



National Pg 3 Business persons to visit Slovak



National Pg 4 Land ultimatum: Develop or forfeit



National Pg 5 Horticulture saves reserve forests



Flora Andrea, mother of late Defence and National Service minister Elias Kwandikwa, bids her son final farewell beside his grave at Butibu village in Ushetu District, Shinyanga Region, moments after he was buried yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Chadema mob disturbs prayer service, police say 22 nabbed

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

PRAYERS at the Virgin Mary Parish in the city were disturbed on Sunday, upon which the police arrested 22 followers of the main opposition party, Chadema. Acting Regional Police Commander, Gideon Msuya said the disturbance occurred at the church located at the residence of Archbishop Rhenatus Nkwande, head of the archdiocese.

Without mentioning names, he confirmed arrests of 22 Chadema supporters who he said forced entrance into the church. "Chadema supporters intended to disrupt the mass which was also attended by government officials," he said earlier, underlining that the police would seek out the suspects. On Sunday, Chadema through social media

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Dodoma readies for modern pig abattoir

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE World Bank has approved 1bn/- to Tanzania for construction of a state-of-the-art pig slaughterhouse in Dodoma, part of a series of projects on community empowerment and development via International Development Association (IDA) credit. The soft loans window of the World Bank is supporting the Tanzania Cities Transforming Infrastructures and Competitiveness Project (TACTIC), on the basis of the project coordinator at the Dodoma city council, Emmanuel Manyanga. He told The Guardian in an interview that his office was currently working to finalise some key issues in readiness of the eagerly-awaited project, like finding a qualified contractor to undertake the project professionally.

The project is a result of successful implementation of the Tanzania Strategic Cities Project (TSCP) executed in Dodoma for the past ten years (2011-2020) through IDA credit and a grant from Denmark, totaling 147bn/-, he said. Construction of the modern pig abattoir is tied to other projects, with three slaughterhouses for goats and cattle, set to cost around 3bn/-. Dr Gratian Mwesiga, head of the Livestock and Fisheries Department at the city council, said the department has obtained 100 acres of land in Kizota area for project implementation. The Animal Diseases Act (2003) requires that all meat for sale to the public should be slaughtered at official abattoirs after being inspected by the right council officials, he said, noting that the envisaged project will facilitate professional slaughtering of pigs in the fast

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By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 4,105 students have been selected to join Form V in the second selection following the first selection in May, with classes starting early last month. Some of those selected in the first selection did not report to the schools they were allocated, on the basis of remarks by Prof Riziki Shemdoe, the permanent secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), issuing a summary of the second selection. Of the newly selected students 3,887 are boys while just 218 girls have been selected, with 499 students (424 boys and 75 girls) joining science subjects (including mathematics), while 3,604 students (3,461 boys and 143 girls) shall take up arts and commerce subjects. The second selection was conducted after the ministry was satisfied with vacant places in schools where students had not reported, he said. "Looking at the number of girls' students selected to join Form V in the Second Phase you will see that the number is small because during first selection all students with qualification were selected hence there

Ministry now directs 4,105 to join Form V

List has just 218 girls

Students picked in the second selection are required to report to their respective schools starting today to the end of the month

were few girl students remaining," he said. Girl students in the second selection are mainly those who had requested to change their preferences at various colleges in the earlier selection, as they were being allocated to various schools, he further noted. "Students picked in the second selection are required to report to their respective schools starting today to the end of the month," he said, underlining that hence any student failing to do so will lose his/her vacancy at the relevant school. Parents and guardians need to understand that there will be no opportunity for these students to change schools which they were selected to, he added.

Lungu concedes defeat to Hichilema landslide



LUSAKA, Zambia
ZAMBIAN President Edgar Lungu (pictured) conceded defeat yesterday after a landslide election win by opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema, who will face the challenge of reviving an economy in turmoil. With all but one constituency counted, Hichilema had won 2,810,777 votes against Lungu's 1,814,201 and the electoral commission declared him president elect. It marked the country's third peaceful handover of power to an opposition party. Lungu, 64, said in a short televised address to the nation that he would comply with the constitutional provisions for a peaceful transition of power. "I would therefore like to congratulate my brother, the president-elect, Hakainde Hichilema," he stated. When the celebrations die down, Hichilema, 59, a former CEO at an accounting firm before entering politics, will need to focus on



Flora Andrea, mother of late Defence and National Service minister Elias Kwandikwa, bids her son final farewell beside his grave at Butibu village in Ushetu District, Shinyanga Region, moments after he was buried yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia



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Chadema mob disturbs prayer service, police say 22 nabbed

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networks circulated information on the arrest of some of its followers at the lakeside city.

The party said the followers went to the church for purposes of praying for their national chairman—Freeman Mbowe who is held by the police at the Ukonga prison in Dar es Salaam for three weeks.

Chadema Youth Council (Bavicha) national chairman John Pambalu told this paper that the party followers wanted to attend the mass to pray for Mbowe as he is being held by the police.

Party officials were yet to visit the arrested supporters, and instead they sent a delegation to Archbishop Nkwande requesting to meet him over the matter.

“We want the bishop to give us instructions on what to do to be allowed to participate in prayers conducted at the particular parish,” he said, indicating that the party supporters were arrested shortly after they arrived at the church gate.

Chadema followers and supporters in various regions have been conducting prayers for Mbowe, recently attending a mass at the Bugando Parish in Mwanza, as Mbowe and co-accused persons face a total of six terrorism-related charges allegedly committed on diverse dates and places between May 1 and August 1, 2020.

Other accused persons are Halfani Hassan, Adam Kasekwa also known as Adamo, and Mohamed Lingwenya.

During the first mention on August 6, state attorneys Pius Hilla, Christopher Msigwa and Sylvia Mintato told principal resident magistrate Thomas Simba that investigations into case number 63 of 2020 are complete.

Hilla told the court that in the first count, the accused persons conspired to blow up filling stations to endanger national security and cause alarm.

It was allegedly committed between May 1 and August 1 2020 at Aishi Hotel located in Moshi municipality of Kilimanjaro Region, and at different places in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Arusha region, he stated.

The prosecution alleged in the second count that within the same time and at the same places, Mbowe

facilitated Halfani, Adamo and Lingwenya financially while aware that the money would be used to commit terrorism.

They would blow up filling stations and gatherings to disrupt political stability, the constitutional order, the country's economy and put into disrepute the good name of the United Republic, he told the court.

In the third count, Hilla alleged that Halfani, Adamo and Lingwenya collected money from Mbowe with the intent of using the same to enable blowing up of filling stations and other places of public gathering.

In the fourth charge, the prosecution alleged that on August 5, 2020 Adamo was found in possession of a pistol, Luger brand number A 5340 without a licence.

In the fifth count, Hilla alleged that within the aforesaid period and places, Adamo was found with ammunition, namely three bullets, without a licence.

In the sixth count, it was alleged that on August 10, 2020 Halfani was found in possession of military uniforms and other items belonging to the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) and the National Service.

Hilla named the items as five trousers, one T-shirt, one raincoat, one jacket, five caps, five overalls, one bag, four badges of corporal rank, four belts, one pair of socks, a sweater, a parachute training bag, a water keg and an AK 47 CCCP knife.



We want the bishop to give us instructions on what to do to be allowed to participate in prayers conducted at the particular parish



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects Dar es Salaam's Kijichi-Mwanamtoti-Toangoma Road Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

PM orders PCCB to suspend, arraign officials responsible for supervision of Kijichi-Mwanamtoti, Kijichi-Toangoma roads

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to ensure all the officials responsible for supervision of the Kijichi-Mwanamtoti road (1.8km) and Kijichi-Toangoma road (3.25km) are suspended and arraigned before August 20, 2021.

Majaliwa gave the order yesterday shortly after his tour to inspect progress in implementation of the Buza bus stand project and the two roads in Temeke District, Dar

es Salaam Region. The project are implemented under the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP)

According to him, a total of 5.4bn/- have so far been spent for the Kijichi-Mwanamtoti road and 13.5bn/- for the Kijichi-Toangoma road.

“We cannot construct 1.8 kilometres of road at a cost of 5.4bn/- . Temeke municipal council has spent a lot of money on the project,” he said, adding the government is strictly supervising expenditure of public funds.

He also directed the Temeke district executive director, Elihuruma Mabelya to closely supervise the project for the interest of Temeke residents.

The premier ordered PCCB to look for Temeke municipal council officials involved in the controversial lending of 19bn/- which were used to pay compensation for various projects.

Majaliwa ordered for temporary suspension of the Buza bus stand project pending consultation with the Minister of State, President's Office Regional Administration

and Local Government, Umyu Mwalimu on a proper project to be implemented at the area.

He also wanted PCCB to investigate why the officials started repaying the loan two months after receiving the money, while documents indicates that loan repayment would have started after six months.

The prime minister instructed the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) to meet with the management of Temeke district to decide on a type of project to be implemented at the Temeke Kota area.



Justice Imani Daud Aboud (L), President of the Arusha-based African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, is vaccinated against Covid-19 in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma readies for modern pig abattoir

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growing city.

Expansion and facelift of the Msalato abattoir will enable it to slaughter at least 1000 cows and 500 goats per day, he stated, elaborating that Disease Free Zone (DFZ) special

areas are to be coned off where cattle would be kept for up 12 hours before slaughter. When implemented the projects will make Dodoma a hub of beef, with the abattoirs operated by the Tanzania Meat Company (TMC), with its major abattoir built

in 2003, starting operations in 2004, overseen by the Tanzania Livestock Marketing Project in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The facility has the capacity to slaughter 200 cows and 1,200 goats per day, while the actual demand

stands at more than 600 cows and 2,800 goats per day.

Tanzania is placed second after neighbouring Kenya among countries in East Africa in meat production and accessing foreign markets, officials said.

Lungu concedes defeat to Hichilema landslide

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resuscitating a flagging economy.

Zambia became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign default in November after failing to keep up with its international debt payments.

“It is in no doubt what the instruction is to all of us (that you) ... elect us to office at a very difficult time,” he said, hinting at the task ahead as he addressed supporters in the capital, Lusaka “We will not let you down.”

The default was driven by depressed commodity prices - which had pushed Zambia into recession well before the COVID-19 pandemic - worsened by the pandemic itself.

He has some room for manoeuvre as the economy has been buoyed slightly by more favourable copper prices this year - now hovering around decade highs, driven partly by the boom in electric cars. Last year, Zambia, Africa's second biggest copper miner, produced a record output of the metal.

Nonetheless Hichilema urged Zambians to put aside divisions, condemning attacks on property, after a mall named after president Lungu was looted.

“For years we were victims of retribution. We are not about to ...start a new wave of violence,” he said. “If you want to show higher moral ground... do not attack them.”

The election is the culmination of an acrimonious rivalry between the two that in 2017 led Lungu to arrest and imprison Hichilema for refusing to make way for his motorcade. This is Hichilema's sixth attempt at the

presidency since 2006.

He touted his nationwide success, even in perceived Lungu strongholds, as evidence that Zambia had dodged ethnic division. “Victory ... (has) been delivered by all the 10 provinces of Zambia ... isn't that lovely?” he said, to applause.

Lungu had cried foul on Saturday, calling the election “not free and fair” after violence against ruling Patriotic Front party agents in three provinces, but the size of the margin made it near-impossible to challenge the result in court.

Power has switched from a ruling party to the opposition twice before since independence from Britain in 1964. The latest shift strengthens Zambia's democratic credentials and sets an example on a continent with a patchy history of peaceful change.

Wearing the red and yellow of Hichilema's United Party for National Development (UPND) Hichilema's supporters celebrated, dancing and singing, while drivers honked their horns.

“This victory is so sweet,” 37-year-old Jane Phiri said, next to her market stall. “This spirit of change was bottled up for a long time.”

Zambia's sovereign dollar bonds jumped nearly 2 cents on Monday after the news of Hichilema's win. Zambia's kwacha currency strengthened nearly one percent against the dollar. International Monetary Fund support is on hold until after the vote, as is debt restructuring - seen as an early test for a new global plan aimed at easing poor countries' burdens.



Thabit Idarous Faina (3rd-L), Permanent Secretary in the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office, leads a meeting of the secretariat of a joint committee comprising representatives of the Union and Zanzibar governments held in Zanzibar yesterday. Second left is the committee's chairperson, Mary Maganga (2nd-L), who is also Permanent Secretary in the Office of Tanzania Vice President. Photo: VPO

Dar church hails pandemic efforts

By Guardian Reporter

The Pentecostal Church has applauded the government's efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, saying allowing Tanzanians to be vaccinated is a good move aimed at protecting and ensuring a healthy nation.

The church has also hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for supervising the country's economy, a move that would facilitate achievement of desired development.

The statement was made over the weekend by Head Bishop of 'Moto Moto' Pentecostal Church, Ezra Matamya when speaking at the inauguration of the administration block and Bible school at the church premises at Boko in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam.

The inauguration was followed with a fundraising event for development of church projects where President Samia donated 10m/- in support of the church's development initiatives. A total of 24m/- were contributed by the church followers.

Bishop Matamya said: "Tanzanians have confidence with the sixth phase government; improved international diplomacy would attract more investors and create job opportunities for millions of our people," the bishop asserted.

Meanwhile, secretary of the CCM National Executive Committee, Ideology and Publicity Shaka Hamdu Shaka said the party is confident that the president will lead the nation towards desired development.

He said President Samia has proved to Tanzanians that she understands the country she is leading together with talented professional advisors in various

fields.

"I would like to assure Tanzanians through this gathering that President Samia is a good academician in the field of economic development who has served in various positions in the Union government and Zanzibar. She also worked with a number of local and international organisations," stated Shaka.

According to Shaka, it is not a constitutional obligation for the president to know every corner of the country because someone can be familiar with Kagera Region, but not much aware of the geographical position of Rombo District in Kilimnajoro Region.

He said the president has showed Tanzanians that she has all the capabilities to transform the country's economy following her recent directives to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to take appropriate measures to address high interest rates.

President Samia also said financial institutions needed to cut real interest rates in line with measures implemented by the central bank, and suggested that rates for short term loans should be cut to below 10 per cent.

"These measures will facilitate economic growth and increased cash flow. The government has opened doors for institutions, local and international business communities to invest in Tanzania; this will accelerate economic growth and create jobs," he said.

He said the CCM government recognises the good job by religious leaders in uniting Tanzanians as well as advocating for development.

"Religious organizations play an important role in maintaining the country's peace and uniting Tanzanians. Peace is the key to development of any nation," added Shaka.

Dr Gwajima: Do not listen to people misleading public on Covid vaccine

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima has explained the use of traditional herbs and the importance of vaccination to enhance immunity.

During her visit to Mara Region, Dr Gwajima said in addition to the efforts to create public awareness about COVID-19 vaccination, some people have deliberately decided to mislead the people.

She said the use of traditional medicine as well as vaccination

now going on need sustainable education to enable the community to eradicate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the eruption of the pandemic in January 2020 many things have come up, there are some people who intentionally mislead other people just to create misunderstandings and destroy the reputation of the late President John Magufuli.

"As you can recall when the disease erupted in the country there was no vaccines and the late president said people should use traditional

medicines to protect themselves and I, as minister for health, issued directives said there was traditional medicines that has been in use and can be used," she said.

"In regard to the vaccine, the government had satisfied itself on its safety and advised all people of 18 years of age and above to get the jabs to increase immunity against the disease," she added.

She said as for now there are people who are opposing the vaccine, but the truth is in some countries the disease had started to affect even children and things can

get worse if some people continue to disregard the vaccine.

She said some religious leaders also mislead their followers, but some holy books say 'our people are dying for lack of wisdom...'

"This is called the pandemic for the unvaccinated. Here God has enabled us to reduce the pangs of COVID-19 pandemic," she added.

Earlier in his report Mara Region Administrative Secretary Albert Msovela said the region is faced with a shortage of health workers, medical equipment and medical specialists.



DANGEROUS GAME: This young man may find it enjoyable hanging on to a 'bajaj' caught up in a road traffic jam this way, but things can turn especially tragic once the three-wheeler starts moving. Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured this scene at a Kimara Baruti section of Dar es Salaam's normally busy Morogoro Road yesterday.

Tanzanian businesspersons to visit Slovak on trade links

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE Slovak Republic embassy in Tanzania is planning familiarisation tour by local business persons to the central Europe country to help them explore business and investment opportunities.

Speaking in an interview yesterday, the Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic in Tanzania, Moustafa Khataw, said that the business trip would take place at a time when countries have the number of COVID-19 patients dropping.

"When the number of patients decreases, we will plan a business tour by the Tanzania business community to the Slovak Republic where they can establish partnerships and establish joint ventures," he said.

He said there are existing business and investment opportunities in Tanzania's tourism sector whereas in 2019, a total of 3,200 Slovaks visited Tanzania, especially Zanzibar.

"The Slovak Republic is renowned for its agricultural, dairy farming, pharmaceuticals and technology industries" he stated.

"You will recall that I was appointed as Honorary Consul at the time when the pandemic started. As a result, it has been difficult to get new business opportunities, investments from the Slovak Republic," he said adding currently there are no companies from the Slovak Republic operating in Tanzania.

He insisted on enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefits.

The envoy said Slovak and Tanzania can jointly explore all the trade and investment potential following a cordial relationship. He said there are also opportunities in the sectors of investment, cultural exchange and education.

The envoy said the Slovak Republic is a developed country and the latest Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) economic outlook shows that Slovakia is set to become the fastest growing developed economy in the world.

The OECD forecasts that the Slovak economy will grow at a robust rate of 3.6 per cent this year, the highest GDP growth rate among OECD economies.

Maternity Africa
NGO Registration Number
OONGO/R2/000524

Statement of the funds

Resources raised by Maternity Africa between
1st January 2021 – 30th June 2021.

According to the regulation 13 (A) of the NGO ACT CAP.56

The names of the stake holders who rendered the funds are **Barbara May foundation(BMF), Segal Family Foundation and Fistula Foundation.**

The total amount of funds given for the said period is
1,530,874,959/= TZS.

This fund was rendered to support the ongoing operational activities of Maternity Africa.

For more details about Maternity Africa, please refer to the organization website www.maternityafrica.org



REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEASE, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS IN ZANZIBAR

- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) intends to further promote investment by including small islands of Zanzibar into development of high-end economic activities. This decision is based on the need for diversification to attract very high-end Investors. Small islands surrounding Zanzibar are major assets that investors can capitalize for a win-win potential.
- The RGoZ through Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA), hereby invites Potential Investors to express their interests to develop, operate and manage small islands or plot of land in small islands under long term lease.
- The Expression of Interest should provide information demonstrating that interested investors possess: **experience and ability of developing, operating and managing investment projects; financial capacity; skills and ability in conserving environment, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community development.** Also, Interested Investors should specify the intended small island/islands for investment and provide detailed information on the kind of high-end investment intended.
- The Expression of Interest to be directed on the following small islands:

No	Small Island	Location
1	Changuu (Prison Island)	Unguja
2	Bawe	Unguja
3	Pamunda-A	Unguja
4	Pamunda-B	Unguja
5	Kwale	Unguja
6	Misali	Pemba
7	Njao	Pemba
8	Matumbini	Pemba
9	Chumbe	Unguja
- Interested investors should deposit a **non-refundable fee of \$1500 at Account name ZIPA, PBZ Account A/C No. 0400424000, Swift Code PBZATZTZ.**
- The detailed information for each islet is provided on ZIPA website: www.zipa.go.tz/islands
- Expression of Interest shall be marked **"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR LEASE, DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SMALL ISLANDS IN ZANZIBAR"**.
- Expression of Interest must be submitted with the receipt of the payment at Maruhubi Complex, Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority Head Office, Malawi Road, Room Number 223 or through email: islets@zipa.go.tz (PDF format).
- The deadline for submission of Expression of Interest shall be on 16th September 2021 at 10:00 AM Eastern Africa Time.
- Any inquiry or further clarification shall be made through islets@zipa.go.tz.
- After evaluation, short-listed prospective Investors will be contacted to proceed with other application procedures.

Govt set to transform area for General Tyre factory into industrial park, reveals minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo has said the government is in the process of transforming the area housing the General Tyre factory in Arusha into an industrial park.

He said the decision follows the inability for the tyre making factory to meet production expectations due to technological imperative and market needs.

He added: "AS ministry believes this area will spur the country's industrial strides. The general Tyre factory that ceased tyre production more than 10 years ago due to outdated production technology.

"But also the tyres being made failed to attract markets. The aim to make the area an Industrial Park is to spur industrial development and create job opportunities for Tanzanians, especially for the people of Arusha."

Prof Mkumbo also said the Industry and Trade ministry is in the process of creating industrial parks countrywide and already it has begun setting aside areas for the purpose.

He said the industrial parks will be created in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Arusha regions, and added that a team was also researching for the establishment of the parks in southern regions.

He removed fears from Tanzanians who were waiting for the revival of the tyre factory which saw more than 400 people losing their jobs saying that they will compensate that with the son to be established industrial park in the area to spur the country's economic development and job creation.

Leonard Mgoyo, general tyre factory supervisor from the national Development Corporation (NDC) said employments of the workers of the factory were terminated in August 2009 but since 1990 the factory had never produced tyres more than 50 per cent of its former capacity, citing technology imperatives.

Srushu Member of Parliament Mrisho gambo said: "Arusha has a big employment challenges, we believe the efforts to transform the factory area into an industrial park will alleviate the situation."



But also the tyres being made failed to attract markets. The aim to make the area an Industrial Park is to spur industrial development and create job opportunities for Tanzanians, especially for the people of Arusha



Mwanga constituency legislator Joseph Tadayo is vaccinated against Covid-19 at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Dry season with strong winds to dominate till end of month - TMA

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANZANIA Meteorological Authority (TMA) has cautioned people engaged in activities in the Indian Ocean, especially fishermen that the dry season associated with strong winds will continue to dominate up to the end of August, this year.

Speaking yesterday in a special interview with this paper, acting

Tanga TMA manager Mussa Mwamoto, said the season began June/July and will continue to the end of this month (August).

He said some areas have been shown to have the correct TMA weather forecast, especially in regard to strong winds of more than 50 kms per hour causing devastations in many areas along coastal areas.

"The weather forecasts were

issued early June, and true many fishermen failed to go out to sea for fishing, with some even losing their lives, hence such forecasts should not be ignored," he said.

He said TMA has a procedure in publishing its weather forecasts to reach various areas including the offices of regional and district commissioners including fisheries offices and those of Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA).

He said as for now TMA is looking into ways to ensure its weather forecasts directly reach fishermen in time. He added that as for now they route forecast reports via the social media including WhatsApp every after nine hours.

He called on fisheries official to relay weather reports to reach those concerned as soon as possible to avert disasters that could befall them.



