreneurial spirits among Nigerian youths and enhance the spread of small and medium enterprises.

The programme aimed at harnessing the latent entrepreneurial spirit of the teeming youths was to provide timely and affordable finance to nurture their business ideas. This, in the Bank's view is to provide a sustainable mechanism to stimulate employment, contribute to non-oil Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and address the challenge of youth restiveness as witnessed in the recent 'End SARS' protest and other security challenges that rocked the nation few weeks

pass.

YEDP aimed to harness the entrepreneurial skills and innovative capacities of youths as well as improve access to finance for youth entrepreneurs using a well-structured business model. The programme targeted to stimulate flow of finance to startup enterprises in order to encourage job creation long neglected by past administrations in the country. The CBN envisaged that empowering the youth will give vent to the clamour for economic diversification thus increasing non-oil sector, particularly, agriculture's, contribution to the GDP.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic no doubt, wedged

the trajectory effort of the CBN with the lockdown of the economy for 4 months. The lockdown globally impacted economies negatively, many countries went into recession, and it was not surprising when the National Bureau of Statistics announced the slip once again of the economy into recession in three years. This time, it is the worst in the nation's history.

It must be realized that had the nation's lender of last resort had a complementary zeal from the government to diversify the economy from oil over years, the impact of the pandemic would not have been this devastating. The federal government though promised to create 10 million jobs within the next five years, even before the COVID-19 challenge, no visible effort in achieving that was seen from critical agencies of government saddled with such responsibility, rather they all went to sleep waiting for the CBN to do their job.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (YEDP) was to enhance the deployment of the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Nigerian youths for maximum economic development. This was in recognition of the fact that there was no better segment of the Nigerian population than the

youths to propel us to our much-needed economic recovery and diversification.

In the third quarter of 2015 if we must recall, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicated that of the 36.3 million youths representing 48% of the nation's labour force, 13.6 million or 37.7% of them were either unemployed or underemployed. This situation could not be allowed to fester given that many of our youths had very bright ideas and big dreams but are constrained by scarce seed funding.

Thus, the CBN's YEDP aims at fixing the triple-barrelled constraints of insufficiency, high cost and inadequate term of capital usually faced by youth entrepreneurs and start-ups with collateral requirements as academic and NYSC certificates, third party guarantees and other movable assets. Targeted beneficiaries are members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), non-NYSC (but not more than five years post-NYSC), those who possess a verifiable tertiary institution certificate, and artisans with First School Leaving Certificate or a technical certificate or accredited proficiency certificate from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), whichever is applicable.

Ghana's 2020 election is a defeat for democracy

By Manasseh Azure Awuni

Nana Akufo-Addo has won Ghana's presidential election in a relatively peaceful campaign. But the tranquility masks a morass of corruption and bad governance, says Ghanaian journalist Manasseh Azure Awuni.

President Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) has emerged victorious after winning 51.59 per cent of votes cast.

The elections are also being celebrated as a victory for Ghana. That's because the country has, once again, successfully held relatively peaceful elections without the burning of houses and the breaking of limbs and skulls that often characterize elections in Africa.

Or, to be more accurate, the death and destruction in Ghana was insignificant compared to other countries on the continent.

As such, Ghana continues to hold the pride of place as Africa's beacon of democracy. But this accolade is increasingly undeserved when Ghana is subjected to the litmus test of good governance and true tenets of democracy.

Peaceful elections should be the norm

As a Ghanaian, of course I feel proud when my country is called the democratic trailblazer on this turbulent continent. But that pride doesn't go deeper than the outer layer of my skin.

Because there is more to democracy than holding peaceful elections. And holding elections without killing or maiming or burning houses shouldn't be a monumental achievement in a society of sane people.

When Germans go to the polls, we don't hear about fears of violence. When the British, French, Danish or Dutch vote, it is taken for granted that power will be transferred peacefully.

Even when America's President Donald Trump helped us to realize the worst in American politics and elections, we didn't see violence and deaths and rapes and torture.

So why should peaceful elections



Ghana's incumbent President Nana Akufo-Addo has been declared the winner of the country's 2020 presidential election.

be considered an exceptional feat in Africa?

Elections overshadow the quality of those elected

I believe it is what happens between these peaceful elections that is worrying. For the average Ghanaian, there is no means of holding the elected accountable besides waiting for another four years to do that through a vote.

That's because voting is increasingly failing to be an accountability tool in a country where both sides of the political duopoly presiding over Ghana's destiny appear to operate with the same slogan: "Have your say and let me have my way."

The NDC and NPP are like two sides of the same calabash. They're strikingly identical twins who are only differentiated by name and that they only truly care while in opposition.

Same old parties, same old faces
The problems of Ghana's politics come from its entrenched power structures. Akufo-Addo's win for the NPP evens out the score in the electoral game played every four years by Ghana's two main parties.

The 2020 results mean the NDC and NPP have each won the elections four times since 1992, when Ghana returned to multiparty democracy.

The NDC won in 1992 and 1996, losing to the NPP in 2000 and 2004. In 2008,

the NDC returned to power and in 2012, defended their victory. In 2016, it was the NPP's turn to come back. Now it has gone on to win in 2020 for another four-year term.

And it's not just the parties that remain the same. It's also the third time that John Mahama and Akufo-Addo have battled it out for presidency.

John Mahama was vice president under President John Evans Atta Mills, who died in office in July 2012. With barely five months to the next election, Mahama became president for the rest of the term and was retained by the NDC to lead the party in the 2012 election.

Mahama's main opponent in the 2012 election was Akufo-Addo, who had led the NPP in 2008 and lost to the late President Atta Mills.

Mahama beat Akufo-Addo in 2012 and Akufo-Addo beat John Mahama in 2016 and now again, in 2020.

Democracy fails to grow in Ghana

This entrenched political structure means Ghana's democracy is failing to mature. Actually, in a number of ways, it is getting worse.

When I completed journalism school ten years ago, I didn't fear being hurt for holding the government accountable. In 2016, I rejected police protection when I published a story about President John Mahama because I felt

Ghana was a safe place for journalists like myself.

Today it is different story. I drive with armed police escort because of threats against my life.

The police are still yet to find those responsible for the killing of investigative journalist Ahmed Hussein-Suale, who was threatened by a leading member of President Akufo-Addo's party and shot dead in Accra in 2019. Nobody has yet been held responsible even though the member of parliament, Kennedy Agyapong, put Suale's photograph on national television and asked whoever saw him to attack him.

The state has also failed to find evidence to justify the arrest, detention and alleged torture of journalists from Modern Ghana, an online news site, by operatives of the National Security Secretariat in 2019.

Groping in the dark between Election 2020 and Election 2024

I don't have much hope for Ghana between now and the next election in 2024. That's because, as in many African countries, corruption and wastage are the main setbacks to Ghana's development.

President Akufo-Addo won convincingly in 2016 because John Mahama's government was strongly accused of corruption.

Akufo-Addo's government has also been plagued by corruption scandals.

In fact, corruption was the main reason his party struggled in the 2020 election despite abolishing fees for senior secondary school, providing free water and electricity in 2020, and implementing many more populist programs.

Losing hope of holding Ghana's government to account

What makes the current situation worse – almost hopeless even – is that accountability institutions are being targeted and undermined.

In July this year, President Akufo-Addo forced the auditor general, Daniel Domelovo, to take involuntary leave, despite the hue and cry of civil society, labor experts and some prominent lawyers.

This came as Domelovo was doing an audit against a senior minister, Yaw Osafo-Maafa, an influential member of Akufo-Addo's cabinet.

Osafo-Maafa has been asked, together with others, to refund \$1 million (£826,000) spent in a questionable procurement of service. While the case was in court, the auditor-general was supposed to inspect evidence of work done, which was crucial to the outcome of the court case.

A day after Domelovo was forced on leave, the person acting in the auditor-general's stead said Osafo-Maafa's evidence was satisfactory and the court proceeded to rule in minister's favor.

Three weeks ago, the special prosecutor appointed by Akufo-Addo to head Ghana's newly-formed anti-corruption agency resigned and accused the President of interference in the agency's work.

Martin Amidu described the president as the "mother corruption serpent" who wasn't committed to fighting graft.

Corruption makes serious economic challenges worse

Akufo-Addo's government is said to have borrowed more money in his first term than the total borrowings of all of Ghana's presidents since independence.

The International Monetary Fund is projecting that Ghana's debt to GDP ratio will hit 71 per cent in 2021.

With taxes and other domestic sources of revenue continuing to leak badly, the country is up against serious economic challenges worsened by unbridled expenditure in the election year and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manasseh Azure Awuni is an award-winning Ghanaian journalist known for his investigations into government corruption

By Maria Victoria

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the biggest pandemic the world confronts at the moment, despite over 69 million cases and 1.5 million deaths worldwide. If it's not COVID, what is it then? It is violence against women!

Globally, 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the past 12 months alone.² The figure increases by 30 per cent if the violence experienced by women and girls in their lifetime is added.³

These numbers are likely underestimates, since many women do not report sexual and intimate partner violence due to stigma associated with it. The UN Women policy brief on COVID-19 and VAW points out that less than 40 per cent of the women who have experienced violence seek help.

Those who do, often turn to family and friends, and less than 10 per cent report to the police. This perpetuates a culture of impunity as perpetrators go unpunished.

The data clearly shows that violence against women and girls is a global emergency, which requires urgent action. It can take many forms, from human trafficking and sexual slavery, through rape and forced sexual acts, to battering and sexual harassment—on the street, at workplace, school and online.

Harmful cultural practices – such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage are also forms of violence against women and girls. The list goes on.

Gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anytime, and anywhere. However, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable. Some of them are young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls, indige-

Reduce military spending: The much-needed biggest response to violence against women



nous women and girls, women and girls from ethnic and religious minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and those living in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises.

The threat of violence faced by millions of women and men around the world has been compounded by the security, health, and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are trapped at home with their abusers, while women's shelters and domestic violence hotlines are struggling to meet demands.

As the world grapples with COVID-19, it is also past time to take concrete action to address the shadow pandemic of violence against women and girls.

United Nations response
There is no shortage in UN campaigns, programs, task forces and initiatives that all aim to end violence against women and girls

Groups such as the Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls and the Action Coalition for Gender-based Violence bring together civil society, Member States, UN agencies, international organizations,

and philanthropies provide space for sharing lessons learned, coordinating action and mobilizing resources to end violence against women and girls.

The Spotlight Initiative, a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations launched in 2019 has committed a record €500 million to end violence against women and girls.

Advocacy and communications campaigns such as the UNiTE by 2030 campaign managed by UN Women, call on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media, and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

There is also the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee), all of which have specific but related mandates that address violence against women and girls.

How effective is the UN response to

struggling to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To end violence against women, Member States and donors need to put their money where their mouths are. It is not only the right and necessary choice—it is also a smart investment.

According to the World Bank, violence against women is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP)—more than double what most governments spend on education.⁵

UN Women estimates that cost to be approximately \$1.5 trillion⁶ – almost at the level of the record-high military expenditures. Preventing violence against women and girls first and foremost saves lives—but it can also save money.

In his 2020 report on Women and Peace and Security, the Secretary-General drew attention to the stark difference between soaring rates of military spending and the strains in social protection systems including the unavailability of necessary health care that disproportionately impact women and girls. It also underlined how bilateral aid to women's organizations in fragile or conflict-affected countries has stagnated at 0.2 per cent of total bilateral aid (\$96 million on average per year).

The Secretary-General's report marks the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325, arguably the most important international law that address violence against women and girls in conflict situations. It presents five goals for the next decade.

It called on the international community to "Reverse the upward trajectory in global military spending with a view to encouraging greater investment in the social infrastructure and services that buttress human security."

Moreover, the Secretary-General urged Member States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, control the availability of armaments; to promote the participation of women in all arms control and disarmament processes and forums; and to reduce excessive military expenditures.

The current context calls for renewed efforts to curb military spending, which has been a chief strategic objective of the women's movement for peace, he further stressed.

violence against women and girls? The effectiveness of the UN response was put to a major test by the outbreak of COVID-19. The massive increase in the incidence of violence against women and girls is an indication that the response is ineffective—or at best—insufficient.

While one could argue that the weakness of individual Member States both in managing the pandemic and addressing violence against women and girls cannot be attributed to the UN, the shortcomings brought to light by the pandemic beg the question: how can the UN improve Member States' compliance with and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Labour Organisation's Violence and Harassment Convention, and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and its supporting resolutions?

All of these are powerful international laws that call on the UN and Member States to take concrete actions on this issue. However, the pandemic has demonstrated that actions taken to date have barely scratched the surface of the complex and pervasive issue of violence against women and girls. An effective and sustainable response requires structural changes, and a re-evaluation of global priorities!

The UN Secretary-General's call
The current global priorities are most clearly visible if we follow the money. USD \$1.9 trillion! This is how much the world spent to run military institutions in 2019, the largest annual increase in military expenditure since 2010.⁴ Let that sink in!!!

Meanwhile, women's shelters are underfunded, many women—including victims of sexual violence—do not have access to quality healthcare, including maternal and reproductive health, and many women's rights organizations are

Maker economy holds key to youth employment in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE Maker economy is here. While it has been growing steadily in some parts of the world such as the US, it remains a relatively new concept in the country.

With time, however, it is touted to become an avenue for creating employment opportunities for many youth who would have otherwise been left in the cold in the job market after completion of their formal education.

Maker economy, also known as Maker Movement, puts power in the hands of people to fund, design, prototype, produce, manufacture, distribute, market, and sell their own goods.

When made the most out of it, it could be a significant source of financial independence to many people, mostly youth, and in the process provide a boost to the national economy.

Since the concept is centered on inventions, aspiring innovators need access to platforms that will assist them to develop their ideas into viable commercial enterprises through training sessions and financial support.

Initiatives such as Coders and Makers have been useful in helping shape a fair digital future in the country as attested by Coleman Ndetemba, founder of Kyaro Assistive Tech, an innovative start-up that has set its eyes on making assistive devices.

