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National Pg 2
Violence against women



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National Pg 5
WB to renovate Dar fish market



National Pg 6
Causes of gum disease and tooth decay



PPRA, PCCB link up in tenders

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has introduced new anti-corruption guidelines that tighten the screws on public procurement, which accounts for at least 10 per cent of all graft cases.

Speaking during the launch of the rules here yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Parliament) Tixon Nzunda said that the guidelines require that the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) liaise with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) whenever a tender is floated to rein in malpractices.

The new rules also require all public entities to devise in-house anti-corruption strategies and implement the same without waiting for PCCB and other law enforcement bodies to act.

PS Nzunda urged PCCB to work on organising an open discussion on the issue of public procurement for the government to realise its goals in bringing

development to the people.

He pointed out that the government was aware that corruption is an enemy of justice that adversely affects the society's development.

"That is why the government is unshakeable in ensuring that all efforts are taken in fighting corruption in the public procurement sector," he said.

He emphasised that the fight against corruption was not the government's task alone but everyone's role, thus urging for members of the public to actively respond to the president's anti-graft war.

He said the foremost vision was to ensure the development of communities, equality, good governance and adherence to ethics.

Hence the launching of the guidelines for preventing corruption in public procurement was not a minor issue, as it will help in controlling corrupt practices, he stated.

"You cannot bring about good governance if there is some



Gabriel Sendeu Laizer, a small-time miner from Longido in Arusha Region, pictured at his Mundarara mining site yesterday with the rubies that have him grow into as instant billionaire. This is thanks to his 5.4 tonnes of one of the most important gems in the coloured stone market. Experts also say ruby is the most valuable variety of the corundum mineral species, which also includes sapphire. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi

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Chadema angry over MPs' 'abnormal' oath of office

By Guardian Reporter

AGITATION is gathering pace on the opposition Chadema Special Seats MPs after taking their oath of office on Tuesday, as the party formally moved to disown their parliamentary participation, saying that the nomination and swearing in were abnormal.

Party secretary general John Mnyika told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that he did not sign the document bearing the names of nominees for the seats as the law requires and wondered how the names reached the office of National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai who administered the oath.

The 19 MPs have been summoned

to appear before an emergency central committee meeting tomorrow to deliberate on the matter and decide on the next course of action.

"In order to avoid any excuse, I announce to the 19 persons through the media to appear before the committee starting 8am at the party headquarters without missing," he said.

"The party (Chadema) is run on the basis of the constitution, ethics and protocols that dictate that any measures cannot be taken against any member before they are summoned and heard. Because this is a matter of urgency, we are employing emergency rules to handle it."

The party cadres, who now face the party's

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Artisanal miner is 'latest billionaire'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ANOTHER small-scale minor from Arusha Region has become the latest billionaire after selling minerals worth 1.7bn/-.

Speaking here yesterday during a visit by officials from the zonal mines office, Gabriel Laizer said he made it to the short list of billionaires after hitting five tonnes of ruby at his mine pit located in Longido District.

The new kid on the bloc

becomes the second Laizer, second small-scale miner from the pastoralist Maasai community to achieve this feat after tanzanite miner Saniniu Laizer who made news in June as the first artisanal mining billionaire. He sold his minerals at 7.7bn/-. The two Laizers are not related.

"It was not easy; I endured a lot. I borrowed money and invested in the equipment that enabled me to realize this feat," he said.

The new billionaire -and dollar millionaire for that matter hailed

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National Assembly deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson inaugurates a gender-based app meant for use in communicating information on gender-based violence. It was at this year's edition of a 16-day campaign aimed at ending GBV that was organised by the Tanzania Chapter of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAP). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Czech investors jet in, talk of tourism sector

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A DELEGATION of investors from the Czech Republic has jetted in the country to survey investment opportunities in tourism, with setting up wildlife conservation projects their top priority.

The team said upon arrival that the business community in the central European nation is currently organizing a three-month 'Tanzania Fair' slated for Prague sometimes in June to August 2021, an event set to feature a travel, tourism and investment exhibition.

"Tanzania has abundant wildlife, something which most people in European countries are yet to learn and as Czech investors we are going to ensure that Tanzania gets well promoted. Our country will serve as a portal for conveying visitors from those countries to East Africa, and more precisely Tanzania," said Patrick Kupka, one of the six delegates who landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport aboard an Ethiopian Airlines plane.

Kupka also plans to invest in import and export ventures between Tanzania and the Czech Republic. He was of the view that this new channel of trading and transport cooperation between the two

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Risk management expert Dr Ernest Mwasalwiba facilitates training for communication sub-sector management professionals in the Works, Transport and Communications ministry in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

16 days of activism: Dr Ackson calls for joint efforts against violence on women

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

NATIONAL Assembly deputy speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has called upon men across the country to stop harassing women and girls but rather respect and support them to achieve their development goals.

Officiating at an event organised by Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF), in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Dr Tulia urged the general public to join efforts in the battle against violence on women.

She called on the society to respect girls and women and stop subjecting them to harassment and sexual violence which is against human rights.

She said women who have been appointed to different decision-making organs have demonstrated capacity and efficiency, like their male-counterparts, saying time is ripe for the society to get rid

of negative attitudes towards women.

“Why harass women; they also feel pain. There are no justifiable reasons to continue beating women simply because of their vulnerability,” she insisted.

She further called on the general public to exhaustively utilize 16 days of activism to digest critically on the strategic methods and approaches to halt and subsequently eliminate complete gender-based violence in the country.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Child Affairs, Dr John Jingu said permanent solution to gender based violence should come from the respective Tanzania society.

“Religious leaders, civil societies, all responsible in efforts to halt gender based violence... we should grow up our kids in a way that they understand gender-based violence is a bad thing,” he noted.

He pointed challenges in the fight against gender based violence, including hesitance and reluctance of family and society members to report such as to law-enforcement agencies.

“Most of these cases go unreported because perpetrators of gender-based violence are relatives or friends of victims’ parents,” he added.

For her part, WILDAF director, Anna Kulaya said the organization will continue cooperating with other stakeholders to press the government to enact specific law to deal gender based violence cases, including setting up family affairs-courts.

“WILDAF and other stakeholders would continue pushing the government to fast-track review of marriage Act of 1977 to speed up hearing gender based violence cases and ensure protection of women and girls,” she said.

Kulaya said the organization recognizes government

commitment in the battle against gender-based violence, including ratifying regional and international conventions and treaties for the protection of women against all violence forms of violence.

In her remarks, Denmark ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Norgaard Spandet said “My government would continue provide needed support to organizations and government agencies involved in the fight against gender based violence in Tanzania.”

“Gender based violence remains a critical impediment to the progress, development and welfare women and girls... however, we stakeholders—international organisations, governments, civil societies, individuals, still have duty and responsible to join forces in order to protect women and girls against violence,” said Ziatan Millisic, UN Representative in the country.

Artisanal miner is ‘latest billionaire’

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government efforts that seek to see that small-scale miners work in an improved environment.

“I can say that my success has been made possible by recent pro-small-scale miner efforts made by the government,” he said.

Laizer’s success has boosted the morale of ruby miners in the area who were about to despair after months and even years of work without any significant find.

Michael Lekule lazier, a former Longido legislator who is now a small-scale miner, said his namesake’s success has encouraged him to continue trying his luck.

However, he urged financial institutions to look at the potential and offer soft loans to miners with promising operations so as to boost the economy of the area.

“All of us miners here aspire to

succeed and become billionaires like our colleague but the problem we face is capital. If banks decide to reach out with loans, there is potential of having many millionaires here,” he said.

Alfred Antony, the regional chairman for small-scale miners, said they appreciate efforts made by the government despite that more needs to be done to empower the group.

Longido District Commissioner Frank Mwasumbe challenged small-scale miners to form groups for ease of accessing loans and other forms of support from the government and other development stakeholders.

“It is true that most of you small-scale miners have no capital to improve operations. But another thing you don’t have is cooperation. You have to unite for you to get help,” he emphasised.

Chadema angry over MPs’ ‘abnormal’ oath of office

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core decision-making organ, are Halima Mdee, Grace Tendega, Esther Matiko, Cecilia Pareso, Nustrat Hanje, Ester Bulaya, Agneta Kaizer, Jesca Kishoa, Hawa Mwaifunga, Tunza Malapo, Felister Njau, Asia Mwadini Mohamed, Sophia Mwakaganda, Anatropia Rwehikila, Conjesta Rwamlaza, Naghenjwa Kaboyoka, Stella Siao, Salome Makamba and Kunti Majala.

On Tuesday, the female legislators were sworn in by Speaker Ndugai after weeks of waiting for the party which has since rejected results of the October 28 polls as fraudulent, maintaining that it had never forwarded any names for appointment as required.

The oath of office event took place in the Speaker’s Office and not the debating chamber as is normally the case as there was no parliamentary session in progress early this week.

Mnyika had earlier reacted to say he was not aware of what was

going on in Dodoma, suggesting that there could be machinations that culminated into the eventuality.

“We are following what is taking place at the Speaker’s Office; if we ascertain sabotage and betrayal we won’t hesitate to take appropriate measures,” he tweeted.

“On October 20, we received a letter from the National Electoral Commission informing us of its having appointed 19 women MPs from Chadema as per the country’s laws,” Ndugai said at that event.

Interestingly, in her remarks after the swearing, Mdee commended party chairman Freeman Mbowe for blessing the Special Seats MPs to take up office.

“These seats are not gifts but part of a big victory, which our party got in the recent general election, so we are going to work hard and in a collaborative manner with our fellow lawmakers to represent Tanzanians in the legislator,” the frontline cadre had declared.

Czech investors jet in, talk of tourism sector

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countries will open a fresh link between Europe and Africa.

Another delegate, Radan Dungalova from Brno Zoo in that country, said they were envisaging several conservation programs in Tanzania, in addition to being actively involved in the country’s tourism sector on a mutual basis with Brno City.

Airing the view of the Brno Zoo director, Martin Hovorka, also in Tanzania for the visit, Dungalova pointed out that most people in Czech Republic are aware of abundance of wildlife in East Africa but they tend to think that the animals are found in Kenya.

“It is high time we start raising awareness among our people that Tanzania has 21 national parks in addition to major game reserves. Czech people also need to know that the world has many other wildlife

species apart from the few found in Asia and Europe, and most of these beasts only roam in Africa,” she observed.

The Czechia agents’ visit was inspired by a recent delegation from the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) that toured Europe to market the country in a number of trade fairs.

Eugene Simon Malle, the marketing officer at the board’s branch here, said the arrival of potential investors from Czech Republic was a welcome development in the sector.

“They will be touring Arusha city, Serengeti and Ngorongoro and after their trip, the team will be able to table future plans,” he said.

With a population of nearly 11 million residents, the Czech Republic is a landlocked country bordered by Austria, Germany, Poland and Slovakia, the visitors noted.



Elizabeth Mrema, lands surveying and mapping deputy director in the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry, addresses residents of Chamwino in Dodoma Region yesterday on the impending start of land surveying in 14 villages in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

History for Tanzania at UN Headquarters

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has been appointed chair of United Nations credentials committee at UN headquarters in New York for the year 2020/2021.

It is the first time in the country’s history to lead the UN sensitive committee whose nomination was recommended by the office of the President of UN General Assembly and unanimously approved by all nine members of the Committee.

The United Nations credentials committee members include the US, China, Russia, Cameroon, Uruguay

Iceland, Papua Guinea, Trinidad and Tobago and Tanzania.

Speaking soon after appointment, Amb, Prof Kennedy Gaston, Tanzania Permanent Representative at UN said the appointment was important and was an indication that the country was acceptable in the international community.

He said the appointment also the country has strong leadership as well as its acceptable foreign policies.

Amb Gaston further said for the first time since appointment, Tanzania presided the committee’s first meeting that sat in New York, USA.

PPRA, PCCB link up in tenders

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conflict of interests or avenues for corruption in public procurement and other sectors. What is needed is to control and strengthen service delivery,” he declared.

He said being public servants, PCCB ought to hold public agencies accountable and have a listening ear in public procurements, assigning that responsibility to the breadth of the public sector, the private sector and civil society organisations (CSOs).

About 70 per cent of the annual government budget was allocated to public procurement of various kinds including equipment, machinery, construction work and social services delivery.

Nzunda directed PCCB to make a follow up on the application of the guidelines, as an essential framework in fighting corruption.

PPRA director Ayoub Kasuwi said apart from existing challenges in public procurement, PPRA-PCCB collaboration has significantly contributed to

controlling corruption in public procurement.

The guidelines will have a huge contribution in enforcing compliance with the law hence plugging all corruption loopholes in the procurement of public goods and services, he stated.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. John Mbungu, the PCCB director general said the country’s anti-corruption strategy requires every stakeholder in his/her area to set a work plan to control malpractices.



John Mnyika, Secretary General of the opposition Chadema, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He declared that the party does not recognise Tuesday's swearing-in in Dodoma city by National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai of 19 women as Special Seats whose nomination it had reportedly blessed. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Z'bar minister furious over MV Mapinduzi II defective engines

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR'S Works, Communications and Transport Minister Rahma Kassim Ali, has expressed displeasure over defective engines fitted on MV Mapinduzi II which was purchased by the Zanzibar government in 2015.

The minister expressed her displeasure on Tuesday this week during her visit to institutions under her ministry including the Zanzibar Shipping Corporation (SHIPCO) and the Malindi port.

She said she was utterly saddened to see the vessel had suspended services for transporting goods and passengers for over

two months now costing over 4m/- each day in fuel charges.

The ship's chief engineer Ramadhan Mwinyi Ramadhan said the ship's frequent breakdowns were due to defective engines since it was bought.

"Since it was purchased in 2015 its engines were found to be defective and that is why it does not sail smoothly," he said.

The minister also summoned top SHIPCO officials to the ministry headquarters to discuss the issue to enable the ship start operating.

She was also pleased by clearance pace of containers from Zanzibar's main port and called on the port's director Nahat

Mohamed Mahfoudh to continue with the pace so as to increase government revenue.

For his part, Nahat Mohammed Mahfoudh said in order to cope with the development imperatives there was need to apply new technologies in cargo clearance instead of the old system.

Meanwhile, minister Rahma directed roads agency to ensure it forms a committee that would deal with repairs for all roads with potholes starting with the one leading to the airport.

She also stressed upon roads agency workers to be paid their benefits to enable them work hard.

Germany commits 42.9 m Euros to support regional integration in East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Federal Republic of Germany has committed a total 42.9 million Euros in grants to support the East African Community (EAC) for the next two years.

EAC, Germany agree to continue fostering longstanding partnership

This was said shortly after the two had successfully concluded bilateral negotiations on development cooperation at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha on Tuesday, this week.

The negotiations were led by the Secretary General of the EAC Secretariat, Ambassador Libérat Mfumukeko, and Marcus von Essen, head of the East Africa division at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

While BMZ participated virtually, due to COVID-19-related travel restrictions, Regine Hess, ambassador of Germany to Tanzania and the EAC, joined the negotiations in Arusha.

Ambassador Mfumukeko welcomed the German delegation and expressed his appreciation of the cooperation: "We are cooperating in critical sectors. Our joint programmes really touch the lives of the ordinary East African citizen".

For his part, Essen commended the EAC for its strong role in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in East Africa.

Referring to the EAC-German cooperation in the health sector, he emphasized its preparedness to swiftly react to the pandemic.

"We could build on the foundations that had been laid long before the COVID-19 pandemic struck - testing capacities could be made available quickly and cross-border cooperation created leverage in containing its further spread. Investments in human capital and laboratory equipment will continue in order to keep the

regional level of preparedness high."

Essen also complimented the EAC and its partner states for the economic integration steps already achieved, including the customs union and the common market protocol. Looking forward, he stressed that Germany wanted to continue to stay at the EAC's side and support the Community in harvesting the fruits of these integration steps by further deepening cooperation in the long-standing programmes on regional and social integration.

Both sides agreed to continue and extend their ongoing cooperation. Out of a total of up to 42.9 million Euros, Germany pledged 30.9 million Euros for cooperation on trade and economic infrastructure. It was stipulated that the ongoing programmes on economic integration and trade will be continued.

Additionally, Germany's assistance to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission will be extended beyond the current support to integrated water resources management, to promote further development of the region around the Lake Victoria and possibly Lake Tanganyika and other water basins.

Germany further pledged additional 12 Million Euros to further improve pandemic preparedness.

Both sides agreed to expand the ongoing support to pandemic prevention and strengthening of disease monitoring by complementing the current mobile laboratories programme.

With the establishment of a regional network of supranational and specialized reference laboratories, the EAC pandemic preparedness capacities will be taken to the next level and the EAC resilience towards future health challenges will be strengthened.

The Nature Conservancy
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creating a healthy future for people and nature

IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION AND PARTICIPATORY LEARNING IN ACTION FOR CHANGE IN TANGANYIKA DISTRICT: INVITATION FOR BIDS

Introduction

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has teamed up with Pathfinder International through program Tuungane in partnership with Carbon Tanzania to support sustainable conservation in the GME. Program's approach to sustainable land management and sustainable financing in natural resources is 1st ever successful Miombo nature based solution through REDD+ Forest carbon offset that has empowered and rewarded community conservation efforts towards enhancing of good governance aspects, sustainable use of natural resources and addressing of community livelihood initiatives. To ensure a healthier future for people and biodiversity prosperity in the 8 villages under the REDD+ Forest Carbon offset initiatives in Tanganyika district, there is an urgent need to design and implement strategic training intending to enhance community leader's capacity in terms of attitude change toward sustainable natural resources management, enhance community engagement for participatory learning and conservation so that the environmental benefits for people and biodiversity are secured.

Scope of Work Based on the above synopsis of the project overview, reach and objectives, TNC seeks to engage a competent consultant to:

- Undertake a rapid training need assessment for the village leaders selected 8 villages.
- Develop community-based conservation strategy for coaching and mentorship
- Conduct transformative capacity building with alignment on existing local government's and villages leadership bylaws and acts for the targeted villages.
- Documentation of case studies and learnings at each village to deploy project leverage
- Conduct a detailed stakeholder workshop for community feedback, learning and knowledge management.

Qualifications and Experience

The applying firms or consortium must demonstrate the following:

- Five years' experience in Participatory training particularly leadership, Monitoring and Evaluation or social research and or institutional development
- Team must comprise of members who at least have University degree in Project Management, Agricultural Economics, Accounts and Finance, Cooperatives Management and Development Studies
- Proven experience in conducting capacity building, participatory training and the concept on Local government structure is a plus
- Proven high quality written and oral communication skills
- Experience in visual learning and motivational leadership
- Experience in facilitating training employing attitude change training models and tools
- Proposed team in the proposal must be the one who will undertake the assignment any changes should be communicated to TNC project team
- The firm should be compliant with all Tax regulation and provide EFD receipt

Application procedure.

Suitably qualified bidders should submit their technical and financial proposals including resume/CV of team members and profile to hshilinde@TNC.ORG With subject line: **Governance Learning in Action for Change**. All applications must be submitted by 30th November 2020.



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Fire Alarm and Fire Extinguishing and Suppression by DSPA aerosol generators system at TICTS Powerhouse

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) is a member of Hutchison Ports. Hutchison is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator, with a network of 52 ports in 27 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Over the years, Hutchison Ports has expanded internationally into other logistics and transport-related businesses including cruise terminals, airports, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair facilities. In 2019 the Hutchison Ports network handled a combined throughput of 86.0 million TEU worldwide.

TICTS is inviting expression of interest from established and reputable companies for Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Fire Alarm and Fire Extinguishing and Suppression by DSPA aerosol generators system at TICTS Powerhouse.

Interested vendors are required to submit their expression of interest with details of their capability and experience in a sealed envelope to TICTS finance office at PSPF building along Sokoine drive before or on **4th December 2020 at 3:00pm**, with the title **Design, Supply, Installation and commissioning of Fire Alarm and Fire Extinguishing and Suppression by DSPA aerosol generators system at TICTS Powerhouse** and addressed to:

Tender Committee

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited

P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam

Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019

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Geita Gold Mine Tanzania executive tours IPP media



The Guardian Limited printing manager Balasubramaniyan Venkadachalam (L) demonstrates to Geita Gold Mine Tanzania vice president Simon Shayo (2nd-L) how newspapers are printed. Looking on are GGMT public relations and communication manager Stephen Mhando and members of The Guardian Limited management and staff. The GGMT executive made a familiarisation tour of IPP print and electronic media outlets in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photos: Selemani Mpochi



The GGMT vice president bids farewell to members of The Guardian Ltd management and staff after his brief visit to the newspaper publishing firm. From-R, foreground: IPP director Joyce Luhanga, acting general manager Srinivas Chintaluri, finance manager Samuel Orgenes, Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe, printing manager Venkadachalam, and The Guardian newspaper chief sub-editor Richard Mngazija.



GGMT's Stephen Mhando (R) seeks clarification on EATV programmes.



GGMT's Simon Shayo (2nd-L) is briefed on East Africa Radio programmes.



The GGMT vice president Simon Shayo speaks on an EA Radio programme on 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, hosted by presenter Fate Tingisha



ITV channel director Koigi Macharia (gesturing) briefs the GGM vice president on TV station control-room operations.



The GGMT guests visit an ITV news studio yesterday, led by ITV channel director Koigi Macharia (L).



Radio One deputy director Abdallah Mwaipaya sheds light on the airing of news bulletins. Left is presenter Sarah Kipingu.



NMB Bank Plc Dar es Salaam sales manager Tumaini Alila (C) symbolically presents 100 T-shirts to Ilala municipal information officer Tabu Shaibu (L) for wearing on Taxpayers Day. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

World Bank-funded project to renovate Dar fish market

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank-funded South-West Indian Ocean fisheries governance and shared growth project (SWIOFish) is set to refurbish the Dar es Salaam's Ferry Fish Market so as to cope with the increasing population and standards.