Zanzibar's Works, Communications and Transport minister, Rahma Kassim Ali (2nd-R), cuts ribbon at the weekend to launch eight communications towers at Bumbwini Mafufu village in Zanzibar, assisted by Zantel Zanzibar head Mohammed Khamis Mussa (2nd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government gives land owners 90-day ultimatum to develop it

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has given a 90 days ultimatum to owners of plots meant for the construction of factories in Kizota Mbuyuni area in Dodoma to develop them or risk losing them.

Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, William Lukuvi made the order yesterday in the capital city when spoke to ministry officials on land existing land disputes between land owners at the area.

"Within 90 days, owners of the land should develop them and whoever fails to do so will lose the plot because it will be given to someone else," he said.

Referring to the land dispute in Lukuvi, he said he formed his own committee which has worked on complaints by questioning every citizen.

He said the committee has found that there are people who sold plots to other people and have continued to claim that the land was their's.

He said as a result, many people bought without realizing that the areas were legally owned by other people.

The minister ordered the Regional Police Commander and the regional police boss for Dodoma to arrest the 51 people involved in land selling deals.

"Land conflicts in Dodoma have reached a very bad stage, there are people who sold plot three times, we need to end this once and for all," he said.

The minister ordered that title deeds for those who have invaded be sent to the ministry for assessment and that upon completion, legal owners should be given.

However, Minister Lukuvi banned citizens from building without permits from the relevant authorities.

"I have instructed the City council to inspect every street and if the matakuta houses are being built without permission, the 'X' mark should be marked on them," he said.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner Antony Mtaka, promised to implement all the instructions given so that every right citizen receive.

Mtaka also asked Dodoma District Commissioner Jabir Shekimweri to oversee the exercise in collaboration with his land experts in Dodoma.

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

FAMILY Health International (FHI 360) through EpiC project has provided 24 bicycles worth 61.5m/- to adolescent girls and young women at risk of being affected by HIV/AIDs in Shinyanga municipality.

The bicycles were handed over to the Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Dr Philemon Sengati.

EPIc project manager Dr Shinje

EpiC project donates 24 bicycles to adolescent girls

Msuka said that among the factors contributing to high rates of infection are gender inequalities, dangers while walking long distances and lack of access to reproductive health services - all of which also affect girls' chances of completing their education.

He said the project is aimed at reducing the spread of HIV to the

group which is on a pressure stage of body changes and can easily get into activities which puts them at risk of HIV.

"The programme is implemented by FHI360 under the United States of America President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International," said Dr Msuka said.

The project is implemented in districts of Shinyanga, Kahama, Ushetu, Msalala and Shinyanga municipal.

He said since implementation of the project in Shinyanga in February last year, about 100,000 girls have been reached after receiving reproductive health education, sexually transmitted

diseases and HIV voluntary testing.

For his part, RC Sengati hailed the project for supporting efforts to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS.

He said data shows the rate of transmission in the region was at 15.3 for girls and 6.6 percent for boys according to the HIV impact survey

of 2016/17.

Speaking when they received the bicycles, one of the workers of the project Rachel Maige said the mode of transport will help girls to empower themselves economically.

"Apart from stopping to involve themselves in bad groups at a tender age," he said.

Horticulture saves reserve forests from environmental destruction

By Guardian Correspondent, Korogwe

ENVIRONMENTAL destruction activities by villagers in Korogwe District surrounding Magamba and Nilo Forest reserves have been significantly reduced after they were provided with alternative income generating activities.

For a long time in the reserves the villagers were engaged in tree cutting for charcoal making and logging as well as marijuana growing.

Magila-Mkumbara village in Mkumbara Ward bordering Magamba Forest Reserve is among villages whose residents, through their farming groups were provided with vegetable farming which they cited as a huge saviour due to huge benefits they reaped.

The farmers said vegetable farming - including growing of onions is being conducted through the Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) and has removed their concept that the only income to depend upon was activities inside the forest reserves.

"Onions cultivation has enabled us to pay school fees for our children and other necessary expenditures at home," said Rajabu Dassa, the chairman of the vegetable farming group.

On the other hand, residents of Foroforo village, bordering Nilo Forest Reserve have been facilitated in modern beekeeping activities using modern beehives and sell the honey produced within and outside

Korogwe District.

The chairman of Korogwe District Council Economic, Construction and Environment Affairs Committee Idd Shelui explained that the project has greatly reduced marijuana growing by some villagers that was also destroying the Nilo Forest Reserve's ecosystem.

In addition to facilitation from EAMCEF, the institution has been providing funds every year for environmental preservation including its infrastructures aimed at preserving the reserve's biodiversity.

"Since 2007 we have been receiving 24m/- every year from EAMCEF, while this year we expect to receive 49m/-," said Nilo Forest Reserve Conservator, Fabian Mukome, adding that the money will be used to beef up reserve's boundaries, preventing fire disasters and repairs to roads used by tourists.

Environmental friendly projects implemented by villagers apart from vegetable farming and livestock keeping include fish farming, butterflies keeping and tree planting.

“ Since 2007 we have been receiving 24m/- every year from EAMCEF, while this year we expect to receive 49m/- ”



Shinyanga regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati (2nd-L) presents a bicycle in Shinyanga municipality yesterday to Rachel Maige (R), a business facilitator for teenage girls. It was donated by Family Health International 360 through EPIC, a project funded by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), in support of the war on HIV and AIDS among teenage girls in the region. With them are Shinyanga regional administrative secretary Zuwena Omary (2nd-R) and the EPIC manager Dr Shinje Msuka. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE State owned-Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) has warned businesspersons from using middlemen to transport their cargo through Lake Victoria as the decision cause them to incur high costs.

The company says that using middlemen to transport cargo causes losses as they tend to hike costs for their personal gain.

Acting marketing and commercial manager of MSCL Eugenia Punjila told The Guardian in an interview that majority of traders transporting their goods between Mwanza, Bukoba and Ukerewe have been

Firm warns businesspersons against using middlemen to transport cargo

finding themselves spending a lot just because of using middlemen.

She urged traders to contact its office for assistance in case they face any hurdle or seek help to transport their cargo.

Punjila noted that MSCL charges relatively cheaper costs than privately owned vessels, asking businesspersons to use them so as to make more profit and boost their business.

Citing an example she said that the company only charges 27,000/- to transport one tonne of cargo from one point to another in all lakes

because their mission is to give relief to businesspersons.

"By using middlemen costs will be high as they also want to remain with something in that business on the costs of businesspersons while that situation is quite avoidable," Eugenia said.

She said that transporting cargos through water ensures them to reach the destination timely as break down is rare as compared to road transport.

According to her, MSCL transport bodies of people free of charge but those accompanying the bodies are

the ones who are required to pay fare.

She said the New Hapa Kazi Tu vessel with a carrying capacity of 200 tonnes of cargo and 1,200 passengers can hardly carry 150 tonnes per trip, a situation showing that potential is yet to be fully utilized.

The vessel sails between Mwanza and Bukoba via Kemondo bay and another one christened New Butiama Hapa Kazi Tu operating between Mwanza and Ukerewe has a carrying capacity of 200 passengers and 100 tonnes of cargo.



Upendo Lugongo (C), Tanga Region's Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) manager, pictured with Kahama Industrial Ltd production and sales manager Alfred Shima (L) in Tanga city at the weekend signing an agreement under which water pipes worth 419m/- will be distributed in the region's Lushoto, Mkinga, Handeni and Kilindi districts within 30 days. Looking on (seated, R) is Mkinga District's RUWASA manager, Kaijage Thomas. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Z'bar spices project registers over 2,000 farmers in first year

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

OVER 2,000 farmers in Pemba have registered to benefit from the grand spices, vegetables and fruits project in the first year of its implementation, out of the targeted 2,175 for registration.

This was revealed here by the project's Operation Manager, Pemba Zone, Sharif Maalim Hamad when submitting the project's implementation assessment at a meeting of agricultural experts that discussed the projects achievements for the first year.

He said women benefitted more during the period compared to men whereby a total of 1,211 women were

registered against 790 men.

He said this achievement was enabled by the introduction of a demonstration farm, the issue that brought better farming expertise closer to the farmers.

For his part, the Project's General Manager Amina Ussi Khamis called on agricultural officers to work together to solve challenges facing them.

She said since the project concentrates in assisting farmers to increase production and market expansion, it is essential for farmers and agricultural experts to work together to realise the aims.

Earlier, contributing to the debate during the meeting,

some agricultural experts said the project's implementation in Pemba has helped in mobilising farmers to adopt horticulture due to the expertise provided by the demonstration farm.

Mbarouk Rashid Juma from Shengejuu in Wete District said the demonstration farm enabled farmers get modern farming practices and had the opportunity to learn various production methods, the things they lacked in the past.

For his part, Dawa Bakar Hamad, a leading farmer from Shumba Mjini in Micheweni District said among the farming practice they were attracted to is the introduction of

the home garden.

"The achievements gained during this short period is the urge by many people to learn about home gardening as the practice helps in alleviating vegetable shortage at home," he said.

Speaking on challenges facing the project's implementation, Bakar Said, agricultural officer from Finya said the main challenge is the shortage of water in many areas.

"Farmers have been given seedlings for planting but so far many have failed to plant, especially fruit trees due to lack of water, which continues to be the main snag. Many people want to farm but water is still the problem," he said.

TIC introduces Online One Stop Shop System to better business environment

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Investment Center (TIC) has created a modern system for investors known as Online One Stop Shop System which has improved service provision for investors.

This was revealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday by TIC Director Dr Maduhu Kazi who said after that improvement now investors can access their certificate of incentives within one day if their documents are clear.

He said TIC has also created the OSS-External Portal which has also improved the system and procedures to offer Certificate of Incentives for investors by using Information Communication Technology (ICT).

He said this system will enable investors to apply for a certificate wherever he is and for his time something which will reduce corrupt practices by reducing communication between investors and public servants.

According to Dr Maduhu the system will also increase the efficiency for document protection and enable TIC to provide its services within a very short period the thing that he said will add value to the center and eventually attract more investment from inside and outside the country.

He said recently the government did various amendments to eradicate all challenges of work permit provision for foreign experts where it introduced the Online Work Permits Applications and Issuance System (OWAIS).

He said the OWAIS is connected with Immigration department and investors can get permit for work and residence within one day if all required documents were submitted to the relevant authorities.

He said in its phase III of five years

development plan TIC, will give priorities to attract investors in the industrial sector with the intention to add value to agriculture products, fertilizers, clothes, fisheries, sugar industries, cooking oil including production of PPE for Covid-19 protection.

Dr Maduhu said TIC has already set aside land for investment where its database of land for the year 2020/21 has registered 273 areas of 159,720 hectares under government institutions and district councils and 23 areas with the size of 9,240 hectares from individual Tanzanians who need joint ventures with foreign investors who are looking for land.

He said they have also focused on industrial parks where they have already acquired enough land in Dar es Salaam Region, Coast, Mafinga, Morogoro, and Mwanza.

He said following improvements done for the year 2020/21, there are a lot of achievements realized on investment which includes the increase of TIC registered projects.

He said a total of 235 new projects were registered which are expected to bring about a total investment of USD 3.3 billion and create 36, 849 new employments.

Dr Maduhu said 99 projects are in Dar es Salaam, 34 in Coast Region, 15 in Mwanza, 13 in Dodoma, 12 in Arusha, 11 in Shinyanga, 9 in Mara, 8 in Iringa and Tanga, 7 in Morogoro, 4 in Geita, 3 Lindi, 3 in Ruvuma, 2 in Kagera and other remaining regions have one project each.

He said the reason for the increase of investment projects is the efforts made by the 6th phase government in attracting new investment and he cited an example of April up to June this year where TIC managed to register 84 projects which is an increment of 68 percent compared to the registered 50 projects for the year 2020.

Government challenged to amend both EIA and HIA

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has been challenged to amend both the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and mining regulations to include provisions that allow implementation of full and independent health impact assessment (HIA).

Concerns are that EIA tends to not adequately consider health impacts and therefore misses important gains in arranging sustainable development.

The appeal was made here yesterday at a multi-stakeholders meeting convened by Ifakara Health Institution (IHI) to discuss health impacts of large natural resource extraction projects in Tanzania.

During the meeting, researchers from IHI presented findings of a project to assess causes of death among miners and non-miners in mining communities.

The projects also assessed the national wide council-level association between presence or absence of mining activities and reporting of disease at health facilities.

The project dubbed 'Health Impact Assessment for Sustainable Development (HIA4SD)' has been implemented in four African countries—Tanzania, Mozambique, Ghana and Burkina Faso with funding from Swiss TPH, FNSNF and NADDEL.

The project aimed to increase the understanding of the diverse pathways health is affected by industrial mining projects.

Speaking while presenting a paper at the meeting, Dr Isaac Lyatuu, a senior researcher IHI said Tanzania like many other African countries have no legal framework for health impact assessment on large infrastructure development projects.

He added that the study has shown that development and operation of natural resource extraction projects affects public health, ecosystems and societies in producer regions.

"Currently, we have only a fuzzy understanding of interactions between natural resource extraction projects and health systems, including economic considerations and observed health impacts," he said.

Dr Lyatuu noted that evidence from the study shows that farmers around Shinyanga and Geita regions lost land and crops to pollution from mining activities as water and pond pollution affected several fishing businesses.

He said data from Tanzania health facilities show that extraction of construction materials such as cement, construction aggregates and hard rocks is strongly associated with high reporting of chronic diseases.

Dr Mirko Winkler, Project Leader while speaking at the meeting the HIA4SD Project intends to analyse the conditions under which impact assessments are an effective regulatory mechanism to engage natural resource extraction projects in working towards the health-related targets of the SDG 2030 Agenda.

He said extractive projects have considerable potential to strengthen local health systems and improve people's wellbeing in the areas where they are implemented.

The past has shown, however, that adverse impacts on health determinants like local health systems, access to water and sanitation, food availability and health outcomes like HIV/Aids, vector-related diseases, and non-communicable diseases often prevail.

Dr Winkler observed at the regulatory level, impact assessments are typically used to identify and mitigate negative externalities.

He added that this end, all countries worldwide are legally required to conduct environmental impact assessments EIA prior to constructing a large infrastructure project.

"Despite its universal application, environmental outcomes caused by large infrastructure projects differ widely in the execution of EIA in itself does not seem to be sufficient to guarantee the minimization of negative environmental externalities," said the project leader.

He added that in the area of health, the use of specific health impact assessments HIA is less common, stating that currently, no country in Africa actively promotes HIA, let alone regulates it.

The Prof said the aim of the project is to avoid negative effects of natural resource extraction projects on public health and actively engage natural resource extraction projects as well as any other large infrastructure developments in the SDG 2030 agenda and, thus, development in Africa.

"Existing evidence on the strengths and limitations of the institutional framework and capacity for impact assessments in general and HIA in particular is scarce in African countries," he added.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of the meeting, Mineral Commission Chairperson, Prof Idris Kikula said all stakeholders should help in addressing the challenge.

He noted that while the government is doing everything possible to improve the area, more stakeholders should help spread education, noting that most small-scale miners have little knowledge on health matters.



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (C) inspects documents during a just-ended visit to a TOL Gas factory in Rungwe District Mbeya region. Right is the factory's officer in-charge, Fred Mwambuluma. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Govt hails antimicrobial resistance campaign, makes an appeal to stakeholders to join effort

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has hailed the campaign against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through school clubs in some schools in Dodoma city, calling on more stakeholders to join efforts to create more awareness.

Health experts argue that antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites resist the effects of medications.

The situation makes common infections harder to treat and increases the risk of diseases spreading, severe illness and death.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that antimicrobial resistance is one of the top ten global public health threats as drug resistant infections kill around 700,000 people worldwide each year and, according to a report by the United Nations (UN), the number could increase to ten million per year by 2050 resistant to the drugs.

A local non-government organization (NGO), Tanzania Roll Back Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative), with

special focus to contain AMR, has been taking efforts to increase AMR awareness and promote positive behavioral change to reduce the failure of treatment of infections due to AMR.

The organisation covers both rural and urban communities focusing on promoting better understanding and awareness about antimicrobial resistance from an early age.

Recently convened a capacity building workshop to heads of schools, teachers and club leaders from several secondary schools in the city.

Speaking while officiating at the meeting, acting director of Veterinary Services in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Benezeth Lutege hailed the organisation for the good work to ensure students at secondary schools get knowledge on AMR.

"This is a new strategy that is likely to bring positive results, creating transformation at family levels and beyond since students interact with many people," he said, adding that the government acknowledges such efforts.

He added that the government through the 'one health approach' multisector initiative that brings

together different players is working on how to deal with the problem.

While stating that the government promotes the right usage of drugs, the problem is so big in the country just like in other countries in the world.

RBA Initiative Project Coordinator, Baritazar Stanley said teachers and club guardians should have the capacity to effectively run the RBA Initiative AMR Clubs and have increased knowledge on AMR.

He noted that after the meeting participants should effectively plan how to engage the already trained club members, and how to reach students who are not club members and the community at large.

The coordinator noted that one of the key strategic objectives of the World Health Organisation's global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan and Tanzania's AMR national action plan is to improve public awareness and understanding of this issue.

RBA-Initiative runs Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) school clubs, educating children about superbugs. RBA Initiative AMR school clubs help to empower young people to become agents of change and encourage them to bring that

knowledge to their family and community.

At the school clubs RBA Initiative use arts and crafts, storytelling, songs, skits, drama, and dances to engage and educate the children about topics like behaviors which fuels AMR, hand hygiene and sanitation, the impact of fake drugs and one health approach in tackling AMR, while promoting a responsible approach to antimicrobial use.

He further explained that last year the project empowered 160 students who participated in the project, the trained students have so far reached over 1000 fellow students who were not part of the clubs' programme and over 800 community members including family members.

Through lessons learnt in these ongoing AMR school projects in urban schools, we are planning to extend the project to reach more students and through them reaching the community.

"The primary objective of this training is to build capacity on AMR to head of schools, teachers and club leaders," he said, adding that they will be influential on running RBA Initiative AMR School clubs and help in building AMR agents of change inside and outside of their schools.

Varsity and Huawei sign cooperation agreement in computer and ICT studies

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

STATE University of Zanzibar (SUZA) has signed a cooperation agreement with Huawei, the Chinese technology giant to enable its university students pursuing computer studies and Information Communication Technology (ICT) to acquire professional services.

The agreement was signed here yesterday by SUZA Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr Ali Makame and Huawei Representative, Yohana Mathias at SUZA main campus at Tunguu in Zanzibar South Region.

Speaking at the signing event, Huawei Representative Mathias said his firm recognizes the importance of education and its contribution in spurring development, hence they decided to assist higher education institutions to empower students.

He said the firm has cooperation agreements with 18 educational institutions in the country, and for

Zanzibar it is SUZA alone that now has the cooperation agreement.

He said the firm has been having ICT contests whereby SUZA has been participating and such cooperation has benefited over 1,000 youth.

For his part, SUZA Deputy Vice Chancellor said the aim of the agreement is to access to professional expertise to empower SUZA students who pursue computer and ICT fields.

He said Huawei is among technology giants with huge experience in computer and ICT and its cooperation with the university provides them with the opportunity to enhance the knowledge to the youth to compete in the market.

For his part, the Director of Administration from the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and technical education Omar Ali Bhai called on SUZA to utilise the opportunity to enhance students' knowledge in ICT as the field was now ruling the world.



Manyara regional commissioner Charles Makongoro Nyerere makes remarks shortly after inaugurating two classrooms at Tanzanite Secondary School in Mimerani ward, Simanjiro District, at the weekend. He is with Mimerani councillor Salome Mnyawi. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Kasekenya pleased with renovation of airport in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

WORKS and Transport Deputy Minister, Godfrey Kasekenya has applauded the renovation work of Iringa Airport requesting the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to ensure that the contractor completes the work on time. The airport is being refurbished by Chinese contractor Sino-hydro Corporation limited and supervised by a consultant engineer from the Tanroads Engineering Consulting Unit (TECU) and the work done so far is 22 percent.

Kasekenya made the call here yesterday during his one-day visit to various development projects in Iringa region, where he had the opportunity to visit the work of renovating the Iringa Airport as well as the construction of a by-pass road from Igumbilo Bus Terminal to Iringa-Dodoma road through the University of Iringa (Formerly, Tumaini University).

The bypass road, which connects the Iringa-Dar es Salaam highway from Igumbilo to Dodoma Road through the former Iringa Tumaini University, which is 7.3 km long, will reduce the traffic congestion in Iringa town.

Kasekenya has called on Chinese contractor Sino-Hydro to ensure that they complete the work of renovating the runway of Iringa Airport on time to allow larger planes to land at the airport, adding that he will monitor the contractor's payment from the government so that he can complete the work before the rains season begun.

It is learned that in the two projects that are being built, the people who were affected by the projects, that is by-pass road with more than seven kilometers and the renovation of the Iringa airport runway of 2.1 kilometers, have been compensated and the projects are progressing well.

Eng Kasekenya said the completion of the expansion of Iringa Airport will open up more investment opportunities as well as boost the economy of Iringa Region and surrounding regions and also open up tourism opportunities as more tourists will use the airport to visit various tourist attractions.

He added that the completion of the rehabilitation of the runway will also facilitate the export of fruits and vegetables as the southern highlands are famous for growing fruits and vegetables abroad.

For his part, consultant engineer from TANROADS, Engineer, Benito Mdzovella said that the Iringa Airport Rehabilitation Project involves major repairs to the construction of the runway, temporary passengers' terminal, aircraft parking apron, aircraft control tower.

He said that the renovation of the runway is progressing well and the contractor is supposed to be paid an advance payment of 15 percent, but he has been paid ten percent out of 15 and claims the remaining five percent to continue with work and so far is only 22 percent job achievement.

Mdzovella added that the project also involves the construction of a fire building, the construction of an energy station, and the installation of ground lights on the runway.

“...the completion of the rehabilitation of the runway will also facilitate the export of fruits and vegetables as the southern highlands are famous for growing fruits and vegetables abroad



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Dr Dorothy Gwajima (C) presents working tools in Dar es Salaam to the recently installed chairperson of the Government Chemistry Laboratory Authority board, Prof Esther Lugwisha. Looking on is Chief Government Chemist Dr Fidelice Mafumiko. Photo: Correspondent James Kandoya

Land conflict delays completion of storage silos for Manyara's cereals

By Guardian Reporter, Babati

THE government says the delay for the completion of the construction of modern grains silos and warehouses in Manyara Region stems from conflict involving land plots pitting TANESCO and the national food Reserves Agency (NFRA).

The conflict saw the contractor stop work but later his contract was extended up to September 13, 2021.