At its nascent stage, the start-up began as a project at Twende Innovation Centre in 2018 while Ndetemba was still a college student where the founders were introduced to a school for students with special needs, Jaffar Academy, and saw first-hand the challenges the students faced.

Ndetemba says that after seeing the difficulties the students were going through, they developed an idea to make a wheelchair that would



A participant of Makers Innovation Challenge introduces his innovation

have multiple functions - first as a wheelchair but also as a bench and a standing frame for exercising.

He says that the benefits of the innovation will spread far and wide since it will provide ease of movement for the user who will in turn be able to easily access social services; it would help caretakers and would be affordable to parents or guardians of individuals with physical disabilities.

"Once in the market, and we expect it to be rolled out as a commercial product as early as next year, the multipurpose wheelchair will be affordable because it is made from easy-to-access materials, mostly used bicycle parts. Its production is cost effective," he notes.

At the moment, the company has produced two bicycles being used by the students but the target is the public at large with the view of assisting people with chronic back pain and those suffering from the

effects of a stroke and such other physically incapacitating illnesses.

To get expert opinion and feedback, Ndetemba says that they have worked with CCBRT in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region and they are working closely the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) to improve their product.

"We have been receiving positive and actionable feedback and we have been gradually improving the product. The other benefit is that we intend for this project to be a full-time job as we envisage growing with time," he says.

Jocelyn Msigwa of Sahara Ventures and Project Manager of Makers Innovation Challenge is a component of Makers and Coders with focus on making.

Coders and makers is an initiative to inspire the next generation of coders and makers. The initiative comprises the Makers Innovation Challenge and TV sessions con-

cerning coding and making, which also engaged public and secondary schools in Tanga Region.

The project is bridging the coding and making education gap with youth, it is a project funded by Botnar Foundation and is implemented by Tanzania Bora Institution in partnership with Sahara Ventures, she hints.

"Making in itself should be a culture encouraged and embedded in our younger generation. It is in fact, a habit that can promote active learning. It is without debate that the young mind should learn to bend, break, and combine things in a way never been designed before," she says.

The Makers finale is the climax phase of the challenge that began early this August. With up to 10 best-making concepts, the teams behind the concepts have gone through a 10-day boot camp that allowed them to learn critical things such as;

prototype and design, validation, commercialization, team building, marketing and branding, design for manufacturing.

Through the training, the teams were able to further improve and furnish their concepts and to this point, they can clearly communicate what they are building to potential partners and potential investors.

Another participant in the Makers Innovation Challenge, Abbas Hassan, observes that they came with the concept of finding a solution for underground fuel measurement at filling stations and depots.

"The main problem that we identified was in the fuel industry in Tanzania where such high value and dangerous stock are poorly and inefficiently managed. The idea came about when I visited a friend's fuel stations where I witnessed them taking over 30 minutes just to know how much fuel was in one tank and

the process also exposes employees to health hazards," he says.

Another noticeable challenge, he adds, is when taking measurement during the rainy season where more manpower is needed of fuel being adulterated by rain water.

As such, he notes, in September 2019, he and his partner founded Lab X and started developing their first version of SENSX which is the prototype fuel level sensor which would allow owners/workers/regulators to have access to real time fuel data anytime anywhere.

"The aim is to increase efficiency in management of stock at all stakeholder levels, protect employees by not exposing them directly to toxic fumes, and also to allow business to spot unaccounted for fuel losses as soon as possible," he says.

After visiting the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Hassan says, he was informed that the regulator had to contact all registered filling stations individually just to know the amount of stock in their storage.

"The other problem was that owners of multiple fuel stations have no way of tracking how their stations in other regions are performing. We then realized that it is a grave problem that needs an innovative solution," he says.

As for the Makers Innovation Challenge, the climax is slated for December 15 this year, with the theme 'Advocating for makers awareness in the community', with the aim of sparking a conversation and putting the best makers in the spotlight, and further discuss creative ways to spread awareness on the issue.

According to Msigwa, the virtual event will involve listening to the teams pitch their ideas in front of judges and the audience.

"The finalists will get time to defend their pitches in front of the judges and other attendees," she adds.

TAMWA and Milele Foundation to equip Z'bar women economically

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

DESPITE Zanzibar having many resources including land, sea, and other things there is no reason for the people of Zanzibar especially women to remain poor and unable to find something to do.

Recognising the need for women to support themselves in order to achieve a better position of self-reliance in the pursuit of economic development and poverty reduction, the government of Zanzibar has been at the forefront of recognizing and appreciating the contribution of women due to their importance in the country's economy.

Due to this, the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA-Zanzibar) in collaboration with stakeholder - Milele Zanzibar Foundation have established women entrepreneurs' groups aimed to enhance members' economic wellbeing.

The entrepreneurs say they have engaged in producing horticultural crops and soap making

to subsidise family earnings.

They stressed to the government to have in place robust strategies to ensure women advance themselves economically to spur the country's economic development.

Mwajuma Khamis Mkaazi, Bubwisudi resident said as for now Zanzibar women have woken up and have started making various items even though they still face the challenge of the availability of reliable markets.

She said TAMWA-Zanzibar has assisted them in gaining various skills that have enabled them to make various items for sale.

Hadia Abdalla Mpwate, another entrepreneur from Kilombero area appealed to TAMWA and the government, in general, to put in place for them an enabling environment to obtain packaging for the products they make.

She said they get their packaging materials from one single source that caters to many other traders, hence the

government should assist in finding a solution to the issue.

TAMWA Zanzibar's economic empowerment officer, Nayrat Abdalla Ali said the project to empower women economically known as Weza Phase III had done good work for more than 1,662 women who have been able to produce various goods.

She called on the women traders to use the skills gained to make quality products that can attract markets.

She said the aim of the institution was to see Zanzibar women change their living standards, they should depend on themselves to increase family income.

She added that despite challenges they face they should not get discouraged, but instead work hard aiming for quality products.

Speaking about the traditional end of the month market in initiated by her institution, she said it was discontinued due to Covid-19 pandemic, adding that efforts were under way to revive it.



Dodoma district commissioner Josephat Maganga (C) makes remarks to GSM Group CEO Fatma Abdallah (R) and Dodoma legislator Anthony Mavunde after gracing the recent launch of three GSM Group retail shops in Dodoma city. Guardian Correspondent

'Food security, agriculture, AfCTA, crucial for Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery'

By Special Correspondent

"The agriculture sector is among the most vulnerable. Agriculture is important not only for food security issues but also for inter-regional food integration," African Development Bank Director of Macroeconomic Policy, Forecasting and Research, Hanan Morsy said on the opening day of the African Economic Conference 2020.

"We see this as an area that needs particular support, an area of opportunity going forward to increase inter-regional integration and to increase resilience against external shocks," Morsy noted.

The African Development Bank has provided much-needed financial and techni-

cal assistance to the sector, including small scale agribusinesses. In June 2020, the Bank launched the Feed Africa Response to COVID-19 (FAREC), a strategic roadmap to safeguard food security against the pandemic's impact by supporting agriculture and creating regional food self-sufficiency.

The three-day annual conference was hosted virtually. It is being organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the theme, "Africa beyond COVID-19: Accelerating towards inclusive sustainable development."

Earlier, during a high-level panel session titled Africa beyond COVID-19: How to

move towards inclusive and sustainable development, participants proposed tapping renewable sources of energy, adopting new technologies and leveraging the African Free Trade Agreement as some of the ways African countries are working to build back better from the COVID-19 crisis.

Members of the panel acknowledged that the pandemic had sharpened Africa's challenges. "We are seeing a catastrophic health crisis, a devastating economic crisis, a climate crisis that is ravaging communities, a crisis of inequality laid bare by the pandemic and a crisis of democracy reflecting citizens eroding trust in their governments. No single stakeholder group can tackle these crises on its own," said Pradhan.

Some key areas of intervention emerged, including the importance of addressing the needs of the informal sector and extending social protection to the most vulnerable in society.

"This year, we published a report that looked at what it would take to provide a temporary basic income in a COVID-19 affected world, and this is most important for Africa, where most people do not have any safety net to address the ravages of COVID-19," Gilpin said.

The pandemic has also placed a heavy burden on women, panellists acknowledged, one that often might go overlooked because of the sheer array of statistics. "People need to see a human face and human

feeling in response to COVID-19, said Anika.

Solutions and opportunities are also opening up as a result of the pandemic, said the panellists.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the cost of fossil fuels, making green renewable alternatives competitive. African countries have a wealth of renewable resources that can be tapped to then leverage jobs and create employment for the vast majority of people," said Armah.

In addition, the imminent coming into force of the AfCFTA is expected to accelerate the continent's recovery and increase its resilience by boosting the level of intra-African trade of goods and services.

SPECIAL BBC Africa Eye REPORT

The Baby Stealers: A mother's story

Last month, BBC Africa Eye exposed a thriving black-market trade in babies in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Police arrested seven people on trafficking charges in response to the story, but what about the women on the other side of these illegal deals? What drives a mother to sell her child for £70?

By Joel Gunter – BBC Africa Eye

Adama's life was easy when she had her parents, she said. Money was tight, and her options were already narrow, but there was an order to things that made sense. She attended school and cherished it. She had few worries.

But then her father died when she was 12, and her mother a few years later. As the eldest of three, Adama had a duty to provide for her two siblings.

"Life became so hard then," she said, in a conversation from her village in a rural part of western Kenya. "I had to drop out of school and fend for myself."

At 22, Adama met a man and got pregnant, but he died three days after their baby daughter was born. Her loneliness deepened.

She nursed her baby through an infant sickness until the girl improved, at about 18 months, and then a steady income was needed to keep them both alive. So Adama left the baby with her elderly grandmother and headed to Nairobi to find work.

"Bear in mind you are going to get a living for your child," her grandmother said.

Adama arrived in Nairobi and began selling water melon on the street. It didn't pay enough, and her housemate stole any money she left at home.

She has a scar at the top of her forehead, just under her tightly cropped hair, from defending herself. "Some men were playing with me and it reached a point I had to fight back," she said.

She moved on to a construction site, where she wasn't paid at all,



Adama has returned to her village. "Life has been so hard," she said.

and from there to a nightclub, where she instructed her boss to send her pay directly back to her grandma in the village.

After a while, Adama took a little more of her pay in Nairobi so she could rent a place to live. She found a new job with slightly better wages at another construction site, and met a man there. The two dated for a while and he told her he wanted to have a child.

Adama offered him a deal - if she could bring her baby girl to live with them, they could have a child together. He agreed, and for five months of Adama's pregnancy he paid the rent and bills and bought food for their home, and Adama waited for the right time to bring her baby girl into the city. Then he left one day and never came back.

Many women will know the anxiety of preparing to bring a child into the world without enough money to feed one person, let alone two. Most will never contemplate selling a child to a stranger. But for some expectant mothers in poverty in Kenya, selling a baby to traffickers has become the last in a limited number of options for survival.

The traffickers pay shockingly low sums: Sarah - not her real name - told BBC Africa Eye she was paid just £15 for her baby.

Sarah was 17 when she became pregnant with her second child, with no means to support the baby, so she sold him to a local woman who offered her a deal.

"At that point I was young, I never thought what I was doing was wrong," she said. "After five years it hit me, and I wanted to refund her the money."

There are thousands of unwanted teenage pregnancies in Kenya every year. Sarah said she knew other women who had sold babies for similarly low sums.

"Many girls sell their babies due to challenges. Maybe she has been chased from home by her mum and she has nothing, or she was still in school when she got pregnant. That is too many problems for a girl who is 15 or 16," she said.

"You will find girls losing their baby and everything they own because there is no one to hold their hand."

Health experts say the problem has worsened during the coronavirus pandemic, with some women pushed into sex work to survive and girls losing the structure of the school system.

"I've heard so many stories of women and girls in this situation. Young women are coming into cities looking for jobs, getting into relationships, conceiving, and being abandoned by the father of their child," said Prudence Mutiso, a Kenyan human rights lawyer who specialises in child protection and reproductive rights.

"If the father will not pay, then these women and girls have to find other ways to substitute for that income. And that is what drives them to these baby sellers, so that they can get some form of income to support themselves and perhaps children they already have back home. People don't speak about this in the open, but it is there."

Adama hid her pregnancy for as long as she could at work, until she could no longer carry heavy bags of cement or disguise her bump. Then she had no income to cover her rent. For three months, her landlord gave her grace, then he kicked her out and boarded the place up.

At eight months pregnant, Adama began breaking back into the house late at night just to sleep and leaving first thing in the morning.

"On a good day I would be lucky to get food," she said. "Sometimes I would just drink water, pray, and sleep."

When a woman finds herself in Adama's position in Kenya, several factors can converge to push them into the hands of traffickers. Abortion is illegal unless the life of the mother or the child is at risk, leaving only dangerous unlicensed alternatives on the table.

There is also a significant lack of sex and reproductive health education for adolescents, particularly in rural areas, as well as a lack of awareness around legal adoption processes.

"Women and girls with unwanted pregnancies do not have support from the government," said Ibrahim Ali, Kenya organiser for the charity Health Poverty Action. "These women have often been victimised and stigmatised, especially in rural areas, and they tend to run away, and that puts them in vulnerable situations in cities."

Adama had no idea what legal options would be open to her to give up her child safely, and no understanding of the adoption process. "I was not aware of it at all," she said. "I had never heard of it."

She contemplated a backstreet abortion, she said, but could not reconcile the idea with her faith. Then she contemplated taking her own life.

"I was so stressed, I started thinking how I would commit suicide by drowning myself, so people could just forget about me."

But a few weeks before her due date, someone introduced her to a well-dressed woman named Mary Auma, who told her not to have an abortion or end her life. Auma runs an illegal street clinic in the Nairobi slum Kayole. She gave Adama 100 shillings and told her to come to the clinic the following day.

Mary Auma's makeshift clinic is not really a clinic, it's two rooms hidden behind an inconspicuous shopfront on a Kayole street. Its shutters open onto a blue metal grate, behind which a few largely empty shelves are scattered with aging medicinal products.