The market was designed to accommodate between 1,500 and 3,000 fishers, traders and customers, but the number has skyrocketed to over 12,000 people—four times the estimated number.

The market refurbishment is part of the implementation of the six-year project, which is aimed at improving the management effectiveness of selected priority fisheries at the regional, national and community level.

The project is implemented jointly by mainland Tanzania's ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF), Zanzibar's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries and Deep Sea Fishing Authority (DSFA).

Despite its importance, Ferry Fish Market is in an appalling situation, whereby some of the market infrastructure—drainage system fails to accommodate waste generated at the facility.

"That's why SWIOFish project came up with the idea of

revamping the market so that it remains with the same status," said Ezra Mutagwaba, acting director of fisheries in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

"So far, a consultant is conducting a design study for the rehabilitation of Ferry Fish Market," said Dr Nichrous Mlalila, coordinator of SWIOFish when presenting a progress report of the project to the media practitioners in Dar es Salaam recently.

"The consultant has submitted the final design, environmental issues, environmental and social management plan (ESMP), and temporary relocation plan for the project to kick off," he said.

However, he said: "The World Bank demands comprehensive reports on and effects of reallocation of the communities working in the market, temporary

reallocation plan."

Additionally, he said that the waste management systems were recommended to be improved in the design for approval.

"The ESMP and temporary relocation plan reports have been submitted to the WB waiting for approval," he said.

He also unveiled that through the project, a national mariculture resource centre at University of Dar es Salaam, Kunduchi Campus.

"The process to procure the consultant to design the centre failed for almost two years due to large tendered budgets above the allocated budget for the design."

He said: "The ministry requested the World Bank to change the budget cost from consultancy services to operational costs and to use the public expertise to design the centre." The World Bank recommended for memorandum of understanding and to establish control measures.

The ministry has formed a taskforce from public institutions which is led by Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) to design the centre. The memorandum of understanding has been developed and submitted to the World Bank for no objection.

TBA has agreed to design and supervise in collaboration with other institutions.

The ESMP and temporary relocation plan reports have been submitted to the WB waiting for approval

Exploring sustainable, innovative solutions to youth unemployment

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

In an attempt to raise awareness and drive conversations around the importance of developing and investing in youth skills, the United Nations General Assembly sets aside the month of July as the World Youth Skills day (WYSD). This year's commemoration is significant as it is a period when according to the United Nations more young people are prone to unemployment as well as exposure to low quality jobs, labour market inequalities, and insecure school-work transitions.

According to Plan International, youth unemployment is a global issue that has manifested itself in the following stark realities; 628 million young people ages 15-24 years old are not in education, employment or training. 75 million young people are trained but have no jobs.

In the next decade, one billion young people will enter the labour market, and a good number of them will face a future of irregular and informal employment.

Director of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at University of Dodoma (UDOM) Dr Goodiel Moshi has appealed to the government to utilize the

country's young innovators to address unemployment crisis in the country.

Dr Moshi issued the appeal here early this week in his opening speech of the meeting of young innovators and entrepreneurs exhibition organised by Capital Space Centre.

He said the government was supposed to empower the young innovators in order for them have the ability to produce goods for their communities' needs

"Our young innovators and other entrepreneurs you are supposed to think of goods that aim the markets in your

Our young innovators and other entrepreneurs you are supposed to think of goods that aim the markets in your communities – food vendors, farmers and other groups

communities - food vendors, farmers and other groups," he said.

He added: "It is a problem for us all to see how we can help our innovators to make such goods."

Capital Space executive officer and its creator Abdallah Mbwana said the aim was to empower the youth to solve the existing problems in the community using their innovation.

He said up to now they established various programmes to reach out to young innovators and other entrepreneurs using the knowledge they possess so as to solve challenges in their areas.

Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) resident director Joseph Manirakiza said the aim of the meeting was to discuss on how to use technology for the innovation of products that would solve various challenges in the society.

He said the challenges include those in the education sector and provision of water supply in the country's various areas.

"As an institution we have already been empowering the communities in various areas including education and water provision in particular the creation of the prepaid water service and making follow-ups on pregnant women," he said.

Moro cement price hikers to appear in court, says RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro Region have warned that it will take stern measures including taking to court all cement dealers who will be found selling the commodity at 25,000/- per 50kg bag.

The caution was given early this week by the Regional Commissioner, Loata ole Sanare when speaking to the traders in the region on the issue of the current cement price hike without justification.

The RC said then government has conducted investigations and found out that Morogoro

municipality was leading in the cement price rise compared with other regions in the country, the situation he said was totally unacceptable.

He said the legal steps against cement price hikers will start immediately after completion of investigations and might include closure of their businesses.

He said he had already issued directives to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Morogoro Region that whoever would be arrested for the offence should have his/her trading licence as cement dealer revoked.

A cross section of traders in Morogoro Region appealed to the government to ban export of cement so that it becomes readily

available in the country to arrest its rising price.

One of the traders, Thabit Islam said among the reasons that cause the commodity's rising cost was long queues at cement factories waiting to load the cement into trucks, thereby causing trucks take long time on the roads.

"We appeal to the government to ban cement exports so that it becomes easily obtainable in the country, as you often find a truck spending 14 days at the cement factory due to large numbers of foreign bound trucks. In those foreign countries, their cement factories have been closed due to Covid-19 pandemic," Islam said.



MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Jangid Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road) P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam, email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719+255 (0) 22 270 0725

Consultancy Service - Surveillance and Emergency Response MSPH Tanzania LLC

Introduction:

ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is seeking consultants for a CDC funded project on improving global health security (GHS) through strengthening capacities of health ministries, institutions, and local partners and strengthening health information and surveillance systems and promoting initiatives that support International Health Regulation core competencies. Focus areas will include supporting the MOH at regional and district levels in planning, implementation, and monitoring of events-based surveillance (EBS) and emergency operation centers (EOCs).

Method of Selection: ICAP is seeking to engage an independent consultant or consulting company with strong experience in this area to assist with preparation and implementation of EBS and EOC.

ICAP will solicit consultancy service from eligible private companies or an independent consultant through a competitive tendering process. Only applicants who meet the criteria will be invited to conduct presentation on the execution of SOW. Following the submission of full proposals, ICAP will assess submissions to make a final selection, based on technical merit, experience and cost objectives.

Period of Performance: 14th December 2020 - 29th September 2021, contingent upon program needs and availability of funding

Intervention Area: Kagera, Kigoma, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, and Tanga

Activity Purpose: To provide technical support for setting up EBS and EOCs across five targeted regions in Tanzania.

Scope of Work:

ICAP in Tanzania is seeking an independent consultant or a consulting company to accomplish the scope of work below:

1. Support the development, planning, training, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of events-based surveillance (EBS) and alert desks in targeted regions and districts, closely liaising with key stakeholders at the national, regional, and district levels.
2. Support the development, planning, training, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of emergency operation centers (EOCs) in targeted regions and districts, closely liaising with key stakeholders at the national, regional, and district levels.
3. Support implementation of the emergency preparedness and response operations plans and strategies for small and largescale infectious disease outbreaks and other public health or humanitarian emergencies and ensures that all deliverables are achieved
4. Facilitate the capacity building, training, and mentoring of stakeholders and service providers, including surge staff, frontline responders, local government, and community health workers on emergency preparedness and response with emphasis on epidemic-prone infectious diseases and pandemics.
5. Ensure that health care workers and surveillance teams at regional levels are capacitated and supported to implement emergency preparedness and response activities through remote learning networks.
6. Design and track monitoring, evaluation, and quality assurance needed to ensure that emergency preparedness and response deliverables are on track and adhere to donor and key stakeholder requirements.

Targeted Measures: To support meetings and trainings in the establishment of EBS and EOCs. To follow JEE and international health regulation (IHR-2005) guidelines. To document processes and outcomes against agreed workplan and budget.

Output: Meeting minutes for each meeting conducted, training reports, and activity reports demonstrating completion of activities against the workplan.

Eligibility Criteria: Independent consultants or consultancy companies based in Tanzania specializing in research and community outreach support. NGOs, FBOs and CBOs are not eligible to apply.

Method of Accountability: The Consulting Company or Independent Consultant is contractually required to report regularly on programmatic progress and financial status. ICAP routinely monitors consultant progress in all element of the scope of work

Submission Criteria

The applicants should submit letter of intent (maximum 7 pages) including the following

1. Capacity statement
2. Methodological approach
3. Budget
4. For companies, present legal business certificates (copies of TIN, Business License, VAT, Tax Clearance, Certificate of Incorporation)
5. Independent consultants should present CVs showcasing relevant experience and two recommendation letters for similar work done with another entity

Evaluation Process

1. The public tender opening will be made in presence of all bidders or their official representatives. We encourage all bidders to attend through zoom conference meeting and Zoom Conference Link will be sent to all who applied.
2. Scope of work will be sent to all the applicants via email address below upon request.
3. MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions.
4. MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
5. The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP Procurement Guidelines.

How to Apply:

Interested, eligible bidders should email their electronic quote via email to ICAP's procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu

The Tender Committee, MSPH Tanzania LLC - ICAP, Jangid Plaza 7th Floor - Chaburuma Road P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings

The deadline for the submission is 11:00am East Africa Time on Friday, 4th December 2020. All tenders should be electronically submitted to TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu No tender fee charged for this invitation

'Poor diet is a leading risk factor in gum disease and tooth decay'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A poor diet is a leading risk factor for gum disease and tooth decay such as eating a lot of sugary foods can cause your teeth to get cavities or fall out. But there are lots of other types of foods and drinks that we should consume with caution.

Bad eating habits including poor mouth cleaning by some Tanzanians have been mentioned to among major causes for mouth diseases, tooth decay and even throat cancer.

This observation was given early this week by Dr Ngemma Barege, the Secretary of Tanzania Dental Association (TDA) at the celebrations to mark 40 years of TDA's establishment held at national level in Mbeya.

The celebrations were conducted by a panel of dental experts in collaboration with medical specialists from Mbeya Referral Hospital by offering free medical treatment to people suffering from mouth and dental diseases.

Dr Berege said many people have eating foods that contain much sugar without thoroughly cleaning their teeth, the habit that leads to the diseases.

"Eating habits affects the mouth

and teeth, there are people who feel like having a drink, they opt for sugary drinks and thereafter they do not bother to clean the mouth and teeth," said Dr Berege.

He called on Tanzanians to change their eating habits by avoiding foods with high sugar content as well as cleaning their teeth regularly.

Senior lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam-UDSM (Mbeya Campus) Dr Emeria Mugonzibwa called on Tanzanians to eat foods with high mineral content that helps in strengthening the teeth.

He also advised them to always clean their teeth using toothpaste with minerals that strengthen the teeth and kill bacteria that cause various diseases.

In the event, 19 people with mouth and dental diseases from Southern Highlands Zone benefitted with free surgeries administered by the specialists.

"Eating habits affects the mouth and teeth, there are people who feel like having a drink, they opt for sugary drinks and thereafter they do not bother to clean the mouth and teeth"



Alex Enock, a project coordinator with Save the Children in Shinyanga Region trains ward executive officers, economists, planning officers, lawyers, journalists and representatives of community-based organisation in Shinyanga municipality earlier this week on how to prepare budgets. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Shinyanga contributes to inadequate exclusive breast feeding of children

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

BREASTFEEDING in Shinyanga municipality is mentioned as not being satisfactory due to some mothers clinging to misleading beliefs that frequent breastfeeding would make their breasts lose attraction.

The remarks were given here yesterday by Loyce Nicolao,

the municipality's assistant coordinator for nutrition when speaking about breastfeeding including the yellowish breast milk that comes out soon after delivery providing immunity to infants against diseases.

She said from the research conducted, some mothers do not prefer breastfeeding their infants frequently because their breasts become loose, as well as claiming the original yellowish breast milk

was not clean for the babies.

"Statistics on breastfeeding for 2019 in the Municipality showed that 7,713 out of 10,150 infants were breastfed by their mothers in the period of one hour after delivery to six months, and for this year up to October, 6,380 infants out of 7,657 were breastfed by their mothers, equivalent to 83 per cent," she said.

She said the government was till educating mothers on the

entire issue of breastfeeding their infants, adding that so far they have provided education thereof to 13 wards out of 17 in the Municipality.

For their part, some of the mothers who frequently breastfed their babies, including Mwamvita Issa called on fellow mothers to abandon misleading beliefs, and instead they should breastfeed their babies for them to grow healthily.



Rehabilitation of a service road under way at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam yesterday to facilitate the ongoing expansion of expansion of part of Morogoro Road. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

DC demands immediate resumption of work by doctor now on vacation

By Guardian Correspondent

MOROGORO District Commissioner, Bakai Msulwa has instructed the district's medical officer to immediately bring back the Msonge dispensary doctor who went on leave for more than two weeks.

The doctor is on holiday leaving the health facility with only one nurse who has to cater for a huge number of patients.

Msulwa issued the instruction after finding the nurse being overwhelmed by influx of patients, saying the situation was unbearable as it endangers their lives.

He said the fifth phase government has resolved to assist poor people by giving them better social services including health, hence the doctor on leave had to come back at once.

Theresa Ndamburu was the only nurse at the dispensary and confessed she was overwhelmed by patients due to lack of assistance and appealed to the government to take immediate decision to increase the number of health workers at the dispensary.

She said among the many challenges is when there was a pregnant woman and who needs close supervision, while at the same time there were other patients needing her consultation.

"I've no time to rest because during the night I was in the labour room, when at the same time a sick child was brought over needing prompt attention, the truth is I am working under very difficult situation," she said.

Speaking on steps they anticipate to take to solve the challenge, the Morogoro District Executive Director Patrick Mwakiriri said the issue of the doctor who went on leave was had an emergency leave hence the council will take deliberate steps to transfer one from Mvua health centre to fill the gap.

"I've no time to rest because during the night I was in the labour room, when at the same time a sick child was brought over needing prompt attention, the truth is I am working under very difficult situation"

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has underscored the need to enhance knowledge on security and health at work places to people with disabilities (PWDs) so as to enable them work comfortably.

Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika made the call recently here at the opening of a seminar to enhance knowledge on security and health at work places organised by Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PWDs need empowerment on health and security at work places, says govt

(OSHA) in collaboration with institution for the development of the deaf in Tanzania (TAMAVITA) in Mbeya Region.

DC Ntinika who represented Albert Chalamila, the Regional Commissioner at the event said: "The government has set

aside special funds for interest free loans to various vulnerable groups in the society, two per cent of which is for PWDs."

He added: "As government we have seen the importance of providing training on Security and Health to the targeted

groups to avoid adverse effects in not adhering to regulations on security and health at work places."

He praised OSHA for implementing its responsibilities including inspections health security at many work places as

well as educating the people on the subject.

The one-day training dwelt in enumerating and advising on strategies to control perceived hazards on health and security at work places during production activities, including construction,

farming, carpentry, livestock keeping and entrepreneurship.

Khadija Mwenda, OSHA's acting managing director said the training were being provided to various vulnerable groups in the society in various regions and stressed that they would be sustainable. "We have reached various groups of people with disabilities in various regions, including Kagera, Dar es Salaam, Coast and now Mbeya and we shall continue doing so for other regions," he said.

UDSM students shine at ICT competition in global finals

By Guardian Reporter

African ICT students emerged among the world's best at the Huawei ICT Competition Global finals, taking top prizes at an awards ceremony held this weekend.

Two teams from Nigeria won grand prizes, while teams from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mauritius all earned the highest level of achievement for the first time in what is seen as one of the biggest ICT events globally.

Despite being the newest contestants of Huawei ICT Competition since 2017, African students have made stunning progress this year.

In 2019, only five African teams made it to the global final and reaped only one-third prize, compared with 13 teams this year, winning a total of seven medals.

The students' achievement is due to African countries' continued recognition and efforts to build a competitive ICT talent pool among the young generation, who will be an indispensable accelerator for the continent's post-COVID recovery and digitization.

Over the past three years, Huawei has signed cooperation agreements with over 10 Universities in Tanzania on establishing Huawei ICT Academies.

This cooperation has enabled more than 600 University students to obtain Huawei ICT Certification, which makes them better candidates for ICT-related jobs.

Prof William Anangisye, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, hailed the students for their great victory and exalted representation of the University.

"I congratulate the students for the victory. This is a clear evidence of the academic excellence for the University of Dar es Salaam that grooms its students to be innovative in science and technology. The University Values the cooperation with Huawei in bridging the ICT knowledge gap to our students, and I take this opportunity to strongly encourage all students to participate in the Huawei programs," said Prof Anangisye.

On the other hand, Hou Tao, Global Vice President of Huawei, highlighted the impressive enthusiasm of the students, which is much needed for Africa's digital inclusion in the era when the gravity of workplace skills is already shifting online.

"As a private company serving the African market for over 20 years, Huawei has dedicated itself to and will always remain a trusted partner of governments and academia in building a competitive ICT talent pool, strengthening capacity building and increasing people's digital competence," said Hou.

This year's Huawei ICT competition attracted nearly 150,000 students from over 2,000 universities in over 82 countries. 327 students from 39 countries participated in the online global final, making the scale the largest in all years. Teams from Zambia, Lesotho, and South Africa also reached the global final.

Tanzanian students from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) emerged among the World's best at the Huawei ICT competition global finals, taking top prizes at an awards ceremony held last weekend.

The Tanzanite team progressed to the global competition following an excellent performance in the Huawei sub-Saharan Africa ICT competition finals.

The Huawei ICT competition aims at providing a platform for global ICT talents to showcase their ability, compete and communicate, encouraging ICT-related study, and drive the growth of a robust ICT talent ecosystem.

Despite being the newest contestants of the Huawei ICT competition since 2017, Tanzanian students have made stunning progress this year. From being finalists in 2019 to reaping second and third prizes in 2020.

Tanzania was represented by 2 teams in the competition, whereby team one won the second prize and team two won the third prize. Those who won the second prize are, Kelvin Hongo, Mpoki Abel, and Henry Kihanga.

On the other hand, John Lazaro, Ahatus Biro, and Elisante Ekaro

won the third prize both from the University of Dar es Salaam.

Kelvin Hongo, a Tanzanian student from the University of Dar es Salaam shared his experience with Huawei and the competition while speaking on behalf of triumphant teams.

"This journey with Huawei came with benefits such as professional certification in the fields of interest," he said. "Huawei gave students the opportunity to learn skills which are recognized in the world of ICT. Huawei provided us with a platform to experience and practice on new, innovative, and cutting-edge technology to grow and develop ourselves."

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TPB Bank director of finance Regina Semakafu (L) pictured in Tanga city yesterday presenting to regional commissioner Martine Shigella two computers worth 3.5m/- donated by the bank for use by the Tanga regional Lands office. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

TBL to take part in '16 days of activism'

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company (TBL Plc) will join other stakeholders in the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) during this year's 16 days of activism through its #IsiweSababu platform.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and runs until 10

December, the Human Rights Day. In Tanzania the commemorations bring together network of organisations, all in the Fight against Gender Based Violence in the country.

Managing director at TBL Philip Redman said: "For the past 3 years the company has commemorated the 16 days of activism against Gender based violence through its #IsiweSababu campaign.

"The company has worked with various actors to create a platform that has been able and is committed to: Shifting

the narrative from alcohol as an excuse for abuse to challenging social norms; Creating and spreading awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV); Igniting conversations that promote healthy relationships; Providing people with tools that promote positive behavioral change," he said.

He said "This year unlike other years, we are committed to tap into the digital space where, we will spark dialogs and provide education to the society around alcohol not being a factor for GBV

through digital and electronic media platforms. People should understand that Alcohol is not an excuse for gender-based violence".

TBL believes that, GBV can be eliminated in the country if the entire community in collaboration with the government and other decision-making organs will work together to raise a voice and take action against gender based violence. The company also aspires to create a space where its people love to work for and flourish.



This vehicle, whose registration number suggests that it belongs to the Government of Tanzania, is moving along the Manzese stretch of the Morogoro Road lane exclusively meant for Dar es Salaam's rapid transit commuter buses - as captured yesterday. Talk of observance of road traffic regulations! Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

ITA to train officials from Comoro, S. Sudan on customs, tax management

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA'S Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) is finalising negotiations with Commissioners of Revenues from Comoro and South Sudan so as to train experts from the two foreign countries on customs and tax management.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, ITA rector Prof Isaya Jairo said that, already the commissioners from the two countries are in the country to ensure they make it successful.

He said the institute has already signed a contract with Sudan to establish the five years strategic plan in customs and tax management.

Prof Jairo said in the case

of Comoro, ITA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable ITA experts capacitate Comoro with essential skills and knowledge in all matters related with customs and tax management.

"Our institute provides training to build the capacity of staff working with Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) and other Tax authorities in Africa where the institute is currently building capacity of tax boards in Comoro and south Sudan," he said.

"Currently, we are negotiating with Comoro to train and build its servants capacity about tax management. It is our hope that upon completion, we shall sign

the MoU," he added. The don said the two commissioners will also attend the 13 graduation ceremony that will officially be graced by the Minister for Finance Dr Philip Mpango November 27, this year at the institute premises.

During the graduation, a total of 389 will be conferred with certificates, diploma, bachelors and post graduate diploma making a total of 5153 graduates since established 2008.

The graduates are East African Customs and Freight Forwarding Practicing certificates (165), Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (18), Diploma in customs and Tax Management (71), Bachelor of Customs and Tax Management

(117) and Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (18).

Prof Jairo further said ITA will in the next two years establish distance and online learning adding that the institute had been well prepared.

He said during corona infection, distance learning was the only solution in some higher learning institutions to prevent them from the pandemic," he said.

ITA is an integral part of the Tanzania Revenue Authority whose programmes offer a unique blend of theoretical classroom training and real life customs and taxation experiences.

They are designed to address the competence needs of customs and tax practitioners at different stages of their careers.