Speaking here soon after his

inspection visit in Babati District, Manyara Region yesterday, Agriculture minister prof Adolf Mkenda said in addition to the project being 99.8 per cent complete as cited, NFRA is supposed to work on various challenges before being handed the project.

Prof Mkenda said the challenges include being provided with education on how to maintain the silos cleanliness as for now there is no chance to do that, a dangerous situation for cereals bought by the

government.

He also called on NFRA to make sure it supervises the implementation of the right way to fumigate stored cereals in the modern silos.

The construction of modern cereals silos and warehouses in Arusha Zone involving Arusha and Manyara regions at Babati centre is being implemented by a Polish firm - Unia Sp.zo.0 in collaboration with Elerai Construction company Ltd, a local firm at a cost of USD 8.08

million (18.67bn/-).

A big chunk of the project, more than 60 per cent of the contract involved the construction of silos.

As for now NFRA has 34 silos capable to store 251,000 tonnes of cereals in its eight strategic zones countrywide.

In the circumstances, the government continues with the project's implementation by increasing storage capacity of 250,000 tonnes valued at USD 55 million (126bn/-).



Residents of Nyasaungu village in Ifulifu ward, Musoma Rural constituency, pictured at the weekend busy clearing the site lined up for the construction of Nyasaungu Secondary School's administration building on self-help basis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Dodoma to host TVA's annual general meeting

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

MORE than 200 veterinary officers from all regions from across the country are expected to take part in the Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA)'s annual general meeting, slated for November, this year in Dodoma.

Among others, the participants are expected to use the vital annual gathering to deliberate over different matters with an eye to

solving diverse challenges facing the crucial economic sector within the country.

Briefing The Guardian over the meeting, head of department of Livestock and Fisheries development in Dodoma City Council, Dr Gratian Mwesiga, said his department is well prepared to host the event, and added, the meeting is expected to play vital role in propelling for the positive metamorphosis of the sub-sector.

"We're very happy that in this year we have been selected to

host the TVA's annual general meeting, the meeting which attracts hundreds of veterinary experts from all regions within the country," he expressed.

He added, the meeting will also see at least 1000 dogs within the city receive free rabies vaccines.

"Apart from only sitting and discussing over several matters, the veterinary officers will visit several areas within the city in which they are expected also to inject a total of 1000 dogs with rabies vaccines," he detailed.

He said his department was continuing to implement a number of interventions to ensure improved sanitation and services in all abattoirs within the capital city.

"We're working in cooperation with different key stakeholders to construct modern abattoirs for the professional slaughtering of cattle in order to ensure the meat consumed at the capital city are in need of sanitation and safety, as well as standards," Dr Mwesiga added.

AfDB Covid-19 off-grid recovery platform reaches financial close for \$20million SEFA investment

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has reached financial close on financing agreements for a \$20 million concessional investment from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) for the Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform (CRP).

The 5-year, \$50 million blended finance initiative is designed to provide relief and recovery capital to energy access businesses, supporting them through and beyond the pandemic.

The concessional loan agreements were signed with fund managers Lion's Head Global Partners, Triple Jump, and Social Investment Managers and Advisors, following approval by the Board of Directors of the African Development Bank in December 2020 for a \$20 million concessional investment from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), to establish the platform.

"Lion's Head is immensely grateful for the support from the AfDB, in particular the SEFA team and funders, for developing this innovative and catalytic co-investment instrument. African markets have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 due to lack of infrastructure, macro vulnerabilities especially in terms of currency and credit shocks and increasing global protectionism," said Harry Guinness, Managing Director of the Off-Grid Energy Access Fund, part of the wider Facility for Energy Inclusion.

"The Covid-19 Off-Grid Recovery Platform comes at a critical moment for early-stage energy access companies affected by Covid-19 and allows the Energy Entrepreneurs Growth Fund to continue releasing flexible capital into the sector at a

time when risk capital is increasingly scarce", said Jan-Henrik Kuhlmann, Head of Sustainable Energy at Triple Jump.

The Platform supports businesses commercializing solar home systems, green mini-grids, clean cooking, and other renewable energy access solutions in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and ensuring a robust commercial recovery of the industry.

Asad Mahmood, CEO and Managing Partner of Social Investment Managers and Advisors, said: "Many small businesses have suffered seriously during the Covid-19 crisis. The African Development Bank's relief efforts are market-driven and flexible and will help to leverage existing funds to ultimately assist energy distribution business in Africa."

"The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is jeopardizing the immense progress that has been achieved over the last decade in electrification through off-grid technologies across Africa. We are pleased that this initiative will increase resilience of the sector and look forward to working closely with our partners to safeguard energy access services and enable continued business expansion through and beyond the crisis," said Joao Duarte Cunha, Division Manager for Renewable Energy at the African Development Bank.

Through this Platform and other renewable energy initiatives, the African Development Bank is committed to building a sustainable and more climate-resilient future by catalysing private investment in low carbon infrastructure as a means to create green jobs, diversify national energy sectors, accelerate green growth, and increase the climate resilience of rural communities.

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We ought to chart strategies to reduce food insecurity, drought

LOOKING back through the history of biological evolution and human civilisation, drought not only claimed lives of various creatures but also impeded the development of human civilisation.

Mycenae, one of the cultural centres of ancient Greece, which had been prosperous for centuries, finally became ruins due to the severe drought and the following famine 1200 BC. The Mycenaean civilization vanished along with the city as well. In modern times, damage caused by drought is more shocking.

According to statistics, five of the World Top Ten Major Natural Disasters happened in the 20th century are droughts; others are three earthquakes, one typhoon and one tsunami.

The severe drought in Africa (1968-1973) claimed 2 million lives, hit 25 million people in 36 countries and forced over 10 million victims to flee home. China is also frequently hit by drought and three out of the world five major droughts in the 20th century happened in China.

Yet due to the shortage of water conservancy facilities, Tanzania is still faced with severe water shortage which acted as bottleneck for social and economic development and the improvement of people's livelihood.

The population of Tanzania's central region, comprising Dodoma, Singida and Tabora, is exposed to a range of serious drought-related diseases, in addition to the nutritional impact of lack of rainfall. Prevalent illnesses include malnutrition, trachoma (a sight-threatening eye infection), dysentery, cholera and diarrhoea. New research shows that by 2030, even if the drought frequency and intensity remain stable, 5 per cent

of the region's population will go hungry. In addition, 5 per cent of the population will suffer from trachoma and almost 200,000 children under five from diarrhoea. This would be accompanied by many serious cases of cholera and dysentery.

According to a study, Tanzania has witnessed six major droughts in the last 30 years. The latest numbers from the UN suggest that 24 million people are facing food insecurity in eastern Africa alone, not counting millions of people in the southern region.

The government should therefore urgently evaluate the impact of drought and make short, medium and long-term interventions to save people's lives. Measures should include supplying relief food to households worst affected by food shortages, supplying more food to the market to stabilise prices and restricting cereal exports.

Such an evaluation would make it possible to determine whether there was a need to import cereals or ask the private sector not to export grain and sell it domestically instead.

As for medium and long-term interventions the government should promote irrigation farming as that would guarantee good harvests even during periods of adverse weather. It is time Tanzania made the best use of the over 29 million hectares that is suitable for irrigation farming. This land is currently grossly under-utilised.

We also feel that the government should release food from the national reserve to stabilise skyrocketing cereal prices. Fears of famine were heightened when the Tanzania Meteorological Agency announced that the country received below-average rainfall in November and December, last year.

Can peasant agriculture really survive as a business in Africa?

CONCERN is growing all over the world about the plight of small farmers in view of their vulnerability to poverty and chronic under-nutrition. According to FAO, three-quarters of the approximately 800 million people living with chronic under-nutrition are in the rural sector.

They are extremely poor rural inhabitants, mainly comprising under-equipped, more or less landless small farmers living in difficult regions, underemployed and poorly paid agricultural labourers, and artisans and traders who rely on these two population groups for a living and are therefore scarcely better off themselves.

Increased agricultural production is necessary to tackle starvation and malnutrition, and rapid growth in agricultural production and productivity is a precondition for economic take-off and sustained poverty reduction in Africa. Agriculture remains the foundation of most African economies and African peoples' livelihoods. Agriculture accounts for 70 per cent of full-time employment in Africa.

The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) has said it is preparing to take Tanzania's subsistence agriculture to a higher level in order to feed 70 million mouths in the near future. This follows a field evaluation of farming and livelihoods in southern regions.

Commenting on the findings of the review, SAGCOT Board Chairman Salum Shante told reporters in Dar es Salaam recently that the way out of the present quagmire was to transform peasants from subsistence farming to take agriculture as a rewarding business.

SAGCOT's stakeholders, he reported, believe that subsistence

farming is unable to feed Tanzania's present population of 50 million.

"If we go on like this it will be catastrophic when we shall have to feed 70 millions in the near future. We have to take action now," he said.

He said the SAGCOT team visited all southern regions, adding: "We cannot leave peasants on their own because we have witnessed how bad the situation is. There are various ways of helping them to make strides," he said, without giving details.

Because of fears of a looming hunger and food shortages, Shante said SAGCOT had no option but to go directly to peasants, train them, produce plenty of crops, add value to their crops and ensure they accessed reliable markets for their produce.

In the past 20 years (1991-2011) Tanzania's agriculture grew at an annual average rate of 3.7 per cent, which was almost equal to Tanzania's population growth and far below Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme's (CAADP) projected farming growth of 6 per cent a year.

Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Charles Tizeba, was recently quoted saying farming productivity had to go up because "when we are talking of building industries, it means our agriculture will have to produce the largest part of the needed raw materials."

Dr Tizeba said the contribution of the agriculture sector stood a better chance in realising Tanzania's industrialised economy.

He also lauded SAGCOT efforts in transforming farmers from subsistence to commercial farming in the corridor, saying the government was committed to support their development and growth.

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Assessing two-year tenure of SA's Health minister

By Marcus Low

IT came as something of a surprise when Dr Zweli Mkhize was appointed South Africa's Minister of Health in May 2019. As one of the ANC's top six, and someone thought to have presidential ambitions, we thought it unlikely that he would settle for the health portfolio - which in those pre-COVID times wasn't quite the high-profile position it is now.

On the positive side, the appointment of someone as senior as Mkhize signalled that health was being given high priority in the new administration. Having more political clout than his predecessor Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, in theory, meant that Mkhize would have a better chance of bringing much-needed reforms to provincial healthcare systems. We were also cautiously hopeful that Mkhize's firmer hand would help better organise and direct the National Health Department and the various national health entities than was the case under Motsoaledi. Clearly an intelligent man with some political chops, we thought he might be able to get things done.

But we also had our doubts. When an unsafe circumcision device was purchased and used by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health in 2010 when he was Premier of the province he was dismissive about people's concerns - both about the potential harm to young men and possible irregularities in the procurement of the device.

Indeed, there was no shortage of tender controversies in KwaZulu-Natal in the years that Mkhize was Premier. But, neither was there any clear evidence, at least not that we are aware of, that he himself was corrupt.

On balance, we were cautiously optimistic that Mkhize might be able to address some of the chronic health governance issues that have plagued our healthcare system over the last two decades.

Two years down the line, and President Cyril Ramaphosa announcing Mkhize's resignation last night, it is now clear that our optimism was misplaced. Mkhize was first placed on special leave eight weeks ago following shocking revelations about a communications contract awarded to some of his close allies and reports that Mkhize's family received what amounts to kickbacks. The Special Investigating Unit (SIU) investigated the matter - and once they submitted their report to the President the writing was on the wall.

The new Health Minister is Dr Joe Phaahla, who was Deputy Minister of Health both under Mkhize and Motsoaledi.

A grubby corruption scandal

There is, of course, a story to be told about what Mkhize did and did not achieve over the last two years, but to some extent, nuance will inevitably be lost in the shadow of the grubby corruption scandal that brought about his downfall. Wherever the legal process goes after the SIU's report - which Mkhize has indicated he will ask a court to take on judicial review, Mkhize was either actively corrupt or unable to prevent corruption from being perpetrated right under his nose - both good reasons why he should never again hold public office.

In the first place then, Mkhize will be remembered as a minister who lost his job because of a particularly grubby corruption scandal.

In an extra twist in this tale, the Digital Vibes scandal, in the end, made Mkhize toxic to the very project he was originally brought in for, implementing National Health Insurance. Even with Mkhize gone, the ANC will have a hard time convincing the public that we will not see more such looting once NHI is implemented. There has, after all, been little willingness from ANC members in Parliament to engage seriously with people's concerns about the proposed NHI structure and governance arrangements set out in the NHI Bill.

Perhaps this is the most valuable take-away of the Digital Vibes saga for the country's NHI plans - a clear warning of what can happen when the buffer between politics and administrative governance is erased to center power in one person.

A very tough job

But, of course, Mkhize was also the Minister who, more than anyone bar the President, had the responsibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. The pressure on him in this regard was immense. Decisions often had to be made quickly and based on very limited information and with life and death consequences.

Often the impression one got of him on those many late-night media conferences, was of someone who was working very hard and who was, in his way, deeply committed to saving lives and protecting people from COVID-19. And yet, we have to square that image of him with the grubby details of COVID-19 funds being misdirected to help pay for his daughter-in-law's hair-dressing salon. Maybe acknowledging this dissonance, rather than writing people off as all good or all bad, brings one closer to understanding why these types of situations keep arising.

On the positive side, Mkhize clearly understands the science of COVID-19 and generally stuck to it.

There was never any question of the kind of anti-scientific nonsense we saw under former Minister of Health Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang. Even though transparency was patchy on his watch, he did host media briefings and he did answer questions from the media, though his overly controlling management style and the selective release of information certainly counts against him.

As to how well he did in the COVID-19 response, there will be differing opinions.

Take vaccine procurement. The market for vaccines has been and remains extremely competitive. There is nothing set in stone about the volumes we have procured. We could have done both better and worse depending on when and how we negotiated and what we were willing to pay. One view is that both Mkhize and Ramaphosa dropped the ball by not personally getting involved in high-level negotiations at a much earlier stage. Seen in this light, the fact that we went into a third wave with only a small percentage of the population vaccinated is a governance disaster - some might even argue worse than the Digital Vibes scandal. On the other hand, some may argue that government deserves credit for procuring two of the best available vaccines and scaling up provision rapidly, even if we started late.

Similarly, there were and still are differing views on the decision not to use the AstraZeneca vaccines, of which we had a million doses in the country back in February. Depending on how you read that situation, South Africa was either dealt a bad hand and had no choice but to let the vaccines go, or was dealt a so-so hand and played it very badly.

Control, but at what cost?

This brings us to the niggly issue of who Mkhize chose as his advisors and what we meant earlier by his controlling management style - issues that no doubt impacted his decision-making on the key COVID-19 questions.

Backtrack a moment to May 2020, when Deputy Director-General in the Department of Health Dr Anban Pillay, presumably with Mkhize's blessing, wrote to the South African Medical Research Council essentially to try to get Professor Glenda Gray fired.

To disagree with Gray was obviously fine, but to try to get her fired was thuggish. It sent a strong message that if you wanted to be in the inner circle, you had to toe the line. It thus came as little surprise when some of the more outspoken scientists were essentially purged from the Ministerial Advisory

Committee.

This controlling mindset was also evident in the National Department of Health. Though the President appoints Director-Generals, Mkhize was granted his wish when Dr Sandile Buthelezi was given the job. Buthelezi, among others, showed his loyalty a decade earlier when he joined Mkhize in defending the use of the aforementioned unsafe circumcision device in KwaZulu-Natal. While Buthelezi deserved to be given a fair chance once appointed, the fact of his appointment signalled that Mkhize's top priority was to surround himself with trusted allies and secure power in the department.

The impression we have, admittedly mostly from the outside, is that very little has improved at the department in the last two years - there are some competent people, but in general, the department seems to be under-capacitated, eternally in fire-fighting mode, and maybe most concerningly, poorly managed.

This is firstly clear from the procurement and contract management disaster that is the Digital Vibes scandal and our relatively slow vaccine procurement, but also from the rudderless response to the health system's human resource challenges (despite a new strategy that we suspect is rapidly gathering dust), failing to expeditiously address issues with private sector regulation identified by the Competition Commission's Health Market Inquiry, and the mind-boggling delay in releasing a critically important tuberculosis survey - eventually released around a year after it was ready for publication.

Firm leadership may, under certain conditions, help rehabilitate an organisation, which is what we hoped would happen when Mkhize became Health Minister. Yet, it seems an obsession with control had the opposite effect and instead ended up further paralysing a department that already was not functioning optimally.

The last two years may thus also serve as a reminder that to build a more capable state, we must maintain a clear distinction between the roles of Ministers and Director Generals (politics and administration) - and when recruiting the latter, we should prioritise professionalism and management skills and forget about political loyalties. We should also for good let go of the illusion that centralising power in a minister, as for example envisaged in the current NHI Bill, offers any short-cuts to greater efficiency or professionalism.

It clearly doesn't.

Mask mandates stir wild controversy in US schools amid new wave of COVID-19

WASHINGTON

U.S. schools nationwide are scrambling to adjust reopening plans as the COVID-19 cases driven by the highly contagious Delta variant are skyrocketing across the country, especially in undervaccinated southern states.

However, there is an ongoing battle over mask mandates and other mitigation measures among government leaders, teachers, parents and school boards. Emotions even ran red hot among parents who want the decision to be up to them, rather than school boards.

EMOTIONS RUN RED

On Tuesday, a school board meeting in the state of Tennessee erupted in screams and shouts, and video captured irate parents hurling threats at school board members and health care workers. "We know who you are! You can leave freely, but we will find you!"

One man threatened a health care worker at the meeting, CNN reported. "Actions have consequences. We will come for you, in a nonviolent way," another parent yelled at school board members, according to CNN.

At issue was a recently reinstated mandate that all pupils wear masks in the classroom when they return to school in the fall. Personal freedom is a core value among millions of Americans, goes back to the nation's founding, and is embedded in the legal system.

Mask mandates are a particularly prickly subject over the past year, since many Americans feel bullied by state governments that imposed draconian lockdowns, which stripped people of their jobs and



businesses. That has deepened distrust in many institutions.

Some local districts in states of Florida and Texas are at war with their GOP governors forbidding school districts to require masks and some schools defying such orders.

The Broward County school board in Florida this week was the latest district to ignore GOP Governor Ron DeSantis' ban on mask requirements in the state, and

voted Tuesday to keep the mask mandate in place for pupils, teachers and staff.

DeSantis has threatened not to pay salaries to school district officials who ignore his ban on mandates.

That has spurred the White House to say it might support Florida with federal dollars if the governor punishes school districts that implement mask mandates by withholding the salaries of officials.

Four teachers in that same

county in Florida died of COVID-19 earlier this week, three of whom were unvaccinated, according to local TV station WFOR.

"Within a 24-hour span, we had an assistant teacher pass away, a teacher at her school pass away, an elementary teacher pass away and another teacher at a high school," Broward Teachers Union President Anna Fusco told WFOR. Classes are slated to begin in that county next week. In the state of Texas,

the Dallas Independent School district this week announced a mask mandate, flouting Governor Greg Abbott's ban on such requirements.

NEW BATTLEGROUND

Public health experts warn that the politics around masks could hinder the nation's fight against COVID-19.

The threat of delta transmission in them is especially acute as vaccines are not currently authorized for children younger than 12 in the United States.

Almost 94,000 COVID-19 cases among children were reported in the past week, "a continuing substantial increase," said American Academy of Pediatrics in a report updated on Monday.

Nearly 4.3 million children had been tested positive for the disease in the country as of Aug. 5 since the onset of the pandemic.

In remarks from the White House East Room, President Joe Biden Thursday issued a stern criticism of local politicians who he said are "trying to turn a public safety measure, that is children wearing masks in school so they can be safe, into a political dispute."

More than 800 Florida physicians recently signed an open letter to DeSantis calling for the governor to repeal his executive order restricting the implementation of mask mandates in Florida schools.

Eight states, many of which have lagged the national average for vaccinations, have COVID-19 patients that account for at least 15 percent of their overall hospitalizations: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas, according to a CNN analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Of all COVID-19 hospitalizations, these eight states' combined totals make up approximately 51 percent of patients, though the states account for only around 24 percent of the nation's population, according to Census data, said CNN in a report updated on Friday. Dr. Francis Collins, director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, has implored parents to see masks for what they really are. "This is not a political statement or invasion of your liberties. This is a life-saving medical device, and asking kids to wear a mask is uncomfortable, but kids are pretty resilient," Collins told ABC's "George Stephanopoulos on This Week" on Sunday.

Lance Jones, who has a 14-year-old and 11-year-old in the DC area, told Xinhua that he prefers the kids to wear masks in school. Maria Woodward, a nurse in the DC area, said to Xinhua that masks among children in school "is a recommendation of the CDC. But it should be a parental and pediatrician decision."

Christopher Galdieri, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua that masks in schools - and masks everywhere else - are polarized because the entire pandemic has been polarized.

"We saw, for instance, (former U.S. President Donald) Trump's refusal to wear a mask under almost any circumstances, which when contrasted with then-candidate Joe Biden's masking, created a political flash point," Galdieri said.

"Add to the mix the fact that millions of families rely on schools being open so parents can go to work, and the size of the role school plays in students' personal and social lives and development," Galdieri added.

Xinhua

Research suggests reduced gun ownership will save more women's lives in South Africa

By Jody van der Heyde

FIFTY-EIGHT per cent of South Africa's domestic violence murder victims from April to June 2020 were women, according to national police statistics. Sixty-seven per cent of these women were killed by a current or ex-intimate partner. In such cases, femicide is the final act in a pattern of chronic and escalating abuse. South Africa's rate of femicide has been estimated at six times higher than the global average.

Research has consistently shown that having access to a firearm is a major risk factor in intimate femicide. In her book *Femicide in South Africa*, Nechama Brodie indicates that more than 80% of femicide victims attacked by their partner were "killed by a firearm injury, mostly from a single gunshot to the head or face ... In three-quarters of these cases, the perpetrator is a legal firearm owner using a licensed weapon."

This is not unique to South Africa - World Health Organization recommendations on how to tackle femicide emphasise strengthening gun laws and reducing gun ownership. This is based on research that has consistently shown that increased ownership of firearms is generally associated with an increase in homicide.

Results from a study assessing the impact of the Firearms Control Act on firearm homicide in five of South Africa's largest cities indicate that the implementation of the law saved the lives of 4,585 people between 2001 and 2005. This is why the government's current review of the act is important, as it seeks to further restrict public ownership of guns. Such a step can add to the ongoing measures to address gender-based violence in the country.

Last year the government adopted the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide National Strategic Plan and created a Femicide Watch website. This shows a renewed commitment to addressing what has been dubbed an 'epidemic' and a 'national crisis.' But while the plan is essential and the website provides useful resources to the public, it isn't enough to stop femicide and gender-based violence



- or even reduce it significantly.