Auma sits inside with her assistant, buying and selling babies for a profit, without the inconvenience of having to check who is buying them or what for. She told Adama that the buyers were loving parents who were unable to conceive, who will provide for a much-wanted child.

But in reality Auma will sell a baby to someone who walks in off the street with the right amount of cash.

Auma also tells expectant mothers and potential buyers that she is a former nurse, but she does not have the medical equipment, skills, or sanitation

to deal with a serious problem during childbirth.

"Her place was dirty, she would use a small container for blood, she had no basin, and the bed was not clean," Adama recalled. "But I was desperate, I didn't have a choice."

When Adama arrived at the clinic, Auma gave her two tablets without warning, to induce labour, Adama said. Auma had a buyer lined up and she was anxious to make a sale. But Adama's baby boy developed chest problems and needed urgent care. So Mary Auma sent the mother and newborn out of the clinic and off to hospital on their own.

After a week in hospital, Adama was discharged with a healthy baby boy. The landlord that had kicked her out when she was pregnant allowed her to return and she nursed the baby for a few days. Then she ran into Mary Auma again at the market, she said, and Auma gave her another 100 shillings and told her to come to the clinic the next day.

"New package has been born," Auma texted her buyer. "45,000k."

Mary Auma wasn't offering Adama the 45,000 shillings - £300 - she was quoting the buyer. She offered Adama 10,000 - about £70. But Mary Auma didn't know the buyer she had lined up for Adama's baby was an undercover reporter working for the BBC, as part of a year-long investigation into child trafficking.

When Adama and our reporter met at the makeshift clinic the next day, Adama cradled her baby son in her arms and looked him in the eyes.

After a whispered discussion with the supposed buyer, Adama left the clinic that day holding her son.

"I was not happy selling my child, I did not want money. I did not even want to touch that money," she said. "When there was no money involved in giving him up, then I was OK. I knew my child will be safe."

Adama went directly from Mary Auma's street clinic to a government children's hospital, where her son will be cared for there until a legitimate adoption can be arranged.

Mary Auma did not respond when the BBC put its allegations to her recently. Her clinic appeared to still be in business.

Adama is 29 now. She still goes to bed hungry sometimes. Life in her village is still hard. She gets occasional work at a small hotel nearby but not enough. She struggles not to drink. She dreams of opening her own shoe shop in the village and bringing in shoes from Nairobi, but it is a distant dream.

She knows she is not ready to have her son back in her life, but she hopes she will see him again. She knows the neighbourhood around his foster home; it is near the house she was kicked out of when she was almost ready to give birth to him.

"I know the area is safe," she said, "and the people looking after him are good."

● [Link: https://youtu.be/n7rOZMqnHhG](https://youtu.be/n7rOZMqnHhG)

By Special Correspondent

The return to normal shifts by all nurses in the public sector, with modest groups in central hospitals being the last to do so, is very welcome, since the health of the vast majority, those who cannot afford the very expensive private care now on offer, was at serious risk.

But there are a number of lessons that everyone need to learn, on both sides, and a number of policies that need to be settled as the general normal to avoid any further cycles of industrial action that the public health sector, in particular, has seen over the years.

The first point to note is that the Government has been negotiating pay scales, and over this year raising pay when possible even without the final agreement last month, in good faith.

The only condition has been affordability. While all Government employees, including health workers, will be paid the maximum possible, that maximum is set, as a total monthly spend for the payroll in any case, by the Government's revenue, that is very largely what the taxpayers pay.

From that tax revenue, there are many demands besides pay. But as Government budgets even in the new dispensation make clear, staff costs are the largest item with capital expenditure in second place.

All the other bits and pieces, from fuel for vehicles to desks to stationery combined come in third. This is roughly how private sector corporations budget, although they also

Civil servants must reconfigure thinking

include a slice for profits and dividends that the Government does not include in its Budget.

Like their colleagues in the private sector, Government employees have to accept the concept of "ability to pay" when it comes to pay scales. This is the limiting factor. It also requires a different approach from staff associations. The old pressures of industrial action forcing a Government to start up the printing presses to create money out of thin air to meet a payroll were what helped lead to the hyperinflation disasters that have inflicted our economy over the years and made sure that we could never have viable permanent rises in our standards of living. Each rise not backed by creation of real wealth among the taxpayers simply led to the next crash.

The second point is the rather peculiar Zimbabwean belief that workers on strike are entitled to be paid. This is weird. The standard, throughout the world, is that even when industrial action is totally legal, so no disciplinary action can be taken against workers absenting themselves and jobs are preserved, the striking workers are not paid.

To get round that, unions in many countries build up strike funds from their union membership dues so that they can pay



strikers in legal industrial action an allowance.

No union, for example, in most of the European Union would dream of even getting as far as a strike ballot without being able to make it clear to members the size of that allowance and how long it could be paid. No union in Zimbabwe has such a fund.

Zimbabwe's private sector, after a lot of hesitation in the 1980s, has adopted this standard procedure, which is one reason why private sector industrial action is now so rare, and far more positively why when workplace disputes do arise the relevant national employment council is called in, or the Department of Industrial Relations, or both.

Very often when things reach a certain point, having a neutral person who can listen to all sides, point out in each area where there is unfairness or unacceptable behaviour, and then offer suggestions can clear the air and allow normal employer-employee talks to proceed.

So one possibility in the public sector is for the Apex Council, which groups the Public Services Board and the staff associations, should seriously look at creating a small industrial relations unit, whose staff are paid, like those of the national employment councils, by exactly equal employer and employee association contributions, forcing them to be totally neutral and able to intervene

when required in local disputes.

The second area where staff associations should be active is ensuring they read the national budgets, the mid-term fiscal policy reviews and the monthly financial statements that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is now by law required to publish.

They might need to hire, probably between them, a couple of part-time quality economists who can help them tunnel down into the data. But going into negotiations knowing revenue trends, knowing expenditure levels and the like means the associations can contribute actively in the same real world and if they can come up with creative ideas within the limits and the parameters, they should be listened to seriously.

One area where detailed knowledge of Government budgets can lead to healthy debate and sensible contributions would be in parts of the capital budget, especially those parts dealing with staff housing, other State housing schemes, and staff transport.

Staff associations may well have good ideas of where new Government housing should be built, to what standard since that in turn sets the rents, and how it can best be allocated fairly. Even some detailed contributions into routes

and times of Government staff buses could improve staff transport significantly, with users putting in their input.

Government workers also need to start thinking who they elect to run their associations, represent them, and when necessary have the strength of character to tell them what is and is not possible. There has been a trend for well-spoken confrontationalists to be elected, and people who might well have political ambitions.

Obviously, workers want someone who will defend their interests, know their interests and be able to argue strongly in favour of these interests. But they also need to be able to go further, to assemble and generate creative ideas, to burrow into the national data, and be able to suggest and press for viable and practical solutions to problems faced by their members.

Some solutions might not cost the Government much, or anything at all. But decent bus services for night-shift nurses is as important as pay scales. Being able to present tables of what percentage of nurses at each hospital are housed in staff flats at the hospital will help decide where the next two blocks of flats must be built to ensure fairness.

Even the creation of properly run cooperative stores for basic groceries in a rent-free hospital storeroom, to make the salary dollar go further, should be on association agendas. Leadership has to go far beyond what has been the case so far.

Most staff associations represent well-educated and smart professionals, and so an association should be able to be in constant consultation with members to make use of that talent, looking for bright ideas and shifting the many they should get to find the best and most practical, and members should be looking for their smartest and best to lead them.

BUSINESS

COMPETITIVENESS

NIT marks seventh convocation with focus on huge tasks ahead



By Guardian Reporter

An NIT graduate in Diploma in Aircraft Maintenance explains to Governing Council chairperson, Professor Blasius Nyichomba (L) on how a dry sump lubrication and cooling system of an aircraft works during events to mark the institute's seventh convocation held in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy of NIT.

MAJOR investments being made by the Fifth Phase Government in transport infrastructure and logistics has given National Institute of Transport a massive task of training experts to run the mega industry.

NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said in a speech delivered on Friday to mark the seventh convocation ceremony in Dar es Salaam that his administration is working hard to deliver on supplying the country with competent manpower.

"Really, the institute is now working tirelessly to make sure that these huge transport and infrastructure projects are get qualified workers to manage them," Prof Mganilwa. He named some of the mega projects as Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), Julius Nyerere Hy-

dropower Project, East African Oil Pipeline Project from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga and revival of Air Tanzania Company Limited.

Prof Mganilwa added: "We also encourage innovative ideas along with allowing the intersections of different disciplines and professions within our Institution. For example, we want to see educators and transport professionals working together to prevent road crashes."

The INT Rector noted: "We would like to see engineers and technology entrepreneurs connecting rural audiences to essential information. Our aim is to produce graduates who are not only ready for formal jobs, but who will have skills and competence to become entrepreneurs that will cre-

ate new jobs for others."

He further stated that many graduates are excited upon completion of degree courses because they anticipate beginning a new phase in life mainly associated with getting formal employment. Engineer Mganilwa said the heavy state investment in mega infrastructure projects provide an avenue for entrepreneurs to exploit opportunities created.

"We all know that human capital is one of the most important foundations in building a modern society, and as far as I can see, NIT is doing an excellent job in preparing Tanzania for the future," he explained.

He congratulated best students for significant achievements made which would not have been pos-

sible without support of parents, guardians, sponsors, spouses, friends and lecturers. "I also wish to express my appreciation to the NIT staff, for assisting you on your educational and life journey during these defining years, and for continuing to make this Institute a place of excellence and achievements," Prof Mganilwa stated.

On his part, NIT Alumni Vice Chairman, Dr Amon Mwasandube said the convocation is one of the dynamic platforms for graduates, alumni, well-wishers and the public to learn and share knowledge and experience.

"The vision of NIT convocation is to serve as an association of professional and ethical excellence in public and private domains for the development of the National Institute of Transport and beyond," Dr Mwasandube said.

He added that the mission of the convocation is to mobilise NIT alumni and well-wishers to support the institute and participate the enhancement and improvement of the intellectual and material wellbeing of its community.

"The NIT Alumni encourage and promote a spirit of collegiality and unity among members of the convocation within and outside the institute. We also create in the alumni a sense of responsibility obligation and accountability towards the community," he noted.

Meanwhile, Christopher Mbua who emerged as overall best student for Bachelor's degree I Mechanical Engineering with a pass mark 4.6 GPA said: "The secret behind my success is hard work and trusting in God."

RESISTANCE

South Africa's drink makers move to fend off third booze ban

CAPE TOWN

South Africa's main producers and distributors of alcoholic drinks are striving to convince the government not to impose a third ban on booze sales to contain the coronavirus, even as the country is seeing a resurgence of infections.

Liquor stores, supermarkets, pubs and restaurants in the country were ordered to halt retail of alcohol when Covid-19 infections started to gain traction in late March, a prohibition that remained in place for more than two months. The restriction was abruptly re-imposed about six weeks after it was lifted, as the initial peak of the pandemic threatened to overwhelm hospitals and emergency rooms.

The industry has made a pre-emptive move to withdraw support for major entertainment events during the festive season, showing a willingness to discourage large gatherings and reduce the burden on hospitals caused by accidents. That costs the industry revenue, but is seen as better than coping with another shutdown.

"If we have an outright ban, we all know the consequences of that," Rich-

ard Rushton, chief executive officer of wine and spirits maker Distell Group Holdings, said in an interview. "It's going to create economic devastation, taxes won't be collected and people will still gather and do it underground."

Distell lost 100 million litres in sales volumes and R4.3 billion in revenue in the year through June as a consequence of initial lockdown restrictions. The ban on alcohol sales has put investment projects worth at least R12.8 billion on hold and South Africa's government lost billions of rand in taxes, according to the National Treasury data.

Diluted revenue
Health Minister Zweli Mkhize specified this week that young people drinking alcohol at social events was a cause of the virus resurgence. Since the first lockdown, the industry has worked on re-evaluating social programs, targeting issues like drunk driving and underage drinking, Rushton said.

"The announcement that we aren't going to support any large-scale events is a further demonstration of intent to say look, no one wins through the spread of the virus," Rushton said. "Our industry was devastated as a result of the first closures."



A customer wearing a protective face scarf leaves a liquor store carrying a crate of beer in Cape Town, South Africa, on August 19, 2020.

ACTIVISM

EU and USAID back Oikos radio children's conservation project

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

OIKOS East Africa has teamed up with Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) to undertake an innovative radio program as part of a comprehensive initiative to take conservation education to children.

Oikos EA Managing Director, Mary Birdi said radio education programs offer an alternative platform for tens of thousands of children who are unable to access hands-on conservation in the country both due to the consequences of the coronavirus outbreak and lack of access to extracurricular educational activities.

"The crisis has brought to us some complex challenges but also unique opportunities. Developing radio drama episodes will keep children sensitized on conservation topics and reach a much greater number of them," Birdi said.

She explained that Tanzanian children are the country's future owners who also will have to pass over the country



Oikos East Africa managing director Mary Birdi.

officers from Oikos has prepared a set of scripts, which children and their teachers turned into a fun and captivating episodes.

The children radio program titled, "Our rangelands, our pride," supports learning, communication and inspiration to address rangelands as a source of life for wild and domestic animals which in turn support human life.

Birdi said that the radio program, targeting to stir dialogue among children and adults, is a collaborative effort with funding from the European Union and United States Agency for International Development.

"Across activities, focal topics include causes of, and solutions for rangeland degradation and the role of rangelands in community heritage, protecting wildlife," Oikos EA Managing Director noted.

Children from primary schools in Lerang'wa, Ol'molog, and Elerai in Longido district, Selela in Monduli district, and Terat in Simanjiro district have

become good radio commentators showing great potential to vehicle good information and shape the country's future.

A total of 10 episodes of 15-20 minutes have been produced in collaboration with the TBC, working along with the schools. "The 10 episodes of podcasts have been reviewed by Oikos experts before being broadcasted by TBC, and two other local radios (FM Manyara ad Orkonorei Radio)" Birdi explained.