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Migratory pests in Africa posing serious danger to crop production

THE migratory locust is the most widespread locust species, and the only species in the genus *Locusta*. It occurs throughout Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It used to be common in Europe but has now become rare there. Because of the vast geographic area it occupies, which comprises many different ecological zones, numerous subspecies have been described. However, not all experts agree on the validity of some of these subspecies.

Many other species of grasshopper with gregarious and possibly migratory behaviour are referred to as 'locusts' in the vernacular, including the widely distributed desert locust.

Members of Parliament from the SADC region are calling for a concerted regional effort to prevent African Migratory Locusts (AML) exacerbating an already dire food security situation, amid reports that the destructive pests have become "smarter".

The locusts are already wreaking havoc in several SADC countries that include Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola, stoking fears of famine in a region in which nearly 44.5 million people are already food insecure.

Dr Lewis Hove, the Resilience team leader at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s sub regional office for Southern Africa recently told the lawmakers that scientists were baffled by an unprecedented observation that the locusts were now surviving in winter when there is little for them to eat.

"That is a problem we are seeing for the first time. It (AML) is not behaving the way it normally behaves. Maybe the temperatures are warmer and they can survive on things they don't normally graze on. It eats all the cereals and pasture for livestock," Hove told the MPs who belong to the Standing

Committee on Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. Their Committee met virtually.

Many economies in Southern Africa rely on agriculture, with an estimated 70 per cent of the region's citizens eking their livelihoods in the sector. Although the AML outbreak is the talk of the moment, Hove said there were "much more threats the region faces to food security". He said: "The agriculture sector is still reeling from the catastrophic impact of climate change and recurrent droughts, with dire humanitarian, environmental and productivity consequences. The impact of climate change has been compounded by the serious consequences of trans-boundary plants pests and diseases."

In recent years, climate change has been so severe on crop production that even top grain-producing countries that include South Africa and Zambia were struggling to meet their own needs.

Apart from causing droughts and floods in parts of SADC, climate change has triggered an outbreak of Fruit flies that have been decimating fruits in all SADC member states save Lesotho, with annual losses due to the flies in Africa conservatively estimated at US\$2 billion.

Added to this, the Fall Armyworm, which landed in Southern Africa in 2017 and is now present in all SADC countries except Lesotho, has caused losses of over 20 million Metric Tonnes of maize in 12 African countries - enough to feed 100 million people.

As if that is not bad enough, tomato farmers all over SADC are up against Tomato Leaf Miner disease, which is also known as Tuta absoluta. Hove said yield losses to this "terrible disease" could reach "100 percent under high pest infestation with significant impact on tomato production, income and trade".

Africa must keep fighting the spread of fake drugs

AS a recent study from the World Health Organisation pointed out, the so-called 'fake drugs' come in a variety of forms. There are the substandard drugs, which perhaps wouldn't pass quality tests due to a manufacturing error or because they have already passed their expiry date. The second kind, known as counterfeit drugs, have been deliberately falsified. This means that they could contain entirely different chemicals than the original or might even have no medical properties at all.

The result of taking fake drugs, therefore, can have a wide variety of effects. The latest studies show that substandard and counterfeit anti-malarial drugs contributed to an additional 72,000 to 267,000 deaths in sub-Saharan Africa annually.

Fake malaria prophylaxes may fail to protect the person from malaria; fake malaria treatment may fail to help a sick person effectively; additionally, both of these drugs may give the parasite the chance to become resistant to the medicine used. Moreover, the more people infected with malaria, the easier it is for the mosquitoes to carry the parasites from person to person, thus spreading the disease.

They can cause death, have unknown side-effects, fail to treat illnesses and sometimes even add to the spread of disease. Now, the battle to eliminate fake pharmaceutical products is being stepped up.

A drug test is a technical analysis of a biological specimen, for

example urine, hair, blood, breath, sweat, and/or oral fluid/saliva to determine the presence or absence of specified parent drugs or their metabolites. Major applications of drug testing include detection of the presence of performance enhancing steroids in sport, employers and parole/probation officers screening for drugs prohibited by law (such as cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin), and police officers testing for the presence and concentration of alcohol (ethanol) in the blood commonly referred to as BAC (blood alcohol content). BAC tests are typically administered via a breathalyzer while urinalysis is used for the vast majority of drug testing in sports and the workplace. Numerous other methods with varying degrees of accuracy, sensitivity (detection threshold/cutoff), and detection periods exist.

A drug test may also refer to a test that provides quantitative chemical analysis of an illegal drug, typically intended to help with responsible drug use

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organisation have joined a continental campaign to end antimicrobial resistance in Africa. The campaign, led by six entities, comes as cases of drug-resistant HIV, TB and malaria rise across the continent. The campaign was launched during the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) Campaign for Africa. It calls antimicrobial resistance the "silent public health threat" in all countries in Africa.

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By Tamrat G. Giorgis

FROM American foreign policy bigwigs to legislators in the Senate, statements coming out of Washington, DC, on Ethiopia's current conflict lack unanimity and in some cases are contradictory. It is a moment of uncertainty and confusion whereby members of the outgoing administration of Donald Trump speak in manners that are contrary to those in the transitional team of Joe Biden, the incoming president.

The latest in a series of statements made by American officials since the start of the conflict on November 3, 2020, came from two senior diplomats in the Trump administration. Tibor Nagy, a former ambassador to Ethiopia now serving as an assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Michael Raynor, United States ambassador to Ethiopia, briefed the international media virtually last week. It was their first briefing on the matter; it could also be their last.

To the delight of those in Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration, the ambassadors put the blame squarely on the TPLF, accusing its leaders of "first attacking" the Northern Command and characterised the missile attacks on the Asmara airport as an "unacceptable and dangerous" attempt to internationalise the conflict.

The ambassadors who view Ethiopia as a "linchpin" in a troubled region would rather want to see the status quo as the only way forward, an African affairs analyst said following the briefing late last week.

"Ideologically, they seem to see no alternative to Abiy," he told Fortune.

Perhaps his view is informed by the ambassadors contemplating the motivation of TPLF leaders in their preemptive move in neutralising the Northern Command from deployment against them. They believe the TPLF leaders have an agenda to depose Prime Minister Abiy from power and reassert themselves into "a prominent position that they had atop the Ethiopian political spectrum for the last 27 years."

This was not a popular statement in some quarters. It is viewed as a deliberate attempt to skirt around the issues of the alleged involvement of the Eritrean government in the conflict, the relentless aerial bombardment of targets in Tigray with reported civilian casualties, and their silence on the jailing of

On Ethiopia's debacle, Washington for sure speaking in multiple voices

political opponents. When they spoke about atrocities committed against civilians, they pointed their fingers squarely at TPLF forces.

"We condemn the November 12 massacre in Mai-Kadra, apparently perpetrated by the TPLF soldiers and militia as they retreated from the town," said Assistant Secretary Nagy.

This has angered at least one TPLF leader, who denied involvement in a massacre of civilians estimated to number 500. Briefing the media based in Meqelle on Friday, Getachew Reda, political bureau member of the TPLF, has denied responsibility for the violence, which many human rights advocates believe will be considered a crime against humanity. But he called the Ambassador's remark a "slip of the tongue."

"It's very unfortunate that people who should have known better squarely blame the TPLF and the government of Tigray for having committed something that was committed by people who are collaborating with Abiy Ahmed," said Getachew, but remained short of saying who the collaborators might be. "It's unfortunate that the international community, which should have been watching closely, is not paying attention to the humanitarian crisis."

The international community has begun to raise its voice on the humanitarian toll the conflict has caused, although belatedly. An average of 4,000 people are running for their lives a day, taking refuge in Sudan. The numbers reached 40,000 last week and are swelling by the day. Authorities in Sudan have set up two reception centres and reopened camps that remained closed for over 20 years after Ethiopians had returned at the end of the civil war in the early 1990s. The alarming development in the growing military confrontation has compelled the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to issue a statement warning the situation could spiral out of control.

In Washington, DC, one such concerned voice is Antony Blinken, deputy director at the National Security Council under the Obama Administration and now a foreign policy advisor for President-elect Biden.

"The TPLF and Ethiopian authorities should take urgent steps to end the conflict, enable humanitarian access, and protect civilians," Blinken tweeted on

November 18.

His call for a ceasefire, de-escalation, the protection of civilians, and access to humanitarian corridors was echoed by two senators, Chris Van Hollen and Cory Booker. Fifteen other senators have joined them in co-signing the petition to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo.

Getachew may say "peace has always been in our best interest," however, pushing for an immediate ceasefire appears to have little chance at the moment, according to the Ambassadors. Both Nagy and Raynor saw a firm commitment from both sides to seeing the military conflict through. "At this point, neither party, from everything we hear, is interested in mediation," said Nagy.

Raynor adds: "I will tell you that at the time of my conversations, there was no receptivity to that approach."

David Shinn served as the US Ambassador to Ethiopia during the height of the bloody war between Eritrea and Ethiopian in the late 1990s. He remains a close observer of the Horn of Africa region, actively analysing development. He sees the current US administration's bias toward the federal government, but not its apportioning of the blame on the TPLF. The Ambassadors' focus on immediate de-escalation of tension, cessation of hostilities, return to peace, and the protection and security of civilians may not be in tandem with the federal government's position not to engage the TPLF. "It sounds to me like the central government is determined to crush the TPLF militarily," Shinn told Fortune.

While the militarised conflict is raging in the north to an intensity last seen in the region during the war with Eritrea, the door for its negotiated settlement appears remote. For now, Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo arrived in Addis Ababa a week ago, seeking an audience with Prime Minister Abiy, to no avail, according to individuals close to the effort.

The very efforts by various international bodies to broker a deal for a ceasefire and resumption of dialogue is being contested as Addis Ababa remains adamant there won't be talks before the TPLF, and its government, are disarmed. Whether Addis Ababa has given in to the international pressure for dialogue has become a casualty of alternative facts.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who also chairs the African Union, has sent three eminent personalities in the continent to Addis Ababa. His pronounced aim is to "contribute to a process that could lead to a dialogue and an end to the fighting that has cost many lives and extensive displacement of people."

The understanding of the visit to Addis Ababa of the three envoys - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Joaquim Chissano, Kgalema Motlanthe - by Prime Minister Abiy's administration may not be on the same page with the rest of the world as articulated by Josep B. Fontelles, high representative of the EU for foreign affairs. It is to help bring a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. "Military escalation and long-term instability in the country and the region must be avoided," said Fontelles.

Yet Addis Ababa views the visit by the three former heads of state as no more than receiving a courtesy call, largely out of respect for the African Union. While the State of Emergency office called the news jamming the airwaves on the mediation effort as "fake news," Ethiopia's President Sahlework Zewde remained on the official script.

"The federal government is engaged in a law and order enforcement operation, and the perpetrators of these atrocities will be brought to justice," she tweeted last week, after her visit to South Africa.

But how the militarised engagement in Tigray will evolve in the coming week will determine the tenacity of the federal government to stick to its adamant position calling for surrender. Hence, facing global pressure mounting by the day for roundtable talks should its forces fail to make their advances to Meqelle, time is of the essence.

The voice from Washington, with the advent of a new administration in two months, may have coherence in due course. Whether it will have a different policy from its predecessor remains an open question. For a foreign policy expert such as Shinn, there could be a number of cases where the Biden administration will implement a different foreign policy than followed by Trump.

"Its position on the conflict in Ethiopia, however, may not be much different," Shinn told Fortune.

Four things to know about how fragile states like South Sudan are coping with COVID-19

By Amina Lahreche and Niko Alfred Hobdari

On November 11, 2020, the International Monetary Fund granted the Republic of South Sudan a \$52 million emergency disbursement under the Rapid Credit Facility to help its economy weather the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first time this new and still fragile country has received financial support from the IMF.

Here are four things to know:

Fragility has many shapes and forms. South Sudan is emerging from a prolonged civil conflict with a very high human cost. More than half of the South Sudanese population requires urgent food assistance, about 40 per cent of the population is internally displaced or live as refugees in neighboring countries. More than 80 per cent live below the poverty line. Recently, floods and locusts have further worsened living conditions for millions of South Sudanese. The country has massive development needs, from building basic infrastructure, to developing education and health services, to building institutions. These are difficult challenges for a country that has very limited access to affordable financing.

The COVID-19 crisis is more than a health crisis. People in South Sudan have suffered illness and death from the pandemic, although the toll is difficult to fully assess, given limited testing capacity. Beyond the impact on health, South Sudan has also been hit hard by the sharp decline in oil prices during the pandemic. Proceeds from oil exports account for 97 per cent of exports and a large share of budget revenue, further compressing the already limited space for fiscal policy action. The exchange rate is depreciating, contributing to higher inflation. Financial support from the IMF is providing much needed breathing room and reducing the economic and social cost of adjusting the economy toward a sustainable path.

A recent push for economic reforms. South Sudan would benefit from diversifying its economy away from oil. Accomplishing this will require large investments in infrastructure, human development, and stronger institutions. Donor support is largely focused on humanitarian operations. Attracting more financing for development requires additional reforms. More effective institutions for public financial management are a high priority, and the authorities have embarked on this reform in line with their commitments under the 2018 peace agreement. The authorities are also charting a fiscal course that maintains debt sustainability, fosters economic growth, and provides for peace-building and social spending. These steps, together with commitments to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of IMF resources, helped unlock the first IMF funding for the country.

IMF help has multiple components: funding from the newly approved Rapid Credit Facility, capacity development, and policy



South Sudanese families displaced after Nile River flooding. The effects of the pandemic have added to the country's massive development needs caused by conflict, floods, locusts and other events

advice. The Rapid Credit Facility provides emergency financing to deal with the most acute challenges of the crisis. At the same time, the IMF is providing technical assistance to help with modernizing the institutions necessary for public financial management, focusing first on budget planning, cash management, and the establishment of a treasury single account. In South Sudan as in other countries, to avoid overwhelming stretched capacities, reforms need to be incremental, prioritized, and focused.

South Sudan officially known as the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. The country gained its independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the newest country with widespread recognition. Its capital and largest city is Juba.

South Sudan is bordered by Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest and the Central African Republic to the west. It includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal, meaning "Mountain Sea". Sudan was occupied by Egypt under the Muhammad Ali dynasty and was governed as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium until Sudanese independence in 1956. Following the First Sudanese Civil War, the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region was formed in 1972 and lasted until 1983. A second Sudanese civil war soon broke out, ending in 2005 with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Later that year, southern autonomy was restored when an Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan was formed. South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011, following 98.83 per cent support for independence in a January 2011 referendum.

South Sudan has a population of 12 million, mostly of the Nilotic peoples. Christianity is the majority religion. In September 2017 the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict said that half of South Sudan's inhabitants are under 18 years old. It is a member of the United Nations, the African Union, the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. In July 2012, South Sudan signed the Geneva Conventions. South Sudan has suffered ethnic violence and has been in a civil war since

2013. As of 2018, South Sudan ranks third lowest in the latest UN World Happiness Report, and has the highest score on the American Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index (formerly the Failed States Index).

The Nilotic people of South Sudan—the Acholi, Anyuak, Bari, Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk, Kaligi (Arabic Feroqhe), and others—first entered South Sudan sometime before the 10th century coinciding with the fall of medieval nubia. During the period from the 15th to the 19th centuries, tribal migrations, largely from the area of Bahr el Ghazal, brought the Anyuak, Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk to their modern locations of both Bahr El Ghazal and Upper Nile Regions, while the Acholi and Bari settled in Equatoria. The Azande, Mundu, Avukaya and Baka, who entered South Sudan in the 16th century, established the region's largest state of Equatoria Region.

The Dinka are the largest, Nuer the second largest, the Azande the third-largest and the Bari are the fourth-largest ethnic group in the country. They are found in the Maridi, Yambio, and Tombura districts in the tropical rainforest belt of Western Equatoria, the Adio of Azande client in Yei, Central Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal. In the 18th century, the Avungara sib rose to power over the rest of Azande society and this domination continued into the 20th century. Geographical barriers, including the swamplands along the White Nile and the British preference for sending Christian missionaries to the southern regions, including its Closed District Ordinance of 1922 (see History of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan), helped to prevent the spread of Islam to the southerners, thus enabling them to retain their social and cultural heritage, as well as their political and religious institutions. The major reasons include the long history of British policy preference toward developing the Arab north and its ignoring the Black south. After Sudan's first independent elections in 1958, the continued ignoring of the south by Khartoum (lack of schools, roads, bridges) led to uprisings, revolt, and the longest civil war on the continent. As of 2012, peoples include Acholi, Anyuak, Azande, Baka, Balanda Bviri, Bari, Boya, Didinga, Dinka, Jiye, Kaligi, Kuku, Lotuka, Mundari, Murie, Nilotic, Nuer, Shilluk, Toposa and Zande.

Slavery had been an institution of Sudanese life

throughout history. The slave trade in the south intensified in the 19th century, and continued after the British had suppressed slavery in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Annual Sudanese slave raids into non-Muslim territories resulted in the capture of countless thousands of southern Sudanese, and the destruction of the region's stability and economy.

The Azande have had good relations with the neighbours, namely the Moru, Mundu, Pöjulu, Avukaya, Baka and the small groups in Bahr el Ghazal, due to the expansionist policy of their king Gbudwe, in the 18th century. In the 19th century, the Azande fought the French, the Belgians and the Mahdists to maintain their independence. Egypt, under the rule of Khedive Ismail Pasha, first attempted to control the region in the 1870s, establishing the province of Equatoria in the southern portion. Egypt's first governor was Samuel Baker, commissioned in 1869, followed by Charles George Gordon in 1874 and by Emin Pasha in 1878.

The Mahdist Revolt of the 1880s destabilized the nascent province, and Equatoria ceased to exist as an Egyptian outpost in 1889. Important settlements in Equatoria included Lado, Gondokoro, Dufile and Wadelai. European colonial maneuverings in the region came to a head in 1898, when the Fashoda Incident occurred at present-day Kodok; Britain and France almost went to war over the region. In 1947, British hopes to join South Sudan with Uganda, as well as leaving Western Equatoria as part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were dashed by the Rajaf Conference to unify North and South Sudan.

South Sudan has an estimated population of 8 million,[41] but, given the lack of a census in several decades, this estimate may be severely distorted. The economy is predominantly rural and relies chiefly on subsistence farming. Around 2005, the economy began a transition from this rural dominance, and urban areas within South Sudan have seen extensive development.

The region has been negatively affected by two civil wars since Sudanese independence: from 1955 to 1972, the Sudanese government fought the Anyanya rebel army (Anyanya-Nya is a term in the Madi language which means "snake venom") during the First Sudanese Civil War, followed by the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) in

the Second Sudanese Civil War for over 20 years. As a result, the country suffered serious neglect, a lack of infrastructural development, and major destruction and displacement. More than 2.5 million people have been killed and millions more have become refugees both within and outside the country.

Independence (2011)

Between 9 and 15 January 2011, a referendum was held to determine whether South Sudan should become an independent country and separate from Sudan. 98.83 per cent of the population voted for independence. South Sudan formally became independent from Sudan on 9 July, although certain disputes still remained, including the division of oil revenues, as 75 per cent of all the former Sudan's oil reserves are in South Sudan. The region of Abyei still remains disputed and a separate referendum will be held in Abyei on whether they want to join Sudan or South Sudan. The South Kordofan conflict broke out in June 2011 between the Army of Sudan and the SPLA over the Nuba Mountains.

On 9 July 2011 South Sudan became the 54th independent country in Africa and since 14 July 2011, South Sudan is the 193rd member of the United Nations. On 27 July 2011 South Sudan became the 54th country to join the African Union.

South Sudan was at war with at least seven armed groups in 9 of its 10 states, with tens of thousands displaced.[49] The fighters accuse the government of plotting to stay in power indefinitely, not fairly representing and supporting all tribal groups while neglecting development in rural areas. Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) also operates in a wide area that includes South Sudan.

Inter-ethnic warfare that in some cases predates the war of independence is widespread. In December 2011, tribal clashes in Jonglei intensified between the Nuer White Army of the Lou Nuer and the Murle. The White Army warned it would wipe out the Murle and would also fight South Sudanese and UN forces sent to the area around Pibor.

In March 2012, South Sudanese forces seized the Heglig oil fields in lands claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan in the province of South Kordofan after conflict with Sudanese forces in the South Sudanese state of Unity. South Sudan withdrew on 20 March, and the Sudanese Army entered Heglig two days later.

Civil war (2013-present)

In December 2013, a political power struggle broke out between President Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar, as the president accused Machar and ten others of attempting a coup d'état. Fighting broke out, igniting the South Sudanese Civil War. Ugandan troops were deployed to fight alongside South Sudanese government forces against the rebels. The United Nations has peacekeepers in the country as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Numerous ceasefires were mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and SPLM - in opposition and were subsequently broken. A peace agreement was signed in Ethiopia under threat of United Nations sanctions for both sides in August 2015. Machar returned to Juba in 2016 and was appointed vice president. Following a second breakout of violence in Juba, Machar was replaced as vice-president and he fled the country as the conflict erupted again. Rebel in-fighting has become a major part of the conflict. J Rivalry among Dinka factions led by the President and Malong Awan have also led to fighting. In August 2018, another power sharing agreement

came into effect.

About 400,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the war, including notable atrocities such as the 2014 Bentiu massacre. Although both men have supporters from across South Sudan's ethnic divides, subsequent fighting has been communal, with rebels targeting members of Kiir's Dinka ethnic group and government soldiers attacking Nuer. More than 4 million people have been displaced, with about 1.8 million of those internally displaced, and about 2.5 million having fled to neighboring countries, especially Uganda and Sudan.

Politics

South Sudan's presidential guard on Independence Day, 2011

The now-defunct Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly ratified a transitional constitution shortly before independence on 9 July 2011. The constitution was signed by the

The constitution establishes a presidential system of government headed by a president who is head of state, head of government, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. It also establishes the National Legislature comprising two houses: a directly elected assembly, the National Legislative Assembly, and a second chamber of representatives of the states, the Council of States.