Femicide is predictable because it usually follows prior incidents of abuse, the WHO research shows. Moreover, it indicates that most perpetrators are or were intimate male partners. A lot is known about patterns of violence in intimate relationships and their associated predictive factors. We know that if not tackled early, violence and abuse tend to escalate over time, and with that, the risks of femicide.

Examples of escalating abuse include stalking, controlling behaviour, and threatening to harm a child or pet. Although not all abusive relationships end in the murder of a woman, many do. Stricter gun control is a critical pre-

ventive strategy for intimate femicide and violence against women more generally. Fewer guns mean fewer femicides.

However, not everyone supports more gun control in South Africa. Since the act was gazetted for comments in May, over 100,000 submissions have been received, and debates between the pro- and anti-gun lobbies have been reignited. This shows that gun control is a contentious issue in the country.

One of the unsupported assertions from the pro-firearm lobby has been that removing firearms for self-defence would place women at risk of gender-based violence. However, the facts show a very different picture.

First, of all registered firearm owners in South Africa, only 19% are women. This makes it essential to hear whether the majority of the country's women (who don't own guns) support firearm ownership. Second, there is no evidence that having a firearm increases the owner's safety. In fact, when it comes to femicide, there is plenty of evidence that the presence of a gun is a real risk factor.

A common counter-argument can be anticipated: that stricter gun control alone isn't enough to eliminate femicide since it could still be committed with other weapons. That is true. However, as Brodie reminds us, fewer guns in the hands of potential perpetrators would prevent a great number of deaths. And other kinds of

weapons are not as lethal as guns.

It is also vital that police take reports of domestic and intimate partner violence seriously. They need to be trained to recognise and intervene in cases of potential femicide by identifying risk factors for perpetration or when women make multiple reports of being re-victimised.

Reducing gender-based violence and femicide requires the attention of all South Africans, including government, civil society and the business sector. Any approaches should however be linked to controlling firearm access by amending the Firearms Control Act. This will save lives.

DM

Politicians lambasted over response to virus

NANJING

WHILE imposing strict measures including mass testing and widespread travel restrictions to contain the latest Delta variant outbreak, China, the world's second-largest economy, has continued to drive economic growth.

The Chinese mainland reported 24 locally transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases on Saturday, with the majority in Jiangsu Province in eastern China, according to the National Health Commission. Jiangsu's Yangzhou has become the latest hotspot for this round of infections, logging 546 cases in total.

The recent COVID-19 resurgence first emerged in Nanjing, the provincial capital of Jiangsu, where several airport cleaners were found to be infected on July 20 during a routine test.

Chinese authorities have quickly clamped down on local flare-ups with measures like mass nucleic acid testing, targeted lockdowns, and travel restrictions, which has led to a distinct downward trend in new infections, as Nanjing, for example, has registered only one case in the past three days.

"The tightened measures will inevitably affect some people-intensive industries in the short run, but they are necessary for the long-term economic recovery," said Wu Chaoming, an economist with Chasing Securities, noting that China's economic recovery trend for 2021 is unchanged.

China's economy has staged a strong rebound, having grown 2.3 percent last year amid the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. Owing to the low comparison base and its consolidating recovery, the country's economy expanded 12.7 percent year on year in the first half of 2021.

According to Wu, although the current Delta variant is highly contagious, its overall impact on China's economy may be more limited, because China is now experienced in containing the spread of the virus and can better coordinate control measures and economic development.

BALANCED APPROACHES

To combat the uptick in daily cases, both Yangzhou and Nanjing have conducted several rounds of mass nucleic acid testing and suspended all domestic flights, long-distance buses, and the opening of indoor entertainment venues and sports centers.

China has also implemented nationwide travel restrictions. All 31 provincial-level regions on the Chinese mainland have urged citizens not to travel to medium- and high-risk areas or leave the regions where they live unless absolutely necessary.

But such strict measures have had only a limited impact on the lives of most Chinese people. "Our previous experience with fighting the epidemic has made us less panicked," said Wang Ying, who has not missed a day of work at an insurance company in Nanjing since the city saw a cluster of infections emerge.

"Earning wages is important for employees like me to support our families. I think the government has done a good job in balancing epidemic control and the operations of enterprises," Wang said.

Due to the temporary road traffic controls, Nanjing Changan Automobile Co., Ltd. initially had difficulty in delivering cars out of the city, but with the aid of local authorities, the company has successfully applied for traffic permits and shipped nearly 500 new energy vehicles.

In central China's Hunan Province, which reported over 100 confirmed COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, economic and social development have been similarly resilient. At popular shopping sites in downtown Changsha, the capital of Hunan, people queue up in an orderly fashion to show their health and travel codes before entering shops.

In Hunan's Zhuzhou, the impact of the recent outbreaks on the normal production of enterprises is rather limited, as none of the industrial enterprises have been shut down in the city and over 94 percent of its major industrial enterprises have maintained normal operations, said Liu Haibin, director of the Zhuzhou municipal bureau of industry and information technology.

"China has always been seeking a balance and trying its best to control the epidemic locally to mitigate the impact on society and the economy, leaving extreme

measures like city lockdowns as the last resort," said Yu Xin'an, vice president of the China Association of Regional Economy.

POSITIVE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

According to Yu, the impact of this latest round of Delta outbreaks on the national economy is limited and controllable, and the government has taken necessary actions to stem the virus spread while restoring normal social and economic operations at the earliest possible date.

To lessen the burden on enterprises, authorities in Jiangsu issued a notice on July 28 to help local firms in the procurement of raw materials, logistics and personnel exchanges. Financial authorities in Nanjing also proposed measures to increase credit and loan support to help firms ease capital turnover pressure. The factory of carmaker SAIC MAXUS's Wuxi Branch has been in full swing as the company is busy producing negative pressure ambulances to support the pandemic fight.

"Thanks to the help of local tax authorities, we have enjoyed a tax rebate of 42.5 million yuan (about 6.6 million U.S. dollars), which has greatly relieved our financial pressure stemming from capacity upgrades," said Yan Gebai, chief financial officer of the company.

Major projects have also proceeded as scheduled. A groundbreaking ceremony for 12 projects related to infrastructure and public services, with a total investment of 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, was held this month in Jiangsu's Wuxi.

Wen Tao, an analyst with the China Logistics Information Center, said the Chinese economy has witnessed positive changes this year, as shown by the January-July PMI data, and has a relatively solid foundation for long-term development.

In a key meeting on economic work for the second half of this year held amid the COVID-19 resurgence, the Chinese leadership stressed that prudent monetary policy should maintain reasonably ample liquidity and support the continued recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as stressed industries. Efforts should also be made to ensure the supply and stable pricing of commodities.



A staff member works at a workshop of a company in Ningxiang, Changsha, central China's Hunan Province, Aug. 3, 2021. (Xinhua/Chen Sihan)

"Market demand and supply remained basically steady in July amid government measures to coordinate COVID-19 control, disaster relief and economic growth," said Dong Lijuan, senior statisti-

cian of the National Bureau of Statistics. "Due to the disruption caused by the epidemic, the pressure on stable economic growth in the second half of this year has increased, but

the sustained upturn is unchanged as China's economy has strong resilience and great potential," said Li Zongguang, an economist with financial institution China Renaissance.

MIRAWANGA HAKIKABANK		MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF CHARGES AND FEES													
		Tariffs Charges are VAT Exclusive (Effective: 1-SEPT- 2021)													
S/N	Products/Services	Business Current A/C	Premium Current A/C	Personal Saving A/C	Salary Account	Mtoto Account	Jipange Saving A/C	Wekeza Group A/C	Malengo Account	Forex Account USD & EURO	Jwekeza Saving A/C	MHB Pamoja A/C	MHB Staff Acc.	MHB Agent Float	Month Account
1	Account opening	100,000.00	50,000.00	20,000.00	0	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	100,000.00	10	0	50,000.00	0	50,000.00	100,000.00
2	Minimum operating Balance	100,000.00	50,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	0	10,000.00	100,000.00	10	10,000.00	50,000.00	N/A	N/A	5,000.00
3	Interest Payable	N/A	N/A	3.00%	3.00%	6.00%	2.00%	3.00%	2%-4%	0.50%	2.00%	2%	N/A	N/A	3.00%
4	Interest bearing amount	N/A	N/A	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	5,000.00	20,000.00	500,000.00	N/A	N/A	20,000.00
5	Monthly Maintenance Fee	13,000.00	6,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
6	ATM withdrawal below TZS 100Mbn/5,000Euro/4,000	5,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	Free	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2	2,000.00	Free	Free	Free	Free
7	ATM withdrawal above 100Mbn/5,000Euro/4,000	0.1% not more than TZS. 100,000.00	0.1% not more than TZS. 100,000.00	0.1% not more than TZS. 100,000.00	2,000.00	N/A	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.1% not more than TZS. 100,000.00	0.1% not more than usd/euro 40	2,000.00	Free	Free	Free	Free
8	Deposit	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
9	Monthly Statement	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
10	ATMbook statement per page	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	Free	2,000.00	2,000.00	Free	Free	2,000.00
11	Other Charges	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	Confirmation to the Auditors	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
13	Search for information above 5 years	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	5.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
14	Cheque book cost (per Leaf)	500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Status report	30,000.00	30,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	Stop payment order	30,000.00	30,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17	Disbursed cheque for lack of funds or holder to drawer or effect not cleared	50,000.00	50,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
18	Disbursed cheque due to the technical error caused by customer	50,000.00	50,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19	Document Account Activation	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
20	Account Closing on Customer Demand	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
21	Counter cheque per leaf (Within the Bank)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
22	Salary Processing fee (TZS 1,000 per Transaction)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
23	Standing Order	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
24	Instructions within MHB	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
25	Standing Order to other Bank (SWIFT)	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
26	FT within the Bank (Incoming)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
27	FT to other Banks	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
28	FTS Transfer	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
29	TS Transfer	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
30	ATM & BV Cards Charges	10,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	N/A	20,000.00	N/A	10,000.00	N/A
31	New ATM Card	N/A	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10,000.00	10,000.00
32	Replacement of lost/damaged ATM cards	N/A	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
33	ATM PIN Reset	N/A	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
34	Annual ATM Maintenance Fee	N/A	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
35	ATM balance enquiry	N/A	300	300	300	300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300	N/A	300	N/A	300
36	ATM Min statement	N/A	300	300	300	300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300	N/A	300	N/A	300
37	ATM withdrawal fee per transaction	N/A	1300	1300	1300	1300	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1300	N/A	1300	N/A	1300

S/N	Products/Services	Business Loan	Subsidiary Loan	Subsidiary Loan	Subsidiary Loan	Agriculture Loan	Overdraft Facility	Wekeza Loan	Loans Against FDR	Home Improvement Loan	Bank Guarantee	Invoice Discounting	Letter of Credit
1	Loan Application fee												
2	Loan Processing Fee	1% to 3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15M\$	3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15M\$	TZs. 5,000 to TZS. 20,000	1% of Loan amount	3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15 M\$	1% to 3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15 M\$	1% of Loan amount, Max. 10M\$	1% of Loan amount, Max. 10 M\$	1% to 3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15 M\$	N/A	1% to 3% of Loan Amount, Max. 15 M\$	N/A
3	Loan Legal fee	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	N/A	N/A	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 500,000	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 500,000	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	N/A	0.5% of Loan amount, Max. of 1 Million	N/A
4	Loan Insurance fee (Annual)	0.65% of Loan amount (Where applicable)	0.65% of Loan amount	0.65% of Loan amount	0.65% of Loan amount	0.65% of Loan amount	0.65% of Loan amount (Where applicable)	N/A	0.65% of Loan amount (Where applicable)	0.65% of Loan amount	N/A	0.65% of Loan amount (Where applicable)	N/A
5	Guarantee Commission fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2% to 1% of the Guarantee Amount (per quarter)	N/A	N/A
6	Opening Fee (Import LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5% to 1.5% per quarter + SWIFT charges in USD minimum 150.
7	Amendment Fee (Import LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$100 plus SWIFT charges \$35 Flat
8	Acceptance Fee (Import LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25%
9	Extension Fee (Import LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5% to 1.5% min \$120 plus SWIFT charges \$ 35 to \$90 Flat
10	Advising fee (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.25% min \$150
11	Confirmation fee if any (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.25% min \$100 per quarter
12	Document verification fee (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$120
13	Special courier fee (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$150
14	Amendment Fee (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$100 + \$ 35(Swift Charges)
15	Cancellation fee (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$120
16	Negotiation/Payment (Export LC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.5% to 1.5% min \$200, Max \$300.

CAPITAL RADIO RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-1				

Domestic trafficking still a 'thriving' industry that ruins children's future

By Correspondent Adela Madyane, Kigoma

At the age of 16, Adija Athman (not her real name) was supposed to be in school to realise her dream of becoming a nurse. If not she would have been playing with friends, and spending time with her family— instead, she's being subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

Adija is one of the teen girls who are tricked and then trafficked into domestic servitude—Tanzania's biggest human trafficking problem.

These days, domestic trafficking in Tanzania is a thriving industry. There are an estimated 1 million children doing domestic work in Tanzania, most of them girls.

Many families are being enticed by the good words of agents who promise them that their children would live with good families, receive a decent wage and have access to schooling, but when they reach there, stories change.

And this is what happened to Adija, who was taken from Singida Region to Mwanza as a domestic worker.

The girl with big dreams of helping her family was being promised to earn better monthly pay ended up in sexual exploitation. She was taken home by a 36-year-old woman known by the single name of Habia, whose life depends on the abuse of children for sexual exploitation in Mwanza Region.

Habia of Nyakato suburb of Mwanza usually takes six young girls within three months from different regions with the promise of securing a good job in the rocky city.

But, after arriving in the city located on the southern shores of Lake Victoria, girls' tasks changed into forced prostitution—a condition of control over a person who is coerced by another to engage in sexual activity.

Adija says she was forced to follow Habia's orders without question.

"Our sister (Habia) brings new girls every three months, and they are taken from different areas, especially from her home region of Singida," reveals Adija.

According to her, Habia exchanged the new girls, with the older ones, who later are forced to get married and if they're not married, they (girls) are forced to go back home.

She adds: "This also happened to me, as after a year, I was forced into marriage, but soon I divorced. And because I had no skills, I had no alternative, and instead, I'm still doing sex for money though I changed the location from Mwanza to Sengerema and Geita districts."

Haiba's best friend, (name withheld), says her colleague was forced into exploiting girls, only to meet her daily family needs as she has three children to take off since was divorced.

"She takes young girls and raises them as hers, but end up finding men to sleep with them. She negotiates the price and the man, goes with the girl, you can never identify her easily," she says, adding:

"What makes us sad is that she only offers them shelter and not food for those girls. So, for them to survive, girls find an alternative way of getting extra money."

Adija is not alone, an 11-year-old girl who was trafficked from Uvinza District in Kigoma Region to Mwanza, with the purpose of getting an education with little work for the monthly payment of 30,000/-, but nothing was fulfilled.

An 18-year-old Mwanaisha Hamisi (not a real name) also claims that she worked for a government official for three months without being paid and when she demanded her pay she was brutally treated prompting her to run away.

Unfortunately, she lost her mother's phone number, that's where her life story changed into being a prostitute.

Thereafter she started working in a restaurant where she was paid 1,000/- per day and for her to get a shelter she had to get a man.

"I proceeded with such business for almost three years until when I got a Good Samaritan (a woman who have never had a child) who took me in for shelter and other services."

Mwanaisha is now pregnant and planning to get married to what she termed as 'responsible man', though she said her future is being distorted.

The challenge is not only for girls, it also happens to boys like Joshua Ambrose (13) who was taken to work as a cowboy in Mwanza.

And when he arrived in Mwanza, Ambrose who stayed for one year with-



There are an estimated 1 million children doing domestic work in Tanzania, most of them girls

out being paid claimed to have been treated like an animal by the man who took him. According to Ambrose, the trafficker never allowed him to go home.

"I lost hope and felt as this man would kill me one day, so I tried several times to escape, but the man caught me and took me in the deep forest for cattle keeping, and my food was only milk," he claims.

"I finally managed to escape to my home, but I can't remember anything about the past and I cannot remember the man who took me from home for he never asked my parents," he recounted.

The government in collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and police works hand in hand to support trafficked children with reunification, psychological, temporary shelter, counseling, and health care to victims.

A Wote Sawa social welfare officer Renalda Mambo cites poverty, domestic servitude, family breakdown, and parents' inconsideration of the importance of education as the main push factors of child domestic workers and trafficking from rural Tanzania to urban areas.

She says they have been receiving three to four trafficking cases per month, reported to the police station for legal procedures.

"Most of the affected groups according to our records are girls; many of them come from Burundi. We collaborate with migration officers to return them to their homes," Renalda stresses.

Mwanza City Council Social welfare officer, Edith Mokiwa says when trafficking issues are identified and submitted to them, it is easy to deal with cases where parents reported missing their children, and it becomes difficult in cases where parents do not report. These cases are referred for settlement to NGOs working under such issues as Wote Sawa and Tanzania Child Domestic Workers Consolidation (TCDWC).

Mokiwa suggests the need for parents to refrain from abandoning children, as the move poses a serious challenge to the child.

A social welfare officer from Kakonko District in Kigoma Region, Mohammed Shauri describes Kakonko as among the leading district with high trafficked children, children leave behind their families and their dreams for temporary money in big cities.

Shauri says: "December last year a girl came with an infant, claiming that she had given birth through a caesarean. The girl was in Mwanza doing domestic work, where she was impregnated. She never realised

any money from her work. She lost out her payment when her boss chased her after she got pregnant. She was appealing for assistance to recover her money".

He says: "In November 2020, I had a meeting in Katanga village. I identified a boy whose ears were chopped and fingers cut due to brutal actions towards him from the trafficker, his body is full of marks. I asked the boy, he told me he was taken for cattle keeping, and he suffered a lot."

Kigoma Region receives a high influx of people from other countries seeking work—a large proportion being children, according to Regional Migration Officer Commissioner Amoursadick Salum.

Citing examples, Salum said between June 1 and 15, the migration department found 1,032 citizens from Burundi (736), Congo DRC (178), Tanzania (110), and Indians (5) being illegally within the country. Some were being trafficked with the promises of good jobs while others have just entered the county with the purpose of looking for a job, out of 1032, 341 are children, mostly girls.

"It is complex to deal with children cases, for there are no juvenile courts. When we try to rescue them by returning them to their homes, within a short period of time they come back

with new names and identity," says Salum.

What community needs to know? Laws advocacy and compliance coordinator from Wote Sawa Joseph Mukoji, says, the community should be aware that child trafficking is a hidden crime, and it is not easy to recognize the traffickers or know an exact number of people in the process. In Tanzania, child trafficking is divided into four categories.

He says, according to Tanzanian laws, a 14-year-old child must not work for more than 6 hours, must have a paid leave, and must be given time to rest in the middle of activities. However, a number of children are subjected to labor exploitation. A total of 2,200,000 million children worldwide are employed.

Joseph also describes sexual exploitation as another form of trafficking where children are trafficked for the sake of money that belongs to traffickers, under this category, the child is physically and psychologically vulnerable to customers and traffickers. This category contains 4,500,000 worldwide.

He further says children are also trafficked for begging and selling things on the street, to benefit the trafficker. Children are taken from villages to work in town. This is a form of exploitation that benefits the trafficker. About 14,200,000 children, globally belong to this category.

According to the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) report (2018), the majority of exploited children come from Iringa, Kigoma, Mwanza, Singida, Mbeya, Arusha, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Tanga, and Kagera regions while Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Arusha and Mwanza cities are the main destinations of internal trafficking.

In this year's report, IOM indicates that besides the government efforts on elimination of trafficking and illegal migration there are still many reported cases of violence from trafficking affecting children aged between 10 and 17.

New TADB chief vows to further serve smallholders with increased vigour

By Guardian Correspondent

STRUGGLING smallholders in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors have started the new financial year and new farming season with positive expectations. They have heard government promises. They have heard pledges from state and non-state actors on how to lessen their plight.

Pledges to solve challenges and problems standing in the way of increasing productivity in agriculture, livestock and fishers were made during the just-ended budget session. Indeed a strategic levy has been introduced to collect money for rural roads and improve provision water to rural communities.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has repeatedly said that money collected using the levy will be used for that purpose and that purpose alone.

The same has been emphasized on by Minister of Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. Rural people wait to see roads being built or up-graded so that they can take their produce to markets with ease; they wait to see potable water flowing from pipes within reasonable distance.

Tanzania's farming season, often referred to as growing season, starts annually on the first day of May. This year, it started on August 1, 2021.

Every year, before the season



Frank Nyabundege (R) receives office documents from his predecessor at TADB, Japhet Justine, in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

starts suppliers of farm inputs, implements and building contractors vie for new business arrangements or renew old ones. Banks revisit their books, scrutinize repayment of loans by people in the farming community and make requisite decisions.

Banks that have chosen to finance agriculture play an important role in enabling farmers to meet their financial needs. The Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) is a state bank charged with the task of ensuring finance flows into the farming community.

Indeed by the end of last

month the bank had disbursed some 300billion/-, in form of soft loans to the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors. In an effort to strengthen and transform value chains, primarily in the agriculture and livestock sectors, until the end of June in the bank had disbursed 246,488,453,466.38/-.

On August 6, this year, President Samia Hassan appointed Frank Nyabundege, the new managing director of the TADB, replacing Japhet Justine.

Before his new appointment, Nyabundege was the Managing Director of the Lake Oil Tanzania Limited. He has 20 years experi-

ence in the banking sector, having also served as the TIB Corporate Bank Tanzania Limited Managing Director.

When Nyabundege addressed workers at the TADB headquarters in Dar es Salaam he renewed the bank's determination to serve smallholders in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, vowing that this time smallholders will be served with stepped up vigour.

He said he will build on what has already been achieved to further prove to smallholders in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors that the bank was formed to serve them and for

their benefit.

Underscoring the fact that contribution of every work matters, the MD called on every worker to work very hard and with vigour to achieve the aims for which the bank was formed. "I expect to see every worker working with increased vigour so that we can achieve our bank's targets in making radical reforms in agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors," he told his listeners.

He said the bank is in a good position to contribute to Tanzania's economic growth by focusing on effecting reforms in the three sectors by giving smallholders soft loans and giving them education on how to increase productivity in their areas of production and on value addition.

Nyabundege said over 70 percent of Tanzanians are either employing themselves in agriculture or have direct economic engagement with agricultural activities, arguing that it is therefore important for the TADB to uplift lives of all those people by giving them loans.

He said when more crops will be produced, more agro-industries will be started, more youths will be employed by those industries, hence mitigating the unemployment problem.