A live introduction about the episodes' subject and final quiz thereafter grabs the listeners' attention and pushes them to reflect on what the children are saying, a fundamental step toward the adoption of better practices.

"The children will share with us some very critical messages: why it is important to protect rangelands and what can we do to keep them healthy? What is climate change and what we can do to be safer?" Birdi added.

CONCERN

Global temperatures already 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels

WASHINGTON

Global temperatures from January to October were around 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, putting 2020 on track to being one of the three warmest years on record.

This decade will be the hottest on record, with the warmest six years all happening since 2015, according to the World Meteorological

Organization's annual State of the Global Climate 2020 report published Wednesday.

"To put it simply, the state of the climate is broken," United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said after the report was released. "Humanity is waging war on nature and this is suicidal –nature always strikes back and it is already doing so."

There is at least a 20% chance

that global average temperatures temporarily increase by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2024, from 1850 to 1900 levels, the UN agency estimated. In the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries pledged to take action to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to keep global warming below 2°C and ideally close to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

A 1.5°C warming is considered the best-case scenario for climate

change given the current warming trend. But scientists on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change still predict that it will result in more frequent and intense heatwaves, heavy precipitation and drought in several regions.

"We are headed for a thundering temperature rise of 3 to 5 degrees Celsius this century," Guterres said. "Human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos –making

peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century."

Apocalyptic fires, floods, storms and hurricanes are increasingly the new normal, Guterres said. Natural disasters cost the world a total of \$150 billion last year. The trillions announced globally to recover from the coronavirus pandemic have to be borrowed from future generations and can't be spent on locking in policies that will burden

them, he said.

The most notable warming in 2020 happened in the Siberian Arctic, according to the WMO report. Temperatures for the first 10 months of the year there were more than 5°C above average, fuelling the most active wildfire season in 18 years on record. At the same time, Arctic sea ice was exceptionally low most of the year.

COLLABORATION

NMB targets Zanzibar's tourism industry growth

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN a new move to ensure Zanzibar's tourism industries bounces back and grows rapidly, NMB Bank Plc is now targeting to finance and offer expert counselling to the leading foreign currency earner for the Spice Islands.

NMB's Head of Government Business, Adelard Mang'ombo, said over the weekend during a Zanzibar Association of Tour Operators annual general meeting that the bank will invest heavily in information technology infrastructure to boost rapid growth.

Addressing the Zato AGM, Mang'ombo said NMB understands the importance of tourism to Zanzibar's economy hence is ready to work with the government and the private sector to ensure sustained growth.

"Our bank has enough capital accrued from years of sustained good performance hence we are committed to work with Zanzibar's government to contribute to rapid economic development through the tourism sector," he said while challenging Zato members to exploit NMB's financial and expertise prowess.

Backing Mang'ombo's arguments, Head of Card Business, Philbert Casimir said the bank is also working with the Isles



NMB's head of government business, Adelard Mang'ombo, speaks at Zato annual meeting over the weekend. Courtesy of NMB.

government to digitise revenue collection system so as to boost state coffers for development.

"We want to also assist with collection of government revenue from the tourism industry," said Casimir adding that tourism is also part of the blue economy which is an area of focus by President Hussein Ali Mwinyi's

administration.

He pointed out that the country's largest ban has already established an electronic commerce platform which allows business people to transact and easily trade. "We have also integrated UnionPay cards into NMB's network of ATMs and point of sales to allow the busi-

ness community transact easily," he added.

Closing the Zato AGM, Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla called upon tourism stakeholders to work with Ministry of Agriculture to promote tourism farming other than continue focusing traditional tourism.

"The government will continue to work closely with the private sector to strengthen development of the tourism industry which is backbone of our economy," Abdulla said noting that both public and private sectors should learn from Taiwan, Philippines, Brazil and the US on farming tourism.

CENSURE

Betting firm under money laundering probe for Sh640m M-Pesa payment

NAIROBI

Betting firm MozzartBet is in the spotlight after a State agency questioned the source of more than Sh600 million the company had wired to a businessman's bank accounts in a span of five months.

In court documents, the Assets Recovery Agency has flagged the transactions as suspicious, questioning the source of Sh640 million that the betting firm wired to Kimaco Connections between February and August. This indicates that the agency believes the money was not generated from gambling activities under MozzartBet, which operates in a sector that has recently come under increased scrutiny from the State.

The ARA, which is seeking to seize and forfeit the cash to the State, has dismissed MozzartBet's explanation that it paid the money to acquire from Kimaco Connections a software, which the latter subcontracted another firm – Open Skies Management Services, – to deliver.

Peter Kiilu, the owner of Kimaco Connections, allegedly wired Sh242 million to Open Skies Management Services, which is owned by Zimbabwean Emmanuel Charumbira and a shareholder of Mozzartbet. The agency says that the unclear source and wiring of the cash to a web of accounts, including some owned by MozzartBet, point to a money laundering scheme.

"That Mr Peter Kiilu did not avail the agreement or contracts he alluded to in his recorded statement between Mozzartbet Kenya Ltd and Kimaco Connections and Kimaco Connections and Open Skies Management Services," the ARA says in court documents. Court filings show that MozzartBet used its pay bill number 290059 to wire the millions through another pay bill number 311372 associated with Kimaco Connections to its pay bill 311372.

The highest amount sent was Sh50 million in a single day while the lowest was Sh1.8 million. The ARA says that MozzartBet sent a total Sh256 million within five days to Kimaco Connections, flagging the funds as suspicious. The funds were later moved to an account at Co-operative Bank.

From the account, Mr Kiilu moved Sh150 million to a fixed deposit account and left a balance of Sh101 million. The company had between February and June received Sh384 million from the betting firm, pushing receipts from Mozzartbet to Sh640 million over five months.

Some of the money was also wired to Pescom and Power Energy in transfers that were marked by intra-accounts trading. The agency says in court documents that the use of mobile money transfer services to transfer funds from MozzartBet and Kimaco Connections was adopted to circumvent or evade the reporting threshold and Central Bank of Kenya prudential guidelines requiring an account holder to declare the source of funds.



A man makes bets using a gambling mobile application on his phone.

GENEROSITY

Azania Bank staff donate various items to Muhimbili National Hospital

By Guardian Reporter

EMPLOYEES of Azania Bank Limited have donated an assortment of groceries and food items to Tumaini la Maisha children's home at Muhimbili

National Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking after donating the items, Azania Bank employees' representative, Godbless Mushi said they have had a tradition of contributing from their earnings

to assist vulnerable groups such as orphans and sick kids in the society.

"This time around, we felt obliged to come and donate to Tumaini la Maisha which is hosting dozens of children

suffering from cancer," said Mushi who added that the move is also backed by Azania's corporate social responsibility policy. He further noted that the donation marks the climax of Azania Bank's customer service

month. The donated items included edible oil, soap, sugar, clothes, pieces of khanga, bed sheets, blankets and shoes.

In a vote of thanks after receiving the items, a representative of the home, Mwasiti Juma commended Azania employees for the donation saying the children and their parents have a number of needs.

"On behalf of my fellow parents who are based here, I say thank you very much for this assistance which will go a long way to reduce shortages of vital supplies that we face," Juma said while noting that requesting other companies to emulate Azania Bank's corporate responsibility to support vulnerable groups in the community.

"We have been accompanying our kids who are undergoing cancer treatment for a long time here hence need support from both individuals and groups from the community," she added while paying tribute to Azania Bank's management and staff for their commitment to support people living in difficult conditions.



A representative of Tumaini la Maisha Home at Muhimbili National Hospital, Mwasiti Juma (C), receives items donated by Azania Bank Limited staff from the bank's representative, Godbless Mushi (2nd-R) at handover ceremony held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo Guardian Correspondent.

TRADE-FAIR

Expo 2020 kicks off, exhibitors optimistic of a bigger turn-up

KIGALI

Rwanda International Trade Fair- the country's largest annual exhibition event- known as Expo kicked off on Friday, December 11, with a low number of visitors compared to previous editions. The exhibition will go through December 31.

According to the Private Sector Federation (PSF), as of Friday, overall, there were 381 exhibitors

who include 73 from outside Rwanda and 308 local exhibitors. The Federation said that the number is expected to increase, as more exhibitors are still registering. Before the outbreak of Covid-19, there used to be around 500 exhibitors.

There are 12 countries participating in this year's edition, including Rwanda, and the number is less than previous years' where between 20 and 25 countries normally par-

ticipated in the event. According to PSF, this is mainly because of travel restrictions in different countries across the world in a bid to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Countries present include Singapore, Pakistan, India, Syria, Iran, Egypt, Benin, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Rwanda and Ghana among others. When The New Times paid a visit to Expo Ground in Gikondo where the exhibition is taking place, exhibitors said that there was a low

turn-up on the first day.

"Clients have not yet come, we are waiting to see if there will be a change tomorrow, but so far, since morning, we are just sitting. One comes, asks and goes. They have not started buying as it used to be," said Shabani Ahobishakiye who sells cooking utensils. According to Moussa Bizimana who sells office furniture, there are hopes of more customers in the coming days.

He said: "There are some

customers who visited our site. We are just appreciating because it is still early and it is the first day, as days go by, clients will come, there is no problem." Amani Uwiringiyimana who brands different stands at Expo since 2013 accredited the low turn-up to Covid-19.

"Most of the clients who used to show-up were those who came with their children, but because of Covid-19, students are now at school and those still at home are mostly

below 12 years and are not allowed to come here," he explained.

Restricting children below 12 years old from attending the event, according to PSF, is in bid to prevent the spread of Covid-19, as children in the age group can't easily adhere to Covid-19 preventive measures. Besides this factor, the low number of participants is also linked to the purchasing power that has been negatively affected by the pandemic as some people lost their jobs.

ENCOURAGING

Companies taking strong climate action doubled this year, CDP says

LONDON

The number of major companies who've disclosed their environmental impact and aggressively committed to reducing it has doubled since last year, according to a new analysis by a leading environmental-disclosure platform.

The top companies on the CDP's annual "A List" for environmental action grew to 313 this year. The list, which was updated on Tuesday, consists of companies who received CDP's top score for environmental disclosures and policies on climate change, forest conservation and water use.

The list's expansion comes towards the end of a year where climate risk has taken prominence in financial markets. In April, an analysis by Morningstar showed sustainable funds were relatively well-placed to endure the coronavirus turmoil, withstanding the market's March freefall much better than conventional funds. From 2025, UK companies will have to disclose how much they're exposed to risks caused by climate change, following a November decision by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak.

Climate action also pays off. An index which tracks CDP's A List saw an average annual return that was 5.3% higher than competitors over the past seven years.



Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak.

The Stoxx Global Climate Change Leaders, which measures the performance of companies on CDP's

A List Index relative to the Stoxx Global 1800, has climbed about 13% since the start of 2020.

"Organisations that are able to take sustainability as a strategic imperative can adapt to this new

future," said Nina Seega, research director for sustainable finance at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. "We're no longer discussing whether we'll transition, but how we'll transition—and which companies will be the best at it."

Most companies only disclosed data to CDP that reflected their impact on the climate, concentrating on emissions reductions, but some went further. Of the 9,600 companies that reported this year, only ten scored A ratings across their disclosures related to climate change, forests and water-use. They included Danone, L'Oréal SA, and Philip Morris International—the controversial tobacco giant has reduced emissions from its operations and along its value chain by 42% since 2010.

The number of companies which disclosed data to CDP rose by 14% this year from last

year. More A List companies are based in Europe than any other continent. Japan is home to more of the top companies than any other country – with 66 of the 313 companies based there. Among them, car manufacturer Honda reached 100% renewable energy at its European and South American plants last year and KAO Corporation, the chemicals and cosmetics company, introduced an internal carbon pricing mechanism to encourage energy savings.

"We have the wind in our sails," said Dexter Galvin, global director of corporations and supply chain at CDP. "Now, we need these pioneers to inspire the sluggish majority of corporates if the private sector is to take a leadership role when climate targets ratchet up at COP26 next year," he said, referring to the global climate talks set to held in Glasgow in 2021.

ACQUISITION

Hyundai buys 80 per cent stake in robot firm Boston Dynamics from SoftBank

SEOUL

Hyundai Motor agreed to buy a controlling stake in Boston Dynamics in a deal that values the mobile robot firm at \$1.1 billion.

Hyundai, along with some associated companies and chairman Euisun Chung, will acquire an 80 per cent interest in the US robotics company from SoftBank Group, leaving the Japanese firm with a 20 per cent share, the companies said in a statement Friday.

South Korean conglomerate Hyundai has been beefing up its research in robotics as it expands further into electric and autonomous vehicles. Carmaker Hyundai plans to spend over \$55bn in the next five years in these areas to become one of the world's leading auto manufacturers. The broader empire is also exploring practical uses for industrial robots. Other Hyundai entities that will participate include car-parts maker Hyundai Mobis and Hyundai Glovis, which provides international and domestic logistics services.

A sale of Boston Dynamics would mark another twist in the trajectory of a company that spun out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the early 1990s and operated independently until Google bought it in 2013. It was sold again in 2017, that time to SoftBank.

At times, Boston Dynamics has functioned more like a research organisation than a business, churning out machines that are technologically advanced but unprofitable. That includes Spot, a dog-like robot. Videos of its creations regularly rack up millions of

views on YouTube; however, the company has said it isn't currently generating a profit.

Within SoftBank, Boston Dynamics formed part of a disparate collection of robotics ventures in the technology firm's portfolio, including developers of robots for warehouses, restaurants, and other industrial applications.

Its staff tripled to 300 people and it moved into new headquarters in a refurbished former postal building in Massachusetts at a cost of \$20 million, a person familiar with the matter said earlier this year. Late last year, SoftBank made a new push to steer the robot maker towards profitability, accelerating an effort that had started under Google.

Hyundai by contrast makes highly practical industrial robots intended for factory use. The group has been developing robotics such as exoskeleton suits that help ease fatigue and prevent injury for factory workers. It's also working on robots with artificial intelligence that can provide assistance at hotels and in other service sectors.