John Garang, the founder of the SPLA/M, was the first president of the autonomous government until his death on 30 July 2005. Salva Kiir Mayardit, his deputy, was sworn in as First Vice President of Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan on 11 August 2005. Riek Machar replaced him as Vice-President of the Government. Legislative power is vested in the government and the bicameral National Legislature. The constitution also provides for an independent judiciary, the highest organ being the Supreme Court.

National capital project

The capital of South Sudan is located at Juba, which is also the state capital of Central Equatoria and the county seat of the eponymous Juba County, and is the country's largest city. However, due to Juba's poor infrastructure and massive urban growth, as well as its lack of centrality within South Sudan, the South Sudanese Government adopted a resolution in February 2011 to study the creation of a new planned city to serve as the seat of government. It is planned that the capital city will be changed to the more centrally located Ramciel. This proposal is functionally similar to construction projects in Abuja, Nigeria; Brasília, Brazil; and Canberra, Australia; among other modern-era planned national capitals. It is unclear how the government will fund the project.

In September 2011, a spokesman for the government said the country's political leaders had accepted a proposal to build a new capital at Ramciel, a place in Lakes state near the borders with Central Equatoria and Jonglei. Ramciel is considered to be the geographical center of the country, and the late pro-independence leader John Garang allegedly had plans to relocate the capital there before his death in 2005. The proposal was supported by the Lakes state government and at least one Ramciel tribal chief. The design, planning, and construction of the city will likely take as many as five years, government ministers said, and the move of national institutions to the new capital will be implemented in stages.

States

Prior to 2015, South Sudan was divided into 10 states, which also correspond to three historical regions: Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria, and Greater Upper Nile. ends

By Gerald Kitabu

TARI outreach projects for Manyoni farmers impress board members

Manyoni district council in Singida region has vowed to turn smallholder farmers from unproductive agriculture to commercial after embarking on growing cashew strategic cash crop.

According to Manyoni District Commissioner Rahabu Mwangi, the district has set up a total of 22,000 acres block farming at Masigati, Mkwese, Saranda and Sukamela where the farm owners are the farmers. Besides the block farm, separate farms are carried out by individual farmers. They are increasingly opening up other farms outside the district designated block to benefit from the cash crop.

In this strategic crop where the farmers have been trained and capacitated, they are now planting improved cashew seedlings. The district is collaborating with TARI Naliendele which provides technical backstopping. The District Commissioner said the block farm is also used as a demo farm for the farmers in the district.

"We are determined and committed to promote this strategic crop in all the two district councils. We have opened up similar block farming in Itigi about 10,000 acres will be planted and the farmers have responded positively," she said.

She called on investors to invest in cashew processing factories and industries to provide jobs and income for Manyoni residents.

Board members of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) who visited the farming block, have been impressed by the ongoing plans to boost the crop in the district. They called on the farmers to increase uptake of improved crop varieties and technologies generated by TARI.

They said TARI has now shifted its activities from arm-chair office to the field, conducting research, and production of improved seeds and technologies along with the farmers. The aim of TARI outreach projects like this is to produce efficiently and transform agriculture in the country, said TARI board Chairman Dr. Yohana Budeba.

He said that in their meetings, the board had directed TARI to study the ecology of the crop in other districts so that it could be grown in many regions as possi-



TARI's board chairman (L) Dr. Yohana Budeba and TARI's director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo discuss TARI's plans and strategies to improve cashew production at one of the farms in Manyoni during TARI's board members visit in the district. Behind them are some of the board members. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

ble.

Dr. Yohana Budeba assured farmers that his board had directed TARI to speed up research, production and distribution of improved seeds and technologies, adding that it was up to them to respond positively.

Dr. Budeba commended Manyoni district, partners, the farmers and other stakeholders such as the Prison camp, and AMCOS for quick response on the crop.

Board Member Prof. Emmanuel Luoga was impressed by the district council's plans especially setting up block farming where extension services and advisory services were provided for all the farmers saying it is something that should be emulated by other districts and regions. Prof. Luoga who is the Vice Chancellor at The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology explained further that he was satisfied with TARI's implementation of the board directives. "I have seen these outreach projects. This is how TARI should be working. It should be working with farmers and the district council in the field and not from the office. TARI should continue generating technologies and promoting their application to help this country transform agriculture," he said.

Explaining the district's plans and progress, Manyoni District Agricultural Officer Fadhili Chimsala, said the district started growing the crop in 2017/2018. Until 2020/2021 agricultural season, a total of

22,000 acres had been planted at block farming located at Masigati, Mkwese, Saranda and Sukamela where the farm owners are the farmers. In this block, the district is the main supervisor of all stages of agricultural best practices. "This block farming has simplified work for example, it has simplified extension services, farm inputs, control and management of diseases and pests, control of cashew standards, market accessibility, availability of raw materials for cashew processing industries, employment and income generation for the farmers, he said.

He said the district council in collaboration with TARI and the Cashew board is currently promoting the crop among stakeholders and the farmers in particular on production of the improved seedlings and disseminating them.

Citing an example, he said in 2020/21 the district council bought six tonnes of improved cashew nut seeds for production and dissemination of improved cashew seedlings.

From the plan, the district is set to harvest a total of 200 tonnes of cashew nuts. However, the district is expected to plant the crop on 35,000 acres by 2025.

To promote the crop, Manyoni district is collaborating with TARI-Naliendele. The district has set aside a total of 35 at Masigati farm for research and production of the crop.

TARI Naliendele centre Director Dr. Fortunus Kapinga commended good collaboration with the district council and

other stakeholders. He assured Manyoni district farmers that the improved seeds would be available for them. "The most important thing is proper education on how to grow the crop especially planting stage. The farmers should follow proper instruction from TARI because if you turn it upside down, it will not grow and that seed will be lost," he said.

"More than Six tones of cashew have been supplied, if the farmers increases uptake and follows best agricultural practices, within five years to come, Manyoni will be producing 20 million kg of cashew, and if these will be sold at today's price, the district will obviously pocket 46.5 million," he clarified.

The new strategic crop will also add to already existing crops like Maize, provide employment opportunities and increase income," he said.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said TARI's goal is to contribute to increased agricultural productivity through development and deployment of improved agricultural knowledge and technologies by adopting innovation systems approach.

Currently TARI has more advanced, integrated, and partnership for research, production and dissemination of improved seeds to transform agriculture in the country. TARI has now moved from office arm-chair to the field. This outreach projects in Manyoni is one of them. To implement, this TARI is closely working with district councils, the private sec-

tor, local and international organizations, development partners and the farmers to ensure availability and adequate improved seeds and technologies.

He said so far there more than 54 improved cashew varieties. The government goal is to move from an estimated 300,000 tones produced in the country to one million tons.

"We want to change farmers from subsistence to agribusiness. We want to create billionaires from cashew. TARI is very glad to work with Manyoni district to realize this mission. We will continue providing extension and advisory services to enable farmers increase production and realize the country's industrial economy as per the President John Magufuli's vision," he said.

"One of our objectives is to build capacity. We don't want TARI to be coming back here now and then to direct on how to grow this crop. TARI is building capacity to the district council and the farmers so that they can stand on their own feet and this is how we can successfully transform our agriculture," he said.

TARI's Manager in the department of technology transfer and partnership, Dr. Richard Kasuga said to ensure farmers improves productivity and produce profitably, his department has been taking different technologies generated by TARI right to the farmers on time.

We are transferring appropriate technologies, innovations and best management practices to the stakeholders, we are also establishing and strengthen function innovation platforms, we are strengthening research collaboration and networking with other institutions and organizational within and outside the country, he added.

"The most important thing is that the farmers should use improved crop varieties and follows agriculture best practices, appropriate use of agricultural inputs. We are also working on different technologies along the value chain right from production to the market, he said.

Citing an example, he said that last year in 2019/2020, TARI managed to reach more than 1.2 million farmers and the first quarter of this year 2020/2021, TARI has managed to reach more than 200,000 farmers. "We managed to reach them through different ways such as establishment of demo farms, agribusiness expo, farmers' day, training and the use of media.

Possibilities are limitless: You can be anything you would want to be

Currently when the job market is rough and unsteady is it actually easy to pursue a career of your desire and be whatever you set yourself to?

It's never too late to try again, really?

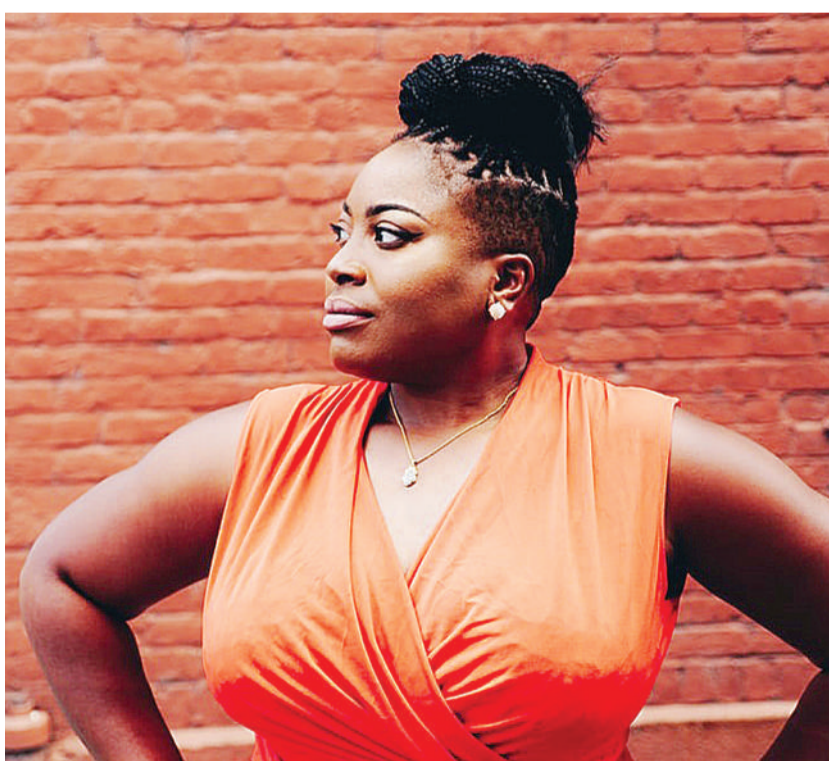
We all remember that childhood conversation we had with our parents. The one where you're told that you can be anything you want to be, just as long as you put your mind to it or the Ben Carson book Think Big which for the majority teens that read it during those days were gracefully imparted with those beautiful thoughts of putting in the work and accomplishing whatever we desired.

Ben Carson is a great narrator and he changed our ways of thinking and our lives literally!

With the books I have read, the experience I have had with various people who took rare career paths and ended up on top I've always made me believe this to be true, you really could be anything literally!

After all, with children they are blank canvases, able to collect and create a multitude of experiences and opinions that make them ideal for their own futures.

But thinking back to my



childhood dreams, I had to wonder how plausible that idea was. Surely, it must be very few teens and children that end up doing what they dreamed they would when asked the pivotal question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

I always wanted to be a pilot, convinced that this meant playing with heavy machines, travelling the world rather than the reality of rare brutal accidents that might occur, complex instructions, and the passengers lives depending on my own personal work prowess.

But if someone offered me the

chance to be a pilot today, I'd have to turn them down really!

My sister on the other hand, answered that classic childhood question with similarly classic childish honesty. When she grew up, she wanted to become an international fashion designer... "I will dress and design Beyonces' stage costumes one day" she grudgingly always said that.

Ask a class of kids today what they want to do when they grow up and you'll get a lot of the same answers; the lures of pop-stardom, fashion, space exploration and flying aeroplanes make for

seemingly brilliant career choices.

As adults we know the truth, with fame comes hard work, pressure and a near-constant hounding from the press; with space exploration comes isolation, intense physical conditions and an indelible helping of life-threatening danger and not the best 9 to 5 career choices mark you!

There comes a point in our lives, however, when our ability to do anything and to be anyone comes to pass. It's difficult to say when that point is, and obviously with every door that we close on possible future careers, we open hundreds more with our commitment to a set route.

When I chose to take no science subjects at A-level, I firmly closed the doors on medicine and any career attached to sciences like flying a plane yaay! but this actually opened up a world of opportunities to careers in arts.

But at the age of 25, just four months after graduating, I already felt like my choices are incredibly narrowed. I'm a creative person and have a passion for writing, speaking, branding and

for communications in general.

In my ideal job I'd get to write and be a little bit creative every day. I have varied experience in all sorts of jobs; from writing web campaigns to tracking down social media engagement, as well as the more standard office and admin work along the way.

You'd think that this wide range of experience would make me an ideal candidate for any of the entry level marketing/design jobs I've applied for so far, and yet after several interviews I always hear that I'm a smart lady, but just not too creative for the job. Apparently, creativity doesn't work when you're supposed to be doing admin day-to-day; I guess nobody wants a spreadsheet with a dash of style. But do companies really need to employ the same old person to file, copy, print, repeat? Maybe employers are under-estimating the passion and commitment that today's graduates have to break into their desired field, and can bring to any level of a business. We are well aware that we'll have to start at the bottom, but are committed to making the most out of our opportunities to

ultimately get to where we want to be.

All this raises an interesting issue. As a graduate, I've tried to make myself as employable as possible and am looking for an entry-level position to get into a company and progress. Yes, I have experience as a creative but that's not all I've done, it's not all I do, and I'm not even sure it's all I want to do. I still feel young, know that I have a lot to learn, and just want an opportunity to develop all my skills. What if I want to work as a project manager? A magazine journalist? A book critic? I have a degree and experience that makes me suitable for all these jobs - does my passion for advertising and my creativity mean I am any less capable of doing them?

So, can you really be anything? In spite of how much the job market today tend to instill into you how much you can't.

Determination is key... defy the odds. You can be anything you set yourself to, best believe.

That your children will not be significantly better off than you increase exponentially. That has to change.

THE CAREER MIRROR

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Parents struggling to pay school fees amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Getrude Mbagi

TANZANIA'S education stakeholders have suggested several measures should be taken to ensure that children continue with education amidst COVID-19 shock waves.

Many parents have reported to shift their children to public schools as they cannot afford to pay tuition fees in private schools, due to the COVID-related impacts.

They made the call when this paper reported that some parents who are hardly hit with Corona virus—a global challenge that affected almost every sector.

Benjamin Nkonya, chief executive officer of the Educational Initiatives Tanzania (EIT) said shifting students to government schools may be cumbersome because the regulations do not provide for that.

"A student who is used to private schools may get a psychological shock when shifted to public schools and that may negatively affect learning," Nkonya says.

"While sympathizing with the COVID-19 related family economic perils, I still urge parents and other sponsors to prioritize education financing by minimizing spending in other endeavors like running vehicles, ceremonies contributions," he says.

Nkonya, a former secretary general for Tanzania Association of Managers and Owners of Non-Government Schools and Colleges (TAMONGSCO) also wanted parents to continue considering education as a key investment that will make their children compete in the domestic and international market labor market.

Magdalena Mkindya, a parent from Bunju on the outskirts from Dar es Salaam suggested the need for both parents and school owners to stay together and discuss on a more friendly way to finance children's education.

"Schools may come up with a new system that allows parents to pay school fees on a monthly



basis rather than two terms per year, this will be easier for parents," he says.

When contacted Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Leonard Akwilapo suggested the need for private schools' management sit down with parents and agrees on the better modalities on school fees.

This, Dr Akwilapo said will help to end long-time tug-of-war between parents and private schools. According to the PS, the government has no mandate to intervene and plans on private school fees paying schedules.

He however calls on the use of wisdom between school owners and parents over paying fees for children, which include sitting on one table and agreeing on the matter together.

"Our role as the government is to supervise the provision of quality education, we also provide free education for all Tanzania children, so if the parents have decided to send children in private schools, means that can afford the expenses," he adds.

In March this year, Tanzania had executed a nation-wide three-month school shutdown or closure from April after the first case of COVID-19 was

reported in the country.

However after three months of a forced, prolonged school holiday, the government decided to reopen the schools with effect from June 30, a move that year, a move which was received positively and negatively by some people especially parents.

Recent reports show that parents in low- and middle-income countries will struggle to maintain the considerable resources they devote to their children's education. The pandemic is expected to push 40 to 60 million more children into extreme poverty. Income shocks are likely to lead to many children dropping out of school or not returning when schools reopen.

Global Situation Unlike conflicts or natural disasters, the Covid-19 pandemic did not destroy schools, but it has weakened many education systems, testing their responsiveness to emergencies, including their ability to adapt without causing new forms of exclusion.

As more reports of children who did not take part in any formal education emerge from the almost 190 countries that ordered school closures in response to the pandemic, the staggering scale of how many

millions of students have been affected during lockdowns in recent months is becoming clearer.

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the corona virus pandemic, is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020. As of 22 November 2020, more than 58.2 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 1.38 million deaths attributed to COVID-19.

On the occasion of International Literacy Day, 8 September, this year, the United Nations, and other international NGOs such as World Vision, called attention to the fact that one in six children are not enrolled in school, a phenomenon exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and one likely to have long term consequences for entire societies.

One of the areas affected greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic has been education, for both children and adults, one

that is likely to have a far-reaching impact for the future of millions of young people around the world.

Recently, UNICEF warned in a new report of significant and growing consequences for children as the COVID-19 pandemic lurches toward a second year.

Released ahead of World Children's Day, on November 20, "Averting a Lost COVID Generation" is the first UNICEF report to comprehensively outline the dire and growing consequences for children as the pandemic drags on. It shows that while symptoms among infected children remain mild, infections are rising and the longer-term impact on the education, nutrition and well-being of an entire generation of children and young people can be life-altering.

More reliable, age-disaggregated data on infection, deaths and testing is needed to better understand how the crisis impacts the most vulnerable children and guide the response.

The report further showed that as of October 2020, 265 million children were still missing out on school meals globally. More than 250 million children under 5 could also miss the life-protecting benefits of vitamin A supplementation programmes.

Goodall underlines need for boosting measures to spare chimps extinction

By Special Correspondent

JANE Goodall, who has spent the last 60 years researching and advocating for primates has underlined the need for more efforts to protect chimpanzees which are on the edge of extinction due to increasing human activities in its natural habitats.

Goodall made the suggestions when speaking to US-based Appalachian State University students this week via Zoom.

One of the world's leading scientists, conservationists, and humanitarians, Goodall offered a virtual presentation through the Schaefer Center titled "Reasons for Hope."

Goodall, who said during her discussion that she was "born loving animals," has spent nearly 60 years of work to protect chimpanzees from extinction.

"I believe if you want to talk about something or do something about something, you have to have first-hand experience," Goodall said.

She began her work by researching chimpanzees in Eastern Africa and went on to speak about threats facing chimpanzees.

According to Goodall, chimpanzees are endangered, protected by law and are found in only 21 African countries due to habitat loss.

Goodall, who called herself a "large animal activist," spoke out on using chimpanzees in entertainment and medicine. She said that even though they are like us, chimpanzees are not humans and we should fight against using animals for medical research and other kinds of experiments.

"The main message is, every single day that we live, we make some impact on the planet. We can choose what sort of impact we make and, because everything is interrelated, every group of roots and shoots should have three projects: one to help people, one to help animals, and one to help the environment," Goodall said.

The Office of Sustainability, Appalachian Popular Programming Society and the Office of Arts and Cultural Programs partnered to bring Goodall up the mountain in September as part of the Schaefer Center Presents season.

When COVID-19 forced the cancellation of live events, originally scheduled for Sept. 9, Goodall and her institute offered a virtual program as a precursor to her rescheduled in-person event in fall of 2021.

"Goodall is somebody we thought was important to bring to campus because her message now, she is speaking about hope, climate action and climate change," said Lee Ball, chief sustainability officer. "She really connects with the younger generation and she recognizes that we don't have a lot of time to get our act together in regards to global climate mitigation."

Allison West, director of marketing and public relations for the Schaefer Center, said Goodall's talk was a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" for students.

"We, of course, jumped at the opportunity, especially when presented with the option of a live webinar in which she would interact with university students who are inspired by Goodall's work," said West.

Goodall delivered the presentation followed by a Q&A period with four pre-selected students. Students included Jessica Navarro of sustainable technology, Claire Funderburk of sustainable development, Stephanie Dotson of anthropology and Morgan Plumley of elementary education.

Endangered primates face high risk of contracting COVID-19

BY PAUL NICOLAUS

AS the coronavirus pandemic rages across the globe, much of the focus centers on the growing human death toll, which has climbed above one million. But experts caution that a handful of our closest living relatives in the animal kingdom are also in jeopardy from SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

A recent analysis of more than 400 vertebrate species, including birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, predicts that critically endangered primate species such as the northern white-cheeked gibbon, the Sumatran orangutan, and the western lowland gorilla—as well as the endangered chimpanzee and bonobo—are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their genetic similarities to humans.

Study leader Harris Lewin set out to identify animals that might serve as a host for the coronavirus—the ancestor of SARS-CoV-2 is thought to have emerged in a bat species native to China and may have infected another (or more) animal species before crossing over to humans. But as his research progressed, the data began to reveal that humans could be a vector, spreading the disease to wild animals. (Read about COVID-19's impact on the animal kingdom so far.)

"The potential for COVID-like disease outbreak in either captive or wild populations of endangered primates is pretty high," says Lewin, distinguished professor of ecology and evolution at University of California, Davis. It's a particular concern for rare animals in captive settings, similar to the eight infected lions and tigers at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. He says it's likely they picked up the virus from their human keepers.

Infected humans could transmit the virus in parts of the world where wild animals come in close contact with people, such as in parts of Africa, Lewin cautions.

As the basis of their study, Lewin and his team looked more closely at the evolution and structure of the protein receptor ACE2, where the coronavirus attaches and subsequently enters human cells. They studied



the protein across hundreds of vertebrate species, which allowed them to determine the relative risks of each to contracting the virus.