The agriculture sector is of particular importance in Tanzania. Minister for Agriculture, Professor Adolf Mkenda told

the national assembly in Dodoma that in 2021, the sector contributed 26.9 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP), it contributed 58.1 percent to overall employment generation and contribute 65 percent of raw materials that were needed by local industries.

Nyabundege reminded workers of the importance of making their bank felt in regions where producers live and work, arguing that sustainable national food security will largely depend on productivity in the agriculture sector. He said the TADB will continue to support efforts towards producing enough food for the nation and surplus for export.

"It is my optimism that every one of us at TADB will play part his or her role to see agricultural, livestock and fishing sectors grow and contribute significantly into national economy," new TADB boss said.

Nyabundege did not hesitate to tell his workmates that the task and major obligation ahead of them is to deliver beyond expectations. "We are entrusted and the public is confident on us and let's not let them down," he stressed.

Addressing the Parliament in April, this year in Dodoma, President Hassan pledged to sustain agricultural reforms and increase financial support to TADB so that the bank could stand a better chance of trans-

forming agricultural, livestock and fishing sectors.

"The sector contributes 100 percent to national food self-sufficiency, 60 percent to industrial raw materials, 27.7 percent to national income and 25 percent of Tanzania's foreign earning," she explained.

The President told parliament that efforts will have to be made to increase irrigation acreage from the current 561,383 hectares to 1.2 million ha by 2025. TADB's other area of concern that the president talked about was beef and dairy sub-sectors.

She said the government is determined to increase efforts towards modernisation of beef and dairy farming. She said efforts will have to be made to gradually transform the traditional stock and have a more rewarding breed to farmers.

The president said the new breed will have qualities of producing more milk and more and better beef. Also animal feed production is projected to be raised from the current 900,000 tonnes to eight million tonnes. She also said efforts will be made to increase pasture acreage from the current 2,788,901 hectares to 6,000,000 ha.

Since its inception five years ago, TADB has released loans amounting to over 300bn/-. The bank has continued to win confidence to farmers countrywide.

UN's ultimatum to staff and diplomats: Get vaccinated or go hungry

UNITED NATIONS

AS New York city struggles to cope with the widespread outbreak of the deadly new coronavirus Delta variant – which has claimed more than 100,000 cases per day in the US – the United Nations is laying down strict guidelines at its headquarters (UNHQ) for staffers, diplomats and visiting delegates.

In a letter released August 13, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the Delta variant “is posing some challenges to our planning, and we will be taking additional precautionary measures to ensure a safe work environment for our personnel and delegates.”

The UN will continue to follow all restrictions imposed by New York, the host city for the world body. Under new restrictions announced by Mayor Bill de Blasio, proof of vaccination is mandatory to go to restaurants, bars, nightclubs, concerts, theatres and gyms – with more restrictions to follow. Those unvaccinated will be barred from these premises.

Conforming to city guidelines, the UN is expected to insist on proof of vaccination to use several of the dining facilities in the Secretariat building and also mandatory in-house mask-wearing.

“In order to align UNHQ’s approach to indoor dining with that of NYC’s guidance, we will soon require proof of vaccination for seated meals at cafeterias and other dining facilities on premises,” says Guterres.

Further guidance on full return to work is being developed and will be issued in September.

To ensure adequate protection for all colleagues, effective August 13, all UN personnel must wear masks

when indoors on premises. “We will reassess this requirement as conditions warrant.”

The letter says the most significant driver of COVID-19-related risk is vaccination status. Accurate information on the vaccination status of staff is therefore essential to determine risk and appropriate mitigation strategies.

Aitor Arauz, President of the UN Staff Union in New York and Vice-President, UN International Civil Servants’ Federation (UNISERV), told IPS: “We are dealing with simultaneous crises in Haiti and Afghanistan, where the UN has a lot of staff currently in danger.”

“What I can say on the issue of dining facilities at UNHQ is that, as a general principle, since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the Staff Union has supported close alignment with host city and NY State guidelines; an approach that provides staff a sense of coherence and consistency.”

However, he cautioned, enforcement of these particular measures may prove a challenge given the particularities of our working environment.

Ian Richards, former President of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) told IPS requiring proof of vaccination in duty stations where all have had a chance to get jabbed is a sensible way to get things up-and-running again while keeping staff and diplomats safe.

“We’re looking forward to similar measures in Europe and in due course elsewhere,” said Richards, who is based in Geneva.

Meanwhile, the UN has placed several TV monitors outside committee rooms, primarily aimed at diplomats and visiting delegates, with warnings that read: “No face-to-face meetings



UN Secretary-General António Guterres gets vaccinated against COVID-19 at Adlai Stevenson High School in the Bronx, New York in January 2021. File photo

unless individually risk-assessed; 2 people per elevator; Lower your mask and present your valid UN ID when requested by Security. By swiping your valid UN ID you confirm that in the past 14 days you have no Covid-19 symptoms, no positive Covid-19 test result; and no close contact with a confirmed or suspected Covid-19 case.”

In several US cities and businesses, the ultimatum is more severe than the UN: “Get Vaccinated or Get Fired.”

At the Winchester Medical Center, nurses were told: “Get the shot or face termination”. In Sacramento, California, the Mayor has insisted that all new hires and current city employees should get vaccinated, or face being terminated. Both proposals are getting major pushback from unions, who say workers have the right to choose.

In Washington state, Governor Jay Inslee announced that some 60,000 employees will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they want to keep their jobs.

The governor’s proclamation has

given state workers until Oct. 18 to become fully vaccinated, with few exceptions. And employees who do not provide proof of vaccination will be dismissed from employment, unless they qualify for a medical or religious exemption.

Since December last year, more than 353 million doses have been administered, fully vaccinating over 167 million people or 50.4% of the total U.S. population.

The rest remain unvaccinated – either for personal, political or medical reasons. But the UN does not have a head count as to how many of its more than 3,000 staffers in New York have been vaccinated.

Dr Palitha Kohona, a former Chief of the UN Treaty Section, told IPS that as a vital member of the New York community, the UN also has a responsibility to contribute to the city’s efforts to contain the spread of the dreaded Covid-19.

“The UN enjoys wide immunities under international law but the virus does not recognize rights and immunities invented by man,” he pointed

out. Many of the staff members, he said, live in communities scattered in places far from the Head Office and travel to work. They could be exposed to the virus.

“The restrictions imposed by the Organization are for the protection of all. Most importantly, the Organization must further refine options for working from home”.

“With modern technology, this should not pose too many difficulties”, said Dr Kohona, a former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the letter from Guterres also says all staff at UNHQ, in consideration of the need to protect one another, will be required to report their vaccination status including through EarthMed with immediate effect.

In addition, any personnel who has been on site and has a positive COVID-19 or Antigen test result must report the results immediately to the Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health

through the confidential self-reporting portal (medical.un.org) in order to ensure effective risk mitigation at the workplace.

“I continue to be very grateful to those staff who have been working on premises throughout the pandemic, either because their functions could not be performed remotely or when remote work would have impacted their effectiveness and efficiency,” says Guterres.

“I particularly commend those who did so when we did not have the protection of vaccination. As the presence of unvaccinated staff potentially increases the risk for other staff members, whether vaccinated or not, vaccinations will be mandated for staff performing certain tasks and/or certain occupational groups at UNHQ whose functions do not allow sufficient management of exposure.”

This mandate may be waived where a recognized medical condition prevents vaccination.

Those staff members who will be required to be vaccinated must receive the final dose of a vaccine no later than 19 September 2021.

Any COVID-19 vaccine that is recognized by the WHO, or under routine approved-use by a Member State’s national health authority, is accepted. Affected staff will be notified by their respective offices during the week of 16 August.

“As personnel serving in New York, we are privileged to have access to effective vaccines through local vaccination programmes. In addition to requiring certain staff to be vaccinated, I strongly encourage all personnel who have not already done so to take advantage of this opportunity to be vaccinated to promote your safety and health and all those around you.”

IPS

BRI's contribution to global human rights indelible

BEIJING

SEVERAL human rights groups based in London and New York recently reported so-called human rights abuses linked to Chinese business operations abroad, smearing Belt and Road projects and China’s outbound investment.

The truth is that those accusations are simply calumnies. Over the years, China and its partners worldwide have, through their joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), stimulated common development, reduced extreme poverty, and improved the well-being of local populations, an indisputable contribution to global human rights cause.

Following the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the BRI is by no means a self-serving geopolitical strategy speculated by those zero-summers in the West.

While the BRI is proposed by China, the opportunities for development the initiative can bring about belong to all participants. And it is an open and inclusive initiative that welcomes the participation of third-party mar-



Aerial photo taken on Jan. 11, 2021 shows a view of the Pacific international container terminal at Tianjin Port in north China's Tianjin Municipality. (Xinhua)

kets and more to achieve better cooperative results.

With the initiative, more residents in Pakistan and Cambodia can enjoy better access to affordable electricity, as Chinese companies have offered clean and safe energy supply solutions that cater to local needs.

Old infrastructures have been revamped in Greece and others, and have become their new drivers of

growth. Railways under construction are expected to facilitate inter-country and inter-city transportation in Southeast Asia, Europe and Africa.

According to a report from the World Bank, BRI transport projects could by 2030 help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty globally.

Amid the raging COVID-19 pan-

demic, countries along the BRI route have included health as their new area of cooperation. That enriches the blueprint that used to focus on infrastructure, trade and economic development.

In June, China and 28 countries jointly launched the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation, with an aim of boosting vaccine assistance, export,

and joint production, a new move to safeguard people’s right to life in the face of this deadly and cunning virus.

China has reached cooperation pacts with co-sponsors of the vaccine initiative on a total of 775 million doses have been delivered by early August.

In less than a decade since its birth, the BRI has won substantial achieve-

ments and growing global recognition. The fact that China has some 140 partner countries under the initiative and their trade exceeded 9.2 trillion U.S. dollars from 2013 to 2020 can be a convincing proof of its success.

Nothing is perfect in this world, and the same goes for the BRI. That is why China is gearing up to promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road and work towards high-standard, people-centered and sustainable development with its partners.

For quite some time, the Western world has been talking too much and doing too little about helping the developing world. Recently, Washington, together with some other Western countries, have come up with their plan to “build back a better world.”

If the West truly cares about the common growth of those struggling with poverty around the world, they should refrain from just being bystanders and naysayers.

And it is even better for them to honor their promises this time. After all, it is always much easier said than done.

Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBAYA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI II 08:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI III 08:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI IV 08:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI V 08:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI VI 09:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI VII 09:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI VIII 09:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI IX 09:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI X 09:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI XI 09:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI XII 10:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI XIII 10:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI XIV 10:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI XV 10:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI XVI 10:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI XVII 10:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI XVIII 11:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI XIX 11:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI XX 11:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXI 11:30 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXII 11:40 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXIII 11:50 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXIV 12:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXV 12:10 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXVI 12:20 AM HABARI NYEPESI XXVII 12:30 AM HABARI 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TangGold CEO, COO excited with Geita's new 2.9km stretch of gold deposits

By Smart Money Reporter

DISCOVERY of new gold reserves on a 2.9 kilometres stretch of land at Geita's Buckreef Gold Mine means more revenue both to Treasury, Tanzanian Gold Corporation and State Mining Corporation.

TanGold CEO, Stephen Mullowney and Chief Operating Officer, Andrew Cheatle said recently after discovery of the new gold deposits that, drilling of the new area will start soon. "As part of the new management team's continued in-depth assessment of the Buckreef Gold asset and empowerment of local management, we continue to be excited by the green-field exploration potential of the Buckreef Gold land package," said Mullowney.

He said the Buckreef West discovery as announced in May in an area known as the Anfield Zone is the second new discovery in less than two months. "Combined with the positive metallurgical results in conjunction with the Buckreef Gold main zone, these discoveries provide us with continued confidence that Buckreef Gold will develop into a significant gold producing asset," Mullowney added.

TanGold said the new discovery of three closely spaced parallel, gold bearing structures at the Buckreef Gold project has grab samples of mineralized bed rock have been assayed, with highlights of 37.52 gram per ton, 28.55 gram per ton and 14.42 gram per ton.

"I am thrilled with the work of the Buckreef Gold team, who were keen to 'get their boots out on the ground' and explore targets and generate new ones," Cheatle said adding that field work is being planned for late this year and early 2022.

"This has resulted in the discovery of the Anfield Zone - 2.9 km of prospective trend. We will be drilling the new target as soon as practicable," he added while revealing that mapping was undertaken between March 2021 and June 2021. "The fresh rock samples, obtained from a deeper artisanal mine shaft, have all the hallmark characteristics of mineralization associated with the main zone.



TanGold CEO Stephen Mullowney (2nd L) on a field visit at Geita's Buckreef Gold Mine.

Tanzanian Gold Corporation along with its joint venture partner, Stamico is building a significant gold project at Buckreef Gold in Geita that is based on an expanded mineral resource base and the

treatment of its mineable mineral reserves in two standalone plants.

Measured mineral resource now stands at 19.98 metric tons at 1.99 gram per ton gold containing

1,281,161 ounces of gold and indicated mineral resource now stand at 15.89MT at 1.48g/t gold containing 755,119 ounces of gold for a combined tonnage of 35.88MT at 1.77g/t gold containing 2,036,280 ounces of gold.

Mastercard and PayFast launching campaign to boost small businesses

JOHANNESBURG

AS Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) accelerate digital transformation efforts in response to the pandemic, Mastercard has partnered with on-line payment gateway PayFast to encourage South Africans to shop online at local businesses, while putting a spotlight on small business and the inspiring entrepreneurs behind them.

Launching this week, the two-month campaign aims to elevate the visibility of these businesses that leverage PayFast's payment gateway through content highlighting manufacturers, clothing designers, jewellers, and creators. Select businesses will also be featured on Mastercard's Priceless platform.

The campaign aims to inspire and incentivise South Africans to support local small businesses through e-commerce. Until

30 September 2021, consumers who checkout using their Mastercard, Masterpass app or any other Masterpass-enabled banking app at a PayFast merchant will stand a chance to win one of nine R100,000 weekly shopping sprees to spend at any PayFast merchant.

PayFast merchants that promote the campaign, also stand a chance to win one of nine R10,000 prizes, which they can use to further boost their business. "The pandemic has delivered financial headwinds that threaten the economic progress of SMEs and because of this, Mastercard is taking action, while also calling on consumers alike to shop, share and support these businesses," says Kamini Redhi, Marketing and Communications Director at Mastercard, Southern Africa.

"At Mastercard, we are dedicated to unlocking potential

and empowering SMEs to thrive commercially by connecting them to millions of new and existing customers through digital technologies and awareness campaigns like our collaboration with PayFast that spark conversations and help elevate SMEs in the marketplace."

With more than 80,000 merchants trusting the platform with their payments, PayFast is dedicated to supporting online businesses, helping them to get paid instantly and securely so that they can grow, develop and succeed in the digital economy.

"Through this partnership with Mastercard, we will be able to open new possibilities for our merchants who will get much-needed exposure, especially during these trying times where not all businesses have the funding to promote their products and services. We want to see small businesses grow



Kamini Redhi, marketing and communications director at Mastercard, Southern Africa.

through and beyond the pandemic and provide the necessary solutions and choices for their customers through e-commerce," says Colleen Harrison, head of Marketing at PayFast.

E-commerce is on the rise

E-commerce has been a boon for small businesses over the last 16 months, largely due to consumer's rapid adoption of online shopping and digital services as they opt to shop from the safety of their homes.

According to a Mastercard study on consumer spending, 68% of South African consumers are shopping more online since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 63% say that they are making a conscious effort to shop online at small businesses.

"With the increasing shift to digital, consumers are still seeking a personalised and human element to their e-commerce experience.

By shining a light on small business' ingenuity, we aim to Start Something Priceless and inspire South Africans to get behind local businesses through safe and convenient online shopping.

This, in turn, will empower businesses to not only survive but build future prosperity and support recovery," says Redhi.

Wall Street is the most optimistic on stocks in almost two decades

NEW YORK

ABOUT 56% of all recommendations on S&P 500 firms are listed as buys, the most since 2002. It's one more data point that shows the extent of the euphoria sweeping markets after a blockbuster earnings season.

While analysts are historically a bullish bunch, they're turning even more optimistic in the face of relentless stock-market gains and corporate earnings that topped even the highest expectations. For all the concerns about the delta variant, China's regulatory crackdown or waning Federal Reserve stimulus, it hasn't made much of a dent yet on stock prices.

"It's not just financial conditions and low rates fuelling the appetite for risk assets - tremendous fundamental im-

provement is forecast into 2022," Todd Jablonski, chief investment officer at Principal Global Asset Allocation, said in a note. US companies aren't the only ones feeling the love. In Europe, about 52% of recommendations on Stoxx 600 firms are buy or equivalent, a 10-year high. In Asia, that number jumps to 75%, the highest proportion since at least 2010.

The second-quarter earnings season was one of the strongest in history, even if helped by comparison with a period last year when many parts of the world were in the grip of pandemic lockdowns. US profit growth of 90% was 17 percentage points better than expected, while a 71% rise in Europe surprised positively by 16 percentage points, according to JPMorgan Chase & Co. In both regions, results were stronger than implied by



the acceleration in growth momentum during the period, JPMorgan strategists said in a note.

Price targets

While some of that earnings optimism has been priced into markets, analysts see scope for more gains. Converting

aggregated 12-month price targets for Stoxx 600 members implies about 9% upside for the index from current levels, while for the S&P 500 the implied gain is about 10% and for Asia 21%.

For Ben Laidler, global markets strategist at Etoro Ltd., the reopening trade "hasn't even started yet." For companies

like restaurants, tour operators, airlines and hotels, earnings are still down 85% from where they were coming into this crisis, he said on Bloomberg TV, leaving clear scope for a rebound.

Luc Aben, chief economist at Kempen & Co., has a positive view on value equities. "These are over-represented in sectors that were greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic," he said in a note. "If the recovery persists, the style rotation could get going again."

Yet such bullish sentiment doesn't come without a hint of exuberance and it wouldn't be the first time that investors were caught on the wrong foot. "I'm a believer that the market moves in whatever direction hurts the most participants," said Dave Lutz, head of ETFs at JonesTrading Annapolis. "If all the analysts on the Street are bullish, I'd be very cautious," he said in a note.

Right now though, markets are in no mood for a correction. The last time the S&P 500 Index saw a peak to trough decline of 5% or more was 193 days ago, about twice the long-term average. "There is a lot of dip-buying power on the sidelines and any correction that might be justified could also be short-lived," Salm-Salm & Partner portfolio manager Frederik Hildner said by phone.

Zanzibar director of trade touts e-commerce among consumers



Weights and Measures Agency's executive director in Zanzibar, Mohamed Mwalimu (R) and Zantel's brand manager for Zanzibar, Rukia Mtingwa (C) listening to an entrepreneur who was showcasing her merchandise during an electronic commerce workshop held in Zanzibar last week. Photo courtesy of Zantel.

By Smart Money Reporter

ZANZIBARIS have been advised to make use of presence of reliable telecommunications network put their products online for consumers to see and buy globally.

Executive Director of Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Zanzibar, Mohamed Mwalimu told participants at an electronic commerce workshop last week that they should make use of good communication to promote the country's trade and investment.

"E-commerce helps traders to find large number of customers by advertising their products and services to the world but also buy products online hence saving time while lowering operating costs," Mwalimu said.

He encouraged traders to better use the broad spectrum of Internet connection with more than 29.07 million users in the country as per recent statistics from Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

Due to the importance of e-commerce, he said, the government has put in place

laws and regulations to improve and manage operations of online businesses. "Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the world is now doing more business online where buyers and sellers transact without meeting physically and thus avoid spreading the virus," he added.

Speaking at the workshop, Zantel's Brand Manager in Zanzibar, Rukia Mtingwa said the telco organized the meeting to discuss opportunities and challenges facing e-commerce in the Spice Islands.

"With your mobile phone or computer devices, you can advertise and sell your products and services, globally, through all social media pages like WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. You can also open and run your online shops there," Mtingwa said.

She added that e-commerce saves time and lowers operating costs to businesses giving an example of how rent for shop can

be avoided because an online shop good and services are traded virtually. According to her, those who own shops or sell their products in physical markets can also advertise their businesses online for global consumers to buy.

"This workshop reflects our mission of leading the adoption of the internet and overall digital lifestyle by consumers our markets. We have been upgrading our internet speed from 2G, 3G and are now on 4G," the Zantel Brand Manager for Zanzibar added.

The two-day workshop brought together business owners, managers, government officials and e-commerce experts. The traders also had the opportunity to showcase and advertise their various products during the event.

The workshop is part of Zantel's 'Pasua anga ki-Zantel 4G' campaign aimed at sensitizing consumers on the importance of internet communication in social economic development of the islands.

Equity's tech unit takes on Safaricom in Internet race

NAIROBI

EQUITY Group's financial technology subsidiary has upgraded to a high-speed Internet connection network in the battle for a larger share of the fast-growing mobile data business dominated by Safaricom #ticker#SCOM.

Finserve Ltd, which offers mobile telephony and Internet banking services on the Equitel platform, has rolled out 4G network broadband in a Covid economy that has spurred demand for faster Internet connectivity to enable remote working and learning. Mobile data has become a major driver of revenue in the telecoms sector.

Finserve says Equitel's shift to a 4G high-speed broadband network offers its more than 1.5 million subscribers faster speeds to browse, stream, download and upload videos, as well as files at a time workplaces, are fast transitioning to a hybrid working model.

"The new Equitel 4G SIM will address the issues of slow internet connection and limited data coverage," Finserve Africa managing director Lanre Bamisebi said in a statement yesterday. "We expect this to significantly accelerate our revenue growth and grow our active customer base."

Equitel had a measly 0.4 percent

share [172,118 subscribers] of the mobile data market whose subscriptions stood at 43,029,579 customers in March 2021, the latest statistics from the Communications Authority of Kenya show. Safaricom controlled 68.2 percent of the mobile data followed by Airtel with 25.9 percent, Telkom's 5.1 percent, while Jamii Telcoms had the same share as Equitel at 0.4 percent.

Finserve has backed the deployment of 4G network to help it eat into the market share of rivals (Safaricom and Airtel) who have for years been running on the high-speed spectrum, with the market leader now starting to upgrade its site to 5G network.

The firm says the 4G network-enabled SIM cards are already on sale and is doubling data bundles purchased by clients. Equitel charges Sh999 for a 2,048MB monthly data bundle, which is slightly costlier than main rivals.

While Equity's telco platform has struggled to grow market share for browsing, calling and texting businesses, its mobile banking offering has registered considerable growth with transaction value for the year ended December 2020 jumping 50 percent year-on-year to Sh934.2 billion. Equity said Sh421.8 billion were transacted on Equitel in the first quarter of the year, a 163 percent surge over Sh160.5 billion a year earlier.