Mr Chung, who became the group's chairman in October, has been transforming the conglomerate to introduce more EV line-ups and plans to enter the aerial vehicle market in 2028. The group is building an innovation centre in Singapore where Hyundai will work on developing artificial intelligence, big data and other technologies to enhance its manufacturing processes, fine tuning the "brains" behind the smarterly cars of tomorrow.



People take pictures and videos of Boston Dynamics' robot dog named "Spot" during a presentation in Lisbon.



ISIDÍNGÓ MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	WEDNESDAY 16 Dec	THURSDAY 17 Dec	FRIDAY 18 Dec
<p>MONDAY 14 Dec</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>09:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera News</p> <p>12:30 Mtego rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:10 Aibu yako rpt</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:45 Kesho leo</p> <p>19:00 Afya ya Jamii</p> <p>19:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Dakika 45</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>09:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt</p> <p>10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang</p> <p>19:00 Ijue Sheria</p> <p>19:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco</p> <p>21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>2:00 DWTV</p>	<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Ijue sheria rpt</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt</p> <p>13:30 Tanzania yetu</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco</p> <p>14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>18:30 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Isidíngó</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p>	<p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p>

WORLD

UN chief wants worldwide 'state of climate emergency'

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Saturday called for a worldwide "state of climate emergency" to tackle global warming.

Five years after the Paris Agreement on climate change, the world is still not going in the right direction, he told the Climate Ambition Summit co-convened by the United Nations and the governments of Britain and France.

The Paris Agreement promised to limit temperature rise to as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible. But the commitments made in Paris were far from enough to get there. And even those commitments are not being met, he noted.

"Carbon dioxide levels are at record highs. Today, we are 1.2 degrees hotter than before the industrial revolution. If we don't change course, we may be headed for a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 3 degrees this century. Can anybody still deny that we are facing a dramatic emergency?" he asked.

"That is why today I call on all leaders worldwide to declare a state of climate emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached."

Some 38 countries have already done so, recognizing the urgency and the stakes. All other countries should follow, said Guterres.

The recovery from COVID-19 presents an opportunity to set economies and societies on a green path in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said.

But that is not yet happening. So far, the members of the Group of 20 largest economies in the world are spending 50 percent more in their stimulus and rescue packages on sectors linked to fossil fuel production and consumption, than on low-carbon energy.

This is unacceptable, he said.

"The trillions of dollars needed for COVID recovery is money that we are borrowing from future generations. This is a moral test. We cannot use these resources to lock in policies that burden future generations with a mountain of debt on a broken planet."

To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, meaningful cuts are needed now to reduce global emissions by 45 percent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels, he said.

This must be fully reflected in the revised and strengthened Nationally Determined Contributions that the signatories to the Paris Agreement are obliged to submit well before the UN Climate Change Conference next year in Glasgow, Scotland.

Britain has pledged to cut emissions by 68 percent by 2030 compared to 1990. The European Union has agreed to cut emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 compared to 1990, he noted.

"These decisions deserve to be emulated. Every country, city, financial institution and company needs to adopt plans to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and start executing them now, including by providing clear short-term targets."

Key emitting sectors such as shipping, aviation and industry must also present and implement new, transformational roadmaps in line with this goal," said Guterres.

"Technology is on our side. Sound economic analysis is our ally. Renewable energy is getting less expensive with every passing day. Climate action can be the catalyst for millions of new jobs, better health and resilient infrastructure," he said.

Global economic policies and finance must be aligned with the Paris Agreement and the



UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Sustainable Development Goals.

It is time to put a price on carbon; to phase out fossil fuel finance and end fossil fuel subsidies; to stop building new coal power plants; to shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; to make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and to integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal policies and decisions, he said.

The private financial sector must support companies to transform their business models, align its investments with the net-zero emissions goal and disclose its progress. Asset owners and managers must decarbonize their portfolios. International financial institutions and national development banks must help to mobilize private finance and private investment for developing countries. And developed countries must meet their commitment to providing US\$100 billion a year to developing countries by 2020 to help them adapt, he said.

"We are not there yet. Our collective goal must be to surpass the 100-billion-dollar-a-year target in 2021 and to scale up international public finance in the period after. But today, adaptation represents only 20 percent of climate finance. We need a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience."

This is a moment of truth. But it is also a moment of hope. More and more countries have committed to net-zero emissions. The business community is getting onboard the sustainability train. Cities are striving to become greener and more livable. Young people are taking on responsibility and demanding it of others, he said. "Mindsets are shifting."

Climate action is the barometer of leadership in today's world. It is what people and the planet need at this time, he said.

"We have the blueprint: the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. But we all need to pass a credibility test: let's make the promise of a net-zero world a reality now."

Xinhua

Iran executes journalist accused of helping fuel 2017 protests

IRANIAN dissident journalist Ruhollah Zam, who was convicted of fomenting violence during the 2017 anti-government protests, was executed on Saturday, Iran's state television reported.

Iran's Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the death sentence of Zam, who was captured in 2019 after years in exile. His Amadnews feed had more than one million followers.

State broadcaster Seda va Sima said on Saturday Zam, "director of the counter-revolutionary Amadnews network, was hanged this morning."

The son of a pro-reform Shi'ite cleric, Zam fled Iran and was given asylum in France.

In October 2019, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps said it had trapped Zam in a "complex operation using intelligence deception." It did not say where the operation took place.



Iranian officials have accused the United States as well as Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia

and government opponents living in exile of stoking the unrest, which began in late 2017.

Officials said 21 people were killed during the unrest and thousands were arrested. The unrest was among the worst Iran has seen in decades, and was followed by even deadlier protests last year against fuel price rises.

Zam's Amadnews feed was suspended by messaging service Telegram in 2018 for allegedly inciting violence but later reappeared under another name.

Agencies

Sputnik V likely to offer two-year protection against coronavirus - developers

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Sputnik V vaccine is likely to offer two-year-long protection against the novel coronavirus, said Alexander Gintsburg, the head of the vaccine's developer, Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology.

"So far, I can only make suggestions, because more experimental data is needed. Our vaccine was created on the platform also used for the Ebola vaccine."

Experimental data received at that point demonstrate that a similar vaccine would offer protection for two years, maybe more," he told the Soloviev Live channel on YouTube.

According to the Russian sci-

entist, Sputnik V is effective in 96% of cases. The remaining four percent of vaccinated persons will have a mild form of the disease with runny nose, cough and slight fever, but lungs won't be affected.

Gintsburg explained the criticism of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine by unfair market competition and political motives.

"The first reason is that the market for this vaccine amounts to tens, maybe hundreds of billions of dollars."

Corporations and people, who are behind all this money, fight for the profit. And no holds are barred here," he said.

The other reason are political motives, Gintsburg continued.

"As we could witness not so long ago, a group of vaccine



researchers almost played a crucial role during elections in one country on the American continent.

All together, they announced that they had created a vaccine three or five days after the elections were over. Before that, the vaccine was not yet ready," he said.

Registered by Russia on Au-

gust 11, Sputnik V became the world's first coronavirus vaccine.

The vaccine was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center of Epidemiology and Microbiology. Its post-registration trials began in Moscow on September 7, with volunteers receiving the first vaccine on September 9.

A total of 40,000 people are involved in the program, 10,000 of them received a placebo instead of the vaccine.

According to interim research results, the efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine exceeds 95% on the 42nd day after the first dose, provided that a patient receives the second dose.

On December 2, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered to organize a nationwide vaccination starting by the end of this week.

As Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin added, the inoculation should be completely voluntary and free of charge, with teachers, medics, and social workers receiving the vaccine first, while the regions can expand this list.

Agencies

Window for Brexit trade deal cut to days

LONDON

AFTER a face-to-face meeting this week between the leaders of the United Kingdom and European Union, a decision on whether a free-trade deal will be inked must now be made in a matter of days.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen met in person after their negotiating teams wrangled for months over a potential deal.

But while the more optimistic onlookers might have hoped for a breakthrough, the pair could only set Sunday as a deadline for a decision on whether a deal is possible to ensure tariff-free trade can continue, now that the UK has left the bloc.

I think it's a moment of finality ... We would much prefer a deal, no stone is being left unturned.

Dominic Raab, UK foreign secretary

While the alternative, reverting to trading under World Trade Organization rules, would cause economic damage to both sides as well as job losses and delays, London and Brussels have bickered over the details of a deal.

Johnson and von der Leyen spoke for three hours in Brussels on Wednesday evening before agreeing the deadline. Unusually for such an encounter, they did not release a joint statement.

An unnamed UK government official told the Financial Times "very large gaps remain between the two sides". A Johnson insider told the paper there had not been "much of a glimmer of progress" during the talks.

Johnson's counterpart tweeted they had "a lively and interesting discussion" during which they "gained a clear understanding of each other's positions" but she too said they remained far apart.

"We agreed that the teams should immediately reconvene to try to resolve these essential issues," von der Leyen said. "We will come to a decision by the end of the weekend."

Talks between the nation and the bloc that have continued ever since the UK withdrew its membership on Jan 31 have been bogged down in areas including the preferred mechanism for policing a deal, the degree of access EU fishing boats should have to UK waters, and the best way to ensure a level playing field for all businesses.

An agreement looked more likely on Tuesday, when the two sides agreed on how to reinstate a border on the island of Ireland without inflaming sectarian tension.

But Dominic Raab, the UK's foreign secretary, said on Radio 4's Today program on Thursday a deal remained a long way off. "I think it's a moment of finality ... We would much prefer a deal, no stone is being left unturned," he insisted.

Von der Leyen was set to brief EU leaders on Thursday. Talks between the UK's chief negotiator, David Frost, and his EU counterpart, Michel Barnier, were also set to resume.

The EU is the UK's largest trading partner. In 2019, Britain exported products worth 294 billion pounds (US\$391 billion) to the bloc, around 43 percent of its total exports.

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Agencies



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (right), welcomes British Prime Minister Boris Johnson prior to a meeting at EU headquarters in Brussels.(File photo)

CHINA'S new and total installed photovoltaic capacities had ranked the first in the world for 7 and 5 consecutive years, respectively, as of the end of 2019, said Wang Bohua, vice chairman and secretary general of China Photovoltaic Industry Association.

Wang announced the performance at the recent 5th China Photovoltaic Industry Forum (CPIF).

The country's production of polycrystalline silicon and modules production capacity also topped the world for 9 and 13 years in a row, Wang added, saying China would still keep its records this year.

It is reported that China's photovoltaic industry still kept stable growth in the first three quarters of this year despite the impacts from COVID-19 and the slump of global trade. The country produced around 290,000 tons of polycryst-

China leads world in new installed photovoltaic capacity

talline silicon, up 18.9 percent from a year ago. Module production capacity exceeded 80 GW, expanding 6.7 percent year on year. Besides, the country saw 18.7 GW of newly installed photovoltaic capacity, up 17 percent from a year ago, and the photovoltaic generation capacity has hit over 200 billion kilowatt hours, 16.9 percent more than in the same period last year.

China's photovoltaic industry has established a complete industrial chain that leads the world in technology, size and cost, said Li Qionghui, director of the new energy research department at the State Grid Energy Research Institute. According to her, the generation efficiency of China's photovoltaic industry has broken records for times, and the cost of photovoltaic systems

dropped by over 90 percent than that in 2005.

"Chinese enterprises have made huge breakthroughs in photovoltaic technologies and cost in the past 10 years. The price of silicon wafer dropped to 3 yuan (\$0.46) from around 100 yuan a decade ago, and the module price also went down from 30 yuan per watt ten years ago to today's 1.7 yuan," said Li Zhenguo, founder and president of LONGi Group, the world's most valuable solar technology company. The cost of photovoltaic generation is even lower than 0.1 yuan per kilowatt at places with high-quality sunshine, he added.

According to statistics from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), solar photovoltaics prices have fallen 82 percent since

2010 while concentrated solar power has dropped 47 percent. Onshore and offshore wind energy costs have dropped 39 percent and 29 percent. The prices will keep going lower in the next ten years, the agency forecasted.

In the first 9 months, the export of photovoltaic modules exceeded that from a year ago by 52.3 GW, said Wang.

The supply side of the photovoltaic industry was not very much impacted as China, the largest photovoltaic production base, had already controlled the spread of COVID-19 and fully recovered its industrial production in the second quarter, Zhang Senri with the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products told the People's Daily.

The sound performance of the overseas market also contributed a big part, he added.

The annual installed capacity of this year is expected to stay on the same level with that of the last year due to the hot demand in the second half, he said, adding that the newly installed capacity might hit 110 to 120 GW. China's export of photovoltaic products will probably grow by over 20 percent this year, he noted.

"The prospering global photovoltaic market is an irreversible trend, and there are huge emerging markets waiting to be explored by Chinese enterprises," Zhang said.

As enterprises constantly improve their supply capacity and optimize products, China's photovoltaic industry will surely lead a clean way of global power energy through its strategy of "going global."

People's Daily

Xi: China to take solid steps to tackle global climate challenge

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday announced the country's further commitments for 2030 to contribute more to tackling the global climate challenge, when addressing the Climate Ambition Summit via video link.

He said China will lower its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent from the 2005 level, increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent, increase the forest stock volume by 6 billion cubic meters from the 2005 level, and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts.

Xi announced in September that China would scale up its nationally determined contributions and adopt more vigorous policies and measures, with goals to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

"We will take solid steps to implement the targets just announced, and contribute even more to tackling the global climate challenge," Xi told the virtual summit, attended by dozens of leaders of both developed and developing countries, as well as international orga-

nizations, representatives of NGOs, and business leaders.

The summit, which aims to make new commitments to tackling climate change and delivering on the Paris Agreement on climate change, was co-convened by the United Nations, the United Kingdom and France, and in partnership with Chile and Italy.