The researchers examined the type and number of changes at 25 key positions of the ACE2 receptor and created a categorical ranking system ranging from very high to very low risk based on similarities and differences found at those spots. Animals with all 25 positions matching the human protein are thought to be most susceptible.

Those predicted to be at very low risk, on the other hand, have ACE2 receptors that are quite different from that of the human.

Among the 103 species that scored as very high, high, or medium risk, 40 percent are classified as threatened on the International Union of Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, according to the study, published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The 18 very high-risk animals are all Old World primates and great apes. Yet some high-risk endangered species—like the baiji, a freshwater dolphin, Pere David's deer, and the narrow-ridged finless porpoise whale—surprised the researchers, because they're distantly related to humans.

The researchers warned against overinterpreting their results, noting that true risk needs to be confirmed with experimental data. And the possibility that infection may occur through a cellular pathway other than ACE2 cannot be ruled out, as there's more than one way the virus can penetrate the body, Lewin says.

While several species are theoretically susceptible to catching the virus, only a handful of captive animals—domestic dogs, domestic cats, lions, tigers, and minks—have so far been infected, notes Dalen W. Agnew, a professor in the Department of Pathobiology and

Diagnostic Investigation at Michigan State University. (Read more about the hunt for the next potential coronavirus animal host.)

In experimental settings, rhesus macaques, cynomolgus macaques, and African green monkeys caught the virus, but most demonstrated relatively mild clinical disease, according to a recent study. Similar studies have shown domestic ferrets have mild or undetectable signs of illness, Egyptian fruit bats show no symptoms, and Syrian hamsters experience mild-to-moderate disease.

Even though the virus does not appear to be as lethal to animals as it is to humans, study co-author Klaus-Peter Koepfli, a research associate at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, points out that mink can die as a result of contracting SARS-CoV-2. (Read how mink are spreading coronavirus to humans more than thought.)

As it stands, he says there simply isn't enough information available to fully understand why the virus can lead to increased mortality in some species compared with others. (Buddy, the first dog confirmed with coronavirus, died a few months after his diagnosis, though the exact cause is unknown.)

There's no evidence that the coronavirus is currently spreading to or within populations of wild animals. Still, some say we probably aren't aware of all infections similar to the way plenty of human cases have likely gone undetected throughout the pandemic.

It is difficult to determine the extent to which the virus is actually spreading to animals, says Andrew Bowman, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine at the Ohio State University. "It's certainly something to keep an eye on," he says, especially vulnerable populations or those at the human-animal interface.

Not only are our closest animal kin more susceptible due to genetics, like us their highly social behavior also puts them in peril.

Political will key to economic success in Zimbabwe

By Faith Zaba

It's been three years since that unforgettable day in November 2017, when army tanks and armoured personnel carriers rolled into the streets of Harare movie-style.

The military had taken over key government institutions, including control of the police and intelligence services. They had also taken control of public radio and television stations. Zimbabweans experienced a cocktail of emotions – fear, tension and excitement – but they hoped for a new dawn in their political fortunes.

Robert Mugabe was put under house arrest and the army was demanding he quit after 37 years of catastrophic rule during which the country had been reduced to one of the poorest countries in the world.

On that fateful day, November 18, Zimbabweans came out into the streets across the country, in hundreds of thousands in a swift response to a call for a final push to oust Mugabe. Some described that day as Freedom Day; a day they were finally able to demonstrate without censure; a day they found friendship with the army and police, two arms of the state which Mugabe had used to suppress their aspirations for freedom.

Mugabe's resignation on November 21 led to President Emmerson Mnangagwa's swearing in on November 24. He took over amid euphoria and expectation for a new democratic dispensation and prosperity.

Fast-forward to November 2020, a lot has changed but not the fortunes of the people, with glimpses of success twinkling in the darkness.

Achievements

The country just recently started experiencing macroeconomic stability, as evidenced by slowing inflation, as well as fiscal and current account surpluses. The annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe fell to 471.3% in October from 659.4% in the prior month. It was the lowest inflation rate since January.

On the fiscal side, there is some financial discipline and prudence. The removal of the Indigenisation and Empowerment Act helped improve the country's business climate and saw a 217% jump in foreign direct investment inflows to US\$745 million in 2018. A number of large-scale mining projects in oil, gas, lithium, platinum, steel and gold mining are underway as a result of that reform.

The changes to company registration, tax payments and consolidation of investment agencies to form Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency have seen Zimbabwe jump 15 places on the ease of doing business index from 155 to 140 out of 190 countries.

There have also been improvements in power and energy supply and slight improvements in public sector investments.

Similarly, other infrastructure projects such as the 100km rehabilitation of the Beitbridge-Harare Road and the refurbishment of the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport will pay dividends in the future.

Failures

The flip side has however been all gloom. The country has experienced an increase in poverty levels, with over 92% of Zimbabweans now poorer than they were in 2017, while 7.6 million are projected to be extremely poor by the end of this year.

Unemployment has soared, as capacity utilisation across all economic sectors declined. The country's social safety nets are non-existent. Lack of free market policies in foreign currency allocation and tight foreign exchange regulations have made the Zimbabwean dollar a weak currency, leading to endless foreign currency shortages for production purposes.

Widespread corruption in government and state entities has reached endemic levels. There is a general decay in public services due to poor working conditions for



the civil servants.

Education and health sectors are in dire straits due to poor remuneration of staff and lack of funds for basic services. Divisive and toxic politics have worsened.

The nation is more divided along political lines than before, lacking unity of purpose. Failure to address investor concerns, including dividends repatriation, rule of law and guarantees to property rights, have impacted negatively on the country's attractiveness.

Both domestic and foreign debts have been increasing without parliamentary oversight or accountability on the use of borrowed funds. The country still imports grain (wheat, maize and soya bean) worth over US\$750 million every year despite multi-billion investment through command agriculture and the presidential input schemes.

But there is still an opportunity to implement economic and political reforms to ensure restoration of rule of law, property rights, observance of human rights and protection of freedoms guaranteed in the national constitution.

It all just takes is the political will of the new dispensation to straighten up everything.

Zimbabwe officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. The capital and largest city is Harare and the second largest being Bulawayo. A country of roughly 16 million people, Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most commonly used.

Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organised states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade. The British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s; it became the self-governing British colony of Southern Rhodesia in 1923. In 1965, the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia. The state endured international isolation and a 15-year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty as Zimbabwe in April 1980. Zimbabwe then joined the Commonwealth of Nations, from which it was suspended in 2002 for breaches of international law by its then-government, and from which it withdrew in December 2003. The sovereign state is a member of the United Nations, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It was once known as the "Jewel of Africa" for its prosperity.

Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980, when his ZANU-PF party won the elections following the end of white minority rule; he was the President of Zimbabwe from 1987 until his resignation in 2017. Under Mugabe's authoritarian regime, the state security apparatus dominated the country and was responsible for widespread human rights violations. Mugabe maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric of the Cold War era, blaming Zimbabwe's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries. Contemporary African political leaders were reluctant to criticise Mugabe, who was burnished by his anti-imperialist credentials, though Archbishop Desmond Tutu called him "a cartoon figure of an archetypal African dictator". The

country has been in economic decline since the 1990s, experiencing several crashes and hyperinflation along the way.

On 15 November 2017, in the wake of over a year of protests against his government as well as Zimbabwe's rapidly declining economy, Mugabe was placed under house arrest by the country's national army in a coup d'état. On 19 November 2017, ZANU-PF sacked Robert Mugabe as party leader and appointed former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa in his place. On 21 November 2017, Mugabe tendered his resignation prior to impeachment proceedings being completed. On 30 July 2018 Zimbabwe held its general elections, which was won by the ZANU-PF party led by Emmerson Mnangagwa. Nelson Chamisa who was leading the main opposition party MDC Alliance contested the election results and filed a petition to the Constitution Court of Zimbabwe. [26] The court confirmed Mnangagwa's victory, making him the newly elected president after Mugabe.

The name "Zimbabwe" stems from a Shona term for Great Zimbabwe, an ancient ruined city in the country's south-east whose remains are now a protected site. Two different theories address the origin of the word. Many sources hold that "Zimbabwe" derives from dzimba-dza-mabwe, translated from the Karanga dialect of Shona as "houses of stones" (dzimba = plural of imba, "house"; mabwe = plural of bwe, "stone"). The Karanga-speaking Shona people live around Great Zimbabwe in the modern-day province of Masvingo. Archaeologist Peter Garlake claims that "Zimbabwe" represents a contracted form of dzimba-hwe, which means "venerated houses" in the Zezuru dialect of Shona and usually references chiefs' houses or graves.

Zimbabwe was formerly known as Southern Rhodesia (1898), Rhodesia (1965), and Zimbabwe Rhodesia (1979). The first recorded use of "Zimbabwe" as a term of national reference dates from 1960 as a coinage by the black nationalist Michael Mawema, whose Zimbabwe National Party became the first to officially use the name in 1961. The term "Rhodesia" – derived from the surname of Cecil Rhodes, the primary instigator of British colonisation of the territory during the late 19th century – was perceived by African nationalists as inappropriate because of its colonial origin and connotations.

According to Mawema, black nationalists held a meeting in 1960 to choose an alternative name for the country, proposing names such as "Matshobana" and "Monomotapa" before his suggestion, "Zimbabwe", prevailed. A further alternative, put forward by nationalists in Matabeleland, had been "Matopos", referring to the Matopos Hills to the south of Bulawayo.

It was initially unclear how the chosen term was to be used – a letter written by Mawema in 1961 refers to "Zimbabwe" – but "Zimbabwe" was sufficiently established by 1962 to become the generally preferred term of the black nationalist movement. In a 2001 interview, black nationalist Edson Zvobgo recalled that Mawema mentioned the name during a political rally, "and it caught hold, and that was that". The black nationalist factions subsequently used the name during the Second Chimurenga campaigns against the Rhodesian government during the Rhodesian Bush War of 1964–1979. Major factions in this camp included the Zimbabwe African National Union (led by Robert Mugabe from 1975), and the

Zimbabwe African People's Union (led by Joshua Nkomo from its founding in the early 1960s).

Archaeological records date human settlement of present-day Zimbabwe to at least 100,000 years ago. The earliest known inhabitants were probably San people, who left behind arrowheads and cave paintings. The first Bantu-speaking farmers arrived during the Bantu expansion around 2000 years ago.

Societies speaking proto-Shona languages first emerged in the middle Limpopo valley in the 9th century before moving on to the Zimbabwean highlands. The Zimbabwean plateau eventually became the centre of subsequent Shona states, beginning around the 10th century. Around the early 10th century, trade developed with Arab merchants on the Indian Ocean coast, helping to develop the Kingdom of Mapungubwe in the 11th century. This was the precursor to the more impressive Shona civilisations that would dominate the region during the 13th to 15th centuries, evidenced by ruins at Great Zimbabwe, near Masvingo, and by other smaller sites. The main archaeological site uses a unique dry stone architecture.

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was the first in a series of sophisticated trading states which had developed in Zimbabwe by the time the first European explorers arrived from Portugal. These states traded gold, ivory, and copper for cloth and glass.

From about 1300 until 1600 the Kingdom of Zimbabwe eclipsed Mapungubwe. This Shona state further refined and expanded upon Mapungubwe's stone architecture, which survives to this day at the ruins of the kingdom's capital of Great Zimbabwe. From c. 1450 to 1760 Zimbabwe gave way to the Kingdom of Mutapa. This Shona state ruled much of the area of present-day Zimbabwe, plus parts of central Mozambique. It is known by many names including the Mutapa Empire, also known as Mwene Mutapa or Monomotapa as well as "Munhumutapa", and was renowned for its strategic trade routes with the Arabs and Portugal. The Portuguese sought to monopolise this influence and began a series of wars which left the empire in near collapse in the early 17th century.

As a direct response to increased European presence in the interior a new Shona state emerged, known as the Rozwi Empire (1684–1834). Relying on centuries of military, political and religious development, the Rozwi (meaning "destroyers") expelled the Portuguese from the Zimbabwean plateau by force of arms. They continued the stone-building traditions of the Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe kingdoms while adding muskets to their arsenal and recruiting a professional army to defend recent conquests.

Around 1821 the Zulu general Mzilikazi of the Khumalo clan successfully rebelled against King Shaka and established his own clan, the Ndebele. The Ndebele fought their way northwards into the Transvaal, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake and beginning an era of widespread devastation known as the Mfecane. When Dutch trekboers converged on the Transvaal in 1836, they drove the tribe even further northward, with the assistance of Tswana Barolong warriors and Griqua commandos. By 1838 the Ndebele had conquered the Rozwi Empire, along with the other smaller Shona states, and reduced them to vassaldom.

After losing their remaining South African lands in 1840, Mzilikazi and his

tribe permanently settled in the southwest of present-day Zimbabwe in what became known as Matabeleland, establishing Bulawayo as their capital. Mzilikazi then organised his society into a military system with regimental kraals, similar to those of Shaka, which was stable enough to repel further Boer incursions. Mzilikazi died in 1868; following a violent power struggle, his son Lobengula succeeded him.

Colonial era and Rhodesia (1888–1964)

In the 1880s, European colonists arrived with Cecil Rhodes's British South Africa Company (BSAC). In 1888, Rhodes obtained a concession for mining rights from King Lobengula of the Ndebele peoples. He presented this concession to persuade the government of the United Kingdom to grant a royal charter to the company over Matabeleland, and its subject states such as Mashonaland as well.

Rhodes used this document in 1890 to justify sending the Pioneer Column, a group of Europeans protected by well-armed British South Africa Police (BSAP) through Matabeleland and into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now Harare), and thereby establish company rule over the area. In 1893 and 1894, with the help of their new Maxim guns, the BSAP would go on to defeat the Ndebele in the First Matabele War. Rhodes additionally sought permission to negotiate similar concessions covering all territory between the Limpopo River and Lake Tanganyika, then known as "Zambesia".

In accordance with the terms of aforementioned concessions and treaties, [4] mass settlement was encouraged, with the British maintaining control over labour as well as precious metals and other mineral resources.

In 1895, the BSAC adopted the name "Rhodesia" for the territory, in honour of Rhodes. In 1898 "Southern Rhodesia" became the official name for the region south of the Zambezi, which later became Zimbabwe. The region to the north was administered separately and later termed Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Shortly after Rhodes' disastrous Jameson Raid on the South African Republic, the Ndebele rebelled against white rule, led by their charismatic religious leader, Mlimo. The Second Matabele War lasted in Matabeleland until 1896, when Mlimo was assassinated. Shona agitators staged unsuccessful revolts (known as Chimurenga) against company rule during 1896 and 1897.

Following these failed insurrections, the Ndebele and Shona groups were finally subdued by the Rhodes administration, which organised the land with a disproportionate bias favouring Europeans, thus displacing many indigenous peoples.

Southern Rhodesia was annexed by the United Kingdom on 12 September 1923. Shortly after annexation, on 1 October 1923, the first constitution for the new Colony of Southern Rhodesia came into force.

Under the new constitution, Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing British colony, subsequent to a 1922 referendum. Rhodesians of all races served on behalf of the United Kingdom during the two World Wars. Proportional to the white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more per capita to both the First and Second World Wars than any other part of the Empire, including Britain itself.

In 1953, in the face of African opposition, Britain consolidated the two Rhodesias with Nyasaland (Malawi) in the ill-fated Central African Federation, which was essentially dominated by Southern Rhodesia. Growing African nationalism and general dissent, particularly in Nyasaland, persuaded Britain to dissolve the Union in 1963, forming three separate divisions. While multiracial democracy was finally introduced to Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, however, Southern Rhodesians of European ancestry continued to enjoy minority rule.

With Zambian independence, Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front (RF) dropped the designation "Southern" in 1964 and issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (commonly abbreviated to "UDI") from the United Kingdom on 11 November 1965, intent on effectively repudiating the recently adopted British policy of "no independence before majority rule". It was the first such course taken by a British colony since the American declaration of 1776, which Smith and others indeed claimed provided a suitable precedent to their own actions.

UDI and civil war (1965–1980)

After the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI), the British government petitioned the United Nations for sanctions against Rhodesia pending unsuccessful talks with Smith's administration in 1966 and 1968. In December 1966, the organisation complied, imposing the first mandatory trade embargo on an autonomous state. These sanctions were expanded again in 1968.



Thursday 26 November 2020

Azania chief touts digitisation of banking services to further exploit global markets

By The Banker Reporter

DIGITIZATION of banking products and services in the domestic market will enable customers to exploit opportunities availed by the global market.

Azania Bank Limited's Managing Director, Charles Itembe said in Dar es Salaam mid this week during a ceremony to mark the bank's 25th anniversary of operations in the market and the unveiling of a Visa enabled card that innovation is the future of the global banking industry.

Itembe stated that in order to meet customer demands, the Dar es Salaam based lender launched two variants of the card, namely: Azania Bank Classic VisaCard and Azania Bank Infinite VisaCard of which the latter is for premium banking customers only.

"These new cards will enable Azania Bank customers to transact across the Visa network globally at anytime and anywhere," he said adding that thanks to the bank's board of directors, investment into innovation will see the lender transform into a modern financial institution of the future.

He further pointed out that through a 'Miamala Iiyorahishishwa na Azania Bank VisaCard,' campaign which also started this week, customers will experience improved



Azania Bank Limited's managing director, Charles Itembe (R) and BCX CEO, Seronga Wangwe displaying dummy cards during the launch of the bank's Visa enabled cards in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo courtesy of Azania.

services which will be available at their convenience.

"The purpose of Azania Bank is to make the customer experience better services through use of technology and innovation because our customer can now transact easily using their Azania Bank VisaCards online, at any Visa

enabled ATMs both locally and internationally but also pay at points of sale," the Azania Bank chief added.

Itembe noted that as the bank marks its 25th anniversary, improved services and products is the only way to thank loyal customers. "For 25 years they have been enjoying

our services through digital banking, mobile banking via our revamped mobile application, Azania Wakala agency banking scattered all over the country, among others," he underlined.

Commenting on the bank's innovation investments, Azania's Manager for Digital Banking, Vinesh Davda said launching the

Visa enabled cards is an exciting time for the bank's staff and their customers. "These cards offer flexibility and access without any major requirements from the customer's end," Davda said saying that the cards are available for everyone and can be obtained at any Azania branch.

SA central bank exchange control circular suspended

JOHANNESBURG

National Treasury, the South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) have jointly expressed an intent to review the Exchange Control Circular 15/2020 issued by the central bank.

The circular was issued following the announcement by the minister of finance in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) Speech in October. In a statement, the three said the review is limited to providing clarification on the scope of changes to the announcement related to the reclassification of inward listed instruments.

"This follows enquiries by various stakeholders having different interpretations on the extent that the circular affects the foreign investment limits applicable to institutional investors, inter alia, retirement funds, collective investment schemes and insurers," reads the statement.

The MTBPS announcement aims to create an enabling environment that makes it easier for foreign investors to invest in South Africa, and support South Africa's growth as an investment and financial hub for Africa.

National Treasury emphasised that the announced reforms to the capital flow management framework do not alter the prudential framework currently applicable to all regulated funds, including retirement funds, collective investment schemes and insurance.

The circular, issued on 29 October 2020, dealing with the reclassification of inward listed instruments, is therefore suspended with immediate effect, to reduce the scope for ambiguity related to compliance with the prudential framework for regulated funds.

Amended circular
"An amended circular will be issued following a period of public consultations. All approvals granted on the basis of Circular 15/2020 are also suspended. The dispensation before Circular 15/2020 remains extant," the three said in the statement.

Stakeholders and the public are invited to submit comments to sarbportfolio@resbank.co.za by 15 December 2020 on proposals to amend the circular in question. Input is also required on the selling of a derivative or ETF, where the underlying foreign asset is issued by a company not listed on a South African exchange

In Rwanda, lending rates drop, albeit slowly

KIGALI

Rwandan banks' lending rates have declined, though minimally in response to central bank rates and monetary policy framework, the latest figures from the Central Bank show.

According to the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee, the average lending rate dropped in 2020 to 16.31 per cent from 16.47 per cent in 2019 and 17.07 in 2018. The continued drop creates for further drop over time consequently improving access to finance and capital.

The drop in cost, though minimal, means that if one borrows Rwf100,000 payable over a 5 year period, they would pay interest of Rwf 81, 580 compared to Rwf 85,350 in 2018. Though only a slight decline, Central Bank Governor John Rwangombwa noted that the development is a positive one given the multiple factors that go into loan pricing.

"The most important thing is that we see that trend. That is a positive move. It is expected that it



Rwanda's Central Bank Governor, John Rwangombwa.

will be slow because there are many factors that play in the pricing of the loan," he said. The development was also buoyed by the monetary policy framework adopted in 2019 which among other things allows banks to easily borrow from each other allowing liquidity in the market. "The monetary policy we have been implementing has created a more liquid financial sector with financial institutions able to access resources through the interbank

market and central bank instruments such as reverse repo," the Governor said. Interbank lending market drives the performance of the financial sector as banks can easily satisfy the demand for loans from their customers.

The interbank lending is offered without any collateral and for a very short duration of time. The average interbank loan is for overnight purposes. These markets provide banks with the liquidity required

to make loans without being constantly worried about deposits.

The central bank adopted the price based approach in 2019 shifting from quantity-based monetary policy framework. In their recent meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee noted that new authorized loans had dropped as demand for credit went down following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The new authorized loans reduced by about 8.2 per cent, the demand for loans reduced because of the economic conditions following the pandemic. The credit risk has increased because of the Covid-19 challenge but banks are more prudent in approving new loans," he said.

However, despite the drop in borrowers' appetite for credit, the new loans approved as of September this year are higher than had been approved in the same period last year. New loans stood at over Rwf 600bn as of end September. While the central bank is not worried about the new loans issued, it has concerns over the

restructured loans as they have a riskier profile.