Finserve Africa managing director Lanre Bamisebi.

BHP near oil and gas exit as climate scrutiny intensifies

SYDNEY

BHP Group is in talks over a potential merger of its oil and gas unit with Woodside Petroleum to accelerate a retreat from fossil fuels amid increasing pressure to curb emissions.

Options being discussed include a distribution of Woodside shares to BHP holders to allow the Australian energy firm to add operations spanning Australia to the Gulf of Mexico, the companies said in separate statements. BHP's unit could be valued at more than \$15 billion, a person familiar with the details said last month.

The petroleum division "simply no longer fits within BHP's portfolio or future-facing strategy," said Saul Kavonic, an analyst at Credit Suisse Group AG. Having missed opportunities to sell thermal coal assets at higher prices, "BHP should know it's better to exit petroleum sooner rather than later," he said.

BHP, which generates the bulk of profits from iron ore and copper, is reviewing its portfolio as energy super majors grapple with global pressure from investors and governments over climate action, in some cases by shrinking core production and adding renewable energy assets. Chief Executive Officer Mike Henry has already signalled plans to focus the world's biggest miner on materials tied to renewable energy and electrification.

Woodside declined as much as 4.5% in Sydney trading Monday and was 4.4% lower as of 3:39 p.m. local time. BHP fell 0.9%. "BHP confirms that we have initiated a strategic review of our petroleum business to re-assess its position and long-term strategic fit," the company said. While talks with Woodside "are currently progressing, no agreement has been reached on any such transaction," it said.

Though BHP has said it expects oil and gas demand to remain strong for at least another decade, and recently announced \$800 million of investments in growth options, the company is wary of becoming stuck with assets that'll become more difficult to exit as the world attempts to curb consumption of fossil fuels.

The talks with Woodside come a week after environmental campaign group Market Forces tabled a proposal on behalf of about 100 small investors that calls on BHP to wind down oil, gas and coal production in line with international targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions. A deal that would see investors take on Woodside shares risks undercutting BHP's climate pledge, according to campaigner Will van de Pol.

"We know that investors have clearly signed up to the goal of net zero by 2050," he said. "They're increasingly understanding what that means, and it means no expansion of the oil & gas sector. So for investors to be lumped with shares in a company that is trying to expand its oil and gas production, I don't think it's going to sit that well."

Asset sales

Output in BHP's oil and gas unit, which includes operations in Australia's Bass Strait and North West Shelf, the US Gulf of Mexico and in Trinidad and Tobago, declined 6% in the year to June 30. BHP is a partner in the projects with firms including BP Plc, Exxon Mobil Corp. and Woodside.

BHP sold the majority of its shale unit to BP in 2018 for about \$10.5 billion, and is advancing plans to exit its final thermal coal mine and some metallurgical coal operations. Those divestments would leave the company with only a handful of fossil fuels assets, a collection of mines in Queensland that supply coal to steelmakers.

Over Rwf900m to finance urban women traders in horticulture

KIGALI

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources has said that it will partner in mobilizing funds to finance women traders in horticulture who have been affected by Covid-19.

Jean-Christophe Ngabitsinze, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources said that a study carried out in June and August this year found that urban women in horticulture were severely affected by Covid-19 and therefore need support to recover.

"After the study, we are going to mobilize financial resources to support the women. One of the major issues is the incurred losses as vegetables and fruits rot away due to lack of proper storage, handling and cooling facilities," he said. He said that women in urban areas could also be supported to exploit tillable wetlands.

"There are tillable wetlands in cities. We are also carrying out a study with Rwanda Environment Management Authority, City of Kigali because some wetlands that were once polluted need to be rehabilitated. The women can group in cooperatives and invest in horticulture in these tillable wetlands," he noted.

Sandrine Irakoze, a vendor in Nyabugogo market, told The New Times that the reduced number of clients and limited working hours during the lockdown has drastically triggered huge losses. "The fruits rot away due to lack of clients. I used to sell 30 Kilogrammes of fruits in one day but the same quantity can even take a whole week which really damages their quality. We do not have facilities that can help store the fruits for a long time without damaging them and this is where we need funding," she said.

The issues were compiled in a study dubbed "Assessment of Factors Affecting Urban Women Horticultural Traders (Uwhats) to stimulate the Horticultural Value Chain Development in Rwanda" which is produced in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

According to the study carried out on 446 urban women traders in horticulture in the main markets in the City of Kigali, Rwamagana and Rubavu districts, the main challenges include Covid-19 consequences, limited access to storage facilities, limited access to business financing, commodities damaged, high cost of market space, cost of taxation, limited business skills and insufficient capital.

The challenges also include low market prices, transport costs, cost of taxation among others. The study recommends a program to strengthen the urban women traders in horticulture in business skills, soft skills, and trader networks including use of available technology platforms.

There is a need for expanded farm-to-market horticulture infrastructure, post-harvest storage and ECD centers, it recommends adding implementing a production and marketing model for the women to tap into value addition opportunities is also paramount.



Jean-Christophe Ngabitsinze, minister of State at Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda.

The urban women traders also need increased financial support and availability of accessible formal financial services according to the recommendations. As a result of the study, a five-year program estimated to cost around Rwf977.9 million has been designed to help urban women traders in horticulture recover from Covid-19 effects.

Jude-Marie Banatte, the Country Representative of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) said there is a need for an action plan to be implemented in synergy. "We have to work with other organizations contributing to this value chain. The plan is doable. The study gives good opportunities to enhance access to finance, infrastructure to improve women's livelihoods and horticulture value chain," he said.

Pascal Ngendahimana, the Economic Development Division Manager at Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) said that there is also a government plan to support women and youth to get loans at a 2 percent interest rate.

Jeannette Bayisenge, the minister for Family and Gender Promotion, said women have to be also supported to embrace digital tools in marketing their horticulture products as part of e-commerce. Rwanda exported 31,788 tonnes of horticulture commodities (vegetables, fruits and flowers) which generated \$28.7 million (about Rwf27 billion) during the fiscal year 2019/20 according to figures from the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB).

Songas invests in communities for sustainable development

By Sarah Majengo

HUMAN capital is among key drivers of economic transformation and sustainable development. With the population standing at close to 60 million and projected to reach 67 million by 2025, Tanzania has the potential to become a strong industrial economy if it prioritizes adequate access to basic services.

Coordination between the government and other stakeholders is crucial in achieving this vision. At Songas Limited, as suppliers of an essential service for development, we recognize that access to key social services such as education and health is a matter that concerns us all and requires meaningful and long-term investment.

Tanzania Development Vision 2025 highlights vehicles such as education, skills development, efficient health delivery systems, water supply and sanitation as key tools for fostering human development and social transformation.

Notably, although the government bears the responsibility for providing these essential services, it is nonetheless incumbent that there are coordinated efforts by civil societies and corporate bodies through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) in supporting government efforts.

Corporate organizations continue to embrace CSR as a strategy to foster socio-economic development in communities. Companies such as Songas Tanzania develop sustainable CSR projects that adopt a broader approach to development.

By aligning with government priorities, since 2004 Songas supplies electricity and 30,000 litres of water daily to Songo Songo Island and has spent US\$4.78 million equivalent to 10.9bn/- for implementation of socio-economic development projects in communities located along the gas pipeline way-leave between Kilwa and Dar es Salaam, hence contributing to the collective effort of building a healthy, well-educated society with improved livelihoods.



Through this investment there have been major transformations in the communities that Songas operates in such a way that; 7,000 students benefiting from the educational initiatives and programs, 300 small business owners impacted by the entrepreneurship training and electricity and water projects that have changed lives and continue to benefit people on the natural gas rich island.

These projects also have pertinent impacts on individuals within communities, such as Salma Njenge, one of the beneficiaries of Songas' initiatives, who stated that, "For many years I was not able to help my family and we were struggling to attain basic needs. Through Songas, we were taught entrepreneurship and learned

how to make different business products. Right now, the income I make allows me to support my family and meet all our day-to-day needs." Sustainable investment operates on a large scale but is felt strongly by individuals.

Aligning CSR with government goals provides stakeholders across sectors a meaningful opportunity to play part in contributing to the country's development vision. For people like Salma, it means being empowered to actively participate in productive sectors that advance Tanzania's economic growth.

NB: Sarah Majengo (pictured) is Songas Limited's communication and public relations manager.

Acumen closes \$58 million impact fund to drive climate adaptation for smallholders

LAGOS

THE Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund (ARAF) has closed a \$58 million impact fund which is the first-of-its-kind equity fund to provide critical capital to support African agribusinesses that help smallholder farmers adapt to climate change.

Sponsored by Acumen and anchored by Green Climate Fund (GCF), the fund is supported by the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank (FMO), the Soros Economic Development Fund, the French development institution PROPARGO (through FISEA+, the AFD Fund advised by PROPARGO), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, IKEA Foundation, Global Social Impact, and other respected investors and funders. The fund is managed by Acumen Capital Partners, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Acumen.

"Smallholder farmers feed the world, but they are among the most affected by the climate crisis," said ARAF's Managing Director Tamer El-Raghy. "ARAF's impressive \$58 million close, \$8 million above our initial target for the fund, is a watershed moment and, with only 5% of climate investment directed toward adaptation, signals the beginning of a shift in climate finance.

"By investing in agri-startups in East and West Africa, ARAF can reduce poverty, build climate resilience, and demonstrate the impact of investing in resilient agriculture. Since we started deploying capital in 2020, our team has invested in five companies operating in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria."

Poverty, climate change, and resilient agriculture are intrinsically linked. More than half of the people living in poverty are smallholder farmers. These farmers provide a third of the world's food supply. In Africa, their role is even larger as they produce approximately 80% of the continent's food. Soil degradation, severe storms, shifting weather patterns, and more have changed the nature of farming, threatening farmers' livelihoods and their ability to feed communities worldwide. These challenges are intensified by structural inefficiencies and limited access to credit. By supporting agribusinesses that offer aggregation, digital platforms, and financial solutions to smallholder farmers, ARAF seeks to build an ecosystem that enables farmers to raise their incomes and increase their resilience.

"The Green Climate Fund is delighted to partner with Acumen to support innovative agribusinesses that enhance the climate resilience of smallholder farmers in Africa. GCF has supported the Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund from the early concept phase and provided catalytic capital to unlock private investment into this first climate adaptation-focused agribusiness investment fund in Africa.

"The fund will make critical investments to support climate resilience and agriculture productivity for smallholder farmers across countries in East and West Africa and help shift the pattern of investment in climate change adaptation in Africa from grants to a long-term capital approach," said the Director of GCF's Private Sector Facility Tony Clamp. New research by Acumen, funded by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office's (FCDO) Strengthening Impact Investment Markets for Agriculture (SIIMA) program, illustrates the need for this transition and calls for an increase in risk-tolerant, blended capital to sustainably scale agribusinesses that help build climate resilience.

ARAF's first-loss layer, supported by GCF and IKEA Foundation, enables this risk tolerance. Research also shows the importance of working with farmers and providing repeat training and instruction on how to best leverage products and services. ARAF answers this call by using blended finance to provide long-term support to small and medium-sized agribusinesses and through its \$5 million Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) that is designed to provide farmers with the hands-on support they need.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Investing in Africa-led research boosts equity in health sector

NAIROBI

IN June 2018, The Lancet published a piece on parachute research that sparked debate within the health and research fraternity around the world.

In the article, the writers called out the persistent practice of scientists and research groups from the global north jetting into poorer countries to conduct research and collect data, only to publish their findings in prestigious journals without giving credit to local teams.

It's a practice as old as research itself, and one that continues to negatively impact foreign researchers' ability to develop contextually relevant interpretations of African data, and therefore the capacity to inform health policies based on lived realities.

Three years after The Lancet published the article, the Covid-19 pandemic has once again brought the issue of inequity in research to the fore, highlighting the barriers faced by African scientists in their quest to meaningfully contribute to the development of locally relevant interventions with the power to bring an end to what is arguably the most devastating health emergency of the past century.

For decades, African researchers have been sidelined in favour of their counterparts from the global north. With many of them working in lower resource settings, African scientists are often relegated to support staff when their peers from developed nations swoop in to conduct research and collect data – with little intention of using their findings to benefit the very populations that enable their work.

Africa has been viewed as a goldmine for research; a stepping stone to propel external researchers to greatness, without benefiting from its participation in scientific breakthroughs. This is why, despite our contributions to research, Africa – which comprises 15 percent of the world's population – continues to bear 25 percent of the global disease burden and produce only two percent of the world's research output. There are only 198 African researchers per

one million people compared to 4,500 researchers per one million people in the UK and the US.

There is a glaring gap in Africa's research and development (R&D) capacity, and our people suffer for it. Without R&D led by Africa for Africa, we will continue to lag while the rest of the world moves forward, and never has this been clearer than it is today. While developed economies stockpiled Covid-19 vaccines early this year, African countries are still struggling to get the precious vaccines.

As of April 2021, less than two percent of the 690 million vaccines administered globally were in Africa. By mid-July, Africa's Covid-19 fatality rate stood at 2.6 percent, higher than the global average of 2.2 percent, and was feared would rise even further as African countries still tried to acquire vaccines for their citizens.

This reality lends credence to the assertion that when the global north dictates research, the global south suffers. It is time we do something about it. We cannot – and should not – wait to be "rescued." We must act now. We must take responsibility for our own future, our own health outcomes, and this cannot happen if we continue to rely on R&D from the north.

The global north funds research based on its priorities, and rightly so. Because African countries still rely heavily on foreign funding to carry out research, health issues more relevant to us, such as tropical diseases that could be relatively easy to treat, are deprioritised in favour of issues that (may) affect the financing countries. By failing to empower our own scientists to carry out research that can shape our health policies to meet our unique health needs, we choose to remain the victims in this narrative.

By relegating homegrown research to the back burner and failing to put R&D at the centre of national health policies, we choose to remain complacent in our situation, always the supporting cast when we can take the lead.

In so doing, we do ourselves a huge disservice. However, if we take R&D into our own hands, invest in the resources and



A researcher tests samples for the coronavirus in a Kenya Medical Research Institute laboratory in Kisumu.

infrastructure required for impactful R&D, we can come closer to shedding the history of exploitation and become gatekeepers to our own health and wellbeing.

Global health targets cannot be achieved when Africa's – and the rest of the global south's – health needs are not prioritised. To tackle health inequalities, African

governments must place a higher value on African-led, Africa-focused research.

We must develop our own R&D capacities and infrastructure, train more researchers, adequately fund research institutions, foster environments that enable research and celebrate our own to accelerate growth in this area.

Africa does not need to completely break away from the global north to do this, for collaboration is key to shared success. But we must break away from the notion that we cannot lead, because we can, and we must

WORLD

Chaotic scenes grip Afghan airport, with reports of deaths

By Bloomberg

DESPERATE scenes played out at Kabul's international airport yesterday as thousands rushed to exit Afghanistan after Taliban leaders took control of the capital, with reports saying three people were killed.

At least three people were killed by gunfire Monday morning at the passenger terminal of Hamid Karzai International Airport, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing witnesses. Reuters reported Monday that US forces fired in the air to prevent thousands of citizens from running onto the tarmac of the airport, the last remaining area under American control. Afghanistan's aviation authority suspended flights out of the country.

The US announced late Sunday in Washington it was taking steps to secure the airport as it looked to evacuate thousands of American citizens, as well as locally employed staff and their families.

With all the land border crossing now under the control of the rebel group, the airport is the last remaining exit point out of the country. But as panicked visuals from the airport show, there are fears that

option may also close soon. Videos circulating on social media showed hundreds of people swarming the tarmac in an attempt to get on planes.

Top Taliban leaders, meanwhile, declared victory. The militant group took over the presidential palace Sunday shortly after American-backed President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, and said it plans to soon declare a new "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

"We have never expected to reach such a victory – we should show humbleness in front of Allah," the Taliban's deputy leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, said in a video message congratulating his fighters and the nation on Twitter Monday. "Now is the time when we will be tested on how we serve and secure our people, and ensure their good life and future to the best of our ability."

The speed of the Afghan government's collapse shocked NATO allies and prompted condemnation from both sides of the US political divide over how President Joe Biden's administration appeared to be blindsided by the Taliban's easy advance. Dozens of countries issued a joint statement Monday calling "those



Afghans crowd at the airport as they wait to leave from Kabul yesterday. AFP

in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan" to allow Afghans and foreigners to depart safely if they wish, to keep borders open and maintain calm.

As the Al Jazeera network broadcast what it said were live images of armed Taliban fighters roaming the palace and posing at desks, Kabul's airport became the staging ground for the planned exit of most US embassy personnel, symbolizing the end of a two-decade engagement sparked by the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The Taliban swept through Afghanistan in a matter of weeks, taking advantage of a vacuum left by departing US and NATO forces working against Biden's Aug 31 deadline to end America's longest war. US officials said they're working for an orderly departure.

In a joint statement Sunday, the Pentagon and State Department said the US will expand its presence over the next 48 hours at Kabul's international airport to nearly 6,000 troops to evacuate thousands of American citizens, as well as locally employed staff and their families.

All Kabul embassy personnel have been safely evacuated to the airport and the US military has secured its perimeter, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement late Sunday.

In many cases, the militants encountered little or no resistance from Afghan's US-trained military. Key provincial centers

close to Kabul and in far-flung corners of the nation fell in quick succession. Skies over Kabul buzzed on Sunday with US military helicopters ferrying passengers from the US embassy. The American flag at the embassy was lowered. Afghans lined up for cash and many headed to the airport, desperate to book a flight out of the country.

"We're relocating the men and women of our embassy to a location at the airport," Blinken said on ABC. "That's why the president sent in a number of forces to make sure that, as we continue to draw down our diplomatic presence, we do it in a safe and orderly fashion."

CNN reported earlier that the US will pull out all embassy personnel by Tuesday, leaving a small core of staff to operate from the airport.

Top Biden administration officials briefed members of Congress, many of whom were furious about the visible chaos to end a campaign that's cost the lives of about 2,400 American soldiers and close to US\$1 trillion.

"A proud superpower has been reduced to hoping the Taliban will not interfere with our efforts to flee Afghanistan," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said in a statement.

Xi, Raisi hail 50 years of diplomatic ties

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages yesterday with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Iran.

Both leaders vowed to deepen their traditional friendship and expand pragmatic cooperation in various fields to promote bilateral ties.

Xi said in his message that since the establishment of diplomatic ties half a century ago, the relations between China and Iran have developed steadily and the traditional

friendship between the two countries has grown stronger with time.

Since the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2016, Xi noted, the political mutual trust between the two sides has seen further consolidation and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields has witnessed steady progress.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Iran have stood closely together through thick and thin, and wrote a fine story of anti-pandemic cooperation, Xi



noted.

Xi said he attaches great importance to the development of China-Iran relations, and is willing to work with President Raisi to take the 50th anni-

versary as an opportunity to deepen traditional friendship, advance deep and practical cooperation in various fields, and enrich the connotation of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership, so as to benefit the two countries and their peoples.

In his message, Raisi said that both Iran and China are ancient civilizations and their friendship stands as a towering old tree that draws nutrients from thousands of years of bilateral friendly exchanges, adding that the friendship has laid a profound founda-

tion for the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

Noting that the Iranian side is determined to build outstanding Iran-China relations, Raisi said as bilateral diplomatic ties enter the sixth decade, Iran is ready to continue upgrading strategic cooperation with China, strengthen communication on expanding practical cooperation in various fields and continuously deepen bilateral ties.

Xinhua

Resignation of M'sia PM adds challenges amid pandemic fight

Hong Kong

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's resignation may have capped his tumultuous 18-month administration, but analysts doubt this would end the political instability that has rocked the country for the past year.

After meeting his Cabinet for the last time on Aug 16, Muhyiddin (pictured) submitted his resignation to Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah.

The Malaysian king accepted Muhyiddin's resignation and appointed him as the caretaker prime minister until a successor has been named, according to a statement released by the national palace.

Sultan Abdullah also believes that holding general elections is not the best option at the mo-

ment given that the country continues to battle with a pandemic.

In his televised speech, Muhyiddin said he and his cabinet had resigned as he no longer enjoyed the support of the majority of members of parliament (MPs).

On Aug 3, eleven members of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the biggest political party behind the ruling Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition, withdrew their support for Muhyiddin. Without UMNO's backing,

Muhyiddin lost his razor thin majority in the parliament, forcing him to quit his post as the Malaysian constitution has no provision for a minority government.

Bilveer Singh, deputy head of the Political Science Depart-



ment of the National University of Singapore (NUS), said Malaysia will continue to have "a precarious balance of power until a general elections is called again".

Singh said this will be the status quo as long as the ruling party has a thin majority in the parliament.

Without the benefit of a voters mandate, Singh said that

the incoming administration has to prioritize and effectively manage the pandemic "to justify and legitimize" its status to Malaysians.

Malaysia has one of the highest COVID-19 cases in the region, with total number of cases hitting over 1.3 million as of Aug 16, according to the World Health Organization. The entry of the highly-infectious Delta variant has spiked cases in the past few weeks, with Malaysia detecting more than 20,000 new cases on Aug 16 alone.

Wong Chin Huat, a political scientist at the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia of Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur, said Malaysia's political stability and governance will depend on "how fast and how broad-based the new government will be formed".

"If the government has a bare majority, then it won't be able to make difficult decisions necessary to fight the pandemic and save the economy," Wong said.

He said without broad support, the new government can suffer from public backlash and another round of infighting that wracked PN. Wong is hoping that the next prime minister will be able to strike a deal with the opposition and get more support for his policies.

Muhyiddin, who was sworn in on March 1 last year as prime minister, came into power after his predecessor Mahathir Mohamad resigned from his post. Sultan Abdullah said he has appointed Muhyiddin as the latter has gained the trust of the majority of the House of Representatives.

Agencies

Trudeau calls snap election, seeks third term as Canadian PM

OTTAWA

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Sunday called a snap national vote for Sept. 20, less than two years after he led the Liberal Party to a second term in government.



The announcement also came more than two years before he would be required to call an election under a fixed-election-date law.

"Canadians deserve to have their voices heard ... in this extraordinarily consequential historic moment," Trudeau said, referring to the choices voters must make in terms of which party is best to lead the country toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, now in its fourth wave in Canada.

Under his Liberal government's watch, Canada has become a global leader in vaccination rates, with almost 82 percent of eligible Canadians, aged 12 and older, having received at least one dose as of Aug. 7, and 70 percent fully vaccinated.

On Friday, Trudeau's government announced that it would require travelers on domestic planes, trains and cruise ships to be fully vaccinated, and make vaccination mandatory for federal public servants and potential employees of federally regulated industries, such as banks and airlines, affecting more than a million people.