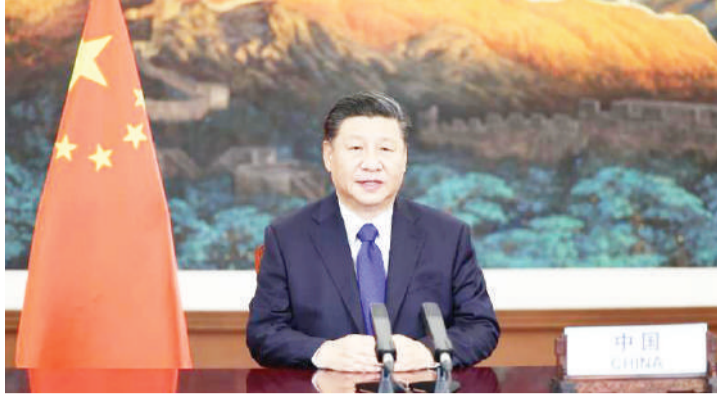
"China always honors its commitments," Xi said.

He added that China, guided by the new development philosophy, will promote greener economic and social development in all respects while pursuing high-quality development.

President Xi's latest pledge showed that China, as a responsible major country, is committed to building a community with a shared future for humanity, said Li Zheng, executive vice president of the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University.

At the summit, Xi urged the international community to pursue a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery.

Hailing the extensive international support to and participation in the implementation of the Paris Agreement since its adoption five years ago, Xi said



President Xi Jinping addresses the Climate Ambition Summit via video link on Saturday. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

the international landscape is evolving more rapidly, and COVID-19 is triggering deep reflections on the relationship between man and nature. Saying the future of global climate governance is drawing greater attention, he made the following three proposals.

First, Xi called on all parties to close ranks and make new advances in climate governance that features win-win cooperation.

In meeting the climate challenge, no one can be aloof and unilateralism will lead nowhere, Xi said. "Only by upholding multilateralism, unity and cooperation can we deliver shared benefits and win-win results for all nations."

"China welcomes all countries' support for the Paris Agreement and their greater contribution to tackling climate change," Xi added.

Second, Xi called for raising ambition and fostering a new architecture of climate governance where every party does its part.

Following the principle of common but differentiated responsibili-

ties, all countries need to maximize actions in light of their respective national circumstances and capabilities, Xi said.

He also stressed that developed countries need to scale up support for developing countries in financing, technology and capacity building. Third, Xi urged all parties to boost confidence and pursue a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery.

"Mountains and rivers green are mountains of silver and gold," Xi said, adding it is important to encourage green, low-carbon ways of life and production, and seek development opportunities and impetus from green development.

Echoing Xi's remarks, Li Zheng said the post-pandemic recovery must be a green recovery in response to climate change.

"By developing green infrastructure such as renewable energy, intelligent transportation and smart grid, people could make full use of the green transition as a new economic driver, which also adds decent jobs and boosts sustainable growth," said Li.

Xinhua

Protecting the sentiments of the faithful: Putin embarks on fighting religious enmity

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has directed the Russian Foreign Ministry to launch efforts for an international discussion on thwarting activities that could insult the feelings of religious believers, according to a list of instructions published on Friday following a meeting with representatives of faith-based organizations held on November 4.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry has been instructed to initiate a discussion of issues related to the prevention of actions aimed at insulting the religious feelings of worshippers and inciting inter-religious enmity and faith-based disputes at international platforms, and explore the possibility of signing international agreements and (or) passing a UN General Assembly resolution on such issues," the document says.

Putin earlier said at a meeting with members of religious associations that it was a good idea to call on other countries at the UN to approve legislation protecting the sentiments of worshippers and promised to task the Russian Foreign Ministry with looking into the matter.

The initiative was put forward by Chairman of the Coordination Center of Muslims of the North Caucasus, Mufti of Karachay-Cherkessia Ismail Berdiev. He pointed out that there was legislation in Russia protecting worshippers' feelings from being offended.

Agencies

Algeria rejects Trump's stance on Western Sahara

ALGIERS

ALGERIA on Saturday rejected a decision by outgoing US President Donald Trump to recognize Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, saying the step would undermine efforts to end the decades-long conflict over the desert territory.

Trump's administration said it was recognizing Moroccan claims to Western Sahara as part of a deal under which Mo-



Algerian Foreign Minister Sabri Boukadoum

rocco agreed to normalize its relations with Israel.

In Algiers, the Foreign Ministry said the US decision "has no legal effect because it contradicts UN resolutions, especially UN Security Council resolutions on Western Sahara".

"The proclamation would undermine the de-escalation efforts made at all levels in order to pave the way for launching a real political process," the ministry said in a statement.

The US-Morocco deal comes at

a key moment in the long-frozen conflict in Western Sahara between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front independence movement, which erupted again last month after three decades of truce.

The United Nations and other Western states are not expected to change their long-standing position calling for a referendum to resolve the dispute. The United Nations said its stance was unchanged.

Agencies

Digital social security card allows holders to receive convenient online services

AS OF Nov. 20, over 300 million Chinese citizens had already applied for and received the digital social security card. The number surpassed 100 million by the end of January and 200 million by the end of June this year.

That means over 20 percent of Chinese people have access to convenient employment and other social security services online.

In China, 417 digital social security card service channels have been opened, and the online services can be easily obtained through commonly used apps or mini-programs. The e-card that allows direct access to such services will make holders' life easier and more convenient.

For example, digital social security card mobile payment has been supported in 224 prefectures and cities in 27 provinces for medical treatment and drug purchase settlement. 22 cities have set up UnionPay travel codes, allowing citizens to use electronic social security cards for travel.

Among 300 million holders of digital social security cards, the youngest is a 1-month-old baby while the eldest is a 118-year-old senior. So far, 7.75 million elderly people and



Two Communist Party of China members working as volunteers to register a social security card for Lin Xincheng, a resident in Beichuan village, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, at his home, Nov. 11, 2019. File Photo

children can enjoy online social security services through their digital social security cards, with their family members helping apply for and receive the e-card on behalf of them.

All prefectures and cities across China, from Jiamusi city and Daxing'anling prefecture in northeast China to Sansha in south China and Kizilsu Kyrgyz autonomous prefecture in northwest China, have provided digital social security services.

The number of internet users in China had reached 940 million as of June this year,

and 99.2 percent of them used mobile phones to surf the internet, according to a report on China's internet development.

In this regard, digital social security cards based on mobile phones are an inevitable choice to meet the requirements of the internet era. It is estimated that more than 500 million people will have digital social security cards in 2021.

E-card holders can get many things done by showing their e-cards, scanning the QR code of the e-card, or having their faces scanned at

government service centers. They can also log into their social security accounts by scanning the QR code on a self-service machine or an online service platform.

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security aims to improve IT-based social security services in about two years. Specifically, full services and functions of the e-card will be available, including the holders' identity-based service access, making social security contributions, receiving allowances, and work-related injury insurance settlement. *People's Daily*

With US now in hand, BioNTech to scale up vaccine production

NEW YORK

THE chief executive of Germany's BioNTech SE said the biggest challenge facing it and partner Pfizer Inc now that their COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for use in the United States will be to scale up manufacturing to meet huge demand.

"We need to solve the manufacturing challenge," Ugur Sahin told Reuters in an interview. "It is very clear that more doses are needed. And we are dealing with that question - how to produce more doses."

The companies have said they will produce up to 1.3 billion doses of the vaccine next year.

The US Food and Drug Administration authorized the vaccine for emergency use on Friday, after Britain became the first country to begin deploying the shot outside of clinical trials earlier in the week.

Sahin said he expects the companies will receive conditional approval from the European Medicines Agency by the end of the month and can begin rolling out vaccine in European countries early next year.

Sahin said he expects the companies will receive conditional approval from the European Medicines Agency by the end of the month and can begin rolling out vaccine in European countries early next year.

One way he hopes to boost supply would be by bringing on earlier than projected the 750 million-dose-a-year plant BioNTech bought from Novartis AG in Marburg, Germany.

BioNTech had said it would begin making the vaccine there in the first half of 2021, and Sahin said they are working to get it up and running on an expedited timeline.

"The baseline plan is 1.3 billion doses," Sahin said. "And we are working on an extended plan. I can't tell you at the moment what is possible and how much we can expand the scale but we will try to do it significantly."

Supply of the vaccine will be limited at first in the United States, which has a population of roughly 330 million. The US government has ordered 100 million doses of the two-dose vaccine and could negotiate for more.

Pfizer board member and former FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in an interview with CNBC the company had offered to sell the United States more doses as recently as last month but had been turned down.

In data released this week, Pfizer and BioNTech said their vaccine began conferring some protection to recipients even before they received the second shot. It seemed to begin to show some efficacy around 12 days after the first shot. Sahin said he was surprised by the data: "We know that the immune response is heavily boosted after the second dose."

He said the companies have not decided yet whether to evaluate a single-dose version of the vaccine.

"This will be a discussion that we will certainly have with our partners Pfizer," he said. BioNTech had said it would begin making the vaccine there in the first half of 2021, and Sahin said they are working to get it up and running on an expedited timeline.

Agencies

High-tech system makes tunnel construction easier, smarter in central China

THE world's longest highway spiral tunnel is currently under construction in Jiaoding Mountain of central China's Henan province.

Constructed by the Road and Bridge Group Co., Ltd. under China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), the Hankou Tunnel winds 4,457 meters in the rocks.

The tunnel project is an extremely difficult task. "Construction teams arrived here 10 years ago, and many refused to contract the project after field investigation," said Wang Xiaodong, an employee with the CSCEC Road and Bridge Group Co., Ltd.

Ma Zhanchao, who's in charge of the tunnel project, introduced that the tunnel has an elevation

difference of 109 meters between its entrance and exit. Due to the elevation, the tunnel has to be built in spiral, and the curve radius is only 700 meters at the minimum, which could easily lead to insufficient oxygen and deflection. In addition, construction workers have to operate on nearly-vertical cliffs, which poses huge challenges for the transportation of materials and water, he said. In addition, the thin and layered sandstone around the tunnel would possibly collapse and further increase safety risk, he added.

The tunnels, including

the Hankou Tunnel, along the Jincheng-Xinxiang Expressway, total only 7 kilometers in straight-line distance, but they actually stretch 27 kilometers in the mountains, Ma told the *People's Daily*. What he said demonstrated from the side the difficulty of the project.

To tackle the challenges, the project department employs the BIM+ (Building Information Modeling+) technology, a cutting-edge tool that is widely used in housing projects but rarely in tunnel construction. "We are not taking the

technology simply as an animation display, but a smart brain that guides the construction of the project and makes the construction safer, more efficient and more precise," Ma said.

The BIM+ technology is able to generate geographical profile models based on investigation drawings, which helps constructors make pre-warnings of possible collapses and rock bursts in the Hankou tunnel that features complicated lithological changes.

"We categorized the wall rocks in accordance with their hardness and integri-

ty," Ma introduced, saying that different excavation methods are adopted for different wall rocks.

According to him, the BIM+ is also connected with an air monitoring device to monitor real-time air quality and oxygen content, so as to ensure the health of the constructors.

In addition, the BIM+ is also making management more efficient. "We installed cameras at the tunnel entry, in the tunnel and on the construction vehicles, so that we can see in the office what is happening at the con-

struction site," Ma said, explaining that it is not easy to reach the construction site due to the poor road conditions.

Thanks to the cameras, engineers can now guide workers to solve the problems at site from the project department, which saves plenty of time.

Besides, the BIM+ can automatically calculate in advance the consumption of steel bars and concrete of each section, and every batch of these materials is recorded with corresponding codes, so that they can be traced once problems are identified.

The tunnel will be installed with more sensors to capture ground settlement and crown settlement, and these data will be input into the BIM+ system for analysis for construction guidance and pre-warning, so that the construction will be smarter and safer, Ma said.

The expressway where Hankou Tunnel locates connects Henan province's Xinxiang and Jincheng of north China's Shanxi province. It will further complete the expressway network in northwestern Henan once it opens to traffic.

The Hankou Tunnel is expected to be holed through at the end of 2022.

People's Daily

Mosimane an inspiration to African soccer coaches

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IN the lustrous history of African football, it is a frustrating fact that foreign tacticians have arguably enjoyed greater success than indigenous African coaches.

Indeed, a swift examination of the 20th century, with a strict focus on African football will reveal that the likes of Clemens Westerhof, Claude LeRoy, and Otto Pfister often times garnered more laudable successes than African tacticians while at the helm of Nigeria, Cameroon and Ghana respectively.

Mercifully though, this exasperating state of affairs started to distinctly change for the better in this, the New Millennium.

Inspirationally, coaches such as the late Nigerian legend, Stephen Keshi, and the Egyptian, Hassan Shehata, among a few others emerged from relative obscurity to claim success after success all the while leaving their rivals positively quaking in their boots.

During the last couple of years, though, a South African coach by the name of Pitso Mosimane has admirably ascended to hitherto unexplored heights of achievement in the African coaching realm.

Indeed, after being installed as the Mamelodi Sundowns boss around 2012 on the South African football patch, Mosimane's tactical exertions began to yield greater rewards to dramatic effect.

For example, he successfully and quite impeccably shepherded Sundowns to many a Premier Soccer League (PSL) title during his trophy-laden and lengthy spell in charge of the club nicknamed 'the Brazilians'.

For those not in the know, the PSL is the top tier of South African football, meaning, of course, that it is the bread and butter of all clubs in the powerhouse economy of the continent.

Now, the number of PSL titles Mosimane claimed during his rewarding stint at Sundowns is pretty staggering.

Indeed, during his eminently able and capable stewardship, Sundowns lifted the much sought-after PSL crown in the 2013-14, 2015-16, 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 seasons.

But the impressive picture that I am attempting to sketch of his managerial reign at Sundowns does not end there.

In 2016, Mosimane triumphantly steered Sundowns to the coveted CAF Champions League trophy and the following year, he guided his erstwhile employers to CAF Super Cup glory.

A few months ago, Mosimane



Pitso Mosimane

dropped the bombshell announcement that he was leaving Sundowns to head for Cairo to coach the greatly touted and much feared Egyptian heavyweights Al Ahly.