To support local businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic, the government is amending the terms and conditions for eligibility to receive the Economic Recovery Fund to increase the number of local businesses eligible for the support.

The Rwf100 billion Economic Recovery Fund was launched in June to aid the recovery of local businesses significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund includes working capital for businesses most affected by Covid-19 to keep them operational and avoid lay-offs.

In recent months, there has been relatively low uptake of the fund especially blamed on low understanding on how the fund works amongst both banks and clients as well as stringent criteria. Among key changes so far implemented include reviewing the extent of losses resulting from the pandemic from 50 per cent to 30 per cent.

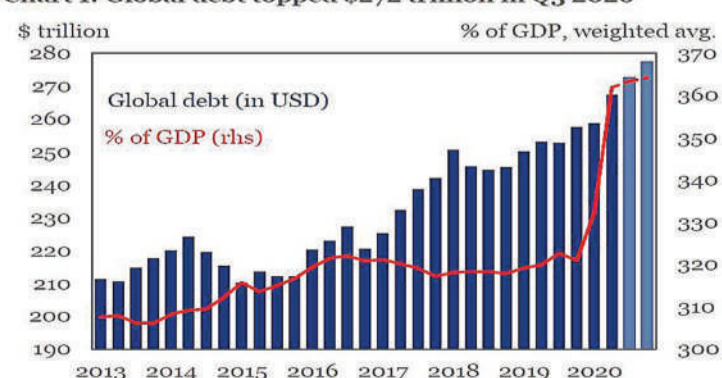
Global debt up nine-fold to \$52tn in the past four years, IIF says

BEIJING

Global debt surged more than nine-fold to \$52 trillion in the past four years as governments and corporates continue to borrow to meet spending requirements, according to the latest report from the Institute of International Finance. This compares with a \$6tn rise recorded during 2012 to 2016.

Out of the \$52tn debt, about \$15tn was recorded in the first three quarters of 2020 alone in the wake of Covid-19 economic crisis, the report said. Total debt currently stands at more than \$272tn. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, governments have deployed over \$12tn to mitigate the impact of

Chart 1: Global debt topped \$272 trillion in Q3 2020



Source: IIF, BIS, IMF, National sources

Graphic presentation of surging global debt.

Covid-19. "The monetary policy reaction has been unprecedented in scale in many countries, including emerging markets, in contrast to previous episodes of financial

turmoil, many EMs have cut policy rates and introduced QE [quantitative easing] programmes despite substantial currency depreciation and a sizable retrenchment in portfolio inflows," the report said. "These synchronised policy measures have helped fuel a massive wave of borrowing, particularly by sovereigns and corporates."

While the downward spiral in interest rates globally since the mid-1980s has made debt rollover relatively easier for governments, "net spending on interest has been on an upward trend in emerging markets."

"Given widespread Covid-related revenue losses this year, the ratio of government interest payments

to revenues reached a near-record high of 10 per cent in emerging markets. Looking ahead, this ratio is expected to remain above 8 per cent, largely driven by Turkey, India, South Africa, and the Philippines."

The coronavirus pandemic has hit the margins of small businesses while earnings estimates for larger corporates hover around 20 per cent below pre-Covid levels. Governments have provided trillions of dollars in fiscal and monetary aid to these businesses to cushion the impact of the pandemic.

"Accommodative policy measures to date have been successful in limiting the potential surge in corporate insolvencies. In Europe, for

example, there has been a marked decline in the number of firms filing for insolvency." However, the recent surge in Covid-19 cases has darkened the outlook, "given high and rising corporate debt levels."

"At nearly \$80tn, the mountain of global corporate debt stands at 103 per cent of global GDP, versus 92 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019. As a percentage of corporate revenues, the build-up in corporate debt has been even more striking, highlighting the big difference in the debt burdens of large and small firms." With a debt-to-ebitda ratio of almost nine times, small-cap firms are now much more indebted than large-cap corporates, it said.

Bank expert lures smallholder farmers in Katavi to borrowing

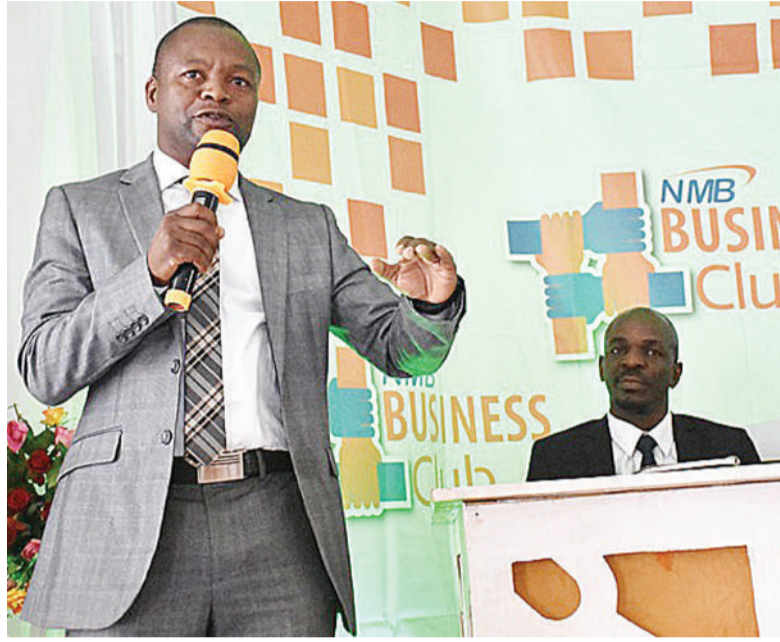
By The Banker Reporter, Katavi

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Katavi Region have been advised to fully utilise financial services including borrowing agro-inputs in order to grow their farm produce and graduate into commercial farmers.

NMB Bank Plc's Senior Agribusiness Manager, Wogofya Mfalomagoha said earlier this week while speaking to farmers and small business owners in Katavi Region that the bank has a variety of loans that target them with less stringent conditions.

"Our loans to farmers are payable just once per annum and can take up to three years," Mfalomagoha said noting that such loans include farm equipment such as tractors, power tillers, ploughs and many more.

"Some banks in the market would give you such loans with a monthly repayment period but at NMB you pay during the harvest season only based on your own preference," he noted saying that the bank has invested heavily in agriculture through NMB Foundation.



NMB Bank Plc's Senior Agribusiness Manager, Wogofya Mfalomagoha speaks at a past event.

Briefing the farmers about NMB Foundation, its senior official, Rogers Shipela said it is entrusted with training of smallholder farmers and financing agribusiness activities.

"This foundation was established with a purpose of building smallholder farmers' capacity to improve quality and quantity of their produce which eventually graduates

them into commercial farmers," Shipela said while urging the farmers to join the NMB family and succeed.

Seconding his peers, NMB's Mpanda Branch Manager, Alex Massawe said farmers can only graduate if they borrow and invest in their businesses to graduate into commercial enterprises. "This is the first time for NMB to hold a formal meeting like this with smallholder farmers and business owners in the region for the purpose of sharing products and services available to you," Massawe said.

He pointed out that NMB officials have been meeting business owners and farmers at their place of work especially those who have borrowed from the bank in order to sensitise them on financial management and good business practices.

"We have been talking to smallholder farmers about graduating into large scale commercial farming," he noted adding that many farmers have been struggling to repay loans because they invest the money in loss making projects.

MTN Zambia, JUMO and Barclays Bank come together to work better

LUSAKA

MTN Zambia's Chief Executive Officer, Charles Molapisi, has said partnerships between banks and mobile money operators are fundamental in the mobile money ecosystem.

"We currently serve more than 1.1 million mobile money customers, making MTN MoMo the largest mobile money platform in the country. We consider taking financial services to the unbanked a huge responsibility that demands constant innovation and this forms the basis for our partnership with Barclays Zambia. MTN is moving Zambia into the digital economy and Barclays has long been our partner and we are excited to be taking this partnership to the next level as this will spearhead innovative initiatives which will deepen financial access in the nation."

Barclays Bank Zambia Managing Director, Mizinga Melu spoke of the country's need to digitise financial services. Melu said, "The changing landscape of digital banking and mobile telephony is creating unique opportunities in the way and manner customers are served. Zambia will need to digitise financial services to rapidly scale up client acquisition and patronage. We have invested approximately K43 million over the last three years in technologies that speak into this need and our partnership with MTN and JUMO further demonstrates the big steps we are taking to support this agenda."

She added that, "Barclays digital strategy has long been committed to ensuring transaction convenience for the market. We have made great strides in our mission to ensure financial inclusion and today's agreement with MTN and JUMO will greatly accelerate the easy availability of banking services to the unbanked."

JUMO's Director of Strategic Partnerships in Africa, James Townsend-Rose noted that JUMO partners with forward-thinking banks and mobile network operators such as Barclays and MTN to deliver digital financial services to customers in emerging markets. The technology company's highly agile and scalable Platform operates inclusive financial services marketplaces and can adapt quickly to customer needs - connecting them to a range of progressive financial choices.

"We believe that innovative and ambitious partnerships are key to driving far reaching financial inclusion and development. JUMO's partnership with Barclays Bank and MTN Zambia is a reflection of JUMO's mission to connect millions of people to the best possible financial choices," says James Townsend-Rose, JUMO's Director of Strategic Partnerships in Africa.



Barclays Bank Zambia managing director, Mizinga Melu

SA to lift dividend guidance once out of virus crisis

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's Prudential Authority will lift its guidance advising lenders to withhold dividends once the country has emerged from the uncertainty due to the coronavirus pandemic, Chief Executive Officer Kuben Naidoo said on a conference call.

The banking regulator of Africa's most-industrialised economy has been following peers in the northern hemisphere, which have urged banks to pause investor payouts until January.

While Standard Bank and FirstRand, Africa's biggest banks, have indicated they have surplus capital that could be distributed to investors, Absa has said it's unlikely to declare a 2020 dividend to conserve its capital. Investec Group surprised with a dividend for the six months through September after receiving payouts from its stake in an asset manager and from its wealth-management businesses.

Here are more of Naidoo's comments: "When we instituted the guidance I personally was of the view that banks might make losses this year, banks might genuinely dip into their capital stacks this year, and under those circumstances capital preservation should be prioritised above all." "Since then, we've seen banks revise down profit estimates by anywhere between 40% to 80%, but in general the banks still expect to make profits this year, which again in March certainly wasn't my view."

"We want to see that we are out of the woods on the major credit risks in the banking system. There are uncertainties on how big the credit losses are likely to get. We are comforted that the credit-loss ratios are actually declining and the non-performing loan ratios are declining. But we want to see a few more data points before we would be comfortable withdrawing that guidance."

Cellulant, Entersekt partner to strengthen security on thir mobile banking platform



Cellulant co-founder and group CEO Ken Njoroge (L) with George Murage.

NAIROBI

Entersekt recently announced a partnership with Cellulant, an African financial technology company. The partnership will further enhance Cellulant's cybersecurity by proactively securing its digital banking channels and guarding against digital banking and payment frauds.

Banking fraud remains a real threat in Africa, as it is elsewhere. According to a recent Kaspersky survey, 47% of users in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa region faced banking fraud at least once in the first half of 2020. Banking app security in particular is a real challenge.

In February 2020, a group of researchers published a comprehensive study of 693 banking apps across 83 countries, including 49 apps from banks in Africa. "Bank-

ing apps belong to the most security-critical and data-sensitive app category," the researchers emphasised. They found over 2,100 weaknesses in the apps tested. About a third of the apps (222) relied on invalid authentication implementations, while more than half (324 apps) displayed weaknesses in data transmission.

Entersekt is working with the Cellulant team to integrate its mobile software development kit with Cellulant's product stack, making Entersekt's authentication and app security solutions available to Cellulant's clients. Two large Kenyan banking groups are already working on their deployment.

Schalk Nolte, CEO of Entersekt, says: "We are delighted to be partnering with Cellulant. This collaboration will mean their partner banks' end-customers can enjoy increased safety and security while

transacting. We are very happy to support Cellulant's cybersecurity efforts to drive consumer confidence in digital banking and boost the adoption of digital payments on the continent."

George Murage, CTO of Cellulant, says: "Our clients trust us to not only be constantly innovating around digital banking and payments but also to guarantee safety and security. Being able to provide the powerful security and authentication services of Entersekt will significantly add to our platform offering."

"Through this partnership, we can deliver some of the most sophisticated services available anywhere in the world. We look forward to continuing our work with Entersekt as we help our clients take advantage of the many efficiencies afforded by digital banking," concludes Murage.

NEWSINDEPTH

Biggest African economy now in recession as oil output drops

Lagos

Nigeria's economy contracted for a second consecutive quarter. Africa's largest economy has slumped into a recession in the third quarter as oil production dropped to a four-year low.

Nigeria's gross domestic product shrank 3.6% in the three months through September from a year earlier, compared with a 6.1% contraction in the previous quarter, Statistician-General Yemi Kale said Saturday in a report released on Twitter. The median estimate of six economists

in a Bloomberg survey was for a 5.3% decline.

Oil production fell to 1.67 million barrels a day from 1.81 million barrels in the previous three months. That's the lowest since the third quarter in 2016, when the economy was in a contraction that lasted for over a

year. Africa's top crude producer cut production in order to reach full OPEC+ compliance.

While crude contributes less than 10% to Nigeria's GDP, it accounts for about 90% of foreign-exchange earnings and half of government revenue. That means the plunge in oil prices

in the wake of the pandemic, which struck as the economy's recovery from a 2016 slump was still gaining traction, has emptied coffers.

The contraction could further complicate the task of the central bank's monetary policy committee as it starts its two-day meeting on inter-

est rates on Monday. The panel surprised with a 100-basis-point cut in September to support the economy. Already above target for more than five years, inflation has continued to accelerate and pressure on the naira increased, which may force the MPC to hold on Tuesday.

Stanbic Bank chief vows to invest in SMEs, lubricate AfCFTA process

Against the backdrop of the extraordinary circumstances faced by the global community as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Stanbic Bank unveiled its new tag line, 'It can be' and new brand promise 'finding new ways to make dreams possible,' inspiring hope and a brighter future for Tanzanians to realize their dreams. Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Kevin Wingfield, discusses the new campaign and what is in store for its clients and stakeholders:



Stanbic Bank Chief Executive, Kevin Wingfield

Can you elaborate on what customers can expect from the bank with this new brand promise?

At a national level, this is an exciting and pivotal moment for Tanzania having recently attained lower middle-income economic status and as the government continues to invest in large infrastructure projects in priority sectors such as power,

transport and water to enable industrialization and improved livelihoods for the people. With over 150 years' experience on the continent, Stanbic Bank has the pedigree, expertise and a unique understanding of what it takes to empower economic growth. 'It can be' reinforces what we stand for as a bank. We consider ourselves partners with

our clients by providing financial advisory and tailored solutions, inspiring and supporting them to take new uncharted paths to realise their dreams by being bold and innovative, more curious and responsive in their business as well as addressing the challenges surrounding their communities. By way of example, earlier this year, Stanbic Bank rolled out

an entrepreneur challenge to empower and support the bold dreams held by entrepreneurs.

What role can entrepreneurs play in economic development and how is the bank helping them?

Currently, 95 percent of businesses in Tanzania are small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), and they represent approximately 35 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Entrepreneurs are more agile than many traditional businesses hence they can deliver relevant solutions to challenges facing their communities. Additionally, with about two-thirds of the population being under 35, the youth segment is an opportunity to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit. I am delighted that our entrepreneur campaign provided us with a lot of insights in this area. We received over 600 high quality applications and shortlisted five social enterprises that are providing solutions in education, technology, environment, food and manufacturing; health and wellness. As a bank, we will continue to address the specific needs of entrepreneurs through

our responsive, innovative, convenient and secure solutions that aim to improve the efficiency of their operations. We are investing in empowering customers and want to be the anchor that uplifts SMEs and help them achieve their dreams and goals.

How does Stanbic Bank continue to contribute to the growth of the country's economy?

Through our corporate banking offerings, we are keen to continue partnering with corporations, and the government to raise their desired financial capital required for achieving their various strategic objectives. We also strongly believe that through technology and innovation we can provide sustainable access to financial services for all economic activities, a move that is critical for economic development and growth. SMEs are and will continue to be a core driver of growth in the economy. We will look to continue and increase our focus on and support of SME growth and development.

In the spirit of 'It can be,' what future do you envision for Tanzania and how does Stanbic

plan to support it?

Africa is endowed with vast natural resources and abundant human capital. In spite of the current global health crisis and forecasted contraction in global and regional economic growth, I am optimistic about the future of the continent and in particular Tanzania. We can utilize the learning from the pandemic to establish Africa focused trade policies through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as well as regional blocs leveraging on the competitive advantages in respective countries. The presence of effective trade finance is pivotal in achieving trade development and Stanbic can combine its in-depth knowledge of commodity sectors with regional and in-country expertise to develop innovative and integrated financial solutions tailored to customer needs.

As a bank, we will work collaboratively across all our markets in Africa to create an environment that allows people on the continent do business within and between countries - as well as for people across the world to do business with Africa. Africa is our home, we drive her growth.

The rise and rise of Access Bank

LAGOS

Access Bank has risen to become Nigeria's biggest bank and is rapidly becoming a major force across the continent.

To survive in an increasingly changing and volatile world, business leaders need to maintain focus on building sustainable companies that are able to maintain the best traditional practices while embracing new priorities, Access Bank Group Managing Director Herbert Wigwe says. "For CEOs to thrive in this fast-paced and dynamic environment they must be digitally and technology savvy, understanding the implications of new technologies for their industries and businesses.

"They must embrace, seek, and create change with a passion, and be 'fragile' in their approach - maintaining the right balance between the traditional way things are done and still being agile." His words ring particularly true as the world starts to emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic and businesses look for ways to rebuild not only themselves but also the communities and countries in which they operate.

The pandemic has left many individuals, businesses, and countries floundering and businesses have had to, and will still need to, take proactive measures to get the best deal for shareholders, staff and customers, he says. Banks need to respond in a timely manner to changes in customer behaviour.

Wigwe has championed the need for increased digital banking and has forged partnerships aimed at nurturing the next generation of fintechs, while also developing products to support digital payments across Africa.

A dizzying ascent

Access Bank was a small commercial bank, ranked 65th in size out of 89 banks in the country when Wigwe and his business partner, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, acquired it in 2002.

It was scaled up through a series of strategic mergers and acquisitions over the years and in 2020 it is not only Nigeria's biggest bank, it is rapidly becoming one of the top financial institutions in Africa. Wigwe took over from Aig-Imoukhuede as the bank's MD/CEO in 2014 and has been driving its expansion, both in terms of footprint and product diversification, ever since.

The bank currently serves over 4m individual and corporate account-holders through over 600 branches and more than 3,000 ATMs in major centres across Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa, and the UK. It is now ranked among the top five banks in Nigeria in terms of assets, loans, deposits and branch network. The growth strategy over the years has relied heavily on mergers and acquisitions to build capacity and market strength.

In 2005, it acquired Marina Bank and Capital Bank and a few years later, it acquired the shares of Omnifinance Bank. It took a leap forward with the 2011 acquisition of Intercontinental Bank. But the deal that really set it ahead of the pack in terms of size was the 2019 acquisition of Diamond Bank, another top-tier Nigerian institution, in a deal worth \$200m.



Access Bank Group Managing Director, Herbert Wigwe.

It has also continued with its quest to increase its global footprint and now has subsidiaries in Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Gambia in West Africa and beyond, in Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Zambia. As of June 2020, the bank serviced more than 36m customers across the continent.

It also has an operation in the UK and representative offices in China, India, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. Wigwe said earlier this year that the group is planning to increase its rest-of-Africa business.

"We want to have subsidiaries across 22 countries over the next five years, with strategic plans to be present in the major trade corridors on the African continent. Building on our successful expansion into Kenya, we will also be making entry into Angola and Mozambique.

"At the moment, Access Bank does not have a presence in the Francophone region of Africa, and we will be working to see that this is changed in the coming years. By 2023, Access Bank will have consolidated its position as Africa's gateway to the world with about 100m customers in Nigeria and additional 20m customers across our African subsidiaries." The group is relying on its digital capability and innovative payments solutions to take the business to the next level as part of its expansion strategy.

Bridging financial literacy gaps
The Access Africa Platform is the Bank's fund transfer product designed to provide instant intra-African transfers. "Access Bank is set to revolutionise the payment and banking landscape in Africa. We will soon be introducing a new payment system that will allow users to enjoy a secure, seamless and convenient service when making payments at merchant locations without cash or

card," Wigwe says. This, he explains, will help to bridge financial literacy gaps in both Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa.

In mid-2020, Wigwe was named the African Banker of the Year at the African Banker Awards, an annual awards ceremony hosted by African Banker magazine under the High Patronage of the African Development Bank.

The award recognised Wigwe's many achievements. Over the 12-year period starting from when he was still the deputy CEO, he has grown Access Bank's balance sheet by 1,022%, from \$901m in 2007 to \$19.7bn in 2019, while pre-tax profits rose to \$316m from \$21m over the same period. This was more than the cumulative profit made by the bank in the previous 12 years.

The CEO was recognised for several socio-economic efforts, including leading Nigeria's private sector Covid-19 response. The bank donated more than \$2.7m to support the government in fighting the virus, while championing the Coalition Against Covid-19 initiative in Nigeria.

Receiving his award, Wigwe spoke of the need for organisations to embrace the institutionalisation and practice of sustainable banking. "Financing and facilitating a sustainable future for Africa, and indeed the world is something I am most passionate about. "Now, more than ever, Africa needs us to unite as we seek to improve access to health care, sustainable energy, finance, and improve the standard of living in our communities.

"I enjoin all stakeholders to be a part of the facilitation of a truly sustainable future for Africa. The future of our respective organisations and the future of generations to come depend on the alliances we form and the actions we take."