The current election campaign will cost 400 million U.S. dollars, which for Canada's opposition parties, is an unnecessary expense and exercise and a raw power-grab by Trudeau to restore the majority of seats which his Liberals held in the House of Commons following the 2015 election, but which were reduced to a minority in the 2019 election.

Earlier in the summer, public-opinion polls showed the Liberals were poised to regain a majority government with 170 out of the 338 seats in the Commons.

But over the past week, the margin has shrunk between them and the Official Opposition Conservatives led by Erin O'Toole, now in his first election campaign to become prime minister.

The left-of-center New Democratic Party (NDP) could also prove to be a wild card in the 36-day election campaign -- the minimum period required by Canadian law.

Led by the popular Jagmeet Singh, the first non-white leader of a federal Canadian party, the NDP shares the progressive-voter space with the Liberals and has already promised universal drug coverage, a guaranteed livable income and a wealth tax -- campaign pledges that could attract younger voters who in 2015 threw their support behind Trudeau.

Canada's 44th general election campaign will be different from any other as all political parties will be forced to adapt to the pandemic realities of limiting public gatherings.

Xinhua

Nigeria says killing of 23 Muslim travelers was 'prearranged'

MAIDUGURI



THE killing of 23 people returning from a Muslim festival in Nigeria was a premeditated ambush for which suspects have already been arrested, authorities said on Sunday.

Deadly violence is common around Africa's most populous nation, with roads becoming particularly dangerous as armed attackers and kidnappers target travelers.

In a statement, President Muhammadu Buhari condemned Saturday's ambush in central Plateau state of buses returning from a religious festival in nearby Bauchi state.

Though details of the attack in state capital Jos were unclear, some media suggested a Christian militia was to blame.

"It is clear this was a well-conceived and prearranged assault on a known target, location and religious persuasion of the travelers, not an opportunist ambush," Buhari said. "A direct, brazen and wickedly motivated attack on members of a community exercising their rights to travel freely and to follow the faith of their choosing."

Plateau state governor Simon Lalong said security agencies had arrested 20 suspects and imposed a 6 am-6 pm curfew in the area due to fear of reprisals.

"This is purely a criminal conduct and should not be given any ethnic or religious colouration," he said.

Nigeria has been plagued by violence in recent years: conflicts between farmers and cattle herders have killed thousands, while a 12-year war against Islamist militants has led to an estimated 350,000 deaths.

CONSUMER market in China saw continuous recovery in the first half of this year as the country's economy registered a stable performance and sound momentum for growth. In particular, some commodities that satisfy people's needs for consumption upgrading witnessed fast growth in sales.

As consumption upgrading gains momentum, market segmentation is attracting more attention, said Zhao Ping, vice president of the Academy of International Trade, noting that consumption of individualized and diversified goods and services will become an important trend in consumption growth.

According to relevant research re-

Market segments unlock China's consumption potential

ports, the total value of many market segments, including young adults living in China's small cities, female consumers, and elderly consumers, has reached one trillion yuan (about \$154 billion), demonstrating strong consumption potential.

Compared with people in China's first- and second-tier cities, residents in the country's small cities are more willing to spend and more capable of spending due to many factors, including the fact that their necessary living expenses take up a relatively smaller part of their disposable income, indicated a report on consumption power of young

adults in China's small cities released by Chinese weekly news magazine Outlook Weekly last year.

Apart from young adults in small cities, the country has seen various new consumer groups emerge constantly.

In the process of consumption upgrading, consumer market is divided mainly by geographic location, family stage, gender, and income, with single consumers, female consumers, and elderly consumers representing typical market segments, according to Zhao.

Yang Yang, a 35-year-old resident in Yangpu district, east China's

Shanghai, lives in a rental apartment, orders one serving of takeout food online, watches videos after work, and takes online courses at weekends. Yang has lived in Shanghai in this way for 12 years.

Single consumers like Yang have considerable potential for consumption, according to a report released by a research institute, which suggested that 42 percent of single consumers are willing to spend money on themselves, higher than the proportion of 27 percent among non-single ones.

E-commerce platforms have launched marketing campaigns tar-

geting different consumer groups to stimulate consumption during holidays and festivals. Thanks to such campaigns, the sales of makeup kits on an e-commerce platform rose 13 times year on year around this year's International Women's Day, and products like children's balance bike, safety seat, and camping tent recorded obvious growth in sales around the International Children's Day.

Senior consumers represent an important part of China's consumer market. It's predicted that the number of senior citizens in China will exceed 300 million during the next

several years. The group also has huge potential for consumption.

As their ideas about life change and their living standards improve, consumption structure of senior citizens in the country shows trends toward such traits as high quality, diversification, individualization, and convenience.

Consumption upgrading in China is driving further segmentation of market. Since working as migrant workers and the popularity of the Internet have offered young adults in small cities broader access to all kinds of latest information, their demand for quality products and services has increased significantly, said an executive of an e-commerce platform.

People's Daily

Haiti hospitals overwhelmed by quake victims as toll hits 1,297

PORT-AU-PRINCE

HAITI'S hospitals were swamped on Sunday by thousands of injured residents after a devastating earthquake the day before killed at least 1,297 people as authorities raced to bring doctors to the worst-hit areas before a major storm hits.

The 7.2 magnitude quake on Saturday destroyed thousands of homes and buildings in a Caribbean nation which is still clawing its way back from another major tremor 11 years ago and is reeling from the assassination of its president last month.

Southwestern Haiti bore the brunt of the blow, especially in the region in and around the town of Les Cayes. Haiti's Civil Protection Agency said the toll from the disaster had climbed to 1,297 and the hospitals that were still functioning were struggling to cope as some 5,700 people were injured.

In the northwestern city of Jeremie, another badly hit area, doctors treated injured patients on hospital stretchers underneath trees and on mattresses by the side of the road, as healthcare centers have run out of space.

"We do have a serious issue," Jerry Chandler, the head of Haiti's Civil Protection Agency, told Reuters.

"There are very important facilities that are dysfunctional as we speak and those that are functional are receiving an overflow of patients," he said.

The challenge facing Haiti has been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, a severe economic downturn aggravated by fierce gang violence, and a political crisis that has engulfed the troubled nation after the assassination of President Jovenel Moise on July 7.

Churches, hotels, hospitals and schools were badly damaged or destroyed, while the walls of a prison were rent open by the violent shudders that convulsed Haiti. Some 13,694 houses were destroyed, the civil protection agency said, suggesting the toll could rise further.

In Les Cayes, a seafront town of some 90,000 people, rescuers in red hard hats and blue overalls pulled bodies from the tangled wreckage of one building, as a yellow mechanical excavator nearby helped to shift the rubble.

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who flew to visit Les Cayes, praised the dignity shown by people there even in the midst of their suffering.

"They are affected but resilient. They fight to survive," he said, thanking international agencies and foreign governments for their support.

Nearby countries, including the Dominican Republic and Mexico, rushed to send desperately needed food and medicines by air and across Haiti's land border. Colombia sent search and rescue personnel.

The United States dispatched vital supplies and deployed a 65-person urban search-and-rescue team with specialized equipment, said Samantha Power, the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

From the Vatican, Pope Francis urged the international community to show support swiftly. "May solidarity from everyone lighten the consequences of the tragedy," he told pilgrims and tourists at his Sunday blessing in St. Peter's Square.

However, Haiti's government appealed to aid organizations against setting up makeshift camps and urged them to work through the planning ministry, an apparent attempt to avoid the mistakes made following the devastating 2010 earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people.

Many Haitians prepared on Sunday to spend a second night sleeping in the open, traumatized by memories of that magnitude 7 quake 11 years ago that struck far closer to the sprawling capital, Port-au-Prince.

At Port-au-Prince airport, international aid workers, doctors and rescue workers boarded flights to Les Cayes. A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter ferried the wounded.

German panel recommends all 12-17-year-olds get virus shot

GERMANY'S vaccine advisory committee updated its guidance yesterday to recommend that all children and adolescents aged 12-17 be given a COVID-19 vaccine, citing further safety data and increased risks posed by the more infectious Delta variant.

The committee, known as STIKO, had previously recommended that only children and adolescents with pre-existing conditions be given a coronavirus vaccine.

STIKO said its recommendation was based on new surveillance data from the vaccination program in the United States, as well as mathematical modelling showing children were at significantly higher risk of infection by the Delta variant.

"After careful evaluation of these new scientific observations and data, the STIKO has come to the conclusion that, according to the current state of knowledge, the advantages of vaccination outweigh the risk of very rare vaccination side effects," the committee said.

Africa

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 7,257,094 as of Sunday afternoon, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

The Africa CDC, the specialized healthcare agency of the African Union, said the death toll from the pandemic stands at 182,929, while 6,327,912 patients across the continent have recovered from the disease.

Canada

Canada's new COVID-19 cases continue rising, bringing the cumulative total to 1,451,211 cases, including 26,700 deaths, as of Sunday afternoon, according to CTV.

At the national level, the Delta variant currently accounts for the majority of recently reported variant cases in the country.

Ontario, the most populous province in Canada, reported 511 new cases on Sunday. **Agencies**

China, Iran to open new chapter in bilateral relations, says envoy

TEHRAN

STANDING at a new historical starting point, China and Iran will open a new chapter in their friendship, Chinese ambassador to Iran Chang Hua said Sunday on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In a written interview with Xinhua, Chang said over the past five decades, China and Iran, two ancient civilizations that enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges, have continuously enhanced bilateral cooperation and strengthened their traditional friendship.

Noting that the two countries announced the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership in January 2016, the Chinese ambassador said high-level officials from the two sides have since engaged in-depth discussions on multiple occasions related to bolstering China-Iran relations.

On the political front, mutual trust between the two countries has been enhanced, Chang said, adding that China and Iran firmly support each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns, which has effectively consolidated the strategic trust between the two countries and steadfastly defended international equity and justice.

Meanwhile, Chang said the two economies are highly complementary, and pragmatic cooperation has led to fruitful outcomes.

China has been Iran's largest trading partner for years, and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative continues to progress.

In addition, exchanges between China and Iran in culture, education, media, publications, and tourism have expanded over the past 50 years, with increased mutual understanding between the two peoples,



China's Ambassador to Iran Chang Hua (center) attends a ceremony to deliver face masks in Tehran, Iran, on Feb 25, 2020. XINHUA

Chang said.

Earlier this month, Ebrahim Raisi was sworn in as the new president of Iran after an electoral victory in June. In his first press conference after the election, Raisi said there is "a lot of potential" for further development of Iran-China ties, vowing that his administration will "definitely" work to develop that potential.

The Chinese embassy in Iran has carried out a series of activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties, while taking preventive measures against COVID-19.

According to Chang, the Chinese embassy collected short videos telling stories about the China-Iran friendship, part of which were shown on social media platforms.

Additionally, the embassy and the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organized an exhibition of historical documents on

friendly exchanges.

This year, the Chinese TV series *As Together*, a drama about China's fight against COVID-19, aired on Iranian TV, while many Iranian movies are shown in China.

Chang noted he has been impressed by the friendship between China and Iran during the pandemic, while lauding their cooperation in addressing the public health challenge. "I believe that the beautiful tale of cooperation against the virus will lay a more solid foundation for the further development of bilateral relations," he added

Xinhua

Hottest month ever recorded adds to evidence of climate change

DENVER

JULY was the hottest month ever recorded in human history, according to new data from a US scientific agency.

"July is typically the world's warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and month ever recorded," Rick Spinrad, administrator of the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration,

said Friday in a statement.

"In this case, first place is the worst place to be," Spinrad added.

A recent report by NBC News said that almost 200 million people across 34 US states are under some form of heat advisory, with many US cities observing abnormally high temperatures this summer.

The heat has partly spurred wildfire activity in the western

part of the United States. In particular, the Dixie fire burning in the US state of Northern California, which started on July 13, has grown to be the largest fire so far this year in the country and the second largest in the state's history.

Meanwhile, the European continent is also suffering from record-high temperatures.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, a spe-

cialized agency of the United Nations (UN), the mercury hit 119.84 Fahrenheit (48.8 degrees centigrade) on Wednesday, scorching Italy's southernmost province of Sicily. The temperature broke Europe's all-time record of 118.4 Fahrenheit (48 degrees centigrade), which was registered in Greece on July 10, 1977.

The hottest month "adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set

for the globe," California-based environmental organization Sierra Club tweeted Friday.

Earlier this week, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body of the UN, released a report titled "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis," in which it warned that uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions have intensified climatic shocks besides undermining growth and stability.

China expands imports of high-quality products to drive consumption upgrading

DURING the first half of the year, the amount of goods imported by China grew by 16 percent, and the value of imports of bags and suitcases, jewelry, and clocks doubled compared with the same period in 2020, said data from the General Administration of Customs of China.

The steadily recovering Chinese market has driven increase in the imports of consumer goods. China's retail sales of consumer goods totaled 21.2 trillion yuan (\$3.27 trillion) during the first six months of the year, which represented a year-on-year increase of 23 percent and an average growth of 4.4 percent in two years.

Online and offline channels for imported goods to enter the Chinese market have continuously be broadened, as mirrored in China's vibrant e-commerce imports, which have made strides forward as the country's cross-border e-commerce gathers momentum.

Data suggest that the country's cross-border e-commerce imports reached 283.1 billion yuan from January to June, rising 4.6 percent year on year.

High quality has become the most important feature of imports. At the same time, categories of imported goods are increasingly enriched, with skin care, cosmetic, health care, maternity and baby care products attracting the most attention from Chinese consumers.

The increase in imported consumer goods shows the release of the potential of the Chinese market and represents a corollary of consumption upgrading, according to Dong Chao, head of the institute of circulation and consumption under the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Noting that Chinese consumers are showing greater demands for personalized, diversified, and mid-to-high end products with economic development and income growth, Dong believes that increasing imports of high-quality consumer goods can optimize the market supply structure, improve the quality of supplies, make the supply system match domestic demands, and better meet people's growing needs for a better life.

Since a new duty-free policy was launched in south China's island province Hainan in July 1, 2020, the offshore



Photo taken on Feb. 20, 2021, shows customers at the first store selling bonded imports carried by China-Europe freight trains in east China's Jiangxi province.

duty-free sales supervised by customs in the province had reached 46.8 billion yuan as of June 30 this year, a year-on-year increase of 226 percent. The number of tourists shopping in Hainan during the period reached 6.28 million, up 102 percent year on year. They bought a total of 60.72 million items of goods, marking a 211-percent growth from the previous year.

This year, China has made continuous efforts to establish international exhibition and trading platforms, including the first China International Consumer Products Expo held in May and the second China-CEEC Expo & International Consumer Goods Fair in June, facilitating communication between sellers and buyers from home and abroad and enriching supplies for domestic market.

The country will kick off the fourth China International Import Expo (CIIE) on Nov. 5. By July 27, 284 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry-leading enterprises had signed up for the fourth CIIE, outnumbering those during the previous sessions. The planned exhibition area of the CIIE has reached 360,000 square meters. Besides, over 50 countries have confirmed their participation in the CIIE this year.

The CIIE has become a shortcut for foreign products to enter the Chinese market. Since the third session of the expo, Shanghai, host city of the event, has set up 56 permanent displaying and trading platforms, introducing nearly 180,000 kinds of products

worth 146.47 billion yuan from 1,390 exhibitors at the CIIE.

Besides establishing international exhibition and trading platforms, China has also improved relevant policies in a bid to ensure the healthy development of imports in an all-round way and facilitate imports of high-quality consumer goods.

In recent years, China has frequently lowered import tariff rates, especially that of consumer goods for which the demand of Chinese people can't be satisfied by domestic supplies. The country has lowered its overall tariff level to below 7.5 percent from 9.8 percent in 2017.

To promote trade facilitation, China has furthered the construction of its international trade single-window system, a system that aims to achieve one-stop customs clearance. The country has realized systematic connection and data sharing between the single-window system and 25 government departments, promoted paperless and electronic customs clearance at ports, accelerated the construction of smart ports, and improved the efficiency of customs clearance.

Meanwhile, China has cut regulatory documents needed for verification in imports and exports by 52.3 percent to 41 types, from 86 types in 2018.

Conforming to the trend of consumption upgrading, the country has continuously optimized the list of cross-border e-commerce retail imports.

People's Daily

Venezuela releases opposition leader to attend Mexico talks

By Bloomberg

VENEZUELA President Nicolas Maduro released Freddy Guevara, an opposition leader who had been jailed for more than a month, so that he can act as a negotiator in political talks set to start next month.

A top ally of Juan Guaido, Guevara was freed late Sunday from the Caracas headquarters of the police intelligence unit known as Sebin.

In video posted to Twitter by the opposition-led National Assembly, Guevara said that he was unaware of the conditions of his release.

He is expected to represent Guaido when delegates from the government and opposition gather in Mexico City in the coming weeks, according to five people with direct knowledge of the decision to release him.

"We must find a solution to this crisis and I am absolutely ready," Guevara said after his release. "I'm willing to do whatever it takes to help Venezuela."

In Mexico, Guevara may replace Carlos Vecchio, Guaido's ambassador in the US Maduro's negotiators had objected to Vecchio's presence when the two sides met on Friday to sign a memorandum of understanding to set up the negotiations.

They demanded he resign his post as ambassador if he continued as a negotiator, a condition the opposition ultimately refused.

The release of Guevara is seen as a concession by Maduro as the talks are set to get underway.

The next meetings in the wide-ranging discussions aimed at ending a five-year political stalemate will take place from Sept 3 to 6, according to a statement from the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is facilitating the negotiations.

Guevara, 35, a former vice president of the National Assembly, was arrested in July. The government accused him of working with criminal gangs to organize a deadly three-day standoff with security forces at a slum in western Caracas. The Public Prosecutor's office accused him of being associated with "extremist and paramilitary" groups.

Guevara's attorneys, who denied the accusations, said this month that neither they nor his family were able to visit him in prison, and expressed concern for his health. On videos shared by local media Sunday, Guevara spoke outside Sebin headquarters briefly to reporters.

"I was incommunicado," he said of his time in detention. "I have zero political information. I have not been able to speak to anyone."

Agencies

SPORT



Meddie Kagere. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Meddie Kagere displays tenacity in Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ALTHOUGH he did not shine last season with Simba SC and failed to break the goal-scoring record he set in the previous two seasons, Meddie Kagere still has some issues to learn from his participation in football.

Kagere emerged the Mainland Tanzania Premier League top scorer twice in a row-2018/19 season when he scored 23 goals, and 2019/20, which saw the attacker post 22 goals.

In the previous season, he finished with 13 goals, winning the Premier League title in his three seasons with Simba.

Kagere recently opened up on a lot of issues that can teach others who need to grow up in football and how to deal with various career challenges along with not giving up and keeping up the good work.

The striker noted despite having occasional challenges including not starting in the first team, it is a lesson, noting he ought to learn instead of sulking.

The forward noted: "I am not a desperate person. I always learn to know what to do. That's why I have played so successfully on the teams I have played for. This should teach others they should not to give up when they are challenged, they should learn how to be better."

"If you are low in spirit, you should not play soccer. I suggest you should do a completely different job as there are times you might give up when you go through challenges," the soccer player noted.

The footballer noted: "Similarly for the fans, they have built themselves in knowing football and they ought to value the spirit of perseverance, otherwise if they feel their team has to always win, in the end, a person might lose his or her life once an outfit that he or she loves loses a game."

The story of a young boy, who hanged himself on July 3 when his favourite side, Simba, conceded a 1-0 loss to age-old rivals Yanga was quite shocking.

Kagere said: "I was very sad when I saw the news in our social media group, he was still young. I was among the players mentioned by his father that he loved us, I apologize to them and God rest him in peace."

"Let me reiterate that if a person is involved in football, he should be determined, otherwise it will be very difficult. Let me tell the fans that a player goes through a lot of happy and

sad times, so when the team loses, he is hurt too so he should be encouraged."

Before landing at Simba, Kagere was linked with a move to Yanga and the footballer admits that it was true.

Before the deal was completed, the footballer, who was featuring for Kenya's Gor Mahia, did not want to leave Simba's deal and turned down Yanga's deal.

"In the 2014/15 season I talked to Yanga, but I did not reach an agreement with them and when I saw I got a deal to FK Tirana of Albania I decided to go and get a new challenge there and after returning and signing for Gor Mahia, Simba called me and did not want to let them delay giving me a contract," the footballer disclosed.

Kagere disclosed derby matches do not give him any pressure as he has been accustomed to them since playing for Gor Mahia in Kenya.

Before landing at Msimbazi Street club, he was signed from Kenya where he played for Gor Mahia which has an age-old rivalry with AFC Leopards, the Kenyan teams meet in fixtures, known as 'Mashemeji derbies', which are similar games bringing together Yanga and Simba.

"It's better for the fans here in Tanzania. Kenya's soccer rivalry is dangerous because there is ethnicity in it and if soccer followers are not happy with your showing on the pitch, the followers will sometimes harm you."

"I have studied the environment and it made me even better here," the footballer said.

Kagere has as well featured in matches bringing together Rwanda football giants, APR and Rayon Sports, and Tunisia's football rivals, Club African and Esperance.

The footballer recounts his life in Albania where he played for FK Tirana, noting it was difficult to be seen wearing an outfit that has colour matching the one found in opposing club's jerseys.

Kagere disclosed: "Fans will either call you or come to you and ask you to take off such outfit, and they will buy you a different outfit at a store, then burn the outfit you had worn right in front of you."

Kagere moreover noted South Africa has a different approach in scouting players, adding the nations' soccer outfits' process for getting players is complicated.

The footballer said: "You can play friendly games for two weeks. They have a special footballer they are targeting, for example, if they want a defender then the strikers have to challenge him, if he proves his worth, they will start seeking footballers for another position the following day."

SPORTS

Why Simba SC is at a crossroads with hefty player sales, recruiting

By Correspondent John Kimbute

SOCCER pundits are doing what they can to educate members and fans of Premier League champions, Simba SC, on the business side of the game, in the wake of widespread displeasure and yawns of disbelief that a series of key players were being poached by well-moneyed clubs in North Africa or elsewhere.

While an impending sale of Luis Miquissone did not raise much ire but a shaking of leaves here and there, it was confirmation of exit of Clatous Chama that rattled the breadth of the club support base, with pundits engaged in a myriad of discussion, often heated and at times sardonic. It was a usual mind game.

One reason why there was controversy on the sales is the usual mentality in the local environment of discussion, that it is hard for most ordinary people not in some commercial profession, and indeed if they have any bureaucratic connections, to view commerce in players favourably.

Players are club assets and selling key players indicates that the club doesn't value them as much, or it isn't important or resourceful enough to keep such players.

Neither of those options can sink well with the fans, in which case the clear disposition was to figure out if there was a way out of that option, evidently stopping at some alternatives.