In the lore of continental football, Al Ahly is a club which requires no introduction.

Indeed, the Egyptian giants have won the CAF Champions League trophy more times than any other African outfit in history.

Ergo, it follows that coaching Al Ahly is most definitely not a challenge for the faint-hearted.

Indeed, many in South Africa doubted the sagacity of Mosimane's seemingly risky move.

However, thus far at least, Mosimane has made a mockery of all the nay-sayers and doubters.

Indeed, since arriving in Cairo, the South African tactician with the Midas Touch has hit the ground running.

Outstandingly, Mosimane has already won the Egyptian Cup and the 2020 CAF Champions League crown to boot at Al Ahly.

It would be fair to argue then that in the present hour, Mosimane is at the pinnacle of the African coaching realm.

It is hoped that other coaches on the continent with aspirations towards greatness will look to Mosimane's stellar example as inspiration that their dreams can indeed be realized.

Sven Vandebroek's first year at Simba SC technical bench

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

ON December 11 last year Simba SC appointed Belgian Sven Vandebroek as their coach. Last Friday it was exactly one year since the appointment of the man, who took over from his compatriot, Patrick Aussems.

Since taking over as the boss at the side, Vandebroek has led the club to winning three trophies, the Mainland Tanzania Premier League, the Federation Cup and the Community Shield.

That came just nine months after he stepped into the Msimbazi Street-based outfit.

Racking up three trophies in a year is impressive, however, it has not been plain sailing thus far.

Currently Simba find themselves lying in third place in the Vodacom Premier League table, though they are eight points off of Cedric Kaze's Yanga.

Simba are also in the first round of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League, but will they face a stiff test against Zimbabwe's representatives, FC Platinum, who are looking to make it to the group stage for the third straight time.

Simba fired Aussems, a coach who had taken them to the highs of



Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandebroek.

CAF Champions League quarter finals and the lows of preliminary round exits in the same competition.

He was axed not because he just lost some matches and had the team playing disjointed football, he had upset almost everyone at the club.

Aussems was sending out signals that he would leave the club and join a South African side hence his exit was inevitable. That is the situation that was at Simba when Vandebroek took over.

The coach began by trying out new players such as Francis Kahata and Gerson Fraga who were struggling for game time under his

predecessor.

January arrived, Shiza Kichuya and Luis Miquissone joined the club as the Belgian tactician got going.

His first competitive match was 6-0 victory over Arusha FC in the Federation Cup which was the start of a four match winning run.

Vandebroek's doubters did not take long to have their say. Simba's 2-2 draw with age-old rivals Yanga was the first blow and, two months later, the final blow was almost dealt when Simba lost 1-0 to Yanga on March 8, courtesy of a splendid free kick by Bernard Morrison who has since moved to Simba.

Before that, there was

a six-match winning run that came up with the coach of the month award for Vandebroek.

Like in any coaching job, hard decisions have to be made and Vandebroek has not shied away from them.

He has frozen out players that did not suit his style despite pressure from fans, media and even the club hierarchy.

Simba fans' darling Sharaf Shiboub was let go after being underutilized. Ibrahim Ajibu has hardly gotten playing minutes.

Gadiel Michael has turned out to a constant benchwarmer. Kichuya, who was welcomed back from Egypt at the start of the year, was shown the

exit door after only six months with five appearances.

The football has been both interesting to analyse and fun to watch. As one commentator pointed out, the football Simba play under Sven is more defined than the football they played under the last few coaches. Simba have a distinct style fashioned.

The squad is largely made up of aging key players. He inherited John Bocco, Meddie Kagere and has added Chris Mugalu who are key strikers all well into their 30s and they are taking rounds exchanging trips to the doctor's room.

Vandebroek's relatively weak defense is anchored by Paschal Wawa and Joash Onyango.

In spite of the ageing squad, the team play with a high tempo and quick transition from defence to attack.

Results are ultimately what most coaches are judged on. Up to now, Vandebroek's stats read 35 wins, nine draws and five losses in 49 matches.

In this respect, he has quite achieved what critics thought he would not so far in his first season.

There is more than enough reasons to be optimistic going into his second year.

TPLB fines Azam FC, Yanga for VPL rules violation

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Steering and Management Committee of the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has issued fines on the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) and First Division League (FDL) clubs after the committee's meeting, which took place in Dar es Salaam on December 7.

The VPL sides, Azam FC and Yanga, are some of the clubs that have been fined for breach of the league's rules.

A TPLB statement said Azam FC was fined 2m/- for violating the VPL rules when the outfit hosted Yanga in a duel, which took place at Azam Complex in the city. Azam FC lost 1-0 to Yanga.

Yanga were fined 500,000/- for the club's fans' violence in the game. A section of the squad's fans were seen aim drinking water bottles at one of the clash's assistant referees.

The outfit was moreover fined 500,000/- for decision by a section of the team's fans to enter into the pitch after the match.

The TPLB has slapped a 500,000/- fine on Yanga for the team's fans' violence in the squad's VPL game against Namungo FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

A section of Yanga fans aimed drinking water bottles at the clash's

officials when the referees were heading to the dressing rooms in the tie, which ended with the squads locked to 1-1 draw.

The TPLB has also issued fines on several FDL sides following the clubs' violation of the tournament's rules.

The board ruled that Arusha United won three points and three goals in the side's match against Singida United, given Singida United's players were not eligible for the match.

Tabora's Rhino Rangers lost their game against Pamba FC for the violence by the Tabora team that caused the game to end prematurely. Pamba FC won three points and three goals.

Rhino Rangers have moreover been fined 500,000/- for violence committed by the side's officials that led to the premature end of the clash.

Rhino Rangers players, Ibrahim Bon, Petro Shabani, Shija Mongo and Amanda Abdallah, have all been banned for one year for disorderly conduct and match-fixing.

The outfit's officials, assistant coach Salum Mamlo, goalkeepers' coach Sunga Abdul, team doctor Victor Ntenga, fitness coach Lameck Mdali, kitman Mashaka Changarale and team manager, Shija Sanju, have been banned from participating in football for three years for causing the violence.



Yanga Princesses' fullback, Anastazia Nyandago (L), challenges Simba Queens' player during the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women Premier League tie played at Bunju in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. The tie ended in a 0-0 draw.

Yanga Princesses hold Simba Queens to goalless draw in Women Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA Queens drew 0-0 with rivals Yanga Princesses in an exciting Serengeti Lite Mainland Women Premier League's fourth round tie, which took place at MO Simba Arena, Bunju, in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

For the previous two consecutive seasons Yanga Princesses had recorded defeats in all four matches played against Simba Queens in the tournament.

In the Saturday's clash, Yanga Princesses reversed the trend through the goalless draw.

In the two clubs' previous meetings, Yanga Princesses scored only two goals against Simba Queens, whereas Simba Queens netted 20 goals against Yanga Princesses.

Yanga Princesses, in the Saturday tie, seemed to play better, unlike the club's

showing in other matches against Simba Queens.

The visitors looked determined to come out with victory and the hosts' defense led by Maimuna Hamis and Violet Nicholas was compelled to be careful to keep the former in check.

A thrilling aspect of the clash was a tussle between Yanga Princesses' striker Aisha Masaka who was under close watch by Simba Queens' Julieth Singano.

Despite Aisha outsmarting Julieth time and again, the Yanga Princesses' striker was unable to score, given she was tightly marked by Simba Queens' defenders.

Simba Queens' defender Maimuna Hamis put solid defensive showing on the 66th minute, in which she executed a goal line clearance after Yanga Princesses made a dangerous attack on the former.

Simba Queens won a foul on the 68th minute after their forward Mwanahamisi

Omari 'Gaicho' was brought down by one of Yanga Princesses' defenders just outside the 18-yard box.

A free kick by Simba Queens player Kadosho Shaban flew over Yanga Princesses' crossbar.

Yanga Princesses responded with a swift attack on the 70th minute but Aisha failed to score after she was left one against one with Simba Queens' goalkeeper Janeth Shija.

The match ultimately ended in 0-0 draw, meaning the outfits shared a point.

Yanga Princesses are currently placed second on the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women Premier League's table with 10 points after playing four matches.

Simba Queens are placed fourth with nine points, while Mwanza's Alliance Girls are leading the rest of the pack in the tournament with 12 points.

They're Grrreat! Zidane gushes after derby win

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane has praised his players, calling Luka Modric, Toni Kroos and Karim Benzema "f--ing great" after a 2-0 derby win over rivals Atletico put Real Madrid back in the race for the La Liga title.

A first-half header from Casemiro and a Jan Oblak own goal when Dani Carvajal's shot rebounded off the post saw league leaders Atletico beaten domestically for the first time since February.

"They're f--ing great. All of them. Kroos, Modric, Karim," Zidane told Movistar. "Lucas Vazquez too, Dani Carvajal, our captain [Sergio Ramos] ... What can I say? I'm really happy."

Zidane's job had been under threat before three consecutive victories against Sevilla, Borussia Monchengladbach and now Atletico left Real Madrid's season back on track in La Liga and the Champions League.

"We've improved a lot," he said. "We confirmed what we saw in the first two games, starting with Sevilla, going through against Borussia and today. ... We haven't won anything, it's just three points but it's a job well done."

Zidane suggested that criticism of the team, and himself, after a poor run of one win in five games in all competitions had served as motivation.

"We know we can do good things as a team and today we showed everyone that Madrid know how to play," he said. "There are things that hurt you, but they make you stronger. Criticism is a part of football, you have to deal with it. The players have character, that's what this team has."

Diego Simeone -- whose Atletico team remained top of the table on Saturday night, three points ahead of Real Madrid, but could be overtaken by Real Sociedad on Sunday -- accepted the blame for the defeat.

"They were better, you could see it," Simeone said. "Today we played badly, the coach didn't read the game well and the team didn't do what was asked of it."

Simeone also defended forward Joao Felix, who reacted angrily to being taken off after an hour.

"I was looking for someone fresher in attack, and more legs in midfield," he said. "I understand the anger, I share it. When you're taken off you want to give more."

ESPN

Lampard says Chelsea title talk 'ridiculous' after defeat at Everton

LONDON

FRANK Lampard rubbished his side's chances of winning the Premier League this season after missing out on the chance to move back top of the table with a 1-0 defeat at Everton in front of 2,000 fans at Goodison Park on Saturday.

A run of 17 games without defeat after splashing £220 million (\$291 million) in the transfer market had seen Chelsea talked up as serious title contenders to the likes of Liverpool, Tottenham and Manchester City.

However, Lampard claimed his side have to still be considered young pretenders after they failed to muster a response to Gylfi Sigurdsson's 22nd minute penalty.

"Some people who are saying 'we're going to win the league, we've got the best squad in the league', it's ridiculous stuff," said Lampard.

"When you talk about the best squads, you have to look at the teams that have won it in the last two, three or four years. Their squads are full of strikers and wingers that score 30 or 40 goals a season, midfield players that have won multiple league titles all over the place.

"We have some but we have young players and as a squad we're not there. It's very quickly gone from we were nowhere near good enough after the games against West Brom and Southampton to we're title favourites.

"We'll have to work through nights like tonight. It was a big test for us, we didn't pass that test but we will in the future."

Everton fed off the atmosphere created by supporters inside Goodison for the first time since March to arrest a slide of just one win in their previous seven games.

"There were only 2,000, but we are really happy for them. They have seen a good match from Everton, we played well with a fantastic spirit," said Everton boss Carlo Ancelotti.

"The impact was really strong. It is really important to have the supporters, it is a totally different environment here completely."

Victory lifts Everton up to seventh and within just one point of the top four.

The need for the Toffees own big spending to finally pay off with European football was laid bare when the club announced losses of nearly £140 million for the 2019/20 season on Friday.

However, it is Dominic Calvert-Lewin, signed for just £1.5 million from Sheffield United four years ago, who is keeping Everton's European ambitions afloat.

The Premier League's top scorer failed to add to his 14 goals this season, but was too quick for both Thiago Silva and Mendy to a loose ball and was wiped out by the Senegalese 'keeper for the game's decisive moment.

AFP

Kevin-Prince Boateng's battle against racism in football is far from over

By Ed Dove, Special to ESPN

KEVIN-PRINCE Boateng has told ESPN that this remarkable year, in which the causes he's fought for throughout his career, and the biases he's faced throughout his life, have been magnified to unprecedented levels.

The death of George Floyd in May catapulted the Black Lives Matter movement into the consciousness of an international, digitally aware population, forcing people to consider their place in the global dynamics of power and prejudice like never before. Floyd, a Black man, died in Minneapolis while in police custody after a white officer knelt on Floyd's neck for more than seven minutes.

For Boateng, the events of 2020 represent the culmination of a career trying to raise awareness and combat racial injustice, beginning in 2013 when he walked off the pitch in a friendly between AC Milan and Pro Patria in the face of racist tormenting.

However, they also represent the start -- he hopes -- of a greater realisation of the pervasive inequalities that continue to exist, and the prejudice that was allegedly evident in Istanbul Basaksehir's Champions League clash with Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday.

"Finally!" he began. "It's been seven, almost eight years, since 2013, and we had to wait until 2020. We had to lose other brothers, other people, until we finally stood up, we finally got heard, and everybody started talking and opening their mouths." "There was a long time when I was the only person talking about it, when I had a possibility, and now finally I'm happy," he added.

"I'm relieved that ev-



Puma's Black Lives Matter boots were made for Kevin-Prince Boateng, who was one of the first footballers to walk off the pitch when racially abused, back in 2013. (Agencies)

eryone is on the same train, it gave me joy to see that there are people out there who are willing to fight for it and go against all of the odds."

However, while the 33-year-old, who is currently on the books of Italian Serie B side Monza, was delighted that the movement has been sustained beyond the news cycle, and remains present seven months after Floyd's killing, he has called on people to be more proactive and less passive in their support for racial equality.

He continued: "I spoke to friends directly and I said: 'I don't care that you're posting a Black picture [on social media]. Thank you, you're showing that you understand or you see what's happening, but I want you to post a video, to say it."