Strong policy action required to maintain economic recovery, IMF chief reiterates

WASHINGTON

The global economy continued a better-than-expected recovery in the third quarter of this year, but as momentum slows with a surge in Covid-19 infections, policy makers must continue to provide fiscal and monetary support, the International Monetary Fund's chief said. "Data since our latest projections confirm the global recovery has continued," Kristalina Georgieva, IMF managing director, said in a blogpost ahead of the G20 leaders' virtual summit this week.

Third quarter economic activity was better than expected in United States, Japan, and the Euro area, she said. On Thursday the latest data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows economic output rebounded in some of the 37 OECD member states by 9.0 per cent in the third quarter, after unprecedented falls in the first half of the year. However it remains 4.3 per cent below its pre-crisis high. "The most recent data for contact-intensive service industries [however] point to a slowing momentum in economies where the pandemic is resurging," Ms Georgieva said.

Even with a breakthrough in vaccines, the resurgence of the pandemic shows how uncertain an economic recovery will be, she said. The virus has infected 56.5 million people and claimed more than 1.35 million lives. Its resurgence has forced some of Europe's biggest economies back into lockdowns.

Financial lifelines, such as cash transfers to households and augmented unemployment benefits that were rolled out early on in the pandemic by governments, have either ended, or are set to expire by the end of the year. Job losses, especially in the travel and tourism sector, are still projected to be sizable, Ms Georgieva said.

"That is why we need continued strong policy action to combat un-

certainty," she said. "Success here depends on us acting swiftly - and acting together." Key priorities for countries are ending the health crisis, reinforcing an economic bridge to recovery and building the foundation of a better global economy, Ms Georgieva said.

The virus has tipped the global economy into its worst recession since the 1930s. Last month, the IMF said it expects global output to shrink 4.4 per cent this year and expand 5.2 per cent next year. Ms Georgieva urged the group of world's 20 biggest economies, the G20, to continue multilateral efforts to help the poorest nations through the crisis.

Since March, the group has rolled out nearly \$12 trillion in fiscal stimulus. That has been supported by about \$7.5tn in monetary actions by central banks globally. These measures have supported the global banking system, provided liquidity to financial markets and put a floor under the global economy.

G20 leaders are meeting online November 21 and 22 for their annual summit held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia this year. Continued support of poor and indebted countries is imperative, Ms Georgieva said in a separate G20, surveillance Note to the G20 leadership.

"Debt relief, grants and concessional financing, including from private creditors, will help [these] economies conserve international liquidity," she said. It will help these economies to "direct scarce resources to health spending and economic relief for their populations until the crisis subsides."

Earlier this month finance ministers and central bankers agreed on a joint framework to restructure government debt owed by some of the poorest nations. The move follows the group's initiative of a time-bound debt suspension of 44 countries in April, making \$14 billion in funds available to fighting the pandemic.

The IMF chief called for similar measures that mirrored US President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which were a series of programmes, projects, financial reforms, and regulations enacted to pull America out of the Great Depression. Ms Georgieva also called for a "synchronised infrastructure investment push" in the post-pandemic era to "invigorate growth, limit scarring, and address climate goals."



Kristalina Georgieva, IMF managing director.

WORLD

Biden forges ahead with building team as transition proceeds

WILMINGTON

US Democrat Joe Biden on Tuesday began a new phase in his transition to the White House after the Trump administration gave the Democrat access to critical resources that will enable him to take the reins of power in January.

The General Services Administration's announcement on Monday that it would formally recognize Biden's transition came after weeks of the president falsely claiming that the Nov 3 election had been marred by widespread voter fraud.

Trump, in a post on Twitter, offered support for the move.

Critics have said the president's refusal to accept the results undermined US democracy and undercut the next administration's ability to fight the novel coronavirus.

While Trump stopped short of conceding, it was the closest he has come to acknowledging that it is time to hand over power to Biden, who will take office on Jan 20.

The GSA announcement will allow the president-elect to access millions of dollars in funds and focus on putting together a leadership team.

It also paves the way for Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris to receive regular national security briefings that Trump also gets.

On Tuesday, Biden and Harris are expected to formally introduce their appointments to critical national security and foreign policy positions in Wilmington, Delaware.

Two Trump administration officials said the Biden agency review teams could begin interacting with Trump agency officials as

soon as Tuesday.

The Biden transition team said meetings would begin with federal officials on Washington's response to the coronavirus pandemic, along with discussions of national security issues.

Biden on Monday tapped trusted aide Antony Blinken to head the State Department and John Kerry, a former US senator, secretary of state and 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, to serve as his special climate envoy.

Biden, who plans to undo many of Trump's "America First" policies, also named Jake Sullivan as his national security adviser and Linda Thomas-Greenfield as US ambassador to the United Nations - both with high-level government experience.

He is likely to tap former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen to become the next Treasury secretary, according to two Biden allies, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel decision that was not yet public.

'BEST INTEREST'

On Monday evening, Sue Gough, a spokeswoman for the Pentagon, said that the Department of Defense had been contacted by the Biden-Harris team.

"DoD is prepared to provide post-election services and support in a professional, orderly, and efficient manner that is befitting of the public's expectation of the Department and our commitment to national security," Gough said.

While Trump on Monday said he backed GSA Administrator Emily Murphy's decision, he and his advisers vowed to continue fight-



This combination of pictures created on November 23, 2020 shows US Ambassador to Liberia Linda Thomas-Greenfield in New York City; US Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden in Wilmington, Delaware; Avril Haines, former deputy national security advisor and former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in Washington, DC; Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas in New York City; US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington, DC; and former US Secretary of State John Kerry in Paris. Biden announced on Monday the nomination of Thomas-Greenfield to serve as United Nations Ambassador, the nomination of Haines to serve as Director of National Intelligence, the nomination of Blinken as his secretary of state secretary of state, the nomination of Mayorkas to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security and the nomination of Kerry to serve as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. (PHOTO/ AFP)

ing the election results.

"Our case STRONGLY continues, we will keep up the good ... fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same," Trump said on Twitter.

Trump later said on Twitter that his team would move "full speed ahead" with challenging "what will go down as the most corrupt election in American political history," adding that he would "never concede."

Biden won 306 state-by-state electoral votes to Trump's 232. Biden also holds a lead of more than 6 million in the national popular vote. Murphy's decision to allow the formal transition followed weeks of failed legal efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the election in key battleground states.

Murphy, who was appointed to the GSA job by Trump, said she faced threats for not starting the transition earlier and told GSA employees in a letter that the decision to do so was hers alone.

The letter came shortly after Michigan officials certified Biden as the victor in their state.

Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, a Republican, is due to meet with state supreme court justices on Tuesday to certify that state's vote. Biden won Nevada by more than 33,000 votes, according to the Nevada secretary of state's office.

Representative Don Beyer, who led the Obama administration's transition at the Commerce Department in 2008, said on Monday that Murphy's delay was "costly and unnecessary" and warned that Trump could still do great harm in his remaining time in office.

China ready to boost COVID-19 vaccine cooperation with Germany - Xi

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Tuesday that China stands ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Germany on COVID-19 vaccines and push for the vaccines to be fairly distributed as a global public good, especially for the benefit of developing countries.

Xi made the remarks in a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Recalling that he and Merkel both attended the Group of 20 summit days ago, Xi noted that both sides advocate upholding multilateralism, boosting international cooperation, joining forces against the coronavirus dis-

ease, reinvigorating the world economy, and jointly tackling global challenges.

Currently, with Europe and some other regions in the world facing the test of a second wave of the pandemic, it remains a top priority for all parties to work together to fight the epidemic, Xi stressed.

Since the onset of the pandemic, he noted, China and Germany have kept communication in a flexible way, with practical cooperation continuing to advance.

China is actively fostering a new development pattern and steadfastly expanding domestic demand and opening-up, which will bring new opportunities to Germany, Xi pointed out, adding that Chi-



na also hopes that Germany and the European Union (EU) will be open to Chinese enterprises.

He suggested that the two sides maintain mutual respect and always stick to the overall direction of dialogue and cooperation as well as the general principle of mutual benefit.

He also conveyed his hope that the new round of China-

Germany intergovernmental consultations will make plans for the two countries' cooperation in various fields.

Pointing out that China-EU cooperation is gaining more global and strategic significance in the complicated international situation, Xi said the two sides need to enhance mutual trust and cooperation, strengthen exchanges and mutual learning, safeguard multilateralism and improve global governance.

He recalled that a number of consensus were reached during his video conference with Merkel, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in September, adding

that they are all being implemented.

China, he added, is ready to maintain continuous close communication with the EU on their major agendas for the next phase and strive to conclude China-EU investment treaty negotiations as scheduled.

He also called for joint efforts to promote the establishment of China-EU dialogue mechanisms on environment and climate as well as digital cooperation, make China and the EU green partners and digital partners, and inject robust impetus into the development of the China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership under the new circumstances.

Xinhua

Egyptian president says COVID-19 vaccine 'unavailable' in Egypt before mid-2020

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said on Tuesday that vaccines for the novel coronavirus will not be available in Egypt before mid-2020.

Sisi made the remarks in a televised speech during his

meeting with Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly and a number of ministers to discuss the pandemic crisis.

The president stressed that the government will sign contracts in a few days to buy the vaccines, adding that the vaccines can be delivered to

Egypt between July and December next year. He said a scientific committee following the recently developed COVID-19 vaccines will decide which kind the government would buy.

Addressing the Egyptian people, Sisi warned that the

pandemic is still ongoing, urging them to implement the preventive measures in order to avoid more infections. Sisi said he had discussed with Madbouly and the ministers the second wave of the pandemic, infection rates, hospitals readiness

as well as the measures taken by the government to contain the spread of the virus. Egypt has so far recorded 113,381 infections, 6,560 deaths, and 101,981 recoveries since its first confirmed COVID-19 case on Feb. 14.

Xinhua

India's most populous state brings law to fight 'love jihad'

By Bloomberg

INDIA'S most populous state has vowed to fight what it calls "love jihad" and has declared interfaith marriages illegal if the purpose is the religious conversion of the woman, in the latest move that could potentially further divide the South Asian nation along religious lines.

States led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party call interfaith marriages "love jihad" -- a reference to an alleged conspiracy of Muslim men luring Hindu women into marriage for conversion.

Ministers in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party's firebrand priest Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday approved the law that also proposes jail sentences as long as 10 years for offenders.

The heated election campaign rhetoric that's turned into legislation has triggered a debate on whether such a law will curb religious and civil liberties guaranteed by the constitution of the world's largest democracy.

At least five BJP-ruled states have announced their intention to pass similar laws but until now, only Himachal Pradesh has enacted its Religious Freedom Act, which came into force last year.

Since his re-election in 2019, Modi revoked Article 370 of the constitution that granted special autonomous status to India's only Muslim-majority state, Jammu and Kashmir, and approved a citizenship law that discriminates based on religion.

He has also pushed for a national citizens registry in the northeastern state of Assam and laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Hindu temple at a site where a 16th century mosque was razed.

The new law requires a person seeking religious conversion ahead of marriage to send an application to the district magistrate, the top administrator in a district, two months in advance, a minister with the provincial government told the media on Tuesday according to the Indian Express newspaper.

The legislation does not ban interfaith marriages except those for the sole purpose of conversion, but it will go a long way in discouraging mixed marriages as the couples may be harassed by the police and the authorities.

Mixed marriages, seen as essential to and an indicator of social harmony, are already rare in India. In the country's capital city only 589 marriages were interfaith, out of 19,250 registered during the first nine months last year, according to official data reported by a news network News18.

EU chief: Poland, Hungary should go to court on rule of law spat

BRUSSELS

POLAND and Hungary should ask the European Union's top court to assess the link between access to EU money and observing the rule of law, instead of blocking the EU's 2021-2027 budget and recovery plan, the head of the European Commission said.

The suggestion by Ursula von der Leyen is one of the possible ways EU officials have been discussing informally to end the vetoes of Warsaw and Budapest that are holding up 1.8 trillion euros (US\$2.14 trillion) of EU funds to lift the economy of the 27-nation bloc.

Speaking to the European Parliament, Von der Leyen (pictured) stressed that the EU's rule that the bloc's funds can only be sent to governments that observe the rule of law would be applied only to protect EU budget funds.

"We are talking here about the violations of the rule of law that are threatening the EU budget and only that," she said. "It is very difficult to imagine anybody in Europe who would possibly have anything against that principle."

Poland and Hungary, who are under formal EU investigation for undermining the independence of courts, media and non-governmental organizations, fear they risk losing access to tens of billions of euros over the next seven years.

"Anyone still in doubt has a clear path. They can go to the European Court of Justice and allow the new rules to be tested there," von der Leyen said.

"That is the place where differences of opinion about legislative texts are usually settled and it is not done at the expense of millions and millions of European citizens who are urgently waiting for our help," she said.

Resolving the issue is also in the interest of Poland and Hungary which are to receive one of the highest amounts per capita from the EU, badly needed to help their economies overcome the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agencies



Fruitful CIEE promotes China-Africa trade relationship

THE third China International Import Expo (CIEE), held between November 5 and 10 in Shanghai, is one of the few international conferences to physically take place this year following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Despite the uncertainties in the global market caused by the pandemic, the value of tentative deals reached for one-year purchases of goods and services at the third CIEE reached \$72.62 billion, a 2.1 percent year-on-year increase.

Zoey, the China Operations Director of the South

Africa-China Cross-Border E-Commerce Association, told People's Daily Online that through the platform offered by this year's CIEE, they have received many orders and several cooperation intentions.

At the signing ceremony concluded at the exhibition hall on the 8th, Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub Group and Karen Beef formally signed a beef purchase intent agreement worth \$90 million.

Zoey said the corporation not only has an optimistic view of South African prod-

ucts entering the Chinese market, but also a high starting point for the two parties to continue to explore their cooperation pattern.

Justin Lee is the manager of one import and export trade company in China and two companies registered in South Africa.

He has signed a total of \$2 million in deals on import and export trade of agricultural products from South Africa. His company has also signed a letter of intent for strategic cooperation with a leading global rescue insurance company from France.

"The outcome from this expo for us is the best since the first expo in 2018," he said.

Jacky Li, Chairman of Southern Africa Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director for Launch Technologies SA (Pty) Ltd, said there were orders worth \$5 million for South African red wine, and orders worth \$50 million for "South Africa green diamond" alfalfa grass.

"To meet the rising consumption demand from the market, Chinese importers are willing to spend more to buy," Jacky said.

Initial statistics show that at

least 411 new products, technologies and services made their China or global debuts at this year's CIEE, much higher than the figure last year, according to Sun Chenghai, deputy director-general of the CIEE Bureau.

The six-day expo, which ended on Tuesday, took up nearly 360,000 square meters of exhibition space, an increase of 30,000 sq m from the previous edition. Nearly 400,000 professional visitors attended the event, according to the official website for CIEE.

People's Daily



Exhibitor from South Africa introduces diamond product to visitors at CIEE on November 8. File photo



Musician Zuhura Othman, popularly known as 'Zuchu' (L), speaks at a press conference, held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, for unveiling the artiste as a brand ambassador for a cosmetic supplying firm, Tridea Cosmetics. Seating (R) is the firm's Chief Executive Officer, Grace Luswaga. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Dar artiste announced as cosmetics firm's brand ambassador

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

PROMISING Tanzanian artiste, Zuhura Othman, popularly known as 'Zuchu', was yesterday announced as a brand ambassador for a cosmetic supplying firm, Tridea Cosmetics.

Zuchu, a singer, songwriter and recording artiste, has been signed under WCB Wasafi music troupe's record label.

The artiste, Tridea Cosmetics stated, will be featured in all of the company's products' advertisements which will run across TV, print media, online channels as well as in-store.

Tridea Cosmetics' Chief Executive Officer, Grace Luswaga, stated: "Zuchu is a strong, passionate woman and an advocate for others."

"She is the perfect ambassador to talk about the role of beauty and our products play in helping women to feel their best. Tridea Cosmetics admires her for her principles and her talent."

"Tridea Cosmetics' female product heritage lies in creating beauty products that, at the touch of a

button, remove the barriers to achieving beautiful hair and skin."

"Tridea Cosmetics wants every woman to glow inside and out with the confidence that comes with feeling beautiful and Zuchu is the ideal woman to help us communicate this."

The musician, who was present at the press briefing, said that she was

excited to be appointed as the face of Tridea Cosmetics.

She disclosed this is a win for all Tanzanian women and girls across the country.

She said: "I always set the bar high for myself with everything I do, but to now be a brand ambassador for

Tridea Cosmetics, it feels like a new level to me."

"The Tridea Cosmetics brand stands for both beauty and female strength and I'm excited to help define what that means to a new generation of women," she said.

She moreover noted that her mother, renowned Tanzanian Taarab singer Khadija Kopa, also uses Tridea Cosmetics products and she has grown up using the same.

Zuchu comes from a musical family and background, given she is a daughter of the revered female Taarab musician, Khadija.

Zuchu started singing at a tender age and later collaborated with her mother Khadija on a song, titled 'Mauzauza', from her debut Extended Play (EP), titled 'I am Zuchu EP'.

She is also known for her breakout tracks, including 'CHECHE' which she featured musician Nassib Abdul 'Diamond Platinumz'.

Zuchu is the ultimate triple threat, music artiste, social media sensation. She continues to set and conquer goals in music and society in general.

Youtube and music generations: Saying farewell to CHAMUDATA?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WHETHER or not there will be more events where what is usually known as 'dance music' shall still be able to bring together stakeholders and policy makers around a table or conference hall to actually seek to map out the way for the future, or let each musical group modernize, is a perennial issue.

The reason is that from the turn of the century (some people prefer to use millennium, which is but a coincidence) it is not music as a whole which needs a policy tool or professional union.

It is a section of that profession, often identified with traditional dance music, and the issue arises if 'dance music' is a distinctive identity.

What distinguishes this group from those who came later is that the 'non-dance music' group, called hip hop (as if they were just jumping about) or 'Bongo Flavor' (implying the music belongs elsewhere but has some local characteristics) is that they talk commerce, not rules - and even less, unions.

As local music-based radios mushroomed in the past two decades, an issue came up from the older group, the 'dance music' fraternity, that radios provide bits of payment on each of recorded music they use from artistes.

It is an idea that has been raised versus search engines like Google, the need to pay newspapers for content.

As in the paying for content demand, what search engines would do if this demand was made an official requirement for the use of that content, they would just cut it out and use other material for which they would not be asked to pay.

The irony about the need for radios to pay artistes for content instead of using it for free has in the past two or three years reached a climax, an irony of sorts, when a major producer of music himself went on to set up a radio station, privileging music from that group.

It was a gesture that reinforced



Morogoro's Waluguru Original Band's Director and vocalist, Deogratius David, in action at one of the troupe's recent shows, which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

es the view that using artistes' content is publicity for them, not a line of earning in the first place.

It means that earnings for artistes remain the same as it was the case before, namely appearances in public where the public pays to enter, or appearing in functions where the sponsors of that function also pay the musicians as part of the overall arrangement.

The new or latter-day generation of musicians not only have their halls full to capacity but also have a channel to branding their work and appearing on search engines as commercial items like any other.

Here the service provider can set out a tiny sum of money for one to become a member, browsing and using the music at will. Perhaps one dollar per year; a million fans pay.

It is apparent that this way of conducting music business is catching up as so many youths now carry the sort of mobile phones that allow them to continuously tune in to 'work stations' of their choice.

And if one takes the 'one dollar' payment as standard

to join a service provider for a year, they can get as many as there are fans who wish for access to their songs.

The older methods of buying single copies or albums in old fashioned plates, cassettes or even later formats like flash discs are now generally outdated, though they still provide for the majority of those not capable of maintaining Youtube spots, as it costs money.

So long as musicians depend on flash discs where songs can be picked for free and packaged either as 'the best' of a certain group or just mingled with others on the basis of a customer's preference as to what songs should be in the disc.

It obviously is publicity for an artiste or a group but the trouble is that these traditional groups don't have brands that are active among the youth, in which case the market seems too narrow for them.

Their main areas of demand are elderly social gatherings where the music is supposed to be respectful of norms in a family or religious setting away from the wild throbs of

'Saturday night fever.'

Instead of interpreting this social image and representational difference, the traditional music group has often taken an idealistic self-portrayal, tied to the idea that their music was for entertainment, while the new generation is bent on cash.

More accurately, the problem is that the older numbers can only be set into Youtube in some generic mode, not as one band after another as there aren't so many fans.

One can have a series of Bongo Flavor big names on Youtube, each independently, but hardly the classical bands.

While the start of an FM radio station by a music group was one thing, another musician in the past year has taken up as bonafide sponsor of a premier league soccer side.

He had to drop off as a player as he cannot assure being on training and then conduct business in a continuous manner, but he definitely is not one to rely on stage appearances of a chancy sort, or being invited somewhere. It is a different world altogether.

ICC must deliver world events or sport will suffer, says new chairman

WELLINGTON

NEW International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Greg Barclay told Reuters on Wednesday his organisation must deliver their pinnacle events over the next three years or there will be serious financial consequences for the sport.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the ICC to reschedule three of their world tournaments, and Barclay, confirmed as chairman of the global governing body on Tuesday, said they were contracted to deliver them within the current broadcasting agreement.

"We have got to deliver the world events that are to come and those that

are postponed," Barclay told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday of the agreements that expire in mid-2023.

"Not just for the cricketing outcomes but there are commercial concerns as well."

The men's 2020 Twenty20 World Cup in Australia and 2021 women's World Cup in New Zealand have been moved to 2022, while the men's 2023 World Cup in India has been pushed back to later that year.

"If we fail to deliver all of those events then we will be penalised by the broadcasters and we won't receive the last of the ongoing payments," added Barclay.