Holding a player who is needed by some other club at terms that are more beneficial to himself means inching up the pay scale to the proposition credibly obtained and ready to be implemented, which a club can't do without rattling cohesion within its ranks.

The rule is that a player, like any other employee in other sectors of life, remains with a given contract and thus the mental hierarchy within that environment where everyone knows his or her place within the contractual context - unless some other organization wants his or her services.

In that case, players can't be offered Egypt's Al Ahly salaries to remain at Msimbazi Street's Simba SC, etc.

The first impression that comes to mind, and this is what the fans worry about the most, is that the successes that Simba SC attained in the past season, emerging among the clear top ten clubs



Simba SC players participate in training in Mwanza to prepare for the previous season's Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

in the CAF Champions League tournament, is also in a sense exposure to risk.

It means its players will have been more appreciated than was the case earlier, implying that it would have to pay them more to keep them - which it definitely would wish to avoid - or lose them and recruit others, who weren't noticed by the bigger recruiting clubs.

The latter is the positive alternative, but does it promise results?

After the club side emerged exquisitely as part of the top ten sides in the continental tourney, the fan base will not be looking for much else but repetition, and if possible to improve on that exquisite performance.

The balance of spirits in the wake of selling the two key players is that this will most likely not be attained, and some pundits for further to make a proper formulation, that with their last season's achievements, the only path the

Msimbazi Street club can take this year is - down.

It is virtually a rule of the rise or decline of clubs, Simba's CAF ranking is inconsistent with the cash it has to buy, keep players.

For instance, South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs will not even be in the continental tournament this year as it finished eighth in the South African Premier Soccer League, whereas it is in every respect a side as good as the local champions, everything else notwithstanding.

While this outcome might look - to some pundits at least - like a shuffling of cards and lays no rules about the South African side or Simba it illustrates where Simba is capable of being categorized, ranked.

African sports commentators said that Kaizer Chiefs 'missed out' on winger Luis Miquissone to Al Ahly, which means their resources are comparable to ours.

When it comes to buying players, it is also helpful to figure out what aspects of the 'law of attraction' are working about that aspect, as basically the issue is to get a fitting replacement.

Yet failure to keep the Mozambican player implies a cap will be placed on say the Senegal player coming in for Chama (and Peter Banda for Miquissone) to keep the salary ranking intact. It also implies a cap on his skills.

There is another element that one ought to leave out of the issue as it has no visible presence at the moment, as to whether the fall out on the former club major domo will have an impact on the spirits of the leadership or the club sponsorship.

In the latter context the 20bn/- that as in principle been availed to the club compares with the resources being extended to their end of the street rivals, Young Africans SC, and in that case the psychological dominance the quadruple champions enjoyed may start being dented.

Simba enjoyed a psychological edge over Yanga less on the pitch than outside, now morale may be altered, too.

Simba SC members, fans should not fear advising Mo Dewji

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THERE is a tendency that some people have developed lately, fear of telling the truth even when they see their superiors have erred.

This fearful discipline is sometimes caused by several factors. It can be caused by the age difference, lacking income, and sometimes just a sense of anxiety.

The tendency prevents people from fulfilling their responsibilities.

It is not that the powerful or the rich do not commit mistakes. A rich man or woman may commit mistakes because he or she is also a human being.

He or she makes mistakes as a young person, the low, middle class, or anyone else is doing.

Sometimes an important aspect here is one should know how he or she can address his or her senior that has made a mistake and what the person was supposed to do or say using good judgment.

A few weeks ago, former Simba SC Information Officer, Haji Manara, requested to resign from the position and he was replaced by Ezekiel Kamwaga.

Ezekiel's presence was, as I see it, a decision made by the club's Board of Directors.

No one can know Manara's decision for seeking resignation, given before the resignation was approved there was an incident in which Manara was heard in an audio clip issuing threats to his former boss, Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez.

After the decision, Manara, as usual, responded to the move as he attacked Simba SC, especially some of its leaders, for many things that he saw were not right in his exit.

One should do not expect a club like Simba SC to sit down and decide to respond to Manara's attacks.

Sometimes keeping quiet is also a good answer and it was a good decision and here I support Simba SC's Board of Directors' Chairman, Mohamed Dewji's notion that no one is bigger than Simba SC.

However, Manara's heat was intense and Dewji found himself attacking former



Simba SC's Board of Directors' Chairman, Mohamed Dewji.

Simba SC midfielder Clatous Chama, now Morocco's RS Berkane midfielder, on the social networking site Instagram.

This surprised many as here Dewji made a mistake especially by explaining that on the network.

Once felt that I do not think it is appropriate for Dewji to use social media to sometimes explain issues which he, in his position, should not have done, and he should have, probably, let his subordinates do.

There is a way in which Dewji now needs to reduce and change his participation in social media in tarnishing his dignity and respect in the public.

Dewji should realize that there are people who learn issues through what he does and with the improvement of science and technology, there are people who now become more involved in the use of the networks and, when they encounter such things, it is easy for them to imitate.

Humans make mistakes and this means Dewji can make mistakes. Those close to Dewji should advise him to change things now in what he is doing regardless of his financial muscle.

Many have been fascinated by the life of the wealthy Salim Bakhresa's family. Despite their wealth, their lives have been far from social media.

We can use this as an example to learn but also give

Dewji some education.

The statement that Dewji used to Chama was incorrect as the player was Simba's employee.

We have to advise Dewji now to change and, if he wishes, make an assessment.

He will quickly realize that he has crossed the line and now he has to go back and find a new course to maintain his dignity.

We should not be afraid of reminding Dewji of this discipline. We will not be doing him justice.

And for life to go on, we have to remind each other considering that social media are monitored by many even in nations that regard Dewji as a respected businessman.

Mahrez-led Algeria the team to avoid in Cup of Nations draw

YAOUNDE

RIYAD Mahrez-led record-setters Algeria will be the team to avoid when the draw for a 2021 Africa Cup of Nations seriously disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic is made in Yaounde on Tuesday.

The defending champions created an African record for an unbeaten run by a senior national team in June when they won a friendly match in Tunisia to reach 27 matches without a loss.

Victory in neighbouring Tunisia eclipsed the record set by Didier Drogba and Yaya Toure-inspired Ivory Coast in February 2013.

Since losing a Cup of Nations qualifier in Benin 34 months ago, Algeria have won 20 competitive and friendly matches, drawn seven, scored 58 goals and conceded 17.

It is this form which makes the Desert Foxes early favourites to retain the Cup of Nations next February and conquer Africa a third time.

They are among 24 qualifiers who will be split into six groups with the winners and runners-up in each plus the best four third-placed teams advancing to the knockout phase.

Algeria won the premier African national team competition for the first time when they hosted a then eight-team event in 1990 and edged Nigeria 1-0 in the title decider.

A goal from Baghdad Bounedjah with less than two minutes on the clock in Cairo enabled Algeria to triumph again two years ago, this time over Sadio Mane's Senegal.

Algeria will be among the six top seeds for the Yaounde draw, and however bold the public declarations of coaches may be before the event, privately they will be happy to dodge Mahrez and his teammates.

As one national coach, who requested anonymity, told AFP: "We say we do not fear any rivals, but desperately want to play potentially weak teams for as long as possible in any tournament."

Manchester City winger Mahrez is the star attraction in a squad composed of footballers, many born abroad to Algerian parents, who perform for European and Middle East clubs.

Full-back Aissa Mandi, a long-time regular, recently swapped La Liga clubs, moving from Real Betis to Villarreal, and missed a penalty in the UEFA Super Cup shootout loss to Chelsea.

Pique: Barca can compete, have fun without Messi

BARCELONA

GERARD Pique has insisted that Barcelona "will have fun this year" and "compete for all the trophies" despite the departure of Lionel Messi.

Barca impressed in a 4-2 win over Real Sociedad on Sunday in their first match of the new La Liga season. Pique opened the scoring and Martin Braithwaite found the net twice, while substitute Sergi Roberto scored in added time after Julen Lobete and Mikel Oyarzabal had put La Real back in the game.

"I don't have to explain what Leo represents, we all know it," Pique told Movistar. "He's the most important player in the history of this club and in the history of football. But all things must pass, we have to keep going. I think we have a good level, we'll be very competitive. I'm convinced we'll compete for all the trophies until the end."

"It's true that Leo not being here means we perhaps won't have the talent we had before. But the team has shown that we're all united. Up front we have goals, and I think at the back, despite the mistake and the free kick [that Real Sociedad scored] we were good."

"La Real played well but didn't create a lot of chances. I think we'll have fun this year."

Pique's goal came a day after the club revealed that the centre-back had taken a "significant" pay cut to allow them to register new signings Memphis Depay and Eric Garcia within the league's strict salary cap. Depay and Garcia were only named

- Belmadi 'a national treasure' -

Mandi is set to play in the upcoming Champions League group stage, as will other Algerians, including Mahrez and AC Milan midfielder Ismael Bennacer.

Captain Mahrez says much of the praise for the 27-match unbeaten run and the 2019 Cup of Nations triumph must go to Djamel Belmadi, now 45 and a one-time Manchester City midfielder.

"He is a national treasure. You cannot exaggerate his importance to the team. The work of Djamel is deeply respected by all Algerians," says the 2016 African Footballer of the Year.

A concern for Belmadi, though, is that favourites have not succeeded in the Cup of Nations since 2010, when Egypt became the first country to win the competition three times in a row.

Zambia were shock winners in 2012, Nigeria exceeded expectations by finishing first one year later and, after many failures when favoured, it came as a surprise when the Ivory Coast finally triumphed in 2015.

Cameroon mocked the form book by succeeding in 2017 and hosts Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia were all considered stronger north African contenders than Algeria two years ago.

Some coaches will be under extreme pressure in Cameroon to go far, notably Bosnian Vahid Halilhodzic with Morocco and German Gernot Rohr with Nigeria.

A condition of the Halilhodzic contract is that he must reach the semi-finals at least while Nigerian football bosses have told Rohr to win the competition.

Apart from Algeria, Cameroon, Senegal, Tunisia, Nigeria and Morocco are first seeds and strong title contenders.

Record seven-time champions Egypt, Ghana and Ivory Coast are other possible winners and those looking for a long-shot could consider Mali, runners-up to Congo when Cameroon were last hosts 49 years ago.

Cameroon were selected to stage the 2019 tournament, but fell behind with stadia and other preparations and Egypt had to take over at short notice.

Given a second chance, the central African nation have had to postpone the tournament twice due to wet weather concerns and Covid-19 and even the draw, originally set for June, was delayed by the pandemic.

AFP

on LaLiga's official list of new additions on Saturday night and early on Sunday morning respectively – but both started for Barca on Sunday evening.

Pique revealed that fellow club captains Sergio Busquets, Sergi Roberto and Jordi Alba also intended to accept wage reductions as Barca adapt to their new financial reality, with this season's salary cap for the club expected to be around €400 million lower than it was two years ago.

"[The pay cut] is what I had to do, I think," Pique said. "I want to stress that we've been in contact with the other captains over the pay cut and I know they'll take the same step shortly, it's just a question of timing. I had to be the first to do it quickly, because of the registration issue. But this is a family, we're all together, the captains have all had the intention from the first moment to adjust to what the club needed, and that's the decision we've taken and we're proud of it."

There were some whistles for left-back Alba from the Camp Nou crowd on Sunday after media reports that he had been unwilling to negotiate a pay cut.

"Sometimes there are misunderstandings," Pique said. "I've been in touch with Sergi, Busi and Jordi, and we've all been aligned, to try to reach an agreement. With hours left before the league started they needed someone to make it official to be able to register the new players, but I know the others are also about to do it."

Tottenham didn't need Harry Kane to beat Man City, but Man City clearly need Kane

LONDON

(PICHA: SOKA,)

MANCHESTER City might need to revise their valuation of Harry Kane after all. At first glance, that may appear a knee-jerk reaction to Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur, given that Pep Guardiola's side strolled to the Premier League title last term despite operating without a recognised striker for much of the campaign.

Yet it already looks a harder trick to pull off this time around after an early reminder of how City can be beaten by a contain-and-counter method that Spurs are making a habit of pulling off.

Tottenham have now beaten City in their last four meetings at the stunning Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, each time employing a broadly similar approach predicated upon allowing City to dominate the ball in certain areas because they do not possess a clinical striker able to thrive in tight spaces.

Of course, time and again Guardiola's team overcome this with a blur of invention and movement, an often irresistible combination that the £100 million arrival of Jack Grealish will surely only augment in time after showing flashes of quality on his debut here.

Yet of the two sides on show Sunday, it was City who missed Kane more.

That was down to both the sublime pace and penetration brought by match-winner Heung-Min Son, in tandem with Steven Bergwijn and Lucas Moura, but also an anonymous showing from Ferran Torres as a "false nine." Gabriel Jesus fared little better in a 20-minute cameo.

"Are you watching, Harry Kane?" sang the Tottenham fans – far louder than they chanted positively about their captain earlier in the game – and the 28-year-old was indeed doing just that, in attendance, but not deemed ready to take part having only returned to training on Friday following England's run to the Euro 2020 final.

Spurs coach Nuno Espirito Santo insisted Kane's lack of match fitness was the only reason for his absence, but it's hard to escape the theory that the uncertainty over his future was also a factor.

Tottenham continue to insist they will not move Kane, who believes he has a gentleman's agreement to leave the club this summer. City intimated they were prepared to pay around £100 million for his rights, but despite near-constant speculation over the past few weeks, they have yet to make a formal offer anywhere close to the £150m it would take to tempt chairman Daniel Levy into a serious conversation.

Surely that will change in the coming days after the opening weekend of the season provided a blueprint for the rest on how to beat the champions.

On the eve of this game, Guardiola backtracked somewhat after going public with his desire to sign Kane last week, meaning he wasn't about to double down afterward, but it wasn't difficult to decode his real feelings at the end of a weekend in which Manchester United scored five times while Chelsea and Liverpool netted three.

"We arrived in the final third many times, we could not be clinical enough and at the end, one action, we lose the game," he said after watching City register 66 percent possession and 18 shots, but only four on target.

"We are the same people [as] last season. Sergio [Aguero] is gone. Unfortunately last season we could not use him much, he played just seven games. Then in came Jack [Grealish], but we are the same people who won the Premier League. We make very good things and it is normal. They are a tough rival for us, always I have the same feeling that we are good playing here, but we cannot get results because they punish you in the transitions."

Although the parallels with Tottenham's previous victories over City were clear, it would be doing Nuno a disservice not to recognise there was more to Spurs on the day. They grew



Harry Kane

into Sunday's game after a nervous start as their tactic of staying narrow in midfield began to give them a foothold.

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, Oliver Skipp and Dele Alli formed a three behind Moura, Son and Bergwijn, effectively pushing six players into a tight central area the width of the penalty box, forcing City to play out wide earlier than they would ideally have liked.

However, when they worked the ball quickly and efficiently to the flanks, City had an overload with Japhet Tanganga left to battle manfully against Grealish and Raheem Sterling as one overlapped the other.

Under Mourinho in particular, there was a sense Spurs were hanging on as City dominated after taking one of precious few chances at the other end. Yet on this occasion, Spurs could have been further ahead: Bergwijn missed a glorious chance to double their lead on the hour mark at the end of another blistering breakaway in the mould of the one five minutes earlier that had given them the lead.

The game's only goal was a treat. Moura hooked the

ball forward just outside his own box to release Bergwijn, who surged forward at speed. Son drifted out to the right to receive the ball, cut in on his left foot and curled a superb shot beyond Ederson from 20 yards.

The majority of the 58,262 fans in attendance cranked up the noise, and although City responded well, there was little meaningful for Spurs goalkeeper Hugo Lloris to deal with aside from an 84th-minute shot from substitute Kevin De Bruyne and a stifled effort from Grealish.

Kane's next outing could still be for either of these teams, but Nuno continued to insist the striker is merely in the process of readying himself for Tottenham's next game – a trip to Portugal for a Europa Conference League qualifier against Pacos de Ferreira. It isn't exactly the European competition Kane has his sights on, but Nuno said postmatch that "Harry worked this morning, he is preparing himself and when he is ready he will join the group and help the team."

Guardiola might urge the City hierarchy to test that theory a little more after this.



Tottenham fans showed their support for Kane despite their star man being linked with opponents Manchester City. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Tottenham didn't need Harry Kane to beat Man City, but Man City clearly need Kane

TBS launches sports bonanza, calls on staff to exercise

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards (TBS) staff and workers have been advised to exercise via at least walking 1,000 steps per day for, among others, fighting COVID-19.

Fenella Mukangara, TBS Board Chairperson, issued the advice when opening TBS Sports Bonanza held at University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) grounds last weekend.

She said sports are essential for the workers because apart from health building, they build up positive relationship and they are as well an entertainment that helps to reduce depression.

"An opportunity like this one helps to reduce depression and builds a person's health, hence during my period as TBS Board Chairperson, I will make sure I improve this bonanza by increasing the number of games," she said.

She praised TBS management and its sports officials for seeing the importance of sports competitions, it was not easy as the institution needs a budget for such sports activities.

She also pleaded with TBS workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, saying the government has vowed to fight the pandemic and eradicate it in the country.

Yusuf Ngenya, TBS Managing Director, said the bonanza is the second one to be staged and it helps to make the institution's workers know each other because it is a huge institution with many workers.

"Without good health, there are no standards, hence this is an important opportunity for workers in health building especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic," Ngenya noted.

The TBS workers praised the Bureau's management for allocating days for the bonanza, build up positive relationship and as an entertainment that help to reduce depression.

The bonanza involved various games including athletics, football, netball, basketball, tug-of-war and others.

EATV

TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Azam FC appoints first-ever football director

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC has announced a restructuring of the outfit's hierarchy with the appointment of inaugural Football Director role at the club. Jonas Tiboroa has been appointed as the club's first ever Director of Football.

It is understood that the role will see Tiboroa have overall leadership over the club's football strategy. He will be reporting to the club's Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Nurdin Amin, popularly known as 'Popat'.

"As Football Director, I will work day-to-day with the CEO to align recruitment and other strategies and to ensure that the first team, youth teams and academy get the

operational support they need to succeed. I will have overall leadership and responsibility for operations and strategy across all football functions in the senior and youth teams as well as the academy," Tiboroa revealed after his appointment in a club press conference at Mzizima.

Tiboroa comes with vast experience of having previously worked at Yanga and Tanzania Football Federation, among other sporting roles he has held in the country.

In another development, last weekend the club unveiled its new logo as part of a plan to develop as a cultural brand as well as a sporting one and the crest, which will be used from the 2021-22 season

In a statement, Azam FC CEO, Nurdin,

detailed the thinking behind their decision to upgrade the club's logo.

"A logo is a very important factor in the identity of any institution. It attracts people to follow you more closely. It helps to create a quick impression on the person who sees it for the first time.

"It is the main basis for brand identity. It separates the institution from its commercial competitors. It builds brand loyalty for its followers. As a club, Azam FC has taken all of that into account in making decisions to come up with this logo that we have launched."

"As we embark on a new project towards a new season and other seasons ahead, it is our hope this logo will help us build a new image and new hope.

Simba SC confirms sale of Chama and Miquissone, bids them farewell



Clatous Chama

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has confirmed the sale of midfielders, Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone. The two attacking midfielders have been sold to North African clubs after impressing in the CAF Champions League last season.

Mozambican international, Miquissone is reported to have completed a record breaking \$900,000 transfer to Egyptian giants, Al Ahly, while Zambian midfielder, Chama, has been snapped up by Morocco's RS Berkane.

Simba SC confirmed the permanent transfer of the duo via the outfit's official Twitter account, thanking them for the professionalism and exemplary conduct they showed at the club and wishing him the best of luck in their new chapters.

"Simba Sports Club wishes to inform the public that in the current transfer window, it received several offers for its players from various clubs

across the continent."

"Simba has officially reached an agreement with two foreign clubs over the permanent transfer of two of its players: Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone. Our collective team successes in the CAF Champions League in recent years has opened doors for the duo to be seen abroad."

"We are extremely grateful to Clatous and Luis for their incredible service to the club throughout their time at Simba. We will always treasure the wonderful memories they left us with. As they move onto the next chapter of their professional careers, we wish them great success. Clatous and Luis will forever be part of the Simba family."

Chama joined Simba in 2018 from Zambia's Lusaka Dynamos. He won seven titles at the club, three Mainland Tanzania Premier League titles,

three community shields, two Federation Cup.

The 30-year-old was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the season in the 2019/20 Mainland Tanzania Premier League season.

He also guided Simba to CAF Champions League quarter final appearances and will be forever remembered for scoring late crucial goals against Nkana FC and AS Vita that sent Simba to the group stage and quarterfinal of CAF Champions League in 2018/19 season.

Meanwhile, Miquissone joined Simba in 2020 from UD Songo and went on to establish himself as a key member of the squad.

Al Ahly is reported to have splashed a record-breaking \$900,000 to secure his services.

The player's transfer fee smashes the record spent on a Mainland Tanzania Premier League player.

Azam FC set for pre-season preparations in Zambia

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League giants, Azam FC, will, at the end of this month, depart for Zambia for pre-season camping, the club's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdulkarim Nurdin Amin, disclosed yesterday.

The Azam FC CEO said the team will depart on August 24 for Ndola, Zambia where it will camp a head of the coming season.

He said the camp in Zambia will help Azam FC head coach, George Lwandamina, and his technical staff to prepare for the two big tournaments.

Amin stopped short of stating if his side will play international friendly matches in Zambia, saying discussions are underway.

He said all players, the ones retained and new players, will be included in the team travelling to Zambia.

"We will have pre-season camp in Zambia and the team will depart for Zambia on August 24, the camp in Zambia will help the coach and his backroom staff analyze the team ahead of local and international tournaments," he said.

Meanwhile, Amin said Azam FC has completed signing of players and the squad has already sent their names to Confederation of African Football (CAF) for registration.

He mentioned the new players his club has signed this season as Charles Zulu, Paul Katema, Kenneth Maguna, Roger Kola, Idris Mbombo, Edward Manyama and Ahmed Salula.

Azam FC will play Horseed FC of Somalia in the preliminary round of CAF Confederation Cup and the winners will face Pyramids of Egypt.

Amin, commenting on the draw said his side needs to prepare well for the game against the Somali club.

"We need to prepare well for the game against the Somalia side, we should not underestimate them. In modern football no team is weak," he said.

Commenting on the new logo which the club launched last week, the CEO said it will improve the club's image.

"The new logo which we launched last week is of great importance to the club, it will improve our image both locally and internationally, all over the world clubs are known due to their logos," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

EVENTHOUGH I WORK BETTER UNDER PRESSURE
A LITTLE RELAXATION PRODUCES WONDERS