"I want people to see you face and say 'I stand with my Black brothers, I support them, Black lives matter and we are all the same.' I wanted more of that, to get peo-

ple emotional, because they have to understand how we're feeling."

"I know it may be difficult for a white person to understand how a Black person is feeling when we're being racially abused, but to be there, to be on our side, that's what we needed." "It was all just a little bit slow for me, because it was the right moment in that moment to show your support."

To continue to raise awareness for racial equality, and to celebrate the progress of the Black Lives Matter movement, Boateng has collaborated with Puma to produce a special boot -- bearing the BLM name -- and symbolising the fight for equality that he carries with him onto the pitch.

Despite the progress made, it's clear there's still much awareness to raise.

"Many people are talking about it but they don't know why they're talking about it," he added. "They're saying

'Black Lives Matter' but yeah, why do they matter? What do you feel? What's your experience?"

Despite his frustrations with some purported expressions of support, Boateng has reaffirmed his delight with the continuing momentum and visibility of the fight, and the allyship he has encountered from non-Black teammates and friends.

"It gives you wings," he noted. "Because of the pain and the anger you have inside, when the people around you stick to you and show you that they are with you, it gives you wings, it makes you fly."

"I'm happy with what's happening, I see it's keeping going, it's not stopping like the news."

"When a tragedy happens, people don't talk about it anymore, it's always like that, but this is still going, it's still moving forward, and you see 'Black Lives Matter' everywhere."

For Boateng, the son of



AC Milan's Ghanaian defender Kevin-Prince Boateng left the pitch during the friendly football match between Pro Patria and AC Milan in Busto Arsizio on January 3, 2013. Boateng stormed off the pitch after racist chants from a group of fans. (Agencies)

Solskjaer hails 'best performance' despite dull stalemate with Man City

MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said his side produced their best performance of his time in charge against Manchester City even though an uninspiring 0-0 draw at Old Trafford did little for their chances of winning the Premier League.

After crashing out of the Champions League at the group stage in midweek, the draw at least saved Solskjaer from another defeat that would have brought more scrutiny of his position as manager.

A share of the spoils also keeps United one point better off than their local rivals. United are seventh, five points off Tottenham and Liverpool at the top, while City slip to ninth.

But there was little to suggest either side will fight their way into the title race.

United beat City three times last season, but Solskjaer pointed to the smash and grab nature of those victories as Pep

Guardiola's men were easily undone on the counter-attack.

"In my time against City, that's the best performance we've had. Not the best result, but the best performance," said Solskjaer.

"We beat them last season but those were different games, we counter-attacked. Today was the most we've been in the game, we kept them away from our box more."

"With the ball we didn't create as much as we wanted to. They probably had the bigger moments in open play, we had a few moments in corners. Overall, a draw, everyone should be happy with that."

- City keep up clean sheet streak -

The Red Devils have won just one of their opening six home league games and look set for another campaign where a top-four finish rather than a title tilt will be the target.

City matched a club record with a sixth straight

clean sheet as Guardiola has set about improving their defensive record.

That has come at the cost of the thrilling football that they showed in their two title-winning campaigns under the Catalan in 2017/18 and 2018/19 as the visitors were careful not to be caught on the break.

"Take a look last season how they beat us," said Guardiola. "The quality of this team is they can play when you

let them run. The important thing is we were so solid, we didn't concede and on average had more chances. The game was tight, respect from both sides, and a good point for us."

United only seriously threatened from corners as Scott McTominay, who scored the last goal at Old Trafford in front of fans when the sides last met in March, was inches away from connecting with Victor Lindelof's

a Ghanaian father and a German mother, the protest against Pro Patria represented the start of his public battle against racism, but his experiences of racial prejudice stretch back much further.

"I grew up in Berlin, with a lot of different nationalities, from everywhere; Spanish, Italian, African, Arabs, Turks, Russians, from Poland, everything," he continued.

"I grew up in Berlin, but I was Black, so for them I was Black, even though I'm half German."

"I didn't know what I was, because for the Germans I wasn't German enough, for the Black people I wasn't Black enough, so I was always in the middle. There was always this feeling."

"I have a lot of mixed race friends; they're always the same, they're aggressive, if someone's looking at them it's like, 'Why are you looking at me? Is there something wrong?' We don't believe in ourselves yet because we don't know who we are."

While Boateng's younger brother -- Bayern Munich defender Jerome Boateng -- opted to represent Germany, Kevin-Prince chose to turn out for Ghana, a decision which he credits with helping him understand the both duality and singularity of his racial identity.

"My roots are Ghanaian and my roots are German so the puzzle came together," he remembered. "I could be stronger and have more of a voice after understanding who I am and where I'm from."

"I'm mixed, I know both sides, so I was more confident. I could say: 'Yes I understand you, my Mum is white, my uncles are white. I understand you, my father is Black, my uncles are Black. I have one grandma Black and one grandma white, so I get

you both.' "Getting there was hard. There were a lot of tears, a lot of sadness, because you don't know who you are, but it gave me a lot. Now I understand really what it means to be black, and I understand what it means to be white, because I understand both sides."

"All of that racism, then going to Ghana, and playing for Ghana, all gave me so much, because I understood who I am and where I'm coming from."

Sports leagues have embraced the movement, and while Premier League players -- for example -- continue to take a knee before fixtures in solidarity with BLM, Millwall fans' recent revolt against the gesture, and the controversy that overshadowed Istanbul Basaksehir's Champions League clash with PSG, hint at the chasms that still exist.

"We have to educate, we have to get the education before we talk," Boateng added. "We're not just angry because we wake up and we're angry. We're angry because we want the same possibilities as you, we want the same."

"Maybe we don't get killed [in Europe], but we don't get the best jobs, we don't get to be the Number 10 and the captain in the team. There's a reason, and it's not because we're not better."

"I always had to be the best, I had to show something more, something different, and that's my message."

"We want the same possibilities, we want the same chance, and if there's someone in front of me who's Hispanic, or from Turkey, or Arab, and he's better than me, then he should get the spot, no problem, but give me the possibility to show that I'm maybe on the same level."

near post flick-on.

City created the better chances on the few occasions they moved the ball at pace.

Gabriel Jesus fired over from Riyad Mahrez's ball over the top, but it was Mahrez who was guilty of passing up the best opening in the first half when he fired too close to David de Gea with just the goalkeeper to beat.

The visitors were handed a reprieve early in the second-half when

Kyle Walker was penalised for clipping Marcus Rashford inside the area.

A VAR review showed Rashford was offside as he received the ball and United were denied a 32nd penalty in the last two seasons.

City pushed the hosts back in the second-half, but continued to lack the precision and penetration to cause the United defence problems.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Kevin-Prince Boateng's battle against racism in football is far from over

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Rotary Club of Bahari's president, Rotarian Fred Laiser (R), hands over silverware to Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s golfer, Kaushik Mangarolia, after the latter had emerged as the overall winner of this season's Rotary Charity tournament, which took place at the club recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar golfer shines in 2020 Rotary Club tournament

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s golfer, Kaushik Mangarolia, beat the rest of the golfers to the top honour in this season's Rotary Charity tournament staged at the club's course recently.

Playing off handicap 14, Mangarolia, who has been making a steady improvement in his game lately, clinched the title after notching 37 points in the 18-hole tournament, which was played in Stable Ford format.

In the men's category, Hussein Dewji maintained his winning consistency with staggering 32 Stable Ford points to win on count-back after tying with David Zhou.

Sde Van Zyl, also a DGC golfer, chalked up 31 points to win the Ladies Division, beating fellow golfer, Mary Kinuthia, on count-back. Mary had returned a similar score.

The Juniors' category's prize went to DGC golfer, Dhrur Patadia, who recorded 43 points.

In Seniors' category, Alfred Kinswaga stamped his ultimate authority, notching 35 Stable Ford points.

The Rotary Club of Bahari Dar es Salaam hosted the 10th fundraising golf tournament, aiming at raising 40m/- to transform the teaching and learning environment at Mtakuja Beach Secondary School in Kinondoni District.

The Mtakuja Beach Secondary School serves almost 1300 pupils and is housed in a campus in the Kunduchi area.

The Rotary Club of Bahari, in partnership with the business community, Rotary Foundation and the school, will be investing in rehabilitating water and sanitation systems in the school, so as to bring clean water, sanitation and hygiene services directly to the children, thereby reducing their exposure to water-borne diseases.

Rotary Club of Bahari's president, Rotarian Fred Laiser, stated that creating healthier water systems in schools creates a positive cycle by significantly improving school enrollment, attendance and improved academic performance.

He pointed out children, who attend school and learn positive health behaviours like washing hands, take these behaviours home to their families.

He noted the project will also assist the school to rehabilitate the classrooms and the furniture and also provide assistance to the school in accessing a reliable printing service.

Laiser said the project gears towards forming an effective partnership between the school's management, the community and the Rotary Club of Bahari, to transform the learning environment and put in place processes to ensure that the improvements are sustainable thereby resulting in lower school drop-out rates, decrease in the spread of diseases and an overall improvement in educational achievement.

The Rotary Club of Bahari's boss believes that by engaging and working together, Mtakuja Beach Secondary School can become amongst the leading schools in the region and a model for effective partnership between the school and the community.

He said that the past nine annual golf tournaments have raised over 300m/- which contributed towards various club service projects, making a significant difference in the community especially providing support to the underprivileged.

The sponsors for this year's golf tournament are ABBA Auto Ltd, Clear Services, Diamond Trust Bank, Heritage Insurance, Jamana Printers, Minet Insurance, NAS Tyre Services Ltd, NCBA Bank, Neelkanth Salt, R.K Chudasama Ltd, Rotarian Steven, Satcom Networks Limited, SBC (T) LTD, Scania (T) LTD, Steelmasters, Strategis Insurance, Softtech Consultants, Tarmol Industries, Toyota Tanzania, and Vigu Trading Limited.

Kaze: Yanga will not opt for desperate signings



Yanga's head coach, Cedric Kaze

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA's head coach, Cedric Kaze, is prepared to sign new players if necessary, but insists he will not waste the outfit's money.

He insists there are no deals pending, and will not bring in a player for the sake of it.

The Burundian coach has admitted that he has looked into the possibility of getting in new players to bolster the squad as they chase the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) title.

The December-January transfer window officially starts on Wednesday.

Kaze issued the comments after his side's emphatic 5-0 mauling of Mwadui FC in a VPL clash, which took place in Shinyanga on Saturday.

He noted: "We will sit down and discuss what to do, we don't want to bring a player for the sake of buying."

"We will add a player who improves the team. We are not going to panic and bring a load of players just because they have been linked with

us."

"They have to be the right players. We need to bring in players who are really going to improve our squad. If we can't do that, we won't be doing anything. We will be very careful."

Yanga have enjoyed a remarkable season thus far. They are currently leading the rest of the pack in the Vodacom Premier League table, having gone unbeaten in the 15

opening matches.

They have a healthy seven-point gap over second-placed Azam FC, which will host Namungo FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today.

In difficult games against Simba SC, Azam FC and Namungo FC, Yanga collected five points, beating Azam 1-0, and drawing 1-1 with both Simba SC and Namungo FC.

It has ensured they will end the first half of the season atop the table.

The all-time Tanzania Premier League winners are determined to end their three-year trophy drought and are linked with several foreign and local names in the upcoming transfer window.

Ahead of the transfer window, they have already signed experienced and well-travelled Burundi international, Said Ntibazonkiza.

The attacking midfielder was signed immediately after impressing for his country's national team in an international friendly against Tanzania's Taifa Stars in October.

Burundi posted 1-0 victory over Taifa Stars in the friendly, which took place in Dar es Salaam, with Ntibazonkiza banging in the winner.

Yanga have moreover joined a host of clubs keeping tabs on JKT Tanzania striker, Adam Omary, while the VPL leaders are reportedly interested in loaning out their striker Waziri Junior to Biashara United until the end of the season.



Serengeti Boys

Serengeti Boys begin quest for AFCON U-17 tournament's ticket

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's national U-17 football team, Serengeti Boys, yesterday opened their 2020 Council for East and Central African Football Associations (CECAFA) U-17 Championship campaign against hosts, Rwanda, at Umuganda Stadium in Rubavu District in the Western region of the country.

Serengeti Boys were set to play the hosts on Saturday afternoon before the tournament's start was pushed to Sunday following the disqualification of South Sudan after some of the team's players failed the mandatory Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) Youth Competitions Committee made the decision to disqualify the teams from the tournament that is also zonal qualifiers for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Under-17 finals on Friday leaving six teams which are divided in two groups.

The other CECAFA member countries, Eritrea, Sudan and Burundi, did not send teams for the competition, while Somalia are still serving a ban after confirming participation and later failing to play in the zonal qualifiers for AFCON U-17 finals in 2018.

Hosts Rwanda, Djibouti and Tanzania are pooled in Group B. The

top two finishers from each group advance to the semi-finals.

The finalists will earn tickets to represent the region at the 2021 AFCON U-17 finals, to be hosted by Morocco.

The championship decides which African teams will represent the continent in the FIFA U-17 World Cup. Tanzania have appeared in all but one of the CECAFA U-17 Championship played and they were winners in 2017 as they lifted the trophy in Burundi.

At the continental level, Tanzania have qualified in the last two editions. In 2017, they made their debut in Gabon where they were pitted against eventual champions, Mali, Angola and Guinea.

They failed to make it past the group stage after coming third behind Mali and Guinea.

In 2019, Serengeti Boys qualified as hosts in a tournament hosted in Dar es Salaam. Once against they failed to go past the group stage having finished bottom in a group comprising Nigeria and Angola. They lost all three of their games.

Previously, Tanzania were disqualified from appearing at the 2005 AFCON U-17 finals after being found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in the qualifiers.

The team led by head coach Hababou Ali will take on Djibouti on Friday in their final group stage match.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

A PROSTITUTE'S FEE SHOULD ONLY BE A LOAF OF BREAD...



MMMHH I CAN SMELL CORRUPTION HERE!