REUTERS



The Scope Experience Company Manager, Herbert Rweikiza (R), speaks to journalist (not on the picture) in Mwanza yesterday on the coming boat race which is expected to take place in the city on December 13. The race is financially supported by Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group. Seating (L-R) are Mwanza Boat Race Association's Chairman, Manzese Nkunzu, and TBL Group's Mwanza Zone Marketing Manager, Issa Makani. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TBL

Mwanza now set to host boat race

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's edition of Tanzania Boat Race will be held in Mwanza next month, with 40 teams expected to compete in the race.

The boat race, organizers disclosed yesterday, is hosted by The Scope Experience Company.

The firm's manager, Herbert Rweikiza, said the competition will be held on December 13 and the 40 teams

come from Ilemela, Nyamagana, Ukerewe, Buchosa and Sengerema districts, and islands which are in Lake Victoria.

Rweikiza thanked boat race stakeholders who have made it easy for The Scope Experience Company to host the competition this year.

He mentioned the stakeholders, who have facilitated the event's hosting this year, as Mwanza Boat Race Association, regional Arts and

Culture office, the Association of Mwaloni Market and Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group, through the firm's Balimi Extra Lager brand.

"This is a very unique competition, we want to make it an annual event in Mwanza and we have planned to, next year, involve all regions found on the lakes' shores, ore regions," he disclosed.

"The regions are, Mara, Simiyu, Geita, Kagera, found

on Lake Victoria shore, and Kigoma, which is on Lake Tanganyika shore, and I promise it will be more improved," he said.

He said, on top of entertaining people and presenting participants with chance to win cash prizes, the boat race is also a means for promoting tourism in the Lake Zone.

Rweikiza also disclosed that they will use the competition to sensitize fishermen

and people from surrounding areas on valuing health.

He said during the campaign, emphasis will be on HIV/Aids, malaria and unplanned pregnancies among the youths who are at great risk of contracting the ailments.

He disclosed there will also be promotion for Balimi Extra Lager in some parts of Mwanza.

He asked fishermen in Mwanza and surrounding

areas to register for the competition at 10 designated centres in the region.

Issa Makani, TBL Mwanza Zone Marketing Manager, said his company is sponsoring the competition through Balimi Extra Lager brand as they value the support they get from people of Mwanza and surrounding regions.

He said this is the 10th year TBL Group is bankrolling the competition, as the aim is to entertain people and at

the same time improve their lives.

"This is the tenth year TBL Group is sponsoring the boat race, we will continue supporting the event as we believe that through this competition we are entertaining people and, at the same time, some people make money by selling their products and services while winners are assured of getting the cash prizes from the company," he said.

Doha's rivals to play in Arab tournament in Qatar

DOHA

SAUDI Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt will compete in the 22-nation Arab Cup tournament in Qatar in 2021, despite their political and economic boycott of Doha, FIFA said Tuesday.

The competition, to be staged from December 1 to December 18, 2021, will be vital for Qatar to test key infrastructure ahead of the 2022 World Cup, opportunities for which have been limited by the coronavirus crisis.

"We are delighted that all 22 teams from across the Arab world have agreed to take part in the FIFA Arab Cup 2021, which will be held in FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums, and we are looking forward to seeing the region's best teams battle it out," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino in a statement.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, along with Bahrain which will also participate, abruptly broke off ties with Qatar in 2017 over their claims that Doha was supporting radical Islamist movements and backed Iran, denied by Qatar.

In 2017 the three Gulf countries opposed to Qatar boycotted a regional tournament due to be held in Doha, only participating after the venue was switched to Kuwait.

However in 2019, the countries agreed to participate in the same competition in Qatar, reversing an earlier decision to stay away.

Time to stage large-scale test events ahead of 2022 is running out.

Qatar's delayed Education City stadium launched on June 15, not with a major test fixture but with a virtual inauguration and has yet to host a public match.

Of the eight grounds Qatar will use for 2022, only the new Al-Janoub stadium, inaugurated in May 2019, the refurbished Al-Khalifa International venue, and Education City have so far hosted major public fixtures.

The Qatar Airways International Cup, a mini tournament of four European nations planned as a warm-up for Euro 2020, had been scheduled for late March but also fell victim to COVID-19.

Qatar will host the coronavirus-delayed Club World Cup from February 1 to 11, 2021.

AFP

Schalke in crisis: director departs, players suspended

GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

GERMAN club Schalke plunged further into chaos Tuesday with the departure of its technical director and suspension of three players amid a historic winless streak.

The club said striker Vedad Ibisevic's contract will be dissolved effective Dec. 31, and Algeria midfielder Nabil Bentaleb will leave at the end of the season "at the latest." Both players were suspended, as was Moroccan midfielder Amine Harit. He and Bentaleb will train individually "until further notice," the team said.

Earlier Tuesday, Schalke said technical director Michael Reschke was leaving after a mutual agreement to end his contract immediately.

Reschke, who joined the Gelsenkirchen-based club in 2019, had been responsible for squad planning among other duties.

"Ultimately we had a different view for the sporting future of the club," sporting director Jochen Schneider said.

Schalke dropped to the bottom of the Bundesliga last weekend after its club-record winless streak in the league stretched to 24 games with a 2-0 loss at home to Wolfsburg on Saturday.

Sky TV reported Sunday that the players had a dispute with coach Manuel Baum.

Schneider denied media reports that defender Benjamin Stambouli left the stadium after being substituted off during half time in the defeat to Wolfsburg.

Schalke next plays at Borussia Monchengladbach on Saturday. Gladbach was the last Bundesliga team that Schalke defeated, on Jan. 17, before its winless run began.

Only Tasmania Berlin went longer (31 games) without a win in the Bundesliga.

Schalke won a German Cup game on Nov. 3, beating fourth-tier Schweinfurt 4-1.

AP

Kaizer Chiefs under pressure as 2021 CAF Champions League starts

JOHANNESBURG

GAVIN Hunt-coached Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa will be under enormous pressure to succeed when the 2021 CAF Champions League kicks off this week with 22 preliminary-round first legs.

It will be the sixth appearance in the elite competition by a club that have never delivered results to match boasts by officials that they are among the giants of Africa.

Chiefs have yet to progress beyond the qualifying stage, leaving many pundits questioning how seriously their players take participation in the Champions League.

Hunt also has a lot to prove having regularly flopped in the Champions League and the second-tier CAF Confederation Cup with Bidvest Wits before joining Chiefs recently.

Chiefs chairman and former star Kaizer Motaung is demanding better ahead of tricky away fixture against debutants PWD Bamenda in



Tunisian club Esperance won back-to-back CAF Champions League titles in 2018 and 2019. (Agencies)

Cameroon.

"We have not done as well as we should have. Succeeding in Africa is important to Kaizer Chiefs and I believe we possess sufficient experienced players to go far," he said.

Here, AFP Sport presents a guide to the 2021 edition of a competition which kicks off Friday, the same day Egyptian clubs Al Ahly and Zamalek meet in the 2020 final.

Qualifying

The 12 highest ranked nations among the 54

Confederation of African Football (CAF) members and two associate members are permitted to enter their national league winners and runners-up.

Other countries must settle for one entrant -- ordinarily the league champions -- unless financial constraints or a suspension opens the door to another team.

There are preliminary and last-32 qualifying rounds and, depending on the number of competitors, consistently successful clubs like Ahly and Zamalek re-

ceive byes to the round of 32.

North rules

North African clubs, led by record eight-time title-holders Ahly, have dominated the Champions League for decades with TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo the notable exception.

Seven of the last 10 finals have been won by Ahly (three), Esperance Tunis (two), Entente Setif and Wydad Casablanca (one each), all clubs from the north.

Mazembe (twice) and

Mamelodi Sundowns from South Africa (once) were the other champions and, significantly, they enjoy huge financial backing from Moise Katumbi and Patrice Motsepe respectively.

Title favourites

Seven of the 2020 quarter-finalists are back for another title challenge with Etoile Sahel of Tunisia the only club to miss out.

All seven -- Ahly, Zamalek, Esperance, Raja Casablanca, Wydad, Mazembe, Sundowns -- are among the favourites given their CAF pedigrees.

It is difficult to imagine the winners coming from outside that group although twice champions Enyimba of Nigeria and the multi-national squad of Horoya from Guinea could go far.

'Presidential' contenders

FC Nouadhibou of Mauritania and Sundowns have links to Ahmed Yahya and Motsepe, two of the contenders for the CAF presidency, which will be decided in Morocco next March.

Mauritanian Football Federation president

Yahya founded Nouadhibou, popularly known as the Orange Club, 21 years ago and they host twice African champions Asante Kotoko of Ghana this weekend.

Billionaire businessman Motsepe has bankrolled Pretoria-based Sundowns for more than a decade and turned the 'Brazilians' into the dominant South African club with a record 10 league titles.

Prize money Champions League title-holders pocket \$2.5 million (2.1m euros), double the prize money that goes to the winners of the CAF Confederation Cup, the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League.

Runners-up receive \$1.25 million, semi-finalists \$875,000 each, quarter-finalists \$650,000 apiece and third and fourth-place group finishers \$550,000 each.

Clubs eliminated in the preliminary and last-32 rounds receive no cash from CAF -- a bone of contention given the often considerable expenditure on travel and accommodation.

AFP

CAF Champions League final: Five things to know about Ahly, Zamalek

By Colin Udoh, Special to ESPN

A MERE haul of two points out of an expected six from back-to-back games against Sierra Leone have left Gernot Rohr's job as Nigeria coach hanging in the balance.

Within hours of the second leg in Freetown, Nigeria Sports Minister Sunday Dare, whose office oversees Rohr's employers, the Nigeria Football Federation, posted an ominous tweet that doesn't bode well for the German.

"The performance of the Super Eagles from their last two matches calls to question the suitability and competences of Technical Adviser, Rohr. Nigerian football deserves better. The needful will be done. Apologies to all football lovers."

It came as no surprise. Almost as soon as the final whistle went in that game against Sierra Leone in Benin, Rohr's future as Nigeria coach was already up for debate.

His Super Eagles had raced to a commanding 4-0 lead in the opening half hour of the first Africa Cup of Nations qualifier, and looked like running riot all over the then hapless Leone Stars.

But they imploded in the second half, allowing the visitors to claw their way back to an unbelievable 4-4 draw. It was a result that left fans, media and NFF officials numb.

Even Rohr himself admitted that it was a vexing situation to be in.

"If they (fans) say they are vexed about the match and the results, they are right," Rohr said the day after the game.

"We cannot accept

such a result when you lead 4-0 and you lead 4-1 at halftime. What happened in the second half?"

He blamed the collapse on the poor preparations leading up to the game. According to Rohr, late player arrivals did not allow enough time for the team to prepare properly, both on a mental and physical level.

He said: "For me the facts are that we had a very bad preparation. The players arrived very late, even the day before the match, we had only one quality training together."

"Physically and mentally they lost energy in the second half. And the collapse came. And then came this injury to our main striker."

"I think mentally, especially our young players are not strong enough for these kind of games. But I think at half-time the players believed it was finished."

Rohr was not alone in pointing to poor preparation. Prior to the game, Philip Shuaibu, the deputy governor of Edo State, where the game was played, came to train WITH the team. Both NFF President Amaju Pinnick and Sports Minister Dare did the same.

Fans were not amused and took to Twitter to voice their displeasure, stating that not only would their presence be distracting for the team, but it also devalued the national team.

Which is not to say that Rohr escaped criticism for allowing the VIPs to train with his team either, and as his squad departed to Sierra Leone for the return leg, sources at the NFF told ESPN that a loss could well spell the end of his time with the Super



Al Ahly pose before drawing with Mamelodi Sundowns in a 2020 CAF Champions League quarter-final in South Africa. (Agencies)

Eagles.

It was something the German himself seemed to acknowledge, as he told ESPN his team would be going for a win, saying: "I am sure they will react because I know my team, I know what they can do. They showed it in the first half. If they can maintain it in the second half, we can do it."

They could not do it. They did show some spark, but were

hampered by an eyesore of a pitch and failed to win.

Rohr's team did not lose, although they did come close to winning. Kelechi Iheanacho saw his headed goal scratched for an unclear offside, and the Leicester man was also denied what looked like a stone-cold penalty when he was awkwardly clattered into by the goalkeeper.

But the play was dire, on a field that was

more potato patch than football pitch, and the hosts also had one late chance to nick a late win.

That grim play, and Rohr's selection decisions, cemented the lack of confidence in him.

In particular, his decision to play Kevin Akpoguma, who is unfamiliar with the vagaries of African football, on a difficult ground and dropping left back Zaidu Sanusi,

who has more familiarity with bad patches than Ola Aina.

Plus, on a day when route one football could have been more effective, leaving Paul Onuachu on the bench for all 90 minutes was arguably a mistake.

Nigeria legend Segun Odegbami, a known critic of the German, was withering.

"My belief is that anybody who will coach the Super Eagles now and make us a world class team capable of winning the World Cup must be a world class coach," he told ESPN.

"Rohr definitely cannot deliver that. He is not the world class coach that we are looking for, without question. We have seen him work, for four years now and what we saw at two critical moments, in Russia and in Egypt convinced me that he is not the one to lead Nigeria to El Dorado."

But Pinnick says there is no need to panic. At least not yet.

"It was a good game," he told the media. "It was not the result we expected considering the very horrible turf and the kind of pitches our players play on."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Kaizer Chiefs under pressure as 2021 CAF Champions League starts

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ruvu Shooting's head coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa.

Ruvu Shooting edge out Prisons to consolidate on Premier League table

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

ABDULRAHMAN Mussa scored the all-important goal as Ruvu Shooting defeated Tanzania Prisons 1-0 in Wednesday's Vodacom Premier League early kick off match played at the upgraded Mabatini Stadium in Kibaha, Coast Region.

With this win, the side that is coached by former Yanga secretary general and player, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, has consolidated their fourth position in the league log.

The team currently have 22 points from 12 matches and they are three points ahead of the fifth-placed club, Polisi Tanzania.

Ruvu Shooting were the better side in the opening exchanges and they had an early chance to break the deadlock through David Richard who beat Prisons' defenders and ended up wasting the chance four minutes into the game.

Ruvu Shooting dominated the bulk of ball possession and their efforts finally paid off on the 29th minute as Mussa registered his third goal of the campaign.

No other goals were scored in the first half, and as a result, Ruvu Shooting went into halftime with a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, Tanzania Prisons' head coach Salum Mayanga responded with two changes, as Samson Mbangula and Marco Mhulu came off the bench in an attempt to change the course of the match.

Prisons had a chance to snatch a late equaliser following a goalkeeping error by Ruvu Shooting's Bidii Hussein, but they were quickly closed down by the hosts' defenders who cleared their lines with five minutes left.

The visitors were left to rue that chance as the referee blew the final whistle after three minutes of additional time.

While Ruvu Shooting extended their unbeaten run to seven matches, Prisons have now gone two games without picking maximum points.

Ruvu Shooting line up: Bidii Hussein, Eradius Mfulebe, Cassian Poneru, Juma Nyoso, Shaban Msala, Ahmad Kabasele, Kassim Zuberi, William John Patrick (Mohamed Banka 60th minute), David Richard (Graham Naftal 89th minute), Abdulrahman Mussa, Fulgence Maganga (Victor Godfrey 74th minute).

Tanzania Prisons line up: Jeremiah Kisubi, Benjamin Asukile, Salum Kimenya (Marco Mhulu 66th minute), Ismail Mpesa, Nurdin Chona, Jumanne El-fadhil, Lambert Sabiyanka, Vedastus Mwhambi, Jeremiah Juma, Kassim Mdoe (Samson Mbangula 51st minute), Hamidu Daud.

PCCB starts investigation into Tanzania's involvement in CAF bribery case



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s information officer, Clifford Ndimbo.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has disclosed that it has started investigation into the ongoing Confederation of African Football (CAF) bribery saga, which the country is linked to.

John Mbungu, PCCB Director, said they have started going into details of the allegations related to CAF money in order to have the truth of the matter, which is making headlines across the world.

He said although Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has made its stand known on the matter, probing it further is vital so as to prove the federation is free from any wrong doing.

"We have already started investigations on the matter, we are aware that the TFF has clarified their stand on the saga," he noted.

He disclosed: "As you know, one of our core responsibilities is to investigate the misuse of funds, maladministration and corruption."

"We cannot just remain quiet without taking any measures whenever we have such information on our table

whether it concerns a public or private entity," he said.

He said PCCB started the investigations immediately after they heard about the development.

"Our team has started to investigate so as to ensure that we get all the required information and let justice prevail," he said.

This is the first time that PCCB probes into corruption, malpractice and misuse of funds in the football sector at the domestic level.

The PCCB did it after it had emerged that there was misuse of funds during the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-17 Championship finals, hosted by Tanzania last year.

Mbungu assured the public that the bureau is still investigating the matter.

He stated: "When the issue under investigation consists of many people, definitely, you expect the entire process to take some time because our job is to let justice prevail and not implicate innocent people into the concerned issue."

"The AFCON U-17 Championship finals' money touched many people and ministries, as such, you can not complete the whole process within a short period of time, or else, you can take into account those people who were never involved," he said.

He continued: "The misuse of AFCON U-17 Championship's preparation money is very broad hence we are keenly going into available details in order to allow the rule of law take its course without favouring anyone."

President John Magufuli was the first to donate 1bn/- for the preparation of the country's U-17 football team 'Serengeti Boys' for the AFCON U-17 Championship assignment which was followed by donations from other stakeholders but later, it was alleged that the donated funds were mismanaged.

On Tuesday, TFF clarified that they are not linked to bribery which was made in 2007 and has led to a five-year ban of CAF president, Ahmed Ahmed, issued

by world football governing body, FIFA.

Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, in a press release, clarified that CAF executive committee in 2017 agreed to give its member associations (including TFF) \$100,000 each for football development.

Funds totaling \$80,000 went to respective associations' bank accounts and the remaining \$20,000 was for activities of the Football Associations (FAs) presidents' personal functions, as they are not paid for.

Ndimbo said due to financial constraints that TFF was facing, the federation's president Wallace Karia directed that his office money (\$20,000) should be used for the federation activities.

"There has been misleading information on the ban by CAF president Ahmed, some people are linking it to the money (\$100,000) which CAF handed over to its member associations (including TFF) in 2017 for football developments activities and \$20,000 to presidents of National Football Associations."

"On its report FIFA did not say the \$20,000 to presidents were bribes which has led to the five-year ban of Ahmed," said part of the media release from TFF.

The TFF information officer said they clarified the matter last April when the allegations first surfaced and threatened to take legal action against those who will keep spreading the false information.

On Monday, FIFA banned Ahmad from participating in football activities for five years following an ethics investigation by the world soccer governing body.

Ahmad had intended to stand in an election in March in which he would have faced a number of challengers.

The FIFA said in a statement the independent Ethics

Committee has found Ahmad guilty of offering and accepting gifts and other benefits, and misappropriation of funds.

"The world soccer governing body had sanctioned him with a ban from all football-related activities (administrative, sports or any other) at both national and international level for five years," it said.

It also fined him 200,000 Swiss francs (\$200,000).

Mid this week, social media were awash with reports linking the ban of Ahmed to the money which CAF gave to its member associations including Tanzania.

Many local commentators, who made their views public on the money, were linking it to a report by former CAF secretary general, Amr Fahmy, who died earlier this year, sent to FIFA.

In the document, sent to the FIFA investigations committee by Fahmy on March 31, 2019, he accused Ahmad of ordering his secretary general to pay \$20,000 bribes into accounts of African football associations' presidents. They included Cape Verde and Tanzania.

Fahmy was dismissed after he made corruption allegations against Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the decision by FIFA to ban Ahmed has caught many African football associations off-guard as they endorsed him for the second term.

The continental football governing body will hold its elective extraordinary general assembly on March 12 next year in Morocco and reports say Ahmed received a backing from 46 of the African continent's 54 football associations.

The reports indicate that the African Football Associations which did not back the Malagasy national's second term bid are South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Algeria, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Uganda and Sierra Leone.

Namungo FC sets sight on Al Rabita clash

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER starting his reign at Namungo FC's technical bench with the side's 1-1 draw with Yanga in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) game, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend, the former's head coach, Hemed Morocco, has disclosed his club is setting its sight on the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round's first leg match against Al Rabita FC of South Sudan.

Namungo FC will entertain Al Rabita FC in the first leg of the continental club tournament at Azam Complex in the city this weekend.

It will be the first continental club tournament's clash for Namungo FC, which got the ticket to the tournament when it qualified for the final of the 2019 Federation Cup tournament and lost 2-1 to Simba SC.

With Simba SC representing Tanzania in this season's CAF Champions League, Namungo



Namungo FC's head coach, Hemed Morocco

FC was handed the opportunity to compete in the second tier of continental club competitions.

Morocco, who has replaced Thierry Hitimana who

was sacked last week due to Namungo FC's poor results, will lead the team's to Saturday's CAF Confederation Cup match.

The sides will lock horns in the second leg in South Sudan between December 4-6.

Morocco said the VPL match against Yanga was a test for Namungo FC's preparations for this weekend's match.

He disclosed that despite not having the opportunity to assess Al Rabita, he is confident his experience in international tournaments will help Namungo FC do well.

He said he is taking a look at the players he currently has, as well as the type of training he will give them towards the match.

"I hardly have fear for the tournament, despite not getting a chance to assess our opponents, I have a lot of experience in the CAF club tournaments, what is left now is psychologi-

cally build my players to put behind the results of the Yanga clash and focus on the CAF Confederation Cup tie," he disclosed.

He said Namungo FC's biggest weakness that he saw in the squad's training lies in finishing, noting he will work on it.

"There are some minor mistakes committed by defenders including carelessness in defending set pieces, that cost us during our match against Yanga," he noted.

He said he likes goalkeepers, who are comfortable playing the ball with their feet and effectively play part in build ups, qualities Namungo FC keeper Jonathan Nahimana has.

"I always like a goalkeeper like him, let's realize he can also be an outfield player in modern football and he has to go and attack and be very careful, especially when we are attacking," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

